

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

NOVEMBER 2023

THIS MONTH

- 26 FRANCE
- 37 SOUTHWEST FRANCE
- 43 LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON
- 45 PORTUGAL
- 52 NORTHERN ITALY
- 58 PIEDMONT
- 63 TUSCANY
- 67 CENTRAL ITALY
- 68 SOUTHERN ITALY
- 70 SPAIN
- 78 AUSTRIA
- 82 CROATIA
- 82 CALIFORNIA
- 117 OREGON
- 129 WASHINGTON
- 134 ARGENTINA
- 137 SOUTH AFRICA
- 139 NEW ZEALAND
- 143 SPIRITS
- 147 BEER

Red grapes being meticulously sorted at a winery in the Beaujolais region

FOR ADDITIONAL RATINGS AND REVIEWS, VISIT [WINEMAG.COM/RATINGS](https://www.winemag.com/ratings)

SPOILED FOR CHOICE

Look to southern France and Portugal for Best Buys.

Jacy Topps, assistant editor print, reviews French wines from Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence and Vin de France. Roger Voss, writer at large, reviews the wines of Portugal and the French regions of Bordeaux, Champagne, Southwest France and Other France.

Jacy Topps: Lower priced wines can sometimes be polarizing in the industry. And while there are several factors that can determine the price of a bottle, the price doesn't necessarily have to dictate the quality and complexity of the wine. There's absolutely nothing wrong with expensive cellar-worthy fine wine. However, a delicious bottle of wine doesn't have to break your budget. We're lucky our regions offer a great selection of both higher end and affordable bottles.

Roger Voss: I agree. In the regions I review, I discover many great wines that are certainly of good value. When I am tasting, I look for wines that I would enjoy drinking. I admire great wines (and I get the chance to taste the greatest from both regions), but what I also really appreciate are the wines I could buy today and drink tonight.

The skill of a good winemaker is an ability to produce these types of wines. These are the ones that often end up as Best Buys in our Buying Guide.

JT: What affordable wines from your regions are you excited about this year?

RV: Contrary to popular belief, most Bordeaux is not expensive. Great value comes from the Bordeaux Supérieur appellation. These red wines are a step up from basic Bordeaux. They are a product of the huge strides that have been made in winemaking and vineyard management. I rated Château Pey la Tour, produced by



Jacy Topps



Roger Voss

Designations like Vin de France and Pays d'Oc have given way to dynamic wines at lower price points.

the large negociant Dourthe, at 90 points.

In Portugal, I am spoiled for choice. The Alentejo in the south is a good source for some delicious wines. Casa Relvas Vinha da Mina, a single vineyard wine, made from the Touriga Franca grape, is excellent. The Douro, the premier vineyard area of the country, also makes fine values, particularly in white wines. I rated as a fine example the Quinta da Rede Reserva.

affordable wines from your regions are you excited about this year?

JT: French wine has been undergoing a transformation over the last few decades. Less regulated designations like Vin de France and Pays d'Oc have given way to dynamic wines at lower price points and are leading the production of biodynamic and organic wines in the south of France. I'm really enjoying the Chardonnay from Barton & Guestier Bistro and Côté Mas, a white blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Vermentino from Paul Mas. These white wines are excellent examples of the delicious, easy-drinking and affordable offerings from the regions.

RV: I think we would agree that wine drinkers are spoiled for choice. It's obvious that it's not necessary to spend big sums to get drinking satisfaction this autumn and winter. One of my greatest satisfactions as a reviewer is searching out these bargains.

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.

STAFF EDITORS

Anna-Christina Cabrales: Burgundy, Rhône Valley
Jim Gordon: Napa, Sonoma
Craig Chamberlain: Virginia
Stacy Briscoe: Northern California & California AVA
Jacy Topps: Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence, Vin de France

WRITERS AT LARGE

Michael Alberty: Oregon, Washington, Canada
Danielle Callegari: Tuscany & Southern Italy
Mike DeSimone: Spain, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, Lebanon, Armenia, Hungary
John Holl: Beer, Hard Seltzer
Matt Kettmann: Central & South Coast California
Kara Newman: Spirits, RTD
Christina Pickard: Australia, New Zealand, England, New York
Jeff Porter: Piedmont & Northern Italy
Emily Saladino: Greece, Georgia
Reggie Solomon: Beaujolais, Loire Valley
Jessica Vargas: South America & South Africa
Roger Voss: Portugal, France: Bordeaux, Champagne, Southwest & Other France
Aleks Zecevic: Alsace, Austria, Germany

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.

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.

Hidden Gems are products which are not your typical regional finds, but should not be missed. These fun, esoteric wines are priced above \$20 and score above 87 points.

Best Buys are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$20 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted as detailed in our FAQ, available online via WineEnthusiast.com/submit-for-rating. Inquiries should be addressed to tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.**

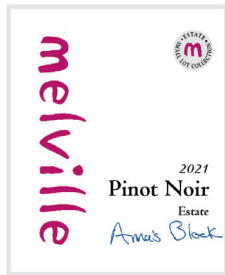
LABELS

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; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net.

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at wineenthusiast.com/ratings



97 Kenefick Ranch 2015 Founder's Reserve Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Calistoga). This superrich, layered and densely packed bottling is a traditional reserve wine, held back for a late release. It is miraculously light on its feet despite a high level of fine-grained tannins. Crème de cassis, blackberries, black currants, cinnamon and cedar are just a few of the flavor nuances to enjoy in this full-bodied, gentle giant. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150



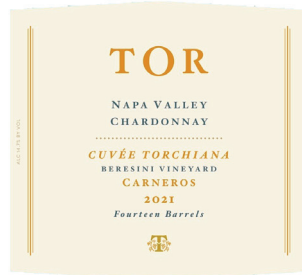
97 Melville 2021 Anna's Block Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). The nose on this bottling is fresh, focused, intense and ripe. Black cherry, strawberry and dark mint aromas are seductive and attention-snagging. The palate lands with juicy flavors of strawberry and Bing cherry, as cracked white and green peppercorn spices mix with fresh herbs to hammer home the deliciously detailed experience. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$72



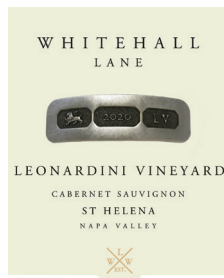
97 Pio Cesare 2019 Mosconi (Barolo). Macerated raspberries combine with wild roses and crushed chalk in this evocative wine that captivates from the first sniff. Mixed cherries emerge on the palate, dusted with anise, licorice and savory herbs, wrapping up with superfine tannins that build to an extended finish that I wish would never end. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$199



97 Stone Edge Farm 2019 Mount Pisgah Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Sophisticated oak spices and beautifully layered black fruits are soothed in a velvety wrap of gentle tannins that give this 100% Cabernet a nice grip without being at all harsh or dry. It offers black currants, blueberries, mocha, and balsam, with delicious depth on the palate and persistence on the finish. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$225



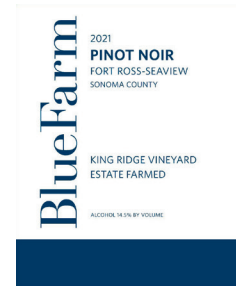
97 Tor 2021 Cuvée Torchiana Beresini Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). Harmonious and honeyed, this soft and expansive wine envelops rich Bartlett pear, golden apple and vanilla aromas along with candied pecans, toasted oak and pear nectar flavors that expand on the palate and linger on the finish. It's difficult to imagine a more soothing, creamy, and delicious Chardonnay. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$95



97 Whitehall Lane 2020 Leonardini Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Impressively structured, this wine needs plenty of time for the firm tannins to soften and the powerful fruit flavors to mature. Handsome oak spices from vanilla to dark chocolate and espresso crema come up in the aroma and filter through the deep blueberry, oak char and black currant flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125



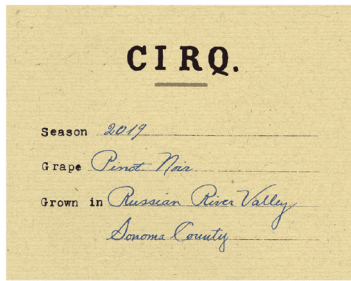
96 Allegrini 2018 La Poja (Veronese). Aromas of black cherry and plum combine with sandalwood, clove, allspice and savory herbs to woo you into the glass. Elegant, refined, structured and full in body, this wine is pure class. The dark-hued fruit flavors are integrated with the savory elements of the wine, where each plays a key role. The star of the show is on the finish where a distinct minerality reminiscent of chalk stands firm with a lift of acidity around it. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$185



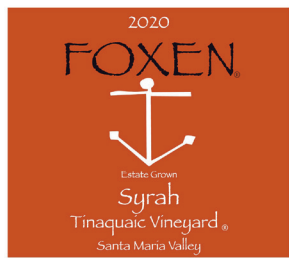
96 Blue Farm 2021 King Ridge Vineyard Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). Impressively concentrated and complex, this appetizing wine tingles the palate with black cherries, black tea, raspberries and tangy acidity while light tannins keep it lifted and fresh. The wine's intricacy and layered fruits are difficult to resist. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95



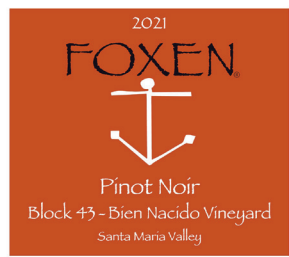
96 Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Le Corton Grand Cru (Corton). Poised with elegance, the wine has seductive layers of black cherry and oak spice. Pulverized black-pepper spice lands on the front of the palate and leads into a finish of fresh black cherries, mushroom, and soil. The wine is sophisticated and refined. Henriot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$225



96 Cirq 2019 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Deep and concentrated black cherries and black currants fuel this full-bodied and superbly fruit-focused wine as tangy acidity and light tannins add a textured frame. The wine tastes lively, focused, pure and delicious. It will be best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$150



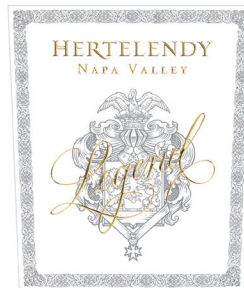
96 Foxen 2020 Tinaquaic Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). This is an intense, rich and inky Syrah, offering boysenberry and black currant on the intense nose. The palate is thick with tannins and a bright acidity that will last for years, as those rich fruit and lively violet flavors converge. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52



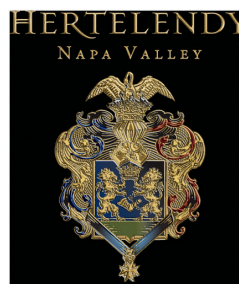
96 Foxen 2021 Block 43 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Black cherry, cola and vanilla-cream flavors draw the nose deeply into this special block-designated bottling from a historic site. A firm texture and sizzling acidity provide a textural backdrop to the ripe flavors of red fruit and red flowers, with a pinch of mace adding spice. The finish goes deep. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$68



96 Furthermore 2019 Nevina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This captivating wine from a small, newish producer is worth a search. Vital and crisp sour-cherry aromas and vivid, mouthwatering flavors get a laser focus from bracing acidity and moderate tannins in this fascinating, complex and elegant wine. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75



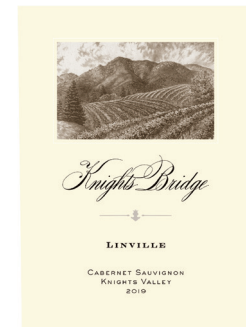
96 Hertelendy 2019 Legend Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deep and brooding, this tightly packed and firmly tannic wine holds its blackberries, blueberries, oak char and espresso flavors tightly and needs time to develop. It has the concentration, structure and inherent complexity to be a classic. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$235



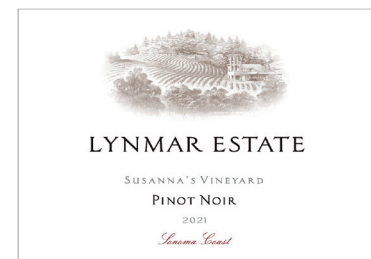
96 Hertelendy 2019 Signature Mountain Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Power and grace come together in this uber-concentrated, dark and delicious wine. Deep black cherry, blueberry and 85% cacao flavors meld on the palate and linger for a long, chocolaty finish. Blended from 62% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon and minor portions of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$150



96 Iron Horse 2020 Native Yeast Chardonnay (Green Valley). Handsome toasty spices intermingle beautifully with rich poached pears and vanilla in this complex, smooth and dramatic wine. Relatively light in alcohol, it has an almost-thick texture and underlying acidity that support toast, almond, nutmeg and white pepper nuances that emerge on the palate and linger on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$57



96 Knights Bridge 2019 Linville Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Beautifully layered and modulated, this big but friendly wine interlaces abundant velvety tannins with dark chocolate, dried blueberries, cedar and mint. The texture is broad, mouthfilling, welcoming and ready for a roasted, braised or grilled chunk of meat. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175



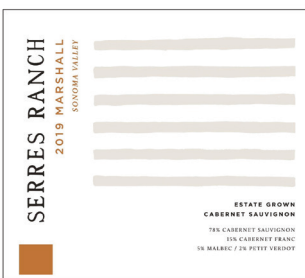
96 Lynmar Estate 2021 Susanna's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Dazzling red cherries, raspberries and blueberries light up this vivid and concentrated wine. Appetizing acidity and lightly gripping tannins drive it to a lively finish, while great balance will help it age well. Best through 2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$76



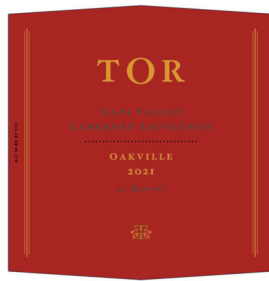
96 **Marchesi Antinori 2020 Guado al Tasso (Bolgheri Superiore).** The nose is rich with notes of blackberries, black cherry and soil, while a white pepper undertone provides pop. On the supple, warm palate, berries continue leading the way, before a salty, chocolaty finish with another kick of pepper. Stoic tannins are balanced by lively, persistent acidity. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175



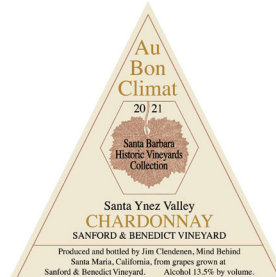
96 **Mirafiore 2019 Lazzarito (Barolo).** Aromas of wild forest berries and fresh roses lift out of the glass quickly followed by star anise, dried porcini, pu-erh tea and dried herbs. The classy palate shines with vibrant red cherry and raspberry notes with savory spice and mineral notes in tandem. Polished tannins and crisp acidity give their all on the finish of this serious wine. Drink 2028–2050. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150



96 **Serres Ranch 2019 Marshall Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** Handsome oak spices in the aroma give way to rich, layered and deep black fruits, dark chocolate and espresso flavors in this creamy-textured wine backed by fine-grained tannins. Blended with 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$100



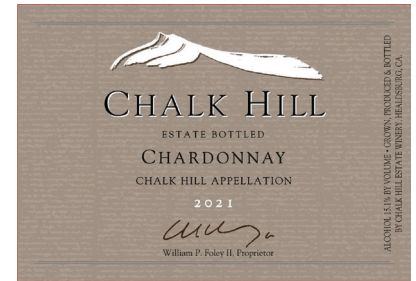
96 **Tor 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** This seductive wine rolls up all the velvety appeal of Oakville Cabernet in a bottle that's comparatively affordable for what many consider Napa's best AVA for Cab. Plump dark plums, black currants, dark chocolate and cinnamon come to mind while savoring this full-bodied but gentle wine. Tannins are profuse but silky, so the wine is enjoyable already. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110



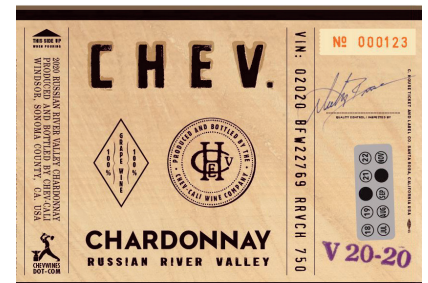
95 **Au Bon Climat 2021 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Clean and mineral-driven aromas of chalk, crushed rock and bright citrus make for an excellent nose on this classic bottling from a classic vineyard. The palate offers honeydew and honeysuckle flavors, but it's the chalky texture that's most compelling, carrying through into an almond and coconut finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



95 **Bodegas Valdemar 2015 Conde Valdemar Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of Chambord, toffee and dried Mediterranean herbs. A sheath of opulent tannins is wrapped around fruit of the wood, caramel, anisette and dark chocolate flavors. Pleasant touches of cedar chest and cigar box extend into the enduring finish. Drink until 2040. Cru Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



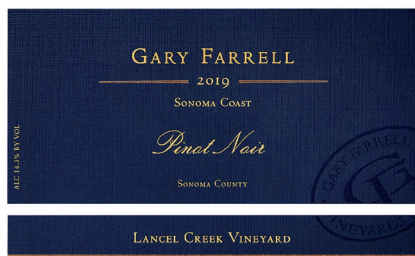
95 **Chalk Hill 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Chalk Hill).** Toasty, spicy oak aromas balance the rich, layered fruits and cream in this full-throttle, lavish wine. Poached pears and toasted almonds are laced with light smoke, vanilla and ginger notes that expand on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$52



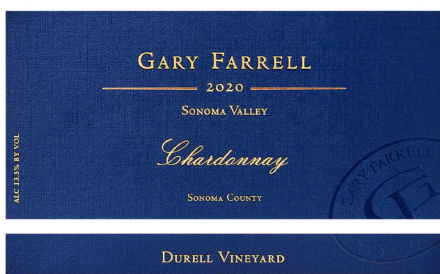
95 **Chev 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Elegant, well balanced and silky in texture, this graceful wine eases baked apples, vanilla and macadamia nut across the palate, buoyed by light acidity, leading to a lingering finish. Fermented and aged in a combo of new and used concrete eggs, amphora and French oak. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80



95 **Furthermore 2019 Gioia Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Lovely tea, cinnamon and rose petal aromas lead to rich and intricate dark plums, strawberries and candied cherries on the palate, deftly backed by light tannins and a snap of acidity. The wine is delicious and well balanced. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60



95 Gary Farrell 2019 Lancel Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Lively acidity lifts and energizes a great array of red fruits and subtle spices in this medium-bodied and mouthwatering wine. Brilliant red cherries, cranberries and raspberries wake up the palate, framed by light tannins for a structure that will encourage aging. Best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65



95 Gary Farrell 2020 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). It's the third great vintage in a row for this vineyard designate. Hand-some oak toast in the aroma meets fully ripe Bosc pear, butter, almond and golden apple flavors in this full-bodied, judiciously oaky wine. Best from 2025–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70



95 Irvine & Roberts 2020 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). This fantastic Chardonnay is from the Rogue, not the Willamette Valley. Fresh lemon zest and lemon verbena aromas are joined by notes of tulips and a buttered scone. Earthy oregano meets lemon butter on the palate, flanked by flavors of shredded coconut and olive oil. The wine's texture is as creamy as an Alfredo sauce. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$50



95 Jarvis 2020 Finch Hollow Unfiltered Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Slightly hazy in appearance, and then incredibly luscious, creamy and rich in texture, this wine is layered in lemon cream, hazelnuts, toasted almonds and poached pears on the palate. A graceful balance between energizing acidity and an indulgent array of ripe flavors make it a distinctive, memorable wine. Best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$195



95 Jax 2021 Calesa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Exciting scents of sour cherries, mulled plums and baking spices fill the aroma of this complex and layered wine. Intricate nuances of cinnamon, nutmeg and mint emerge on the palate, complementing the broad fruit flavors. A full body is braced by mild acidity and soft tannins. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50



95 Le Cadeau 2021 Trajet Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Blackberries and violets are just the aromatic introduction. The background notes of earth, crushed brick dust and the salinity of a sea marsh are even more compelling. The wine's leathery texture bonds with flavors of blueberries, unsweetened chocolate, black tea and tart red cherries. Firm tannins, with vibrating acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80



95 Lucia by Pisoni 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Deep and focused aromas of boysenberry meet with loamy earth and toasty woodspice on the nose of this wine. Hearty tannins frame the exuberant palate, which is ripe with berry jam, clove and crushed herb flavors, yet balanced by the detailed structure. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70



95 Schug 2021 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Complexity and elegance elevate this medium-bodied, intricate and layered wine. It offers orange pekoe and black tea aromas, racy raspberry and red cherry flavors along with mint and mineral accents. Fine-grained tannins and good acidity balance it out beautifully. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68



95 Stone Edge Farm 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This superbly balanced and elegant wine from an under-the-radar producer packs in abundant black cherry, blackberry and oak char flavors on a surprisingly supple texture of soft tannins. Its strength is in subtle power and an inviting texture. Best from 2025–2040. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150



95 Thumbprint Cellars 2018 Ramazzotti Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). Sophisticated, intricate oak spices intertwine with delicious black currant and blueberry flavors, all wrapped in silky tannins. This wine shows an exciting toasty, flinty and cinnamon expression on the nose, and a structured but satisfyingly fruity palate. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$60



94 Bodegas Valdemar 2015 Conde Valdemar Reserva (Rioja). This deep-hued wine has a bouquet of black currant, milk chocolate and caramel. Velvety tannins and vibrant acidity lay the groundwork for black cherry, Mission fig, butterscotch, clove and black olive tapenade flavors. Dark berries, chocolate and caramel linger on the palate. Cru Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29



94 Borgogno 2018 Liste (Barolo). This is captivating from the start with aromas of drying cherries, sour red plums, crushed violets, underbrush and mixed spices. Dutiful Nebbiolo tannins play their role but allow the fruit expression to shine on the palate followed by a focused minerality that lingers. Drink 2028–2045. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$179



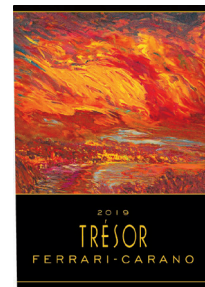
94 Chalk Hill 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Chalk Hill). Minerals, dried herbs and a bit of toast bring a tasty complexity to the aroma of this full-bodied and well-balanced wine. Fennel bulb, cucumber and lime notes add interest and balance to the palate. Very elegant, it's deep in interest and long on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38



94 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This silky, fruity and refined wine shows great balance between generous red cherry, raspberry and dark plum flavors, and refreshing acidity and moderate tannins. It's poised to drink soon but OK to allow it to mature further. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



94 Familia Fernández Rivera 2020 Tinto Pesquera Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Black currant, menthol and cocoa powder aromas waft from the glass. This wine opens on spicy notes of anisette and mint leaf that are accompanied by robust tannins and black cherry, cassis, milk chocolate, caramel and violet flavors. The lengthy finish is marked with light floral and cooling herb notes. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



94 Ferrari-Carano 2019 Trésor Red Blend (Sonoma County). A nicely firm texture holds together vivid black currants, blackberries and mint in this full-bodied, dark and assertive blend, which is mainly Cabernet Sauvignon. Ample tannins match the outstanding ripeness of the fruit for good balance despite the wine's obvious heft and power. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58



94 Ferrari-Carano 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros). Closed at first, this full-bodied wine holds onto its Bosc pear, ginger and lightly toasted oak flavors rather tightly until further sipping and savoring brings them out. The wine is a great candidate for aging since it has the good acidity and inherent concentration to develop more interest over time. Best from 2026–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$49



94 Fess Parker 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Tightly woven aromas of crushed rock and earth are enlivened by bright lime and lemon peel on the dynamic nose of this bottling. Rocky minerality frames the sip, where honeysuckle and peach flavors ride an acidity that continues to rise through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$48



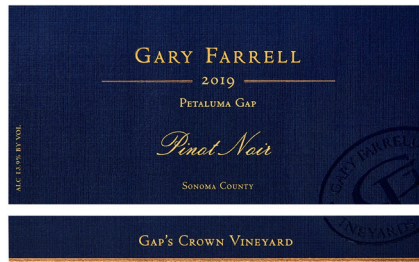
94 Fulcrum 2021 Walala Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Pure, juicy black cherry flavors give this moderately tannic wine great focus as it livens the palate with tangy, fruity notes and toasty oak spices. A medium body and vivid acidity keep it fresh through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$72



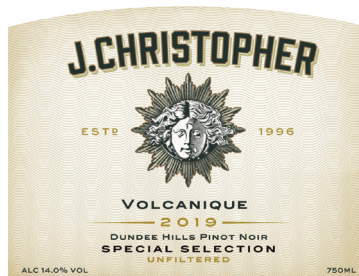
94 Furthermore 2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Mellow, dusky aromas and a combination of savory and almost-sweet fruit flavors give this wine a relaxed richness and complexity that's a pleasure to taste. From a small winery that should soon be on the radar. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60



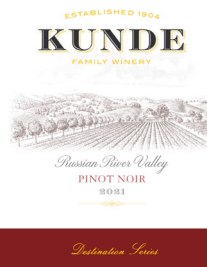
94 G D Vajra 2019 Albe (Barolo). Stunning in its purity, freshness and vibrancy, the Albe Barolo from the venerable Vajra family is a beauty. Aromas of fresh cherries, wild strawberries, rosebuds, wild herbs, underbrush and subtle chalky notes waft from the glass. The generous palate showcases the red-hued tart red fruits Nebbiolo is known for, but at a higher gear followed by more savory flavors finishing with well-integrated tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink now–2040. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



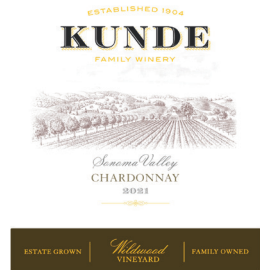
94 Gary Farrell 2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Tangy acidity and bright red-fruit flavors give this wine an energized, lively expression. Red cherries, cranberries and raspberries lend an appetizing, mouthwatering feel that will welcome endless food pairings. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$85



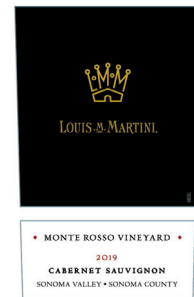
94 J. Christopher 2019 Volcanique Special Selection Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Boysenberries and cedar needles are the main aromas, flanked by notes of loamy soil and bittersweet dark chocolate. There is a beautiful balance here between bright red cherry fruit, silky tannins and energetic acidity. The wine feels silky and full in the mouth, with traces of iron and burnt sugar on a very long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



94 Kunde 2021 Destination Series Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This gorgeous wine is packed with red and black fruits, cinnamon, vanilla and cedar nuances on a full body backed by moderate tannins. The almost-sweet fruit flavors and generous texture make it delicious and mouth-filling. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50



94 Kunde 2021 Wildwood Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Tempting richness and ripeness of fruit flavors is the hallmark of this full-bodied wine. It's also generously oaked and has a good supply of butter and toast nuances to top the tasty peaches and baked apples at its center. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35



94 Louis M. Martini 2019 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Lavish, rich oak spices crowd the aromas of this big wine and continue through the flavors and finish. Cinnamon, toast, cedar and clove nuances show on top of opulent black figs and dried blueberries. Well-integrated tannins lend a suave, velvety texture. Best through 2033. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$140



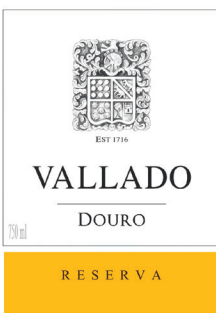
94 Louis M. Martini 2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Gnarly Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Complexity and oak spices come along with a chocolaty, jammy fruit expression in this big and broad-textured wine made from vines dating to the 19th century. Aromas of rosemary and black pepper lead to intense blackberries on the palate, while toasted oak provides the bass backup. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100



94 Pascual Toso 2020 Magdalena Red Blend (Mendoza). This wine's elegance and balance were a pleasant surprise, given the warm vintage. The nose starts with chocolate-wrapped berries and dates. Smooth on the palate, this savory blend is made with 60% Malbec, 30% Cabernet and 10% Syrah. It has plenty of red and black fruit flavors followed by dates, cumin, thyme and integrated notes of baking spices. Good acidity elevates the experience. Quintessential. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$130



94 Poggio al Tesoro 2019 Sondraia (Bolgheri Superiore). A meaty, savory nose draws freshness from herbal and stony undertones, while a kick of salt and pepper provides pop. The palate turns sweeter, with black cherries and chocolate but maintains the salt and pepper backbone. The tannins are tautly wound around powerful acidity. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90



94 Quinta do Vallado 2020 Reserva Field Blend (Douro). Firm and dense, this concentrated wine has powerful black fruits. Its texture is still very present and young, promising great things for the future. Drink this memorable wine from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



94 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinha do Rio (Douro). This single vineyard wine is impressive with its structured character. It has dark tannins and black fruits, leavened with mineral acidity. Concentration and richness are aided by wood aging. Drink from 2026. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$135



94 Rutini 2019 Single Vineyard Gualtallary Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). Cherry, raspberry and plum aromas merge with dark chocolate on the nose of this big Cabernet Franc. There is a rich texture on the fruity palate. Blackberry, plum and mulberry are elevated by excellent acidity. Additional flavors include rosemary and a touch of espresso. It has a lasting chocolate finish and a complexity that will continue to evolve with time. Drink now–2033. Graziano Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$70



94 Sangiacomo 2021 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This suave wine seems to melt in the mouth, releasing complex, alluring flavors of dark plums and sweet vermouth, with balsam, cedar and redwood bark references. It's so easy to sip its smoothness and savor the complex, woody flavors and gentle texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75



SOJOURN
 2021
Chardonnay
 SONOMA COAST

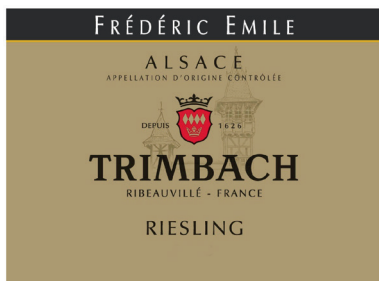
94 Sojourn 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This rich and oaky wine is also well balanced, complex and layered. Seductive aromas of apple tart, vanilla and lemon zest lead to a buttery palate of cream, toasted almonds and poached pears. A full body is backed by subtle acidity and a fresh apple vein that keeps it lively. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38



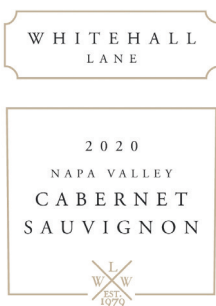
94 The Language of Yes 2021 Rancho Real Vineyard Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). Crushed boysenberry, white peppercorn and scarlet-red rose petals make for a dark while opulent and spicy nose on this bottling by Randall Grahm. It's firmly structured on the palate, giving depth to baked cherry, light toast and herb-dust flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40



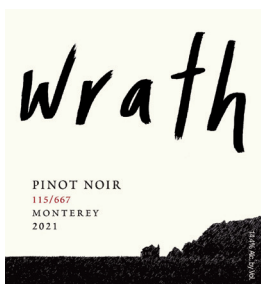
94 The Language of Yes 2021 Rancho Real Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Aromas of pepper- and rosemary-crusting lamb roast doused in black-plum sauce invite the nose deeply into this bottling. Herbs are prominent on the palate, from thyme and rosemary to peppercorn and bay leaf. Black raspberry and black plum meet with smoke on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45



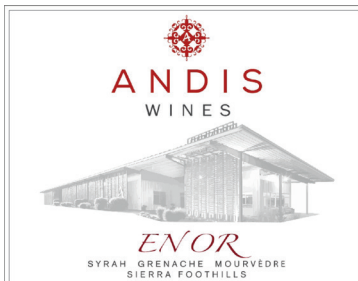
94 Trimbach 2016 Frédéric Emile Riesling (Alsace). This shows signs of development, with very subtle notes of beeswax and white truffle, but its core is packed with juicy Korean pear, lemon verbena, and orange zest. Crackling acidity holds the firm structure, while sea-salt notes add to the intrigue. It ends with a lip-smacking finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$115



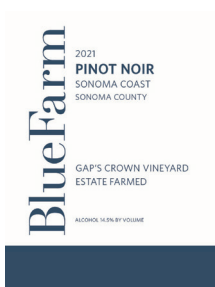
94 Whitehall Lane 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deep, dark and elegant, this full-bodied wine sips easily despite significant tannins since they are silky and fine-grained. Black cherries, blackberries and blueberries blend with hints of charred oak and iron for a complex, edgy palate. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55



94 Wrath 2021 115/667 Pinot Noir (Monterey). Light in the glass, this bottling has pomegranate aromas that are layered in smoke and cracked pepper on the nose. The firm palate presents lively herbal tones of sagebrush, spicy cracked pepper and plenty of pom-cranberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$39



93 Andis 2020 ENOR Rhône-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). Immediate aromas of black cherry, black currant, black plum and plum skins, dark chocolate, capsicum and toasted wood waft right out of the glass. The palate of this wine offers a solid dose of acidity, chalk-like tannins and notes of roses, violets, black pepper and olive. It is an engaging, interesting and downright tasty Rhône-style red. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$50



93 Blue Farm 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Bold, dark and delicious, this extra-ripe and rich-tasting wine boasts black cherries, blackberry jam and a touch of maple on moderate tannins and a full body. It is ultrasmooth and mouthfilling. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85



93 Blue Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Generous and deep, this full-bodied wine showcases plump black cherries, dark plums and blackberries in a polished frame of moderate tannins. It then spices them with cinnamon, cloves and a hint of black pepper, all of which keep you coming back for more. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



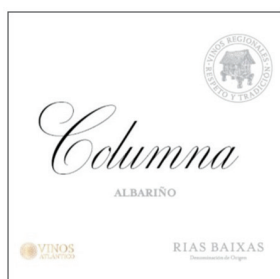
93 Brecon Estate 2021 Forty Two Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Rich aromas of cassis, violet and lilac are wrapped in ample oak on the nose of this blend. The palate is lush and heavy yet still very satisfying. Creamy tannins cradle ripe yet not-quite-sweet fruit flavors that are leveled by savory meat tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$68



93 Castello di Monsanto 2018 Il Poggio Single Vineyard Gran Selezione Annata (Chianti Classico). The sanguine, savory nose of cured meat, balsamic, pepper and sage has a kick of spicy tomato. Juicy, meaty and herbal notes continue on the palate, while cherries and fresh tomatoes provide balance. Tannins and acidity provide masterful framing. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80



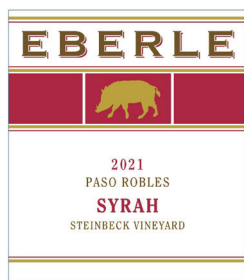
93 Center of Effort 2019 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Dark red-fruit aromas thrive amid salted meat and toasty wood spices on the nose of this bottling. Sappy tannins frame the sip, where prosciutto, pepper and toasted herb flavors decorate the dried cherry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



93 **Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico 2022 Columna Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Light straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of nectarine, cardamom and brined green olives. Soft mint and fennel notes and lemon, peach and green apple flavors ply the palate in a gossamer-textured wine that eases into a shimmering finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23



93 **Dutton-Goldfield 2022 Dutton Ranch Shop Block Pinot Blanc (Green Valley).** Chardonnay lovers should take this tempting Pinot Blanc for a ride to experience the similarly smooth texture and slightly different take on the baked apples, warm spices and a touch of butter that it offers. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$33



93 **Eberle 2021 Steinbeck Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles).** From the name that brought Syrah to the Central Coast, this vintage is quite an achievement, starting with lush and buttery aromas of roasted plum, berry, teriyaki and oak on the nose. There's a persistent acidity and tight tannic grip to the sip, where rounded flavors of salted meats, roasted fruit and vanilla bean prove deep and nuanced. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38



93 **Finca la Celia 2018 La Consulta Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley).** This Cabernet Franc is from La Consulta and shows a good concentration of fruit on the nose and palate. A smart use of oak adds integrated notes of tobacco that join fresh flavors of plum and raspberries. Smooth in texture, this wine is ready to be enjoyed now–2030. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90



93 **Greywacke 2021 Wild Sauvignon (Marlborough).** Typically reductive and a little funky in style, the 2021 Wild strikes a fine balance with the fruit. Sure, the sulfuric struck match and salted nut characters are prominent, but they're tempered by more varietal notes of passion fruit and lime. There's lovely texture to the palate, with zippy acidity and a salted citrus finish. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31



93 **Iron Horse 2020 Audrey Chardonnay (Green Valley).** Fresh fruits commingle with spicy oak accents in the nose, before toast, butter and poached pear flavors fill the palate. Each sip of this medium-bodied, elegant wine brings richness and depth. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$57



93 **Iron Horse 2020 Heritage Chardonnay (Green Valley).** Measured toast and oak spices add complexity to the aromas of this medium-bodied, alluring wine. The calm texture, ripe Bosc pears and baked apples satisfy the palate. This wine seems to grow and expand as you sip. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$57



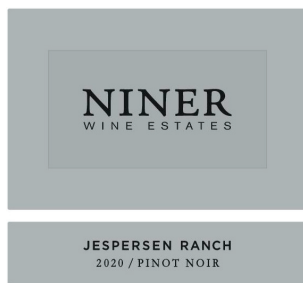
93 **Iron Horse 2020 Rued Clone Chardonnay (Green Valley).** An apple-blossom note in the aroma of this wine segues to nicely rich baked apples, vanilla and butter on the palate. Mild acidity and a medium body give the wine a calming effect that leads to a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$57



93 **Jarvis 2020 Finch Hollow Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This wine offers a distinctive deep-gold color and spicy, toasted-oak aromas. These lead to bold, broad flavors of roasted apples and pears, grilled baguette slices and toasted almonds in this full-bodied, unabashedly oaky wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$175



93 Louis Latour 2020 Grand Cru (Clos de Vougeot). A floral-herbaceous nose is followed by a layer of black currants in this voluptuous expression. Dense and rich, with a perfume of rose and blood-orange peel enveloping firm, yet deep and brooding black cherries and thyme, the palate welcomes freshness with plum and black sanguine berry, framed with toasty notes. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$485



93 Niner 2020 Jespersen Ranch Reserve Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Bold aromas of black plum and dark berry are wrapped in smoked game and light oak on the nose of this bottling. There's a leathery tension to the palate, where fennel pollen and rose flavors give depth to the rich black plum core. —M.K. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



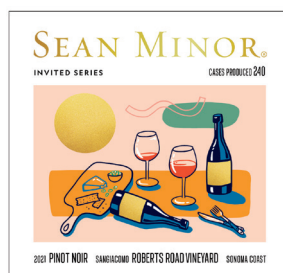
93 Reustle 2022 Green Lizard Grüner Veltliner (Umpqua Valley). This is typically one of the better American examples of Grüner Veltliner, and the 2022 vintage is no exception. The Green Lizard's pear, mandarin orange and earthy daylily aromas combine to create an amaro-like sensation. Flavors include more mandarin oranges, green tea and a burst of white pepper. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A. **abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$38



93 Roeno 2020 Pinot Grigio Rivoli (Terradelfort). Heady aromas of dried yellow flowers, baked pears, roasted lemons and oak spice rise from the glass. The rich palate is mouthfilling with bright acidity that balances a creamy texture, highlighting apple pie notes with a lemon curd finish. Drink now–2035. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32



93 Schug 2021 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Subtlety and great balance set this wine apart. It goes from restrained fruit and baking-spice aromas to a lively palate laced with Bosc and Anjou pears and lightly accented by butter and vanilla notes. —J.G. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$56



93 Sean Minor 2021 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Fresh red-fruit flavors and a juicy, mouthwatering texture make this medium-bodied wine hard to resist. It brims with raspberries, strawberries and sour cherries, leaving the palate fresh on the finish. —J.G. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

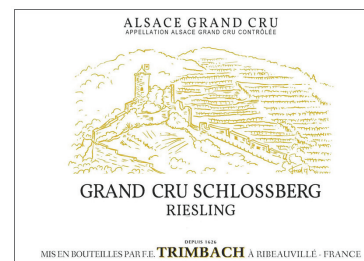


The LANGUAGE of YES

93 The Language of Yes 2021 En Passerillage Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast). Randall Grahm stretches creative wings on this bottling, which dried the 79% Cinsaut of this blend for 21 days before cofermenting it with 21% Syrah. The result is a lively nose of cherry, raspberry, carnation and pepper, while the punchy palate adds candied strawberry to that mix, proving easy to quaff. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K. **abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$75



93 Trapiche 2020 Iscay Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). This wine has an aromatic nose, with prominent oak spices. The wine's tannic structure supports plenty of strawberry, blackberry and blueberry flavors accented by nutmeg and cinnamon. Notes of herbs and black fruit mingle in the lasting finish. Drink now–2033. WX Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110



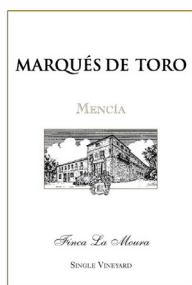
93 Trimbach 2020 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This is all about its corduroy-like texture at this stage, layers peel off with air. It starts with subtle notes of flint and match stick, then mixing in fresh quince, nectarine, green pear and lemon-curd flavors, with a long finish. The acidity needs a few years to fully integrate, but this has an admirable potential. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$140



92 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Godello (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Pale straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of Bosc pear and guava with a whiff of petrol. Full in texture, it has guava, pineapple, passion fruit, dried Mediterranean herb and jasmine flavors that culminate in a vibrant finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 12.5%

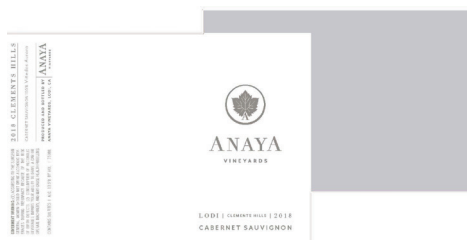
Price: \$28



92 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Marqués de Toro Finca La Moura Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry and freshly ground toffee with a touch of tar. Earthy base notes mingle with dark berry, black olive paste and sage leaf flavors. Brusque tannins coat the tongue and gums and then peel away to reveal a vibrant, fruit-filled finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14%

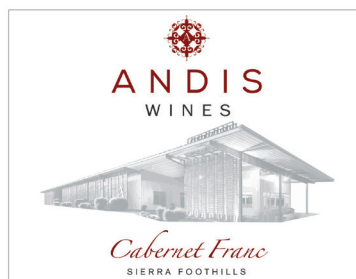
Price: \$38



92 Anaya 2018 Viñedos Aurora Cabernet Sauvignon (Clements Hills). Pronounced aromas of boysenberry, black cherry, chocolate gateau, fennel, tarragon, star anise and fresh cedar jump out of the glass. On the palate, there's a pure, voluptuous ripeness to those fruit notes with oak tones adding a complementary overture. Fine-grained, firm tannins line the palate, while the elevated acidity adds vivacity. It all comes together in a lengthy finish. —S.B.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$48



92 Andis 2021 Cabernet Franc (Sierra Foothills).

There's an absolute deliciousness factor to this wine. Immediate aromas of voluptuous boysenberry, black cherry, black currant and capsicum entice the senses. The palate offers a firm tannic texture, adding structural integrity and a backbone for those ripe red and black fruits. Flavors confirm the nose and add a sprinkle of black pepper and a touch of wood, all leading toward a meaty-umami finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45



92 Antinori 2021 Tenuta Guado Al Tasso Il Bruciato (Bolgheri).

Dark berries are first on the nose, followed by savory undertones and a stony saltiness. Berries carry over to the palate, while undertones shift sweeter and more citrusy, before a spicy nuttiness emerges on the finish. Balanced tannins and acidity provide warmth. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$39

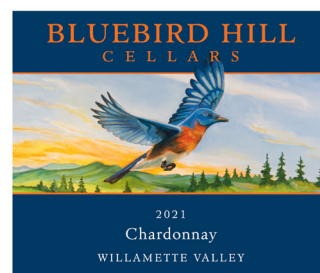


92 Aveleda 2020 Parcela do Convento (Vinho Verde).

This single vineyard wine is both light and rich. The brightness in the green fruit flavors brings out a lively character that forms a fine contrast with the intensity and concentration. Drink this fine wine now. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$40



92 Bluebird Hill 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).

When the aroma of peach melba hits, you know you are in for a treat. First off, a cup of chamomile tea touched with a bit of turbinado sugar is a relaxing flavor combination. The Golden Delicious apple and melon flavors are mere bonuses. The wine's smooth, slippery texture is graced by soft acidity. Pair with a hammock. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$35



92 Bluebird Hill 2021 Flagship Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).

This is not a wine to be consumed when hungry. First, there is the pronounced aroma of a warm blackberry scone. The scone is joined by aromas of violets, cedar and straw. Blackberry flavors unite with a chocolate, vanilla and baked good flavor reminiscent of a Bismarck pastry. Fortunately, firm tannins and crisp acidity keep everything in balance. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$35



92 Castello di Amorosa 2021 Cresta D'Oro Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley).

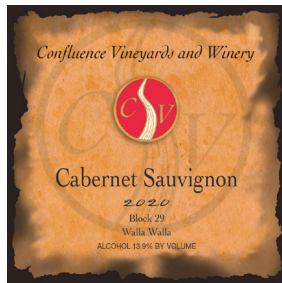
Brown sugar and maple aromas dissolve to black cherries, blackberries and cinnamon in this full-bodied, relaxed and mouthcoating wine. Soft tannins enhance the well-baked fruits and oak spices, giving the wine a comfy, engaging personality. —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

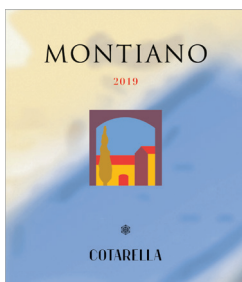
Price: \$65



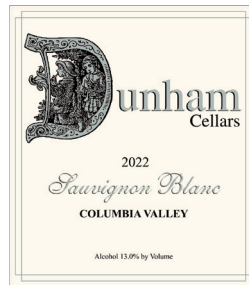
92 Castillo de Enériz 2022 Garnacha (Navarra). Aromas of black cherry, pomegranate and orange blossom pave the way for raspberry, clove, chopped mint leaf and rose water flavors. Velvety tannins and well-matched acidity stroll into a floral-scented finish. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21



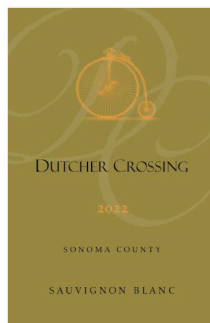
92 Confluence 2020 Les Collines Vineyard Block 29 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). A Cabernet Sauvignon of such elegance, balance and lightness of touch deserves recognition. The wine's aromas of dusty, brambly boysenberries, violets and a wisp of seared steak let you know you are in for a treat. Crisp acidity and a clean, delicate and fresh mouthfeel showcase flavors like black cherry, loam and dark chocolate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$68



92 Cotarella 2019 Montiano (Lazio). Meat, soil and cherries create a rich nose, with softer cedar, vanilla and coconut peeking through. The palate has more cherries, plus plums, chocolate and a velvety texture reinforced by polished tannins. An acidic bite precedes a long, slightly bitter finish. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



92 Dunham 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This acid-driven wine hits first with a zesty lemon aroma that is surrounded by spearmint, butter and straw. Then comes the savory cherry tomato-like flavor of the goldenberry, joined by white pepper, Thai basil and Marcona almonds. The intense acidity will make your neighbor's mouth water. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22



92 Dutcher Crossing 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Tangy, fresh and lively, this medium-bodied wine has a crisp texture, appetizing citrus bite, and light lemon and lime flavors shaded by fresh herbs. Just the thing to start a party or a meal. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40



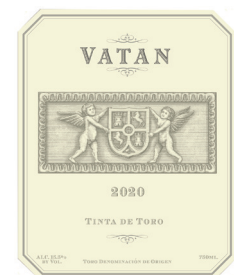
92 Frei Brothers 2020 Sonoma Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This is a serious Cabernet, loaded with robust black-fruit flavors and firmly structured with tannins. It shows excellent concentration and delicious black cherry and black currant notes, along with hints of dark chocolate, mint and cloves. Best from 2025–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27



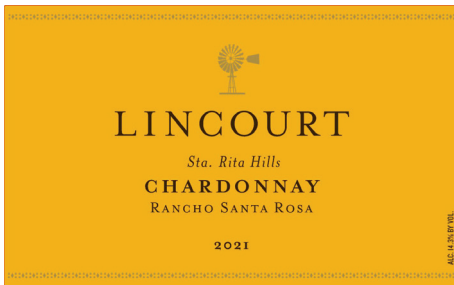
92 Iron Horse 2020 Heart of the Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley). This subtle but deep wine offers pure Bosc pear and Gravenstein apple flavors on a medium to full body backed by gentle acidity. It's well balanced, calm and cool, with little obvious oakiness. Best from 2024–2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$57



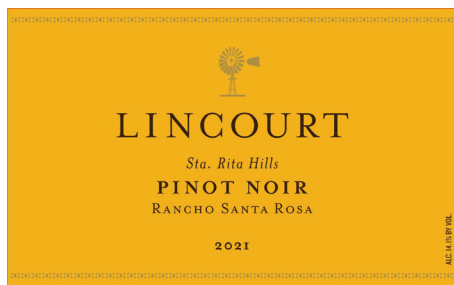
92 Jermann 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). This classic Pinot Grigio's aromas flow out of the glass showing fresh orchard notes, white flowers, lemon drop candy and crushed stone. It's lively on the palate with the sprightly levity of lemon zest, green apple skin, wild green herbs and a zip of acidity. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35



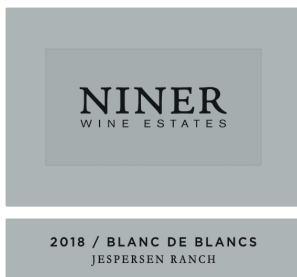
92 Jorge Ordóñez & Co. 2020 Vatan Tinta de Toro (Toro). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry, clove and milk chocolate. A framework of sturdy tannins supports black cherry, purple plum, licorice, lavender, dark chocolate and orange zest flavors that taper off into a pomegranate and rose petal finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



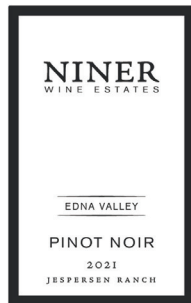
92 Lincourt 2021 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of warm apple pie with a crumbly, buttery topping show on the inviting nose of this bottling. The palate is rich with baked apple, peach and toasted nut flavors. Persistent salinity keeps the mouth invigorated. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40



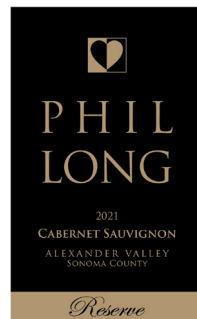
92 Lincourt 2021 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Sour cherry, rose petal, geranium extract and cinnamon aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up herbal hints of oregano, thyme and marjoram that decorate the cranberry and red plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45



92 Niner 2018 Brut Blanc de Blancs Jespersen Ranch Sparkling Blend (Edna Valley). Crisp apple, melon, Asian pear and grass aromas ride bold effervescence on the nose of this bottling. Lemon, grapefruit and grass flavors make for a crisp and fresh sip. —M.K.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$85



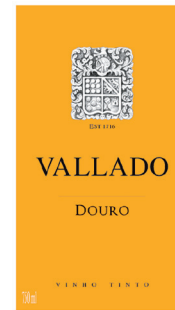
92 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Rounded raspberry and red plum aromas meet with anise and fennel front on the juicy nose of this bottling. The palate lands cleanly and brisk, offering pomegranate, more raspberry and a splash of sage oil. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50



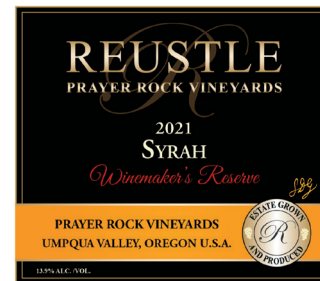
92 Phil Long 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This is an excellent, fresh-tasting and medium-bodied Cab from one of California's few Black owner-winemakers. The wine backs up vivid Bing cherry flavors with moderate tannins for a mouthwatering texture, and seems to keep gaining depth on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40



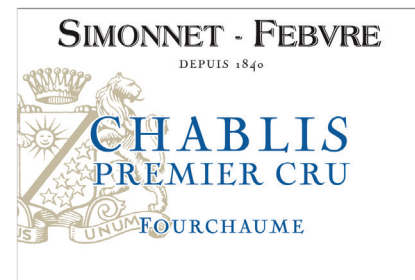
92 Poggio al Tesoro 2020 Il Seggio (Bolgheri). The nose toggles between fresh, herbal notes of grass, eucalyptus and peppermint, and then savory notes of tar and pepper. On the palate, berries take things in a sweeter direction, with a latent spice providing pop. Tannins are chalky and firm, and acidity lifts the finish. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53



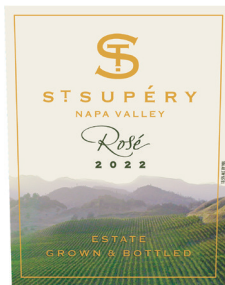
92 Quinta do Vallado 2021 Vallado Tinto (Douro). This ripe and juicy wine is a fine spicy blend. It has acidity and firm tannins that promise aging. The vivid black fruits need some calming. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23



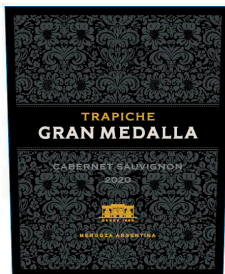
92 Reustle 2021 Reserve Syrah (Umpqua Valley). This reserve wine's blueberry and lavender aromas are almost eclipsed by a savory scent of steak sizzling on an outdoor grill. A sturdy wall of tannins supports copious amounts of tart marionberry and raspberry flavors. The additional pork fat and pepper flavors are mouthwatering. Pair with cassoulet or burgers. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45



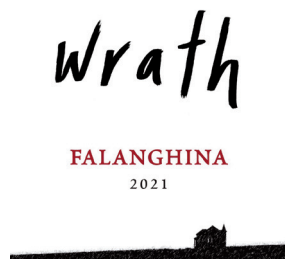
92 Simonnet-Febvre 2020 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis). Tart citrus, English pea, geranium and baby's breath enchant the nose, complemented by a slab of limestone. Energetic and focused, the palate is laser-like, beaming notes of crushed seashell overlaid with a layer of citrus. A delicately elegant and precisely crafted wine. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$46



92 St. Supéry 2022 Estate Rosé (Napa Valley). From its vivid coral color through fresh cherry aromas and appetizing raspberry flavors, this medium-bodied wine made from mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot brings a lot to the table. It is ripe enough to enjoy alone and well balanced to pair nicely at a fancy luncheon. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



92 Trapiche 2020 Gran Medalla Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Green bell pepper and berries with a touch of black pepper and cinnamon form an aromatic nose in this full-bodied red. It feels balanced, with lively acidity supporting a mix of cherries, mulberries, bay leaf, thyme and peppercorn. Gripping tannins soften toward the sweet spice finish. WX Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



92 Wrath 2021 Falanghina (Monterey). This warm-weather Italian grape is showing up more frequently in California for good reason. Crisp aromas of lime and nectarine are clean and pleasant on the nose. The palate's chalky texture delivers white peppercorn and lime spray flavors, proving fresh and vibrant. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$29



91 Alamos 2020 Night Owl Red Blend (Santa Clara Valley). Alamos Vineyards is the first new winery in San Jose in generations, and the early bottlings indicate that it is a serious rather than symbolic operation. This split of Cab and Syrah shows fresh blackberry, toasted wood, roasted lamb and soy aromas on the nose. There's gamy kick to the palate, which is firm and also layered in berry and pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65



91 Archetype 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Gentle notes of white peach, passion fruit and lime lead, with soft dried herbs behind. It's lightweight and delicate with well-integrated acidity, a silky texture and mouthwatering fruitiness to the finish. A few years in the bottle has done this wine a world of good. The Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47



91 Cabana Wines 2021 Petite Sirah (Lodi). Pronounced aromas of black plum pie, cumin, coriander and dried violets immediately entice the senses. On the palate, this full-bodied red offers firm tannins, generous alcohol and additional notes of black pepper crusted steak, unsweetened cacao, fresh and dried tarragon, and rehydrated prunes, leading toward an animalistic, sanguine finish. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30



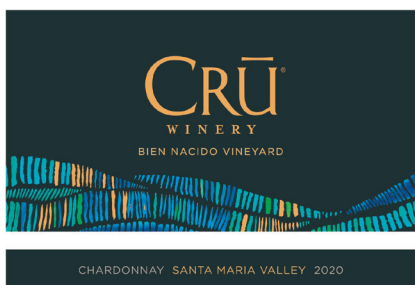
91 Calera 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). A great taste of this iconic estate without breaking the bank, this bottling is light in the glass with aromas of dried cherry, scorched earth and chaparral spice. The palate combines cranberry sauce and toasted sagebrush with an ample tannin profile. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32



91 Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade de São Miguel Esquecido (Alentejano). Tangy and textured wine with spice and wood aging flavors, this fruity wine is full and fresh. This wine has great acidity to go with the white fruits and zesty aftertaste. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40



91 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2020 Ripa delle More (Toscana). The earthy nose is built on a foundation of varied spices, with metallic overtones of soil, graphite and coins. The fruitier palate features strawberry, cranberry and cherry, with bitter undertones of orange rind and coffee. Tannins and acidity are present but not ostentatious. FX Magner Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



91 CRU 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Toasty aromas of coconut flake, browned butter and macadamia nut draw the nose into this bottling from a historic property. Fatter flavors of buttered popcorn on the palate are contained by leathery, expansive tannins and cut by a citrus-pith touch. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

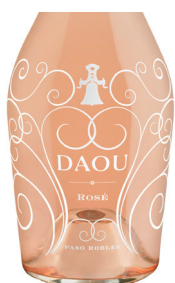
Price: \$40



91 CRU 2021 Rancho Real Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley). Clean aromas of pear flesh and Meyer lemon peel converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with vibrant, fresh and bright energy, offering nectarine, pear and sea-salt flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

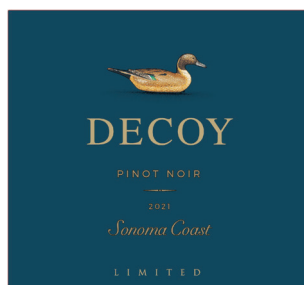
Price: \$30



91 Daou 2022 Rosé (Paso Robles). Soft strawberry and watermelon aromas are cut by tangerine peel on the nose of this bottling. The palate has earthy tones of wet rocks and chalk, with well-integrated acidity pumping into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24



91 Decoy 2021 Limited Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Solid fruit flavors meet oak complexity in this floral, spicy and cola-tinged wine. Black cherries provide a base for cinnamon, clove and toast accents. —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$30



91 J. Lohr 2018 Cuvée Pau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dark and focused aromas of rich black cherry are wrapped in hints of woodspice and bouquet garni on the nose of this ode to Pauillac. The palate's tannins are impressive, framing baking spice, dark red fruit and woody flavors. —M.K.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$50



91 Jermann 2021 Ramât Pinot Grigio (Friuli). A steely edge of minerality opens the aromas of this wine and is followed by a mix of fresh apples and pear with lemon and fresh herbs. The palate is textured and sits with a bit more oomph than your "normal" Pinot Grigio, highlighted by beautifully balanced orchard fruit and fresh flowers, finishing with a sea salt brininess. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40



91 King Estate 2021 7 Rows Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This copper-hued skin contact Pinot Gris hits first with aromas of peach skins, bright red raspberries and a touch of guava. High voltage acidity and a crisp mouthfeel combine to bookend flavors like lemon icing, wild strawberries and wisps of caramel and spicy coriander. —M.A.

abv: 13%

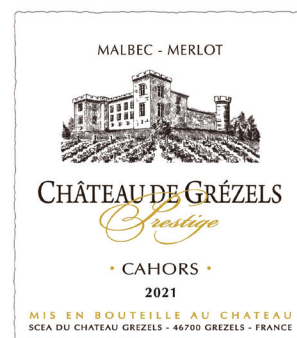
Price: \$35



91 La Crema 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Monterey). A beautiful shade of pink in the glass, this bottling shows wet stone, pink rose petal and strawberry on the juicy nose. The palate offers plenty of strawberry cream flavors balanced by a persistent acidity. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25



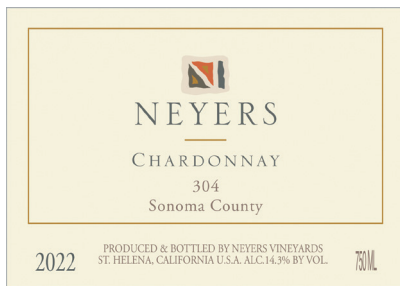
91 Château de Grézels 2021 Prestige (Cahors). This wood-aged wine blends Malbec with 30% Merlot. It is a ripe wine with generous tannins that give it shape and potential. Black-currant fruits offer juicy acidity that gives freshness. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

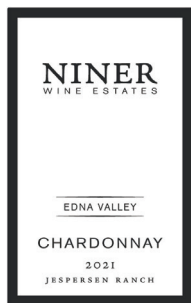
Price: \$22



91 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Cote del Sol Valley View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). From the most veteran of growers, this is a classic Santa Ynez Valley-style Cab, with ample herb influence. The nose offers roasted walnut, dark cherry and smoked meat aromas, while the palate shows charred beef, blackberry sauce, tarry asphalt and plenty of dried herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44



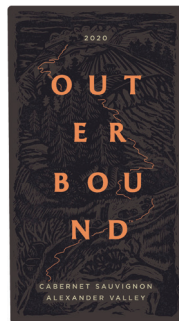
91 Neyers 2022 304 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Aromas of orange blossoms lead to warm, rich, golden apple, vanilla and cream flavors on a luxurious texture. This wine is practically sweet from very ripe grapes and the pastry-shop array of oak spices. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35



91 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Pineapple and peach aromas are bold yet restrained enough on the nose of this bottling, which also offers honeysuckle and gardenia elements. White peach, marshmallow and pineapple ice cream flavors converge on the palate, which is chalky in texture and finishes on a blast of citrus. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



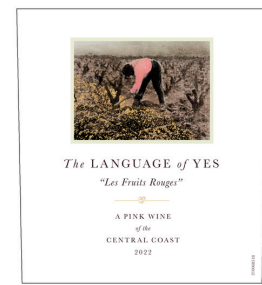
91 Octopoda 2022 Cabernet Franc (California). This Cab Franc, which includes 10% Petit Verdot, immediately entices the senses with strong aromas of black cherry, blackberry jam, black currant, tarragon, dark chocolate, jalapeño and fresh and dried tobacco leaf. Flavors don't disappoint on the palate and offers additional tones of crushed violet, toasted wood and black pepper spice. The palate offers a firm tannic texture, modest acidity and an aromatic finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



91 Outerbound 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). A tangy, vibrant take on Cabernet, this wine is alive with acidity and firm tannins that lift cranberry, raspberry and sour cherry flavors across the palate and through the finish. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



91 Staysail 2021 Grenache Blanc (Sonoma Coast). Very smooth in texture, nicely savory and complex in flavor, this outstanding low-alcohol wine brings minerals, dried herbs and dried apples to the palate, and echoes toasty, nutty nuances on the finish. Its savorily slant suggests pairing with mushrooms and meaty dishes. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$35



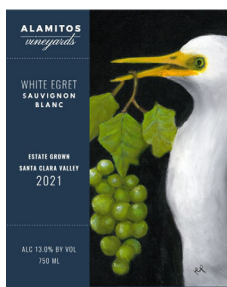
91 The Language of Yes 2022 Les Fruits Rouges Rosé (Central Coast). Lovely aromas of watermelon and peach pick up a floral tone on the nose of this rosé blend of 72% Grenache, 26% Cinsaut and 2% Tibouren. Similar fruit flavors are encased in firm tannins on the broad and likable sip, cut by bright acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25



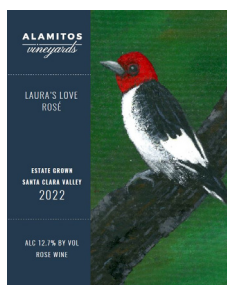
91 V. Sattui 2022 Rosato di Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Lovely aromas of raspberry and strawberry are balanced by a wet-rock minerality on the nose of this bottling. It's a juicy style of rosé on the palate, where cherry flavors ride a compelling texture and refreshing acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36



91 Whitehaven 2022 Windward Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A pop of peach, pineapple, fresh bell pepper and tomato leaf aromas tango their way toward a tangy, textural palate that shows plenty of regional pungency with tingly acidity and excellent length. E. & J. Gallo. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



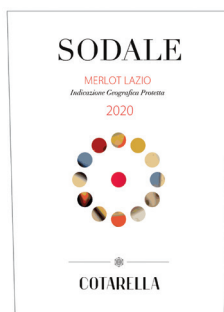
90 Alamitos 2021 White Egret Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Clara Valley). Lime peel, chalk and freshly laid concrete aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the palate, where lime and grapefruit-pith flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42



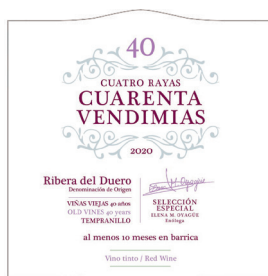
90 Alamitos 2022 Laura's Love Estate Grown Rosé (Santa Clara Valley). Though very light in the glass, this rosé may be one of the first in California to blend 25% Syrah and 25% Touriga Nacional with 50% Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of cherry candy, chalk and red flowers lead into a palate that's refreshing if mellow, with similar light red-fruit flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$52



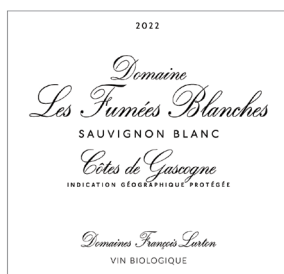
90 Cotarella 2019 Ferentano (Lazio). The nose is like a cheese plate with warm Brie accompanied by honey, nuts and a slice of lemon. The lush palate amplifies those aromas, with citrus carrying the day and salty, stony undertones. Acidity carries through a substantial finish. Trinchero Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



90 Cotarella 2020 Sodale Merlot (Lazio). On the nose, metallic notes come from pennies and cranberries, while bricks and herbs provide warmth. Vibrant fruit and tea flavors create an astringent palate, but an essence of cherry and vanilla preserves softness. Tannins and acidity are perfectly in harmony. Trinchero Family Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30



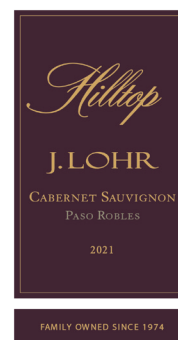
90 Cuatro Rayas 2020 Cuarenta Vendimias Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). This wine is garnet-colored in the glass with aromas of cassis, black plum, jalapeño and black raspberry. In the mouth there are flavors of black raspberry, black currant, tobacco leaf and dark chocolate. Slightly grippy tannins reveal a fruity finish. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22



90 François Lurton 2022 Domaine les Fumées Blanches (Côtes de Gascogne). Aged in concrete eggs, the wine is bright and fruity with hints of tropical fruits as well as fresh citrus acidity. It is a fine wine, its fruit balanced with a ripe texture. Drink from 2024. Pardela Wines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25



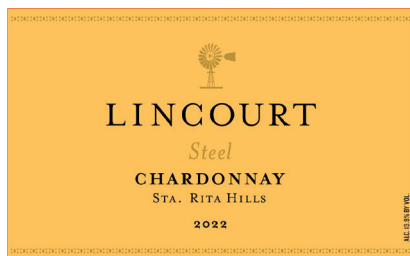
90 Hahn 2021 SLH Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lemon peel, lychee and wet-rock aromas converge on the nose of this wine. The palate lands with clean, brisk energy, offering flavors of lime peel with rounded, ripe melon. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



90 J. Lohr 2021 Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Baked black cherry, black-berry-jam-topped toast and light caramel aromas are well integrated on the nose of this popular wine. Ripe black cherry flavors hold through the palate, where coffee bean and more caramel elements contribute to the familiar finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35



90 Le Vigne 2019 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Clean lines of black currant and cracked pepper recall a soda-pop freshness on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a clean expression of rich fruit, toasty wood and caramel. It's juicy, with just enough tannic edge to be an easily likable style of Petite Sirah. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28



90 Lincourt 2022 Steel Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Asian pear, jasmine and lime blossom aromas make for a fresh and floral nose on this bottling. It's light on its feet, with fresh and zippy pear and citrus flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35



90 Luigi Bosca 2021 De Sangre Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This wine is a blend of Malbec grapes from vineyards in the Luján de Cuyo region and is one of the few Malbec DOCs available in the market. Herbaceous notes dominate the palate in this vintage. The nose offers aromas of violets, cassia and plum jam. Flavors of grass, cinnamon and plum are lifted by much-needed acidity. It has a velvety texture and smoky notes in the meaty finish. Let it breathe for a few minutes before drinking. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



90 Marchesi Antinori 2021 Pèppoli (Chianti Classico). A sour nose is brightened by cherry undertones, while a hint of graphite and coffee provides a savory balance. The palate turns sweeter, with strawberry shining above satisfying acidity and the fresh astringency of hibiscus and cranberry. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25



90 Massican 2022 Annia White Blend (California). A unique blend of 41% Ribolla Gialla, 33% Tocai Friulano and 26% Chardonnay, this white has a beautiful springtime feel. Aromas and flavors suggest chamomile and jasmine blossom, citrus zest, wet stone, dewy grass warming underneath the rising sun, bee pollen and just-ripe yellow peach and peach fuzz. Light to medium bodied, the wine offers a slight fizz on the palate, giving it extra energy and verve from start to finish. —S.B.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$32



90 Massican 2022 Gemina White Blend (California). This white blend is an Italian celebration of 62% Greco and 38% Fallanghina. Racy high acid gives the wine a sense of energy from start to finish and elevates the fresh aromas and flavors of apple, pear, lemon, lime, chamomile, lemongrass and white pepper. —S.B.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$35



90 Poggio al Tesoro 2020 Mediterra (Toscana). The nose is deeply sanguine and earthy, with undertones of sour cherry and plum. Cherries and plums come across more sweetly on the palate, along with figs and chocolate, before the earthiness returns for the finish. Definitive tannins provide structure. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

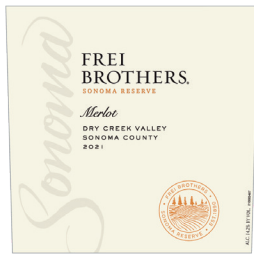


90 Poggio al Tesoro 2022 Solosole Vermentino (Toscana). The nose is floral and citrusy before a slightly sweeter palate of green apple and candied lemon. Almonds dominate the finish, which has a salted almond flavor and almond oil texture. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28



89 Save Me San Francisco 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Lucas). Mineral streaks of slate and graphite pair with a fresh fruit tone on the inviting nose of this bottling. The palate is bright, clean and pleasing, offering red fruit in a simple but likable style. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

BEST BUYS



93 **Frei Brothers 2021 Sonoma Reserve Merlot (Dry Creek Valley).** This deep and flavorful wine made from organic grapes has a light touch on the palate, offering lots of blackberries, blueberries, wood char and dark chocolate while staying elegant and smooth in texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$17



93 **Vinos del Atlantico 2021 Zestos Malvar Old Vines (Vinos de Madrid).** This light straw-colored wine made from a grape native to the region near Madrid has aromas of apricot, orange blossom and flint. It has a viscous texture and beautiful flavors of mango, pineapple and passion fruit with an almost chalky minerality and notes of saline and Turkish delight in the finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

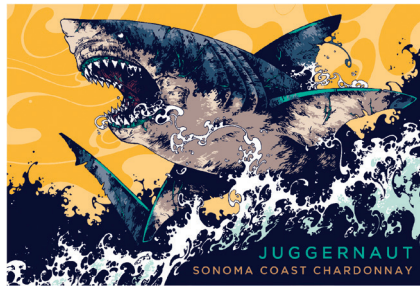


92 **Casa Relvas 2021 Touriga Franca Vinha da Mina (Alentejano).** The Touriga Franca variety is more often found in the Douro. Here it has produced a full-bodied, perfumed wine with great tannins and juicy black fruits. There is a light mineral structure in the wood aging flavors, adding to the wine's richness. Drink from 2026. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

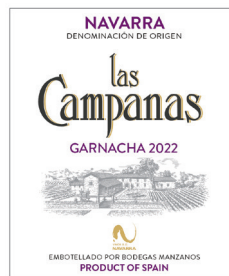
BEST BUYS



92 **Hahn 2021 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** Aromas of thinly sliced frozen pineapple meet with lemon glaze and pastry dough on the dynamic nose of this widely available bottling. The palate lands with bold richness, offering baked apple, lemon and popcorn-butter flavors while staying fresh and light. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



92 **Juggernaut Wines 2021 Juggernaut Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Well balanced between fresh fruits and light oak spices, this medium-bodied wine is not nearly as aggressive as its label image of a shark suggests. Moderate acidity bolsters fresh golden apple and Bartlett pear flavors, with delicate buttery accents. It will be especially versatile with food. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

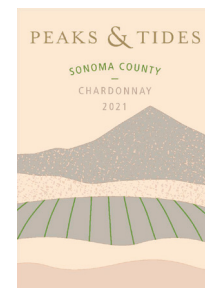


92 **Manzanos 2022 Las Campanas Garnacha (Navarra).** Inky garnet to the eye, this wine offers aromas of blackberry and freshly ground espresso. A coffee note transitions to the palate alongside black cherry, cassis, menthol, eucalyptus and black pepper flavors wrapped in an enduring layer of satiny tannins. Manzanos Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

BEST BUYS



92 **Ricossa 2020 Antica Casa (Barbera d'Asti).** This classic and value-centric Barbera is pure joy. Fresh and upfront aromas of sour cherries and wild raspberries mix with hints of fresh herbs and warmed earth. The palate is vibrant and zippy with a core of red fruits that give the wine an easy-going personality that makes this wine so easy to drink and a true "goes with anything" sort of wine. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14



91 **ALDI 2021 Peaks & Tides Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** Aromas of this extremely affordable, medium-bodied wine are quite fruity, peachy and slightly honeyed but not overly rich. Flavors expand into fresh Fuji apples, lemon zest and a touch of butter. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$10



91 **Bodegas Vatan 2022 Nisia Verdejo Old Vines (Rueda).** A bouquet of Bosc pear, nectarine and brined green olives paves the way for peach, honeydew melon, fennel bulb and vanilla bean flavors. Notes of white chocolate and lemon zest endure into the vibrant finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



91 Casa Relvas 2021 Tinta Miúda Vinha de Pisões (Alentejano). One of a series of single vineyard wines, this wine has ripe tannins and complex black fruits. It is powerful and juicy with a touch of spice and richness. The wine will be ready from 2025. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

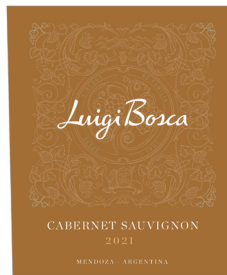


91 Castle Rock 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Generous aromas of caramel, baked lemon, pie crust and hazelnut pick up a light, white-rock minerality on the complex nose of this bottling. Salted lemon, baked apple and honeysuckle flavors come together on the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

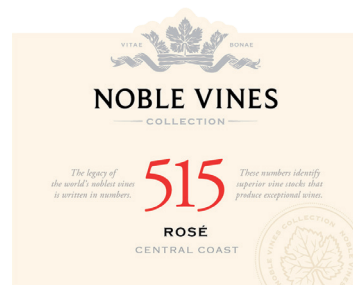


91 Lopez de Haro 2017 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of cassis, black tea and a touch of earth waft from the glass. An earthy note transitions to the palate, joined by purple plum, red cassis, caramel and summer farm stand flavors set into stiff tannins that dawdle into a chewy finish. Vintae USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



91 Luigi Bosca 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Hints of nutmeg and rosemary make the strawberry and cherry nose more interesting and aromatic. It's full and savory, with chocolate notes adding an extra layer of flavor. Berries and green bell pepper mingle on the smooth palate and set the stage for a lasting eucalyptus finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20



91 Noble Vines 2022 515 Rosé (Central Coast). A medium shade of pink, this lively and crisp rosé offers apple, pear and watermelon aromas, with a touch of lemon spray. The palate is pithy and loaded with energetic citrus and pink-fruit flavors. A hint of earth pops on the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

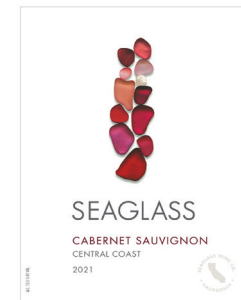


91 Plaimont 2020 Les Cépages Préservés (Saint Mont). The very local Arrufiac and Petit Courbu grapes are blended with Gros Manseng in this wine that showcases local grapes. Its citrus flavors balance with ripe white- and kiwi-fruit flavors. It is a fresh, fruity wine with ripe fruits to fill it out. Drink now. August Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

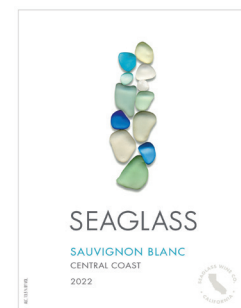
BEST BUYS



91 Roeno 2022 Tera Alta Pinot Grigio (Valdadige). Ripe pear, candied lemon zest and pressed wildflowers lift from the glass of this pretty Pinot Grigio. The rounded palate offers Fuji apple, lime blossom, crushed stone and a touch of spice on the zippy finish. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

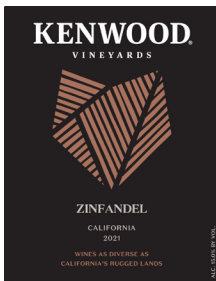


91 SeaGlass 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). This widely available, affordably priced wine begins with focused, intense aromas of blackberry and black cherry on the nose, where hints of thyme, oregano and graphite add depth. The palate is hefty and ripe, with rounded blackberry, pepper and oregano flavors wrapped in a chalky texture. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

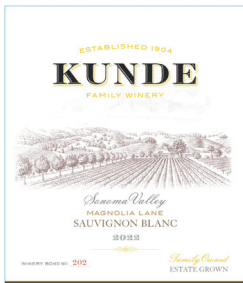


91 SeaGlass 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). Another stellar bottling from this bigger brand, this wine kicks off with tightly wound pomelo pith, white flower and citrus-flesh aromas. The palate's grippy texture frames lychee and pear flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



90 Kenwood 2021 Discoveries Zinfandel (California). A great bang-for-the-buck Zin for folks who like bigger, bolder and darker wines with a strong tannic texture. Elevated (15%) alcohol is well met by plump, ripe black fruits, including cherry, plum and blackberry that are complemented by more herbaceous tones of fennel, tarragon, violets and bits of toasted wood and tar. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14



90 Kunde 2022 Magnolia Lane Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Loaded with citrus, pineapple and green-apple flavors, this lively and bright wine grown on the winery's own property will please a crowd. Good acidity matches ample ripeness for excellent balance and refreshment. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



90 Open Skies 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey County). Fresh and easygoing aromas of red fruit, oregano and cracked pepper are clean on the nose of this bottling. There's a purity of generous fruit on the palate, where baked red cherry and strawberry flavors are dusted in light herbs for a solid sip. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$8

BEST BUYS



90 Open Skies 2020 Red Blend (Monterey County). Balanced aromas of blackberry, purple flowers, toast and licorice draw the nose into this red blend. The generous palate begins with a fresh kick of lilac and cassis, then warms into caramel-laced berries while keeping a tannic edge. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$8

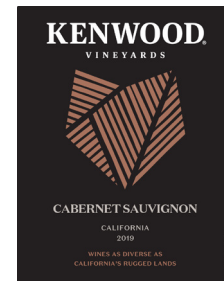


90 Summer Water 2022 Rosé (Central Coast). Struck stone and flint aromas make for a mineral-laden nose on this bottling, as pink-fruit aromas linger as well. The palate is sharp and acid-driven, showing brisk strawberry and lime flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20



89 Belletti NV (Prosecco). Fresh and floral on the nose with lemon zest and hints of green apple skin, this sparkler is crisp on the palate with freshly cut apples, peach and melon finishing with an easy and carefree finish. ALDI. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$10

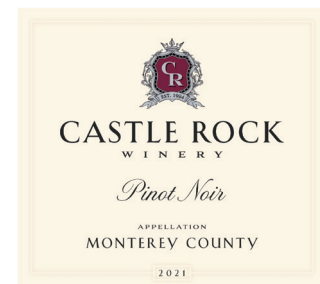
BEST BUYS



89 Kenwood 2019 Discoveries Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Altogether friendly and fun, this Cab offers a plushy tannic texture and a solid dose of acidity. Find notes of ripe black cherry, blackberry, black currant, tar, charred wood, dried forest floor with leaf litter, fresh tobacco and crushed violets. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

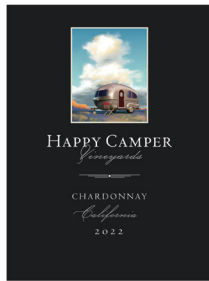


88 Ant Moore 2022 Estate Series Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A perfume of pink grapefruit, lime, dried herbs and florals is succeeded by a fresh, tangy palate that's dry, crisp and fruity with an herb-flecked finish. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13



88 Castle Rock 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Damp clay, dried cherry and toasted wood aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is familiar and reliable with wood, fruit and spice flavors aligning. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

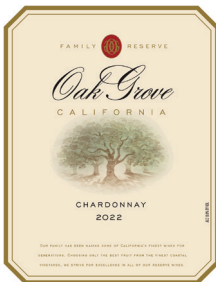
BEST BUYS



- 88 Happy Camper 2022 Chardonnay (California).** If you like super light-bodied Chardonnays, then you will indeed be a happy camper with this one. Find delicate notes of lemon, lime, green apple, grass, baby's breath and lemongrass. An overall balanced white for easy sipping. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10



- 88 King Estate 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Oregon).** A restrained aromatic combination of pomelo and honeydew melon is accented by a sliver of saline. The wine's crisp texture and bright acidity are right at home with a brisk but one-dimensional wall of white grapefruit flavor, with perhaps a bit of thyme. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

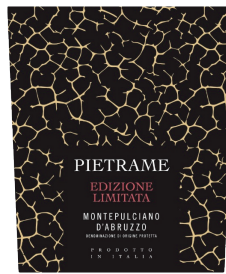


- 88 Oak Grove 2022 Family Reserve Chardonnay (California).** This is a solid, well-balanced Chard perfect for any casual occasion. Find notes of lemon, lime, white blossom, steel, wet stone and a hint of whipped meringue. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



- 88 Oak Grove 2022 Family Reserve Pinot Grigio (California).** A simple and quite juicy expression of Pinot Grigio, this offers aromas and flavors of lime leaf, apple blossom, ripe white peach and nectarine, nasturtium nectar and sour green apple. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10



- 88 Pietrame 2020 Edizione Limitata (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose is earthy, sanguine and slightly mineral, with notes of cherry, orange and wild herbs eventually emerging. Cherries and oranges carry the palate until a swirl of vanilla and chocolate rises on the finish. Clay-like tannins are balanced by vibrant acidity. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

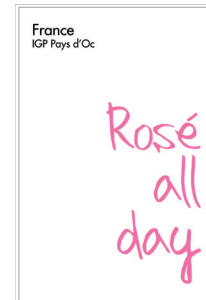


- 88 SenzaTempo 2019 Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose is primarily savory, with notes of balsamic vinegar and cured meat along with stony undertones, but cranberries provide a tangy, bitter fruitiness. The palate opens up the fruit with more cranberries and cherries, but austere tannins maintain the astringency. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

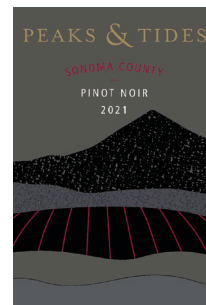
BEST BUYS



- 87 Kenwood 2019 Discoveries Merlot (California).** The ripeness of the fruit, along with the plush tannic texture and modest acidity, gives this red the perception of sweetness throughout the palate. Find notes of blackberry, black cherry, black plum, black pepper, capsicum and damp earth. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14



- 87 Rosé all Day 2022 Rosé (Pays d'Oc).** An easy-drinking rosé with high acidity and nuanced flavors of rose petals, dried herbs, grapefruit and dusty white pepper. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13



- 86 ALDI 2021 Peaks & Tides Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Woody, oak-char aromas and flavors dominate this otherwise straightforward, cherry-flavored wine, making it OK for casual occasions. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$13

ALSACE RIESLING

95 Kirrenbourg SAS 2020 Schlossberg Essencia Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Racy and elegant, this wears its sweetness gracefully, featuring intense honey, apricot and pineapple flavors at the core. It really builds in intensity without getting heavy, ending with a lingering aftertaste of dried apricot and citrus. It is never heavy or cloying, and spice, bergamot and dried tropical fruit flavors keep coming at you in waves. Well balanced, it continues with the honey note on the finish. Drink now–2045. Vintage Wine Marketing. —A.Z.
abv: 8.75% **Price:** \$180

95 Kirrenbourg SAS 2020 Schlossberg K Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Exotic spices and mineral aromas waft from the glass of this velvety, pure and vibrant white, while the palate's guava and vanilla pastry, ground ginger, floral and apricot pith flavors. This is crystalline in structure, with mouth-watering acidity creating a fine frame, linking all the elements and giving this finely meshed white a firm backbone for aging. Best after 2027. Vintage Wine Marketing. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$91

94 Trimbach 2016 Frédéric Emile Riesling (Alsace). For full review see page 10. Taub Family Selections.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$115

93 Kirrenbourg SAS 2020 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Here's a mouth-watering Riesling with great tension between firm acidity and flavors of cardamom, ripe apple, lemon curd, fleur de sel and white peach. It is centered around a core of stony mineral, with all of the pieces in fine balance. This is sleek and elegant, but with a lot of intensity. Vintage Wine Marketing. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

93 Trimbach 2020 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). For full review see page 12. Taub Family Selections.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$140

93 Trimbach 2018 Mandelberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This is driven by firm acidity that fuels the flavors of blanched almond, star anise, candied lemon peel, and brine. Fuller in body, but somehow still light on its feet, sailing across the palate. It is very dry, with a tangy saltiness, followed by a very long, smoky finish. A nice example of the beauty of later release. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2021 Clos Sand Riesling (Alsace). This expresses a pleasant leesy reduction, marked by flint and white raspberry, but with air it shows more of its elegance. Orchard blossom and stone-fruit flavors are flanked

by hints of sea salt that extends on the finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$44

92 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2019 Wineck-Schlossberg Riesling (Alsace). Graceful dry white, with a lively profile, this shows light chalkiness in texture, while the palate offers juicy notes of papaya and peach, with apple blossom and candied pink grapefruit notes. Salty finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Trimbach 2018 Brand Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This vibrant white is focused by vivid acidity and a savory mineral elements. Crisp flavors of apple, Mexican gherkins, quince blossom and lemon zest are layered and nuanced. This is broad in shoulders, but moves gracefully, presenting a velvety mouthfeel. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine Saint-Remy 2020 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This expresses beautiful pastry notes upfront with well-integrated acidity giving it freshness and bringing the best out of the core filled with spice, quince and quinine. Floral notes linger on the finish. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

91 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2019 Letzenberg Riesling Riesling (Alsace). This shows juiciness and body, while keeping elegance and freshness. It shows subtle notes of white raspberry with wet stone and a hops. The well-integrated acidity underscores notes of apple and pear, and brings quince blossom to the finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Anne de K 2021 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Very linear and salty with mineral structure and salty elements accenting the persimmon, Korean pear and white-raspberry flavors. It features crackling acidity, which gives this intensity and creates a mouth-watering impression on the finish. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Boeckel 2021 Wiebelsberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This starts out with spicy ginger and stone notes, before the papaya and apricot flavors emerge on the palate. It has nice intensity and it builds to a richness before drying on the finish. A classic style with good verve. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

90 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2021 Steingrubler Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This shows plenty of coconut cream and vanilla notes which frame the mouth-watering core of juicy peach and lemon verbena. Shows great focus from start to finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58

90 Kirrenbourg SAS 2020 Terroir S Riesling (Alsace). Mineral and red-berry perfumes

burst from the glass, as this lovely white delivers exotic flavors of passion fruit and mineral on a framework that's elegant and intense, yet rich and full bodied. It is all followed by a mouth-watering, mineral finish. Vintage Wine Marketing. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$64

90 Marcel Hugg 2018 Altenberg de Bergheim Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This is a bit bigger in style, filled with rich flavors of apple, quince paste and pear, flanked by notes of cardamom and yuzu-flavored sesame seeds. Vanilla spice marks the inviting finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Trimbach 2021 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Here is a linear style with great focus on its yuzu, pineapple and lime flavors, while an earthy element glides along the edges. Fine and silky, with a salty crunch marking the well-executed finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Kirrenbourg SAS 2020 Roche Granitique Riesling (Alsace). The citrusy acidity shows precision and adds a streamlined quality to this mineral-driven Riesling. Transparent and pure, with subtle orchard fruit notes that linger and mark the moderately long finish. Vintage Wine Marketing. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

89 Pierre Sparr 2020 Schoenenbourg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Mouth watering, with finely integrated acidity, this lithe white is driven by savory mineral elements and displays flavors of star fruit, Korean pear and orange blossom. The finish is not extra long, but belongs to the harmony. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

88 Allimant-Laugner 2021 Praelatenberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Classic aromas and flavors of yellow apple, nectarine and white cherry are the hallmarks of this nicely crafted Riesling, with moderate, mineral-infused finish. Vignerons Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2022 Les Natures Organic Riesling (Alsace). Light, well-knit Riesling, with lovely orchard blossom opening up to the flavors of peach and guava, underscored by lime-like acidity. Moderate length. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Joseph Cattin 2021 Hatschbourg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Vibrant and on the leaner side, but well balanced, this is full of passion fruit, mango and pineapple flavors. Well structured, with a kiss of salt on the finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Allimant-Laugner 2022 Riesling (Alsace). This expresses direct notes of nectarine and

apple with a stony undertow. Focused and vibrant with a quick finish. Vigneron Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Domaine Saint-Remy 2022 Jade Riesling (Alsace).** This shows light notes of lanolin behind the apple, pear and citrus flavors in the center. The finish is moderately long. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

87 **Trimbach 2021 Riesling (Alsace).** Lean machine, with direct flavors of gooseberry ferment, lemon and faint apple. It is bracing and best enjoyed with food. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Pierre Sparr 2021 Grande Réserve Riesling (Alsace).** This opens up with a light matchstick note, leading the way to the subtle mix of pear, peach and lime. Lip-smacking finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

85 **Marcel Hugg 2022 Réserve Saint-Jean Riesling (Alsace).** Lighter style, with direct orchard and stone-fruit notes that are nicely balanced and moderately long on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

PINOT GRIS

92 **Jean-Baptiste Adam 2018 Vendanges Tardives Pinot Gris (Alsace).** This mouth-watering vendanges tardives displays intense, finely mixed flavors of passion fruit butter, persimmon, cantaloupe and savory mineral. Velvety and elegant overall, with a delicate, lingering finish of orange blossom honey. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

92 **Laurent Bannwarth 2019 Nature Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A beautifully made, precise and focused unfiltered white, with a subtle turmeric note behind the ground ginger, kumquat and white raspberry. It shows great harmony throughout, with notes of Fleur de Sel sprinkled on the long, finish, which lures you in for a sip after sip. It is hard to put this down. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 **Boeckel 2021 Zotzenberg Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** This is nuanced and subtle, with rice tea, hints of dandelion and lotus-flower root. Exotic, but not flashy, with nice elegance and bright acidity for energy and moderate length. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

89 **Joseph Cattin 2021 Hatschbourg Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A floral Pinot Gris, with orchard blossom and honeysuckle wafting through the light sweetness where apricot and papaya meet.

This is silky and lightly honeyed, with a mineral-tinged finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Kirrenbourg SAS 2020 Roche Granitique Pinot Gris Pinot Gris (Alsace).** This is full bodied and nuanced, with subtle aromas and flavors of white tea, chamomile and orchard blossom. It's like an infusion, before the mineral elements emerge on the savory finish. Vintage Wine Marketing. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$43

88 **Boeckel 2020 Zotzenberg Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A mouthful of wine, with sesame oil, sweet corn and lentil flavors that are the hallmarks of this white. The acidity would give this a bit more focus, but it is easy to sip this way. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

88 **Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2021 Rosenberg Pinot Gris (Alsace).** This expresses notes of dandelion tea with faint hints of apple and pear, overtaken by lime zest on the finish. Easy to enjoy and pair with food. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 **Pierre Sparr 2021 Grande Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A charming white, featuring apricot and papaya flavors that are underscored by spice and floral notes. Tangy acidity gives this vibrance and focus. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

87 **Allimant-Laugner 2022 Pinot Gris (Alsace).** The velvety texture of this Pinot Gris is decorated with hints of vanilla and dandelion. Subtle orchard fruit note marks the finish. Vigneron Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 **Boeckel 2021 Midelberg Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Medium bodied with a chamomile-tea note surrounding the core of subtle crisp apple and persimmon. It shows nice balance and moderate length on the finish. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

86 **Joseph Cattin 2022 Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Restrained, with subtle pear and mineral notes on a velvety texture that keeps on keeping on. There's a smoky note on the moderate finish. Grapevine of NC. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

85 **Marcel Hugg 2022 Réserve des Remparts Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Leesy white, with a buttery whiff lurking behind oolong tea and orchard blossom. Light apple note emerges on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

SYLVANER

91 **Laurent Bannwarth 2020 Nature Sylvaner (Alsace).** Cloudy in appearance, this marches to its own beat, but with a nice floral profile, featuring straw and honeysuckle, followed by yellow plum, clementine and gooseberry. It has mouth-watering acidity and soft tannins, too, which provide a well-built frame to stand up to food. Think smoked fish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Boeckel 2021 Zotzenberg Grand Cru Sylvaner (Alsace).** This shows a light parafin note before the crisp apple and quince notes emerge from the glass. It is sleek and polished with silky texture. Nutty aroma appears on the finish. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

86 **Allimant-Laugner 2022 Sylvaner (Alsace).** Notes of oolong tea, citrus and apple mark this dry white. The finish is modest, but pleasant. Vigneron Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

PINOT BLANC

90 **Domaine Schoffit 2021 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** Refined at first with charming reduction reminiscent of flint, but with air, it shows a fine mesh with flavors of apricot, Gala apple and almond, with a hint of tangerine zest. Shows lovely balance and good length on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Allimant-Laugner 2021 Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** Aromas and flavors of oolong tea and fennel frame the crisp apple. This is juicy and nuanced, with a pleasant, clean finish that is moderately long, but inviting. Vigneron Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 **Boeckel 2022 Midelberg Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** This is fairly neutral, with light orchard fruit notes coupled with spring blossom aromas and savory mineral. Try with fried fish. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

85 **Marcel Hugg 2022 Réserve Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** Light and floral, with daisy and dandelion up front, while a light quince note peaks through on the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

84 **Pierre Sparr 2021 Grande Réserve Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** Hints of butter and lees give way to modest apple and citrus in this juicy white. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

GEWURZTRAMINER

92 Laurent Bannwarth 2021 Nature Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Idiosyncratic version, which is compact and mouth watering, expressing lightly zesty flavors of bergamot and tangerine, but also lychee, candied ginger and blood-orange sorbet. It is bigger in body and well built, and where lacking acidity, light tannins chip in. Long, inviting finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Trimbach 2016 Seigneurs de Ribeaupierre Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Aromatic with rose and spice notes, this juicy, full-bodied version offers tangy acidity and flavors of clementine, lime zest, white peach, chrysanthemum and hints of orange-blossom honey. It is all complemented by a fine, smooth texture and nicely balanced finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Boeckel 2018 Vendanges Tardives Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Light for the style with a silky texture, showing Gewurztraminer's typical lychee, orange and white-pepper flavors and a lightly bittersweet hint. This shows nice balance and a lingering finish. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$73

90 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2022 Hengst Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). The velvety texture of this white charms the tactile senses, while vanilla spice, white tea, daisy and chamomile bring out the floral side of the variety. It is fuller in body and shows some sweetness, but the balance is there. For fans of the style. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$66

90 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2021 Steingrubler Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). An elegant version offering delicate acidity that is just enough to balance rich flavors of creamed apple, white peach and slivered almond. Hints of candied ginger, paraffin and sap create the extra layer. Soft and creamy on the finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

90 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2019 Kaefferkopf Vieilles Vignes Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This is zesty with a pleasant bittersweet profile, showing pink grapefruit peel together with lychee and cardamom notes, underscored by wet stone. Racy acidity keeps it all fresh and focused for a lingering finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Joseph Cattin 2021 Hatschbourg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Very charming flavors, with hints of marzipan, guava pastry and orange blossom honey, which accent flavors of dried apricot and white raspberry in this intense version. It features just enough tangy acidity for balance,

which also holds the inviting finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Allimant-Laugner 2019 Praelatenberg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Unusual hints of hominy open up this white before flavors of baking spice, lychee and orange-blossom honey take over. There is nice silkiness to the texture with moderately long, mineral-infused finish. Vigneron Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Boeckel 2020 Zotzenberg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). A very perfumed style, with lavender, jasmine and geranium surrounding the core of lychee and candied grapefruit. Silky in texture, with a nice mouthfeel throughout. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

89 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2022 Rosenberg Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This is on the off-dry side of the spectrum, with a lovely marzipan note flowing through, touching on apricot stone and persimmon. Baking spice emerge midpalate and linger on the finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Joseph Cattin 2022 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Ripe and unctuous, with floral notes, expressing rose petal and oolong-tea aromas and flavors plus smoke and mineral accents on a medium-bodied, open-knit framework. The exotic fruit note emerges on the finish. Grapevine of NC. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2021 Les Natures Organic Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This is fresh and pretty dry, with lactic notes together with baking spice and orange blossom. Zesty finish brings a mouth-watering sensation. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Boeckel 2021 Midelberg Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Nice velvety texture, with lemon parfait note and nice ground ginger and coriander hints. It is pleasant on the finish and easy for sipping. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

87 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2022 Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This is viscous, with white-tea notes wrapped around the subtle apple and pear mix. Citrus and spice notes mark the finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

87 Marcel Hugg 2022 Réserve des Chevaliers Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Here is a bigger white with cream and brioche flavors framing the exotic core of persimmon and durian. Spice notes mark the finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Pierre Sparr 2021 Grande Réserve Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This shows typicity with plenty of floral and spice notes that are focused by bright acidity. Moderate length. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

MUSCAT

90 Laurent Bannwarth 2020 Nature Muscat (Alsace). This is highly aromatic and filled with notes of chrysanthemum, geranium and fermented hops, while the grapey core shows bergamot accents as well. It is very unique and vibrant, with a touch of tannin on the mouth-watering finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

88 Trimbach 2021 Réserve Muscat (Alsace). Blood orange, mango, orchard blossom and spice notes are layered in this lithe white, which is silky in texture, with a dry and tangy finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Allimant-Laugner 2022 Muscat (Alsace). Aromas of chrysanthemum and jasmine are at the forefront in this white, while kiwi fruit emerges towards the finish. Moderately long and charming. Vigneron Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

CRÉMANT D'ALSACE

89 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2020 Brut Nature Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Rich notes of glazed apple, marzipan and salted butter are enlivened by racy acidity in this creamy and charming sparkler. Mouth-watering finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

89 Domaine Saint-Remy NV Prestige Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Creamy and well knit, this offers focused notes of apple sauce, lemon zest, almond and truffle. Fresh and focused, all the way through to the zesty, savory finish. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Jean-Baptiste Adam NV Emotion Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Here's a very lively sparkler with light white raspberry and flint notes up front, followed by a balanced mix of orange zest, melon and ground ginger. It is creamy, but with vibrant acidity. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

89 Jean-Baptiste Adam NV Les Natures Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). This bubbly shows a nice floral note that veils the core of juicy peach and pear flavors, while a spice mix of cardamom and ginger echoes in the background. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 Marcel Hugg NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Nicely crafted with lots of baking spice, cotton candy and white cherry pinned to the great mouthfeel. Lovely spice-infused finish invites you for more. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Allimant-Laugner NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). This sparkler has a typical rosé character with notes of crushed strawberry and watermelon knit onto the creamy mousse. Invigorating finish. Vigneron Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Jean-Baptiste Adam NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). This shows lightness with notes of rose hip and raspberry, with a mineral underscore. Crisp acidity links it all and brings it to a tight finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

87 Marcel Hugg NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Firm, marked by an aromatic core of ground ginger and rose water, this meshes fine texture and mouth-watering acidity. Easy sipper with moderate length. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

85 Pierre Sparr NV Brut Réserve Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). This creamy bubbly shows flavors of apricot, pear and roasted almonds. Sea salt accents on the modest finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

85 Pierre Sparr NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace). Easy drinking and lively, this creamy sparkling rosé displays a modest mix of violet, bruised peach and cherry. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

OTHER WHITE WINE

87 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2022 Vieilles Vignes L'Auxerrois Pinot Auxerrois (Alsace). This is very easy to sip on, with notes of daisy, dandelion and white tea on the main stage, while a light crisp apple note glides along the edges. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

WHITE BLENDS

89 Allimant-Laugner 2022 Gentil White Blend (Alsace). Very floral and aromatic with geranium and musky notes, while kumquat and bergamot mingle at the core. It is vibrant with great verve on the finish. Vigneron Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2022 7 Grains White Blend (Alsace). This falls on the neu-

tral side, with apple, oolong tea and chamomile flavors. Racy acidity keeps it lively and fresh on the finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

ROSÉ

90 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2021 Mue Rosé (Alsace). This is an idiosyncratic version, with blood orange and hints of hibiscus and red peach that are fresh and juicy. It features a silky texture that carresses the palate and leaves the most impressions on the finish. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

RED BLEND

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Burlenberg Red Blend (Alsace). This is beautifully crafted, with a seductive combination of violet, rose hip, black currant, forest-floor minerality and spice flavors. A super-silky package supported by good acidity and fine tannins, delivering an exquisite finish. Brilliantly full and elegant at the same time. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$63

PINOT NOIR

89 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2021 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Alsace). This is very dark and brooding, with dusty tannins, kirsch and plum flavors that mark the moderately long finish. It feels like it could offer more with some age. Petit Pois. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

89 Trimbach 2020 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace). Light tannins frame this bright red, working with flavors of savory herbs, dried cherry and violet, with tangy acidity. Spice and black-currant notes push through and linger on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 Allimant-Laugner 2022 Pinot Noir (Alsace). A fuller-bodied style with notes of vanilla and cedar adding to the blueberry and black-currant flavors, supported by well-integrated tannins. Vigneron Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Boeckel 2022 Middelberg Pinot Noir (Alsace). Nice acidity underlines bright red fruit in this easy sipping version. Dusty tannins mark the moderately long finish. Misa Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Domaine Saint-Remy 2022 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace). This is a full-bodied Pinot Noir, with dark cherry, damson plum and violet notes. Hoisin sauce marks the moderate finish. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Joseph Cattin 2022 Pinot Noir (Alsace). Polished and rich with lots of kirsch and black currant notes up front, while floral notes dance in the background. The well-spiced finish is moderately long. Grapevine of NC. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Joseph Cattin 2020 Steinbach Sélection Parcelle Pinot Noir (Alsace). A very rich and full-bodied version with dark sauce, stewed plum and ganache flavors pinned to the polished profile. It is a fine wine for the fans of the bold style. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 Bestheim 2019 Exception Pinot Noir (Alsace). Dark and rich with bruised plum and hoisin aromas and flavors. It is tasty with a moderately long finish adequate for everyday drinking. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

90 Closerie des Alisiers 2021 (Bourgogne Aligoté). This wine presents a delightful perfume of fresh lemons and white flowers. While not incredibly complex, it is clean and refreshing in character. On the palate, a touch of salinity along with its mouth-watering acidity complements its long citrus finish, feeling light and graceful. Accolade Brands. —A.C.C.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Pascal Bouchard 2021 (Bourgogne Aligoté). This wine exhibits great aromatic concentration with notes of freshly cut apples, orange pith, white peach and sun-baked pears all enveloped in a delicate veil of white flowers, fresh earth and hay. The palate is lively, featuring salinity and hints of light green herbs, while maintaining a dainty and light demeanor. A beautiful choice for a summer day. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

89 Maison de la Chapelle 2021 (Bourgogne Aligoté). This wine exudes aromas of fresh, fluffy laundry and an array of fresh citrus. Crisp notes of green pears, apples, and lemongrass intermingle with delicate yellow lilies, baby's breath laid upon warm stones. On the palate, under ripe pears and apples are accompanied by a pleasant salinity. The mouth-watering acidity electrifies the palate, driving a line of refreshment through and through. Scale Wines. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

MEURSAULT

94 Roux Père et Fils 2020 Les Charmes Premier Cru (Meursault). A beautiful aromatic quilt of honeysuckle, fresh hay, citrus and sliced almond. On the palate, these are matched by a brisk palate

BUYINGGUIDE

of yellow lilies, Meyer lemon and salt. Drying yellow pith and sweet citrus exit the palate, leaving a trace of saline. The lengthy finish continues pithy, but is balanced by its mouth-watering acidity. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$158

93 Henri de Villamont 2019 Les Bouchères Premier Cru (Meursault). Reminiscent of a fresh summery day, this wine presents a refreshing bouquet of fresh citrus, baby's breath and delicate vanilla tones. The palate is focused and precise with citrus pith, hints of vegetal and freshly picked herbs, with subtle hints of vanilla and brioche on the finish. It is elegant and long on the palate. Milton's Distributing Co., Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Prosper Maufoux 2019 La Pièce sous le Bois (Meursault). Produced from vineyards at 330 meters of elevation—a combination of old and young vines—this wine opens with a delightful basket of fresh lemon Verbena and grapefruit. As it evolves, a subtle banana note emerges. A pleasant touch of salinity highlights and awakens the palate. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$130

92 Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Genevrières Premier Cru (Meursault). Delightfully elegant aromatics of fresh citrus, candied orange, gardenia and the scent of rain-kissed grass are present in the glass. On the palate, it presents a linear profile with a captivating mouth-watering acidity balancing its round mouthfeel and highlighting its palate-tickling minerality. Henriot USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$175

CHASSAGNE-MONTRACHET

96 Joseph Drouhin 2020 Marquis de Laguiche Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). The freshness of perfectly ripe citrus in this wine allows one to appreciate concentration that remains modest in the glass. The palate is robust and exudes squeezed Meyer lemon. Salty and highly concentrated, it finishes with almond brioche. While balanced, the wine whispers with potent energy and attitude. Enjoy after 2026. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$185

95 Edouard Delaunay 2020 Le Village (Chassagne-Montrachet). An abundance of ripe citrus overwhelms the senses with baskets of luscious Meyer and verbena lemons, woven with freshly picked white lilies and honeysuckle. A subtle umami edge, like brown button mushrooms sprinkled with salt, adds depth. The palate is round with added layers of toasted Marcona almonds, with enchanting lulls of mocha and toffee on its persistent and precise finish. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$130

95 Roux Père et Fils 2020 Les Macherelles Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet). This wine is captivating with its concentration and purity, delivering ethereal layers of ripe citrus that haunt the senses. The palate is refined with a finesse of ripe citrus, orange skin, fresh peach that grow long on this finish. A beautiful snapshot of the 2020 vintage, perfectly captured in time. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$109

94 Louis Latour 2020 (Chassagne-Montrachet). A symphony of flavors, this rich expression exudes both power and finesse. Immediate freshness invites you into the glass, gracefully poised with ripe Meyer lemon, delicately embraced by light green herbs. The palate is accentuated with river stones and a touch of salt, intensifying notes of citrus pith and subtle almond under notes. Gorgeous. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE

97 Domaine Antonin Guyon 2020 Grand Cru (Corton-Charlemagne). Perfectly ripe citrus fruit joins fresh almond on the nose, while the palate is as transparent as a clear sunny day. The wine is fresh, balanced, and delicate, but finishes with pleasant notes of almond brioche. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$260

97 Edouard Delaunay 2020 Grand Cru (Corton-Charlemagne). Ripe citrus, lemon verbena skin, orange oil, peony and honeysuckle are enveloped in baby powder-coated fresh lilies. The precise, bright palate of red apples and pears crescendos with beautiful vanilla, white stones and lightly salted toasted almonds. Dynamic, with a long finish, the wine can be enjoyed on its own. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$270

95 Roux Père et Fils 2020 Grand Cru (Corton-Charlemagne). This wine welcomes the nose with a floral entry, followed by fresh lemons and tangerines perched delicately atop abundant stone. Salinity enhances the ripeness of the fruit, bringing vibrancy to the palate. Beautifully poised fruit is balanced by mouth-watering acidity that carries its freshness through the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$300

POUILLY-FUISSÉ

94 Meurgey-Croses 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine's aromatics captivate with fresh white and yellow peaches, and Meyer lemon, followed by delicate cherry blossoms and subtle river-rock minerality. The palate intensifies these notes with layers of toasted almonds

and brown butter that are gently washed by mouth-watering acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 Famille Paquet 2019 (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine has an aromatic layer of fresh lemon, sesame seed, chervil and wet river rocks. The palate exhibits a harmonious range of perfectly ripe citrus, accompanied by hints of geranium and stone. A wine of great balance, it is enjoyable to drink now as its aging ability is uncertain. DNS Wines. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

92 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2020 Aux Bouthières Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Aromas of tangerine skin interlaced with delicate white flowers are beautifully framed by vanilla pod and almond. The mirroring palate carries precise layers of citrus zest, orange oil, warm baking spices, raw almonds, and vanilla extract. The oak spice frames the fruit beautifully and yields to a light tangerine skin finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

92 François Martenot 2020 Les Ruchers (Pouilly-Fuissé). Like sunshine in a glass, this wine exudes freshness with summery notes of ripe lemons, pears and tangerines radiating warmth and roundness. The palate delights in a perfect blend of fresh citrus, hay, hazelnuts and vanilla. It is well-structured with graceful acidity that cleanses the palate, leaving lingering traces of baking spice. Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Domaine Barraud 2019 Sur la Roche (Pouilly-Fuissé). Find delightful aromas of fresh verbena lemon and pastry filling and roasted hazelnuts in this wine. The palate impresses with intense focus, offering ripe citrus flesh, orange oil, white lily, chamomile and almonds. Medium bodied with a lactic edge, it finishes saline with lingering notes of vanilla. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2020 (Pouilly-Fuissé). Exquisite aromatics reveal ripe citrus, honey, honeysuckle, white stone and fresh vanilla on both the nose and palate. The finish delights with elegant traces of almond and vanilla bean. The finish is long and carries a captivating saline-stone minerality. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2020 En Bertillon (Pouilly-Fuissé). Fresh aromas of ripe lemon verbena, hay, honeysuckle, lilac and gardenia intertwine in the glass. The palate adds a layer of citrus leading toward a saline and pithy finish. Although one is left desiring more fruit and tension, the wine has evident structure and a long finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 Domaine Barraud 2019 En Buland Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). The nose embraces

freshness, reminiscent of a spring day, with notes of lemons, pears and river rocks. On the palate, ripe fruit unfold and harmoniously integrate with pleasant accents of gardenia and vanilla. It is straightforward and should pair well with an array of picnic treats from fresh fruit, goat cheese salads and Mediterranean pastas. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

90 Moillard 2020 Sous La Grote (Pouilly-Fuissé). Graceful aromatics of fresh lemons, white flowers, and crushed white stones emerge from the glass. The palate reveals a seamless integration of these notes, along with a creamy texture balanced by fresh fruit and subtle oak spice. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

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

SAINT-VÉРАН

93 Famille Paquet 2019 Les Cras (Saint-Véran). Exuding fresh, concentrated lemon verbena, honeysuckle, almonds, brioche and flint on the nose, the aromatics of this wine are captivating. The palate impresses with lemon curd, almond-vanilla pastry cream. Balanced and elegant, this wine is a delightful experience. DNS Wines. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$83

92 Domaine Couturier 2020 La Cour des Bois (Saint-Véran). Aromas of ripe lemon, tangerine skin, white lilies and geranium fill the glass. The palate is round with Bosc pear, orange and lemon zest, gingerbread, vanilla pod and white stone. The wine offers good length, enriched by delightful florals and a subtle tinge of saline elevating the profile. De Maison Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

91 Domaine de la Croix Senaillet 2020 (Saint-Véran). The medium-bodied wine's aromatics are focused, presenting lemon pith, lilies, fresh yellow flowers, almonds, dandelions and wet stone. On the palate, these notes crescendo with added layers of floral and mineral nuances. Its mouth-watering acidity is uplifting and washes away, leaving traces of lingering citrus pith along the finish. A refined delight. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.

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

90 Famille Paquet 2019 En Crêches (Saint-Véran). Aromas and flavors of lemon, orange oil, Gala apple, green pears, parsley stems and freshly earth create a wine that is straightforward yet thoroughly enjoyable. Its elegant profile captivates and delights. DNS Wines. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$83

CHABLIS

93 Domaine de Vauroux 2020 Montée-de-Tonnerre Premier Cru (Chablis). This textured and powerful wine opens with a nose of citrus, fresh herbs and hay. On the palate, an impressive display unfolds, featuring a persistent finish of crushed

shells and salt along its fine long finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

93 Domaine Jean-Louis Mothe 2020 Vaucoupin Premier Cru (Chablis). The wine unfolds with fresh lemon verbena, a gentle touch of tangerine oil, white flowers and chervil, all mingling with chalky notes. Complexity and elegance perfume the nose, assisted by its lifting acidity that gracefully unravels layers on the palate. One by one, each note unfolds, leaving a long-lasting, impressive impact. Delicious. Marchetti Co.. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Clotilde Davenne 2020 (Chablis). Powerful and intense on the nose, this wine reveals fresh citrus, lemongrass, delicate herbs and salt. The palate impresses with a great attack, offering ripe lemons and pears, hay and a touch of saline-stone minerality. Remarkable length and balance lead to a tantalizing finish. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.C.C.

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

92 Domaine Jean-Louis Mothe 2020 (Chablis). Elegantly fragrant with nuances of white flowers, English pea, geranium, honeycomb and lemongrass. The palate offers a round and lactic sensation enriched by layers of pulverized stone, chalk and pithy citrus. A leesy, dry character complements the wine's acid cut, leading to a long pithy finish. While already impressive, additional cellarage should expose greater complexity. Marchetti Co.. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Joseph Drouhin 2020 Drouhin Vaudon Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis). Exuding warmth, ripe fruit lends a delightful roundness in the glass. Notes of tangerines, tart Meyer lemon, and green pears intermingle with nuances of limestone, kelp and salt. Linear yet elegant, its mouth-watering acidity cleanses the palate, making this an excellent option for resetting the taste buds. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

92 La Chablisienne 2020 Le Finage (Chablis). Delicately fragrant with lemon verbena and pithy lemons, accompanied by hints of baby's breath and fresh almonds. The palate reveals additional layers of broken seashell, lemongrass and white stone. An enjoyable wine with impressive length. Demeine Estates. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Maison Olivier Tricon 2020 Théodore de Vaucharmes (Chablis). Delicately scented with Mandarin-orange skin, light hay and orange breeze. The palate exudes elegance, offering orange oil, salinity, and an umami note followed by a cut of citrus. This round wine showcases brisk acidity and minerality, making it a seamless pairing for dense white fish with a flaky texture. OP Wines. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Simonnet-Febvre 2020 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis). For full review see page 15.

Louis Latour Inc. **Price:** \$46

abv: 13%

91 Domaine Laroche 2020 Vieille Voge (Chablis). Elegantly fresh and ripe, this wine showcases enticing notes of lemon verbena, Mandarin orange, green pears, geranium, yellow flowers, hazelnut shell on both the nose and palate. Its refreshing and slightly tart character is balanced by a delightful mandarin orange finish. Ready to be enjoyed now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

CRÉMANT DE BOURGOGNE

92 Bailly-Lapierre NV Paul Delane Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). A joyous nose of cherry blossoms, plums, wild strawberries, sea salt and white stones is celebrated on the palate with balanced texture and acidity, allowing for the persistence of predominantly red-fruit flavors. It finishes with a delicious savor of white peppercorn. Plume Ridge. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

92 Bailly-Lapierre 2020 Égarade Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas of apricot, lime skin, fresh Gala apples and white flowers invite into a round palate with greater sweetness. Highly floral and citrusy notes are complemented by light stones and white pepper. Overall, the wine is pleasant and refreshing. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

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

92 Bailly-Lapierre 2018 Vive-la-Joie Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas of fresh pears, Pink Lady apples, freshly squeezed citrus, and baby's breath dance their way into the nose. The palate is met with pulverized white stone, delicate Meyer lemon, and a linear finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.

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

92 Prosper Maufoux NV Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Refreshing, with a good balance of orchard and citrus fruit, this crémant finishes with pleasurable salinity and sweetness. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.

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

91 Bailly-Lapierre 2018 Vive-la-Joie Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bourgogne). Sweet strawberries, watermelon, tangerine and tarragon leaves dance in this fun and fizzy crémant. Light red fruit and white pepper hover on the palate, finishing with good gentle length. The wine can be appreciated as an aperitivo or paired with bitter leafy appetizers. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.

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

91 Champliau NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas of pomelo, a sliver of honey, fresh slices of red apple and plums develop with

BUYINGGUIDE

concentration in the nose. The palate is joyous and lifted, with a touch of savory essence from plums and black cherries. Absolutely delectable. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

90 Chartron et Trébuchet 2019 Brut Pinot Noir (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas of light peach, tangerine, pomelo and yellow flowers dance into the nose, while the palate is comforted in plush, soft citrus, white peach, stone, delicate flowers and a saline finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

90 Prosper Maufoux NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). A lifted nose with burnt tangerine skin and strawberry, as well as fresh stems of thyme. Likewise, the palate expresses flavors of lemon skin and fresh strawberries, finishing with good salinity. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$23

89 La Burgondie NV Réserve Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Persistent aromas of pure lime and lemon zest, red-apple skin, pulverized stone and flint lead to a balanced palate dedicated to orchard fruit. This dainty and light-bodied wine is round and balanced by fresh acidity and salinity. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$11

89 Champliau NV Brut Authentique (Crémant de Bourgogne). This wine displays pleasing, delicate creaminess. On the nose, find white peach, apples and pears that are mirrored on the palate. Straight forward and works great as an aperitif for casual get togethers. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

89 Louis Picamelot 2020 Les Terroirs Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Persistent citrus and chalk on the nose, amidst mists of honeysuckle and fresh honey, liken this wine to a quality Trentodoc. A pleasant core of light citrus is followed by fresh almonds, finishing with a soft and creamy mouthfeel. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

89 Veuve Ambal NV Grande Cuvée Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Delicate aromas of tangerine, yellow peach, yellow flowers and peach gummy candy combine to deliver a fun and approachable nose. On the palate, this pretty and delicious wine is stony with light yellow peaches. USA Wine West. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

88 Bailly-Lapierre NV Pinot Noir Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas and flavors of white peach, hay, pears, sliced apples, cereal, white flowers, kelp and fresh almonds gently unfold in the glass. The palate is round with an herbaceous edge, and although fruit and acidity are balanced, a longer finish is desired. Ruby Wines Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

88 François Martenot 2020 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromatically straightforward, displaying citrus, white peach and white stones, the wine offers more energy on the palate. Round with crisp acidity, ripe fruits dominate a lemon pith finish. Advantage International. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$18

88 Jean-Charles Boisset NV No.69 Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bourgogne). Baked and candied apples and orange slices linger on the nose, as the palate basks in the delicate sweetness of ripe apples. The mousse is creamy and round, with a long and persistent finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

87 François Martenot 2018 Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas of bright yellow lemons, Lady apples and white lilies precede a palate of freshly cut apples and a soft, creamy mouthfeel. The wine finishes with white-stone minerality, providing for abundant freshness. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

87 Moillard NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bourgogne). Simple aromas of tangerine and white peach make this wine easy and pleasurable to drink. The palate is fairly dry with a stony finish. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$21

87 Moillard 2018 Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Initially simple and muted, this wine opens to present predominantly with pink and white flowers, freshly squeezed citrus, and salt. Some grapefruit notes add energy to the round and creamy mouthfeel, which soften any lingering green and grainy sensations. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$23

87 Trenal Fils NV Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Fresh and vibrant flavors and aromas of lemon zest allows this simple, clean and light sparkling wine to be enjoyed with ease. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$32

86 La Burgondie NV Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas and flavors of white peach and lemon provide for a refreshing sparkling wine with good acidity. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$12

86 Roux Père et Fils NV Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas and flavors of honeysuckle and candied peaches predominate an otherwise simple profile. One can perceive a curious pithiness after each sip in this well-balanced wine. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

OTHER WHITE WINES

96 Joseph Drouhin 2020 Clos des Mouches Premier Cru (Beaune). On the nose, the wine is intensely floral with a touch of underripe white peach, further tossed in a bowl of fresh citrus and cut apples. A creamy texture coats the palate, along with fresh almonds. This richly elegant and balanced expression finishes with great length and vibrancy of lemon zest. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$225

91 Louis Latour 2019 Château de Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault-Blagny). This wine exhibits fresh lemon, gardenia and white flowers, with subtle notes of light toast, toasted almonds and oak spice. It is elegant and possesses a delicate and ethereal quality on the palate. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$110

BURGUNDY RED WINES

BEAUNE

96 Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Vigne de l'Enfant Jésus Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune). This wine is beautifully lush and laced with decadent perfume of violet, peony and layered with perfectly ripe red cherries. The palate is restrained, but shows dark fruit, black pepper and clove. The balance of fruit concentration, acidity and long finish is impressive. Henriot USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$200

94 Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Clos de la Mousse Monopole Premier Cru (Beaune). Fresh on the nose with intense earthiness, bright cherries are mulled with wild strawberries and pulverized black pepper. The palate is balanced with good texture and acidity, enhancing deep black cherry and raspberries. It finishes remarkably well, with good minerality and essence of dark clove. Henriot USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$80

93 Romuald Valot 2019 Les Cent Vignes Premier Cru (Beaune). Concentrated fresh pomegranate, cherry flesh and cranberry overwhelm the nose. The palate has steely austerity, with curious iodine comingled into blackberry flesh. Lingering, deep, intense minerality and brisk acidity carry its long finish. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$110

SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE

95 Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Les Lavières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune). An intense nose, with deep concentration of red berries, pomegranate and rose in this wine. The palate has an elegant wash of acidity, cutting the richness of fruit

and florality. The tannins are powerful and some tartness is evident, creating a scrumptious wine that will soften with further aging. Cellar beyond 2030. Henriot USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$85

92 **Domaine des Riottes 2020 Les Lavières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** This wine's nose offers a dusting of red-fruit aromas that delicately evolve into rose petals. The palate offers great concentration of cooked rhubarb, black cherry, blueberry, vanilla and clove, elegantly woven into this full-bodied expression. Persistent oak tannins and refreshing acidic lift yield to a long finish accented by cherries. GCF Direct Import. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

91 **Domaine Tollot-Beaut 2020 Lavieres Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** Jammy and bold aromas of red and black cherries, dried cranberries and rhubarb are complemented by an emergence of wilting rose petal. The structure is firm, offering notes of bramble, thyme stem, clove and stone. On the palate are round, brimming with flavors of fresh cherries, black peppercorn and fresh soil, along its long finish. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

91 **Maurice Ecard 2020 Les Serpentières Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** Perfumed and elegant, this wine exudes the fresh ripeness of cherries and wild strawberries on the nose. A floral tension graces the youthful palate, with persistent tannins, leaving linger notes of bay leaf, peppercorn, tea leaf and stone. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$59

90 **Domaine Arnoux Père et Fils 2020 (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** The nose of this wine captures a harmonious blend of rich blackberries, rhubarb, plums and figs with a delicate essence of rose and wild thyme. On the palate, it is linear in character, marked by dried cranberry and accentuated with limestone, flint and salinity. Silky in texture, with fine tannins that lead to a finish of black tea leaf and green peppercorn. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

89 **Maurice Ecard 2020 Les Peuillets Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune).** Experience an aromatic delight of fresh blackberries embraced by an intense floral perfume, a hint of smoke and cinnamon spice. On the palate, a similar smoke allure unfolds, accompanied by more layers of rose petal and stone. While the wine exhibits good acidity, the finish is somewhat abbreviated by oak. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

POMMARD

95 **Domaine Coste Caumartin 2020 Le Clos des Boucherottes Monopole Premier Cru (Pommard).** A deep and inviting perfume of fresh rose petal and peonies invites you into this wine. Red cherry is met on the plate with the intrigue of iris

and violet florality. Further aeration reveals more ripe fruit, with a graze of under ripe pomegranate and brown mushroom adding intrigue. Vivino. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$89

94 **Domaine Aegerter 2020 Les Saussilles Réserve Personnelle Premier Cru (Pommard).** A tantalizing dance of aromas—rose petals galore and red licorice entwined with pulverized black peppercorn in this wine. Its vibrant energy intensifies with each sip, revealing ripe cherries, thyme, a hint of brown sugar, caressed by sandy-like tannins. While it is drinking well now, this should only grow in beauty after additional cellar-aging through 2028 and beyond. Enoclassica Selection. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$110

94 **Edouard Delaunay 2020 Les Chaponnières Premier Cru (Pommard).** Spices intertwine with perfectly ripened strawberries in this harmonious symphony. Its solar essence and youthful tannins are balanced by its acidity, which delivers refreshing lightness along with a fine long finish on the palate. Absolutely wonderful. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$130

94 **Maison André Goichot 2020 Clos de Verger Premier Cru (Pommard).** Intense and nostalgic on the nose, with a deep core of red cherries, Grenadine, Gala apple, cherry skin, crushed rose petals, wild mint and tossed earth that are enveloped in lush red berry, clove and peppercorn. Pervasive and persistent tannins remain steady on the palate after a wash of acidity. A curious tartness capitulates the finish. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$106

93 **Domaine de la Vougeraie 2020 Les Petits Noizons (Pommard).** Deep sanguine in hue, this wine opens with ripe strawberry, baked rhubarb, pomegranate and quince with a pretty overlay of rose petals. Freshly picked mushrooms and thyme stems with a fine vein of vanilla appear with aeration. A stone layer first coats the palate, followed by perfectly ripe strawberries, which linger along the midpalate and grow juicier from its acidic lift. Fine tannins persist in its long finish and gives way to a soft peppercorn-clove finish that frames the fruit beautifully. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$61

93 **Romuald Valot 2020 Clos de Verger Premier Cru (Pommard).** Profoundly serious and focused, this wine exudes subtle aromas of red berries, licorice and wild mint. The palate—even with some aeration—is currently displaying a bit austere and hides a deep fruit core buried beneath layers of rocks and earthy umami. An intense and textured expression, it has promise yet to be revealed. Best after 2028. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$145

CORTON

96 **Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Le Corton Grand Cru (Corton).** For full review see page 3. Henriot USA. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 13%

Price: \$225

96 **Domaine Antonin Guyon 2020 Clos du Roy Grand Cru (Corton).** A powerfully intense wine with a core of rose framed by button mushroom and saffron awakens the senses. The palate is bright with red apple, fresh cherry and green peppercorn, leading to a soft bed of coriander and clove. Fresh acidity balances flavor intensity, with complexity leaving room for intrigue. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$200

96 **Edouard Delaunay 2020 Grand Cru (Corton).** Aromas of freshly baked red berries, rhubarb and pomegranate seduce the nose with natural sweetness, balanced with fresh earth. The palate is welcomed by very ripe fruit and rich, persistent tannins, with a long finish of dark cherry, clove and rose that is rich and silky. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$200

NUITS-ST.-GEORGES

95 **Edouard Delaunay 2020 Les Perrières Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** The wine's floral nose is quite pretty and akin to a perfect spring day in a garden of red roses, whilst one enjoys fresh fruit. Its stony quality accentuates the perfectly ripe fruit that presents with a long finish on the palate. Persistent tannins may benefit from additional time in the bottle. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$140

94 **Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Les Cailles Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** Deep, brooding red berries with a hint of smoke are succeeded by sweet spices on the nose. The palate is focused and wound with an intense core of cherry, rhubarb and sweet spice. Although currently displaying a great balance of fruit and texture, the wine can benefit from cellar aging through 2030. Henriot USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$180

93 **Edouard Delaunay 2020 Les Pruliers Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges).** Voluptuous and heady, with deep notes of ripe cherry, wild strawberry, smoke, mint and white peppercorn. The palate offers great energy and tension, with flavors of ripe red berries balancing elegant rose petals, clove and black pepper. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$140

GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

95 **Louis Jadot 2020 Clos Saint-Jacques Premier Cru (Gevey-Chambertin).** High aromatic

BUYINGGUIDE

tones of violet and rose, under ripe cherry, tangerine skin, white peach, white flowers, fresh mushrooms and green peppercorn combine, with an elegant palate of concentrated wild strawberry, plum and black cherries. The palate is fresh, salinic with a long, firm stone-clove finish. Kobrand. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$265

94 **Maison André Goichot 2020 Champonnet Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Concentrated, with a range of fruit from deep black to red cherry, red rhubarb and wild berries, and a touch of peppercorn. The palate is beautiful, with fresh rose petals and a sprinkle of black peppercorn that journey toward a long finish of plum and clove. The balance from acidity complements its complexity well. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$150

94 **Romuald Valot 2020 Champonnet Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** The senses are captivated by heady, crushed flowers sprinkled atop pressed strawberries. Fresh rose, cherry, pomegranate and black pepper on the palate give way to its brisk refreshing acidity, adding finesse and accentuating lingering minerality. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

CHARMES-CHAMBERTIN

96 **Domaine Antonin Guyon 2020 Grand Cru (Charmes-Chambertin).** Complex, savory aromas greet the nose, with shiitake mushroom upon newly rained-on soil, tarragon and soy. A layer of dark-fruit follows and crescendos with red-fruit intensity on the palate intertwined with iodine, kelp and black pepper. Compelling upon first sip and will grow in complexity with time in bottle. Best after 2028. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$350

95 **Domaine Henri Rebourseau 2018 Grand Cru (Charmes-Chambertin).** With an initial impression of spiciness from black peppercorn and clove enveloping freshly pressed cherry, the wine is harmonious and balanced. Tension is most evident on the midpalate, with baking spice, terra cotta, earth and button mushroom preceding an expansive finish of cassis and black fruit. Well-integrated tannins melt into the palate, making it a delight to enjoy now. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$325

94 **Edouard Delaunay 2020 Grand Cru (Charmes-Chambertin).** With high tones of eucalyptus, pomegranate and fresh cherry skin, the wine smells dense and rich. It presents a solar brightness with its concentrated core of raspberry and rhubarb. It finishes linear and firmly stony, with hints of dry potting soil and terra cotta. Aromatic nuance and complexity follow with time in bottle. Best after 2028. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$370

OTHER RED WINES

97 **Domaine Antonin Guyon 2020 Grand Cru (Corton-Bressandes).** Deeply sanguine in color, with intense umami and spice upon entry, the front palate experiences deep red cherries, blood orange and fresh rose bloom. The palate is abundant with red fruit, including apple, cherry, pomegranate and rhubarb. Elegance and balance define this wine. Taub Family Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$180

96 **Bernard Rion 2021 Les Chaumes Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée).** An energetic nose, abundant of floral and spicy aromas. Nerve tension of crushed rose petal, brown sugar, and cherry skin permeate the nose, as beautiful baking spices mingle with desiccated cherry flesh, coriander and clove. The wine is generous, expansive and provocative. Elite Wines Import. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$215

95 **Domaine Faiveley 2019 Grand Cru (Mazis-Chambertin).** Heady and exuberant, with notes of fresh roses, cooked rhubarb, ripe wild strawberries, fresh pepper and thyme, the wine presents with velvety tannins on the palate, unearthing a deep layer of clove through fleshy red cherry and turned soil. Though fairly dense, tannins are integrating well, but will be better from 2025 onward. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

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

95 **Edouard Delaunay 2020 Grand Cru (Clos de Vougeot).** Heady, with fresh rose petals upon initial approach, and plums and button mushroom joining the floral dance. A chorus of deep red and black cherry resonates in the background. The palate is elegantly balanced by its acidity and velvety tannins, which linger with black pepper and red fruit. Best after 2028. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$370

95 **Louis Latour 2020 Charmes Premier Cru (Chambolle-Musigny).** The nose of this wine already hints at its graceful balance of fruit and spice. Sophisticated intensity of deep, crushed cherry, cranberry and pomegranate are presented on a linear palate, with a deep core of perfectly ripe red berries and a touch of salinity that rounds out its precision and ripeness. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$190

95 **Moillard 2020 Aux Brulées Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée).** Expansive and generous, the nose has abundant red flowers, fresh thyme stems, with a light elegant embrace of smoke and stones. The palate enjoys a great balance of fruit, framed with crushed rose florality and silky tannins finessed with pulverized black peppercorn. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$200

94 **Domaine Antonin Guyon 2020 Clos De Chênes Premier Cru (Volnay).** Richly intense

high tones of fresh cranberries, rhubarb and peppercorn contribute to a voluminous nose of overripe strawberries and freshly picked cherries. The palate is round and textured with ripe cherries, quince, limestone and salt, which leisurely integrate along its long finish. Cellar through 2028. Taub Family Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

94 **Louis Latour 2020 Grand Cru (Echézeaux).** Powerful and deeply concentrated, the wine is firm with aromas of plum, black cherry, blackberry, liquor de cassis, brown button mushroom, and stemmy with fresh thyme. A velvety palate with stewed red and dark fruit coats the palate and good acidity powers through the youthful texture. Best after 2025. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$580

94 **Louis Latour 2020 La Comme Premier Cru (Santenay).** Uplifting high tones of red berries tangled in wild thyme are found on the nose of this wine. A layer of eucalyptus contributes intrigue to the dense palate of crushed cherry, white peppercorn and soft clay earthiness. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

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

94 **Roux Père et Fils 2020 Les Petits Vougeots Premier Cru (Vougeot).** Fresh citrus skin, peony and gardenia hover above red fruit, fresh cherry skins and savory mushroom. The palate is rich with ripe cherry, vanilla, sweet cinnamon, iodine and baking spices, contributing to purity and focus. Sandy-like tannins and ripe fruit race to a long beautiful finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$175

93 **Louis Latour 2020 Grand Cru (Clos de Vougeot).** For full review see page 12. Louis Latour Inc.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$485

93 **Romuald Valot 2021 Les Fichots Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses).** Aromas are high-toned and heady, with an abundance of pomegranate, fresh cherries and black pepper. The palate is consistent with the decadent aromas and accentuated by brisk acidity. Although the wine is elegant, one may crave greater persistence in fruit. Great to enjoy now. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

91 **Romuald Valot 2021 Les Clos Roussots Premier Cru (Maranges).** Aromas of fresh cherry skins dusted with fresh thyme contribute to a pleasurable balance and ripeness on the palate. A hint of smoke and stony minerality assists in balancing such ripeness of fruit. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$90

RHÔNE VALLEY

WHITE WINES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 Arnoux & Fils 2021 Vieux Clocher (Côtes du Rhône). Experience a beautiful sunny day in such a glass with aromas of orchard fruit, candied lemon peel, fresh honeydew and fresh ginger. Flavors of candied lemon, apple skin, quince and an attractive note of ginger touched with salinity keeps the wine poised and lifted on the palate, resulting in a rounded mouthfeel. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Famille Perrin 2021 Réserve (Côtes du Rhône). Fragrance of pomelo, fresh Meyer lemon, yuzu, yellow peaches, white mushroom and peppercorn come together for an elegant, yet bright nose. A saline palate with yellow apples, Bosc pears, white mushrooms and fresh vanilla is carried to a round mouthfeel, with a lengthy and enjoyable finish. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

91 Château Saint-Nabor 2021 (Côtes du Rhône). Undeniably fresh aromatics of citrus, yellow flowers, apricot, white peach and green pear leap out of the glass. The palate is round and flavorful, with lemon pith and fresh pears coating the tongue, while a stony finish lingers. Balanced acidity keeps the palate refreshed. Marquee Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Vignerons de L'Enclave 2021 La Resistance Organic (Côtes du Rhône). The perfume of sweet Meyer lemons, honeysuckle, white peaches, apricots and a fresh breeze linger, engaging a palate of lemon slices sprinkled with flaky salt and white peaches to sit with balance. The lack of detectable pithiness or astringency makes for a delicious and uncomplicated wine. Baron Francois Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

RHÔNE VALLEY

RED WINES

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

93 Domaine des Bouzons 2019 La Félicité (Côtes du Rhône). The wine boasts richness with a perfumed allure of red and black cherries, violets and rose, interwoven with hints of clove. The palate is perfectly balanced, exuding rose perfume enveloping ripe red cherries. Fine tannins coat the palate leading to a light black-tea finish. French Libation. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

93 Domaine Gassier 2019 (Côtes du Rhône). The nose of this wine reveals richness with deep dark plums, blackberries and wild thyme balanced by earthy topsoil. The wine exudes the essence of a freshly picked basket of fruit, demonstrating its purity. On the palate, herbaceous notes lead, followed by a burst of fresh cherry fruit, lightly framed by olive and green peppercorn. The tannins coat the front of the mouth as the acidity resets the palate. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 16.00% **Price:** \$18

92 Château du Trignon 2019 (Côtes du Rhône). This wine exudes ripe strawberries and a deepness of rose and sweet spices. The floral palate reveals hints of fresh apple, quince and clove. While refreshing up front, the midpalate is overwhelmed by its tannins, hinting that further cellaring through 2028+ would be beneficial. David Milligan Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Domaine de la Grivelière 2019 (Côtes du Rhône). This reductive wine's aromatics display fresh cherries with iodine and sanguine tones, framed by flint and stone. On the palate it exudes good intensity and an energetic core. Medium bodied with nice texture, notes of crushed cherries, blackberries, rose and peppercorn enhance its complexity and lively finish. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

92 Halos de Jupiter 2019 (Côtes du Rhône). Composed of 75% Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah, this wine has enticing bramble red fruit infused with notes of clove and delicate roses fill the glass. A mesmerizing play between compact red fruit and florality is enriched by hints of cinnamon, reminiscent of a rich fruity macaron. A well-structured wine with baking spices that frame the fruit beautifully. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

91 Domaine Du Grand Moulin 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône). The aromatics combine flint and fresh black cherries with an enchanting dance of rose petals. The palate is precise and highlights fresh cranberry, wild strawberries, clove and stone, leading to an intensely floral finish. Medium-bodied and with round youthful tannins, its uplifting acidity contributes to its alluring floral profile. Baron Francois Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Clos du Mont-Olivet 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône). The wine evokes the freshness of alpine air, with supporting aromas of musk, spice, cinnamon and saffron intermingling with boysenberry, blackberries, red ripe Gala apples and cherry. Its round, structured tannins gently frame flavors of sliced pears, white rose, white pepper and a limestone minerality. Aerate before enjoying this wine with spicy charcuterie. North Berkeley Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Domaine La Réméjeanne 2019 Les Chevre-feuilles (Côtes du Rhône). The nose reveals enticing thyme stems and bacon fat, with a hint of black peppercorn. The palate exudes vibrancy and energy, offering a silky texture, an abundance of blackberries, thyme and clove. However, a bitter and pithy note lingers on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Le Grand Valmal 2020 Génération (Côtes du Rhône). Red fruit dominates the nose, as pomegranate juice, red strawberries and red licorice linger. On the palate, abundant black peppercorn spice, fresh blackberries and clove give rise to savory lamb pairings, with tannins sauntering along the length of the tongue and the anterior palate. Vine Direct LLC. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Ogier 2020 Artésis (Côtes du Rhône). The nose impresses with an abundance of fresh blueberries, red-cherry skin and high tones of blackberries. The palate boasts persistent tannins and crisp acidity. The finish is mildly faint, however, it remains a solid offering. Advini USA. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Vinafore 2021 (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Tart cherry red fruit, lavender and thyme, with a waft of wild mint dance into the nose. A great, pleasurable palate of earth and stone, with ripe red strawberries and rhubarb, makes the wine quite easy to drink. The long finish is carried by medium tannins that coat the anterior palate. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Château Beauchêne 2020 Grand Réserve (Côtes du Rhône). Aromatics of red cherry, apple skins, blackberries, plums, black olives, rose petal, tarragon and pulverized black pepper, fresh soil, clove and a lingering note of cinnamon entice the nose. The palate delivers a juicy profile with red fruits, maintaining concentration along the midpalate. Crisp acidity and youthful tannins find harmony, but the finish is somewhat abbreviated. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Simian 2020 Les Clefs du Caladas (Côtes du Rhône). This wine boasts concentrated aromas of deep red cherry, blackberry, wild herbs with a pinch of salinity. The palate is delightful with ample acidity that balances its rich concentration, while a bitter licorice finish adds a captivating touch of curiosity. Massanois Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine La Réméjeanne 2019 Les Terrasses (Côtes du Rhône). The bouquet of this wine offers enticing scents of blackberries, fresh thyme, sap and rose petal. The palate showcases concentration and spiciness, with notes of blackberries, orange peel, black olives and oregano. Round and

BUYINGGUIDE

full-bodied, the finish accentuates its fruitiness with its fine saline finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 La Dame Bleue NV (Côtes du Rhône). The nose entices with juicy red fruits and blackberries, accentuated with a hint of wild mint. Upon sipping, the palate reveals delicious flavors, with a core of juicy fruit and black peppercorn. A balanced interplay of acidity and ripe tannins adds to its appeal. Delicious. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Le Grand Valmal 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Pleasant notes of candied Twizzlers, Chambord, plum and clove meet a palate that is dry and linear. Flavors of blueberry, mushroom and tossed earth pair this wine well with a burger and blue cheese, although the tannins are abbreviated. Vine Direct LLC. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

CÔTE-RÔTIE

97 Domaine Jean-Michel Gerin 2020 Les Grand Places (Côte-Rôtie). With an intense and focused character, this wine exudes an enticing spiciness up front, accompanied by layers of dark, flashy fruit, concentrated plums, blackberries, Indian spices, wild violets and terra cotta. On the palate, the oak presence is apparent, revealing its power and intensity. Discover bold notes of black olives, green pears, boysenberry, cassis, blueberries, sandalwood and green peppercorn. Although hard to resist now, revisiting this well after 2028 should be rewarding. Taub Family Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$159

96 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 (Côte-Rôtie). The nose exhibits good concentration, revealing an enticing concentration of cherries, strawberries, wild mint and green olives. The complex palate delights, unveiling additional layers of black fruit, white tea, violets, thyme and fresh earth. The tannins gently coat the front of the front of the mouth, while the acidity ensures a gentle long finish, making it a truly complex and sophisticated wine. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

96 Domaine Jean-Michel Gerin 2020 La Landonne (Côte-Rôtie). Austere and profound, this wine's aromatics reveal deep notes of blackberries, plums and salty black olives. On the palate, it is brooding and lush, reminiscent of blackberry pie accented by a subtle hint of green olive and iodine. Abundant structure and acidity promise the potential for further aging well through 2030+. Taub Family Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$312

95 Domaine Jean-Michel Gerin 2020 Côte-Bodin (Côte-Rôtie). The wine presents enticing

brambly aromatics framed by black olives, violets, saffron and peppercorn, and a subtle hint of bacon drippings. On the palate, experience a delightful interplay of these notes, with a midpalate of plums, cassis and a granitic finish. This wine is elegantly complex and, while decanting now is a tempting, cellaring through 2030+ will undoubtedly yield greater rewards. Taub Family Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$114

94 Château de Saint Cosme 2019 (Côte-Rôtie). Powerful aromatics enchant the nose with red cherries, cassis, red licorice, potpourri, black olives and firm stone. The palate is dense with additional layers of plum, rhubarb and violets intertwined beautifully. It is lush and complex, yet finessed with its brisk acidic lift. Gorgeous. Best after 2028+ Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 E. Guigal 2019 Brune et Blonde de Guigal (Côte-Rôtie). The aromatics of this wine are delightful with a concentrated array of red cherry, blackberry, anise and olives. The palate unveils a rich compote of dark cherries, clove and baking spice. Its fullness is complemented by mouth-watering acidity and a long herbaceous finish. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

91 Delas Frères 2019 Seigneur De Maugiron (Côte-Rôtie). This wine presents an abundance of blackberries, black olives, thyme and mint on the nose. The palate comes alive with vibrancy from a wash of acidity, uplifting the concentrated fruit. Its finish frames the dark-fruited profile with a pleasing finish of clove. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$92

91 Gabriel Meffre 2019 Laurus (Côte-Rôtie). The wine opens with notes of ripe cherries, anise and a touch of cinnamon stick on the nose. The palate reveals plums, black olives, clove and black peppercorns. Robust tannins and lively acidity complement its dark-fruited profile. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

GIGONDAS

91 Alain Jaume et Fils 2020 La Grangette Des Garrigues (Gigondas). This wine's nose delights in reminiscences of strawberry and blueberry compote, with a concentrated red-fruit core complimented by hints of lavender and violets. It boasts an elegant structure that suggests cellaring until 2026 and beyond. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Gigondas la Cave 2020 Cuvée du Président (Gigondas). Indulge in an abundance of red-berry aromatics, as cherries, cranberries, strawberries, black- and blueberries captivate the senses. The palate mirrors this delightful array with

freshness and focus. Smooth, seamlessly integrated tannins make this wine approachable for immediate enjoyment. Jerome Selection. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

90 Vignobles et Compagnie 2020 Les Sources de Montmiral (Gigondas). Aromas of plum, violets, rose petals, pulverized stone, salt and lavender tantalize the nose. Fresh plums, black cherry, and stone linger on the palate, while the balance of acidity provides a delicate and soft mouthfeel. Savorian Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Lavau 2020 (Gigondas). Intense jammy aromas of fresh rhubarb, black cherry and wild mint dance from the glass. On the palate, indulge in the harmonious blend of black tea, juicy blue and blackberries and thyme. Grippy tannins dominate and leaves a lasting impression. Kinson The Future of Wine. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

BEAUMES-DE-VENICE

93 Domaine des Bernardins 2020 (Beaumes-de-Venise). Upon nosing the wine, a delightful garden of cut roses, and violets, along with fresh red cherry, grace the nose. Concentrated red cherry, black tea, black peppercorn, flint and pulverized granite linger on the palate, all held in elegant structural balance with its tannins. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 RhonéA 2020 Bel Air (Beaumes-de-Venise). This fresh and energetic wine is exuberantly floral on the nose, with aromas of blackberry juice, freshly picked plum, figs, lavender, violet and a sprinkle of cardamom. The palate is balanced with youthful and persistent tannins, finishing with a fine black-tea note. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

91 RhonéA 2020 La Beaume (Beaumes-de-Venise). Aromas of black- and blueberries, raspberries, white tea, fresh violets, gardenia and oak spice immediately jump out of the glass. A smoky palate of mulled blackberry and black plum yields to a granite finish, with tannins that coat and dry the tongue. Cellar through 2026+ Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

90 Gigondas la Cave 2020 Terrissimo (Beaumes-de-Venise). Black cherries, raspberries, black tea, candied red cherries, wild mint and freshly tossed earth combine for a juicy and ripe nose. The wine is balanced with refreshing acidity, fine yet grippy tannins, with flavors of cranberry, rhubarb, violet, black tea, black peppercorn and black tea and clove along the finish. Wine Wine Situation. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

95 **Château La Nerthe 2019 Les Clavelles (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Aromatics reveal fresh cherries, green olives, musk and sandalwood. The palate impresses with musky, cologne-like notes, hints of saffron, bergamot and violets. Its huge and taut structure suggests cellaring until 2028 for a refined experience. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$295

94 **Domaine de Saint Paul 2019 L'Insolite (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Exuding elegance, the wine entices with aromas of fresh cherry, tangerine, violets, mint and graham cracker. The juicy and fresh palate delights with blueberry, blackberry, black-tea leaves and vanilla. Its round, powerful and structured. A sophisticated choice. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

93 **Julien Mus 2019 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This wine boasts a tantalizing nose of rhubarb, black plums, dark red cherries and wild herbs. On the palate, experience a powerful and layered ensemble of freshly pressed cherries, boysenberry, clove, blueberry, black tea, thyme stems, black olives and stone. Great acidity and firm tannins exemplify its sophistication and depth of flavor. Ripe Wine Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Domaine Albin Jacumin 2019 à Aimé (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Elegant aromatics of fresh cherry skins, blueberries, rhubarb and blackberries lead the nose. The palate offers more layers of fresh blackberries accompanied by grippy tannins, black peppercorn and damp earth, enhancing the wine's complexity and structure. BPW Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$95

92 **Domaine des Pères de L'Eglise 2021 La Calice de Saint Pierre (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This wine offers deep layers of black-cherry flesh, rose potpourri and subtly enhanced with savory and oak spices. The palate is currently a bit shy with notes of subdued Bing cherry, bay leaf and cocoa-powder along the finish. Allow its nuances to harmonize with further cellaring through 2028+. Bruno Lafon. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$52

91 **Domaine du Père Caboché 2021 Création d'Emilie (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** With high tones of rhubarb, skins of red cherries and lingering rose petals, the aromatic allure is exuberant. On the palate, a layer of tea leaves gives way to rose hip and spice, culminating in a finish enriched with traces of fine vanilla. A curious bitter finish lingers along its long finish. Lionstone International. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

91 **Vignobles et Compagnie 2021 Château de la Grande Gardiole (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Exuding bramble red fruit with delicate hints of

clove and rose hip, this wine's aromatic profile is charming. On the palate, there are added layers of cranberries and warming spices that accentuate its refined character. Votto Vines Importing. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 **Baptiste Hillaire 2021 La Part des Agnes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** A blend of 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah, this wine is a fun and juicy delight! Aromas of perfectly ripe strawberries, rhubarb, fresh rose and eucalyptus fill the glass. The energetic palate offers good texture with more dark-fruited notes of fresh blackberries, black cherries, clove and pinch of salt on the finish. Full bodied with satisfying length, its tannins suggest revisiting after 2028+. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

89 **Château de Valcombe 2020 (Costières de Nîmes).** A lively nose of red-cherry candies, red licorice, gummies, raspberry jam, and thyme, along with flavors of juicy black plums, sugar apples and raspberry jam allow this wine with great acidity to be enjoyed with ease. Drink now. Cognac One, LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château Saint-Louis la Perdrix 2021 The Big One (Costières de Nîmes).** Aromas and flavors of red licorice, violets, dried thyme, lavender leaves, rose petals and brown mushrooms combine into a medium-bodied wine that finishes with sandy tannins, balanced by watery acidity. An element of crushed rose lingers along a gravelly, salty finish. Wine Wine Situation. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Boutinot 2020 Le Clairon Des Anges (Costières de Nîmes).** A youthful and enjoyable nose of ripe raspberry, wild strawberry, red flowers, and a hint of mint, coupled with balancing stony and salty flavors and black fruit allow this simple-to-drink wine to be enjoyed with lamb kabobs or gyro. Boutinot USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Joseph Castan 2021 Crocodile Dandy (Costières de Nîmes).** Aromas of red licorice, cherry, oregano, green peppercorn, bubble gum, and churned dry earth are matched on the palate, along with black plums, blackberry and black peppercorn. This medium-bodied wine delivers medium tannins, with persistent acidity on the finish and an interesting capitulation of astringency. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

SOUTHWEST FRANCE WHITE WINES

BERGERAC SEC

90 **Château Marie Plaisance 2021 Le Brin (Bergerac Sec).** Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon come together in this bright, fresh wine. Its citrus and tangy white fruits give it a fruity character. Drink the wine now. Vintage '59 Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 **Château Monestier la Tour 2019 (Bergerac Sec).** This wood-fermented and aged wine is full of ripe fruits that have already softened. Toast and apricot flavors combine with a tangy texture that gives a lift of freshness at the end. Drink now. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

89 **Château Tour des Gendres 2022 Cantalouette (Bergerac Sec).** Full of fruit, this rich wine has an unusual blend that includes Chenin Blanc. Its soft texture and acidity also has a lively, vivacious edge. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château de la Jaubertie 2021 Mirabelle (Bergerac).** Fresh and full of citrus fruits, the wine is crisp with a creamy edge from the Sémillon in the blend. The wine had some wood aging, giving it a toasty edge. Drink now. Anasazi Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château Monestier la Tour 2021 Cadran (Bergerac Sec).** A classic Bordeaux-style white wine dominated by Sauvignon Blanc, this is crisp, herbal and bright. It has a citrus lightness and acidity. It has softened, so drink now. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Tour des Gendres 2021 Moulin des Dames Parcelle A296 (Bergerac Sec).** A Sauvignon Blanc that veers towards white fruits with a touch of apricot giving ripeness, this is both fresh and rich. The wine is finely balanced and is now ready to drink. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

GAILLAC

89 **Domaine Rotier 2022 Les Gravels (Gaillac).** Loin de l'Oeil and Sauvignon Blanc are melded into a ripe wine. It has a spicy edge and a smoky touch. That goes along with a tangy edge and a vibrant aftertaste. Drink now. Vintage '59 Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

BUYINGGUIDE

88 Château Clément Termes 2022 Blanc Sec (Gaillac). The perfumed Muscadelle is the secret behind this wine's ripeness and great white fruits. It is zesty, but with fine dense and balanced citrus and freshness. Drink now. Jerome Selection. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Château Clément Termes 2022 Blanc Perlé (Gaillac). Bottled young to preserve its freshness and tangy fruit, the wine is full of fine citrus fruits with acidity and freshness in harmony. Ready to drink right now. Jerome Selection. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Mary Taylor 2022 Perlé (Gaillac). A bright wine with apple and baking spice flavors, this has a light acidity and just a light prickle on the tongue. The wine is ready to drink. Nashawtuc LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

84 Mary Taylor 2022 Gaillacoise (Gaillac). Made in the ancestral method of single fermentation, this wine is full of apples and light baking spice. It is fruity, lively (careful when opening). Drink now. Nashawtuc LLC. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24

CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

90 François Lurton 2022 Domaine les Fumées Blanches (Côtes de Gascogne). For full review see page 19. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

89 Château Millet 2022 Cuvée Elusa (Côtes de Gascogne). In this blend of Petit Manseng, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, it is the Petit Manseng that dominates. It gives a honeyed edge, just tempered by a herbal edge. The wine is fruity and is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Domaine Guillaman 2021 Frisson d'Automne (Côtes de Gascogne). This lightly sweet wine combines late harvest fruit with a balance of acidity and honey. The blend of the two Manseng grapes is delicious, giving a light citrus character and tropical flavors. Drink the wine now. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Millet 2022 Oppidum (Côtes de Gascogne). A ripe and full blend of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, the wine is intense and packed with white fruits. The creamy Chardonnay dominates with its richness. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Domaine Guillaman 2022 Colombard-Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne). Classically crisp with acidity and citrus, it is a light and fruity

wine that is vibrant and fresh. Drink now. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 Plaimont 2022 Brumes de Gascogne (Côtes de Gascogne). This is fruity and crisp, packed with citrus flavors. It is light, crisp and totally fresh. The wine is brightly textured and ready to drink. Asgram LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Plaimont 2022 Colombelle Colombard-Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne). The wine is a classic blend for the Côtes de Gascogne. Its balance between intense herbal acidity and ripe tropical flavors works well. It gives freshness and ripeness to the wine. It is ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

86 Biscaye Baie 2022 (Côtes de Gascogne). This is a bright, crisp and lightly herbal wine with green fruits and bright acidity. It is a vivid wine, ready to drink. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

86 Cambos-Féret 2022 Les Buissons Delices (Côtes de Gascogne). Touches of honey and plenty of fresh yellow fruit are the hallmarks of this light wine. It has a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$12

86 Château du Cèdre 2021 Blandine le Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne). This super-fresh wine is bright with lemon and riper orange-peel flavors balanced against intense acidity. Drink now. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Horgelus 2022 Sables Fauves Colombard-Sauvignon (Côtes de Gascogne). Lightly saline with a definite feel of the ocean, the wine is fresh and tangy. Acidity and balanced bright. Drink now. Vine Direct LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2022 Villa Plage Blanche (Côtes de Gascogne). With a typically Gascon blend, the wine is fruity, touched with honey from the Gros Manseng in the mix. It is a ripe wine, zesty with acidity and fresh at the end. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Plaimont 2022 Echo Indigo (Côtes de Gascogne). A fruity, light blend of Colombard and Sauvignon Blanc, this is fresh and crisp. Lemon and orange-zest flavors add a bright aftertaste. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

SAINT MONT

91 Plaimont 2020 Cirque Nord Grande Cuvée (Saint Mont). A full, toasty wine that has layers of white fruits stretched by citrus acidity. The wine's ripeness and intense freshness is balanced with touches of honey in the background. Drink the wine from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Plaimont 2020 L'Empreinte de Saint-Mont (Saint Mont). This ripe, semisweet and honeyed wine is delicious. It has lightness among the yellow fruits and orange peel that gives room for the fruitiness. The wine's acidity and richness are very fine. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

91 Plaimont 2020 Les Cépages Préservés (Saint Mont). For full review see page 22. August Wine Group. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Plaimont 2020 Château Saint-Go (Saint Mont). From an estate run by the Plaimont cooperative, this is a dry wine with a ripe edge of honey from the Gros Manseng in the blend. It is a deliciously fruity wine that is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Plaimont 2020 Beret Blanc (Saint Mont). The broad-brimmed beret is the local hallmark of the headgear in Saint-Mont. This wine with its totally local grapes (including the rare Arrufiac) is a fine reflection of this. It is zingy with lemon peel and white fruit flavors, a lively wine that is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

PACHERENC DU VIC BILH

92 Domaine Laougué 2021 L'Orée (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). A rarity, this white wine is 100% Petit Courbu, a grape found only in the region. With its spice and citrus acidity, the wine also has a pepper edge. The finish is more crisp. Drink now. Martine's Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

90 Famille Laplace 2022 Odé d'Aydie (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). This blend of the two Manseng grapes is just off dry. It has a creamy texture, rich with a touch of honey. The wine is concentrated and super ripe. Drink from 2024. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Plaimont 2019 Grévière (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). This is a dry wine with richness unique to the appellation. White fruits are touched by spice and a toasty edge. The wine is full of fruit and tangy acidity. This full-bodied wine is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Plaimont 2020 Seigneurie de Crouseilles (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). This is a dry version of Pacherenc, a ripe, full-bodied wine that is maturing well in a blend of Gros Manseng and Petit Courbu—both local grapes to the region. Apples and tangy white fruits give richness that has some freshness from citrus at the end. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

88 Domaine Laougué 2022 Cuvée 19.91 (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). A rounded, spicy wine that has a touch of toast as well as honey. Kiwi fruit flavors and acidity cut through the wine's ripe character. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

JURANÇON SEC

92 Clos Lapeyre 2017 Mantoulan (Jurançon Sec). A rich, now-mature wine with the typical Jurançon blend with Petit Manseng and Petit Courbu to the fore. The wine has tropical fruits and a full-bodied richness. Citrus fruits come through at the end. Drink now. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Clos Lapeyre 2021 Lapeyre (Jurançon Sec). This dry wine with its honeyed and tropical fruit character, is a sweet wine wanting to come out. It is a tangy character, ripe and full. Drink this great wine from 2024. Organic. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Clos Lapeyre 2019 Vitatge Vielh (Jurançon Sec). A rich wine, full of white fruits, this blend includes both Mansengs and Petit Courbu. It is a classic southwest series of flavors, full of acidity, tangy with fine pure freshness. Drink now. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

DESSERT WINES

93 Clos Lapeyre 2019 La Magendia (Jurançon). A mature wine, honeyed and ripe. Acidity keeps it fresh, while the orange peel and sweetness make the wine's balance. It is beautifully ready to drink. Charles Neal Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$49

92 Château Viella 2022 Louise d'Aure (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). Ripe apricot and orange zest flavors make this sweet wine both rich and fruity. Its intensity comes from the wine's layer of spice that is balanced with great freshness. Drink the wine from 2025. Fleet Street Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Domaine Laougué 2021 Cuvée 19.58 (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). This beautifully textured sweet wine is intense and powerful in its concentra-

tion. Produced from late-harvest grapes, the wine has a touch of spice to enhance the orange marmalade and balanced acidity. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Plaimont 2018 Soum Les Pacherenc d'Or (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). Like all sweet wines from the region, this is a late-harvest wine, giving a fine balance between fruit and sweetness. It is certainly rich and intense with layered honey and orange-marmalade flavors. Hard to pronounce but low in alcohol and easy to drink, the wine is just ready now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaine Rotier 2018 Renaissance Vendanges Tardives (Gaillac). A rich late-harvest wine, this has developed a fine toffee character set against the sweetness. Acidity is there, offering a fresh corner of the wine. It is ready to drink. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$41/500 ml

89 Clos Lapeyre 2021 Lapeyre (Jurançon). Fresh yet naturally sweet, the wine has a poise between its acidity and tangy orange zest and honey flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

OTHER WHITE WINE

87 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2022 Baie Orientale (Comté Tolosan). This is quite a blend: Muscadelle, Muscat, Gewürztraminer, Riesling and Viognier. The result is a perfumed wine, fresh with lemon and tropical with spice and fruity. It is a young, vibrant wine that is ready to drink. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

SOUTHWEST FRANCE ROSÉ WINES

CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

86 Plaimont 2022 Brumes de Gascogne (Côtes de Gascogne). This blend of Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon is fruity and full of crisp fresh citrus and red-currant flavors. It has a light touch of acidity, is bright and ready to drink. Asgram LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

86 Plaimont 2022 Colombelle Tannat-Cabernet Sauvignon (Côtes de Gascogne). The wine is fresh, crisp and fruity. It is only lightly textured with red and citrus fruits as its hallmark. The wine is full of final acidity. Drink now. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

85 Horgelus 2022 (Côtes de Gascogne). A blend of Merlot, Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is soft and packed with fruit. Acidity and red fruits are textured with acidity. Drink now. Vine Direct LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

OTHER ROSÉ WINES

91 Château Cavalier 2022 Grand Cavalier Rosé (Côtes de Montravel). Fresh, while also with richness, the wine is packed with ripe berry fruits and perfumed acidity. The wine's dominant Grenache gives a bite to the wine that adds to its weight. Drink this attractive wine now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Château Clamens 2022 Négrette (Fronton). This ripe rosé from Négrette, the Fronton appellation's typical grape, is full of soft fruit and berry flavors. It is light in acidity and rich in fruit. Drink now. Magnum Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Château Lagrèzette 2021 Le Pigeonnier Rosé (Côtes du Lot). A juicy Malbec with fresh red fruits and a tangy texture, this is an attractive rosé named after a medieval pigeon house restored on the Lagrèzette estate. Drink this fruity wine now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Domaine Albert de Conti 2022 Odette (Bergerac Rosé). Named after the grandmother of the current generation of the Conti family, the wine is soft and ripe. Red-berry flavors come together with citrus. The wine has acidity that gives a fresh, tangy aftertaste. Organic. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Fabien Castaing 2022 Letrinquer aux Chants de Cigales Rosé (Comté Tolosan). A fascinating southwest France blend of Fer Noir, Duras, Marselan and Syrah, the wine is young and softly fruity. There is a yeasty edge to the wine that will go momentarily. Drink now. Plant Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

87 Mary Taylor 2022 Rosé (Agenais). A blend of the two Cabernets from the region near Agen, a city in the Garonne valley. The wine is fruity, bright with acidity and light citrus and red currant fruits. Drink the wine now. Nashawtuc LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Château Clamens 2022 Rosé (Fronton). A blend of Négrette and Syrah, this spicy rosé is soft with lemon and ripe red-fruit flavors. It is a gentle wine that is ready to drink. Magnum Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

86 **Château Lastours 2022 Les Gravieres Rosé (Gaillac).** Duras and Syrah are melded well together in this rich wine. Its structure has a touch of tannin as well as layers of citrus fruit and acidity. Drink the wine now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES

BERGERAC

91 **Château de la Jaubertie 2019 Mirabelle (Bergerac).** A wood-aged wine, there is a smooth structure and fine black fruits. It is a blend of the two Cabernets and Merlot with richness and a fine balance. The wine will be ready from 2024. Anasazi Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Domaine Albert de Conti 2022 La Vigne d'Albert (Bergerac).** Produced from vines planted in 1966 by Albert de Conti, the wine blends Bordeaux grapes with more local grapes such as Fer Servadou and Abouriou. It is a rich, dense wine, wood aged with spice balanced by acidity. The wine is full of blackberry flavors and ripe tannins, concentrated and worth aging. Drink from 2026. Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château de la Jaubertie 2019 Merlot-Malbec (Bergerac).** Ripe and juicy fruits come through the structure of the wine. Spice and layers of wood aging give a polished feel to this fine wine. The wine should be ready from 2024. Anasazi Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 **Château Marie Plaisance 2020 Le Brin (Bergerac).** This ripe blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc gives black-currant flavors and some rich tannins. The wine is full of spicy flavors without too much weight. Drink from 2024. Vintage '59 Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 **Château Monestier la Tour 2018 Cadran (Bergerac).** From a 14th-century estate, this wine has ripe black tannins as well as dense berry flavors. It is rich, structured wine and maturing well. With its fruity, toasty aftertaste, the wine is ready to drink. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Domaine Albert de Conti 2020 (Bergerac).** This fine Bordeaux-style blend has youthful rich black fruits and a core of solid tannins. It is dense, structured with the juicy fruits showing well against the wine's texture. Drink from 2025. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

CAHORS

94 **Château du Cèdre 2019 GC (Cahors).** This is a powerful wine from its balanced alcohol and suave tannins. The wine's ripeness is finely tuned, black fruits are set against acidity. This impressive wine should be ready from 2025. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$153

94 **Château Lagrèzette 2019 Cuvée Marguerite Massaut (Cahors).** An impressively rich wine, the tannins are dense, showcasing the black fruits. The structured wine comes from the third terrace of vines above the River Lot. The wine has enormous potential and should be drunk from 2026. David Milligan Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 **Château Lagrèzette 2018 Paragon (Cahors).** A powerful, dense wine, this is impressive. It has structure and a massive texture that emanates from the tannins of rich wood aging and black fruits. The wine is still not quite ready. Drink from 2027. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

94 **Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2017 La Roche Mère (Cahors).** The top wine from a collaboration between California winemaker Paul Hobbs and Cahors producer Georges Vigouroux, this is dense and smoky wine. Wood-aged wines have smoothed out the bold black fruits and rich tannins. The wine needs to age further, so drink from 2025. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 **Château Lagrèzette 2019 (Cahors).** This grand estate has produced a powerful wine, dense with black fruits. Layered with tannins, this structured wine has a fine future. Drink this impressive wine from 2026. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Château Lamartine 2020 Expression (Cahors).** Perfumed from new wood aging, this wine is powerful and packed with black fruits. It has a balanced character with acidity and dense fruits. It is in need of long-term aging, so drink from 2026. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 **Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2017 Crocus Le Calcifère (Cahors).** A spicy, rich wine with a polished character from wood aging. It has a smoky edge along with acidity. It is a full wine, but one that is balanced with a fresh line of acidity. One of the three wines as part of a collaboration between California winemaker Paul Hobbs and Cahors producer Georges Vigouroux. Ready to drink now. Paul Hobbs Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 **Domaine Capelanel 2014 Pech Petit (Cahors).** Showing plenty of fine fruits and richness, the wine still has acidity as well as layers of smoothness from wood aging. It is a finely balanced, fully mature wine. Drink now. Matinicus Wines, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château du Cèdre 2020 Cèdre Héritage (Cahors).** Always powerful, this wine has elegance that comes from the acidity and the velvet tannins. The wine is balanced, ripe and juicy. Drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château Lamartine 2020 Cuvée Particulière (Cahors).** With dense black-plum fruits and rich tannins, this is a full, spicy wine. It has a powerful core of structure with more than a year in wood. The wine is concentrated, ready to drink from 2025. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

91 **Didier Pelvillain 2020 Desiderius (Cahors).** This is a big wine in a large, heavy bottle. It has rich tannins along with juicy black fruits. Acidity and structure come together with a velvet texture that will soften further. Drink from 2025. HB Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$79

91 **Domaine Capelanel 2017 Amphut (Cahors).** Wood and amphora aging have given a powerful wine with tannins that have softened into the fruit. Now well matured, the wine has richness and dense black fruits, is ripe, full and ready to drink. Matinicus Wines, LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$61

91 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2021 Château de Grézels Prestige (Cahors).** For full review see page 17. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Château du Caillou 2021 (Cahors).** A ripe, spicy wine, this has bold tannins and dark, dense fruit. It is rich, still showing a firm structure that needs to soften. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

90 **Domaine de Théron 2020 Mise à Nu (Cahors).** Bottled without sulfur, the wine is pure black fruits. Its ripe tannins accompany blackberry flavors. The wine is spicy and will be ready to drink from 2025. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2021 Latis Grande Réserve (Cahors).** Pure Malbec, the wine is packed with tannins and dark black-plum fruits. It is a powerful, dense wine, aged in wood for 10 months. The wine has a fine future. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Paul Hobbs & Bertrand Gabriel Vigouroux 2020 Crocus L'Atelier (Cahors). One of the three wines as part of a collaboration between California winemaker Paul Hobbs and Cahors producer Georges Vigouroux, this wine is rich, full of tannins, but also with a smooth texture. Light wood aging gives a spicy character. Drink from 2024. Paul Hobbs Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Château de Cénac 2020 Grande Réserve (Cahors). A fruity wine that has some wood aging along with its ripe black fruits. While still young, the wine is showing its fruitiness and structure. Drink from 2025. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

89 Château du Port 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Cahors). The wine is spicy with layers of tannins. The black fruits and acidity work well together to give a wine that will be ready to drink from 2025. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Château du Port 2020 Grande Réserve (Cahors). A fine, balanced wine, this is ripe and juicy. Already soft and with vivid black fruits, the wine is developing well. It has spice and polish from wood aging. Drink from 2025. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

89 Château Haut-Monplaisir 2021 Tradition (Cahors). Tannins and structure support the black fruits in this fruity, balanced wine. The wine is still young, but shows ripeness and a fine juicy character. Drink from 2025. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Château Lagrézette 2020 Chevalier du Château Lagrézette (Cahors). Acting like a second wine from this estate, this is structured, while also having plenty of open black fruits. It is spicy and developing well. Drink from 2025. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

89 Château Lagrézette 2019 Seigneur de Grézette (Cahors). The wine's structure is now well softened, leaving a layer of generous tannins over the black fruits. It is a rich, juicy wine that is now ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2021 Latis Réserve (Cahors). A rich wine with layers of black fruits that are set against the acidity. The wine's tannins are still firm with juicy blackberry fruits. The wine is aging well; drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Château de Cénac 2020 Prestige (Cahors). Solidly Malbec, the wine has firm tannins and black-currant flavors. It has a spicy edge along

with dense fruitiness. The wine will be ready from 2025. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Château Lamartine 2020 (Cahors). A smooth and velvety wine, this is rich in black fruits that have been softened by wood aging and gentle maceration of the grapes. The wine is full, generous and will be ready to drink from 2024. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine Capelanel 2017 Pech Petit (Cahors). This spicy wine is fruity and perfumed. It is full bodied with both richness and density. The wine is ready to drink. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 Mary Taylor 2020 Odile Delpon (Cahors). Still young, the wine with its rich, black tannins and firm blackberry flavors is developing well. It is all fruit, ripe and with potential. Drink from 2024. Mary Taylor Wine. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Mary Taylor 2018 Odile Delpon (Cahors). Bottled fresh from tanks without wood aging, this wine is light and fruity with tannins and the brightest acidity. It still has structure but is ready to drink. Mary Taylor Wine. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Château Lagrézette 2019 Purple The Original (Cahors). An open style of Malbec with soft tannins and juicy character. The wine is packed with black fruits and light acidity. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

87 Château Lamartine 2020 Prestige du Malbec (Cahors). Black fruits dominate this wine. It is crisp with acidity and full with soft tannins. It is balanced and fresh. Drink now. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Château Ponzac 2021 Maintenant ou Jamais (Cahors). This soft Malbec has ripe red fruits set against some gentle acidity. It is a fruity wine, lightly textured and juicy. Drink now. Organic. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Domaine de Théron 2020 (Cahors). The wine has developed well, the tannins and black fruit merging. It is bright and juicy with a good future. Drink from 2025. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

CÔTES DU MARMANDAIS

90 Cave du Marmandais 2020 Tap d'e Perbos (Côtes du Marmandais). A big, ripe and juicy wine, full of black fruits. Like an increasing

number of wines from Marmandais, the wine has Abouriou in the blend. This gives spice and toasty flavors with acidity and black-currant flavors. Drink from 2024. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Cave du Marmandais 2020 Secret de Vigneron (Côtes du Marmandais). This blended wine has rich tannins as well as layers of black fruits. It is full bodied with a rich structure. Drink from 2024. Terroir Connections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Cave du Marmandais 2020 La Vieille Eglise Réserve (Côtes du Marmandais). A structured wine with layers of tannins over blackberry fruits. It has a dry edge that will soften. Drink now. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

GAILLAC

92 Château Lastours 2021 Cuvée du Pigeonnier (Gaillac). This rich, wood-aged wine is dense and spicy. It is packed with ripe black fruits and juicy acidity. The wine is impressive, still aging. Drink from 2026. Baron Francois Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Domaine Rotier 2020 Les Gravels (Gaillac). A blend of four grapes including Brauocol and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is structured with tannins and smoothly textured from wood aging. Its balanced black fruits have a fresh touch of acidity. The wine is maturing well. Drink from 2025. Vintage '59 Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Château Lastours 2020 Petrichor (Gaillac). A dense wine, ripe with tannins and still young spicy fruits, this is rich with fine potential. It has weight and toastiness from wood aging, black fruits and a fine juicy acidity. Drink this wine from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

90 Domaine Rotier 2022 Esquisse (Gaillac). The wine is spicy with layers of wood aging giving a rich perfumed character and an attractive black-currant fruitiness. The wine's tannins and structure are young. Wait to drink the wine from 2025. Organic. Vintage '59 Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Château Clément Termes 2020 (Gaillac). This blend of Brauocol, Syrah and two other grapes is dominated by black fruits with fine fruity acidity. It is a wine to enjoy young, drink now. Jerome Selection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

87 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2021 Tannature (Côtes de Gascogne). Bottled without added sulfur, the wine is lightly tannic. Juicy black fruits have ripeness with balanced acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. Organic. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Plaimont 2022 Brumes de Gascogne (Côtes de Gascogne). A smoky, slightly stalky wine, this is full of fruit and acidity. It is lightly structured but the fruitiness is the dominant element. Drink now. Asgram LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Plaimont 2022 Colombelle Merlot-Tannat (Côtes de Gascogne). A fresh-faced wine with bright acidity and red fruits, this is lightly stalky and fruity. Tannins come from the Tannat but are generally soft. The wine is ready to drink. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Plaimont 2022 Echo Indigo (Côtes de Gascogne). A stalky wine with light black fruits, this is a wine that has plenty of smoky fruitiness. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

SAINT MONT

95 Plaimont 2020 Vignes Préphyloxériques (Saint Mont). The wine is produced from a small vineyard full of gnarled vines planted before the phylloxera virus arrived in the 19th century. The vines survived. This era's 10th vintage is dense with impressive black fruits with touches of black chocolate flavors in a massive structure. Drink this great wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Plaimont 220 Monastère de Saint-Mont (Saint Mont). The wine comes from the vineyard attached to the former monastery of Saint-Mont, now a hotel and restaurant. It is dense, structured, still young. Tannins and powerful black fruits show strongly and promise plenty of aging. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Plaimont 2013 Château de Sabazan (Saint Mont). Managed by Plaimont, this estate has produced a rich, finely balanced wine with ripe tannins and some generous black fruits. The wine is now mature, the Tannat, Pinenc and Cabernet Sauvignon blend fully melded and mellowed. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Plaimont 2019 L'Empreinte de Saint-Mont (Saint Mont). Vines around the village of

Saint-Mont are the source of this wine. It is dense, with dusty tannins and black fruits. The wine is rich, full, the wine's blackberry flavors from Tannat and Pinenc opening out and softening tannins. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

MADIRAN

93 Plaimont 2020 Crouzeilles Côte Abeilles (Madiran). This wood-aged wine is rich and finely structured. It is powerful and dense but also with a sense of balance. The wine has a fine future from its combination of black fruits and fine tannins. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 Domaine Laougué 2020 Marty (Madiran). Bold black fruits and ripe tannins give a wine that has density. The structure is just beginning to soften allowing space for the rich juiciness. Drink this powerful wine from 2026. Martine's Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

91 Domaine Berthoumieu 2020 Constance (Madiran). Aged in wood, this rich wine still has its firm tannins. The wood brings a smoky character that is a fine complement to the black fruits. It is full bodied and needs further aging. Drink from 2026. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

91 Domaine Laougué 2020 Cuvée 19.10 (Madiran). A wine with power and concentration, this has rich tannins and dense black fruits. The acidity keeps the wine fruity, fresh and still young. Drink from 2026. Martine's Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Château Viella 2021 Symbiose (Madiran). Rich and bottled without added sulfur, the wine is dense. Black fruits, acidity and a core of firm, young tannins promise aging. Drink this ripe, full-bodied wine from 2026. Fleet Street Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Domaine Laougué 2020 Camy (Madiran). The wine has begun to soften, the Tannat smoothing out. With its density, though, the wine has weight and concentration that offers richness and layers of black, toasty flavors. Drink from 2026. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Famille Laplace 2020 L'Origine (Madiran). This soft, juicy wine is full of black fruits. It has a fine, balanced character that is ripe and showcasing the wine's gentle structure and acidity. The wine is almost developed, ready to drink from 2024. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Plaimont 2020 Château de Crouzeilles (Madiran). This cooperative wine is powerfully structured and dense. Its black fruits are young, showing their tannins and spice flavors strongly. The wine is juicy and has a fine potential. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Domaine Laougué 2020 Les Passionnés (Madiran). This is a balanced, fruity wine with generous tannins and black-currant fruits. Still young, its structure still developing. Drink this powerful wine from 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Famille Laplace 2021 L'Origine (Madiran). A smoky wine that is rich in tannins and fine black-currant fruits. It has a good balance and is fruity with a fine texture and a juicy, perfumed aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Plaimont 2020 Petit Tom (Madiran). This is Tannat in a soft guise as tannins open and gently provide a core of structure to the black fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

OTHER RED WINES

93 Château Monestier la Tour 2018 (Côtes de Bergerac). With Cabernet Franc and Merlot with just a touch of Malbec, this Bergerac wine is perfumed and ripe with juicy black-currant fruits. The fruit was foot trodden before fermentation and then wood aged: That gives its richness and density. The wine is still a little young, so wait to drink until 2025. Serge Doré Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Château Tour des Gendres 2020 Les Gendres Parcelle no A298 (Côtes de Bergerac). This juicy, black-fruited wine is from a single parcel. Its weight and alcohol are mitigated by the acidity, adding freshness to the smoky rich wine. It is still young, likely to be ready from 2025. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$43

89 Mary Taylor 2019 (Buzet). A juicy, red-fruit flavored wine with soft tannins. As a contrast, the wine also has acidity and freshness. The wine is fruity with a spicy character and will be ready to drink from 2024. Nashawtuc LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Château Clamens 2022 Le Petit Clamens (Comté Tolosan). This young, stalky wine with its juicy berry fruits will become ripe and soft as it develops. It has a juicy edge with richness. Drink from 2025. Magnum Wines International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2021 **Le Roi Boeuf (Marcellac)**. From a small region in the foothills of the French Massif Central, this is made from Man-sois, the local grape. The wine is balanced and ripe with acidity and red berry fruits. Spicy and perfumed, it is still young. Drink from 2025. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

85 Château Clamens 2019 **Caractères (Fronton)**. This woody wine with high toast smothering the black fruits is made to impress with the weight of its bottle. The wine's black fruits are somewhere under the wood. Magnum Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON WHITE WINES

PICPOUL DE PINET

90 Les Vignobles Foncalieu 2020 **Réserve Delsol (Picpoul de Pinet)**. Notes of honeydew and white peach open this white wine. The palate is light, driven by racy acidity that leads into a lengthy finish. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Jadix 2022 **(Picpoul de Pinet)**. Enticing aromas of citrus fruit, melon and crushed slate are displayed on the nose of this easy-drinking white. The palate is light with a soft flavor of green apple, lemon and ample minerality. Aquitaine Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

88 Les Vignobles Foncalieu 2022 **Réserve Delsol (Picpoul de Pinet)**. Lovely notes of honeydew melon and apple open this refreshing wine. The palate is tart with flavors of green apple and lemon peel. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

OTHER WHITE WINE

91 Côté Mas 2022 **Sud de France Sauvignon-Vermentino (Pays d'Occ)**. Inviting aromas of citrus fruit and juicy melon open this bottle of wine. Easy drinking, the palate is crisp with soft flavors of honeydew melon, green apple, peaches, lemon and ample minerality. Taub Family Selections. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA/1L

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON ROSÉ WINES

PAYS D'OCC

91 Château de Mus 2022 **La Source Rosé (Pays d'Occ)**. A pretty pink hue, this rosé is delicately structured. With moderate acidity, it has ripe

pineapple and peach aromas. The palate is loaded with pear, raspberry, herb and vanilla flavors. Easy to drink and versatile. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Domaines Paul Mas 2022 **Vignes de Nicole Rosé (Pays d'Occ)**. With a light salmon hue, this rosé has aromas of orange peel, peaches and strawberries. The palate is loaded with bright acidity, pear, raspberry, herbes de Provence and vanilla flavors. Easy to drink and versatile. Jean Claude Mas. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Maris 2022 **Made with Organic Grapes Rosé (Pays d'Occ)**. Subtle aromas of peonies and strawberry on the nose. Juicy peach and wild strawberry flavors meet vibrant acidity. Light and refreshing. Cordier USA. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Solis Lumen 2022 **Rosé (Pays d'Occ)**. Pale in color, subtle aromas of Bosc pear, pineapple and citrus fruit show on the nose. The dry palate shows lemon, rose petals and raspberry, while a subtle minerality note marks the close. Cream Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

88 Bernard Magrez 2021 **Bleu de Mer Rosé (Pays d'Occ)**. Lively fruit aromas such as red plum and raspberry backed by dried herbs open this rosé. The palate has a light, juicy-fruited feel and elevated acidity. Misa Imports. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Rosé all Day 2022 **Rosé (Pays d'Occ)**. For full review see page 25. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER ROSÉ WINES

91 Jean Claude Mas 2022 **Jardin de Roses Trivata Rosé (Languedoc)**. Dry and medium bodied, this polished rosé shows floral notes and pronounced fruit on the nose. Bursts with ripe peaches and raspberries flavors. The palate is juicy with bright acidity. Jean Claude Mas. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Blanville 2022 **Rosé (Languedoc)**. It's a fragrant wine with aromas of pineapple, honey and floral notes that lead to a lightweight, silky palate with red-berry flavor on the midpalate and a crisp acidity. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Domaine Montrose 2020 **Prestige 1701 Rosé (Côtes de Thongue)**. Charming aromas of baked pears and raspberry. There's depth to the red-berry flavors on the palate and the acidity is lively. Cream Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON RED WINES

LANGUEDOC

90 Blanville 2017 **Plénitude (Languedoc)**. Inviting aromas of wild berries and rose petals combined with aromas of baking spice, white pepper and thyme. Crisp, tart acidity leads to flavors of cherries, rhubarb, mushrooms and silky tannins. Cape Classics. —J.T.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château de Lascaux 2022 **Garrigue (Languedoc)**. Ripe red fruit combines with acacia and thyme on the nose of this red wine. The palate emulates the nose with firm tannins letting their presence be known on the lengthy finish. Montaigne Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 Albert Bichot 2020 **C'est La Vie! (Languedoc)**. Juicy raspberries and black cherries infuse this medium-bodied red with ripe fruit, while light tannins give it a soft mouthfeel and notes of mushrooms and black pepper give it savory characteristics. Albert Bichot USA. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

91 Dom Brial 2021 **Mirade Syrah-Grenache Noir-Mourvèdre (Côtes du Roussillon Villages)**. This red blend is aromatic with notes of baked plums, orange peel and purple lilies. Nicely structured, the palate is rich with medium tannins and complex flavors of raspberries, oregano and vanilla. Citadel Trading. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

91 Mont Gravet 2021 **Grenache Syrah Mourvèdre (Pays d'Occ)**. This red blend opens with vibrant red fruit, violets and vanilla. Well balanced with baked raspberry and cherry notes mixing seamlessly with subtle mushroom and earthy notes, it finishes with just the right amount of acidity. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

90 Dom Brial 2018 **Chateau Les Pins (Côtes du Roussillon Villages)**. The aromas draw you into the glass with notes of violets, dried herbs and raspberry. The cherry and cassis flavors are bold, yet elegant, with a supple mouthfeel and pop of acidity that keeps the interest high. Citadel Trading. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Aubert & Mathieu 2020 **Gaspard (Terrasses du Larzac)**. The enticing aromas bring notes of dark-roasted coffee beans, ripe raspberries and herbs. Juicy red-fruit flavors and uplifting acidity follow on the palate. It's a nice, easy drinker. Lipman Bros. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

BUYINGGUIDE

89 **Commanderie Des Hospitaliers 2021 Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre (Pays Cathare).** Aromas of crushed black cherries and acacia set the tone of this red wine. Flavors of vanilla and ripe red fruit combined with moderate tannin and a fruit-forward finish makes for a nice bottling. Aquitaine Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

OTHER FRENCH WINES WHITE WINES

ARBOIS

91 **Domaine Rolet 2013 Arbois Vin Jaune Savagnin (Arbois).** Aged under yeast, the wine has richness while also having freshness and a touch of spice. It is beautifully textured, a light touch giving poise at the end. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46/620 ml

90 **Domaine Rolet 2015 Arbois Tradition White Blend (Arbois).** The blend of Chardonnay and Savagnin shows an oxidized character with acidity and layers of fruit. It is rich, intensity with a surprising freshness that gives the wine some further aging potential. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

90 **Rijckaert 2021 En Paradis Vieilles Vignes Chardonnay (Arbois).** A ripe, smooth wine with a rounded texture and touches of wood aging, this is rich with plenty of white fruits and spice. Dense wine and now ready to drink. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Rijckaert 2020 Grand Elevage Vieilles Vignes Savagnin (Arbois).** Instead of aging only in steel tanks, yeast tops a portion of the Savagnin tanks. The result is a delicate wine with acidity and a breadly character. White fruits form a contrast. It is a fine wine ready to drink. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Domaine Rolet 2019 Vieilles Vignes Poulsard (Arbois).** With its typical light color, the wine has cherry fruits and soft tannins. It is fruity, perfumed and fresh with acidity at the end. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Rijckaert 2021 Savagnin (Arbois).** This bright wine with its acidity and green fruit flavors is now mature. It is lively, its freshness at its best. Drink now. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

SAVOIE

89 **Le Caveau Savoyard 2022 Roussette de Savoie Altesse (Savoie).** Peppery and full of

spice, this is a ripe wine. White fruits are perfumed with a burst of acidity adding to the wine's overall completeness. Drink now. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Le Caveau Savoyard 2022 Apremont Jacquère (Savoie).** A lilt of spice gives this intensely fresh wine a bright lift. Attractive green-apple flavors finish this light, fruity wine. Drink now. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Le Caveau Savoyard 2022 Abymes Jacquère (Savoie).** Tangy, full of bright fruit, the wine is bursting with youth and freshness. It is attractive now and totally ready to drink. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Les Rocailles 2022 Apremont Jacquère (Savoie).** This is a wine that is creamy, fresh and intensely fruity. A mix of citrus and apples give a balanced acidity. Ready to drink. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

VIN DE FRANCE

91 **Clos Lapeyre 2021 Evidencia White Blend (Vin de France).** With a honeyed nose and a lightly oxidized character, this wine is full and spicy. It has been bottled without added sulfur, giving surprising ripeness. Drink now. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

89 **Château des Landes 2022 # Different Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).** A very perfumed wine with a tropical hint and spice. Matured in amphora, the wine has softened and subsumed its fruitiness into a riper texture. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

87 **Château Clamens 2022 Clamens Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).** Bright acidity and a light herbal character give this wine both great fruit and freshness. It is smoothly textured and ready to drink. Magnum Wines International. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 **Rijckaert 2021 Vigne de Voises Vieilles Vignes Chardonnay (Côtes du Jura).** The wine is rounded, balancing citrus fruits against softer flavors of apples and kiwi. It has depth and concentration, ready to drink from 2024. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Domaine la Maionnette 2022 Provence white blend (Méditerranée).** This ripe, crisp white wine has a lively citrus and white-fruit char-

acter. It is imbued with a tangy and spice freshness that gives the wine a lift. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Rijckaert 2021 Les Sarres Savagnin (Côtes du Jura).** The wine is crisp, far from the yeasty manifestations of the grape. It has touches of herbal flavors along with bright citrus acidity and is ready to drink. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

SPARKLING WINES

89 **Domaine Albert de Conti 2022 Pétillant Naturel (Vin de France).** Vivacious and sparkling with bright apple flavors, this is an attractive lightly sparkling wine. It has acidity that has been softened by the ripe fruit. Drink now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

89 **Domaine Rolet 2018 Blanc de Noirs (Crémant de Jura).** This blend of Pinot Noir and Poulsard is fresh and creamy. It has a light mousse with acidity and apple flavors. The wine is crisp and has a light texture to finish. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

88 **Les Vignobles Gueissard 2021 Brut Nature Rosé (Vin de France).** The wine, the palest rosé imaginable, is crisp and fruity. The light structure chimes well with the acidity and apple skin crispness. The wine is ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

87 **Les Rocailles NV Crémant (Savoie).** A delicious, apple-y wine with a crisp background. Its freshness comes from the bright acidity and zesty character. This is an immediately drinkable wine. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

87 **Maison Mirabeau 2022 À la Folie (Vin de France).** A sparkling pink blend with a big burst of white Colombard giving acidity and fresh fruits. It is young, vibrant and ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

OTHER FRENCH WINES

ROSÉ WINES

VIN DE FRANCE

88 **Lionel Osmin & Cie 2021 Un Jardin Extraordinaire Rosé (Vin de France).** With its dark color, this could also be described as a red wine; it is certainly rich with spice and light tannins. The wine's light acidity means it is has a rounded char-

acter. Drink chilled whether rosé or red. Swiss Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

87 **Maison Mirabeau 2022 Forever Summer Rosé (Vin de France)**. Made from 100% Grenache, the wine has a light pepper touch with fresh acidity and a spicy edge. The wine is soft, fruity, ready to drink. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

86 **Bruno Lafon 2022 Le Fruit Défendu Rosé (Vin de France)**. A blend of Grenache and Cinsault, this rosé has a fresh and spicy character. A touch of pepper marks out the Grenache and goes with the citrus acidity. Drink now. Bruno Lafon. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

85 **Bruno Lafon 2022 Le P'tit Rosé (Vin de France)**. This is a bright, fruity wine. Its acidity and freshness have a light caramel character along with intense citrus and red-currant flavors. Drink now. Bruno Lafon. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

MEDITERRANÉE

89 **Château Miraval 2022 Studio by Miraval Rosé (Méditerranée)**. Flush with red-berry fruits, the wine is balanced. Crisp and textured bright fruits are balanced with ripe citrus and acidity. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

88 **Château d'Estoublon 2022 Roseblood Rosé (Méditerranée)**. A ripe, fruity wine, this is soft and warm, reflecting a fine southern character. Its red currant and tangy orange flavors are ready to drink. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

87 **Château Roubine 2022 R de Roubine Rosé (Méditerranée)**. This lightly red-fruit flavored wine is tangy with a raspberry ripeness and bright citrus. Drink now. Royal Wine Corporation. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

87 **Domaine Tropez 2022 Crazy Tropez Rosé (Méditerranée)**. An attractive blend of Cinsault and Grenache gives bright acidity and a tangy character. Light citrus flavors contrast with touches of crisp red fruits. Drink now. Asgram LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

86 **Domaine Tropez 2022 Sand Tropez Rosé (Méditerranée)**. Fresh fruit aromas and a light bright texture give this wine its fruity freshness. It has a citrus streak of acidity that offers a vibrant aftertaste. Asgram LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

86 **Famille Ravoire 2022 Bleu Azur Rosé (Méditerranée)**. A light, fruity wine, this has a soft texture with citrus flavors coming through

strongly. There is a tropical hint at the end. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$12

86 **Famille Ravoire 2022 Domaine des Bellugues Rosé (Méditerranée)**. A really pale rosé, this has light fruit and a bright texture. It is crisp and tangy with a hint of orange zest at the end. Drink now. Cru Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$11

86 **La Sanglière 2022 No. 6 Simply Rosé (Méditerranée)**. Bright and fruity, a blend from across southern Provence vineyards, this is fresh and poised. Its citrus and kiwi flavors are light and forward. Drink now. Obvious Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

86 **Les Vignobles Gueissard 2022 Le Petit G Rosé (Méditerranée)**. Not so much "petit" but a southern wine from outside the Côtes de Provence region. The wine is bright and full of fruit. It is ready to drink. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

OTHER ROSÉ WINES

88 **Fabien Castaing 2022 Gris Ocean Rosé (Atlantique)**. A fresh, crisp wine, floral and perfumed. The wine has a fine tang that gives it a texture. Drink now. Lanterna Distributors. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

88 **Les Rocailles 2022 Rosé de (Savoie)**. This smooth rosé is full of bright acidity and fresh fruits. Red currants and citrus flavors are forward and delicious. The wine is ready to drink. Hand Picked Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

OTHER FRENCH WINES

RED WINES

VIN DE FRANCE

92 **Château Grand Boise 2019 Liberté Chérie Syrah (Vin de Table Français)**. From a small parcel of pink soil, the wine is ripe with light tannins that have softened and filled out. It is now a rich wine that is balanced and mature. Drink the wine now. Organic. Soilair Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$77

90 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2021 Casa Nova Doppiu Passu Syrah (Vin de France)**. This rich, fruity wine with its perfumed Syrah and some firm tannins, is still young. It comes from the island of Corsica, giving a full southern feel with a saline edge. Drink this wine from 2024. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$39

88 **Famille Laplace NV Les 2 Vaches Rouges Tannat (Vin de France)**. Packed with black fruits

and supple tannins, this wine is balanced, fresh and juicy. It is open and made to be ready to drink. LVDH. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

87 **Commanderie de la Bargemone 2022 Bascule Syrah (Vin de France)**. This is light and fruity, red fruits and tannins are freshened by the softness of this wine. Carbonic maceration and spice come from this new small production wine produced by former theater actor Pierre Einaudi, son of the estate's owner. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$36

OTHER RED WINES

89 **Rijckaert 2022 La Rouge Poulsard (Arbois)**. The typical light-red color of this wine goes with its light texture. Red-cherry fruits and acidity give the wine its freshness and smoothness. Drink now. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

87 **Les Rocailles 2021 Mondeuse (Savoie)**. Smoky and stalky, this wine is full of red fruits and spice. It is totally reliant on fruitiness, giving a fresh, lightly structured character. Drink the wine now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

PORTUGAL

WHITE WINES

VINHO VERDE

93 **Anselmo Mendes 2022 Alvarinho Contacto (Vinho Verde)**. Skin contact has given this rich wine its density. It is a full wine, hinting at spice and minerality. The wine's ripeness shows some aging potential. Drink this great wine from 2024. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

93 **Anselmo Mendes 2020 Parcela Unica (Vinho Verde)**. This single vineyard wine is concentrated and full of dense white fruits. It is a powerful wine. It hints of citrus balanced with a mineral texture and a vivid aftertaste. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

92 **Anselmo Mendes 2022 Muros Antigos Alvarinho (Vinho Verde)**. Anselmo Mendes, a master of Alvarinho, shows the ripeness of the variety. Its creamy texture balances with the intense vibrant acidity and apple and citrus fruits. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

92 **Aveleda 2020 Parcela do Convento (Vinho Verde)**. For full review see page 13. Aveleda Inc.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$40

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Anselmo Mendes 2022 Muros Antigos Loureiro (Vinho Verde). The wine is soft with rounded ripe white fruits. It is a full wine, rich in fruits and texture. The wine's acidity lies behind the rounded fruit. Drink the wine now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Aveleda 2022 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). For full review see page 23. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

90 João Cabral Almeida 2022 Destino Fifth Empire (Vinho Verde). A ripe, fruity Alvarinho from the northern Vinho Verde region, this is rich and full. It has great pink grapefruit and lively acidity. The wine could age further; wait until 2024. Alt Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Santos & Seixo 2022 Santos da Casa Reserva (Vinho Verde). From the northern Monção and Melgaço region in the Minho Valley, the wine is creamy, while also brightly lit with a citrus streak. It is fresh, young and will be ready to drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Valados de Melgaço 2021 Alvarinho Reserva (Vinho Verde). Ripe and creamy, the wine is dense and full-bodied. The wine's rich character is amplified by the spice and apple with hints of yellow fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Crescendo Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Wines & Winemakers 2022 Maria Bonita Nostalgia (Vinho Verde). This young Alvarinho from the north of Vinho Verde is fruity and crisp. The creaminess is developing to open out the perfumed acidity and green fruits. Drink this attractive wine from 2024. Costa Nova. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Anselmo Mendes 2022 Escolha (Vinho Verde). A blend of Alvarinho from the Minho Valley and Loureiro from the Lima Valley, this wine is light and full of citrus flavors. It is bright and fresh. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

88 Aveleda 2022 Fonte (Vinho Verde). There is a fresh prickle on this wine adding to its freshness and bright citrus fruits. It is light, slightly off-dry and ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$11

88 Aveleda 2022 Loureiro & Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). Totally fruity, this is a citrus and white fruit flavored wine. It brings together two of Vinho Verde's most important varieties in a harmonious whole. Drink the wine now. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 João Cabral Almeida 2022 Camaleão (Vinho Verde). Aged for a few months on its own lees, this wine has ripe fruits and a rich texture. White fruits come with citrus and rich acidity. It is fresh while also with a creamy texture. Drink now. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Blanka 2022 (Vinho Verde). Off-dry with a light prickle, this is a light and fruity wine from the Lima Valley. It is crisp and ready to drink. Well-Oiled Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

DOURO

91 João Cabral Almeida 2021 Omnia (Douro). Light wood fermentation and aging give this wine its extra richness. The apple and spice flavors are enhanced by the ripe texture to give a poised delicious wine. Drink now. Alt Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

91 Quinta de São Luiz 2018 Winemaker's Selection Grande Reserva (Douro). Bright and softly textured, this is a rich wine. With spice and a tangy texture against white fruits, the wine is now mature. The blend of the rare Folgazão and Rabi-gato is concentrated and ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Quinta de São Luiz 2022 Reserva Branco (Douro). Fermented in wood, the wine is young but finely textured. It has plenty of fresh fruits set against the toasty character. Acidity and ripe apple and pink grapefruit flavors are perfumed. The wine will be ready from 2024. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Burmester 2022 Tavedo (Douro). A smoothly textured wine, its acidity and lemon flavors are just part of a richer, warmer whole. The wine has a perfumed edge from the Malvasia in the blend. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Dow's 2021 Vale do Bomfim (Douro). A soft wine, rounded with rich white fruits, this is lightly mineral with ripe acidity. It is fresh while also softly textured at the end. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Herédias (Douro). From high altitude vineyards on the southern bank of the Douro, the wine is fruity with a touch of wood giving a snap of toast to the citrus and apple flavored fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2022 Superior (Douro). Six months in wood have enhanced this

wine. Its freshness is rounded out with a touch of spice. The wine is ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Solar de Cambres 2022 N2 Colheita (Douro). Named after the old N2 highway that ran from the north to the south of Portugal, this is an attractive, fruity wine with white and citrus fruits in abundance. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Symington Family Wines 2022 Altano Naturalmente (Douro). The wine's lightly herbal character is balanced by its more tropical and white fruit flavors. It is fresh and crisp at the end. Drink from 2024. Premium Port Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Quinta de São Luiz 2022 Colheita Branco (Douro). Douro white varieties with the addition of Arinto have created a soft, white fruit flavored wine. The wine's smooth texture gives a rounded wine that could develop for another few months. Drink from 2024. Wine In-Motion. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

DÃO

92 João Cabral Almeida 2020 Ligen (Dão). A textured, mineral wine, this is dense and full. The Alfrocheiro is typical of the Dão wine, giving spice and a floral aspect to the fruit. Drink this rich wine, with its fine potential, from 2025. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 João Cabral Almeida 2021 Musgo (Dão). Made from the Dão's own white grape and one of Portugal's finest, the wine is ripe and creamy. It also has lightness and a crisp edge that adds a dimension of freshness to the wine. Drink now. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

91 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2020 Ribeiro Santo Encruzado Dourado (Dão). An impressive, rich wine is made from Portugal's star white grape. It has a creamy character and a dense texture that brings out apple and melon flavors. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Caminhos Cruzados 2021 Reserva Encruzado (Dão). This wood-aged Encruzado is full and ripe with rich white fruits. It has a fine balance between the acidity and generous fruits. That gives the wine a warm character that is well-freshened. Drink the wine now. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

90 Quinta do Covão 2022 (Dão). Vineyards close to the Serra da Estrela mountains are

the source of this creamy, intense wine. Its richness comes from the bright Encruzado that is lifted by perfumed Malvasia. Drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Caminhos Cruzados 2921 Titular Reserva (Dão). The rich, balanced wine has a fine creamy character, rich in apple and kiwi flavors and a fine edge of wood. The wine is ready to drink. Saraiva Enterprises. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Ribeiro Santo Encruzado (Dão). Ripe white fruits and delicious apple acidity give this lightly wood aged wine freshness and a rich character. With its rounded aftertaste, the wine should age a few months. Drink from 2024. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

LISBOA

90 Quinta de Chocapalha 2021 Arinto (Lisboa). On its home turf, the Arinto grape shows its quality. This is a fruity wine with a fine line of citrus that gives it structure and surprising depth. Drink now. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Grand'Arte (Lisboa). This is warm, ripe Alvarinho that contrasts totally with the variety found in Vinho Verde. It is rounded and full with just the right balance of acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Paxis White Blend (Lisboa). Soft and fruity with apple and lime flavors, the wine is fresh and rounded. Its blend includes wood-aged Chardonnay that adds a touch of spice at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

88 Quinta de Chocapalha 2022 Mar de Lisboa (Lisboa). A blend of Arinto and Verdelho, this is a light, fruity wine. Its white fruits and bright acidity give freshness and a zingy aftertaste. Drink now. Solstars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Portada Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa). A blend of seven varieties, this is an aromatic wine. Its acidity and bright citrus and white fruits are enhanced by the wine's perfumed character that makes it immediately attractive. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

86 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Escada Arinto Reserva (Lisboa). The benchmark aromatic white variety of the Lisboa region has produced a fruity, lightly aromatic wine that is fresh and crisp. It is

bright and is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Aveleda 2022 Mandriola de Lisboa (Lisboa). Crisp and fruity, the wine has an herbal character from the ripe Sauvignon Blanc in the blend. It is bright, open and ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

TEJO

88 Santos & Seixo 2022 Encosta do Sobral Reserva (Tejo). Aged in oak and acacia wood barrels, the wine is rich and spicy. There is a fine ripeness and concentration on this blend of Gouveio, Viosinho and Viognier. The wine crispens at the end. Drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Wines & Winemakers 2021 Companhia das Levirias Tyto Alba (Tejo). Lees aging has brought out richness to this full wine. Acidity and white fruits mingle with lemon freshness. Drink now. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

87 Fiuzza 2022 Escriba Reserva (Tejo). The wine is ripe, densely textured with white fruits. It is soft, fruity and ready to drink. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Santos & Seixo 2022 Encosta do Sobral (Tejo). A tropical fruit flavored Sauvignon Blanc, ripe and with pineapple and zingy orange flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Wines & Winemakers 2021 Companhia das Levirias Tyto Alba (Tejo). From this warm region, the Sauvignon Blanc gives a rich style. It balances tropical fruits with a more grapefruit character to give a wine that is both warm and crisp. Drink now. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Santos & Seixo 2022 Encosta do Sobral Selection (Tejo). A crisp, zingy blend of Arinto, Fernão Pires and Verdelho, the wine is fruity and perfumed. With a fresh aftertaste, it is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

ALENTEJO

91 Quinta da Fonte Souto 2021 (Alentejo). The wine, from the northern Alentejo, is full of ripe white fruits and rich. It has a vibrant white fruit character that gives the wine weight as well as fine acidity. Produced by the Symington family, the wine is ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

90 Quinta do Paral 2020 Superior (Alentejo). Wood aging has brought richness and density to this rounded wine. It is spicy, contrasting with apples and kiwi fruit flavors, freshened with acidity. Drink this wine now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Quinta do Paral 2018 (Alentejo). This mature, wood-aged wine is ripe with smooth fruits. Its spicy character is at the center of this rich wine, with density and acidity completely integrated. Drink now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Casa Relvas 2022 Vidigueira (Alentejo). From the Vidigueira subregion, one of the coolest in Alentejo, the wine is fresh with crisp white fruits. It has a bright backdrop to the full fruits. Drink from 2024. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Esporão Reserva (Alentejo). Lightly wood aged, this is a spicy wine. Its white fruit, apples and acidity are set against a rounded, ripe texture. The wine is still young and another year will soften the wood. Drink from 2024. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Quinta do Paral 2020 (Alentejo). A ripe wine that is now mature, this has a spicy character and richness. A blend of four grapes, the wine is full and ready to drink. Kindred Vines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

ALENTEJANO

91 Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade de São Miguel Esquecido (Alentejano). For full review see page 16. Quintessential.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Quinta do Paral 2020 Reserva (Alentejano). A beautifully textured wine with acidity and attractive apple and citrus flavors. Wood aging has added spice and filled out this ripe wine. Drink now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Casa Relvas 2022 Rabo de Ovelha Vinha do Monte do Poço (Alentejano). Produced from the Rabo de Ovelha grape found widely in Portugal, this is a light, bright wine. It has a light wood aging that adds spice to the fresh white and citrus fruits. Drink now. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Santos & Seixo 2021 Santos da Casa (Alentejano). Soft and smoothly fruity, the wine is full of white fruits and fragrant acidity. Crisp and refreshing, the wine is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

88 Aveleda 2022 Villa Alvor (Algarve). From the south of Portugal, this is a rounded wine. It has some warmth in its ripeness that is tempered with citrus acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

87 AJF Selected Wines 2021 Toca (Beira Interior). Síria is the variety associated with the high elevation of Beira Interior. This perfumed wine, with its ripe grapefruit and sweet apple flavors, is light, full of fruit and ready to drink. Ilaria Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Vinhos del Atlântico 2022 Nortico Alvarinho (Minho). A fresh and fruity style of Alvarinho, this wine is young and crisp. It has a green apple and light spice along with acidity and a zesty aftertaste. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

PORTUGAL ROSÉ WINES

DOURO

89 Quinta de São Luiz 2022 Winemaker's Selection Tinta Cão (Douro). Aside from the ridiculously fat and heavy bottle, the wine is rounded, perfumed and balanced. It has a smooth texture that gives a generous character to the rich red fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

87 Solar de Cambres 2022 N2 Colheita (Douro). This fresh and fruity wine is softly textured and packed with red and citrus fruits. It is an attractive wine with a light texture. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Burmester 2022 Tavedo (Douro). A fruity wine with raspberry and red currant flavors and perfumed acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

86 Quinta de São Luiz 2022 Colheita Rosé (Douro). With ripe flavors, this red currant and spice wine is also fresh and lightly mineral. It has vibrant fruits, lime and berry flavors. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

OTHER ROSÉ WINES

87 Wines & Winemakers 2022 Maria Bonita (Vinho Verde). The first vintage of this wine is soft, rounded. Acidity and light red currant and

citrus flavors give this wine poise and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Costa Nova. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

86 Aveleda 2022 Villa Alvor (Algarve). Fruity, crisp and fresh with red currant flavors lifted with citrus. The wine, from southern Portugal, is ready to drink. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 DFJ Vinhos 2022 Paxis Rosé Blend (Lisboa). This light, fruity wine is rounded and softly textured. It has fine red fruits laced with grapefruit and crisp acidity. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

86 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Ribeiro Santo Cheek to Cheek (Dão). Ripe red fruits mark this wine out for its richness. Acidity does provide a contrast with a citrus edge. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Rocim 2022 Marian (Alentejano). Crisp and fruity, this is a bright wine that has lively acidity and a tangy character. It is ready to drink. Shiverick Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

84 Quinta do Paral 2022 (Alentejo). A fat style of wine with strawberry jelly flavors, this is a full style of wine. Drink now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

96 Prats & Symington LDA 2020 Chryseia (Douro). Produced by the partnership between Bordelais Bruno Prats and the Douro's Symington family, the wine is a stylish projection of rich black fruits and still youthful tannins. It has great potential. Drink from 2026. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

95 Quinta da Foz 2020 Reserva (Douro). This impressive wine produced from old vines on this great vineyard is still developing but eminently ageworthy. It has great tannins and rich, concentrated black fruits. The wood aging gives the wine extra weight and ripeness. Drink the wine from 2026. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

95 Quinta do Vallado 2020 Vinha da Granja (Douro). This single vineyard wine from old vines has a powerful structure. It is an impressive wine, its density showing strongly in a ripe texture. The wine has a fine, juicy aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$320

94 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Herédias Grande Reserva (Douro). Dark chocolate and black fruit flavors give this wine a rich character. It is a dense and solid field blend from vines that are over a century old. It is a dense, dark wine that needs further aging. Drink from 2026. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Quinta da Boavista 2019 Vinha do Oratorio Vinhas Velhas (Douro). A blend of at least 25 varieties planted on traditional terraces, this is a unique single parcel wine. It has density and polished richness from wood aging. The black plum flavors are powerful and well-integrated with the tannins. It should age further: drink from 2025. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$190

94 Quinta da Boavista 2019 Vinha do Ujo (Douro). Spicy and packed with maturing black fruits, this is developing into an impressive wine from a field blend. Its rich tannins give a richly structured wine, full of fruit and with a fine future. Drink from 2025. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$190

94 Quinta da Foz 2021 (Douro). The wine's rich tannins are a fine indication of its potential. It has dense, dark fruits with a ripe, toasty character. Juicy and rich, the wine, which comes from an iconic, historic vineyard, will be ready from 2026. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Quinta de São Luiz 2017 Vina Rumilá Grande Reserva (Douro). This limited production wine has rich, dark fruits. Blackberry flavors are now fully mature, giving richness, a tarry character and balanced concentration. This is a fine wine, solid and ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

94 Quinta do Vallado 2020 Reserva Field Blend (Douro). For full review see page 9. Quintessential.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Quinta do Vallado 2020 Vinha da Coroa (Douro). One of a pair of field blend old vine wines, this is powerfully structured with dense black fruits. It has balanced tannins and structure, developing gently and purposefully. The wine needs time; drink from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Quinta do Vesúvio 2020 (Douro). From the historic Vesúvio vineyard, created in the 19th century by Dona Antonia Ferreira, this wine is superbly structured with firm tannins and dense black fruits. It needs plenty more time. Drink from 2026. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98

94 **Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinha do Rio (Douro).** For full review see page 9. Aveleda Inc. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$135

93 **João Cabral Almeida 2019 Omnia Vinha ao Alto (Douro).** This is a field blend of at least eight varieties that was fermented in an open granite lagar. It has great swathes of black fruits that are now smoothing out. The wine is impressive with its density and maturing texture. Drink now. Alt Wines. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 **Quinta da Boavista 2019 Reserva (Douro).** A blend that includes 25% old vines in a field blend, the wine is powerful and concentrated. Its black fruits, giving a polish by wood aging, are just beginning to mature. The wine should be completely ready from 2025. Wine In-Motion. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

93 **Quinta de São Luiz 2018 Vinhas Velhas Grande Reserva (Douro).** Aged for 16 months in wood, this is a ripe, black fruit and spice wine that is now mature. Its tannins are cushioned by the ripe fruit and freshened by acidity. Drink the wine now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

93 **Quinta do Vallado 2020 Vallado Touriga Nacional (Douro).** Ripe and perfumed, this full wine has fine, stylish tannins and a solid structure. With its dense texture, the wine is full-bodied with spice and acidity to back up the still-young black fruits. Drink from 2025. Quintessential. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

92 **Burmester 2018 Quinta do Arnozelo Grande Reserva (Douro).** A dense wine that is still young, this is rich and full of black fruits. It is a ripe wine, its tannins firm but softening well. The wine needs to age further, so drink from 2024. Wine In-Motion. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

92 **Prats & Symington LDA 2021 Post Scriptum (Douro).** From Quinta de Roriz in the Douro, this wine is the second wine of Chryseia. Made by the partnership between the Prats and Symington families, the wine has elegance to balance its richness. It is full of black currant fruits, ripe tannins and with a fine future. Drink from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

92 **Quinta do Vallado 2021 Vallado Tinto (Douro).** For full review see page 15. Quintessential. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

92 **Quinta do Vallado 2020 Vallado Sousão (Douro).** Less well-known than many of the Douro's red varieties, the Sousão make a rich, dark-colored wine. With its ripe tannins, dark black

fruits and still firm texture, the wine needs time. Drink from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$56

92 **Quinta do Vallado 2020 Vallado Tinta Roriz (Douro).** The Tempranillo variety in its Portuguese manifestation of Tinta Roriz is a staple of Douro wines. It gives a finely textured wine with great potential for wood aging. With its structure still firm, the wine needs to age. Drink from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

92 **Symington Family Wines 2018 Quinta da Ataíde (Douro).** This massive vineyard in the Douro Superior, the upper Douro, has produced a dense wine with rich black fruits and structured tannins. It is powerful and just ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **João Cabral Almeida 2020 Omnia (Douro).** This wine has a fine mix of freshness and structure, held together by black fruits. It is rich and dense while at the same time lit by acidity. Drink from 2025. Alt Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **João Cabral Almeida 2019 Destino Fifth Empire (Douro).** The wine has wood aging that gives it a polished feel. The wine has layers of black fruits, ripe and full. The blend, a typical combination of four Douro grapes, is textured and ageworthy. Drink from 2024. Alt Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Quinta de São Luiz 2020 Reserva Tinto (Douro).** This smooth, ripe wine is already delicious. With its softness and the merest hint of tannins, the wine has spice from wood aging and full, balanced black fruits. Drink from 2025. Wine In-Motion. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Quinta do Vesúvio 2020 Pombal do Vesúvio (Douro).** The second wine of Vesúvio, this wine is juicy and still young. The black fruits are lifted with youthful acidity that needs to soften. The wine is likely to be ready from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Wines & Winemakers 2021 Lua Cheia (Douro).** Produced from a field blend of old vines, this wine is balanced with great black fruits. It has a spicy touch from wood aging that gives acidity as well as tannins and structure. Drink from 2025. Costa Nova. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 **Burmester 2021 Tavedo (Douro).** Fermentation and aging in tank have preserved the red fruits of this ripe wine. There is a fine balance to this wine, enhanced by the acidity at the end. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

88 **Solar de Cambres 2019 N2 Colheita (Douro).** M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Symington Family Wines 2021 Altano Rewilding Edition (Douro).** Part of a Symington project to support wildlife in the Upper Douro, this wine is soft, fruity and juicy. Its black fruits are fresh with an underlying tannic support. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Symington Family Wines 2020 Altano Reserva (Douro).** A ripe wine with spicy flavors from wood aging along with layers of tannins and black fruits. It is balanced, still young with a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Dow's 2020 Vale do Bomfim (Douro).** Ripe and soft with red fruits and generous flavors, this is an easy access wine. With a final bright acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

87 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Vinha do Reino A River Runs Through It (Douro).** The name of the wine is a reference to the Douro that acts as the heart of the vineyards. The wine is full of black fruits with young tannins and succulent acidity. It is structured with some potential. Drink from 2025. Iberian Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Quinta de São Luiz 2021 Organic (Douro).** Lightly structured with some firm tannins in the background, this wine brings out black fruits. It is rich with a dense texture of berry flavors and lit by acidity at the end. Drink from 2024. Organic. Wine In-Motion. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

87 **Quinta do Vesúvio 2020 Comboio do Vesúvio (Douro).** A comboio in Portugal is a railroad train or convoy. This unoaked fruity wine is totally accessible and full of red berry flavors. Acidity and light tannins provide the right support. Drink the wine now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Symington Family Wines 2021 Altano (Douro).** The wine has soft fruit and red berry flavors. Its freshness is sustained by a light texture and a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

DÃO

93 **Fontes da Cunha 2019 Munda Phoenix (Dão).** This rich special-edition wine is dark, full of black fruits and now smooth tannins. It has layers of acidity to go with the generous texture. Drink this powerful wine now. I_No Submitting Co. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$95

BUYINGGUIDE

93 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2018 Carlos Lucas Primos (Dão).** An intense, perfumed wine rich in mature tannins and with an herbal edge to its ripeness. From an old field blend vineyard, the wine is made in limited quantities, concentrated and needing more aging. Drink from 2025. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

91 **Caminhos Cruzados 2018 Reserva Tinto (Dão).** A wine from the Quinta da Teixuga, this succulent, black-fruited wine is full of flavor and concentration. Balanced blackberry flavors go with acidity that is now mature. The wood aging has given the wine a smooth texture that is now richly integrated with the fruit. Drink now. Saraiva Enterprises. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 **Caminhos Cruzados 2019 Vinhas da Teixuga (Dão).** Pure Jaen, one of the range of varieties special to the Dão region, this wine is juicy, generous with wood aging. Rich and spicy, the wine is now almost developed. Drink from 2024. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

90 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2020 Ribeiro Santo (Dão).** With eight months wood aging, the wine is structured and full of dark tannins. It has a perfumed character with hints of the juicy acidity and black fruits. Drink from 2025. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 **João Cabral Almeida 2019 Musgo (Dão).** While it is more usually found in a blend, in the Dão region it is also used on its own. This wine with its contrast between rich black fruits and light, fragrant spice is now developed and is ready to drink. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Cota 700 (Dão).** The wine is dominated by its fresh red berry fruits. It has light, gentle tannins lit by a juicy flavor. Drink the wine from 2025. Iberian Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

LISBOA

93 **Quinta de Chocalpa 2015 Guarita da Chocalpa (Lisboa).** A dense wine with rich tannins and greater concentration. It has spice from wood aging and powerful black fruits. The wine is mature, impressive and ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 **Quinta de Chocalpa 2018 Tinto (Lisboa).** A ripe, full wine with rich tannins and still-young black fruits. It is solid with spice and concentration, blackberry fruits and final acidity. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Portada Reserva (Lisboa).** For full review see page 23. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

89 **Quinta de Chocalpa 2018 Mar da Palha (Lisboa).** A rich, perfumed wine with ripe tannins, this is full of black fruits. With its spice and touch of pepper, the wine is full and now ready to drink. Solstars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Casa do Lago (Lisboa).** Five varieties are brought together in this full-of-fruit and softly textured wine. The wine's juicy character is right up front. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2022 Escada (Lisboa).** A full, ripe wine with soft tannins and berry fruits. It is lightly textured but with plenty of generous freshness. Drink the wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Coreto (Lisboa).** This light wine has red fruits and fresh acidity. It is bright and full of ripe berries, ready to drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2020 Grand'Arte (Lisboa).** The wine is full of cherry fruits with soft tannins and a full-bodied character. The juicy aftertaste is attractive. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 **Quinta de Chocalpa 2020 Mar de Lisboa (Lisboa).** A stalky wine with red fruits and spice, this has tannins and structure. Acidity and red berries are prominent. Drink the wine now. Solstars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Forte do Cego (Lisboa).** A fresh and fruity wine, this is perfumed and lightly structured. Acidity and red fruits show well in this young, vivid wine that is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

86 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Portada Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa).** The wine is full of ripe berry fruits, with a touch of strawberry in its softness. The wine's light tannins and juicy acidity are balanced. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

TEJO

91 **Santos & Seixo 2020 Cabeço da Pedra Reserva (Tejo).** Aged in wood, this wine is maturing well. Its ripe tannins and balanced black currant

fruits are filled with spice and a rich texture. The wine will be ready from 2024. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Santos & Seixo 2020 Encosta do Sobral Vinhas Velhas (Tejo).** A rich and spicy wine, this comes from older vines of Trincadeira, Castelão and Aragonez. It is still young with its tannins only just softening. But it already has all the promise of a fine wine. Drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 **Wines & Winemakers 2021 Companhia das Lezírias Séries Singulares (Tejo).** Wood- and amphora-aged, this wine is ripe while also elegant and spicy. The wine is young but with fine potential. Drink the wine from 2026. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$93

89 **Fiuza 2021 Canto do Pedro Reserva (Tejo).** Ripe and softly textured, this oak-aged wine is juicy with generous tannins. The wine's blend, dominated by Touriga Nacional, gives a perfumed character, ready to drink from 2024. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Fiuza 2021 Pop Galo (Tejo).** Light oak aging gives a spicy character to this wine. Its berry fruits are juicy, bringing acidity into the mix of the wine. The wine is ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 **Santos & Seixo 2020 Portas do Oriente Reserva (Tejo).** Dominated by Syrah and Aragonez, the wine is ripe and rich in spice and blackberry fruits. It has a firm texture that highlights fine tannins and acidity. The wine will be ready from 2024. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Wines & Winemakers 2020 Companhia das Lezírias Tyto Alba (Tejo).** Named after the owl that lives in this protected countryside, the wine is soft and smoothly textured with just a hint of tannin. Aged in wood, it is rich and spicy, full and ready to drink. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

86 **Wines & Winemakers 2022 Companhia das Lezírias Senhora Companhia Vinho Noveo (Tejo).** Carbonic maceration in the style of a Beaujolais emphasizes the wine's bright red fruits. It is a light, ripe wine, full of fresh acidity. It is ready to drink. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

85 **Santos & Seixo 2021 Rotas de Portugal (Tejo).** Bright red fruits with a touch of spice are the highlights of this easygoing wine. It is fruity and ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

ALENTEJO

93 Rocim 2021 Grande Rocim Reserva (Alentejo). This powerful, impressive wine is richly structured. Layers of wood aging go with the dark black fruits and concentrated spicy fruits. Still full of firm tannins, it is a serious, ageworthy wine that should be ready from 2027. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$128

92 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Quinta da Viçosa (Alentejo). Aged for a year in wood, this stylish wine is rich and still structured. It has firm tannins cushioned by dark black fruits and acidity. This fine wine is spicy and worth aging. Drink from 2025. Organic. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Quinta da Fonte Souto 2019 Vinha do Souto (Alentejo). Vineyards in the Serra de São Mamede and owned by the Symington family have realized a powerful, rich wine. Now smoothly textured and with dark black generous fruits, the wine has a ripe, full-bodied density. Drink from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

91 Quinta do Paral 2019 Superior (Alentejo). This rich, wood-aged wine has a powerful ripe character. Its tannins are almost softened but still give a firm edge to the aftertaste. The wine will be at its best from 2025. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Quinta do Paral 2019 Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo). Old vines bring density to this wine. It has ripe, full black fruit flavors that are rounded out by wood aging. The wine is rich and will be ready to drink from 2024. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$46

91 Santos & Seixo 2018 Duquesa Maria Private Selection (Alentejo). Tannins still show strongly in this rich wine. It has power and concentration to go with its layers of black fruits, dark chocolate and spicy acidity. Drink this fine, dense wine from 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

90 Rocim 2021 Olho de Mocho Reserva (Alentejo). The wine is still fresh with acidity while showing plenty of solid tannins and black fruits. It's a young wine, from a single vineyard, that needs to age further. Drink from 2026. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

86 Quinta do Paral 2020 (Alentejo). A ripe, soft wine that has warm fruits and light acidity. It is rounded and mature, ready to drink. Kindred Vines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

ALENTEJANO

93 Santos & Seixo 2019 Duas Familias (Alentejano). The wine is named after the two families, Santos and Seixo, who created the company. It is a beautifully dense, spicy Alicante Bouschet, dark in color and dense in tannins. Still young, the wine is powerful with a fine, juicy black fruit character. Drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Casa Relvas 2021 Segredos de São Miguel Grande Escolha (Alentejano). The wine is rich and dense. A layer of firm tannins gives this wine its concentration and structure. The Alicante Bouschet in the blend gives a dark color and ripeness. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Casa Relvas 2021 Touriga Franca Vinha da Mina (Alentejano). For full review see page 21. Quintessential. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Rocim 2021 Herdade do Rocim Reserva (Alentejano). Big, bold fruits, softly textured and with ripe tannins are the highlights of this wine. It has solid black plum fruits that are freshened with acidity. Drink this fine, succulent wine from 2026. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Casa Relvas 2021 Tinta Miúda Vinha de Pisões (Alentejano). For full review see page 22. Quintessential. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Santos & Seixo 2019 Santos da Casa Reserva (Alentejano). This wood-aged blend of four varieties is smooth and richly structured. It has black currant and berry richness, beginning to soften and mature. It will be ready to drink from 2025. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Casa Relvas 2021 Vinha da Mina (Alentejano). For full review see page 23. Quintessential. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Rocim 2021 Herdade do Rocim (Alentejano). The wine's perfumed black fruits are bursting with energy. It is structured with a touch of wood aging adding further texture. Drink this dense wine from 2026. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Poca Roupa (Alentejano). Full of bright fruits, this wine from Alicante Bouschet, Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca is warm, with red berry flavors and soft tannins. It is immediately accessible, ready to drink from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

OTHER RED WINES

89 Nelson Neves 2017 Reserva (Bairrada). Ripe and juicy, this is a fine, mature wine. Its light spice and gentle tannins are all of a piece, giving a very drinkable wine, ready now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 AJF Selected Wines 2019 Toca (Beira Interior). The vivid fruits are right up front in this ripe wine. It has a touch of wood, but that just enhances the rich berry flavors. It is a mature wine now, ready to drink. Ilaria Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

87 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Treva Reserva (Península de Setúbal). The spicy richness is powerful at this stage and needs a little time to soften. The wine's fruit will develop with black-berry ripeness. Drink the wine from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

PORT

94 Kopke 1983 Colheita Tawny (Port). This Port, aged in wood, has now acquired the mature old gold character. There are hints of the sweetness that marks this producer's Ports, but they are now given a fine sheen of spicy nuttiness. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$180

94 W. & J. Graham's 2012 Quinta dos Malvedos Vintage (Port). Malvedos is Graham's flagship Douro vineyard. This vintage Port from the estate is maturing well but still not mature. The wine's concentration with dense black fruits, perfumed, sweet and concentrated. This great wine still needs time, ready to drink from 2030. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$76

92 Kopke 2021 Quinta S. Luiz Vintage Port (Port). This single quinta Port is rich, on the sweet side. Of course it is young; its dense black fruits have plum and prune flavors giving richness and fine potential. The wine will be ready from 2029. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$85

91 Dow's 2017 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). Based at Quinta do Bomfim in the heart of the Douro, Dow's LBV Port is rich, with just a hint of spirit to contrast with the just sweet fruit, a Dow house style. Drink this Port now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$30

91 Smith Woodhouse 2010 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). Smith Woodhouse is one of the more discreet brands from the Symington Family. As often, the Ports are finely blended, giving a full,

BUYINGGUIDE

spicy wine with layers of black plum and prune flavors. This wine is ready to drink, but could age further. Drink now or wait until 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$40

90 Cockburn's 2018 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port). This is a fine perfumed Port, rich and smoothed from wood aging. Dried black fruits and a spicy character give this wine richness while also having a fine structure at the end. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$30

90 Kopke 2005 Colheita Branco (Port). A sweet style of Colheita, this wood-aged white Port still has vibrant fruit to contrast with the nutty character. It is rich, spicy, ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$84

90 Kopke 2005 Colheita Tawny (Port). Traditional Douro grape varieties are given richness by the wood aging of this rich Port. Touches of fruit remain in this 18-year-old wine. It has sweetness, a spicy edge with dried fruits and a nutty character. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$55

89 W. & J. Graham's NV Six Grapes Special Vila Velha Edition Reserve (Port). This popular Port is an immediately accessible wine. From the Quinta da Vila Velha, the wine has depth and richness. With dried fruits and a finely judged spirit bite, the wine is ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$49

MADEIRA

96 Blandy's 1991 Malmsey (Madeira). The concentrated sweetness of a Malmsey is fully on display in this Madeira. It is rich and gorgeously sweet, a wine to savor in sips. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$362

95 Blandy's 2010 Verdelho (Madeira). Intensely nutty wine, a complete Madeira with a touch of honey permeating the wine. The wine's blend of poise between dryness and richness gives it a creamy, ripe character. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$129

95 Blandy's 1982 Verdelho (Madeira). This is pure nuttiness with layers of old fruit. The Madeira is golden in its hue and sense of richness. The wine is deliciously mature and ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$470

95 Blandy's 1978 Bual (Madeira). The wine's sweetness with a dry, dried fruit richness. Its tangy character is impressively concentrated

with nuttiness and acidity at the end. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$566

94 Blandy's 1990 Sercial (Madeira). An intense, smooth Madeira, this has a fine bite of nuttiness and acidity. The wine's blend of ripeness and total dryness has aged well, giving an all-around drinkable wine. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$376

91 Blandy's 2010 Sercial Colheita (Madeira). A dry Madeira with acidity and a tight character, nutty and with hints of dried fruits. It is a beautiful, tangy wine, intense and ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% **Price:** \$129

NORTHEAST ITALY

WHITE WINES

DELLE VENEZIE

87 Dalia 2022 (Delle Venezie). This Pinot Grigio is driven by aromas of apricot and green pear with a spritz of lemon oil on the nose. The fresh and crisp palate is superlight and refreshing with green apple and a kiss of minerality. Banville Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

86 Tutela 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Lifted and fresh aromas of mixed pears, lemon peel and white flowers define the nose of this Pinot Grigio. It's easy with notes of green apple and a light finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

85 Gabbiano 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Fruity and floral aromas waft from the glass of this easy Pinot Grigio. Apple, white flowers and citrus peel define the nose and the palate, finishing light and fresh. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

84 Cinta 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). This is light and fresh on the nose with green apple and lemon aromas. It's crisp and easy on the palate with forward-fruit flavors that tapers off into a salty finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

84 The Beachhouse 2021 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). The fruity nose is filled with peach, pear and lemon aromas with a slight hint of herbs. The palate is clean and fresh with more snap from the green apple flavors and the crisp acidity. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

FRIULI

92 Jermann 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). For full review see page 14. Maze Row Wine Merchant.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Jermann 2021 Ramât Pinot Grigio (Friuli). For full review see page 17. Maze Row Wine Merchant.

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

85 Obiz 2021 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). This wine is lifted and fresh on the nose with aromas of white flowers, lemon peel and sea spray. The light and refreshing palate pops with tart green apple notes giving way to a bright finish. Think aperitivo time! McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.

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

TRENTO

90 Endrizzi 2013 Masetto Privé Riserva (Trento). Rich and opulent from the start with aromas of fresh brioche, lemon curd and roasted hazelnut, the wine has a full-bodied palate giving apple tart with spices, wild thyme and crème fraîche, finishing with lively acidity. Colangelo & Partners. —J.P.

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

88 Maso Martis 2017 Monsieur Martis Rosè de Noir (Trento). This fresh and bright sparkling wine from the foothills of the Alps opens with a mix of fresh red berries, red apple and floral notes. The crisp palate lifts with a pretty perlage and focuses on the cherry and strawberry notes with hints of cream and rocky minerality. Colangelo & Partners. —J.P.

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

87 Letrari 2012 +4 Brut Rosè Riserva (Trento). This wine opens with mixed citrus aromas, fresh flowers and sour cherries. The leesy palate leads with savory herbs and dried flowers evolving into tart red wild berries and finishing with bright acidity. Colangelo & Partners. —J.P.

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

OTHER WHITE WINE

89 St. Pauls 2022 Löss Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Tree-ripened green apples, apple blossom and lemon and lime zest pop out of the glass of this refreshing and stimulating Pinot Grigio. Crisp and vibrant on the palate, reminiscent of being in the mountains where this wine is from, it finishes with the bright acidity of crushed stones. Ethica Wines. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

ROSÉ

88 Cantine di Ora 2022 Amicale Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Mixed aromas of sour cherry and Fuji apple are dotted with candied rose aromas. It's fresh and bright on the palate with a hint of citrus and finishing with a bright pop of acidity keeping the wine fresh and easy. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Venchiarezza 2022 Grey & Rosé (Friuli). Ripe apples and strawberries define the nose of this juicy and fresh rosé made from Pinot Grigio (remember, the skins of Pinot Grigio are a slight red when mature). The palate is very fruit-forward with a pleasant salty tang that balances the slightly sweet finish. Sunrise Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

NORTHEAST ITALY RED WINES

88 Sansonina 2019 (Garda). Polished and classy, this well-made Merlot opens with classic aromas of plum, cassis, baking spices, tobacco and purple flowers. Silky in texture and generous in fruit on the palate, the wine finish with well-integrated oak spices, mixed red and purple fruits and supple tannins. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Mont'Albano 2021 Merlot (Friuli). Fresh black cherry aromas open the nose for this Merlot. As the wine evolves, more herbal and spice aromas waft out of the glass. It's easy and plush on the palate with notes of plum, clove and pencil lead on the finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Obiz 2020 Merlot (Friuli). Aromas of plum jam mixed with anise, clove and vanilla open the nose for this juicy Merlot. Rich and concentrated blackberry, chocolate and tobacco notes combine on the palate with ripe and gentle tannins. McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

VENETO WHITE WINES PROSECCO

90 Da Luca NV (Prosecco). This citrus-forward wine with candied lemon zest and white flowers on the nose with a kiss of pine is fresh on the palate with a flinty finish and fine perlage. It's very well balanced. Accolade Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

90 Le Contesse NV Single Fermentation Brut (Prosecco). Aromas of fresh apples, a whiff

of white flowers and a hint of peach waft from the glass. The steely palate is crisp with crunch acidity and highlights the fruits found on the nose. It finishes with a subtle jasmine tea note and cool minerality. Ethica Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

89 Belletti NV (Prosecco). For full review see page 24. ALDI. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11% **Price:** \$10

89 Valdo NV Marca Oro Rosé Brut (Prosecco). Fruity and floral, this wine lifts out of the glass with aromas of stone fruit, strawberry and a touch of flowers. The palate is fresh and easy with a focus on the fruit. It finishes clean and crisp. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 Da Luca 2021 Rosé Brut (Prosecco). This light pale pink sparkler pops with fresh strawberry and red apple aromas. Light and fresh on the palate, the wine is defined by the fruitiness and has a crisp and refreshing finish. Accolade Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

87 Risata NV Estate Grown Extra Dry (Prosecco). Aromas of fresh apples, lemon zest and honeydew waft from the glass. The light palate highlights the apple flavor found in the aromas with a soft and easy finish. Prestige Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

PROSECCO TREVISO

89 Le Colture 2022 Rosé Brut (Prosecco Treviso). It is as though a fresh bouquet of wildflowers is in the glass, along with aromas of peach and citrus that waft by. The palate is refined and pretty with a creamy texture and vibrant bubbles, finishing with crisp acidity. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Borgoluce NV Lampo Brut (Prosecco Treviso). This wine is like peak season at a farmers' market with vibrant aromas of fresh apples, peaches, citrus and wildflowers. The palate is the perfect fruit salad with a dusting of lemon zest, finishing with a kiss of acidity and soft bubbles. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

88 La Gioiosa NV Et Amorsa Brut (Prosecco Treviso). Like a flower petal rising on the wind, this pretty wine is lifted and fresh on the nose with white flower aromas, red apple skin and a hint of lemon. The fruit palate is centered around a core of fresh apples with a squeeze of lemon followed by a soft perlage and a gentle finish. Ethica Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

87 Borgoluce 2021 Gaiante Rosé Millesimato Brut (Prosecco Treviso). Aromas of straw-

berry, peach candy and cream open the nose of this fresh sparkler. The creamy palate is generous and giving with a lush core of ripe berries finishing with a soft perlage. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO SUPERIORE

92 Bisol NV Jeio Made with Organically Grown Grapes Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Certified organic, this Prosecco brings lifted aromas of yellow peach, green apple and citrus zest with subtle hints of crushed stones. The palate pops with superfine bubbles that highlight notes of Comice pear and apricot with a kiss of sea salt on the finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Mionetto NV Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). As classic an Italian wine as there is this wine brightens every glass. Aromas of fresh McIntosh apples combined with yellow peach and wildflowers swirl from the glass. It's crisp and refreshing on the palate with notes of pear and crushed rocks all wrapped up by lively and vivacious bubbles. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

91 Adami 2022 Col Credas Rive di Farra di Soligo Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). The nose of this Prosecco is focused with aromas of tart green apples, Meyer lemon zest and lilies. The refined palate deftly follows the nose and continues the laser-like focus, finishing with a very impressive minerality. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Adami 2022 Bosco Di Gica Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of a variety of different apples, citrus zest, honeysuckle and an almond note all flow out of the glass. Fresh and super tasty the wine pops on the palate with more green apple notes followed by stoney minerality. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

90 Adami 2022 Col Fondo Sui Lieviti Brut Nature (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine is supposed to be a touch cloudy from the yeast still inside the bottle, so don't worry. Impressive aromas of chamomile, honey, roasted apples and white tea flow out of the glass. The textured palate has notes of Asian pear and quince, with a leesy and tart finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

90 Adami 2022 Vigneto Giardino Rive di Colbertaldo Asciutto (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Acacia and citrus blossom aromas open the nose of this vibrant Prosecco. Notes of Fuji apples and quince flow from the glass. It's crisp and fresh on the palate with a gentle perlage that deliv-

BUYINGGUIDE

ers lemon, pear and a touch of almond. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$21

90 Bisol NV Jeio Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This Prosecco jumps from the glass with aromas of freshly cut pears, lemon zest, yellow peaches, Golden delicious apples and jasmine. The wine's superfine bubbles lift the palate and highlight the fresh orchard fruit and apricot notes, finishing with a hint of sea salt and crushed stone. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Le Colture NV Fagher Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Crisp and focused, this Prosecco lights up the glass with notes of Honey-crisp apple, white flowers and crushed stone. The vibrant palate emulates the nose with a touch more flint on the zippy finish. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Le Colture NV Cruner Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). The forward apple aromas are all-encompassing on this easy Prosecco. Subtle aromas of honeysuckle and wet gravel come in and out as the wine opens. The pretty palate copes the nose with loads of apple flavors moving to some pressed fresh white flowers with a light mineral finish. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

VALDOBBIADENE SUPERIORE DI CARTIZZE

94 Bisol 2022 Cartizze Dry (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze). Orchard fresh Fuji apples and Asian pear aromas lift from the glass immediately as the cork is pulled, followed by subtle white flowers, ginger and crushed stone notes follow. The palate is electric and vibrant with a subtle hint of nectarine giving way to a saline and mineral note with a creamy perlage and a long finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$57

93 Col Vitoraz 2022 Dry (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze). This Prosecco shows a balance between fruit and savory with a salty mineral edge and fresh white peach, jasmine and fresh ginger. The palate pops with fresh mixed orchard fruits with superfine bubbles that dance across the palate, finishing with crisp and vibrant acidity. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Le Colture NV Cartizze Dry (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze). This light Prosecco opens with aromas of fresh Comice pear, honeysuckle and river stone. The palate is round and textured with apple blossom and apple and a slight yeasty and sweet finish. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$31

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 L'Antica Quercia 2021 Ancestrale Brut Nature (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Leesy and cider notes lift from the glass of this delicious example of Glera done in the ancestral method. With aromas of roast apple, chamomile, jasmine and stone, this is creamy yet tangy like fresh yogurt with lemon and peach, finishing with bright acidity. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Roeno 2020 Pinot Grigio Rivoli (Terradelforti). For full review see page 12. Multiple U.S. importers.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

91 Roeno 2022 Tera Alta (Valdadige). For full review see page 22. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

89 Serafini & Vidotto NV Bollicine (Asolo Prosecco Superiore). Intriguing aromas of mixed tropical fruits, citrus and wildflowers lift from the glass. Supertasty, this wine is a joy from sip one! It's fresh and fruit-forward yet balanced and has crunchy fresh acidity on the finish. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

93 Giovanna Tantini 2022 Il Rosé (Bardolino Chiaretto). This rosé is fun yet serious. It opens with crunch and vibrant tart cherries and pomegranate notes with subtle herbal hints in the background. The palate is light and lifted yet complex with a salty and peppery finish. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Scaia 2022 Rosato (Veneto). Vibrant, fresh, lifted and pure fun, this 100% Rondinella is a beach party in a bottle. Tart red fruits leap from the glass with a subtle note of fresh flowers and a hint of sea salt. The palate is refreshing, easy and exactly what you want in a rosato. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

VENETO RED WINES VERONESE

96 Allegrini 2018 La Poja (Veronese). For full review see page 3. Maze Row Wine Merchant. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$185

90 Monte Zovo 2019 Caligo (Veronese). Big, bold and delicious, this lush wine explodes

out of the glass with juicy black plum and wildflower aromas. The rounded palate is loaded with macerated blackberry notes dusted with sweet and savory spices finishing with a candied violet note with a kiss of acidity. Monte Zovo USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Montresor 2022 Bio (Veronese). Ripe cherry aromas bowl out of the glass with subtle notes of violets, black tea and tilled earth. Round and soft on the palate with red currant, raspberry and tobacco flavors, it finishes with a bright pop of acidity. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

VALPOLICELLA SUPERIORE

93 Massimago 2019 Profasio (Valpolicella Superiore). Expressive from the start, this wine opens with aromas of plum, black currant, tobacco leaf, anise, violets and turned earth. It's fresh and giving on the palate with black cherry flavors at the center alongside dried herbs that give the wine added depth finishing with crunch acidity. Artisanal Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

93 Tedeschi 2019 Maternigo (Valpolicella Superiore). Deeply hued, this Valpolicella shows aromas of blackberries, ripe plums and macerated cherries with licorice, allspice and tobacco. The palate is rich and lush with a focus on the ripe black-hued fruit notes that are supported by wild herbs, fresh violets and white pepper, finishing with the acidity to keep it all together. Tedeschi USA. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

90 Pasqua 2015 Mai Dire Mai (Valpolicella Superiore). Blackberry compote and baked cherries mixed with clove, violets and dried leaves pour from the glass of this elegant wine. Mouthfilling with more tart cherry and tobacco notes on the palate, the wine is well-balanced and drinks well now but will be a nice find in the cellar in a few years. Drink now–2035. Pasqua USA LLC. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tedeschi 2020 Capitel Nicalò (Valpolicella Superiore). Lifted and fresh aromas of macerated cherries, spiced plum, anise and wild herbs define the nose of this Valpolicella. It's giving and generous on the palate with plump mixed berry fruits dusted with cocoa and espresso and finishing with dried leaf and bright acidity. Tedeschi USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Tedeschi 2019 La Fabriseria (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Vibrant and fresh aromas of wild cherry and sour plum give way to exotic purple flower aromas and tobacco on the nose. The palate pops with tart red fruit notes followed by

a mix of sweet and savory spices finishing with a bright pop of acidity. Tedeschi USA. —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

94 Tedeschi 2019 Marne 180 (Amarone della Valpolicella). This lush yet well-balanced Amarone opens with aromas of black currant, wild blackberry dusted with wild herbs, sweet spices and pepper. Crushed black cherries, espresso and violet notes hold court on the structured palate, which is backed by a minerality and finishes with ripe tannins. Drink now–2035. Tedeschi USA. —J.P.
abv: 16.5% Price: \$60

93 Massimago 2017 SVM 400 (Amarone della Valpolicella). Grown from the estate's highest vineyards, this Amarone has a lift and brightness with intense floral aromas, bright cherries, wild herbs and cocoa dust. Classic richness is found on the palate, but the lifted nature of the wine is its spine with vibrant acidity, ripe plum, savory spices and finishing with crushed chalk minerality. Drink now–2040. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 17% Price: \$165

92 Massimago 2018 Conte Gastone (Amarone della Valpolicella). Generous and giving from the get-go, aromas of macerated cherries, blackberry preserves, baking spices and savory herbs pour out of the glass. Rich and mouthfilling, the palate is giving yet structured with fine tannins, linear acidity and a balance between fruit, earth and spice. Drink now–2035. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 16% Price: \$70

91 Massimago 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella). Organically grown, this Amarone opens with aromas of macerated black cherries, pressed violets, freshly roasted coffee and bittersweet chocolate all in tandem. The balanced palate offers plum and turned earth along with a lifted finish with notes of minerality and bright acidity. Drink now. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 17% Price: \$96

90 Dal Cero 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella). Roasted plums mixed with clove and cinnamon give way to tobacco leaf, and cacao nibs lift from the glass of this Amarone. It's lush and round on the palate with concentrated black cherry preserves with notes of black pepper and espresso on the finish. Drink now. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 16% Price: \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

92 Le Fraghe 2021 (Bardolino). Can't stop, won't stop! This wine leaps from the glass with a bowl of cherries and blueberries that are so fresh it takes you to the source. Wrapped around the plush fruit notes are spicy notes of clove and black

pepper. The palate is plush with gentle tannins, and the core of fruit mimics the nose, finishing with a pretty floral and tobacco note. This would be good with a slight chill. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$21

91 Marchesini 2021 (Bardolino Classico). Popping out of the glass with a blend of fresh plum, black cherry, wild herbs and white pepper, this fresh red is a gem. It's soft and easy on the palate, but don't be fooled—there is complexity behind the youthful fruitiness with subtle floral, earth and spice tones in each sip. Serve with a slight chill if you wish. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

90 Maeli 2019 D Plus Riserva (Colli Euganei). A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Carmenère, the wine opens with aromas of plum, cassis, black pepper, tobacco, leather and oak spice. The palate is rich and full in body with concentrated flavors of black-hued fruits with anise and licorice and finishing with a savory herbal note before fine tannins firm up the wine. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$30

LOMBARDY SPARKLING WINES FRANCIACORTA

98 Ca' del Bosco 2014 Annamaria Clementi (Franciacorta). When wine is this good you must stop and just appreciate how much work goes into making something so delicious. The wine opens with spiced apples, freshly baked pastry dough, acacia honey, oak spice and wet stone. The palate is giving yet still holding back with stone fruit showing through with hints of hazelnut, cream and ginger. Drink now–2035. Santa Margherita USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$120

97 Castello Bonomi 2016 CruPerdu Grande Annata Extra Brut (Franciacorta). CruPerdu is from an old reclaimed vineyard that shows its pedigree from the start with fresh citrus notes, orchard fruits, ginger, jasmine and intense minerality. The palate is firm and structured and shows the potential for a long life. Crushed stones give way to candied orange zest and fresh brioche with a touch of cream all balanced by stunning acidity. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

95 Castello Bonomi 2018 CruPerdu Brut Millesimato (Franciacorta). CruPerdu is a serious sparkling wine. Though tasty, this will only get better with age. The reserved nose opens with a steely minerality with mixed citrus, orchard fruits and brioche. The focused palate is taut and structured, wanting to hold on to its greatness. Notes of tart green apple, lemon, and chalk are all present but restrain themselves...knowing they need time.

Drink 2028–2040. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

94 Barone Pizzini 2019 Brut Nature (Franciacorta). Fresh pear tart mixed with sweet and savory spices, wild thyme, and yellow flowers combine on the nose of this serious sparkling wine. The mineral-driven palate is detailed with crisp green apple notes giving way to tart Greek yogurt with honey and lemon all wrapped up with laser-like acidity. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$80

94 Barone Pizzini 2015 Bagnadore Riserva Dosage Zero (Franciacorta). This wine is only made in the best of vintages from a small single vineyard planted in 1992. The extended bottle age is apparent immediately with a rich yeasty note followed by baked pear tart, pressed yellow flowers, marzipan and steely minerality. The palate is generous with apple, sweet spice and a rich creamy texture that is tamed by the mineral edge and vibrant acidity on the finish. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$80

93 1701 2018 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta). Lifted aromas of Fuji apples, jasmine, candied orange zest and a touch of minerality fill the nose. The palate is elegant with textured and creamy orchard fruit notes with a touch of lemon zest peeking through. Crème fraîche on the finish leads to a salty minerality. Williams Corner Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

93 Barone Pizzini NV Animante Brut Nature (Franciacorta). Sourced from 25 vineyard sites across the Franciacorta region, the Animante is a snapshot of the region as a whole. Aromas of fresh apples and apple tart, ginger, wildflowers and sea salt define the nose. The palate is bright but with a creamy texture of baked orchard fruits with the zip of lemon zest and nuance provided by a flinty minerality. Franciacorta in a nutshell! Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

93 Ca' del Bosco 2018 Vintage Collection Satèn (Franciacorta). The wine begins with gentle aromas of baked pear tart, thyme, honey, and wildflowers. Tart citrus notes peek out their heads on the palate interplaying with creamy orchard fruit notes yielding to sweet and savory spices on the elegant and refined finish. Santa Margherita USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$75

93 Le Marchesine NV Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta). Mandarin orange, white grapefruit and lemon all share the spotlight in the glass of this fresh and vibrant Franciacorta. As the wine develops in the glass, subtle hints of yeast, flowers and river stone emerge. The palate is crisp and focused with lemon curd and candied zest at the core, with

BUYINGGUIDE

a savory and spicy finish. Lyra Wine. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Mosnel NV Brut Nature (Franciacorta). The focused nose of this sparkling wine is very intriguing with its interplay between lemon rind, green apple skin, crystallized ginger and a salty minerality. Laser-focused acidity keep the wine fresh with tart orchard fruits and citrus with hints of lees aging on the finish. This wine could surprise you with a nap in the cellar. Drink now–2035. Vintus LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$43

93 Ronco Calino 2016 Brut (Franciacorta). Baked apples covered in sweet spices give way to lemon curd, fresh croissants, citrus blossoms and a distinct chalky minerality. The palate is fresh and bright with energetic acidity with notes of mixed citrus, tart cherry and loads of crushed stones on the finish. Vineyard Road. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Antica Fratta 2015 Quintessence (Franciacorta). Aromas of baked apples dusted with cinnamon, white flowers, pastry dough and lemon zest spill from the glass of this pretty sparkler. The rounded palate is rich, but the acidity cuts perfectly through to keep the palate refreshed. Green apple, ginger and stone minerality define the palate. Soilair Selection. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$77

92 Barone Pizzini 2019 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta). Gentle floral aromas of jasmine and acacia waft from the glass with ginger, mixed citrus and fresh bread in the background. The pristine fruit notes of green apple, lemon zest and tart crème fraîche give layers of texture and tartness across the palate. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

92 Corte Bianca NV Extra Brut (Franciacorta). The glass can barely contain the aromas of this lovely sparkler. Notes of fresh green apples, honey drizzled on top of a pear tart, lemon curd and crushed chalk are all present. The energetic palate is lifted with tart citrus and orchard fruits dancing on the palate with a salty mineral finish. Artisanal Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$48

92 Le Marchesine 2014 Secolo Novo Dosage Zéro (Franciacorta). This 100% Chardonnay sparkler shows up the moment the glass is poured with zippy fresh apple notes, brioche, tart stone fruit and wildflowers. The creamy and textured palate show Chardonnay's finesse-driven side with lift and grace on the palate, finishing with a stony minerality and lifted acidity. Lyra Wine. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

92 Mosnel NV Brut (Franciacorta). Bright and fresh apples and lemon rind aromas leap from the glass with white flowers, spring herbs and sea salt revealing themselves as the wine opens.

Crisp on the palate with vibrant acidity showing a balance between fruit, floral and mineral flavors, the savory finish and mouthwatering acidity keep bringing you back to the glass. Vintus LLC. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

91 1701 NV Brut Nature (Franciacorta). Roasted apples and lemon rind with freshly baked yeast rolls are followed by hazelnut and ginger on the nose. The rounded palate is fresh with vibrant acidity highlighting the green apple tart flavor finishing with a crushed gravel note. Williams Corner Wine. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Fratelli Muratori NV Rosé (Franciacorta). Macerated raspberries with wild herbs and pressed roses open the nose of this pretty rosé. The elegant palate hints at cranberry, red currant and sage as the refreshing acidity keeps each sip lifted. Wine Wave. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

91 Le Marchesine NV Nitens Brut (Franciacorta). Crisp apple tart with wild herbs and yellow flowers flow from the glass followed by aromas of fresh bread and seashells. The well-balanced palate expresses itself with a mixture of orchard fruit and mixed citrus that pop on the palate with fresh acidity ending with a saline mineral note. Lyra Wine. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Le Marchesine 2016 Extra Brut Millesimato (Franciacorta). Floral aromas define the opening of this fresh and elegant Franciacorta. Evolving into crisp orchards fruit, lemon zest and river stones with a taut palate with a lean lemon and mineral focus finishing with crisp acidity. Lyra Wine. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Majolini 2019 Brut (Franciacorta). Freshly picked orchard fruits meet lemon zest and river stone in this pretty wine. The focused palate is vibrant and bright with a core of citrus, tropical fruits, pressed yellow flowers and a hint of ginger finishing with steely minerality and refreshing acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Barone Pizzini NV Golf 1927 Extra Brut Blanc De Blancs (Franciacorta). Fresh and lively floral aromas waft from the glass followed by spiced poached pears topped with citrus zest and a hint of fresh bread. It's light and refreshing on the palate with zippy acidity, crisp green apple notes and a salty finish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Contadi Castaldi NV Rosé (Franciacorta). Aromas of wild strawberry, orange rind, red apple skin, brioche and wildflowers pour from the glass. The fine and delicate palate showcases the high-toned red berries, subtle hints of herbs and a

creamy mousse on the finish. Terra Moretti Trading. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Elisabett Abrami NV Brut (Franciacorta). Fresh aromas of pears, candied lemon zest, white flowers and river stone open the nose of this sparkling wine. The lithe palate gives mixed citrus notes alongside McIntosh apples with hints of yeast and a creamy texture all balanced by fresh acidity. Dionysos Imports Inc. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Fratelli Berlucchi 2019 Freccianera Brut (Franciacorta). Wafting aromas of nectarine, lemon oil, seashells and wild herbs open the nose of this elegant wine. Structured and layered with textures evoking apple tart, sweet spices and lemon curd, it finishes with pointed and crisp acidity. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Fratelli Muratori NV Brut (Franciacorta). Baked apple pie with a touch of tart crème fraîche and lemon zest rise from the glass of this sparkler. Superfine bubbles greet the palate with a creamy texture and lifted finish. Wine Wave. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Fratelli Muratori NV Numerozero (Franciacorta). Aromas of Golden Delicious apples drizzled with wildflower honey surrounded by crushed stones flow from the glass. It's salty on the palate with a mineral edge and a core of apple, lemon and brioche finishing with fresh acidity. Wine Wave. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Lo Sparviere 2014 Extra Brut Millesimato (Franciacorta). A generous and heady nose filled with fresh brioche, baked apples, yellow plums and roasted lemon waft from the glass. The lush palate shows warmed mixed nuts, roasted citrus and dried yellow flowers with a tangy acidity on the finish. Panebianco. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Santa Lucia 2016 Dosaggio Zero Millesimato (Franciacorta). Heady floral aromas accompanied by spiced Comice pears and fresh bread flow from the glass. It's round on the palate with baked pears, lemon zest, wildflowers and a salty mineral finish leaning on zippy acidity. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Antica Fratta 2018 Essence Nature (Franciacorta). Mixed apples and a steely minerality define the aromas on the nose of this sparkler. It's light and fresh on the palate with crisp acidity and fresh notes of green apple, hawthorn and white tea on the finish. Soilair Selection. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 Antica Fratta NV Cuvée Real (Franciacorta). Ripe McIntosh apples lift from the glass at first sniff, followed by yellow flowers, brioche and

seashells. The fruity palate offers candied lemon zest and pear and finishes with lifted acidity. Soilair Selection. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

88 Antica Fratta 2018 Essence Brut (Franciacorta). Roasted apples glazed with honey and pie crust dusted with sweet spices pour from the glass of this generous wine. It's soft on the palate with the core of fruit notes showing Comice pear, sea salt and a touch of minerality. Soilair Selection. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

87 La Montina NV Brut (Franciacorta). Once poured, the wine leaps out with a bushel of fresh apple, pie crust, sweet spices and jasmine. The delicate palate is round with a creamy texture finishing with a pop of acidity. Wine Affairs. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

87 La Montina NV Rosé Demi Sec (Franciacorta). This neon pink rosé has aromas of ripe cherry, strawberry and cranberry with subtle candied rose petals. The slightly sweet palate gives candied apple notes finishing with balanced acidity. Wine Affairs. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

87 Castelveto 2022 Cortese (Piemonte). Aromas driven by citrus notes captivate as hints of fresh laundry and white flowers join in. Pear, almond and a steely minerality round out the palate. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

GAVI

92 Enrico Serafino 2022 Grifo del Quartaro (Gavi). Tangy mixed citrus aromas with savory herbal notes flow into notes of jasmine and ginger on the nose. The textured and complex palate gives notes of peach, sea salt and blanched almond finishing with focused acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Enrico Serafino 2021 Grifo Del Quartaro (Gavi). Floral and fresh herbal notes spill from the glass of this graceful Gavi. Stone fruit, candied citrus zest and bitter almond flavors all add to the layered palate that finishes with a mineral edge with crisp acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Michele Chiarlo 2022 (Gavi). Subtle aromas of white flowers, pear skin, green apple and crushed stone waft from the glass. It's linear and crisp on the palate with orchard fruit at the

core followed by a saline, citrus and almond finish. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Araldica 2021 La Luciana (Gavi). Generous aromas of green apple, lime and peach lift from the glass of this Gavi. Easy and fresh, the palate showcases the fresh fruit flavors found on the nose with the addition of acacia and thyme on the finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Broglia 2022 Il Doge (Gavi). Easy and fresh, this classic Gavi offers aromas of peach, green apple and fresh white flowers. It's crisp on the palate with citrus and melon flavors finishing with a slightly bitter almond note. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Luca Bosio 2022 Boschi dei Signori (Gavi). Lemon and lime zest aromas lift from the glass of this easy-drinking white as hints of fresh flowers follow. The light palate gives tart green apples and finishes with crisp acidity. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

GAVI DEL COMUNE DI GAVI

92 Enrico Serafino 2020 Poggio Della Rupe Monterotondo (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Bright and focused, this zippy wine pops with aromas of nectarine, lemon, honeysuckle and flint. Crisp with vibrant acidity, the palate is balanced by stone fruit and citrus with a charismatic minerality that keeps your attention after each sip. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Enrico Serafino 2018 Poggio Della Rupe Maneo (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). This mineral-driven wine opens with flinty notes followed by acacia, thyme and green apple. The palate strikes a balance with a creamy Golden Delicious apple texture with firm mineral notes that give the wine a unique and complex nature. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Broglia 2019 Bruno Broglia (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Lemon and lime zest aromas mixed with green apples and sea breeze open the nose for this pretty Gavi. Savory spice sprinkled on peaches and melon with a touch of almonds are found on the round and textured palate. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Enrico Serafino 2021 Poggio Della Rupe Monterotondo (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). Orchard fruits and citrus dominate the nose of this generous Gavi. As the wine develops notes of thyme, white flowers and flint emerge. It's textured on the palate with crushed apples with lemon zest and a

hint of honey and stone on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Broglia 2022 La Meirana (Gavi del Comune di Gavi). This pale yellow Cortese from the Gavi DOCG wafts from the glass with pretty aromas of nectarine, honeydew and mixed citrus with a subtle note of white flowers. The bright and refreshing palate pops with ruby-red grapefruit and lemon oil flavors finishing with a touch of bitter almond. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

COLLI TORTONESI

94 Borgogno 2021 Derthona (Colli Tortonesi). Spiced pear mixed with candied lemon rind, wildflowers and fresh honey all swirl in concert in the glass. Each sniff brings out a new element from the wine: fruit, mineral and flower. The palate is full in body with a texture that will make you keep coming back and rue the moment the glass is finished, capped with apricot and a salty minerality. Ethica Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 Vietti 2021 Derthona (Colli Tortonesi). Timorasso is one of the most distinctive white grapes in the Italian canon, and Vietti has struck gold. Aromas of fresh and baked yellow peaches and spiced pears mix with hints of petrol, magnolia and dried mango. Wild honey, beeswax and a limestone minerality give volume, complexity and depth to this wine, finishing with fresh and lifted acidity. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Borgogno 2020 Derthona Scaldapulce (Colli Tortonesi). Ethereal aromas of white peach, preserved lemon, honeysuckle and acacia honey permeate the glass of this pretty wine. The palate is round and rich with beeswax, preserved apricots and candied pineapple that are all wound around a core of intense minerality. Drink now–2035. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

MOSCATO D'ASTI

93 Emilio Vada 2022 Camp Bianc (Moscatto d'Asti). This superfresh Moscato d'Asti pops out of the glass with fresh wildflowers, lemon candy and juicy nectarine. The fleshly palate is like biting into a superripe peach sprinkled with thyme while holding flowers. Yum! Vinity Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$25

91 Carlin de Paolo 2022 Fiulin (Moscatto d'Asti). Orange flower water, peach gummy candy and mint swirl together in the glass. Apricot preserves with a kiss of sea salt and pressed yellow flowers

BUYINGGUIDE

are found on the palate, which finishes with lifted and bright acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Elio Perrone 2022 Sourgial (Moscato d'Asti). Jasmine, apricot, white tea and wild herbs captivate the nose right from the start. It's super-pretty with expressive peach and white flower flavors giving way to electric acidity keeping the palate fresh. Polaner Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Michele Chiarlo 2022 P Nivole (Moscato d'Asti). Candied orange peel meets white peach and wild mint on the nose of this classic Moscato. Fresh, fruity and fun, Chiarlo's Nivole continues to live up to its reputation of being a classic. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$23

90 Cascina Galarin 2022 Prà Dône (Moscato d'Asti). Fresh white peach, jasmine, candied lemon rind and wild mint leap from the glass of the fresh Moscato. It's zippy on the palate with candied lime zest and Makrut lime leaf, finishing with notes of nectarine. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Montaribaldi 2022 Righej (Moscato d'Asti). Jasmine, lemon and white peach lift from the glass of this very pretty wine. Fresh herbs and fresh and preserved stone fruits mix with notes of bitter orange marmalade marked by a whisper of acidity. Shiverick Imports. —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$24

88 Bel Colle 2022 Turna Lunga (Moscato d'Asti). Fresh and easy, this wine has Moscato's classic stone fruit and wildflower aromas in the glass. It's lush and fruity with yellow peach and candied lemon zest with a hint of mint on the finish. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 6% **Price:** \$12

88 Bosio 2022 (Moscato d'Asti). Peonies, white peach, mint and honeydew aromas bowl out of the glass. It's fresh with concentrated stone fruit flavors and a floral finish. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Luca Bosio 2022 (Moscato d'Asti). A mix of nectarine, pine and mint, the herbal notes stand out. The palate is light and fresh with a core of preserved peach with a lift of acidity on the finish. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Tre Secoli 2022 (Moscato d'Asti). Apricot and wild herbs lift from the glass followed quickly by pressed wildflowers and pickled ginger. Canned peaches in syrup are on the palate, with a touch of chalky minerality on the finish. Wine 4 All. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$15

ALTA LANGA

92 Enrico Serafino 2019 Oudeis Rosé de Saignée (Alta Langa). Fresh aromas of strawberry, rose and cherry and hints of wild herb are on the nose. The palate is lifted and vibrant with savory notes melding perfectly with the soft red berry notes, finishing with crushed stones and crisp acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Fontanafredda 2019 Limited Edition Metodo Classico Brut (Alta Langa). A blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grown high in the hills of the Langhe, this Alta Langa opens with aromas of lemon zest, wild strawberry, cream, fresh spiced bread and crushed chalk. It's focused on the palate with lively acidity and a pop of apples and wild berries finishing with a firm mineral grip and crisp acidity. Taub Family Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

91 Enrico Serafino 2019 Oudeis Brut (Alta Langa). This Alta Langa opens with a mix of lemon and orange peel mixed with baked apples, yellow flowers and pastry dough. The palate is round with a vinous note highlighting the Pinot Noir character, giving cherry and flowers and finishing with a mineral edge. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Ca' de Lion Ghione 2019 Metodo Classico Millesimato Brut (Alta Langa). Spiced baked apples with fresh brioche and lemon zest pour from the glass on this refreshing sparkler. It's round on the palate with a creamy texture and superfine bubbles showing notes of ginger, chalk and green apple finishing with refreshing acidity. Terraneo Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

ROSÉS

91 Pico Maccario 2022 Lavignone Rosato (Piemonte). This 100% Barbera rosato is fresh, vibrant and lifted with aromas that leap out of the glass: wild strawberry, cherry and cranberry. The palate is crunchy with classic Barbera acidity ending with a floral and slight mineral note. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Dezzani 2022 4 Bucce Rosato (Piemonte). This fruit-forward rosato pop likes a fresh bowl of mixed berries. It's light on the palate with a kiss of acidity, finishing easy and fresh. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

PIEDMONT RED WINES

88 Pelassa 2021 Oltre (Piemonte). This blend of Barbera and Nebbiolo highlights both grapes' strengths: Barbera's inherent fruity charm and Nebbiolo's stoic structure. Aromas of cherry, raspberry and wildflowers are on the nose. The palate has red fruit-driven flavors finishing with a subtle earthy note. R&B Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Scrimaglio 2022 Rosso Bio (Piemonte). Plump ripe aromas of blueberry, blackberry and cherry preserves accented by dried herbs and pressed violets and roses are found on the nose. The easygoing palate has juicy fruit and fine tannins with bright acidity on the finish. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Truffle Hunter 2021 Leda (Piemonte). Ebullient aromas of ripe cherries, fresh blueberries, wildflowers and mixed herbs lift from the glass. The palate is easygoing with ample fruit and a decidedly fresh finish with subtle earthy notes. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

BAROLO

97 Elvio Cogno 2017 Vigna Elena Riserva (Barolo). Though it was a very dry year, this vintage still managed to keep its impressive elegance. The wine opens with enticing aromas of wild cherry, fresh and dried roses, incense, wild herbs and savory spice. The palate is an example of thoughtfulness and craft with a core of deep wild berries, black tea, and crushed stones that are all supported by supple tannins and lifted acidity. Drink 2025–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$140

97 Pio Cesare 2019 Mosconi (Barolo). For full review see page 3. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$199

96 Mirafiore 2019 Lazzarito (Barolo). For full review see page 5. Ethica Wines. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

96 Mirafiore 2019 Paiagallo (Barolo). Be careful! This wine's enticing aromas might get you stuck in the glass with aromas of black cherry, rosewood, balsam, forest floor and wild rose. The wine strikes a balance between power and elegance with ample fruit on the palate, yet detailed savory, herbal and floral notes stand equally tall. Fine and firm tannins ask to lay the wine down for a few years. Drink 2028–2048. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

96 Pio Cesare 2019 Ornato (Barolo). The 2019 Ornato highlights how special this vineyard is with grace and structure combined into pure class. Dark cherry aromas are nestled between wild herbs, flowers and savory spices that push and pull your attention with each taste. Sturdy and well-structured, this wine is built for tomorrow, when all parts will relax into one another to reveal just how great this wine is. Drink 2028–2045. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$179

95 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Me G.A. Mosconi (Barolo). Time will only bring out more from this significant wine. It opens with aromas of ripe juicy raspberries, wild strawberries, mint, thyme and worn leather. The firm palate has a deep core of black cherries, star anise, clove, forest floor, roasted earth, and truffle, finishing with structured tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2028–2045. Crus & Stills. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$69

94 Borgogno 2018 Liste (Barolo). For full review see page 7. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$179

94 Cantina Massara Burlotto 2018 Massara (Barolo). This Barolo is beautiful with aromas of fresh cherry, raspberry, oolong tea, fresh wildflowers and sandalwood. The refined palate is pure class with vivid flavors of red currant, fresh rose and thyme. Each sip opens a new door of flavor. The wine finishes with fine tannins and lifted acidity. The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$78

94 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Me. G.A. Bussia Nebbiolo (Barolo). Crushed cherries and dried rose petals pour from the glass of this classy Barolo with subtle hints of warmed sweet and savory spices and dried thyme. The palate is bold and focused with structured tannins and dark fruits filling the mouth, giving way to roasted coffee, dusty earth and classic Nebbiolo acidity. Drink 2028–2045. Crus & Stills. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

94 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Me.G.A. Bussia Vigna Pianpolvere Nebbiolo (Barolo). Subtle aromas of sour cherry, dried rose, wild herbs and a salty minerality all flow from the glass, which benefits from some air or more time in the cellar. Supple tannins give way to raspberry liquor and in turn into dried blood orange, anise, crushed chalk and dried herbs. The finish is long. Crus & Stills. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$84

94 GD Vajra 2019 Albe (Barolo). For full review see page 8. Winebow Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Pio Cesare 2019 Pio (Barolo). The historic house of Pio Cesare is making some of its best wines today. This classic highlights the purity of Nebbiolo with lifted tart red fruit notes combined

with sweet and savory spices followed by subtle notes of flowers and earth. Sour cherry flavors define the palate with gentle tannins, savory herbs and a vibrant finish. Drink now–2035. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Rivetto 2018 Briccolina (Barolo). This Barolo opens with darker fruit notes of black cherry and warmed raspberry. Wild herbs, dried leaf and cedar notes waft from the glass as it opens. The palate is brooding with roasted wild berries, black tea and savory spices giving way to an earthy finish and fine and firm tannins. Drink 2028–2045. Volio Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Bersano 2016 Cannubi Riserva (Barolo). The Bersano Cannubi leaps from the glass with macerated cherries, wild strawberries, fresh herbs and a distinct mineral/earthy note. Lush on the palate yet well-balanced by refined and tight-knit tannins and lifted acidity, the wine finishes with mixed savory spices, anise and dried rose. Drink 2025–2045. 8 Vini, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

93 Borgogno 2018 Cannubi (Barolo). Plump, juicy aromas of ripe cherry along with macerated raspberry dusted with allspice with hints of forest floor are all in the glass. The firm palate shows the promise of the wine with its deep core of red berries supported by tobacco, anise and dried violets, finishing with an understated elegance. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$230

93 Borgogno 2018 Fossati (Barolo). Tart cherry and wild strawberry aromas lift from the glass on the first pass. As the wine opens, violets, savory spice and clove begin to show. Each sniff delivers a new aroma. The palate is mouthfilling yet pops with red currant and sour wild berry flavors that give way to a crushed stone minerality framed by fine tannins. Drink 2028–2045. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$139

93 Borgogno 2016 Riserva (Barolo). Aromas of dried cherry, dried rose and underbrush drive the nose on this classic Barolo. As the wine develops in the glass, savory spices and medicinal herb aromas waft out. The palate is lifted with cranberry notes giving way to allspice, leather and a gamy note. Dried earth notes and superfine tannins are on the finish. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$269

93 Ca' Viola 2019 Sottocastello di Novello (Barolo). Like the Pied Piper, this Barolo lures you in. Its exotic floral aromas mixed with dark cherries prove irresistible. As the wine opens, notes of forest floor and sweet spice swirl around you. The palate is concentrated with plum and macerated raspberry notes that give way to darker earth notes,

fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink now–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$73

93 Dosio 2018 Fossati (Barolo). This is a very pretty Barolo with wafting aromas of dried cherries, rosebuds, sandalwood, cocoa dust and wild herbs. The palate is well-structured with fine tannins that balance with notes of dried cranberry, anise, sage and sea salt finishing with classically detailed Nebbiolo acidity. Drink now–2035. Eagle Eye Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Enrico Serafino 2018 Monclivio (Barolo). This Barolo opens with aromas of raspberry liquor, alpine herbs, cedar, leather and dried rose. Subtle at first, the wine then sneaks up on you with dried Amarena cherry, sandalwood, camphor and a chalky minerality finishing with fine-grained tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

93 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Del Comune Di Monforte Nebbiolo (Barolo). Reserved at first, the wine begins to open with candied cherry, anise, dried rose and forest floor. Textured and structured, the palate has a grip with finesse and darker-hued fruits on the palate. It wraps up with dried herbs, savory spice and a salty finish. Drink 2025–2040. Crus & Stills. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

93 Fontanafredda 2016 Riserva (Barolo). Macerated cherries, star anise, rosebuds, alpine herbs and underbrush all lift from the glass of this stellar Barolo. The rich palate is bold with its core of red and dark-hued fruits balanced by the graceful floral notes and grounded by the dark earthy notes finishing with supple tannins. Drink 2028–2045. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$198

93 Scarpa 2015 Tettimorra Nebbiolo (Barolo). Classic Amarena cherry notes, dried raspberry, cedar, clove and underbrush abound. Refined, this pretty wine has a solid core of fruit on the palate with herbal notes on the sides and fine tannins. It's juicy on the finish and good to drink if you want primary fruit notes with some hints of earthy tones. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Voerzio Martini 2019 La Serra (Barolo). Sour cherries, raspberries and forest berries leap out of the glass with subtle herbal and earthy notes following. The generous and soft palate is defined by the juicy core of red berries that give immediate pleasure with hints of tea, cedar and chalk on the bright and refreshing finish. Drink now–2035. Massanois Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 Voerzio Martini 2019 Monvigliero (Barolo). This high-toned and vibrant Barolo shines in the glass with fresh cherries, wild rose, cedar and forest floor. Elegant, the palate is radiant, show-

BUYINGGUIDE

ing macerated raspberries with mixed sweet and savory spices finishing with a chalky minerality and fine tannins. Drink now–2040. Massanois Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$135

92 Ca’Romè 2019 Cerretta (Barolo). Candied cherries, dried rose, cedar and underbrush aromas lift from the glass of this Barolo. It’s juicy on the palate with ripe raspberry and red currant with clove, cinnamon and dried herbs finishing with firm tannins. Drink 2028–2040. Demeine Estates. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$107

92 Cantina Massara Burlotto 2018 (Barolo). This is the Barolo you have been looking for! It’s classic in every regard: cherry, rose, truffle, tar—all the aromas that Nebbiolo is known for shine in the glass of this Barolo. The palate is lithe but shows ample fruit at its core with more savory and earthy notes in support with soft tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink now–2040. The Piedmont Guy. *Editors’ Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

92 Dosio 2018 Serradenari (Barolo). Macerated black cherries with crushed rose petals mixed with sweet and savory spices open in the glass of this Barolo. Taut on the palate with fine-grained tannins at its core with sour cherry, star anise, clove, forest floor and crushed stone on the lean finish. Drink 2025–2035. Eagle Eye Brands. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

92 Enrico Serafino 2019 Monclivio Nebbiolo (Barolo). Cherry, fresh herbs, anise, clove, rosebud and sandalwood aromas open the nose of this pretty Barolo. Finesse-driven with a balance between fruit, earth, floral and structure, the wine hits on all points of a good Barolo. It’s drinkable now but will show more subtle earthiness with age. Drink now–2040. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$53

92 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Nebbiolo (Barolo). Translucent ruby in color with wafting aromas of warmed cherries, macerated raspberry, blood orange zest, dried rose and savory spice. The elegant palate is well-structured with fine-grained tannins, high-toned red fruits and crunchy acidity with a lifted mineral-driven finish. Drink now–2040. Crus & Stills. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

92 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Me. G.A. Le Coste di Monforte Nebbiolo (Barolo). Elegant aromas of sour cherry, wild mint, savory herbs and delicate spice notes waft from this pretty Barolo. The polished and refined palate dances with supple tannins, warmed spiced cherries with anise, dried rose and crushed stone minerality. Crus & Stills. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$72

92 Giacomo Grimaldi 2019 Sotto Castello di Novello (Barolo). Pomegranate, sour cherry and red currant aromas combine with cocoa, anise

and pressed wildflowers on the nose. Hints of wild plum, licorice and rosewood on the firm and structured palate end with fine-grained tannins needing a bit more time in the cellar. Drink 2025–2040. Syngery Fine Wines. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

92 Marcarini 2019 Del Comune Di La Morra (Barolo). Aromas of candied cherries, macerated raspberries, dried rose and forest floor all combine on the nose of this wine. An excellent example of the elegance of La Morra, the palate is lifted with superfine tannins that support the supple red fruit notes, mixed spices and mineral-driven finish. Drink now–2045. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$54

92 Palladino 2016 San Bernardo Riserva Nebbiolo (Barolo). Aromas of dark cherries warmed raspberries with sweet spice, forest floor and black tea waft from the glass of this Barolo. The concentrated palate is generous with loads of ripe mixed berries that give way to crushed rose, menthol and a dusty earthiness finishing with fine tannins. Drink now–2035. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$100

92 Réva 2018 Ravera (Barolo). Aromas of natural cherry candy, wild herbs and pressed flowers lift from the glass. The superpretty palate dances on the palate with tart red berry fruits, then wild sage, then tobacco, then cedar, finishing with distinct minerality and crunchy acidity. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$135

91 Abrigo Giovanni 2019 Ravera Nebbiolo (Barolo). The nose of this Barolo is driven by the fresh floral aromas with support from dried cherries, wild herbs and a subtle spiciness. The wine is lifted and spirited on the palate with bright acidity and supple tannins; the core of red berried fruit charms while the subtle savory and mineral flavors give more nuance and depth. Drink 2028–2045. Elevation Wine Partners. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

91 Arnaldo Rivera 2019 Indicicomuni Nebbiolo (Barolo). Textbook Nebbiolo aromas of cherry, rose, truffle and underbrush all fill the glass. It’s fine yet firm on the palate; the tart red fruit core is balanced by dried herbs, savory spice and notes of leather on the bright finish. Drink now–2040. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

91 Fortemasso 2018 Castelletto (Barolo). This lifted and fresh Barolo opens with aromas of ripe raspberries and macerated red currants dusted with pink peppercorn, clove and sage. The palate is lifted with the core echoing the nose with dominate red fruit notes yet balanced by savory herbal flavors, fine tannins and a salty finish. Panebianco. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

91 Fortemasso 2016 Castelletto Riserva (Barolo). This Barolo shows the savory side

of the grape with distinct earthy, truffle and savory spice notes that develop into dried cherry and rose petals. Firm tannins define the palate with crushed chalk, licorice, coffee and dried blood orange in the background. Panebianco. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$180

91 Giacomo Grimaldi 2019 (Barolo). A fresh bowl of cherries dusted with mocha, allspice and rosewood pour from the glass of this forward Barolo. Subtle hints of turned earth, wild herbs and dried flowers peek out as the wine opens. The taut and firm palate needs time to unwind, but the core of spiced black cherry fruit stands tall amid the structure and power of this wine. Drink 2028–2040. Syngery Fine Wines. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$56

91 Negretti 2019 Bricco Ambrogio (Barolo). Macerated cherries waft from the glass of the classy Barolo. As the wine opens, aromas of dried rose, cedar and allspice show. Well-structured and compact on the palate, the fruit takes a more subtle approach, highlighting the roasted earth, coffee and sweet and savory spices. Drink 2025–2040. Domace Vino. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$90

91 Negretti 2019 Rive (Barolo). Lifted and elegant aromas of raspberry and sour cherry are surrounded by notes of clove, cinnamon and savory herbs. The palate pops with plush ripe red berries and crushed roses leading to a firm finish with elegant yet very present tannins. Drink 2025–2040. Domace Vino. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$80

91 Pelassa 2018 San Lorenzo di Verduno (Barolo). Upfront aromas of ripe cherries, raspberry liqueur, sweet and savory spices, dried rose and dusty earth are on the nose. It’s lush and fruit-forward on the palate with lavish Amarena cherry notes with soft tannins yet vibrant Nebbiolo acidity. A good Barolo for now. R&B Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

91 Scarpa 2019 Tettimorra (Barolo). Gentian root, wild rose, dried cherries and a mélange of spices spill from the glass of this old-school Barolo. On the palate you’ll find truffle, macerated raspberry, turned earth and five-spice powder with fine tannins and classic Nebbiolo acidity. Drink 2025–2045. USA Wine West. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

90 Enrico Serafino 2017 Briccolina Riserva (Barolo). Wafting aromas of tart forest berries, dried herbs, forest floor, drying roses and worn leather rise from the glass. The palate is generous with dried cherry aromas that give way to notes of black tea, amaro spices and elegant tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$250

90 Palladino 2018 Parafada Nebbiolo (Barolo). Seductive aromas of liquored cherries, violets, savory spice and wild herbs lift from the

glass. Wild strawberry, forest floor and porcini mushroom notes grab your attention on the palate as the well-defined tannins give density while the crunchy acidity gives lift. Drink 2025–2040. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$73

90 **Piazzo Armando 2016 Sottocastello di Novello Riserva (Barolo).** Wafting aromas of sour cherry and cranberry open in the glass with hints of rosebud, tea leaf and anise. The elegant flavors skim across the palate with crushed red fruits, dried thyme, clove and dusty earth finishing with fine-grained tannins and crunchy acidity. Angelini Wine. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 **Scrimaglio 2018 (Barolo).** This Barolo opens with an equal footing in both savory and fruity camps. Wild herbs and spiced tea combine with fresh raspberries, cranberries and blood orange zest to create an exotic and intriguing nose. The palate is round and has more lush red berry fruits such as black cherry and strawberry with round tannins and a fruitier finish than expected. It's good now but will age. Drink now–2035. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

89 **Costa di Bussia 2016 Vigna Campo dei Buoi (Barolo).** Savoy herbs and dried earth aromas open the nose of this Barolo. With a few swirls of the glass, notes of dried strawberry and cherry emerge with hints of pressed rose. Structured and firm, the palate delivers clove, truffle, crushed chalk and fine tannins. Siena Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

89 **San Silvestro 2017 Riserva (Barolo).** This wine shows aromas of wild herbs, roasted mushrooms, sour cherries and dried cranberries. The firm palate is well-structured with mouthfilling flavors of black cherry, sweet and savory spice and black tea finishing with a dusty earth and chalky minerality. Kindred Vines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 **Vite Colte 2019 Essenze (Barolo).** This juicy and plush Barolo opens with aromas of black cherry, macerated raspberry, licorice and savory spices. It's gripping and bold on the palate with dark-hued fruits and mixed sweet spices giving way to firm tannins, roasted earth notes and vibrant acidity. Opera Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 **Ricossa 2019 (Barolo).** Drying cherries with sweet and savory spices combine with wild herbs and dried roses that waft from the glass of this gentle Barolo. Tart red fruits dominate the classic palate with licorice, clove, espresso and underbrush finishing with dusty tannins. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

88 **Tenuta Carretta 2019 Cascina Ferrero (Barolo).** Lifted aromas of cranberry, rasp-

berry and wildflowers are followed by dried herbs and crushed chalk. It's superpretty on the palate with superfine tannins and bright cherry flavors with anise, leather and crunchy acidity. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

88 **Tenuta Carretta 2017 Cannubi Riserva Nebbiolo (Barolo).** Tart cherry aromas alongside dried rose, crushed chalk and wild herbs rise from the glass. The earth-driven palate shows a woody and forest floor note with a core of black cherry finishing with firm and astringent tannins. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

BARBARESCO

91 **Piazzo Armando 2016 Nervo Vigna Giaia Riserva (Barbaresco).** The core of this wine is focused on the purity of the ripe and fresh cherry aromas and flavors. Notes of wildflowers, oak spice and crushed rock all support this giving and generous wine. The palate is firm with youthful tannins but shows candied cherry notes, amaro-like botanicals and lifted acidity. Cellaring is a good idea. Drink 2028–2045. Angelini Wine. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 **Scarpa 2016 Tettineive (Barbaresco).** Crushed cranberries, sour cherries and a generous dose of sweet and savory spices lift from the glass of this Barbaresco. The earth-driven palate gives black tea, dried rose, allspice and worn leather giving way to fine-grained tannins and crunchy acidity. Drink now–2040. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Tenuta Carretta 2017 Cascina Bordino Riserva (Barbaresco).** This classic Nebbiolo opens with dried cherry notes, blood orange, rose and savory spice. The elegant palate lifts with tart red currants, medicinal herbs and superfine tannins finishing with crushed chalk minerality. Drink now–2035. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 **Tenuta San Mauro 2015 (Barbaresco).** Wafting aromas of wild red berries, fresh rosebud and thyme swirl in the glass of this elegant Barolo. The palate is austere with drying tannins that hide the cherry and raspberry notes on the nose, and subtle earthy notes on the finish. Drink 2028–2040. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

88 **Traversa 2015 Canova Ciabot Riserva (Barbaresco).** Juicy cherry and liqueured raspberries jump from the glass as aromas of anise and clove swirl about with dried herbs and rose. Bold, the palate strikes a punch of concentrated red berry flavors that evolve into more savory herbs and underbrush finishing with firm tannins. Today it is more bold than elegant, but time will soften the edges. Drink 2028–2045. Alberello Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

87 **Cascina Bruciata 2017 Rio Sordo Riserva (Barbaresco).** Dried rose petals with hints of potpourri spices and tart red berries fill the nose of this wine. It's light in body with flavors of dried sour cherries giving way to subtle earth notes and soft tannins. MS Walker. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

LANGHE

93 **Colombo 2021 (Langhe).** This serious example of Nebbiolo hits the mark. Aromas of macerated cherry and raspberry combine with wild mint, dried orange peel, savory spice and wild herbs on the nose. It's giving on the palate with a core of red berried fruit that is balanced by savory elements that finally give way to a mineral and earthy note that lingers on the finish. Drink now–2035. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

93 **Vietti 2020 Perbacco (Langhe).** The 2020 Perbacco is lights out! From the moment the cork is pulled you will be smitten with aromas of cherry, wild herbs, dried rose and anise enticing you to the glass. The wine delivers fresh and clear red berried fruit snuggled with sweet and savory spices finishing with crunchy acidity begging you to take that next sip. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 **Enrico Serafino 2020 Picotener (Langhe).** The glass explodes with a bouquet of flowers that will turn heads: rose, violet, freesia. Sour cherry, clove and wild mint begin to show as the wine opens. The palate is an elegant and fresh wine with superfine tannins finishing with tart red berries and crushed chalky minerality. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2009 Virtus (Langhe).** A mere 700-ish cases of the Cabernet Sauvignon and Barbera blend are made, but it is worth looking for. The wine opens with black cherry, cassis and oak spice aromas. It's lifted on the palate with a playful give-and-take between the two grapes: sour cherry meets plum, fresh rose meets tobacco, giving way to fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink now. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

88 **Dezzani 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe).** Crushed raspberries with mint and dried rose open the nose of this Nebbiolo. It's focused on the palate with sour cherries, dried herbs and dusty minerality with somewhat astringent tannins on the finish. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BARBERA D'ALBA

95 Vietti 2020 Vigna Vecchia Scarrone (Barbera d'Alba). Concentrated aromas of black cherry, cinnamon, black tea and rosebud are found in the glass. The palate is a study in both richness of fruit and lifted elegance as the lush cherry and blackberry flavors set the stage but are then bolstered by the vibrant acidity and sweet and savory spices. It's well-balanced and supremely structured. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Palladino 2019 (Barbera d'Alba). As classic as they can come, this Barbera offers bright fresh cherry aromas with a supporting cast of wild strawberries, fresh herbs and mixed wildflowers. The palate is lively and lifted with tart red berries, savory herbs and spices and underbrush finishing with crunchy acidity. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Vietti 2020 Vigna Scarrone (Barbera d'Alba). Lifted and very aromatic, this wine tantalizes with notes of macerated cherries, wild rose, sandalwood, star anise and wild herbs working with such harmony you have trouble taking the first sip. The lush and round palate bursts with plush red-berried fruits that give way to savory and warm spicy notes finishing with fresh earth notes. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Réva 2020 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). This Barbera opens as if a bowl of mixed berries sprinkled with sweet baking spices and freshly cut wildflowers were in the glass. Plush and velvet in texture, it has loads of cherry, anise and underbrush on the palate. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

89 Bel Colle 2022 Ape Reale (Barbera d'Alba). Fresh violets rush out of the glass of this pretty Barbera followed by notes of boysenberry, blueberry and raspberry with a touch of wild herbs. The palate is lifted and bright, giving ample but balanced fruit and finishing with a zing of acidity. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Rizieri 2018 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Macerated black cherries mixed with anise, clove and dried herbs open the nose of this lush Barbera. Juicy ripe red-hued berry fruit flavors pop on the palate as more subtle floral and forest floor notes give a balanced finish with mouthwatering acidity. DB Wine Selection. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Moscone 2021 (Barbera d'Alba). Subtle aromas waft up from the glass led by wild herbs, drying cherries and wildflowers. The palate is light but pops with tart cherry flavors that yield

to a mix of savory spice and earth notes. Alarich Distributing. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

87 Luca Bosio 2021 Egidio (Barbera d'Alba). Aromas of ripe cherries and strawberries with notes of vanilla and clove are on the nose. Plush and soft on the palate, the wine has a deep core of juicy red berries fruits with a creamy texture and spicy finish. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

BARBERA D'ASTI

92 Michele Chiarlo 2021 Le Orme (Barbera d'Asti). Aromas of juicy plums, macerated blackberries and intense purple flower notes dusted with savory spice pour from the glass. Fresh and fruit-forward, on the generous palate it gives tarter cherry notes with wild herbs finishing with subtle notes of roasted earth and anise. Kobrand. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Scarpa 2017 La Bogliona (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). The wine opens with a heady note of spiced plum preserves with clove, anise and cinnamon followed by dried violets and a touch of dried green herbs. The structured palate sits firm but finds its lift from the bright acidity that pulses through the wine finishing with macerated cherry and dried violet flavors. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

90 Scarpa 2020 I Bricchi (Barbera d'Asti). This lush Barbera opens with aromas of raspberry jam layered with sweet and savory spices and fresh herbs. The well-structured palate shows the finesse that Barbera can bring to the glass with cherry, thyme and turned earth notes. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

90 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2021 (Barbera d'Asti). Perfumed aromas of raspberry and wild strawberries mixed with fresh herbs and clove are on the nose of this fresh Barbera. Light and fresh on the palate, flavors of sour cherry and tart blueberry give way to more subtle floral, earthy and savory notes on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

90 Vietti 2020 La Crena (Barbera d'Asti). Ripe black cherry, boysenberry, wild herbs and dried violets spill from the glass of this opulent Barbera. Round and giving, it shows ample mixed berry fruit notes that are balanced by savory herbal notes and sweet spices finishing with crunchy acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

89 Cantine Povero 2020 Maridà (Barbera d'Asti). Wafting aromas of roses and violets give way to anise, clove and raspberries on this fresh Barbera. The round and ripe palate focuses on notes

of liquored cherries with sweet and savory spices on the finish. Vintage Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Cascina Galarin 2021 Le Querce (Barbera d'Asti). This wine opens with aromas of red and black fruits, both fresh and preserved, giving way to fresh violets and freesia. The palate pops with vibrant acidity that keeps the ripe fruit flavors in check and keeps the palate fresh. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Cascina Valle Asinari 2021 (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This easy-drinking Barbera opens with aromas of raspberry and cherry followed by a subtle note of thyme. The light and fresh palate is driven by plump fruitiness finishing with a kiss of acidity. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

89 Tenuta San Mauro 2017 (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). This concentrated Barbera opens to aromas of baked black plums, allspice and dried wildflowers. The mouthwatering palate is rich and lush with black cherry pie filling, thyme and subtle earthy notes on the lifted finish. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Cascina Galarin 2020 Vigna Rorisso (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Fresh and macerated mixed berries dusted with sweet spices lift from the glass with a waft of fresh flowers. Medium in body, the wine offers concentrated fruit on the palate wrapped in notes of clove, anise and vanilla finishing with classic bright Barbera acidity. Drink 2025–2030. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$23

88 Luca Bosio 2021 Boschi dei Signori (Barbera d'Asti). Tart cherry aromas mix with forest floor with reserved notes of dried herbs, rose and star anise. Bright red fruit dominates the palate with hints of clove and dried thyme on the dusty and earthy finish. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Vinchio Vaglio 2017 Sei Vigne Insynthesis Superiore Barbera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Forward aromas of ripe plums pop out of the glass with savory herbal notes shortly following. Mixed berry flavors, anise, clove and violets show on the tart and vibrant palate. Wine Wine Situation. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

NIZZA

91 Amistà 2019 Riserva (Nizza). This wine is from a small single vineyard planted over 60 years ago. It opens with aromas of spiced black cherry, wild rose, dried wild herbs and underbrush. The palate is rich and succulent with sour plum, blackberry and mixed sweet and savory spices, fin-

ishing with fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink now—2035. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

89 Amistà 2020 (Nizza). Aromas of ripe plum and turned earth open the nose of this pleasant Barbera. Ripe cherries with mixed savory and sweet spices are found on the bright palate with a deeply earthy finish. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$65

89 Pico Maccario 2020 Epico Riserva (Nizza). Ripe and forward spiced plums, blackberry, sage, oaks spice and forest floor pour from the glass on this giving Barbera. The wine sits with heft on the palate, showing cherry pie filling, anise and clove with fine and polished tannins. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$50

88 Pico Maccario 2021 Tre Roveri (Nizza). The forward nose is loaded with ripe and macerated cherries, red plum, dried rose and wild herbs. The lifted palate pops with tarter red berries with savory spices finishing with an earthy undertone. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

DOLCETTO D'ALBA

91 Réva 2021 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Aromas of mixed wild berries and plums combine with savory spice and fresh violet notes on the nose, giving depth and intrigue. The palate is lush with black cherry compote and sweet spices yet is hemmed in by a fine tannic structure on the finish. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

91 Tenuta Rocca 2022 (Dolcetto d'Alba). This generous Dolcetto opens with aromas of ripe black plum, fresh violets and savory herbs. The palate is a mix of tart and ripe berries that evolve into more savory and earth-driven flavors finishing with a classic Dolcetto tannic structure that's fine but firm. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

90 Ca' Viola 2022 Vilot (Dolcetto d'Alba). The Vilot Dolcetto continues to offer not only forward fruit aromas of plum and black cherry but a complex array of floral, savory spice and herbal aromas buttressed by earthy notes that carry across the entire wine. It's fresh on the palate with plump berry notes finishing with tannins that give the entire wine its sturdy foundation. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

OTHER RED WINES

92 Castello di Gabiano 2016 A Matilde Giustiniani Riserva (Gabiano). Intensely colored with aromas to match, this shows wild mixed berries, strawberry compote, wild sage, pressed violets

and forest floor. It's rich and lush on the palate with liquored cherries mixed with star anise, clove and cinnamon, finishing with a dark earthy note with lifted acidity on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$NA

90 Scarpa 2022 (Verduno). Wild blueberry aromas pop out of the glass of this fun and energetic wine as dried flowers and wild herbs waft by. The palate is fresh with tart strawberry, fresh flowers and an earthy note on the finish. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

93 Ornellaia 2020 Ormus Toscana Bianco (Toscana). The deep gold color in the glass teases the luxurious Caribbean nose, full of pineapple, peach, vanilla and toasted coconut and almonds. On the palate, whipped cream drips over mixed fruits, with a latent spiciness providing balance. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$125/375 ml

90 Poggio al Tesoro 2022 Solosole (Toscana). For full review see page 20. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

89 Frescobaldi 2021 Masso Vivo Vermentino (Toscana). The nose is floral but fresh, with undertones of grass and apples balancing the sweetness of tulips and tropical fruit. Apples get candied on the rich, mouthcoating palate, which maintains the nose's slight tropicality. A citrusy, fizzy pop keeps you on your toes. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

TUSCANY RED WINES

96 Agricola Querciabella 2019 Camartina (Toscana). The nose starts off spicy and meaty, full of cracked pepper and gunpowder, before turning herbal, with notes of coriander seed, fennel and cherry. The cherry shines on the palate, above earthy and bitter undertones, and the fennel returns for the finish. Firm but lithe tannins and confident acidity are present, making for an accomplished dancer. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$179

95 Tenuta Luce 2020 Luce Della Vite (Toscana). The nose starts off wild and herbal, expanding into the scents of a classroom, full of pencils and erasers and new leather bags, with a whiff of vanilla-cherry cola. The spiced, densely fruity pal-

ate shifts to the indulgence of a slice of cake soaked in rum. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$135

94 Agricola Querciabella 2019 Turpino (Toscana). The remarkably layered nose, with the cherries and strawberries of summer flowing into September's new pencils and notebooks, then evolving into the grassy, herbal, slightly floral smell of soil on the last warm day of autumn. The palate is full of cherries before finishing with bitter orange peel and dark chocolate. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

94 Il Borro 2019 Polissena Sangiovese (Toscana). The nose is solar and wild, with aromas of warm tar and brick dust, then Bing cherries and blood orange, then packed dirt, crushed sage and wild fennel, rolling onto a round and lush palate of strawberries, cherries, bitter orange and wild herbs. A streak of acidity and a growing peppery heat on the back palate linger through an enduring finish. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

93 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2019 Nambrot (Costa Toscana). The savory, metallic nose paints a picture of a cowboy in new leather boots, walking on a freshly paved road. The palate is that cowboy passing a stand selling cherries and oranges, but the stoniness returns on the finish. Grippy but not aggressive tannins and buoyant acidity finish it off. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

92 Castello di Gabbiano 2018 Alleanza (Toscana). The nose is sweet and floral, full of cherries, vanilla and candied oranges, but sanguine, herbaceous undertones provide balance. Cherries hang around on the rich but lively palate, which has hints of copper and chili pepper. Tightly coiled tannins feel ready to spring. Treasury Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

92 Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2019 Il Drago e le 8 Colombe (Toscana). The warm, sunny nose is like a summer vacation, full of dusty roads, cherry soda and fresh oranges. The cherries and oranges highlight the palate as well, but with a coppery, herbaceous spiciness underneath. Tannins and acidity provide framing and structure in the mouth. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

91 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2020 Ripa delle More (Toscana). For full review see page 16. FX Magnier Selection.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

90 Poggio al Tesoro 2020 Mediterra (Toscana). For full review see page 20. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Urlari 2018 PerVale (Toscana). The nose is an elegant, elderly woman's home, full of old leather books and terra-cotta pots, with manicured rose bushes in the backyard. Her garden of juicy berries and fresh herbs comes alive on the palate, which sparkles with tightly wrapped tannins and sprightly acidity. Vine Connections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 Tutela 2020 Super Tuscan (Toscana). The nose is primarily herbal, savory and stony, but notes of blueberry and pomegranate emerge over time to provide some pop. Mixed berries highlight the palate, but the metallic edge endures, and bitter undertones are emphasized by chalky, chewy tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

BOLGHERI

95 Grattamacco 2020 Rosso Superiore (Bolgheri). A nose that is luxuriously fruity also has undertones of salt, flint and herbs providing balance. The palate runs wild with fruit but simultaneously offers notes of dark chocolate and a subtle spiciness to keep things lively. Tannins are chalky and resilient, and persistent acidity holds up a long finish. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

94 Castello di Bolgheri 2020 (Bolgheri). The nose is a sun-soaked seafaring adventure, with savory notes of dried meat from the hold and leather belts and boots mixing with a rich fruitiness and the salty sea air. The rich, fruity, chocolaty palate eventually turns spicy, and that spice dances with searing acidity to prolong the finish. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

93 Ornellaia 2020 Le Serre Nuove (Bolgheri). The nose starts off leathery and smoky, then turns herbaceous and salty, before finishing sweet with berries, plums and roses. The palate runs with the sweetness, but salty and stony undertones provide balance, along with a kick of chili and cinnamon. Fierce tannins clash beautifully with a velvety texture. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Podere Sapaio 2021 Volpola (Bolgheri). A nose full of dark berries has savory undertones and a stony saltiness that keep things interesting. Berries carry over to the palate, while undertones shift sweeter and more citrusy, before a spicy nuttiness emerges on the finish. Balanced tannins and acidity provide warmth. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Antinori 2021 Tenuta Guado Al Tasso Il Bruciato (Bolgheri). For full review see page 13. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Argentiera 2021 Villa Donoratico (Bolgheri). The nose begins with black cherries and blackberries, but eventually notes of salt and pepper push to the front. Cherries remain on the palate, with chocolate adding to the rich sweetness, before a complex finish of warmth, spice and dusty chalk. Tannins cling while the acidity sings. Volio Vino. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Poggio al Tesoro 2020 Il Seggio (Bolgheri). For full review see page 15. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

92 San Felice 2021 Bell'Aja (Bolgheri). A savory nose ranges from soil, leather and cured meat to brighter, more acidic red peppers and dried tomatoes, with an herbal kick providing freshness. The palate preserves the savoriness while also adding the sweetness of strawberries and cherry tomatoes. Tannins are robust but forgiving, and acidity is persistent. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Tenuta Sette Cieli 2021 Noi 4 (Bolgheri). The nose feels like a child's backyard birthday party, with Coca-Cola and sour cherries, wild strawberries, fresh fennel and soil. Juicy berries carry the palate, but without losing the freshness and levity of the nose. Decisive tannins and prominent acidity tie everything together. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

91 Tenuta Sette Cieli 2020 Noi 4 (Bolgheri). The herbaceous, succulent nose is like a pie cooling on the sill of a forest cabin, as eucalyptus, mint and fennel mingle with dark chocolate and black cherry, above an immediate saltiness. Black cherry highlights the palate, with bitter, medicinal undertones. Substantial acidity balances the dusty, clingy tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

BOLGHERI SUPERIORE

96 Marchesi Antinori 2020 Guado al Tasso (Bolgheri Superiore). For full review see page 5. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175

96 Michele Satta 2019 Marianova (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose balances the richness of pomegranate, blood orange and cranberry with savory, sanguine notes of leather, cured meat and herbs, and then the palate runs with that bitter cranberry from the nose, while impossibly smooth tannins and vibrating acidity provide a sublime overall structure. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$160

94 Michele Satta 2020 Piastraia (Bolgheri Superiore). The nose is earthy, herbal and sour, like drinking an elegant cocktail on the porch of a cabin in the woods. The palate is instead full

of cherries and plums and finishes salty and nutty, like an artisanal chocolate. The tannins are solid but navigable, and the acidity is substantial. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Poggio al Tesoro 2019 Sondraia (Bolgheri Superiore). For full review see page 9. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

96 Podere Le Ripi 2018 Cielo d'Ulisse (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose begins savory and earthy before sweet cherries and bitter espresso start to sparkle. The palate is full of black cherries and figs, with a bolder coffee flavor reappearing on the finish. The tannins are chalky and dense, while marvelously intense acidity persists through the finish. Dark Star Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

95 Poggio di Sotto 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is metallic, earthy and stony, with cherry undertones providing levity. Cherries take a star turn on the palate, with strawberries and raspberries playing crucial supporting roles, while a tension between astringent orange and creamy mocha emerges on the lengthy finish. Robust tannins and fiery acidity prove age-worthiness. Drink 2028–33 or beyond. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$280

93 Frescobaldi 2017 Vigna Ripe al Convento Castelgiocondo Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts off leafy and herbal, with an undertone of sweet vanilla that eventually intensifies into lush notes of pomegranate and blood orange. Blood orange continues on the palate, where it's joined by black cherries, blackberries and a peppery finish. The tannins and acidity are both fierce. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$113

93 Tenuta San Giorgio 2018 Ugolforte (Brunello di Montalcino). A sweet nose of vanilla, toasted coconut and candied cherry is balanced by undertones of wild herbs. On the palate, that sweetness evolves with figs and chocolate, while crushed stones and soil amplify the savory. Notable tannins are almost chewy with density and structure. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Magna Terra 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). A fresh, vibrant nose of candied cherry, orange peel, figs and roses has an undertone of tar providing balance. Cherry and orange notes intensify on the palate before a warm, bitter cocoa finish. Acidity pops around dusty tannins. Quintessential. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

CHIANTI CLASSICO

94 Agricola Querciabella 2018 GS (Chianti Classico). The nose is like a summer evening breeze carrying aromas of wild strawberry, raspberry and rose petals, while undertones of rhubarb, mint and earth waft up from the garden. The fruit and flowers blossom on the round, full palate, which is opulent but welcoming, with an elegant warm salty finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$290

93 Agricola Querciabella 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). Inviting aromas of cherry-vanilla cola mingle with brick dust and a stony herbaceousness, like plants growing through the asphalt. The palate continues to blend sweet with earthy around chalky, muscular tannins, while spicy acidity persists through a luxurious finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Castello di Monsanto 2018 Il Poggio Single Vineyard Gran Selezione Annata (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 10. Freixenet Mionetto USA.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Ricasoli 2020 Roncicone GS (Chianti Classico). A savory nose brings to mind a calming coffee shop, with notes of balsamic vinegar and herbs and a gentle fruitiness blooming over the smell of the beans. The palate's velvety texture is balanced by a sharp edge of acidity and a peppery kick on the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Agricola Querciabella 2020 (Chianti Classico). A delightfully tart nose is full of Rainier cherries and dried cranberries, with undertones of minerality and herbaceousness. The palate runs with the cherries and adds oranges to the mix, with a latent heat and a thrilling amount of acidity elevating a minty freshness through the finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

92 Castello di Gabbiano 2018 Bellezza Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose presents a lush garden, with fig and plum trees surrounding a table full of dried fruit and pots of sage, while the palate preserves the fruitiness, before new layers of spices and herbs add smoky heat. The depth in the glass reflects age, even as freshness persists. Treasury Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2019 Le Bolle Gran Selezione Sangiovese (Chianti Classico). An initially earthy, sanguine nose slowly turns woody and herbal, with undertones of dried cherries and cranberries. The palate is brighter, with fresh cherries joining dried, plus blood orange and a hint of

chili on the finish. Lean tannins contour around ample acidity. FX Magner Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

92 Ricasoli 2020 Castello Di Brolio GS (Chianti Classico). Autumnal aromas of baking spices and the savoriness of a freshly brewed cup of coffee are balanced by a sweet, cherry vanilla scone and a peppery edge. Cherry brightens the palate, with the savoriness maintained by herbal and stony undertones. Bright acidity bounces around firm tannins. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Ricasoli 2020 Colledilà GS (Chianti Classico). The nose has highlights of rich, ripe fruit, but with a savory balance provided by balsamic, mushrooms and natural notes of wood and stone. On the palate, sweet fruit continues and is emphasized by vanilla undertones, with a latent earthiness maintaining the woody balance. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Castello di Gabbiano 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose is very savory, with notes of aged meat, leather, iron and wet earthiness, although fruitier notes emerge over time. The palate stays savory and earthy, with an undertone of cherry-vanilla providing balance, and a spicy kick on the finish. The tannins are taut, and the acidity is bright. Treasury Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Castello di Monsanto 2021 Monsanto (Chianti Classico). The nose opens with vanilla and toasted coconut, then expands into mixed berries and potting soil, before the palate soars in full of berries, not without balance from continued earthiness, graphite and bitter cocoa. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Castello Vicchiomaggio 2021 Guado Alto (Chianti Classico). The nose bursts with cherries and strawberries, with a stony salinity and fresh herbal aromas providing balance. The fruit becomes richer on the palate, with a more savory undertone of oven-dried tomato. Searing acidity makes everything pop. FX Magner Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Marchesi Antinori 2021 Pèppoli (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 20. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Rocca delle Macie 2021 Tenuta Sant' Alfonso Single Vineyard (Chianti Classico). The intensely savory nose is full of cured meat, new leather and pencil lead, with zippy undertones of cranberry and hibiscus. The meatiness escalates on the palate, while pepper, fresh cherry and orange provide balance. Tannins are approachable, while the acidity is substantive enough to make itself known. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Castello di Querceto 2021 (Chianti Classico). The nose mixes sweet and savory, with roses and cherry candy mingling with the more umami aroma of fresh coffee. That playful dichotomy continues on the palate, but now between sweet and sour, with strawberry and raspberry providing the sweet and unripe cherries bringing the sour. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

CARMIGNANO

94 Capezzana 2018 Trefiano Riserva (Carmignano). The nose is marvelously umami and meaty, while also ripe with plums and blueberries and crackling with pepper. Dark fruit and pepper continue on the palate, with grassy, metallic soil undertones. The acidity is lively around tannins that are firm but not rigid, even if they have time to spare. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

94 Capezzana 2013 Villa di Capezzana 10 Anni (Carmignano). A savory nose of tar, soy sauce and iron draws balance from sweeter undertones of blackberries and Maraschino cherries. On the vibrant palate, figs and spices highlight the berries' richness, but balance is preserved by deeper savory notes of soil, coffee and pepper. It still has plenty of room to stretch its legs, even at this age. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$67

93 Capezzana 2019 Villa di Capezzana (Carmignano). A primarily salty, earthy and herbal nose also has sweeter aromas of wild fruits to provide balance. Darker fruits highlight the palate as black cherries dance with mulberries and blackberries, while a peppery earthiness keeps things interesting. The acidity is spirited around rigid tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Capezzana 2020 Barco Reale (Carmignano). A primarily herbaceous, earthy nose has warm Bing cherry undertones to provide balance. Cherries grow into themselves on the palate, above a latent bitterness of coffee and bergamot. Acidity is fierce, and tannins clear the mouth, but dynamism doesn't come at the expense of coherence. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

ROSSO DI MONTEPULCIANO

90 Dei 2020 (Rosso di Montepulciano). The nose mixes a smoky savoriness with aromas of warm tar and grilled meat, the rich sweetness of black cherries and cooked strawberries and all over an undertone of flinty salt. Berries join the cherries to highlight the palate, but savoriness returns with spices and herbs on the finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Trerose 2020 Salterio (Rosso di Montepulciano). An earthy, very herbaceous nose has sweeter notes of candied red apple and cherries providing pop. Cherries thrive on the palate above continued herbs, while blood orange emphasizes the cherry sweetness and also adds a tannic bite. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Podere Rubino 2020 (Rosso di Montepulciano). A sweet nose of vanilla and baking spices turns savory with the salty minerality of soil and stone, but then sweetness returns with notes of cherries. Cherries continue on the palate, eventually joined by bitter notes of orange jam and coffee. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Fattoria Svetoni 2019 (Rosso di Montepulciano). The nose starts off earthy, with notes of soil, mulch and cedar chips, but develops aromas of cranberry and hibiscus that provide pop. The palate continues with fruit and flowers but also maintains an earthiness with firm tannins and vibrant acidity. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

MONTECUCCO

90 Collemassari 2019 Rosso Riserva (Montecucco). The nose is a savory mix of sour and black cherries, fennel, pepper and graphite. On the palate, blackberries join the black cherries, while the slight dustiness of fennel seed provides balance. Tannins are taut, the acidity is bouncy, and the finish is full of heat. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Tenuta L'Impostino 2019 Ciarlone Rosso (Montecucco). An umami nose offers aromas of bresaola, balsamic vinegar and a warm, wet stoniness. Fruit emerges on the palate, where strawberries, raspberries and guava push back against relentless tannins and energetic acidity. The wine is tense and lively. Tita Italian Import & Export. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta L'Impostino 2017 Impostino Riserva (Montecucco). The nose begins subtly, with vanilla and cedar, then grows into cherries, pomegranates and violets, before finishing with tar and flint. Vanilla and cherries sit on the palate above a dark chocolate undertone, while mixed spices emerge on the finish. Acidity is lively around robust tannins. Tita Italian Import & Export. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Collemassari 2021 Rigoletto (Montecucco). The nose is varied and savory, as the coffee and pencils of a morning meeting mix with the soy sauce from a takeaway lunch, before sour, fruity notes eventually emerge. Cherry highlights the palate, but a salty, earthy, slightly stony astringency preserves overall savoriness. Acidity shines around

firm, grippy tannins. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 Parmoleto 2020 Rosso (Montecucco). The nose is meaty, sanguine and earthy, but with balance provided by herbs and a hint of wild strawberry. The dominant flavors invert on the palate, with berries taking center stage and the earthiness receding into the background. A silky texture sits above chalky tannins. Luisa's Selects. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Pianirossi 2019 Sidus (Montecucco). The nose begins smoky and stony, with notes of pepper and a wet minerality, then turns fruitier with wild strawberry and sour cherry. Cherries turn sweeter on the palate and swirl together with blood orange above a bitter dark chocolate undertone, bound by firm tannins and abundant acidity. Vinvino Wine. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINE

95 Il Borro 2020 Petruna In Anfora Sangiovese (Valcalepio). A savory nose has the metallic tang of potting soil and graphite, then espresso beans and balsamic vinegar. The palate is alive with cherries and raspberries, then bitter orange jam, before returning to the nose's earthy minerality with a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Polished tannins and contoured acidity make for a lavish mouthfeel even as the warm clay tones of amphora aging hold through the finish. This is a bottle worth holding until 2030, at least. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 La Braccasca 2019 Bramasole (Cortona). The succulent nose is full of dark berries, dark chocolate, pepper and a satisfying woodiness. The berries and chocolate continue on the palate, with a spicy kick of chili pepper on the finish. Tannins are taut and acidity spirited. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

LAZIO

90 Casale del Giglio 2022 Viognier (Lazio). Fresh and floral like clean laundry on the nose, with honeysuckle, lemon and peaches, the wine opens onto an equally aromatic palate with more lemon and stone fruit surrounded by white flowers and a stony edge contrasting the telltale viscous mouthfeel of Viognier. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Cotarella 2019 Ferentano (Lazio). For full review see page 19. Trincherio Family Estates.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Merumalia 2021 8nese Organic (Lazio). The quiet, delicate nose balances the sweetness of honeysuckle and fresh pineapple with the slight nuttiness of almond flowers and sourness of lemon. The pineapple and citrus escalate on the palate, with a stronger almond flavor highlighting the finish. The acidity is delightfully unapologetic. Wine For The World. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Cantina Cincinnato 2022 Castore (Lazio). A sweet, gentle nose has daffodils, yellow apple and white peach, but rubbery and salty undertones provide a savory balance. On the palate, melon and citrus join the stone fruit party, while continued saltiness and lots of acidity keep things lively. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Casale del Giglio 2022 Satrico (Lazio). A saline and powerfully herbaceous nose has aromas of wild herbs, green olives and, then rich, salty Parmesan rind. Undertones of citrus and flowers emerge on the palate, but herbs and a salty, umami cheesiness remain the stars of the show. Soilair Selection. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Tenimenti Leone 2021 Scicchieria (Lazio). The nose is savory but also sour, with citrus and white pepper popping over subtle, almost smoky spiciness. The citrus sticks around on the dense, fruity palate, joined by melon and apple. Solid acidity balances the fruitiness. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Corte del Golfo 2022 (Lazio). The nose oscillates from citrus to rubber to stone to herbs, and then citrus carries the palate, laid over sweet notes of honey and nuts. It's acidic and bouncy, but with an almost viscous texture. Schenk Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

MONTEFALCO

90 Azienda Agraria Scacciadiavoli NV Metodo Classico Brut (Montefalco). This wine leaps out of the glass with grilled pineapple, banana, apple pie, pressed yellow flowers and vanilla. The palate is rich like the best ice cream but balanced by energetic acidity on the finish. A tight bubble lifts each sip. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Azienda Agraria Scacciadiavoli NV Metodo Classico Brut (Montefalco). Aromas of strawberries, cream and a crumpet leap from the glass of this wild and fun sparkling wine. Made of 100% Sagrantino, the wine shows the wild berry

and savage characteristics of the variety. It's plush and creamy on the palate with a vibrant finish. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

DESSERT WINE

90 Principe Pallavicini 2016 Stillato (Malvasia del Lazio). A coppery, dark gold hue introduces a nose full of rich citrus and undertones of milk chocolate and nuts. Citrus continues on the palate, where apricots and peaches also join the party, and notes of honey and continued nuttiness provide pop. The texture is rich, mouthcoating and oily. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Noelia Ricci 2022 Bro' Trebbiano (Romagna). Do your best to find this layered, textured and generous wine—it's what we all need. Aromas of lemon zest, lemon oil, baked apples, pressed wildflowers and crushed stone lift from the glass with grace. Fresh on the palate but with gravitas, the wine highlights the citrus notes with hints of roasted orange and honey that are lifted by crunchy acidity and minerality. Drink now–2035. Artisanal Cellars. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

93 Azienda Agraria Scacciadiavoli 2020 Trebbiano Spoletino (Spoleto). This once-forgotten grape has found new life in Umbria and the results are stunning. Fermented and aged in amphorae and large wooden casks, this wine wafts from the glass with a mix of savory and fruity aromas: white pepper, chamomile, wild mint, roasted nuts and baked apples. The palate is round with roasted pear dusted with spice and honey finishing with crisp and refreshing acidity. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Bocale 2022 Trebbiano Spoletino (Spoleto). Aromas of Mandarin orange, lemon oil, chamomile and wild herbs pour from the glass of this pretty wine. The textured, structured palate shows preserved lemon, candied orange, dried flowers, white tea and sea salt finishing with crunchy acidity. Tradizione Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Principe Pallavicini 2021 (Frascati). The nose is fresh and autumnal, like munching a yellow apple and dancing across wet pavement in new sneakers bought for the start of school. On the palate, a sugary citrus joins the apple, while an assertive salinity pushes back against the rich, oily texture. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Principe Pallavicini 2017 Malvasia Puntinata (Roma). The nose is both saline and comforting, with notes of lemon, pineapple, white flow-

ers and warm sandstone above a slight rubberiness. The palate is loaded with tropical fruits, but the lemon persists, particularly on the finish, which also pops with salted peanuts. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Merumalia 2021 Terso (Frascati). The nose is like a warm day at a sporting event, full of cheese fries and peanuts, with a touch of lemon and salt from fish and chips. Citrus is bright on the palate, while the round finish is balanced by a kick of heat. Wine For The World. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Tenimenti Leone 2021 Capoccia (Roma). The nose is quiet and savory, with notes of citrus and stoniness and a bit of turf. The palate is very juicy with more citrus, but savory qualities return on the brisk finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

LAZIO

92 Casale del Giglio 2017 Mater Matuta (Lazio). Cured pork, fresh coffee, pennies and sour cherries define this meaty, metallic nose. Cranberries join the cherries to pop on the palate, but strong notes of herbal tea lead to a lengthy finish. There's a sophisticated, healthy balance between tannins and acidity. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$62

92 Cotarella 2019 Montiano (Lazio). For full review see page 14. Trincherio Family Estates.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Principe Pallavicini 2018 Syrah (Lazio). The savory, earthy nose redolent with raw meat, soil, balsamic vinegar, pepper and black cherries. Strawberries join the cherries on the palate to create a vibrant juiciness, but with the earthiness continuing through a warm, spicy finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Cantina Cincinnato 2021 Argeo (Lazio). Cherry blossoms on the nose lend subtlety to the classic Cesanese notes of cracked pepper, top soil and rare steak. A juicy cherry and plum palate finishes with coffee and dirt, maintaining the balance that makes this wine a stunning deal. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 Casale del Giglio 2021 Petit Verdot (Lazio). The savory, earthy nose of pepper, cured meat and tar develops into a lighter palate of cranberries and roses, but metallic notes, plus a spicy kick, return on the astringent finish. Proof that Lazio's soil shines through any varietal or expression. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Cotarella 2020 Sodale Merlot (Lazio). For full review see page 19. Trincherio Family Estates.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Tenimenti Leone 2021 Tera de Leone Rosso (Lazio). The nose is initially like a peppery meat stew, full of steak, balsamic vinegar and herbs, before soil and plums join the party. The earthiness continues on the palate, with cherries working with the plums to balance the pepper with sweetness. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

89 Cantina Cincinnato 2021 Polluce (Lazio). The nose is highlighted by hibiscus, cranberry and cherry blossom, while soil and pencil shavings provide savory undertones. The palate is more cranberry and cherry, plus strawberry, but a meaty, bitter finish adds a twist. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Casale del Giglio 2021 Matidia Cesanese (Lazio). On the nose, pencil shavings, cured meat, soil and herbs are balanced by black cherry, which grows into the palate's dominant flavor. That richness is interwoven with spicy and metallic undertones, which are complemented by powerful acidity through the finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Corte del Golfo 2021 (Lazio). The rich, earthy nose features tar, dark chocolate and pencil shavings, with slightly fruity undertones. The fruit comes across strongly on the palate, with bitter chocolate emphasizing an astringent finish. It offers a great bang for your buck. Schenk Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Agricoltura Capodarco 2021 Don Franco (Lazio). Kicking off with an intensely gamy nose, full of cured meat, old leather and pepper, things brighten with a fruity, fizzy palate, but the tangy, metallic edge is maintained by an undertone of balsamic vinegar. The finish is warm, astringent and acidic. Wine For The World. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

88 Cantina Gaffino 2021 Cardinale Cesanese (Lazio). A lively nose of wild herbs and strawberries leads into a fruity palate, where cherries join the strawberries. This fun, fresh, drinkable wine offers a great opportunity to taste what the Cesanese grape can do. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Cantina Gaffino 2021 Tubbo Merlot (Lazio). A fruity, slightly sour nose of strawberries, red apple, cranberries and peonies starts things off. The fruit continues on the bouncy, fresh palate, with undertones of orange zest and salt. Abundant acidity surrounds relaxed tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

BUYINGGUIDE

87 Cantina Gaffino 2019 Il Buon Bastardo Cabernet Sauvignon (Lazio). A juicy, saturated nose is full of blackberries and black cherries, with undertones of graphite and pepper providing balance, and a swirl of vanilla tying everything together. On the palate, black cherries and blackberries continue to shine. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

90 Paride d'Angelo 2019 Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose feels like an island holiday, bathed in vanilla, Maraschino cherries, toasted coconut and orange liqueur, before some freshly sharpened pencils appear. Berries highlight the palate, with the nose's rich orange returning on the finish. Sharp acidity balances relaxing tannins. Panebianco. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 Pietrame 2020 Edizione Limitata (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). For full review see page 25. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

88 SenzaTempo 2019 Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). For full review see page 25. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

OTHER RED WINES

89 Il Conte 2020 Villa Prandone IX Prandone (Marche). Intense aromas of baked plums, spiced cherries, anise, dried flowers and cocoa powder pour from the glass of this big Merlot. Full-bodied, the palate shows oak spice and ripe mixed berry flavors—some fresh, some preserved—and finishes with fine tannins and a note of roasted earth. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Tenimenti Leone 2021 Capomunni (Roma). Crushed rose petals on the nose contrast with meaty, metallic notes of beef carpaccio, top soil and cranberries, and that balance continues on the palate, where berries, vanilla and chocolate add to the sweetness. Tannins are crunchy and acidity buoyant. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES CALABRIA

90 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2022 Grisara (Calabria). The citrusy, salty nose is a medley of lemon-lime soda, yellow apple and ripe pear with a hint of new sneakers. On the palate, buzzing acidity revs up the citrus, with a serious saltiness on the finish that evolves into

delightfully wild, herbaceous oregano. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2022 Imyr (Calabria). The nose is sweet and lemony, with the slow emergence of a slightly stony nuttiness. Lemons linger on the palate, with oranges joining the party over savory, herbal undertones and a fleeting hint of saffron. Acidity and astringency provide tension through the finish. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

90 Statti 2022 Ventaglio (Calabria). The sweet nose is accented with notes of ripe pear, peach candy, lemonade iced tea and citrus blossoms. The combination of pear, peach and citrus remains on the palate, which is lively with acidity and finishes with a salted lemon slice. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Librandi 2022 Critone (Calabria). An at-first densely fruity nose has cantaloupe, lemon and yellow apple, and then savory undertones of raw almonds, white pepper and eraser. The citrus takes center stage on the palate, but the pepper lingers and is joined by a saline slipperiness through the finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINE

89 Librandi 2022 Segno Librandi (Cirò). An aromatic nose offers a mix of sour citrus and sweeter notes like honeydew and white peaches, along with a salty, nutty undertone. The palate is simultaneously oily and salty, while preserving the blend of fruits. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

SOUTHERN ITALY ROSÉ WINES

91 San Salvatore 1988 2022 Vetere Rosato (Campania). A playful, sparkling nose is full of pink grapefruit, white melon and white peach, but jasmine and a faint sea breeze provide a wistful undertone. Grapefruit and peach notes turn sweeter on the palate, where balance comes from a continued salty minerality and positively energizing acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2022 Grayasusi Argento (Calabria). The nose is heady with blooming pink flowers and guava jam, although more savory notes of stone and grass emerge at the end. The palate maintains the luster with juicy berries, but then the finish turns surprisingly, deliciously savory. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Feudi di San Gregorio 2022 Visione Rosato (Irpinia). The almost transparent pink of the liquid in the glass belies the warm, floral nose of sunny stones, blood orange and hibiscus, which then rolls onto a palate that runs with those notes, but above a distinctly savory undertone. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2021 Grayasusi Rosato (Calabria). The nose is an eclectic mix of wild cherry, rhubarb and watermelon, with more savory notes of meat and brick dust eventually emerging. The palate is rich and round, with a creamy texture that is balanced by buoyant acidity and an astringent finish. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES CALABRIA

91 Statti 2020 Cauro (Calabria). The nose is reminiscent of brand-new leather shoes, and the dirt and wet pavement that will eventually ruin them. Berry undertones take center stage on the palate, and contrast with medium tannins and acidity to create a coherent, sophisticated wine. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2021 Nanà (Calabria). Cinnamon dominates both the nose and the palate, but cranberry and sour cherry undertones provide some pop, while the sweetness of raspberries and rose petals balance out the harsher flavors. The tannins are taut but approachable. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Librandi 2021 Megonio Tenuta Rosaneti (Calabria). A medicinal, earthy nose of herbs, cherry syrup, soil, gunpowder and flint evolves into a succulent palate of chocolate, blackberries and blueberries. Smooth tannins and unobtrusive acidity provide structure and balance. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Statti 2022 Gaglioppo (Calabria). A fruity, flowery nose full of roses, violets, raspberries, fresh plums and a touch of minerality leads into a lively palate of more raspberry and passion fruit. Tannins and acidity are present but easygoing. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Librandi 2021 Gravello Tenuta Arcidiaconato (Calabria). Notes of cherries and raspberries lend sweetness to the nose, while the saviness of leather and herbs provide balance. Mint chocolate undertones deepen into slightly spicy dark chocolate on the palate. Integrated, balanced

tannins allow for easy drinking. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

87 Statti 2021 (Calabria). Though primarily metallic and stony, the nose has undertones of red apple skin and cherry candy that provide levity. The sweet, juicy palate starts off with berries, then turns salty and meaty before finishing with exotic fruits. Tannins are taut, and acidity is bright. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

OTHER RED WINES

91 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2018 Dattilo (Val di Neto). The nose introduces the raspberry, white pepper and soil that later headline the palate and emphasize the slightly metallic tang underneath the balance of sweet and savory flavors. Acidity is bouncy, while tannins are robust but not aggressive. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$44

91 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2017 Petraro (Val di Neto). Age is obvious in the dried fruit, dark chocolate and old leather of the nose, which is brightened by hints of mint and spices. The palate is rich, spicy chocolate, but acidity and tannins create balance and an astringent finish. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$47

90 Librandi 2020 Duca Sanfelice Rosso Classico Superiore (Cirò). Herbs, cinnamon and leather on the nose are balanced by notes of strawberry, cherry and some spice. The cinnamon, berries and heat dominate the palate, with chocolate on the finish and enough acidity to push back on the sweetness. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

89 Librandi 2021 Segno Librandi Rosso Classico (Cirò). A sweet and savory nose of strawberry, raspberry, cooked mushrooms and coffee evolves into a predominantly sweet palate, where flowers join the berries. A touch of chili pepper and structured, pliable acidity provide some pop. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 Statti 2021 (Lamezia). An earthy nose of leather and mushrooms is brightened by hints of cranberry and wild cherry, which come across more powerfully on the palate while maintaining the earthiness. Polished tannins and relatively low acidity allow the flavors to shine. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

SICILY AND SARDINIA WHITE WINES

89 Caruso & Minini 2019 Tagós Grillo (Sicilia). The dark golden color belies a surprisingly fresh nose full of perfectly ripe peaches, honeydew and apples. The palate turns more densely fruity, with lemon curd, ripe melon and pineapple, before a white chocolate finish. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

VERMENTINO DI GALLURA

90 Surrau 2022 Limizzani (Vermentino di Gallura). Daffodils and tulips bloom on the nose, with notes of lime and stone providing balance. Citrus continues on the palate, before a bitter almond finish. Salt and acidity dance with a slick, oily texture. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

90 Surrau 2021 Montidimola Vendemmia Tardiva (Vermentino di Gallura). The nose is a backyard in summer, with aromas of grass and a garden hose spraying water, with citrus, flowers and a warm stoniness. On the palate, green apple emphasizes the citrus, but almond undertones provide bitterness and depth against a mouthcoating texture. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

89 Surrau 2022 Branu (Vermentino di Gallura). The nose starts savory and nutty, then turns floral and citrusy, but the nuttiness lingers. Nuts dominate the palate as well, along with a salty bite, but flowers return on the finish, which has a mouthcoating texture like essential oil. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

89 Surrau 2022 Sciala (Vermentino di Gallura). A citrusy, acidic nose is full of lime and pink grapefruit, but almonds and tulips provide sweetness, while a stony undertone keeps things interesting. The palate runs with the citrus, which is balanced by a welcome kick of heat and a salty finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

DESSERT WINE

92 Tasca d'Almerita 2021 Tenuta Capofaro (Salina). Pale gold in color, with a nose full of leathery fruit coming from dried apricot, preserved lemons and tangerine peel, this wine explodes on the palate with more dried apricots, but lemon curd and syrupy peaches bring in a deeper sweetness, before a nutty finish returns to bring an almost cleansing salinity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$49/500 ml

SICILY AND SARDINIA RED WINES

SICILIA

92 Duca di Salaparuta 2018 Duca Enrico (Sicilia). A varied nose begins with vanilla and cedar, then evolves into a tangy fruitiness balanced by savory notes of raw meat and balsamic vinegar. Freeze-dried strawberries and cherry pie on the palate give way to dark chocolate and a kick of spice on the finish. This all makes for a juicy, bright and fun wine, even as it shows depth and seriousness. Corvo USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Marabino 2016 Archimede (Sicilia). The nose evokes a campsite, with a crackling fire and the breeze carrying the smell of gunpowder over wild plants with both sweet and sour undertones. A juicy palate is balanced by orange zest and a meaty earthiness. Acidity zips around dusty tannins. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

88 Marabino 2018 Rosso Di Contrada (Sicilia). The sour nose has cranberry and unripe cherries, with cured meat and a spicy kick providing depth. The palate runs with the sour cherries and the heat, but wild strawberry provides a textured sweetness. Acidity dances around firm but approachable tannins. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 Marabino 2017 Rosso Di Contrada Parrino (Sicilia). The nose is subtle and savory, with notes of cured meat, soil, balsamic vinegar and black licorice. In contrast, the palate is juicy with cherry, raspberry and pomegranate and nearly fizzy with acidity above dusty tannins. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$27

CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA

88 Vinicola Cherchi 2019 (Cannonau di Sardegna). The nose is meaty, leathery and slightly woody, with an astringent pop provided by cranberries and blood orange. Cranberries play with sweeter cherries on the palate, with the meatiness lingering in sanguine, metallic undertones. Easygoing tannins and acid are both approachable. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

87 Cantine di Dolianova 2020 Anzenas (Cannonau di Sardegna). The nose is sanguine almost to the point of metallic, like meat fresh off the grill with the blood and spices still crackling on the hot slats. Berries emerge on the palate, where gritty tannins provide balance. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

OTHER ITALIAN WINES

VINO SPUMANTE

89 Barollo Winery 2017 Alfredo Barollo Riserva Metodo Classico (Vino Spumante). This is rich and forward on the nose, with roasted hazelnuts, baked orchard fruits, dried yellow flowers and roasted orange peel all bellowing out of the glass. It's lush and rich on the palate but pulled back at the right moment by crisp acidity. Notes of lemon cream, roasted pears, pastry dough and wild herbs all are present. Buta. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Da Luca NV Rosé Extra Dry (Vino Spumante). Sometimes less is more—this wine is fresh, easy and vibrant. Peach, red apple and soft floral notes waft from the glass while the palate is fruit-forward and finishes lifted and crisp. Accolade Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

88 Obiz NV Rosé Dry (Vino Spumante). Cotton candy pink, this electric sparkling rosé pops with aromas of red apple, ruby-red grapefruit and peach. The soft and creamy perlage gives way to a perfect fruit salad with a cherry on top, finishing with a hint of wild mint. McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

RED WINE

90 Tenute Dettori NV Renosu (Italy). The nose is warm and sanguine, but also bright with sour cherries and plums, plus the metallic tang of wet bricks. The cherries and plums ripen on the palate, with a slice of orange on the edge of the glass, spritz-style. Tannins provide softness, while acidity provides pop. A delightful expression from a great cooperative. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

SPAIN

WHITE WINES

92 Txakoli Primo 2022 Zarautz (Spain). As a tiny column of bubbles dissipates in the glass, lemon, fresh basil and nasturtium aromas waft upward. Lemon, Valencia orange and lime zest flavors are joined by notes of chopped basil, parsley and lavender that linger into an incandescent finish. W. Direct. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Iraberri 2022 (Spain). With a soft bit of fizz in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of Seckel pear, Gala apple and honeysuckle. A touch of savory Provençal herbs underlies intense citrus fruit and floral flavors that burst into a radiant finish. W. Direct. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

89 Côte Basque 2022 (Spain). This almost clear-colored, lightly effervescent wine has aromas of ripe summer peach and rose water. It is vivid in the mouth, offering peach, nectarine, Bartlett pear and orange blossom flavors that dissolve into a burst of acidity. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

CAVA

91 Nubori NV Brut (Cava). With a persistent column of bubbles, this golden straw-colored wine has aromas of Fuji apple, toasted almond and coffee bean. It fills the palate with lemon curd, lemon zest, hazelnut, vanilla and orange blossom flavors that linger on the tongue. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Cavas Hill NV Panot Gaudi Coral Brut (Cava). This sparkler offers a soft queue of bubbles and a nose of green apple, brioche and toasted almond. It is full textured and features Fuji apple, Seckel pear, vanilla bean, cashew and just-baked bread flavors. Notes of nut-studded bread linger on the palate. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Castillo Rocio NV Brut (Cava). A steady mousse cap and aromas of green apple, Bosc pear and dried sage leaf set the stage for Anjou pear, apricot, dried Mediterranean herb and rose petal flavors. A soft floral note makes its way into the refreshing finish. Hammeken Cellars USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Cavas Hill NV Panot Gaudi Reserva Brut (Cava). This pale yellow sparkler offers firm but petite bubbles and a bouquet of apricot, guava and rising pizza dough. Toasted nut and pie crust flavors outweigh notes of peach, dried pineapple and lemon zest, but all in all this is a pleasant pour. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Bodegas Ondarre NV Millennium Brut (Cava). Small but forceful bubbles deliver peach, apricot and lemon thyme aromas. Summer stone fruit notes transition to the palate along with striking effervescence and honeydew melon, lemongrass and coriander seed flavors. The finish is marked with a note of orange blossom. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: NA **Price:** \$18

88 Castell d'Or NV Flama d'Or (Cava). Gentle mousse and aromas of peach, Seckel pear and rising bread draw you in for a sip that reveals nectarine, Delicious apple, toasted almond and lemon zest flavors. Gentle tongue-tingling acidity and effervescence linger on the palate. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Hammeken Cellars NV Avent Organic Brut (Cava). Pale straw in color and with a bold mousse cap, this sparkling wine offers a bouquet of Valencia orange and honeysuckle. A soft floral note continues on the palate alongside Bartlett pear, apricot and pie crust flavors that persist into the lemon zest finish. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Segura Viudas NV Brut (Cava). Pale straw to the eye, this wine has steady perlage and a nose of Granny Smith apple, apricot and saline. It washes across the palate with a pleasant tingle and Bartlett pear, guava, passion fruit, brioche and toasted hazelnut flavors that coalesce in a vivid finish. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 Codorníu NV Semi Sec Método Tradicional (Cava). Petite bubbles swirl toward the surface as a bouquet of quince, lemon zest and dried thyme wafts from the glass. This nicely textured sparkler offers white peach, apricot, rose petal and honeycomb flavors, soft effervescence and balanced sweetness and acidity. Kosher. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Rondel NV Gold Brut (Cava). Small but steady bubbles release aromas of green apple and rising pizza dough. Bartlett pear, white peach, croissant and toasted almond flavors evaporate into a vibrant finish. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Mas Fi NV Brut (Cava). This sparkling wine has lemon curd, puff pastry and citrus zest aromas and a steady stream of tiny bubbles. It has a creamy texture and lemon meringue, Anjou pear and cashew flavors. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Masia Salat NV Made with Organic Grapes Brut Nature (Cava). A bouquet of Gala apple, apricot and hazelnut paves the way for slivered almond, croissant, Bartlett pear, white peach and lemon thyme flavors. The zesty finish goes on and on. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

RÍAS BAIXAS

94 Fillaboa 2016 La Fillaboa 1898 (Rías Baixas). Medium yellow to the eye, this lees-aged Albariño has a nose of Seckel pear, dried thyme and river rocks. It is full-textured and is simultaneously refreshing and complex, offering peach, apricot, Valencia orange, dried Mediterranean herb and fennel pollen flavors that culminate in a dynamic finish. Only 6,600 bottles produced. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

93 **Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico 2022 Columna Albariño (Rías Baixas).** For full review see page 11. Olé & Obrigado. *Hidden Gem.* **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

92 **Bodegas Lagar de Pintos 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This wine has aromas of peach, Gala apple and jasmine. It is bright from first sip to finish, with flavors of nectarine, Seckel pear, rose petal and river rocks. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

92 **Forjas del Salnés 2022 Leirana Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Medium yellow to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of lemon curd, cocoa butter and rose petal. A soft floral note permeates the palate alongside peach, apricot, lemon, butterscotch and slivered almond flavors. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

92 **Rectoral do Umia 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This light yellow wine offers a bouquet of yuzu, lemon zest and fennel pollen. There is a nice sense of brightness in the mouth, with flavors of pineapple, bergamot, cocoa butter, mint tea and honeysuckle that evaporate into a citrus-laced finish. Baron Francois Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

91 **Alectum 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of peach, Bartlett pear and jalapeño pave the way for passion fruit, grapefruit, flint and orange blossom flavors. The vibrant finish is marked with soft floral notes. Baron Francois Ltd. —M.D. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

91 **Altos de Torona 2022 Godello (Rías Baixas).** This light straw-colored wine has a nose of Bartlett pear, lemon and crumbled sage leaf. Passion fruit, lemon-lime, white peach and honeysuckle flavors with a hint of lemon thyme are backed by a column of vivid acidity that persists in the mouth. W. Direct. —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Bodegas Chaves 2022 Castel de Fornos Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This medium-yellow wine has a nose of pineapple and passion fruit. Vibrant acidity and white peach, mango, grapefruit and honeysuckle flavors sail into a floral-scented finish. Spain Wine Collection. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

90 **Lagar de Indra 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Medium straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of Bartlett pear and lemon thyme. It is bright in the mouth, with flavors of ripe summer peach, apricot, orange blossom and dried Mediterranean herbs that linger into the soft finish. Assa Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

90 **Rectoral do Umia 2022 Pedra da Auga (Rías Baixas).** This wine has aromas of apricot, grapefruit and roasted yellow pepper. Bright citrus fruit flavors are set into a softly textured wine with

notes of chopped parsley, cilantro and jasmine. Ace Distributing. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Senda Verde 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Deep straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of lemon, white currant and a touch of petrol. It offers flavors of apricot, lemon-lime and white flowers that skate into a bright finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

90 **Serra da Estrela 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This light straw-colored wine has a bouquet of grapefruit, white peach and coriander seed. There is a light herbal note on the palate along with tangerine, pink grapefruit and nectarine flavors that culminate in a bright yet sophisticated finish. Seaview Imports. —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Nora 2022 Peitan Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of lemon sorbet and passion fruit lead the way for toasted pineapple, grapefruit, jasmine and fennel pollen flavors. This wine is bright on the palate from the very first sip. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

83 **Bodegas Chaves 2022 Cinco Islas Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This wine has aromas of lemon, green apple, mint leaf and petrol. A minty note dominates the palate along with flavors of grapefruit, mango, eucalyptus and jalapeño. Spain Wine Collection. —M.D. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

RIBEIRO

92 **Viña Costeira 2022 (Ribeiro).** Pale straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of grapefruit and jasmine. Grapefruit and floral notes transition to the taste buds and are joined by flavors of pineapple, white peach and a hint of fennel pollen. Vibrant acidity bathes the palate. W. Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$32

91 **Viña Costeira 2022 El Barrosa Treixadura (Ribeiro).** A bouquet of pink grapefruit, lemon zest and honeysuckle paves the way for clementine, pear, passion fruit and fennel bulb flavors. A soft minty note underlies the palate from entry through the vivid finish. W. Direct. —M.D. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

91 **Viña Costeira 2022 Teixadal de Casao Treixadura (Ribeiro).** This pale-hued wine offers mango, carambola and cocoa butter aromas. It is lively on the palate, with a delicate texture and passion fruit, pineapple, lemon zest and rose petal flavors that skate into a brilliant finish. W. Direct. —M.D. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

90 **Viña Costeira 2022 Da Feira Treixadura (Ribeiro).** Aromas of white peach and rose petal waft from the glass. This wine is bright from first sip to finish, offering a soft texture and nectarine, Valencia orange and jasmine flavors. W. Direct. —M.D. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

90 **Viña Costeira 2022 Meu Treixadura (Ribeiro).** This light straw-colored wine has a nose of lemon-lime sorbet and chopped parsley and basil. It opens with basil and mint leaf notes followed by refreshing pineapple, Bartlett pear and orange blossom flavors. W. Direct. —M.D. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

RIOJA

94 **Bodegas Valdemar 2021 Conde Valdemar Finca Alto Cantabria Viñedo Singular (Rioja).** This pale straw-colored wine has a bouquet of Bartlett pear, lemon zest and jasmine. It offers flavors of Bosc pear, lemon-lime, dried thyme, a touch of honeysuckle and a sense of chalky minerality. A splash of Valencia orange and hint of petrol make their presence known on the finish. Viñedo Singular refers not just to a single vineyard but also to a “unique vineyard” that is proven to have special qualities. Drink through 2036. Cru Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Luberri 2021 Zuri (Rioja).** Passion fruit, lemon zest and sage aromas set the stage for grapefruit, mango and orange blossom flavors with a sophisticated hint of mint tea. This wine is vibrant on entry and offers a soft floral note in the bright finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

92 **Sierra Cantabria 2020 Organza (Rioja).** Medium straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of white peach, honeydew melon and a whiff of flint. It has aromas of Bartlett pear, Gala apple, lemon zest and river rocks. There is an almost palpable minerality to this wine that is well-matched by vivid acidity. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$36

86 **J. Garcia Carrion 2021 Antaño Platino Semi Dulce (Rioja).** This wine has aromas of nectarine, apricot and orange blossom. Many “semi-dulces” miss the mark and are overbearingly sweet but this truly is half sweet, with flavors of peach, pineapple, honeycomb, rose petal and a nice bright finish. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$7

RUEDA

94 **Garcíarévalo 2020 Harena Verdejo Edición Limitada (Rueda).** A “Gran Vino de Rueda,” this wine is fermented in tinaja, an amphora-style terracotta vessel. It is light amber in color, offering aromas of Bartlett pear, Golden Delicious apple and

BUYINGGUIDE

rose petal. A soft minty note underlies lemon-lime, pineapple, Seckel pear and jasmine that sail into a eucalyptus-tinged finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 Yllera 2020 Meraldís (Rueda). Light amber to the eye, this wine has a nose of lemon curd and butterscotch. It is broad on the palate, with notes of lemon zest and Valencia orange backing up flavors of vanilla, butterscotch and toasted cloves. Soft spice notes linger on the palate. Vinaio Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Félix Lorenzo Cachazo 2022 Carrasviñas Verdejo (Rueda). Medium yellow in the glass, this wine offers pineapple, passion fruit and jasmine aromas. Its gorgeous texture fills the mouth with vivid white peach, apricot preserve, orange blossom and river rock flavors with a soft hint of iodine on the post-palate. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

93 Oro de Castilla 2022 Verdejo (Rueda). The scent of Bosc pear, nectarine, sage leaf and green olive wafts from the glass. Brilliant acidity and a full texture that remain on the palate from first sip to finish support peach, passion fruit, pineapple, dried Mediterranean herb and jasmine flavors. Olé & Obrigado. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

92 HGA Bodegas Y Viñedos De Altura 2022 Ilusionista Verdejo (Rueda). Light yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of apricot, yellow cherry and crumbled sage. It is round on the palate, offering white peach, apricot, mango and white chocolate flavors with a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs in the vivid finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

92 Valdecuevas 2022 Verdejo (Rueda). Light straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of pineapple and passion fruit. It has a lightly creamy texture and flavors of toasted pineapple, mango, honeysuckle and dried Mediterranean herbs with a note of saline on the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Bodegas Vatan 2022 Nisia Verdejo Old Vines (Rueda). For full review see page 21. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Marqués de Riscal 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda). This straw-colored wine has a nose of white currant, bergamot and freshly cut grass. It almost feels effervescent on the tongue, with a bold acid backbone and pineapple, lemon zest and honeysuckle flavors. A soft hint of coffee bean makes for a nice finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Familia Vidal 2021 Vidal + Vidal Cepas Muy Viejas (Rueda). This medium yellow-colored wine offers aromas of pear, yellow plum and flint. Flavors of peach, apricot, Gala apple and vanilla bean evaporate into a zesty finish. Vinos Libres. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

92 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Godello (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). For full review see page 13. W. Direct.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Clunia 2022 Albillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This golden straw-colored wine has a nose of lemon, passion fruit and night-blooming jasmine. It is full-bodied, with a creamy texture and pineapple, mango, cocoa butter and orange blossom flavors that wind down to a lemon zest and vanilla bean finish. Quigley Fine Wines. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Clunia 2022 Tesela by Clunia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Aromas of nectarine, oyster shell and honeysuckle waft from the glass. Vivid Valencia orange, pineapple, vanilla, freesia and flint flavors alight on the palate wrapped in a sheath of viscosity that endures into a finish marked by notes of mango and sage. Quigley Fine Wines. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Avancia 2022 Cuvée de O Godello (Valdeorras). Aromas of lemon-lime, guava and vanilla pave the way for white peach, toasted pineapple, cocoa butter, lemon zest and orange blossom flavors. This wine is smooth in the mouth and offers a strong vein of minerality and a vivid finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

93 Resalte 2021 Albor de Resalte Albillo Mayor (Ribera del Duero). Pale straw to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of peach and white chocolate. Peach continues on the palate, joined by brighter notes of pineapple, grapefruit, vanilla bean and river rock. There is a nice note of salinity on the vibrant finish. MC Elite Wines Corp. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

93 Vinos del Atlantico 2021 Zestos Malvar Old Vines (Vinos de Madrid). For full review see page 21. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Godelia 2022 Viernes Godello (Bierzo). Nectarine, Anjou pear and lemongrass notes waft from the glass. Bright acidity and soft mineral notes wash over the palate alongside lemon-

lime, mango, honeysuckle and dried thyme flavors. Europvin USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Bodega Berroja 2019 Lento Latido Unfiltered (Bizkaiko Txakolina). Apricot, peach and freesia aromas prepare the palate for nectarine, Bosc pear, grapefruit and rose petal flavors. Luminous acidity and a gentle texture make for a pleasant pour. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

89 Viña Costeira 2022 Murgialdai Txakolina (Getariako Txakolina). Softly spritzzy in the glass, this wine has a nose of pineapple and rose petal. It is bright at first sip, with grapefruit, peach, Granny Smith apple and jasmine flavors that light up the palate. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$35

88 A Pachas 2021 Malvar (Madrid). A nose of Granny Smith apple, peach and saline paves the way for nectarine, apricot, rose petal and river rock flavors with a hint of salinity. Made from an indigenous grape that grows near Madrid, this medium-textured wine offers a nice sense of freshness that persists on the palate. Worldwide Libations. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Hiruzta 2022 Txakolina (Getariako Txakolina). Aromas of white peach and grapefruit zest transition seamlessly to the palate and are accompanied by brilliant acidity, a slight sense of effervescence and soft floral notes that linger into the refreshing finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Venta la Vega 2022 Adaras Lluvia (Almansa). This light yellow wine has a bouquet of honeydew melon and chopped basil and parsley. Fresh peach and apricot flavors are joined by notes of chopped green herbs and orange marmalade that linger into a zesty finish. Massanois Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Viños Guerra 2020 Armas de Guerra Blanco (Bierzo). A bouquet of Seckel pear, Cavailon melon and dried mountainside herbs paves the way for clementine, apricot, sage leaf and lemon zest flavors. This wine is equal parts refreshing and savory. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Manzanos 2022 Las Campanas (Navarra). Aromas of pineapple, passion fruit and chopped green herbs set the stage for grapefruit, caramelized pineapple, lemon-lime, cocoa butter and orange blossom flavor. This refreshing wine is bright on the palate from first sip to finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Raimat 2022 Saira Organic Albariño (Costers del Segre). Grapefruit, lemon zest and petrol

aromas set the stage for lemon, pineapple and honeysuckle flavors with a touch of green bell pepper. This refreshing wine is bright in the mouth from the very first sip. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

SPAIN

RED WINES

TERRA ALTA

94 Celler Piñol 2019 Mather Teresina (Terra Alta). Deep red-violet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry preserves and baking spice. It is bold on the palate, with plush tannins and blackberry, Mission fig, cocoa powder, violet and clove flavors. A pleasant dried mountainside herb note lingers on the palate. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

92 Edetària 2020 Via Edetana (Terra Alta). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blueberry pie, anisette and eucalyptus. A layer of glossy tannins backs raspberry, Chambord, aniseed, milk chocolate, violet and freshly ground black pepper flavors that fade into a minty finish. Ripe Wine Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Freebird Wine Co. 2022 Far del Sud Negre Garnacha-Syrah (Terra Alta). A nose of wild black and red berries with a touch of clove and nutmeg leads the way for red currant, blackberry, cocoa butter, cinnamon stick and roasted red pepper flavors. This wine is bright on the palate from the very first sip. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

89 Castell del Remei 2020 Gotim Bru (Costers del Segre). This ruby-colored wine is a blend of Garnacha, Tempranillo, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. It has aromas of ripe red and black fruits with a lifted note of pencil lead and mint and flavors of blackberry, red plum, and cranberry with slightly grippy tannins. Bottle Diplomacy. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Raimat 2019 Abadia (Costers del Segre). Dark garnet-colored with aromas of black raspberry, black plum, and a touch of graphite. It is soft in the mouth, with lightweight tannins and flavors of ripe red and black fruits and crushed violets. The finish is bright with a splash of orange zest at the very end. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Danaus 2021 Organic Grapes (Costers del Segre). Garnet-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of cranberry, black plum, and red currant with flavors of black raspberry and smoked

charcuterie. It is soft on the palate and offers a savory finish. Origins Organic Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

NAVARRA

92 Castillo de Enériz 2022 Garnacha (Navarra). For full review see page 14. Manzanos Wines USA. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

92 Manzanos 2022 Las Campanas (Navarra). For full review see page 21. Manzanos Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Manzanos 2022 Monte Ory (Navarra). Dark red-violet in the glass, this wine has a nose of cherry, mint tea and lavender. It is soft at first sip, and then midweight tannins slowly build in volume. Flavors of blackberry preserves, eucalyptus, anise, rose petal and orange zest linger on the taste buds. Manzanos Wines USA. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Manzanos 2022 Reino de Altuzarra Garnacha (Navarra). This ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of cherry and chocolate-covered peppermints. Cherry and raspberry flavors are joined by silky tannins and notes of eucalyptus, jasmine, aniseed, citrus zest and vanilla bean. Plush tannins evaporate into a cooling finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Príncipe de Viana 2022 Garnacha (Navarra). This wine has a bouquet of Mission fig, red apple peel, agave nectar and violet candy. Eucalyptus and mint flavors outweigh notes of elderberry, black cherry and lavender that are awash in vivid acidity. The Sorting Table. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

RIOJA

97 Marqués de Riscal 2018 Baron De Chirel Bend (Rioja). This deep garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of cassis, Mission fig, dark chocolate and saddle leather. Luxurious tannins coat the tongue and gums, bathed in vibrant acidity and joined by blackberry, Luxardo cherry, chocolate-covered espresso bean and violet flavors with a soft hint of black olive paste that lingers on the tastebuds with a note of orange zest. Drink through 2048. Shaw-Ross International Importers. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

96 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2017 Lalomba Finca Ladero (Rioja). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry jam, caramel and thyme. There is a nice balance between opulent tannins and vibrant acidity backing black cherry, blackberry pie, baking spice, mocha and mint leaf

flavors that evaporate into an orange-zest finish. Zamora Company USA. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

96 Bodegas Valdemar 2018 Conde Valdemar Edición Limitada (Rioja). Inky violet to the eye, this wine has aromas of slightly brambly fruits of the wood, aniseed and dark chocolate. Dark chocolate and fruits of the wood transition to the palate, where they are joined by butterscotch, crumbled sage leaf and fennel bulb notes encased in a web of plush tannins that endures into a finish marked with a gorgeous note of salted toffee. Drink until 2043. Cru Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$64

95 Bodegas Valdemar 2015 Conde Valdemar Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 5. Cru Selections. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

95 Marqués de Riscal 2017 Gran Reserva 150th Anniversary (Rioja). Deep garnet in color, this wine has a nose of black currant and caramel. Black cherry, cassis, mocha, butterscotch, violet and anisette flavors are wrapped in a sheath of opulent tannins that peel away to reveal a eucalyptus-infused finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

95 Marqués de Riscal 2017 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep violet-colored wine has a bouquet of Chambord, crumbled sage and aniseed. Brambly fruit of the wood, dark chocolate, black olive paste and licorice flavors are set into plush tannins that coat the tongue and gums. A shining streak of acidity brightens the palate from first sip to finish. Drink through 2037. Shaw-Ross International Importers. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Ramón Bilbao 2017 Lalomba Finca Valhonta (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine offers a bouquet of blackberry pie and chocolate-covered espresso bean. There is a sense of brightness on the palate, with pomegranate, raspberry, butterscotch, clove and dried sage flavors. Polished tannins and a juicy finish make for a gorgeous sip. Zamora Company USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Bodega 202 2017 Ansa (Rioja). Aromas of blackberry, carob and anise lead the way for flavors of Mission fig, baking spices, dark chocolate and black olive paste wrapped in a layer of lusty tannins. Powerful on the palate, this wine offers an enduring, savory finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Bodegas Valdemar 2015 Conde Valdemar Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 7. Cru Selections.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

94 Casa Primicia 2017 Julian Madrid Reserva (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine has a

BUYINGGUIDE

bouquet of black cherry, coffee bean and licorice. It is smooth on the palate with flavors of dark and red berries, cacao, eucalyptus, violet and a touch of dried sage. Velvety tannins and well-balanced acidity carry on through the lengthy finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$85

94 Luberri 2018 Biga (Rioja). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry pie, slightly burnt caramel and herbs de Provence. Spicy notes of mint and licorice back black cherry, black currant, mocha, violet and thyme flavors. Vivid acidity keeps muscular tannins from overrunning the palate. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

94 Luberri 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This black cherry-colored wine has a bouquet of cherry, raspberry and vanilla. It is round on the palate, offering blackberry, pomegranate, butterscotch and milk chocolate flavors wrapped in plush tannins that linger on the tongue and gums. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$69

94 Villota 2019 Villota (Rioja). This deep ruby-colored wine has an enticing nose of cassis, mocha and anisette. A web of gossamer tannins supports fruit of the wood, milk chocolate, eucalyptus, clove and lavender flavors that evaporate into a spicy finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

93 Bodegas Leza García 2020 Leza García Tinto Familia Crianza (Rioja). This inky red-violet-colored wine has aromas of blackberry, cassis and mocha with a touch of smoke. Bright notes of cherry and raspberry open on the palate, joined by notes of bittersweet chocolate, caramel and violet wrapped in a cocoon of plush tannins. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$34

93 Bodegas Lozano 2017 Montes de Leza Reserva (Rioja). This deep ruby-colored wine has black plum, Mission fig and menthol aromas. There is a sense of brightness on the tongue underlying rigid tannins and blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate, eucalyptus and leather flavors that evaporate into a lasting finish. SQW Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$26

93 Bodegas Murua 2014 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark garnet to the eye, this wine has purple plum, dried cherry and white chocolate aromas. A framework of opulent tannins supports pomegranate, Mission fig, cocoa powder and orange zest flavors that coalesce in a surprisingly bright finish. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

93 Bodegas Valdemar 2019 Inspiración (Rioja). Aromas of purple plum, black currant and a faint hint of brambles set the scene for black cherry, raspberry, anisette, roasted red pepper and violet flavors. The tannins in this richly textured wine

come on strong at first and then peel away to reveal a finish marked with a pleasant note of salinity. Cru Selections. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$27

93 Casa Primitiva 2019 Crianza (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of black currant, raspberry and dried thyme and oregano. Sophisticated notes of dried Mediterranean herbs and sauteed Portobello mushroom are offset by blackberry, Mission fig, caramel and bay leaf flavors. Durable tannins taper off, revealing a finish that is lengthy and bright. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

93 Casa Primitiva 2017 Viña Diezmo RV Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of blackberry pie filling, dark chocolate and olive tapenade waft from the glass. Black currant, purple plum, black truffle, green bell pepper and dark chocolate flavors are set into a framework of powerful tannins that are joined by streaks of acidity as they linger on the tongue and gums. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$48

92 Bodega 202 2017 Aistear (Rioja). Mission fig, mocha and dried thyme aromas pave the way for pomegranate, raspberry, truffle paste, dark chocolate and fennel bulb flavors. Tannins come on a bit strong at first but then fade away to reveal a vivid cherry-splashed finish with a touch of milk chocolate. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

92 Bodegas Franco-Españolas 2013 Excelso Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of brambly dark and red berries, petrol and green bell pepper. Brambly berry flavors transition to the palate, joined by riper notes of cherry, raspberry, brown baking spices and vanilla. Sturdy tannins persist into an enduring finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$72

92 Covila 2018 Reserva (Rioja). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Mission fig, rosemary and tarragon. Bright pomegranate and red currant flavors open on the palate, backed by butterscotch, roasted red and yellow pepper, fennel bulb and crumbled sage flavors. Savory dried herb notes and sturdy tannins endure in the mouth. The Marchetti Co. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

92 Eguren Ugarte 2017 Cincuenta (Rioja). This dark garnet wine has a nose of black cherry, butterscotch and olive tapenade. It is spicy on entry, offering eucalyptus and clove notes alongside flavors of dark and red berries. Bittersweet chocolate and orange zest. Luxurious tannins build slowly and then remain on the palate. EU Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$15

92 Faustino Rivero Ulecia 2018 Reserva (Rioja). A bouquet of blackberry and dark chocolate emanates from the glass. Blackberry and dark

chocolate continue on the taste buds joined by coffee bean, pomegranate, camphor and a hint of green bell pepper. A nice equilibrium of tannins and acidity and a touch of mint make for a nice finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

92 Muga 2019 Reserva (Rioja). This deep-hued wine has a bouquet of black plum, cinnamon stick and citrus zest. Black cherry, pomegranate, milk chocolate, violet, caramel and eucalyptus flavors are wrapped in a sheath of velvety tannins that endure on the tongue and gums with a light floral note. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

92 Señorío de Villarrica 2019 Delicia de Baco Tempranillo Crianza (Rioja). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of cassis, mocha and eucalyptus. Opulent tannins support black cherry, chocolate-covered espresso bean, and chopped mint and thyme leaf flavors. The smooth finish is marked with a note of fennel bulb. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$68

91 Lopez de Haro 2017 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 22. Vintae USA, Inc. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

90 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Cerro Añon Reserva (Rioja). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has aromas of Mission fig, cured ham and black olives. Cassis, dark plum, smoke, dried Mediterranean herb and roasted red pepper flavors are set into forceful tannins that slowly peel away to reveal a smoky finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$24

90 Bodegas Valdemar 2018 Conde Valdemar Tempranillo Crianza (Rioja). This garnet colored wine has a nose of blackberry, milk chocolate and fennel pollen. It is slightly tart on entry, offering cranberry and pomegranate flavors backed by lightweight tannins and notes of mocha, clove and sage that culminate in a vivid finish. Cru Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

90 El Sastre y El Simio 2018 Crianza (Rioja). Bright ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, roasted cherry tomato and leather. A sheath of silky tannins is wrapped around cranberry, red currant, fennel pollen, dried sage, milk chocolate and green bell pepper flavors. Savory and minty notes linger into a bright finish. Los 3 Monos Gourmet. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

90 Muga 2019 Selección Especial Reserva (Rioja). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry, green bell pepper and cedar chest. It is spicy at first sip, offering notes of eucalyptus, menthol and clove. Forceful tannins provide a backdrop for these spicy notes plus blackberry, black cherry, dark chocolate, violet and orange zest

flavors that sail into a floral and cool herb finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

89 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Laztana Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of brambly fruits of the wood, green bell pepper and dried thyme set the scene for black currant, purple plum, dark chocolate, tobacco leaf and mint flavors. Mint and eucalyptus notes linger alongside firm tannins that keep a grip on the palate. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

89 Casado Morales 2014 Imperio Gran Reserva (Rioja). Black plum, crushed purple flowers and olive tapenade aromas set the stage for cassis, red currant, dark chocolate, bacon and cedar flavors. Tannins come on strong at first, back off slowly as well-matched acidity eases across the palate, and then return for a sustained finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

89 Manzanos 2019 Mas de Victor Reserva (Rioja). This dark garnet-colored wine has a nose of black cherry, milk chocolate and geranium. It is a bit hot on the palate, with flavors of dark berries, slightly burnt caramel, bittersweet chocolate and anisette set into powerful tannins. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

88 Manzanos 2016 Gonzalo de Berceo Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark violet-red in color, this wine offers aromas of red plum, charcuterie, smoke and bittersweet chocolate. Smoke notes continue on the taste buds alongside cassis, black plum, tobacco leaf and cocoa powder flavors run through with a streak of cranberry. Aggressive tannins and notes of forest floor remain on the palate. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

86 Bodegas Corcel NV Marqués de Parral (Rioja). Aromas of cherry preserves, clove and anise lead to black cherry, dark plum, licorice, mint and dark chocolate flavors. Powerful tannins fill the palate and remain into the menthol and olive paste finish. State Wines Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

85 Finca Montote NV (Rioja). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of elderberry, cocoa powder and violet. Elderberry transitions to the palate along with black currant, camphor, dark chocolate, sage leaf, and black olive tapenade flavors. Aggressive tannins hold on to the palate long past the savory finish. State Wines Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

83 Aspaldi 2021 Cosecha (Rioja). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, caramel and pine needle. It hits all over the place, with notes of saline, cranberry, caramel and dark

chocolate that don't coalesce on the tastebuds. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$9

CAMPO DE BORJA

91 Alto Moncayo 2020 Veraton Garnacha (Campo de Borja). Ruby colored in the glass, this wine has a nose of cassis, anise and smoked meats. Flavors of black raspberry, red plum and crushed violet blossoms all wrapped in a silky tannic sheath that wends its way toward a long-lasting finish. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$38

90 Alto Moncayo 2019 Veraton Garnacha (Campo de Borja). This wine is garnet-colored in the glass with aromas of anise, blackberry and cassis. The fruit flavors shine on the palate with subtle floral tastes of crushed violet. It offers a silky tannic structure and a long, long, finish. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$37

87 Borsao 2019 Berola (Campo de Borja). This violet-red colored wine has aromas of black plums and English toffee. It is soft on entry with flavors of black plum, candied orange peel, and finely ground black pepper. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

84 Bodegas Aragonesas 2021 Viña Temprana Garnacha Old Vines (Campo de Borja). This ruby-colored wine has black plum and cranberry aromas. Soft tannins bring you flavors of red plum, red raspberry, and a touch of baking spice. The Marchetti Co. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$10

84 Bodegas Aragonesas 2020 Coto De Hayas (Campo de Borja). This garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of cranberry, black raspberry and black plum. Soft tannins pave the way for flavors of red plum, red raspberry and cinnamon. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$10

RIBERA DEL DUERO

97 Emilio Moro 2020 Malleolus (Ribera del Duero). Dark ruby violet-colored in the glass, this wine has enticing aromas of orange peel, milk chocolate and black raspberry. Plush tannins and bright acidity wake up your mouth to flavors of ripe cherry, cranberry, anise frond and dried lavender. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

95 Resalte 2020 Gran Resalte (Ribera del Duero). Dark garnet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of elderberry, Luxardo cherry and toasted allspice. Slightly brambly fruit of the wood flavors open on the tastebuds and are joined by muscular tannins, well-matched acidity, and flavors of

blackberry, cassis, chocolate covered espresso bean, eucalyptus and orange zest. Drink through 2040. MC Elite Wines Corp. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

94 Familia Fernández Rivera 2020 Tinto Pesquera (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 7. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

94 Monteabellón 2017 Finca La Blanquera (Ribera del Duero). Violet-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of dried lavender, black raspberry and dark cocoa powder. In the mouth there are flavors of ripe black cherry, mocha and a touch of lifted eucalyptus. The tannins are silky and there's a splash of bright acidity in the finish. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

93 Emilio Moro 2020 Vendimia Seleccionada (Ribera del Duero). This enticing wine is ink-colored with aromas of black raspberry, fenel pollen, and black currant. The tannins are a bit grippy but will mellow out with time. There are flavors of mission fig, orange peel, coffee, espresso, and black cherry with a long, long finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

93 Legaris 2019 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). A bouquet of black plum, espresso and dried Mediterranean herbs sets the scene for dark fruit, eucalyptus, chocolate-covered caramel and black olive paste flavors. This wine has well-balanced acidity, plush tannins and a lengthy finish marked with a note of butterscotch. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$26

92 Balbas 2019 Ritus Tempranillo Merlot Tempranillo-Merlot (Ribera del Duero). This dark garnet-colored wine has aromas of blackberry, black cherry and clove. Grippy tannins that stick to your palate play host to flavors of dark and red berries, dark chocolate, truffle paste and mint leaf. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$30

92 Bodegas Vilano 2020 Legón Premium (Ribera del Duero). This inky garnet-colored wine has a nose of dark and red berries, cocoa powder and cigar box. Blackberry, cassis, anisette, violet and cacao flavors are set into a network of rigid tannins that coat the palate and linger there as brighter red fruit and floral flavors take over. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

92 Bodegas Viyuela 2020 Selección (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of elderberry, black cherry and coffee bean pave the way for Chambord, purple plum, cocoa powder, black truffle, menthol and cedar block flavors. Lusty tannins stick around on the palate long after the last sip. Terroir Connections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

91 Bernard Magrez 2020 Juan Rivas Temperancia Roble (Ribera del Duero). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of pomegranate, fennel bulb and green bell pepper. An opening note of cranberry gives way to hefty tannins and black cherry, blackberry, bittersweet chocolate, espresso, violet and clove flavors that endure into a chewy finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Bodegas Milvus 2020 Fuenconcejo Roble (Ribera del Duero). A bouquet of black plum, cocoa powder and cedar wafts from the glass. Cedar carries over to the palate alongside black currant, black cherry, bittersweet chocolate, aniseed and fennel flavors. Tannins are a bit stiff at the moment but acidity is well balanced, so it all works. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Bodegas Valparaíso 2020 Romero de Aranda Crianza (Ribera del Duero). This deep ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of cassis, black olive paste and aniseed. It comes on a bit stiff, with rugged tannins taking the lead over black cherry, violet, dark chocolate, cigar box and orange zest flavors. Slowly but surely a wave of acidity cleanses the palate and endures into the smooth finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Cepa 21 2020 (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of cassis, chocolate and savory herbs draw you in to this dark garnet colored wine. It has aromas of cherry jam, black raspberry and mocha with a lifted hint of oregano. In the mouth there are flavors of ripe cherry, cassis, and espresso bean with grippy tannins and a persistent finish. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

90 12 Linajes 2020 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). This black cherry-colored wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, smoked meat and coffee bean. Powerful tannins are well-matched by bold acidity, while cassis, Mission fig, mocha, lavender, clove and eucalyptus flavors drift into a slightly spicy finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Cuatro Rayas 2020 Cuarenta Vendimias Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 19. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Terraesteban 2020 Roble (Ribera del Duero). Garnet-hued in the glass, this wine has aromas of violets, dried Mediterranean herbs, and cassis with flavors of ripe blackberry, black plum and brown baking spices. It is full-bodied with a silky tannic structure and a long-lasting finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

TORO

93 Finca Sobreño 2019 Estate Crianza (Toro). The color of blueberry preserves, this wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, coffee bean and dried thyme. Coffee transitions to the palate as well, joined by cassis, purple plum, black olive paste, orange zest and cocoa butter flavors, wrapped in a cocoon of velvety tannins that drift into a lasting mocha-scented finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

93 Teso La Monja 2020 Victorino Tinta de Toro (Toro). Aromas of blackberry jam and baking spices set the scene for Chambord, Mission fig, mocha, anisette and violet flavors. Tannins come on strong at first and then back away, revealing a dark chocolate and cherry finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Gil Luna 2018 Luna Nuevas Tinta de Toro (Toro). With aromas of Mission fig, caramel and milk chocolate, this wine has flavors of brambly fruits of the wood, cocoa powder, coffee bean, mint and sage leaf. Plush tannins and well-integrated acidity sail into an enduring finish. Monsieur Tonton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Jorge Ordóñez & Co. 2020 Vatan Tinta de Toro (Toro). For full review see page 14. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

BIERZO

92 Estefania 2019 Tilenus La Florida (Bierzo). Notes of blackberry, forest floor and black olives emanate from the glass. This wine is less savory on the palate than expected, offering well-integrated tannins and acidity with black cherry, blackberry, dark chocolate, mint and violet flavors with just a whiff of sage leaf on the finish. Massanois Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

91 Bodegas Merayo 2018 Aquiana Tinto Mencia (Bierzo). Deep violet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of brambly black and red berries, coffee bean and dried thyme. A layer of downy tannins plays host to raspberry, cherry, Mediterranean herb, milk chocolate and roasted yellow pepper flavors. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Estefania 2020 Tilenus Envejecido en Roble (Bierzo). This deep ruby-colored wine has aromas of cherry, dark chocolate and toffee. Dark chocolate and toffee continue to the palate alongside violet, caramel, leather and green bell pepper flavors that culminate in a soft, savory finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Bodegas Merayo 2021 Las Tres Filas Mencia (Bierzo). This wine has purple plum, saddle leather and crumbled sage leaf aromas. It offers a combination of red and black fruit flavors with notes of caramel, forest floor, anisette, dark chocolate and mint. There is an interesting tug of war between savory and minty notes set into midweight tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

93 Mauro 2019 (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This deep violet-colored wine has a nose of blackberry jam, fennel frond and rose petal. A framework of rigid tannins supports black cherry, cassis, butterscotch, eucalyptus and lavender flavors that evaporate into an enduring, mint-strewn finish. Arano LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$57

92 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Marqués de Toro Finca La Moura Mencia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). For full review see page 13. W. Direct.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Vinos de Arganza 2022 Flavium Premium (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This deep ruby-colored wine has aromas of black currant, roasted fennel bulb and celery seed. There is a nice mélange of savory and fruit flavors, predominantly cassis, pomegranate, dried Mediterranean herbs, smoked meat and coffee bean. Tannins come on strong at first and then back down, revealing vibrant fruit and acidity. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

90 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Edición Especial Mencia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Notes of blackberry, smoke and baking spices waft from the glass. Smoke and blackberry transition to the palate, joined by ripe summer cherry, roasted yellow pepper, dried thyme and truffle paste flavors. A bold tannic structure is well-matched by vivid acidity. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Señorío de la Antigua Mencia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This wine has a bouquet of purple plum, chocolate ganache and tobacco leaf. Flavors of blackberry, cranberry, slightly burnt caramel, charcuterie, sautéed mushrooms and dried Mediterranean herb are set into a network of firm tannins that lingers on the tongue and gums. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Palacio de Arganza 2022 Marqués de Montejos Mencia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). A nose of elderberry, menthol and pine needle sets the stage for cranberry, Valencia orange, bittersweet chocolate, green bell pepper and mint

flavors. Rigid tannins and a prevailing sense of brightness linger on the palate. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

88 Vinos de Arganza 2022 Lagar de Robla (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has aromas of purple plum, truffle and flint. A note of salinity underlies black cherry, green bell pepper, honeysuckle, coffee bean and cured ham flavors. Forceful tannins and savory herb flavors hang around on the palate long after the final sip. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

VALENCIA

92 Bodegas Murviedro 2020 Pasión Monastrell Garnacha (Valencia). This deep violet-red-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, cassis and aniseed. It is bright on impact, with pomegranate and raspberry flavors that are joined by notes of crumbled sage leaf, mocha and fennel pollen. Rigid tannins slowly peel away and dissolve into a smooth finish. Schenk Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

91 Bodegas Hispano Suizas 2018 Bassus Finca Casilla Herrera (Valencia). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, red currant and dried Mediterranean herbs. Raspberry, Mission fig, crumbled sage leaf and dark chocolate flavors are set into rigid tannins that fade into a satisfying finish. Puerto Rico Supplies Group. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$68

91 Bodegas Los Frailes 2020 Sinergia CS/Monastrell (Valencia). A bouquet of brambly fruits of the wood, cocoa powder and black olive paste preps the palate for blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate, rosemary and aniseed flavors. Silky tannins gently coat the tongue and gums and linger into a violet-strewn finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 Bodegas Enguera 2019 Castillo De Enguera (Valencia). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of purple plum, Mission fig and dried thyme. A sheath of velvet tannins is wrapped around black cherry, black currant, coffee bean, dark chocolate and olive paste flavors. A hint of dried Mediterranean herbs appears on the closing note. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Pago Casa Gran 2020 Falcata Casa Gran (Valencia). Dark garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of black currant, Mission fig, mocha and dried thyme. Bold red and black berry flavors and sturdy tannins fill the palate, accompanied by well-balanced acidity and milk chocolate, herbs de Provence and toasted nut flavors that evaporate into a slightly savory finish. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

ALICANTE

91 Volver 2021 Tarima Hill Old Vines (Alicante). This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of Chambord, ripe summer cherry and lavender. Cherry vanilla, blueberry, anise and violet flavors are wrapped in a sheath of silky tannins. Winesellers, Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$21

90 Volver 2022 Tarima Made With Organic Grapes (Alicante). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of brambly black and red berries and a touch of jalapeño. Ripe blackberry and raspberry flavors are joined by notes of dark chocolate, clove and crumbled sage leaf. Velvety tannins and well-balanced acidity skate into a pleasing finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$14

88 Volver 2022 Tarima Selección Monastrell (Alicante). A nose of raspberry, cherry and vanilla paves the way for juicy red berry flavors with touches of vanilla and licorice wrapped in soft tannins. This is a pleasant, easygoing wine from first sip to fruity finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

JUMILLA

92 Bodegas Luzón 2019 Finca Luzón Monastrell CS Crianza (Jumilla). Ruby-colored in the glass, this wine offers aromas of cassis, black plum, and dried savory herbs. It is on entry with flavors of ripe cherry, black plum, anise frond, and a touch of vanilla in the soft, silky, finish. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

91 Finca Bacara 2021 Acuma (Jumilla). Aromas of black olive tapenade, cranberry and dried Mediterranean herbs draw you in to this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of pomegranate, cranberry and black raspberry. The tannins are smooth and velvety and the finish has touches of crushed purple violets and dark chocolate. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 Bodegas Bleda 2016 Castillo de Jumilla Reserva Monastrell-Tempranillo (Jumilla). Garnet-colored with aromas of cassis, roasted almonds and black raspberry, this wine has flavors of ripe dark fruits with a toasted oak frame. The tannins are silky smooth and the finish lasts a very long time. Jansen International. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

87 Bodegas Bleda 2017 Castillo de Jumilla Crianza (Jumilla). This wine is ruby-colored with aromas of black currant, dried Mediterranean herbs, and black plum. It offers flavors of dark cocoa powder, candied orange, cassis and red plum with

soft tannins and a persistent finish. Jansen International. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

87 Sierra Norte 2021 Equilibrio Monastrell & Syrah (Jumilla). Ruby-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of dried savory herbs, cassis and a touch of campfire smoke. Flavors of black plum, dark chocolate, orange peel and jalapeño are wrapped in grippy tannins. Tradewinds Specialty Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

OTHER RED WINES

92 Bon Mas 2019 (Priorat). This black cherry-colored wine has a nose of brambly black and red berries and lavender. A soft floral note underlies satiny tannins and Luxardo cherry, blackberry, fennel pollen and caramel flavors that wind down to an orange zest finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

92 D. Ventura 2020 Viña Caneiro (Ribeira Sacra). This garnet-colored wine has tart red berry and earthy aromas. There is an earthy quality on the palate alongside vivid acidity, plush tannins and flavors of pomegranate, red currant, green bell pepper, black olive paste and sage leaf. A sense of brightness and savory herbal notes linger in the mouth. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

91 Juanvi Viticultor 2019 La Viña de Báguena (Vino de la Tierra del Bajo Aragón). Aromas of cassis, blueberry and baking spice with a touch of black pepper pave the way for flavors of blackberry pie filling, clove, dried oregano and a hint of bay leaf. Opulent tannins coat the mouth and then drop off into a pomegranate-splashed finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$45

86 Castaño 2022 Made With Organic Grapes (Yecla). Bright red-violet to the eye, this wine has aromas of raspberry, red plum and butterscotch. It is slightly tart at first sip, with pomegranate and cranberry flavors that are kept in check by notes of butterscotch, milk chocolate and a touch of baking spices. Midweight tannins and pleasant acidity make for a nice sip. Vinamericas, Inc.. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

85 Castaño 2021 Hécula (Yecla). Cherry red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of elderberry, cherry cola and dried thyme. It's almost syrupy in the mouth, with midweight tannins and blackberry, cherry cola, dried Mediterranean herb and olive paste flavors. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

85 Melea 2021 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). This deep-hued wine has aromas of blackberry, dark chocolate and eucalyptus. A minty note underlies the palate along with fla-

BUYINGGUIDE

vors of pomegranate, raspberry, dark chocolate and anisette. Slightly stiff tannins recede into a finish marked with a note of tart cherry. Well-Oiled Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

AUSTRIA GRÜNER VELTLINER

92 Arndorfer 2021 Anina Verde Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is cloudy and golden, with an exotic spice mix of cardamom, ground ginger and turmeric, followed by honeysuckle and dandelion. It is not a fruity wine, but it is multilayered and complex, with great harmony overall. Great for pairing with fried food. Coeur Wine Co. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

92 Hager Matthias 2012 68 Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This is mature and idiosyncratic, with a paraffin and white truffle aroma gliding along the edges, while notes of apple sauce and stewed yellow plum mix with apricot stone and almond husk. It's held nicely and has great balance. However, this is for fans of mature whites. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Ingrid Groiss 2021 Ried Pankraz Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Like a blast from the past, this is clean and pure, with pronounced spice, wet stone, apple pie and cedar notes. Full-bodied, this wraps its flavors around the palate, then rockets to a long, superbly balanced, lemony, slightly toasted finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

92 Leo Uibel 2019 Möebius Grüner Veltliner (Weinland Österreich). This has a golden hue, with dandelion and rice tea aromas and flavors. Its texture is the main attraction, as it is light and soft at the same time, like Mulberry silk. Flavors of bruised apple and nectarine are charming and attractive as well, while the finish comes back to the herbal infusion character. Nomadic Distribution. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Arndorfer 2021 Strasser Weinberge Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). There is a light matchstick aroma that opens this up, followed by wet stone, peach yogurt and apple sauce. It sports a corduroy texture—simultaneously smooth and crunchy—and an inviting, mouthwatering finish. Coeur Wine Co. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Georg Frischengruber 2021 Ried Kreuzberg Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). A floral white with oolong and white pepper, this combines apple, citrus and mineral flavors with a slim yet medium-bodied frame. Its silky texture and seamlessness reveal its pedigree. Schatzi Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$64

91 Loimer 2020 Langenlois Ried Käferberg IÖWT Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). A bright, lip-smacking Riesling, underscored by stony mineral details, this meshes a vivid structure of acidity and minerality with friendly flavors of peach skin, clementine, white raspberry, wet stone and coriander seeds. The long finish resonates with hints of smoke and wet stone. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Ludwig Neumayer 2017 Der Wein vom Stein Grüner Veltliner Grüner Veltliner (Traisental). This unfolds gracefully with layers of crisp apple, green pear and grapefruit, which are richly spiced. It is sleek and nicely balanced, with vibrant acidity. The lemon meringue notes feature gooseberry accents on the juicy finish. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Allram 2021 Ried Kammerner Renner IÖWT Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Elegant, this white combines its quince and grapefruit aromas and flavors with a rich texture and firm structure. The acidity is well-integrated and builds in intensity through the long finish. Vias Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Leo Uibel 2017 Granbarrel Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Golden raisin and hazelnut hints start off this deep yellow-hued white, while honeysuckle comes out to wrap around the nectarine core. It is not fleshy but is great for many different types of food and has great persistence. Nomadic Distribution. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Steinger 2021 Ried Kammerner Lamm Reserve Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Subtle elderflower, peach and grapefruit aromas open up this white, to its creamy and intense palate, with underlying stone and saline notes. It shows balance and length, with a nutty element on the finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Allram 2021 Ried Gaisberg IÖWT Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is a bigger wine but with a vibrant ocean floor note that adds to the charm of the crisp apple, citrus and white pepper. It's glossy and smooth, with a floral-tinged finish. Vias Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Hermann Moser 2021 Ried Gebling Hannah Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This Grüner offers a big body and floral aromas, with juicy flavors of pear, glazed citrus and melon. There is a vibrant and spicy midpalate, supported by crisp acidity. The wine finishes with custard and allspice. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Ingrid Groiss 2021 Ried Sauberg Tradition Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is medium-bodied with a neutral profile, sporting rice tea, oolong and savory mineral accents. Subtle

apple notes peaks through, as this finishes on the orchard fruit note. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

89 Mantlerhof 2021 Ried Weitgasse Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). The fruity aroma leads to flavors of white raspberry, smoke and spice. It's light-bodied and elegant, with lots of mineral and white pepper notes. The long finish echoes the flavors. MS Walker. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

89 Nigl 2021 Ried Pellingen Privat Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This has a cooked hominy note, with corn husk as well, framing the core of juicy peach and quince. It is big and rich, but there's enough acidity for balance. The finish is focused. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Rabl 2021 Ried Käferberg Alte Reben Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Dense and rich tasting, the palate has plenty of white pepper overtones to the lentil, grapefruit and ripe citrus flavors. It's well-integrated, with spiciness and a moderate finish that features touches of cream. Zuma Goods. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Weingut Frank 2021 Ried Johannesbergen Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). There's good power behind the peach, smoke, apricot and spice flavors. It is medium-bodied with a pleasant mouthfeel. Grapefruit, mineral and white pepper season the finish. August Wine Group. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

88 Aigner 2021 Krems Sandgrube Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). Light and elegant, the palate shows lots of grapefruit, peach, white pepper and mineral flavors, with hints of smoke. The crisp finish is moderately long. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Gebrüder Nittaus 2021 Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). The wine is very clean and open-knit, with direct notes of apple, citrus and white pepper attached to a medium- to full-bodied frame. The finish is moderately long and neutral. GP Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Gebrüder Nittaus 2021 Ried Kreuzkapelle Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Medium-bodied, this Grüner has concentrated lentil, ripe apple and spice flavors that linger on the rich, cream-filled finish. GP Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 Josef Jamek 2022 Stein am Rain Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). The wine is very dry, exhibiting direct flavors of white pepper, lentil, mineral and green apple that are intense and concentrated, extending on the finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Ludwig Neumayer 2021 Schiefelage Grüner Veltliner (Traisental). Floral and fine, on a light, vibrant frame, this displays notes of fennel, white pepper and grapefruit. It is mouthwatering on the finish. It may just need a bit more time. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Weixelbaum 2021 Ried Wechselberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This white bursts with graphite, apricot, fennel and grapefruit notes. A vibrant acidity keeps it well-defined, and it's balanced and harmonious overall. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 Wieninger 2021 Ried Kaasgraben Sievering Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This is nuanced and subtle, with a medium body and fresh-tasting profile, sporting Meyer lemon at the core. The finish picks up with some spice and smoke. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Winzer Krems 2021 Sandgrube 13 Orange Grüner Veltliner (Austria). Some skin contact shows in the color, but the wine is clear and polished, offering aromas and flavors of lemon, mineral and almond, with a floral, moderate finish. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Geyerhof 2021 Hofstudien Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This is zesty, with lemon, lime and verbena notes, flanked by white pepper and dandelion tea. It's moderate in length. Danch and Granger Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Gruber Röschitz 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). The flavors are light and crisp with quince, nectarine, lemon verbena and spice. The moderate finish features citrus, with accents of sea salt and white pepper. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Hagn 2021 Ried Antlasbergen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Crisp and fresh tasting, the wine has spiced flavors of green apple and mint. Saline notes show on the midpalate, presenting hints of white pepper on the finish. Sonor Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Kohl 2022 Ried Kittl Trocken Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). Flavors of white flowers and pear are augmented by shiso leaf and chamomile notes in this medium-bodied white. It is carried to a moderate conclusion by the vibrant acidity. Vignaioli Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Rabl 2021 Ried Dechant Alte Reben Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This has good orchard fruit and spice, with a bit of beeswax in the

background. It is fuller in body, but not too flashy. Zuma Goods. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

87 Steininger 2021 Ried Loisium Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is lighter and elegant, with an oyster shell note gliding along, adding to the complexity with honeysuckle and light nectarine notes. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

86 Brandl 2021 Kamptal Zöbing Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is light and neutral, while slightly floral in flavor, with soft chamomile and green apple notes on the modest finish. MS Walker. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

86 Gebrüder Nittnaus 2022 Selection Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). This adds herbal notes to the crisp and juicy flavors of citrus, apple and wild plum. Hints of mineral chime in on the modest finish. GP Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

86 Hagn 2021 Green Hunter Bio Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). There is a bourbon vanilla note to this Grüner, with soft apple and nectarine flavors underneath. The length is moderate. Sonor Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

86 Ludwig Neumayer 2021 Ludwig Grüner Veltliner (Traisental). This has crisp flavors of citrus, apple and mineral, with smoky and salty notes on the juicy finish. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

86 Weingut Frank 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). This has a delicate frame, with notes of cardamom and white pepper framing the core of quince. It is moderately long. August Wine Group. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Stift Klosterneuburg 2021 Ried Steinriegl Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). This is soft, despite its broad shoulders, with hints of dandelion around the subtle citrus note. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Kohl 2022 Vom Schotter Organic Trocken Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). This wine is fairly neutral, with direct modest notes of apple and nectarine. White pepper emerges on the finish. Vignaioli Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

83 Weinwurms 2021 FUNDament Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Modest licorice and almond notes on an open frame mark this light, dry white. DHI Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

80 Esterházy 2021 Mo-Velt Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). This is neutral in aroma and

flavor, with subtle mineral and rice water notes. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

RIESLING

94 Christian Tschida 2022 Laissez-Faire Riesling (Austria). Delicious and complex, this unfiltered white has a lacy texture and finesse. It peels off in layers, with flavors that range from bergamot, kumquat and gooseberry to spring blossom and savory mineral. Really alive and invigorating, with a long, floral-tinged finish, it will show even more in a few years. Best after 2025. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$84

93 Aigner 2021 Ried Weinzierlberg Riesling (Kremstal). Bright, elegant and nuanced with crunchy acidity that's nicely buried under lively Meyer lemon, Mirabelle plum and verbena notes, this wine features sprinkles of honeysuckle and acacia, with a long, piercing finish. It is not a flashy style, but it shows great persistence. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Loimer 2019 Langenlois Ried Seeberg 1ÖWT Riesling (Kamptal). Lovely notes of jasmine and fennel seeds on the nose waft through the flavors of Honeycrisp apple, honeycomb, mineral and star fruit in this finely knit, elegant Riesling. Well-cut and vivid without being austere, this is long and lasting on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Bründlmayer 2021 Ried Heiligenstein Riesling (Kamptal). This muscular white has rich, concentrated quince, peach, ruby grapefruit, guava and mango flavors. There's plenty of structure to back it up, with a mouthwatering finish of smoke and spice. It should cellar beautifully. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

91 Allram 2021 Ried Zöbinger Gaisberg 1ÖWT Riesling (Kamptal). There is a nice white raspberry and flinty aroma to this white, with guava, persimmon and durian at the core. It is medium-bodied and silky in texture, with fleur de sel accents flanking the finish. It's a typical classic version, with nice precision. Vias Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Rabl 2021 Ried Steinhaus Rote Erde Reserve Riesling (Kamptal). This is pure and vibrant, featuring a mix of persimmon, nectarine and white peach at the core, framed by a light lanolin note, with a long, honeysuckle-filled finish. It features a pleasant mouthfeel, with a nice focus and an inviting aftertaste. Zuma Goods. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Weszeli 2017 Ried Seeberg Erste Lage Riesling (Kamptal). An appealing, light- to medium-bodied white, this is lithe and vivacious, with a

BUYINGGUIDE

crunchy quality to the flavors of Korean pear, white peach, cardamom and fleur de sel. The finish is mouthwatering and inviting. Savio Soares Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Hermann Moser 2021 Ried Gebling Kellerterrassen Reserve Riesling (Kremstal). This dry white features a velvety texture, with well-defined pear, quince and glazed apple flavors accented by notes of golden raisin. It is lively and spicy on the finish, delivering baking spices and dried sage hints. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Josef Jamek 2022 Ried Klaus Weissenkirchen Federspiel Riesling (Wachau). Steely and very precise, this classic version is a great alternative for those who wish to move away from the boldness of a Smaragd, but it has all the fruit, floral and spice details, including pear, peach, coriander and fennel. Elegant and long finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Loimer 2019 Langenlois Ried Steinmassl 1ÖWT Riesling (Kamptal). This is fragrant with spiced orange and dried mint, playing off the steeped peach and pomegranate flavors. It is a bit chalky in texture but overall very bright and sleek. A soft petrol note is developing on the long finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.

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

90 Nigl 2021 Ried Goldberg Riesling (Kremstal). It is very aromatic and richly packed with exotic spice and tropical fruit, featuring cardamom and coriander framing the durian and dragon fruit notes. Velvety texture adds to the appeal. The finish is well meshed and long. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

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

90 Weszeli 2017 Ried Heiligenstein Erste Lage Riesling (Kamptal). Delicate, yet backed by firm acidity, this dry white offers subtle notes of dandelion, pink grapefruit, almond skin, star anise and green apple, with a lingering, spice- and mineral-tinged finish. It's well-knit and refreshing. Savio Soares Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

89 Georg Frischengruber 2021 Ried Loibenberg Loibner Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). This is elegant and nicely made, although it has a woolly element that quickly dissipates, as this delivers white raspberry, apple blossom and bergamot notes. The finish cruises with hints of smoked sea salt. Schatzi Wines. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Gruber Röschtz 2021 Ried Königsberg Riesling (Niederösterreich). This feels ripe, but it is never too heavy, with nice elegance, sporting notes of Korean pear, persimmon and melon. Vibrant acidity underscores the palate, bringing out

freshness and balance on the moderately long finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.

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

89 Josef Jamek 2022 Ried Pichl Joching Federspiel Riesling (Wachau). This feels lighter, with crisp notes of orchard fruit, followed by lemon verbena and bergamot. It is lithe and mouthwatering, with a nice vibrance of flavors. It is a good food companion. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Rabl 2021 Ried Schenkenbichl Alte Reben Reserve Riesling (Kamptal). This is silky in texture, with a nice concentration of orchard and stone fruit that mingle at the core. Notes of cardamom and honeysuckle mark the finish. Zuma Goods. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Brandl 2021 Zöbing Terrassen Riesling (Kamptal). The lithe, linear style shows a very mineral profile, with prominent wet stone and sea salt. Apricot stone and nectarine are faintly present on the finish. MS Walker. —A.Z.

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

88 Bründlmayer 2022 Terrassen Riesling (Kamptal). This packs a lot of herbal flavors on a light framework. Honeysuckle, straw and smoky mineral give way to apricot and persimmon that mingle at the core. It closes up on the finish thanks to the taut structure. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

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

88 Gruber Röschtz 2022 By Nature Riesling (Niederösterreich). This very typical young Riesling has a bright and vibrant profile, sporting quince, Honeycrisp apple, pickled ginger and light notes of chamomile. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

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

88 Ludwig Neumayer 2021 Grillenbart Riesling (Traisental). There is plenty of vanilla to this light- to medium-bodied Riesling, which sports notes of cantaloupe and honeydew. It is pleasant but missing the verve. Winemonger. —A.Z.

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

88 Waldschütz 2022 Strass Venesse Riesling (Kamptal). Aromatic and very light, this wine has great elegance to the flavors of nectarine, apricot and blood orange. It's medium in length on the finely meshed finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Weingut Frank 2021 Herrnbauergarten Riesling (Niederösterreich). This is vivacious and refreshing, with creamy lemon and lime flavors and a silky mouthfeel. Crisp apple and kumquat are the hallmarks, also marking the finish. August Wine Group. —A.Z.

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

85 Josef Bauer 2022 Feuersbrunn Riesling (Wagram). This is fairly neutral, with light

notes of orchard fruit and hints of chamomile. The modest finish sports a subtle floral note. Siema LLC. —A.Z.

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

SPARKLING WINES

89 Hager Matthias 2021 Pet Nat Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This is a bit cloudy, with gentle bubbles driving the flavors of lemon parfait and blood orange sorbet. It is vibrant and refreshing, just what you need for a hot day in the park. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Jurtschitsch NV Brut Rosé Klassik Sparkling Blend (Austria). A juicy wine, boasting expressive crushed strawberry and cherry fruit, with accents of rose petals, pastry cream, pickled ginger and lavender. It's bright and mouthwatering, with light saltiness on the finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.

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

89 Schlumberger Wein- und Sektkellerei 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Niederösterreich). A balanced version, creamy on the palate and lightly juicy, this shows a smoke-tinged hint of toasted brioche that leads to dried apricot, lemon curd and marzipan flavors on the lacy palate. It has a lingering finish. Marussia. —A.Z.

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

89 Schlumberger Wein- und Sektkellerei 2017 Grüner Veltliner Brut Sparkling Blend (Niederösterreich). This crisp sparkler, with plenty of spice and nutty aromas and flavors behind the apple and pear fruit, reveals blanched almond and a savory minerally underpinning on the finish. Marussia. —A.Z.

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

87 Kohl NV KOHLsecco Organic Sparkling Blend (Austria). Light and very aromatic, this sparkler has hints of ground ginger and jasmine framing the core of crisp apple. The vibrant and refreshing finish is very pleasant. Vignaioli Selection. —A.Z.

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

86 Stift Klosterneuburg NV Brut Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This shows a tad of sweetness behind the subtle peach notes. Graphite and white pepper emerge on the moderate finish. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.Z.

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

ROSÉ

92 Christian Tschida 2022 Birdscape Pink Rosé (Austria). This is like a light red, displaying a lot of substance with flavors of cherry, violet and hibiscus tea that are all fueled by orange peel acidity. Its texture contributes to the overall appeal, as

it caresses the palate, but it also has a tactile sensation. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$47

92 Maria & Sepp Muster 2021 Vom Opok Rosé (Steierland). This is a stunning effort, with aromas and flavors of white raspberry, white cherry and rose hip tea, while zesty acidity keeps it all intact. It's powerfully spicy, showing pickled ginger, dried sage and tarragon notes. It drinks effortlessly, while the finish echoes and keeps inviting you to crush the bottle. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

90 Lichtenberger González 2020 Muschelkalk Rosé (Weinland Österreich). This is not your poolside rosé, as it actually has substance, yet it can be just as vibrant and refreshing. It features notes of smoke, rose water and hibiscus tea, with a faint cherry note marking the finish. It's silky smooth. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$24

89 Pittnauer 2021 Dogma Rosé (Austria). An alternative, idiosyncratic version, this is very zesty, with grapefruit peel notes framing the core of tart cherry and rooibos tea. The finish is inviting and mouthwatering. Savio Soares Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

88 Fuchs 2022 Schilcher Rosé (Steiermark). Very zesty and invigorating, this wine has blood orange and white cherry notes that glide along, laced with subtle savory and wet stone accents. The length is moderate. Vignaioli Selection. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

88 Pittnauer 2022 König Rosé (Austria). This smoky wine has delicate ruby-red grapefruit, peach and white raspberry notes that are infused with rose water. Tangerine zest gives it vibrancy on the finish. Savio Soares Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

86 Steinger 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé Cabernet Sauvignon (Niederösterreich). This idiosyncratic wine sports notes of cayenne pepper sprinkled over habanero-cherry marmalade. It's moderately long on the finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$39

85 Kracher 2021 Spätlese Rosé (Burgenland). This sweet rosé has direct flavors of ripe cherry, watermelon juice and sweetened hibiscus tea. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 8% Price: \$20

85 Weinwurms 2021 FUNDament Rosé (Niederösterreich). Watermelon and white cherry notes mark this easy and very light rosé. It's

moderately long on the finish. DHI Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

84 Hugl-Wimmer 2022 HuglWeine Rosé (Niederösterreich). This straightforward rosé has candied red fruit flavors. Dried herbs show on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$15/1 L

82 Landhaus Mayer 2022 Rosé (Austria). Tangy red berry notes are matched to zesty accents in this modest and crisp rosé. MS Walker. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$16

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

95 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2020 Ried Lange Ohn Neusiedl Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg). Silky, ripe, elegant and impressive, this red evokes sweet cherry and currant flavors, along with loam, underbrush, leather and spice notes. Intense balsamic and mint notes emerge on the midpalate but never take over, making this red distinctive. Supple and harmonious, with lingering iron and mineral elements, it's a wine that grows on you with every sip. Drink now–2040. DNS Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

94 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2020 Ried Altenberg Jois Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg). Graceful and silky, this featuring notes of tar and loam that frame the attractive black cherry, blackberry and raspberry. There's a serious base of tannins, which meets acidity as this cruises to a lingering aftertaste filled with minerals. It's just beginning to show some development, with fine potential ahead. Best after 2026. DNS Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$48

93 Paul Achs 2020 Ried Golser Spiegel Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). Very juicy but never fleshy, this features a blood orange acidity that gives energy to the core of blackberry, plum and cherry fruit. Alder and singed sage hints, along with an echo of tobacco, grace the finish. The acidity and tannins built the vivid structure, as this should age gracefully over the next decade. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$81

92 Paul Achs 2019 Ried Golser Altenberg Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This shows a broad feel, with rich Damson plum, black cherry and raspberry fruit notes that are lined with subtle black tea, shiso leaf and singed cedar accents. Tannins and acidity firm this up a bit, but it remains charming and alluring overall. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$81

92 Prieler 2019 Ried Goldberg Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg). This is very smooth and round, medium- to full-bodied, with tannins that melt on the palate, while acidity brings out the energy, presenting with licorice, plum and mineral character. While elegant, the tannins make a come-

back on the finish, so cellar for a few years. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$130

90 Paul Achs 2020 Golser Pannobile Reserve Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). Fragrant with reduced raspberry aromas, this harmonious red also features cherry, leather and tobacco notes. The supple texture is offset by firm yet ripe and refined tannins and mouthwatering acidity, which gives this fuel for a long finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$54

89 Paul Achs 2020 Ried Golser Ungerberg Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This loamy red has an elegant profile, with some substance as well, featuring dark fig, currant paste and espresso hints that mesh together, driving through the muscular finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

RED BLENDS

92 Lichtenberger González 2018 Rot und Weiss MMXVIII Red Blend (Austria). This racy style shows great purity, with vibrant acidity meeting the light tannins to back the violet, plum and cassis notes, which are laced with black olive and bay leaf hints. It stretches through, delivering the long, loamy earth note that lingers on the finish. It's elegant but very persistent. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$37

91 Netzl 2020 Anna-Christina Ried Bärreiser Red Blend (Carnuntum). This is dark and full-bodied, but with an elegant feel, featuring black tea and warm mulled black currant fruit aromas that give way to baking spices, cocoa and hibiscus tea flavors. It's long and lush, with flickers of tar and espresso hanging on the broad finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$69

90 Thomas Harerter 2021 Naturschönheit Trocken Red Blend (Austria). This is light at first, with tobacco and dried thyme leading the way for snappy black cherry and mineral notes that stretch out on the black olive and bay leaf finish. It has very nice acidity and fine tannins that build the frame. Soilair Selection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

88 Esterházy 2019 Cuvée Klimt Red Blend (Burgenland). This sports a darker feel, with a good cut to the Damson plum, cooked raspberry and cassis flavors. Fruitcake accents fill in on the moderately long and grippy finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

CROATIA MALVAZIJA

94 Saints Hills 2022 Mala Nevina Malvazija (Istria). Pale yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of caramelized pineapple, orange blossom and a hint of butterscotch. Pineapple transitions to the palate, where it is joined by vanilla bean and white peach flavors with a hint of honey-suckle set into a well-textured wine with touches of white chocolate and lemon zest on the finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

90 Crvik 2019 Blasius Dubrovačka Malvazija (Dalmatia). This amber-colored wine offers aromas of apricot, slivered almond and petrol. It is full textured, is almost gritty and has nectarine, apricot, charcuterie, hazelnut and orange zest flavors. A whiff of smoke and touches of bright citrus fruit are carried over the finish line. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$47

90 Kabola 2018 Amfora Malvazija (Istria). Deep yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of lemon and smoked meat. It is brighter on the palate than expected and offers apricot, peach, almond toffee and river rock flavors that coalesce in a lemon zest and smoke finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$51

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 Saints Hills 2020 Plavac Mali (Dingac). Made with Dalmatia's primary native red grape, this ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of ripe cherries and blackberries with touches of clove and dried thyme. Its beautiful tannic structure and well-integrated acidity play host to Mission fig, cassis, anise, cocoa powder and cinnamon stick flavors that coalesce in a smooth and spicy finish. Drink now–2033. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Bibich 2016 Bibich Babic (Dalmatia). This inky garnet-colored wine has aromas of purple plums, candied violets and cocoa powder. Spicy notes of clove and mint tea and downy tannins open on the palate, accompanied by purple fig, blackberry, butterscotch, violet and baking spice flavors. The lengthy finished is marked with a note of chocolate-covered cherry. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

94 Splendid Vina 2018 Benmosché Family Plavac Mali (Dingac). Made with 100% Plavac Mali, this deep cherry-colored wine has a nose of raspberry, fennel bulb and dried thyme. Silky smooth tannins coat the tongue and gums while notes of wildflowers mingle with pomegran-

ate, black fig, eucalyptus, caramel and clove flavors. Delightful floral and spice notes endure on the palate long after the last sip. Murphy Distributors. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$43

93 Saints Hills 2022 Posh Posip (Korcula). This straw-colored wine has a bouquet of honeydew and lemon blossom. Vibrant white peach, pineapple, lemon zest and freshly picked basil flavors meet vivid acidity and a sophisticated note of crushed almonds on the finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Antunović NV Grand Selection Jubilea Reserve White Blend (Danube River Plains). This deep-yellow wine has peach, mango and sage leaf aromas. There is a nice contrast of tropical fruit flavors and savory notes of mixed nuts and dried Mediterranean herbs. A full texture, bright citrus notes and an underlying cocoa butter flavor make for a nice pour. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$85

89 Jako VINO 2021 Stina For Inspiration Vugava (Dalmatia). Bartlett pear, Gala apple and rose petal aromas set the stage for Golden Delicious apple, nectarine, butterscotch and sage leaf flavors. The zesty finish is marked with a note of saline. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

RED WINES

93 Bibich 2016 Sangreal Shiraz (Dalmatia). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of wild black and red berries, coriander seed and black pepper. There is a nice smoky note underlying cherry, raspberry, dark chocolate, charcuterie and freshly ground black pepper flavors. Polished tannins and a soft floral note endure into the smooth finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Bibich 2015 Bas de Bas MMXV Red Blend (Dalmatia). This deeply hued blend of Syrah and Merlot has a nose of cherry cola, brambly fruits of the wood, pipe tobacco and a hint of jalapeño. A sheath of sumptuous tannins encases Mission fig, black cherry, sage leaf, butterscotch, violet and mocha flavors that linger on the palate. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$101

92 Crvik 2018 Vilin Ples Red Blend (Dalmatia). This international-style blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and native Plavac Mali features aromas of black cherry, violet and cured ham. It is smooth in the mouth, with plush tannins and Chambord, cherry, caramel, violet and dried Mediterranean herb flavors. A note of caramel wanders into the lasting finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$47

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

99 Tor 2021 Cuvée Susan Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). This quietly lavish wine made in a tiny quantity is one to take time with and savor among good friends. Finely detailed aromas of poached pears, vanilla and butter lead to a palate impression that's quiet at first and then builds into layers of marzipan, golden apples, butter and macadamia nuts. Everything is backed by subtle, silky acidity that keeps it fresh through a long, lingering finish. Best through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$95

97 Rhys 2021 Alpine Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). The texture and length on this bottling, and the fact that it retains as much many days after being opened, is jaw-dropping. The nose begins with soft yet alluring butter, nut, apricot and wet rock aromas. Then the ethereally chalky sip adds crisp stonefruit and apple, wrapped in a lemony acidity that repeatedly engages every part of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$125

97 Tor 2021 Cuvée Torchiana Beresini Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$95

96 Iron Horse 2020 Native Yeast Chardonnay (Green Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$57

96 Sandar & Hem 2021 Mountain Winery Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very light in the glass, this epic bottling combines brisk and joyful aromas of lime sorbet with the most delicate touch of toasted pastry on the nose. This winery is a master at texture, in this case employing a chalky grip and a tongue-titillating acidity to frame citrus, blanched almond and light spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

95 Au Bon Climat 2021 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

95 Chalk Hill 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$52

95 Chev 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

95 Gary Farrell 2020 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Jarvis 2020 Finch Hollow Unfiltered Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$195

95 Rhys 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). The textural component to this wine, and all of those from Rhys, is worth the price alone. The nose starts with aromas of lemon curd, baked orange and a light nutty tone before the palate's chalky texture engages the entire mouth as citrus flavors abound. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$48

95 Samsara 2021 Radian Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Very clean and light aromas of pear and sea salt meet with a damp earth tone on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate fascinates with an acidity that builds to a sizzling point by the finish after driving through flavors of lemon, apricot and more sea salt. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$69

95 Sandar & Hem 2021 Bald Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Extremely tightly woven on the nose, this bottling from a mountaintop vineyard smells of jicama, melon rind and very subtle honeysuckle. The palate keeps that brisk tightness from start to finish, delivering more of that crisp white fruit alongside an intriguing touch of lemon verbena. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$56

94 Ferrari-Carano 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% Price: \$49

94 Fess Parker 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$48

94 Kosta Browne 2020 Cerise Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Apple pastry aromas and a rich palate of poached pears and baked apples make this wine tasty and generous. The smooth texture is lightly lifted by a nip of lemon zest. From a vineyard noted more for its Pinot Noir, the wine shows the typical, pure Anderson Valley fruit character. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$170

94 Kunde 2021 Wildwood Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.3% Price: \$35

94 Lindquist Family 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Fresh lemon balm aromas meet with hints of coconut and pineapple on the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard, by a winemaker who's worked there for decades. The palate is zippy in acidity, driving through lychee, coconut flake and gardenia flavors.

A fine-grained, chalky structure holds firm through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

94 Melville 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lemon balm and pithy aromas meet with a light dairy touch on the nose of this bottling. The palate is extremely textural and grippy in all the right ways, showcasing bright lemon and light yogurt flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$44

94 Morgan 2022 Highland Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Very clean and round aromas of melon, white peach and orange blossom draw the nose into this bottling. The texture is chalky and the palate is quite savory with salt tones that decorate the baked nectarine and apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

94 Oleandri 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This concentrated, juicy and lively wine shows great freshness on first sip, and then develops more appley, buttery richness with time in the glass. It's a great choice for its balance between fruitiness and oakiness, and should age well for several years. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

94 Samsara 2021 Zotovich Vineyards Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This bottling sports a very pithy, citrus-rind-driven nose, with wet rock and tight apple flesh aromas also apparent. The palate is loaded with a rocky minerality, but also packed with citrus spray, Asian pear and mandarin flesh flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$59

94 Sojourn 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

94 Tolosa 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Joyous aromas of peach and apple blossoms are spiked with lime-soaked butter on the vivid nose of this bottling. A chalky texture weaves throughout the palate, where bright Meyer lemon and white-flower flavors meet with a tighter crushed seashell tone. It's quite complicated, with seemingly endless length. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$95

93 Center of Effort 2019 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). The flagship Chardonnay from the winery, this presents a cohesive, engaging experience. The wine starts with inviting aromas of honeysuckle, lemon balm, verbena, singed mandarin rind and light chalk on the nose. There's a fine line of acidity to the palate, where a doughy minerality weaves through Asian pear flesh and melon rind, with a pop of salt on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

93 Comartin 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Soft and clean aromas of stonefruit and lemon spray converge on the nose of this small-batch reserve bottling. The palate lands

with a vibrant citrus pop, leading into creamier stonefruit and sea salt flavors on the engaging finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$55

93 Copain Wines 2020 Skycrest Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). A vivid, deep-gold color concurs with ripe, buttery aromas and sunny pineapple and mango flavors in this soft, smooth and deceptively light-bodied wine. While low-ish in alcohol, it is beautifully balanced by a rich, melted texture. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

93 Diatom 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Fascinating aromas of Asian pear, lime and white rocks create a cohesive combination on the nose of this bottling by Greg Brewer. The palate is tremendously tense and lively, using crushed seashell and yuzu flavors to offset the tropical hints of guava peel and spicy pepper touches. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

93 Donnachadh 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Subtle stony minerality wraps around aromas of Asian pear, water chestnut and lychee on the brisk nose of this bottling. The texture is tantalizing on the palate, where a direct line of acidic energy cuts through the crisp pome fruit and coconut flake flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$65

93 Iron Horse 2020 Audrey Chardonnay (Green Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$57

93 Iron Horse 2020 Heritage Chardonnay (Green Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$57

93 Iron Horse 2020 Rued Clone Chardonnay (Green Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$57

93 Jarvis 2020 Finch Hollow Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$175

93 Lester 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). A light tint in the glass, this bottling begins with slightly reductive wet-wool aromas before opening into fresh Meyer lemon. The palate is tightly wound and mineral-driven, showing chalk and wet stone against the lime-balm core. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$39

93 Loring Wine Company 2021 Boekenoogen Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Toasted marshmallow, meringue and lemon cream aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers seared pear and nectarine as well as plenty of acidity and salty macadamia-nut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$49

93 Migration 2021 Keefer Ranch Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Rich in fruit and oak

BUYINGGUIDE

spices but not heavy, this fresh, vibrant wine offers light toast and butter aromas, followed by Bosc pear and toasted almond flavors on a full body. A cool, eastern-facing slope and prized Goldridge soil at Keefer Ranch enables the great balance. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

93 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Wild Series Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This native-yeast-fermented wine should have a long life. Aromas of wet stone, lemon balm and macadamia nut lead from the nose into a tightly wound palate where citrus and Asian pear flavors are framed by a chalky texture. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

93 Red Car 2020 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Concentrated and layered, this vibrant yet nicely ripe wine feels taut on the palate, indicating it could age nicely. Layers of crisp apples, cream, toast and caramel are snug inside the tangy texture. Best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Rhys 2021 Mt. Pajaro Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Rich aromas of baked apples and toasted nuts make for a buttery nose on this single-vineyard expression. There's brisk acidity and chalky texture to the palate, which is rich yet not especially buttered, offering vanilla, crème brûlée and lemony citrus flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$48

93 Schug 2021 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This seamless, rather tight-textured wine holds its ample crisp apple, croissant and lemon zest flavors with good acidity and some oak tannin. There is no hurry to drink it until it develops more complexity. Best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 Schug 2021 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 12.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 Tread 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Pithy aromas from ripe tangerine to brisk lemon meet with wet soil minerality on the nose of this county cuvée by winemaker Kristin Bryden. Tense, stretch-out tannins frame the palate, which is enveloped in citrus flavors cut by a refreshing, persistent acidity that extends through the nutty spice on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

93 Tread 2021 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Golden lemon aromas meet with apricot cream on the very inviting and rich yet still chalky and edgy nose of this single-vineyard expression. Lemon curd and yellow apple flavor are wrapped in a pleasantly tactile, even gritty texture on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Walt 2021 Bob's Ranch Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This dense, full-bodied and lavishly oaked wine goes all out for butter, vanilla, toasted coconut and cream flavors on a velvety texture that feels softly tannic from the oak influence. The wine is highly stylized and opulent. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

93 Walt 2021 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Well structured and quite oaky, this assertive wine is loaded with ripe fruits, toast and apple-pie spices on a velvety texture that has a bit of tannic grip. Impressive now, but it should drink best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

92 Au Bon Climat 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Salted nectarine and popcorn butter aromas entice the nose deeply into this bottling from the historic vineyard where the producer is based. The palate is rounded, with flavors of apricot, buttery meringue and a dollop of caramel. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Baileyana 2021 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Fat and rounded aromas of gardenia, white rose, white peach and coconut cream entice the nose on this wine that is widely available and well priced. The palate is soft in texture at first yet loaded with excitement, showing lime peel, lychee and toasted coconut flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

92 Castoro Cellars 2021 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). This is a really well-balanced and exciting Chardonnay for Paso Robles, often considered a touch too warm to handle this varietal. Aromas of toasted almond, Meyer lemon and lime blossom lead from the nose into a palate wrapped in a chalky texture that offers flavors of Asian pear, lychee, lime and a touch of mint. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$20

92 Comartin 2021 Cortada Alta Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Tropical guava and plumeria aromas are generous but measured on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean and complex, showing lime cream, mandarin zest and pine-nut flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$49

92 Hahn 2021 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Iron Horse 2020 Heart of the Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley). For full review see page 14.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$57

92 Jayson 2020 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Rich butter, almond and pastry flavors drench this full-bodied wine in an almost-sweet array of fruits, nuts and baking spices on a fat, luxu-

rious body and soft acidity. It is super smooth and unctuous to sip. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

92 Juggernaut Wines 2021 Juggernaut Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Lincourt 2021 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

92 Loring Wine Company 2021 Peterson Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Bold while fresh aromas of lemon balm, pineapple and light cream show on the nose of this bottling. There's viscosity and weight to the palate, where roasted apple, salted citrus and macadamia nut paste flavors align on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

92 Montagne Russe 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Toasty, buttery and fruity elements combine nicely in this full-bodied and indulgent wine. It weaves together ripe pears, golden apples, vanilla and nutmeg on a smooth texture. —J.G.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Montagne Russe 2021 Roberts Road Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). In an elegant style, this pale-yellow and medium-bodied wine is appealing with muted oak spices, good acidity and hints of doughy flavors among the lemon and crisp apple notes. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

92 Red Car 2020 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview). This sunny, tropical-tasting wine boasts pineapple and banana aromas, along with juicy lemon and mango flavors. The wine is nicely crisp, lively and well balanced. —J.G.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$62

92 Samsara 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Warm aromas of nectarine, sea salt and light wood show on the nose of this appellation cuvée. Baked lemon and macadamia nut flavors arise on the rich while fresh palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$44

92 Samsara 2021 Bentrack Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Crisp apple flesh, wet stone, light butter and subtle verbena aromas entertain the nose on this bottling. There's a lively acidity to the palate, where crisp, tart apple flavors meet with lime, lemon and grapefruit elements. —M.K.

abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$64

92 Sandar & Hem 2021 Le Boeuf Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). From an organic vineyard planted in 1974, this bottling offers soft aromas of lychee, Asian pear, nectarine, chalk and a hint of butter on the nose. The palate shows a touch of textural bite, giving an edge to the salted nectarine and tangerine spray flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

92 Sangiacomo 2021 Roberts Road Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This fruity, warm and lively wine is packed with peaches, pears and a touch of pineapple, topped with a dash of melted butter. The wine was barrel fermented and then 80% was aged in new French oak barrels for an extended period of 16 months. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Schug 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This charming, smooth and fruit-forward wine evokes peaches and pears backed by subtle acidity for good balance. Apparently unoaked, it's a versatile, crowd-pleasing wine to sip on its own or pair with seafood and roast chicken. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

92 Sojourn 2021 Durrell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A full body and bold fruit flavors give this wine a big presence. Dried apple, pineapple and vanilla flavors flood the palate, leaving a warm finish. It was fermented with native yeast and aged in 40% new French barrels. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$54

92 Stephen Ross 2022 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Fresh lime curd, gardenia and honeysuckle aromas draw the nose into this appellation cuvée. A lively sizzle of acidity cascades across the richer butter tones of the palate, which finishes on citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Stephen Ross 2021 Bee Sweet Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Tightly woven aromas of crushed stone and lemon peel are expertly restrained on the nose of this bottling. The palate balances citrusy brightness with a firm texture, proving to be a racy style of enlivening Chardonnay. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Testarossa 2021 Rosemary's Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley). Toasted almond and salted crème fraîche on the nose of this bottling indicate a judicious use of oak. The palate is both a touch toastier in oak and yet high-toned, with citrus and peach flavors riding alongside the nutty, chalky elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

92 Testarossa 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Singed lemon and white-flower blossom aromas are kissed with oak on the nose of this bottling. There's lots of tension to the sip, where citrus peel, almond cream and salted peach flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Walt 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This creamy, ripe and honeyed wine overflows with tasty flavors of baked apples, croissants and vanilla. A full body and soft acidity give it a rich, mouthfilling texture that clings to the palate on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 ALDI 2021 Peaks & Tides Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 21.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$10

91 Boheme 2020 English Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This tangy, refreshing wine has good acidity running through it, giving a mouthwatering texture that carries green apple, lemon and white-peach flavors. Butter and oak spices are minimal, letting the crisp fruitiness shine through. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$49

91 Castle Rock 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

91 Chalone Vineyard 2022 Musque Estate Chardonnay (Chalone). Clean and rounded aromas of lemon balm and toasted almond meet with a touch of earth on the nose of this bottling of the Musque clone. Baked stonefruit and marzipan flavors meet with browned butter on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Comartin 2021 R-Bar-R Ranch Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Golden hued in the glass, this single-vineyard bottling shows honey water, apricot and rich oak on the nose. The richness tightens up on the sip into citrus pith, wet sidewalk and grapefruit flesh flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$49

91 CRU 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

91 Dutcher Crossing 2021 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The classic toast and butter aromas of this full-bodied wine lead to toasted almond and grilled pear flavors on a rather rich texture. For fans of oak and native yeast complexity, it's a winner. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$47

91 Loring Wine Company 2021 Kessler-Haak Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). White peach, apricot meringue and sea-salt-dusted lemon aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There's abundant acidity on the palate, where citrus spray flavors will satisfy those who crave acid while rich, toasty elements welcome those who seek more butter. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Loring Wine Company 2021 River Quinn Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). This entry-level bottling by Brian Loring hits the right marks, offering lemon peel, honeysuckle and wet-stone aromas on the nose. Stony minerality on the palate opens to lime, lemon and melon. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Luli 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Brisk aromas of apple and pear grow more complex with foggy-morning herbs and grapefruit peel on the delicate nose of this bottling. The palate is chalky in texture and tart with more grapefruit and green citrus flavors. Hints of lemongrass and makrut lime show on the finish of this young wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

91 Metz Road 2021 Riverview Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). Lime and lemon verbena aromas meet with rounded white flower on the nose of this bottling. Punchy citrus kick on the palate slices through the white peach, apple custard and sea salt flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Neely 2020 Holly's Cuvée Spring Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Earthy aromas of dust, chiseled granite and dried apple show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the palate, where dried lemon, vanilla and woodspice flavors align into a cohesive sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$55

91 Neyers 2022 304 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

91 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Chardonnay (Edna Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Red Car 2020 Mohrhardt Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview). This silky, light-bodied wine blends fresh apples, lemon zest and a touch of butter on a tangy texture. It's a refreshing, wine for fresh oysters, lobster rolls or sushi. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$58

91 Samsara 2021 Cuvée d'Inspiration Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lightly honeyed aromas are woven through lemon, light buttercream and macadamia nut on the nose of this bottling. The palate is brighter than the nose indicates, showing Meyer lemon and fresh mandarin wedge flavors, with the slightest hint of nut on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$49

91 Testarossa 2021 Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley). A golden shade in the glass, this bottling combines tangerine, frozen pineapple and white flower on the nose. The familiar palate packs together baked apple, lemon spritz cream and a kiss of oak, finishing on crushed hazelnut. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

90 Bernardus 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Subtle flavors of pear, apple and white melon make for a pleasant nose on this countywide cuvée. The palate is wrapped in a chalky grip, offering rounded flavors of pear and peach. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Bohème 2020 Taylor Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This straightforward, subdued wine measures out Bosc pear and green apple flavors on a medium body, with little noticeable oak or butter as toppings. It will be fine at meals due to an appetizing, mouthwatering texture, and should warm up with more maturity. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$49

90 Center of Effort 2020 Alba Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Quite a golden hue in the glass, this four-barrel batch comes from vines planted in 1997 and was aged in 50% new French oak. It offers aromas of sea salt, toasted almond, baked lemon and seared peach on the nose. The palate pops with acidity right away, and then opens toward lemon pudding and very nutty flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 District 7 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey). This widely available, affordable bottling should satisfy Chardonnay fans. Clean lines of honey, sandalwood, preserved lemon and salt show on the nose, while a lemony, grapefruit-laced acidity cuts against the buttercream and custard flavors of the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Frey 2022 Organic Chardonnay (California). A fun, easy-sipper for sure, this 100% organic Chard offers notes of all the blossoms. Chamomile, jasmine, apple and citrus are followed by fruitier tones of white peach and nectarine, papaya and guava, with just a sprinkling of white pepper. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$20

90 Hahn 2021 SLH Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Jaffurs 2022 State Street Chardonnay (Central Coast). Complementing their successful State Street Syrah bottling, this affordably priced Chardonnay hits the right notes, starting with rounded pear and honeysuckle aromas on the nearly tropical nose. The palate is crisp with acidity that cuts through the white peach and lychee flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Jackson Estate Seco Highlands Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Seared pineapple and lemon peel aromas draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is tight at first and then opens toward popcorn, buttered peach and sea-salt flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

90 Lincourt 2022 Steel Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 20.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

90 Loring Wine Company 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). A golden hue in the glass,

this appellation cuvée offers rich aromas of browned butter, seared pear and toasted hazelnut on the nose. The palate is thick with flavors of warm brioché, pear jam and a dusting of baking spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

90 Loring Wine Company 2021 Cortada Alta Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Tart citrus and wild apple aromas make for an intriguing nose on this bottling. The palate lands with ample energy, as light pineapple and more citrus flavors stay tart. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Lucienne 2021 Smith Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Rich aromas of lemon butter, marshmallow and pecan show on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Browned butter and creamy marzipan flavors meet with a lemon kick on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Neely 2020 Home Block Spring Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dusty, rocky minerality meets with dried apricot on the nose of this bottling from an own-rooted block of clone 4. The palate is more flat in texture, using a fine line of acidity to frame the lime cream and crisp pear-flesh flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$50

90 Raywood 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Clean aromas of pear, white rose and fresh coconut combine on the nose of this bottling. A sizzle of acidity and stony grip frames the sip, where white melon, Asian pear flesh and honeydew flavors arise. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

90 Spring Street Winery 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey). A golden hue in the glass, this wine begins with toasted egg bread, lemon preserve and vanilla pudding aromas. On the hefty palate, rich flavors of hazelnut, baked lemon and buttered bread are cut by decent acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Chalone Vineyard 2021 Estate Reserve Chardonnay (Chalone). Rounded and opulent aromas of buttercream, salted butter and light popcorn are pleasant on the nose of this bottling. There's a ripe, nearly sweet tone to the palate, where white peach and apple flavors lead into a macadamia nut finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

89 Daou 2022 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Woody oak aromas meet with seared peach and ripe apple on the nose of this bottling. The palate is zippy with acidity, while creamy in marshmallow and candid coconut flavors. A minty lime candy note adds intrigue. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Lion's Ridge 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Central Coast). Wet stone minerality meets with Meyer lemon peel and sliced apple on the nose

of this bottling. The palate is vibrant with ripe flavors of pineapple and peach, with enough acidity to keep it bright. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Lucienne 2021 Lone Oak Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Rich and nutty aromas of hazelnut and peach are cut by lime balm on the nose of this bottling. It's a bit more subdued on the palate, where apricot jam and toasted nut flavors meet with a sour element. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Neely 2020 Amphitheater Block Spring Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dried lime peel, baked apple and gritty, earthy minerality converge on the nose of this bottling. The texture is grippy enough, surrounding flavors of lime peel and lanolin on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

88 Happy Camper 2022 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 King Palm 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Broad aromas of crisp nectarine, wet stone and toasted wood show on the nose of this bottling. Honeyed apple and sea salt create a compelling palate that slowly grows sweeter. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Midnight 2022 Chardonnay (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Subtle aromas of pear and peach are mellow on the nose of this bottling. There's a touch of sweet apple as well as apple blossom and tonic on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

88 Muirwood 2022 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Aromas of citrus tonic, plumeria and coconut flake are very tropical on the nose of this bottling. The palate is cleanly made and a strong showing for fans of tropical, floral Chardonnays, with a pithy grip framing mango, guava and jasmine flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Oak Grove 2022 Family Reserve Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Ron Noble 2021 Richard Dinner Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain). This firmly structured wine wraps golden apple and strong oak-spice flavors in vivid acidity for a sturdy, palate-refreshing effect. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$68

87 Böen 2021 Tri-County Chardonnay (California). Overripe fruits alongside generous oak and ML give this wine a soft, plushy mouthfeel and even a hint of sweetness. Aromas and flavors include lemon, lime, yellow apple and peach, mango, butter, popcorn, vanilla and fresh-cut cedar. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

87 CK Mondavi and Family 2022 CK Mondavi Family Select Chardonnay (California). Over-ripe fruit notes and plushy texture give a sensation of sweetness to this wine. Find notes of lemon, lime, yellow apple, peach, nectarine and vanilla. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

87 San Simeon 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey). Canned pear, nectarine and jasmine aromas make for a tropical nose on this bottling. The palate is soft in texture, with baked apple and nearly sweet flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$18

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Chalk Hill 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Chalk Hill). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$38

94 Crown Point 2021 Estate White Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Fresh, clean and bright aromas of nectarine, buttermilk and white flowers are very refreshing but noticeably dense on the nose of this bottling. The texture is firm and the acidity is vibrant. Peach and apricot flavors touch hints of grass on the way to a persistent finish that grows intriguingly leathery as it extends. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$75

93 Barnett 2022 Andrews Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). This full-bodied, creamy-textured wine has good backing from lively lemon and lime acidity to counter its vanilla and coconut richness. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$40

93 Beltane Ranch 2022 Drummond Block Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Shadings of vanilla, butter and almonds come with a creamy texture in this full-bodied, well-spiced wine. It coats the palate with rich pears and apples, with toast and pastry accents. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$34

93 Margerum 2022 Vogelzang Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Clean lines of lime blossom, makrut lime leaf, apple soda and seashell make for a dynamic nose on this bottling. The palate is tight and bright, with a crushed oyster-shell flavor and texture that picks up grassy notes for a vibrant experience. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$45

93 Sandar & Hem 2022 x The Forest Feast Triolo Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Clara Valley). This collaboration with a cookbook author's lifestyle brand is very bright and inviting. It starts with aromas of fresh pear, wet cement, crisp river water and pleasant honeysuckle. The palate is tightly woven with a chalky texture and is bright in snappy flavors of tangerine and more citrus peel. —M.K.
abv: 11.8% Price: \$29

93 Zeitlos 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Alexander Valley). Pungent earth and herb aromas lead to flinty, mineral-like flavors that mingle on a toasty, lightly oaked palate. This lively, complex wine practically pops with ginger and coconut nuances. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

92 Dutcher Crossing 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

92 Flying Cloud 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). Quite light in the glass, this bottling entices the nose with jalapeño, lawn clipping and rainy sidewalk aromas. The pyrazine showcase carries into the sip, where makrut lime leaf, serrano and more concrete flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

92 Luna Hart 2022 Ballard Adobe Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District). Cloudy in the glass, this skin-contact bottling offers a unique tropical touch to the nose, showing papaya, mandarin peel and grassy aromas. The palate is grippy in texture, carrying more tropical flavors toward a compelling finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$35

92 Paradise Springs 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Lime sorbet, lemongrass and a citrusy bubblegum aroma show on the nose of this bottling from McGinley Vineyard. There's a fine tension to the palate where tight grapefruit-pith flavors meet with a touch of nectarine warmth. —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$35

92 Preston 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh, zesty and crisp, this light-bodied wine made from organic grapes lights up the palate with lemon zest, jicama and cilantro flavors carried on refreshing acidity. It will be great as an aperitif to whet your friends' appetites for a meal. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$32

92 Rincon Mountain 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Aromas of grass and wet riverstone pick up a riper kick of red apple flesh on the nose of this bottling. The palate is spicy with serrano, cut grass and tart apple flavors, as a veil of peppery spices keeps it lively. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$32

92 Storm Wines 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Dried grass and lime peel aromas give a familiar and welcome sense to the nose of this bottling. The palate is jam-packed with acidity that shoots through the lemon and grapefruit-skin flavors, proving enticingly sharp. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

91 Chesebro 2022 Cedar Lane Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). This bottling leans into the petrichor side of Sauv Blanc, showing rainy sidewalk, chopped grass and a touch of jalapeño on the nose. The palate doubles down on that style, com-

binning the stony notes with more pyrazine kicks of edgy pepper and grass. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

91 Margerum 2022 D Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Pleasantly soft aromas of nectarine, peach and lychee entertain the nose on this bottling. The palate combines stone-fruit, citrus and grass flavors into a likable if rather mellow expression. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$50

91 Morgan 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Subdued aromas of lime peel, cut grass, pear blossom and a hint of serrano show on the nose of this bottling. There's a sticky texture to the palate, where that chile note lingers behind citrus and grass flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

91 Niner 2022 Jespersen Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). The dynamic nose on this bottling offers passionfruit, kumquat and guava-peel aromas as well as a wet sidewalk minerality. The palate is bold with tropical fruit and grass flavors, proving to be a Sauvignon Blanc for those who want to taste the variety at full speed. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

91 SeaGlass 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Alamitos 2021 White Egret Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Clara Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13% Price: \$42

90 Baldassari 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley). This silky wine finds good balance between honeydew melon richness and tangy citrus liveliness. The smooth texture and layered flavors make it easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$30

90 Bernardus 2022 Griva Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Aromas of grass, lime peel, river stone and cement make for a compelling nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate is stony in texture, as pear peel, pineapple guava and more cement flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$28

90 Blue Canyon 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey). Grassy aromas of lime peel and apple blossom are simple yet fresh on the nose of this bottling. There's a steely tension to the palate, where lime flavors cruise across the vibrant, fresh acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Castoro Cellars 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Rounded pear flesh, nectarine and white-flower aromas create an inviting nose on this bottling. Honeysuckle and peach flavors meet with a stony minerality on the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$17

90 Comartin 2022 Zabala Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). A touch darker in hue, this bottling offers viscous aromas of dried lime peel, lawn clippings and seashell on the nose. The palate is broad shouldered and bigger bodied for a Sauv Blanc, offering grapefruit flavors atop a creamy mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$36

90 Demetria 2022 Pantheon Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Kiwi and passionfruit aromas meet with lime peel, grass and seashore aromas on the nose of this bottling from White Barn Vineyard in the eastern Santa Ynez Valley. There's a delicate grippiness to the palate, where citrus rind and more kiwi flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$45

90 Kunde 2022 Magnolia Lane Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

90 MacRostie 2022 Clockwise Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Warm fruits and an almost creamy texture make this full-bodied wine easy to sip and enjoy. Acidity is muted, giving the cantaloupe and coconut flavors a nice richness on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Margerum 2022 McGinley Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Very light in the glass, this bottling has mellow aromas of sliced pear and grapefruit spritz on the nose. The palate offers easygoing Granny Smith apple and Anjou pear flavors atop crisp acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$45

90 MCV 2022 ALV Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Just a hint of grassiness shows on the nose of this bottling, which instead relies on aromas of pear flesh and pineapple. The palate is right down the middle, offering lemon rind, pear peel and the slightest hint of peach. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

89 Le Vigne 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Fresh nectarine and squeezed lime aromas make for a polished nose on this bottling. The palate is rounded with stonefruit and citrus peel flavors that ride a smooth texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$24

89 Margerum 2022 Sybarite Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Rounded nectarine and apricot orchard aromas show a slight vinous note on the nose of this bottling. There's ample grip to the palate, which opens into light-bodied notes of lime and white-fruit flesh. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Paul Dolan 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino). Delicately aromatic, this wine comes alive on the palate with vivacious, juicy notes of Granny Smith apple, lime and honeydew melon

alongside complementary herbaceous notes of capscium, cut grass, pollen and baby's breath. It's all knit together by energetic acidity. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Schug 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Coast). This fruity, smooth and rather soft-textured wine offers ripe lime and grapefruit flavors underlain by ripe peaches and pears. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Andis 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sierra Foothills). Classic Sauv Blanc aromas and flavors of cut grass, just-ripe passionfruit and pineapple, capsicum and white blossoms waft out of the glass. The palate of this wine doesn't disappoint, with energetic acidity that enlivens all of these flavors. An easy, enjoyable sipper, for sure. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Firestone 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Simple and soft aromas of lime peel show on the nose of this bottling. The palate packs in decent acidity and more flavors, offering rounded apple plus a stone minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

88 Horse & Plow 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Well made and well balanced, this clean, refreshing and medium-bodied wine made from organic grapes offers vivid grapefruit and green-apple flavors accented with dried thyme and minerals. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

88 Joyce 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Intensely grassy aromas of green-apple skin and rainy sidewalk show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also pungent in grass flavors, with hints of green serrano chile as well. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Kunde 2022 Block 4SB20 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Very ripe in flavor and smooth in texture, this lush and full-bodied wine is soft in balance, verging on sweet. It offers orange-blossom aromas followed by lime and honeydew melon flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

88 La Crema 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Bright apple and citrus notes in the aroma and ripe but slightly tangy peaches and red apples in the flavor make this medium-bodied wine an easygoing crowd-pleaser. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Luli 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). The nose of this bottling has a maritime angle that recalls seashores, sloughs and both wet and dried kelp. The palate converts those aromas to mossy earth and dried lime-skin flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

88 Raywood 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). Subdued aromas of peach and guava are pleasantly tropical if slight on the nose of this

bottling. Guava and peach-blossom flavors make for a ripe, slightly earthy palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Riviera 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). A slightly darker hue of yellow in the glass, this bottling offers lemon glaze, lime peel and wet-stone aromas on the nose. There's a light grassy flavor to the palate, which is smoothly textured. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$24

88 Summer Somewhere 2022 McGinley Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Apple flesh and lime zest aromas make for a subtle nose on this bottling. The palate is also mellow and subdued, showing wet rock and lime peel elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

88 Tooth & Nail 2022 The Squad Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast). Earthy with dried citrus aromas, this wine also offers wet clay and crushed rock elements. Citrus, apple and turned earth flavors converge on the dry palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Navigator 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This is an extremely ripe expression of Sauvignon Blanc. Notes of juicy mango, pineapple, agave nectar, and lemon and lime juice are cut by just a modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Rincon Mountain 2020 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Wet rock and dried lime aromas introduce the nose to this bottling. The palate is quite ripe, with red and green apple flesh and lime-rind flavors that approach sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$32

87 San Simeon 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Candied aromas of lime sorbet, mango and guava are quite tropical on the nose of this bottling. The palate tastes like Juicy Fruit gum, almost showing sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Schweiger 2021 Uboldi Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Powerful toasted garlic and sauteed onion aromas lead to savory, herbaceous flavors in this crisp, full-bodied, oaky and overtly aromatic wine. Barrel fermentation and lees aging help give it a dramatic profile. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

87 Stone Edge Farm 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Smooth and viscous in texture, this full-bodied wine has 24% Sémillon in the blend. It tastes very ripe and feels powerful, finishing with some alcoholic heat. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

87 Thievery 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). This simple Sauv Blanc shows overripe aro-

mas and flavors of mango, pineapple, lychee, quince and star fruit. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

85 Shenandoah Vineyards 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Amador County). This Sauvignon Blanc offers aromas and flavors of toasted biscuit, poached quince, coconut and apple skin. An overall simple, balanced wine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$13

84 Oak Grove 2022 Family Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (California). This wine speaks to the more herbaceous side of Sauv Blanc. Strong aromas and flavors of capsicum, asparagus and cut grass show among subtler citrus and green-fruit notes. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

CHENIN BLANC

94 Rhys 2021 Horseshoe Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is an amazingly elegant Chenin Blanc. Crystal clean and fascinating, the nose begins with the sense of walking through spring wildflowers in a sea breeze. The palate aligns with brisk flavors of Asian pear, Rainier cherry and the faintest hint of wool. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Center of Effort 2022 Oro Bianco ROC Estate Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Edna Valley). Subtle aromas of nectarine, Asian pear and white rocks recall something close to high-end white Burgundy on the nose of this Chenin Blanc. The palate is more generous, offering pear, lychee and pinches of sea salt. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 Rhys 2021 Mt. Pajaro Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Cruz Mountains). Delicate aromas of Asian pear, lemongrass, lemon blossom and a hint of wool show on the nose of this bottling from the winery's newest vineyard, near Corralitos. A focused line of acidity cuts through the rounded pear and nectarine flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

92 Calera 2021 Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). A golden hue in the glass, this bottling from older vines at Curtis Vineyard offers aromas of lemon peel and light wool on the nose. There's a leathery texture to the sip, which gives a framework for the dried lemon pith and dried pear flavors to show their richer side. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

92 Love & Terroir 2022 Jurassic Park Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Rounded aromas of cut apple, pear and jicama spritzed with lime make for a unique nose on this bottling. There's a firm texture to the palate, where lime zest and green pear flavors are fresh and vibrant. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$33

91 Chalone Vineyard 2022 Estate Chenin Blanc (Chalone). Woolly aromas meet with lemon, crushed rock and hot sandstone boulder aromas on the dynamic nose of this bottling. There's a purity of smashed-stone minerality on the palate, which is balanced by opulent peach flavor and a vibrant, energizing acidity. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$44

88 Final Girl 2021 Jurassic Park Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). This is quite funky and sour on the nose, with tart citrus and wet wool aromas. Similar flavors show on the palate that embraces the lanolin side of Chenin Blanc while delivering just enough citrusy acid. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

PINOT BLANC

93 Dutton-Goldfield 2022 Dutton Ranch Shop Block Pinot Blanc (Green Valley). For full review see page 11. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$33

89 Union Sacre 2022 Delice Oasis Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Monterey). Fresh Asian pear flesh, canned peach and fruit-cocktail aromas make for a very fruity nose on this bottling. The palate is sweet with poached stonefruit flavors. Just enough acid and texture balance the candied flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$42

88 Chalone Vineyard 2022 Estate Pinot Blanc (Chalone). Earthy aromas of wet rock and subtle apple flesh show on the very subtle nose of this bottling. It's a bit more flavorful on the palate, where seashell and crisp pear flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

GRENACHE BLANC

94 The Grenachista 2022 Estate Grenache Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Quite floral and fruity in the nose, like citrus blossoms and grapefruit, this wine is admirably dry, full bodied and deep on the palate, contrasting with many crisp and steely versions of this varietal. Fans of Alsace whites will find it easy to love for its flavor and richness balanced by good acidity. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$34

92 Alta Colina 2022 Grenache Blanc (Adelaida District). This bottling that includes 8% Roussanne and 8% Viognier begins with aromas of wet stone, citrus blossom and melon rind on the delicate but persistent nose. There's a waxy texture to the sip, where pear flesh, lychee and lemon blossom lead into a finish that shows a hint of cheese rind. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Epiphany 2021 Rodney's Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Tightly woven on the nose, this wine has aromas of wet cement, tangerine flesh and hints of lanolin. The

palate is taut and pithy with citrus and wet clay flavors, proving highly textural and long lasting. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$28

91 Staysail 2021 Grenache Blanc (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 18. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$35

90 Clementine Carter 2022 Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Apple and pear-flesh aromas meet with a warm, fruity apricot note on the nose of this bottling. Ample acidity and a firm texture frame blanched almond, nectarine and citrus flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

89 Staysail 2022 Ceja Farm Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Sonoma Coast). A medium straw color, ripe fruit aromas and a mouthfilling texture give this wine more oomph than expected in a lower-alcohol wine. Peaches and melons accompany a dried-grass character that adds earthy edge. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$35

VIIGNIER

91 Andrew Murray 2021 Viognier (Santa Barbara County). Delicate aromas of honey, pear, almond and white flower make for a floral-leaning nose on this bottling. There are peach and tropical flower flavors on the palate, but in a reserved, tense way. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

91 Calcareous 2022 Viognier (Paso Robles). Bold aromas of peach extract and macadamia nut pull the nose into this bottling. The palate's rich and nutty stonefruit and honeysuckle flavors are expertly cut by a zip of acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$38

91 CRU 2021 Rancho Real Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Donati Family Vineyard 2022 Viognier (Templeton Gap District). Clean aromas of nectarine, peach blossom and citrus peel are delicate on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly wound, with flavors of white flower and coconut flake working in unison. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Fess Parker 2021 Rodney's Vineyard Viognier (Santa Barbara County). Aromas of lime balm, lemon peel and an earthy hint of wool show on the nose of this bottling. There's hefty weight to the palate, where apple and pear flavors are spruced up with citrus spray. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

88 Cass 2022 Viognier (Paso Robles). Honey-suckle and sweet pineapple aromas invite

BUYINGGUIDE

the nose into this bottling. A sizzle of acidity shows on the palate before the flavors grow quite ripe with pineapple and coconut. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

88 Cooper-Garrod 2021 Randall Graham Clone Viognier (Santa Cruz Mountains). Earthy aromas of soil and rocks make for a very mineral-driven nose on this bottling. The palate adds dried apple and citrus peel to the mix. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

88 Sobon Estate 2022 Viognier (Amador County). This fully dry Viognier offers a bit of fizz on the palate, adding extra freshness alongside the modest acidity. Aromas and flavors are all about the perfume counter, with high-tone notes of rose water followed by honey, marmalade, ginger, lemon preserve and blonde caramel. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 San Simeon 2022 Viognier (Paso Robles). This powerfully tropical expression shows guava, apple blossom and peach on the nose. The palate is broad with cantaloupe, jasmine and guava flavors, proving quite ripe. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$20

CLAIRETTE

92 Samsara 2022 Watch Hill Vineyard Clairette (Santa Barbara County). Clean and lightly tropical on the nose, this bottling of an increasingly popular white Rhône grape offers mandarin and wet-stone aromas. There's a firm line of stony minerality to the palate, where coconut flesh, lychee and citrus flavors zip through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$44

91 Absolution 2022 Martian Ranch Clairette Blanche (Alisos Canyon). Winemaker Dirk Neumann bravely jumps into a newer variety for the region in this bottling, and does it with style. Lively aromas of pear, lychee, pineapple and citrus blossom on the nose evolve into generous peach, coconut oil and honeysuckle on the palate. Pinpoint acidity keeps it all in check. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$41

91 Bonny Doon 2022 Perfect Clairette Clairette Blanche (Arroyo Seco). Very pale in the glass, this bottling amplifies the potential of this increasingly popular variety. Aromas of apple flesh, citrus pith, kiwi and lychee lead into a palate that's brisk yet loaded with white-fleshed fruit and white-tea flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Tercero 2022 Clairette Blanche (Santa Barbara County). Crisp while ripe aromas of pear flesh are cut by lime pith on the nose of this bottling. The palate is boisterous with flavors of white flowers and more pear flesh, with a touch of lemony acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$33

PINOT GRIGIO

90 Anaya 2019 Potrero Vineyards Pinot Gris (Clements Hills). This super, ripe and juicy expression of Pinot Gris certainly speaks to its 36 hours of skin contact. Pronounced aromas and flavors highlight mandarin orange, yellow peach, mango, nectarine and ginger. The palate offers a smooth, glycerin-like texture and slight warmth, all leading toward a lingering finish that sings with white pepper, potpourri, coriander and fresh-baked bread. Indeed, this is a Pinot Gris that just keeps giving—a wine to try. **Hidden Gem.** —S.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$32

90 Castoro Cellars 2022 Oakenshield Reserve Pinot Grigio (Paso Robles). Citrus and nectarine aromas draw the nose into this bottling. There's a serious texture to the palate, where apple and lemon flavors ride good acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

90 Navarro 2022 Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). This Pinot Gris honors its Alsatian heritage, while truly speaking to its Anderson Valley terroir. Bright, engaging flavors of grass, grapefruit zest, just-ripe pineapple and a hint of capsicum make the mouth water alongside the generous acidity. A beautifully rounded, medium body fills the palate with a glossy texture. The finish lingers with additional notes of white peach and the floral-meets-spice of white pepper. **Editors' Choice.** —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

90 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Pinot Grigio (Santa Barbara County). Crisp aromas of melon and cut apples meet with dusty earth on the nose of this bottling. The palate mixes dried apple and fresh lime sorbet on the pleasant and easygoing palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Villa San-Juliette 2022 Pinot Gris (Paso Robles). Very light in the glass, this bottling opens with pear, peach and tuberose on the lively nose. The palate is packed with jasmine and tropical flavors, presented with brisk acidity and a refreshing texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$32

89 Kendall-Jackson 2022 Vintner's Reserve Pinot Gris (California). This is a simply enjoyable Pinot Gris, with lovely notes of lemon, lime, green apple, white blossom, peach and nectarine. It's the perfect casual sipper, either on its own or with any light-hearted meal. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 La Folia Winery 2021 Pinot Grigio (Sierra Foothills). Pinot Grigio should be a light, fun and easy sipper—and this one 100% is. Vibrant aromas and flavors suggest Granny Smith apple, lemon, lime, apple blossom, wet stone and a dewy-grassy earthiness reminiscent of a summer morn-

ing. Enjoy on its own or with lighter fare—seafoods, salads or just a bowl of fresh fruit. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Noble Vines 2022 152 Pinot Grigio (Monterey County). There's the slightest hint of pink to the color of this wine, which offers tropical aromas of guava and jasmine. The palate picks up pineapple and red apple elements. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Oak Grove 2022 Family Reserve Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

88 SeaGlass 2022 Pinot Grigio (Central Coast). Ripe pear and honeysuckle aromas make for a sweet-ish nose on this bottling. The palate shows just enough zip to enliven the smoothly textured stone-fruit flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Bogle 2022 Pinot Grigio (California). A light-intensity Pinot Grigio, this offers subtle notes of lime, green apple, white nectarine and lily of the valley. A slight spritz adds much needed energy to the palate, while the finish ends on that floral note. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

87 Kirkland Signature 2022 Pinot Grigio (California). This simple white is ideal for casual consumption, or mixing into your favorite white sangria recipe. It offers notes of lemon, lime, white blossom, green apple, honeydew melon, apricot and yellow peach and nectarine, with just a kiss of RS that gives the palate a soft, almost plush, mouthfeel. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$13/3 L

VERMENTINO

94 Paix Sur Terre 2022 Glenrose Vineyard Vermentino (Adelaida District). This refreshingly zesty bottling offers Asian pear, melon rind, white flower and just-washed riverstone on the nose. The tension of the palate is addictive, as a wet-rock minerality partners with delicate honeysuckle flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Russell Joyce 2022 Cedar Lane Vineyard Vermentino (Arroyo Seco). Crisp pear flesh aromas are doused in honeysuckle, lime juice and smashed rocks on the vibrant nose of this bottling. The palate pops with citrusy acidity that zips through the white-fleshed fruit and white flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Joseph Jewell 2022 Raymond Burr Vineyard Vermentino (Dry Creek Valley). Light in flavor and body, this pale-colored and refreshing wine

offers jicama and cucumber aromas and mostly neutral flavors. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

ALBARIÑO

92 Stephen Ross 2022 Spanish Springs Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast). Extremely fresh aromas of lime sorbet, lemon soda, light peach and wet stone draw the nose into this single-vineyard expression from just behind Pismo Beach. The palate is refreshing in acidity and vibrant with nectarine, gardenia and citrus zest flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 Vara 2021 Albariño (Edna Valley). Made in New Mexico from Edna Valley fruit by Central Coast stars Bob and Louisa Lindquist, this bottling offers green and grassy aromas of lime peel, grass and kiwi on the nose. The palate is elegantly layered in apricot, nectarine and citrus pith flavors, with acidity and tannins in a fine balance. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Joyce 2022 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Aromas of grapefruit and mandarin-orange juice splashed over melon and dusted in chalk make for a compelling nose on this bottling. Talc-like chalkiness gives texture to the palate, where apple blossom and Pink Lady apple-flesh flavors ride a brisk acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Morgan 2022 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Poached pear, gardenia and daffodil aromas greet the nose on this bottling. There's pithy grip to the palate, with fresh and brisk wild apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$24

91 Verdad 2022 Albariño (Edna Valley). A pristine combination of lime balm, mandarin pith and grass makes for an elegant nose on this bottling. The palate's stony grip holds onto rounded pear flesh flavors, with a pinch of spring grass. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Anaya 2019 Potrero Vineyards Albariño (Clements Hills). Lodi takes on a traditional Spanish variety with clear distinction. Aromas burst with notes of apple juice, apple sauce, beeswax and pollen, cantaloupe, green melon, guava, papaya and just a hint of petrol. Smooth and glycerin-like, the palate has flavors that lean hard into those honey tones and add a sprinkling of spices like cumin, coriander and white pepper. This is a super interesting wine—one to sip, experience and play with different food pairings. *Hidden Gem.* —S.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Chesebro 2022 Cedar Lane Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Fresh aromas of pear flesh meet with wet sidewalk on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense in structure, showing maritime hints of grass and seashell alongside pear and stone-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Niner 2022 Jespersen Ranch Albariño (Edna Valley). Aromas of lime peel splashed with sea water show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers a hefty body, with flavors of stewed citrus, stone fruit and briny seashore. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

89 Cloak & Dagger 2021 Espia Albariño (Santa Barbara County). Exotic lime pith, sansho pepper and wild mint make for an intriguing nose on this wine. There's earthiness to the palate, where dried apple and white rock flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$39

89 Longoria 2022 Albariño (Santa Barbara County). Clean lines of pear, apple and honeysuckle show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is crisp and lightly bodied, offering light peach flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

88 Castoro Cellars 2022 Oakenshield Reserve Albariño (Paso Robles). Round aromas of nectarine and white flower make for a cohesive nose on this bottling. The body is light on the palate, where easygoing citrus rind and stone-fruit flavors combine. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

RIESLING

94 Stirm 2018 Old Vine Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). A deeply golden hue in the glass, this bottling shows fantastic aromas of petrol, beeswax, roasted squash and honeyed saffron on the nose. The palate sizzles with acidity, offering wool, beeswax and lemon preserve flavors. It's really hitting its stride right now. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

94 Stirm 2017 Old Vine Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). If all California Rieslings were like this, there'd be a revolution. Golden in the glass, it offers aromas of lanolin, Meyer lemon pith and honeycomb that slide into a tremendously textural palate of lemon peel and subtle nuts. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

94 Stirm 2015 Old Vine Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). The old-vine Rieslings by Ryan Stirm are some of the most exciting white wines in California right now. Golden hued in the glass, this vintage offers fascinating aromas on the nose, from honey, strained melon and poached pear to musty library books and petrol. The palate's texture is simultaneously firm and viscous, delivering almond soda, petrol and fresh citrus flavors that go on forever. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Stirm 2016 Old Vine Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). White flower, dried mango and aged honey aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Lively acidity cruises through the palate,

where stony minerality gives a textural backdrop to the beeswax and paraffin flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$28

93 Zeitlos 2021 Riesling (Alexander Valley). Vivid petrol, peach skin and smoked ham flavors signal that this new brand from Jackson Family Wines makes a classic, varietally correct Riesling. It comes from a cool pocket of vineyards in an otherwise warm region, bringing tangy acidity, mineral accents and a fresh, palate-cleansing texture. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Union Sacre 2021 Fraulein Kick On Ranch Vineyard Riesling (Santa Barbara County). Crisp melon and Asian pear aromas are fresh and clean on the nose of this bottling. The palate hits with a touch of sweetness that evolves into chalkiness, with pear rind and citrus pith flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$44

91 Stirm 2020 Old Vine Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). Hollowed-out pear and orange peel aromas make for a unique and compelling nose on this bottling from a historic vineyard farmed by fourth-generation vintner Pat Wirz. The palate zips with energetic acidity through flavors of lime and more orange rind. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Tessier Winery 2020 Zabala Vineyard Riesling (Arroyo Seco). Baked apple, stone fruit and wet-stone aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a clean, earthy grip to the palate, where beeswax and chaparral flavors make for an almost mead-like sip. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Debts and Lessons 2022 Zabala Vineyard Riesling (Monterey County). Clean lines of Asian pear and lime juice are crisp and direct on the nose of this wine. The palate is rounded and lightly sweet, offering plush pear and peach flavors. —M.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

87 SeaGlass 2022 Riesling (Central Coast). Pithy citrus and ripe pear aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe and somewhat sweet, with apple and pear cider flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

GRÜNER VELTLINER

91 Lincourt 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Sta. Rita Hills). Grapefruit, Meyer lemon and ripe apple-flesh aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a restrained earthiness to the palate, with splashes of lime and grapefruit juice proving quite refreshing. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Luna Hart 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Santa Barbara County). Slightly hazy in the glass, this bottling is grassy and hay-like on the nose, with

BUYINGGUIDE

hints of tart tangerine and melon rind. The texture is firm on the palate that offers more grass and lemon-pepper-like spiciness. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$34

90 Summer Somewhere 2022 Kick On Ranch Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Santa Barbara County). Wet stone, green pepper, lime pith and grass aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a zip to the sip, where grassy and lime peel flavors meet with a slightly funky earth tone. —M.K.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Clementine Carter 2022 Roussanne (Santa Barbara County). Golden apple, apricot and crushed rock aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a fresh sizzle of acidity to the palate, where bright citrus and apple flavors meet with a delicate earthy element. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Margins 2022 Paicines Ranch Vineyard Verdejo (Paicines). From a vineyard that's being managed with the highest of regenerative standards in mind, this bottling of a rare grape for California offers melon rind, underripe peach and squeezed lime aromas. There is a ton of grip to the palate, where those tart citrus and honeydew flavors align. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Wrath 2021 Falanghina (Monterey). For full review see page 16. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$29

91 Cass 2022 Roussanne (Paso Robles). Honeydew and just-sliced pineapple aromas are ripe but very fresh on the nose of this bottling. There's a stony grip to the palate, where honeydew and mango flavors are tightly woven and brightly shown. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Cass 2022 Marsanne (Paso Robles). Coconut flesh, tangerine spray and bubblegum aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. A fresh splash of lime-like acidity on the palate cuts through the tropical pineapple flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Castoro Cellars 2022 Oakenshield Reserve Falanghina (Paso Robles). There's increasing interest in this grape along the Central Coast, and this bottling's textural side shows why. Clean aromas of crisp stone fruit and jasmine lead into a palate of citrus-splashed nectarine, all wrapped in a grippy tension and washed in an acidity that grows more tart in the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

91 Margins 2022 Paicines Ranch Vineyard Assyrtiko (Paicines). Greece meets California in this promising bottling by Megan Bell. A bit hazy in the glass, the wine enlivens with nectarine, man-

darin and muddled earth aromas, leading toward cantaloupe. It's a touch creamy at first on the palate before tart orange rind and melon flavors arise.

Hidden Gem. —M.K.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

91 Tercero 2022 Picpoul Blanc (Santa Barbara County). This bottling could be a stand-in for Sauvignon Blanc, opening with aromas of rainy sidewalk, cut grass and citrus peel. The palate is very grippy in texture, offering fresh grass and lime flavors. —M.K.

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

88 Four Lanterns 2021 Sémillon (Templeton Gap District). Aromas of apple, pear juice and lemon-lime soda invite the nose into this bottling of a grape that's rarely seen solo. Smooth in texture with a hint of grip, the palate offers ample apple flavors. —M.K.

abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$36

88 J. Lohr 2022 Wildflower Valdiguié (Arroyo Seco). Aromas of iron shavings and graphite make for a mineral-driven nose on this bottling. Light blueberry and black plum flavors show on the palate before the steely minerality takes hold. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Union Sacre 2022 l'nattendu Oasis Vineyard Muscat Ottonel (Monterey). Wildly aromatic on the nose, this bottling of a rare grape offers sliced pear, frozen apple juice and grassy field aromas. The palate is quite sweet with apple and pear juice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

87 Four Lanterns 2020 Picpoul Blanc (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). The nose on this bottling offers apple juice and sweet almond aromas. The palate is thick and viscous, which is uncommon for this "lip stinger" grape, accompanied by peach and apricot flavors. —M.K.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$36

WHITE BLENDS

94 Tablas Creek 2021 Esprit Blanc de Tablas Rhône-style White Blend (Adelaida District).

As the importer of so many Rhône varieties, it's no surprise that Tablas Creek manages blends like few other domestic producers. This combination of 70% Roussanne, 17% Picpoul Blanc, 10% Grenache, 2% Bourboulenc and 1% Clairette Blanche shows clean nectarine and apricot aromas on the nose, with a light nuttiness. The palate's chalky texture offers creamy flavors of cashew milk and apple blossoms. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

94 Union Sacre 2022 Meli Melo White Blend (Central Coast). This is a complex, joyous slammer. Crisp melon, pluot flesh and lime peel pop on the dynamic nose of this blend of 32% Pinot Blanc, 31% Pinot Gris, 15% Sylvaner, 10% Gewürz-

traminer, 7% Riesling and 5% Muscat Ottonel. The palate is engaging, bright and texturally complex, with watermelon rind, lime peel and chalk flavors.

Hidden Gem. —M.K.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$42

93 Barden 2021 Fonte White Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). Tightly woven aromas of Asian pear, fresh Meyer lemon and blanched almond draw the nose into this blend of 35% Chardonnay, 33% Pinot Blanc and 32% Pinot Gris. The palate is taut in texture, offering chalky flavors that are splashed in lemon and salt. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$36

93 Tablas Creek 2022 Patelin de Tablas Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). A delicate shade of yellow in the glass, this Grenache Blanc-led blend of seven white Rhône varieties is broad yet crisp on the nose, showing white flowers, Asian pear and jicama. The texture is both chalky and steely on the palate, where citrus spray and pome fruit flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

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

92 Copain Wines 2022 Daybreak White Blend (Sonoma County). Fragrant honeysuckle aromas and lush melon and lychee flavors animate this full-bodied, ripe and creamy-textured wine. All that floral goodness coats the palate and lingers on the finish. The winemaker blended it from seven aromatic varieties and it's high on the enjoyment scale. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 Stirm 2021 Calcite White Blend (Cienega Valley). This proprietary white blend offers clean aromas of wet rocks and damp earth in pleasing ways, with a kick of lime zest. A fascinating rip of rockiness wraps around the Meyer lemon peel and mandarin-orange-flesh flavors. —M.K.

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

91 Demetria 2021 Cuvée Papou Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Chalky, stony aromas of plaster of paris meet with lime sorbet on the mineral-driven nose of this blend of 40% Grenache Blanc, 30% Marsanne and 30% Roussanne. Stony lines cut through the palate, where flavors of honeysuckle and melon also arise. —M.K.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Rincon Mountain 2021 Susie Q Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Lemon curd, peach jam and a hint of wool show on the nose of this blend of 50% Roussanne, 26% Viognier and 24% Marsanne. Earthy flavors of dust and wool balance the bright lime and grapefruit flavors of the palate, with a touch of stone fruit. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

91 Tank Garage 2021 Love Saves White Blend (San Benito County). This is a reserved bottling for what seems on paper like a wild blend of 71% Chardonnay, 27% Grenache Blanc, 1% Orange Muscat and 1% Barbera. The golden juice hits the nose with subdued lemon, almond and beeswax

aromas, while the palate follows with mellow dried apple and lemon peel flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Thacher 2021 Approximately Perfect White Blend (Paso Robles). Peach and cantaloupe aromas are rich on the nose of this blend of 79% Grenache Blanc, 16% Chenin Blanc and 5% Viognier. There's a chalky frame to the sip, where nectarine flavors are balanced by citrus pith touches. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$36

90 Bonny Doon 2022 Le Cigare Blanc White Blend (Central Coast). Nearly crystal clear in the glass, this blend of 60% Vermentino and 40% Grenache Blanc is very aromatic with poached pear, jasmine and gardenia on the tropical-leaning nose. More of those floral and pear flavors meet with coconut on the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$15

90 Massican 2022 Annia White Blend (California). For full review see page 20.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$32

90 Massican 2022 Gemina White Blend (California). For full review see page 20.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$35

90 McPrice Myers 2022 Beautiful Earth Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). Zesty acidity is apparent on the nose of this blend of 70% Clairette Blanche and 30% Grenache Blanc, with crushed stone and peach aromas most prevalent. Lime peel and grass flavors show on the slightly vinous palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

90 Roark Wine Co. 2021 Demetria Estate Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This skin-contact blend of 65% Grenache Blanc and 35% Marsanne has a very golden hue in the glass. It opens on the nose with cantaloupe, wet stone and mandarin pith aromas. The texture exists somewhere between chalky and waxy, offering bright citrus and melon flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Wild Series White Blend (Central Coast). Brisk aromas of orange rind, lemon verbena and herbal oils make for a unique nose on this blend of 50% Gewürztraminer and 50% Pinot Noir. There's a solid energy to the palate, where the cloudy texture carries tart but complex flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

88 Amrita 2021 Seiza Viognier-Grenache Blanc (Sonoma Coast). A heady aroma of toasted walnuts in this wine leads to vibrant peach and pineapple flavors bathed in spicy oak accents like coconut and vanilla. The body is quite light, and refreshing acidity adds an appetizing texture. —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

88 Breaking Bread 2022 Marmalade Skin Contact White Blend (Dry Creek Valley). Don't let the hazy appearance and a little blob of sediment in the glass put you off this fresh-tasting and slightly funky skin-contact wine. An appealing, tingly and sandy texture carries apricots and yellow plums on a light to medium body. —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Final Girl 2022 Skin Contact White Blend (Santa Barbara County). Cloudy and golden in the glass, this skin-contact blend of 60% Orange Muscat and 40% Riesling offers a metallic minerality on the nose, with steel-laced aromas of apple peel and chamomile. The palate has muddled citrus and lemon peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$35

88 Joyful Heart 2021 White Blend (California). This 93% Pinot Blanc, 7% Malvasia Bianca white blend is a simple, joyful sip. Notes of lemon, lime, green apple and white blossom arise alongside elevated acidity and a smooth, medium body. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

88 The Puppet 2022 Skin Contact White Blend (Central Coast). Golden hued in the glass, this orange wine shows ripe peach, jasmine and mango on the nose. An intriguing texture frames the dried fruit, dried flower and apple juice flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$8

87 Cass 2022 Mr. Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles Geneseo District). Very ripe aromas of peach candy, banana and bubblegum make for a fruity nose on this blend of 67% Roussanne, 23% Marsanne and 10% Viognier. Banana flavors also show very strongly on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

SPARKLING WINES

92 Final Girl 2022 Pet Nat Rosé of Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Steely minerality on the nose of this bottling serves as a great foil for the watermelon fruit scents. The palate is zippy and tight in texture, offering brisk watermelon rind and grapefruit zest flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

92 Luna Hart 2021 Spear Vineyards Grüner Veltliner (Sta. Rita Hills). Though from an atypical sparkling grape, this bottling shows classic hallmarks, including lemon curd, toast and a light doughy character on the nose. The palate has a breadly flavor, but it's the brisk pink-grapefruit peel and fresh lemon touches that are more compelling. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 10.7% **Price:** \$52

92 Los Chuchaquis 2022 Sangiovese (Cienega Valley). Fresh and zippy aromas of raspberry sail across the nose on this sparkling Sangiovese from a region not known for bubbles. The palate of

the wine is vibrant with tart red fruit and never-ending acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

92 Niner 2018 Brut Blanc de Blancs Jaspersen Ranch Sparkling Blend (Edna Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$85

92 Sojourn NV Brut Méthode Champenoise Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). A pinkish-amber color and mellow, toasty and nutty aromas lead to light caramel, raspberry and peach flavors in this well-aged, subtle and nicely developed wine. A smooth, fine-beaded mousse is silky on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$54

92 Summer Somewhere 2022 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Santa Barbara County). Showing the softest hint of pink in the glass, this very accessible bottling offers pleasant strawberry and bubblegum aromas on the nose. There's a creamy mousse to the palate, where red fruit and lime peel flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$70

91 Tank Garage 2022 Hippy Sippy Siletto Wheeler Vineyard Wente Clone Sparkling Blend (San Benito County). There's great foam in the glass of this sparkling Chardonnay, which offers white melon and pear aromas on the nose. The sip is zippy and fresh with Asian pear, white melon and light lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Four Lanterns NV Jacqueline Sparkling Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Lemon peel, crisp apple and wet dough aromas invite the nose into this sparkling wine from Paso Robles. The doughy aspect continues on the palate, where lemon balm and Granny Smith apple-peel flavors add depth. —M.K.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$60

87 Final Girl 2022 Pet Nat Chenin Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Dried pear and nectarine aromas make for a unique nose on this bottling. The palate is fairly flat in bubbles, but shows a lot of pear flavor. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

87 Le Poidevin 2022 Goodchild Vineyard Sparkling Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A magenta hue in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of rust and kirsch on the nose. Muddled red fruit, dried cherry and wood-spice flavors show on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.25% **Price:** \$28

ROSÉ

93 Center of Effort 2022 Estate Rosé (Edna Valley). This rosé blend of 78% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 2% Mourvèdre shows pink-lemonade candy, strawberry and wet stone on the inviting

BUYINGGUIDE

nose. The palate is sharp, firm, bright and fresh, with lemony flavors that recall the intensity of sparkling wine. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Margerum 2022 Riviera Rosé (Santa Barbara County). Pink-fleshed melons and delicate, rocky earth aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is spritzly in acidity, with a chalky texture and white-rock flavor that complement the crisp strawberry and pluot core. —M.K.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$26

93 Morgan 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Arroyo Seco). A soft shade of pink in the glass, this rosé of Grenache entertains the nose with generous cotton candy and bubblegum aromas that are cut by hints of lime soda and wet stone. The palate shows more of a mineral side at first, offering crushed seashells before riding through lime pith and rounded melon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$24

93 Stephen Ross 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). A very pale shade of pink in the glass, this rosé hits the nose with lively and lovely aromas of rose petal and bubblegum. There's a chalky texture to the palate, where crisp melon and bright floral flavors make for exciting sip after exciting sip. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Castoro Cellars 2022 Rosé (Paso Robles). Soft and delicate aromas of strawberry and mandarin peel lure the nose deeply into this well-priced bottling. The palate shows a chalky grip and brisk acidity, giving great texture to the pink-fleshed fruit flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

92 Demetria 2022 Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley). Crisp melon, tangerine spray and pear flesh aromas make for a rounded but bright nose on this rosé, which is an orange-pink in the glass. The palate flashes with acidity and has a chalky frame, with flavors of cantaloupe and tangerine rind. —M.K.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$35

92 Samsara 2022 Rosé (Santa Barbara County). Earthy aromas of crushed rock and light wool decorate the pluot-flesh core on the nose of this blend of 55% Mourvèdre and 45% Grenache. The crisp pluot and Rainier cherry flavors of the palate are balanced by wet stone and damp clay minerality. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$34

92 St. Supéry 2022 Estate Rosé (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Tablas Creek 2022 Patelin de Tablas Rosé (Paso Robles). Showing almost more like a white wine than a pink one, this blend of 67% Grenache, 21% Mourvèdre, 9% Counoise and 3% Vermentino is a yellow hue in the glass, offering pleasant honey, daffodil and light apple aromas. It's very

textural on the palate, where honey, toasted cashew and lemon cream flavors work in harmony. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Alta Colina 2022 Rosé (Adelaida District). Sold in cans, this is a fun and refreshing rosé, perfect for enjoying at this winery's pond, which is ringed by trailers that can be rented. Brisk aromas of cherry and pomegranate candy lead into a dry palate of lemon spritz and lingering cherry flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

91 Bernardus 2022 Rosé (Santa Lucia Highlands). Though a darker hue in the glass, this Pinot Noir-based rosé still manages to be bright and crisp on the nose, with strawberry and cherry aromas. Bright cherry flavors are balanced by refreshing acidity on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$30

91 Colibri 2022 Rosé (Central Coast). Soft pink in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of rose petal, chalk and light strawberry. The palate bounces from chalk to pine, rose petal and bubblegum flavors, proving delicate while tasty into the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

91 Daou 2022 Rosé (Paso Robles). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Jax 2022 Y3 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This serious, dry and low-alcohol rosé will be ideal during lunch or dinner to pair with a lamb burger or salmon. It has great acidity, maybe a touch of grippy tannin, and hearty plum and raspberry flavors. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

91 La Crema 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Monterey). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Migration 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Tangy, refreshing and well balanced, this raspberry-scented wine whets the appetite for lunch or appetizers. It feels light enough to drink in the pool or on the beach. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$32

91 Niner 2022 Jespersen Ranch Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Watermelon granita aromas meet with tangerine sherbet and baby powder on the nose of this bottling. Chalky cherry and rose petal flavors add nuance to the flavorful sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

91 Noble Vines 2022 515 Rosé (Central Coast). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

91 Red Car 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Pale amber-pink in color, this refreshing wine smells like cherries and strawberries. It

tastes crisp and just fruity enough while staying dry. Pair with brunch, lunch or a picnic. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$33

91 Sandar & Hem 2022 Bates Ranch Rosé of Grenache (Santa Cruz Mountains). A delicate shade of pink in the glass, this bottling offers melon, peach and white cherry on the fruity nose. A streak of riverstone adds mineral kick. The palate combines watermelon and struck-stone flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$24

91 The Language of Yes 2022 Les Fruits Rouges Rosé (Central Coast). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 V. Sattui 2022 Rosato di Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

90 Alamitos 2022 Laura's Love Rosé (Santa Clara Valley). For full review see page 19. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$52

90 Brecon Estate 2022 Rosé (Adelaida District). An alluring shade of pink in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of strawberry and watermelon that are cut by grapefruit rind and light earth. The palate is bountiful in red-fruit flavors, proving juicy yet cut by a chalky edge. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$43

90 Chalone Vineyard 2021 Estate Rosé (Chalone). A darker hue in the glass than typical rosés, this bottling offers intense aromas of fresh and dried cherries on the nose. The palate is hefty with cherry compote and baking-spice flavors while managing to remain light on its feet. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$34

90 Firestone 2022 Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a rosé with some weight. An orange-pink hue, it kicks off with rich strawberry, cherry and tangerine on the nose. The palate is surprisingly zippy with acidity, giving energy to the darker fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$32

90 Francis Coppola 2022 Sofia Rosé (Monterey County). For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Stirm 2022 Neptunite Rosé (San Benito County). A unique rosé that blends 82% Chardonnay with 9% each of Pinot Noir and Riesling, this darker-hued bottling hits the nose with tangy plum and earth aromas. Similarly tart flavors pop on the palate, picking up sour cream against that red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Summer Water 2022 Rosé (Central Coast). For full review see page 24. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Villa San-Juliette 2022 Rosé (Paso Robles). Light cantaloupe, chalk and cherry aromas draw the nose into this wine. Clean, brisk and tense, the palate offers melon and peach flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

90 Blue Farm 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Light and subtle raspberry and peach flavors fill out this pale-pink, medium-bodied and nicely tangy wine. The delicate texture and light but persistent fruit beg for sip after sip. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

90 Diora 2022 La Belle Fête Rosé of Pinot Noir (Monterey). For full review see page 23.
Best Buy.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Dutton-Goldfield 2022 Dutton Ranch Rosé of Pinot Noir (North Coast). Subtle on the nose, this wine comes alive on the palate, strung along by juicy, mouthwatering acidity that's juxtaposed against a slight phenolic grip that adds textural intrigue. Tart red-fruited notes suggest wild strawberry, red cherry, pomegranate and rhubarb complemented by savory tones of white pepper and crunchy leaf litter. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$33

90 Longoria 2022 Matinee Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Crisp and likable aromas of bubblegum and strawberry create an inviting nose on this bottling. There is decent tension to the palate, where brisk pink-lemonade flavors make for a quick finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

90 Summerland 2022 Small Lot Series Rosé of Grenache (Monterey County). A pretty shade of pink in the glass, this bottling balances strawberry and honeysuckle aromas with chalk and earth on the nose. A grippy grapefruit-peel tension makes for a tight and tart sip, with rounded watermelon and a touch of herb completing the experience. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

90 Tercero 2021 Rosé of Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County). A very earthy style of rosé, this bottling offers crushed rock and lightly wooly aromas, with hints of melon rind and citrus pith on the nose. A similarly dry, mineral-driven expression extends across the palate, where dried citrus peel and earth-forward flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 Banshee 2022 Rosé (Sonoma County). A relatively deep pink color agrees with the noticeable fruitiness and ripeness of this medium-bodied wine. Generous cherry and strawberry flavors ride a smooth, unusually rich texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Canard 2022 Cuvée Des Cendres Rosé (Paso Robles). This bottling, which translates to "from the ashes" in reference to recent wildfires, begins with complex aromas of wet stone, melon

rind and light pink fruit. The palate is grippy in texture, with pleasant, slightly vinous flavors of soft strawberry and pink lemonade. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Cellars 33 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). An eye-catching copper color draws you into this tangy, light-bodied and modestly flavorful wine that offers subtle cherry and strawberry notes. It is easy to refill the glass with this low-alcohol pour. —J.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$25

89 Luna Hart 2022 Hinnrichs Vineyard Rosé of Syrah (Ballard Canyon). A darker hue of pinkish orange in the glass, this bottling shows more rust and earth on the nose than obvious plum fruits. It's hefty with cherry and more iron elements on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$31

89 MacRostie 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Smooth and easy to sip, this rather full-bodied wine offers light raspberry and watermelon flavors that ride along the rich mouthfeel into a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

89 Mina Mesa 2022 Rosé (Central Coast). Soft watermelon aromas meet with a touch of earth on the nose of this bottling. The palate is brisk and textural, showing just enough light red fruit to stay engaging into the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Quivira 2022 Wine Creek Ranch Rosé (Dry Creek Valley). In a ripe, fruity vein, this wine made from organic grapes bucks the trend of merely refreshing rosés and fills the mouth with vivid peach, raspberry and apple-skin flavors on a slightly firm texture. Grenache is the main ingredient in a blend with four other varieties. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

89 Sojourn 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This light-pink wine shows considerable fruitiness along with tangy, appetizing acidity. Strawberries, cranberries and peaches fill out a medium body. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

89 Tablas Creek 2022 Dianthus Rosé (Adelaida District). An orange-pink hue in the glass, this blend of 45% Mourvèdre, 38% Grenache, 16% Counoise and 1% Cinsaut is powerful on the nose with tangerine, peach and stone aromas. There's a lightly gritty texture to the palate. Dried apple and turned-earth flavors make for a hearty rosé. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

88 Cass 2022 Oasis Rosé (Paso Robles). Dark cherry and turned-loam aromas make for an earthy nose on this pink blend of 77% Mourvèdre and 23% Grenache. Muddled plum and cherry flavors met with earthy herbs on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

88 Castle Rock 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Rusty, earthy aromas give depth to strawberry fruit at the core on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a similar rust quality and adds dried cherry flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

88 Cooper-Garrod 2022 Francville Vineyard Rosé (Santa Cruz Mountains). An orange shade of pink, this is a rich style of rosé, showing maraschino cherry and orange cream on the nose. Those flavors hold strong on the palate, wrapped in a subtle texture. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

88 Détente 2022 Field Blend Colburn Vineyard Rosé (Adelaida District). Watermelon and lemon aromas pop on the nose of this single-vineyard rosé field blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 15% Graciano. There's ample texture on the palate, with the usual light red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Kendall-Jackson 2022 Jackson Estate Panorama Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). Juicy aromas of strawberry, cherry and bubblegum show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe with bold red-fruit flavors, wrapped in ample texture and acidity to balance the juiciness. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

88 Lawer 2022 Rosé of Syrah (Knights Valley). A heady floral aroma leads to strong minty, peachy flavors on a rather rich, soft texture that gives it a sweet feel. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

88 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Wild Series Rosé of Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Rose petal aromas meet with wet clay on the nose of this native-fermented rosé. The texture is soft on the palate, where the full fruit flavors dominate. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

88 Preston 2022 Vin Gris Rosé (Dry Creek Valley). This crisp, slightly fizzy wine shows a refreshing texture and restrained watermelon and cherry flavors on a light body. Made from red Rhône varieties, it offers the crispness and slight bite that pairs well with snacks and lunch. —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$32

88 Red Door Ranch 2022 Favorite Daughter Rosé of Counoise (Templeton Gap District). Rather ripe aromas of kirsch and baked cherries show on the nose of this rosé. The palate lands with plummy, creamy flavors, making for a rich and smooth style. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

88 Riviera 2022 Rosé (Santa Barbara County). A light shade of pink in the glass, this bottling offers watermelon and rose petal aromas. The palate carries that down-the-middle style forward, offering just enough acid to cut the full pink-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$24

88 Ryder Estate 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (California). A pretty pastel-pink in the glass, this rosé offers springtime aromas of blood orange, strawberry, watermelon, rose water, dewy grass and wet stone. The generous kick of acidity enlivens these flavors in the mouth and gently leads toward a solid finish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Toad Hollow 2022 Eye of the Toad Dry Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). A pale salmon color and fresh cherry aromas lead to a dry, bracing palate of raspberries and sour cherries in this lean, mouthwatering and low-alcohol wine. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Thumbprint Cellars 2022 López Family Vineyards Rosé of Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). A vivid coral color and equally dramatic plum aromas lead to bold, rowdy cherry and black plum flavors in this dry, low-alcohol and acid-forward wine. It has the nery balance to take on red meat and fried chicken. —J.G.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$45

87 Mind & Body 2021 Rosé (California). This well-balanced, simple rosé has notes of lychee, rosewater, white grapes and citrus blossom. Serve chilled for best enjoyment. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Montoya 2022 Rosé (Monterey). A yellowish shade of pink in the glass, this bottling offers bubblegum and jasmine aromas on the nose. The palate is subtle with citrus and pink-fleshed fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Rincon Mountain 2021 Brosé Rosé (Paso Robles). Light pink in the glass, this nine-variety rosé cuvée offers slightly vinous, very earthy aromas on the nose alongside dried citrus and rose petal. The palate is earthy, with crushed rock and dust flavors more prominent than the fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$29

87 San Simeon 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Paso Robles). Zippy bubblegum aromas are dusted in chalk on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fruity and smooth in texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$18

87 Sobon Estate 2022 Dry Rosé Rosé (Amador County). This ripe expression of rosé is filled with voluptuous notes of red cherry, strawberry, watermelon, bubblegum, rose water and water lily. The palate offers just a modest dose of acidity, keeping the tasting quite linear, and leading toward a solid finish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Game Box Wines 2022 Rosé (California). A super-simple rosé, this is ideal for casual consumption or to mix into a wine cocktail. Find

notes of overripe strawberry, red cherry and watermelon. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22/3 L

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Stone Edge Farm 2019 Mount Pisgah Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$225

97 Whitehall Lane 2020 Leonardini Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

96 Hertelendy 2019 Legend Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$235

96 Knights Bridge 2019 Linville Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175

96 Serres Ranch 2019 Marshall Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$100

96 Tor 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

95 Gundlach Bundschu 2019 Vintage Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). This powerful, intense and firmly textured wine waves the flag for great Sonoma-grown Cabernet. It wraps fine-grained tannins around just-ripe black fruit flavors and tempting oak accents of cinnamon, char and clove. Not overly ripe, the wine shows great balance and should expect a long life. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$140

95 McPrice Myers 2021 Beautiful Earth Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Roasted black currant, blueberry and strawberry aromas are impressively dense and instantly appealing on the fruit-driven nose of this bottling. The palate is creamy and dense yet also bright, offering blackberry and violet flavors in a comforting style. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

95 Stone Edge Farm 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150

95 Sullivan 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Firm tannins and intense, potent flavors make this wine a great candidate for further aging. Mint and cassis aromas lead to tightly held and deep flavors of black cherries, blueberries

and 90% cacao chocolate. A thick layer of fine-grained tannins infuses these with a grippy texture at this point but will give way to complexity and enjoyment with time. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150

95 Sullivan 2019 J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Extreme concentration comes with nice polish in this super-dark, chocolaty and densely layered wine. Massive but fine-grained tannins soak in black currants, blackberries and dark chocolate while hints of molé and grilled peppers add a spicy touch. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$320

94 Carol Shelton 2016 Rockpile Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile). This powerful, focused and dark wine offers great black-fruit flavors and moderate tannins for a grippy texture. Complex oak spices like cinnamon, cocoa and mint start in the aroma, mingle on the palate and linger on the finish. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

94 Louis M. Martini 2019 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$140

94 Nottingham Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This impressive bottling is gently wound in tannins that will support its deep black currants and black cherries as the wine ages to reveal more spicy complexity. Yet the wine is tempting to drink sooner due to the lush cassis and cinnamon flavors. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$75

94 Tank Garage 2021 Crystal Visions Tres Pinos Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (San Benito County). This foot-stomped, “crystal-fermented” bottling, which nods honestly to the unknowns of this new-agey technique, is a very serious expression of Cab, starting with blackberry, graphite, dark wood and mushroom on the nose. Deep, dark-fruit flavors meet with loamy soils and chalky tannins on the well-structured sip. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$65

94 Thacher 2019 Klau Mine Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District). Savory, mineral-driven aromas of graphite, asphalt and tobacco meet with dried cherry on the nose of this single-vineyard showcase. The palate is focused and dense, pairing creamy tannins with violet, blackberry and more graphite flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

94 Whitehall Lane 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

93 Carol Shelton 2015 King Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Coast). Minty,

piney aromas and deep black currant and black cherry flavors animate this appropriately tannic and well-balanced wine. Saturated fruit and oak spice flavors build on the palate and linger nicely on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

93 Crown Point 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Blackberry and wild herb aromas are kissed by woodspice on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the palate, where sticky tannins frame oregano, thyme and tart berry flavors, as the finish grows creamier with brioche notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175

93 Hearst Ranch 2021 Bunkhouse Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dried cherry, cola and baking-spice aromas make for a clean and well-integrated nose on this bottling. Ample tannins frame the ripe fruit, dried meat and graphite flavors, as acidity lingers into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

93 Lake Sonoma 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Very ripe, concentrated and well built, this full-bodied wine wraps firm tannins around black cherry, blueberry and mint flavors. The wine is well balanced, mouthfilling and deep. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Maroon 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). This sleek, complex and earthy-leaning wine offers new leather, baked earth and suave oak aromas followed by ample blackberry, black cherry and tobacco flavors on a moderately tannic texture. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$110

93 Maroon 2018 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Classic California Cab qualities like mint, black currants and a touch of black olives distinguish this well-structured, concentrated and nicely polished wine. A full body and velvety tannins give it plenty of heft on the palate. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$174

93 Paix Sur Terre 2021 Bella Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Roasted chestnut aromas make for a comforting, intriguing entry to the nose of this bottling, which also shows charred strawberry, black plum and roasted meat aromas. Smooth tannins carry bright red-plum flavors through a nutty mid-palate and into a chai-spiced finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Stone Edge Farm 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). This wine is big and fairly tannic, but has a warmth to its ripe black fruit and milk-chocolate flavors so that it's already enjoyable to drink. A full body carries the ripeness into a lingering finish. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$150

93 Thacher 2019 Homestead Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Quite dense and inky in the glass, this bottling shows baked berry, leather and licorice aromas on the nose. The palate sports a firm backbone, as flavors of ripe red fruit meet with anise and tobacco elements. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

93 Vöcal 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley). Clean aromas of blackberry weave through more complex hints of black loam and light wood on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very firm in texture and very savory in flavors, combining peppercorn and hints of dried beef with riper fruit that grows just a touch tart by the finish. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

92 Anaya 2018 Viñedos Aurora Cabernet Sauvignon (Clements Hills). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

92 Frei Brothers 2020 Sonoma Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Phil Long 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

92 Rubino Estates Winery 2019 Riserva Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This is a great expression of Cabernet Sauvignon coming out of Livermore Valley. Pronounced aromas and flavors suggest ripe black cherry, blackberry and black plum, complemented by chocolate, basil, fennel, star anise and fresh cedar. These immediately engage the senses and are made even more expressive by the generous (15.5%) alcohol. A bit tightly wound at first, tannins relax over the course of the tasting. Absolutely enjoyable now, this wine should continue to evolve until at least 2028. —S.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Trione 2019 Block Twenty One Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Big and brawny, this firmly tannic wine boasts roasted plums and black cherries accented by oak notes of cedar, toast and dark chocolate. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$79

91 Clos Pegase 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This broad, nicely rounded wine offers ripe berries and black cherries on a full body backed by full, rather soft tannins. It's tasty to drink now or save for later. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

91 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Cote del Sol Valley View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

91 No Name Road 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Rich in fruit and equally rich in oak spices, this lavishly perfumed wine boasts cinnamon, vanilla, cocoa and mint nuances over good black cherry and blackberry flavors. A full body and moderate tannins give it a mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Outerbound 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Paul Dolan 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This lovely, well-balanced Cabernet Sauvignon is made from 100% organic grapes. Bright, ripe fruit tones of blackberry, black cherry and black currant are balanced by well-integrated oak notes of toasted cinnamon stick, star anise and pepper. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Peloton 2019 Lunacy Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District). Dark and ripe aromas of cassis gain nuance from smoked cocoa nibs and red flowers on the nose of this wine. Sticky tannins frame the medium-weight palate, where lively boysenberry and white pepper flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

91 SeaGlass 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 J. Lohr 2021 Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 19.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

90 MJA Vineyards 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). This Cab Sauv is full bodied, high in alcohol and delivers an undeniable deliciousness factor. Find pronounced, layered notes of toasted wood, black currant, black pepper, violet, star anise, fresh blackberry picked right off the brambly bush, forest floor, cacao, prune, cedar wood and a touch of caramel. —S.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$69

90 Muirwood 2021 Vaquero Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Arroyo Seco). Smooth aromas of black cherry, light toast, loamy soil and graphite make for an impressive nose on this bottling. The palate is very accessible, with more cherry, blackberry and toasty woodspice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$22

90 Open Skies 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey County). For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$8

90 Volunteer 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Vivid blackberry and black cherry flavors are backed by moderate tannins in this appetizing, well-balanced wine. With little

BUYINGGUIDE

obvious oak influence, the wine lets the natural fruit flavors come through. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Brassfield 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). Bold and well balanced, this wine has a coarse tannic texture and a good kick of acidity for balance. Find notes of black cherry, currant and plum plus toasted wood, dried sweet tobacco, crushed violets and fennel. —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

89 J. Lohr 2021 Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). A dense color in the glass, this bottling offers toasty oak, roasted red fruit and charred beef aromas on the nose. There's a fine tannic line to the palate, where boysenberry, pepper and toasted oak flavors align. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Kenwood 2019 Discoveries Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 24.
Best Buy.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Save Me San Francisco 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Lucas). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

89 Villa San-Juliette 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Aromas of dark berry, light woodspice and a pinch of herb pop on the nose of this bottling. There is an immense amount of tannins on the palate, requiring more patience to appreciate the berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$50

88 Castoro Cellars 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Roasted plum, woodspice and toasted nut aromas show on the nose of this wine. Cocoa on the palate elevates the berry fruit, with ample tannins to keep it firm. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Cloak & Dagger 2020 The Assassin Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a very oaky and extracted style of Cab, with 5% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot also in play. Aromas of roasted fig and prune lead into an oak-soaked palate of caramelized candy and crème brûlée. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$65

88 Cooper-Garrod 2017 George's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Though its age is apparent, this wine still shows life. Extracted red fruit aromas are wrapped in forest spice and wood oil. The savory, mountain-style Cab includes stewed fruit, more woodspice and ample seasoning salts on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

88 Dusty Nabor 2020 Villa Colibri Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District). Dark blackberry aromas are both ripe and tart on the nose of this bottling, which also shows charred wood and funky leather aromas. The dark fruit

quality carries into the palate, which is slightly sour with grapeseed and wild herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Firestone 2020 The Chairman Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Fresh and fruit-driven aromas of strawberry, red flower and cinnamon are lively on the nose of this wine. The palate picks up a prominent caramel flavor that adds ripeness to the strawberry cream note. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

88 Foxen 2020 Los Potros Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Baked berry, dried meat and anise aromas are wrapped in a wooden veil on the nose of this bottling. The palate's dark berry, anise and oregano flavors are engaging though a touch sharp. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$64

88 Foxen 2020 Vogelsang Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). The nose of this bottling is quite tart with red fruits and loaded with wild herb flavors. The palate shows a slightly sour side of underripe strawberry, as those herb elements carry forth. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$64

88 Lake Sonoma 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Lavish cocoa and wood char aromas lead to flavors drenched in oak spices from cinnamon and clove to cedar and vanilla. The wine is full bodied, moderately tannic and spicy. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

88 Le Vigne 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Black plum extract, soy and black olive aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Similar elements arise on the palate, where charred fruit and savory soy flavors meet with a cracked paper spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Lion's Ridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). The nose on this wine is rather tarry and funky at first, with dark berry and dusty herb aromas slowly arising. The funk is better integrated to the palate, where baked berry and wild mushroom flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Mina Mesa 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry cream and crushed herbs show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tannic profile to the palate, where toasted herb and blackberry flavors approach sweetness before acidity balances the sip. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

88 MJA Vineyards 2018 Serene Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This full-bodied wine tastes ultra ripe, offering dried plums and black cherries on a juicy texture of light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$135

88 Opolo 2020 Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is a very oaky style, offering charred hickory, baked cherry and black plum pie on the nose. The palate is also very woodspice-dominated, as ripe, nearly sweet baked cherry and strawberry flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

88 Paradise Springs 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). A bit lighter hued in the glass, this wine is tart on the nose, with blackberry and dank herb aromas. Berry flavors also lead the palate, where oregano and other green herb flavors dominate by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$48

88 Porterhouse Winery 2019 Blackridge Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very dark wood aromas meet with a touch of tar on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up some black plum and graphite flavors, yet the tarry, charred meat elements show most strongly. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$90

88 Rincon Mountain 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dried cherries, cardamom, nutmeg and woodspice aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is nearly sweet, delivering a variety of rhubarb, strawberry and maple spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$68

88 Trinity Oaks 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a food-friendly, versatile and great bang-for-the-buck California Cab. The vivacious flavor profile is filled with cacao, roasted coffee, black plum, black cherry, capsicum, and dried violets, knit together by corduroy-like tannins and modest acidity and alcohol. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

87 Broadside 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Margarita Ranch). Boysenberry and charred oak aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate's tart red-fruit flavors are balanced by ample woodspice elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Castle Rock 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A mixture of overripe and dried fruits along with intense aromas and flavors associated with oak give this wine a hint of sweetness. Find notes of raisin, prune, red and black cherry, red and black plum, rose, violet and vanilla, with a touch of smoke and tar. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

87 CK Mondavi and Family 2019 CK Mondavi Family Select Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This simple California Cab offers notes of red and black plum, cherry, currant, brandy, cacao, toasted wood and black pepper, knit together by coarse tannins and modest acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$16

87 Cooper-Garrod 2018 Two Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Charred and damp wood aromas meet with dark plum and shiitake on the nose of this bottling. There's an herbal complexity to the stewed fruit flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$47

87 Doren 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Straightforward in style and fairly simple in flavor, this wine is a good, standard Cabernet. Light plum and cherry flavors are shaped by mild tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$49

87 Hayes Valley 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling begins with snappy aromas of cranberry, raspberry and pepper on the nose. The palate is lightly bodied with pepper and strawberry flavors that are pleasant though not very Cab-like. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Raywood 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Dried cherry and turned-earth aromas combine on the nose of this bottling. Firm tannins frame the sip, where dark fruit and peppery spices align. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$11

86 Blue Canyon 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey). Dark and dried red-fruit aromas meet with tar and leather on the nose of this bottling. Dry tannins frame the sip, where that tarry touch converges with dark fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

86 Flat Top Hills 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This simple, medium-bodied wine offers straightforward notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, and chocolate, held together by modest tannins and a quiet dose of acid. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Toad Hollow 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Red fruit and woodspice aromas show on the shy nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture, with cranberry and oak flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$19

85 Grant Burge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Herbal aromas of incense met with dark berry and plum on the nose of this bottling. There's noticeable sweetness to the ripe blackberry-jam flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

85 River & Vine 2019 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Lighter hued in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of tart cranberry and oak dust on the nose. It's quite tart with balsamic flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$33

84 Mind & Body 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This very simple, fruity expression

of Cabernet Sauvignon offers flavors of black cherry, plum and currant. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$12

84 Slices 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Very light and fruity, this wine offers bright raspberry, blueberry, cinnamon and licorice. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

84 Stel+Mar 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A very simple Cab Sauv, this offers straightforward notes of red and black plum, river water, licorice and cinnamon. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$13

PINOT NOIR

98 Kosta Browne 2020 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Rounded edges and velvety tannins wrap up this dusky, earthy, savory and cherry-scented wine for a complete package of indulgence that is also well balanced and refreshing. The integrated tannins, supportive acidity and medium body help showcase a beautifully complex composition. It is Russian River Pinot at the highest level. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$210

97 Bohème 2020 Taylor Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Distinctive rhubarb and sour cherry aromas in this full-bodied wine are followed by nervy cranberries, plump raspberries and savory bay laurel flavors that are fascinating to taste. The texture is smooth, and balancing acidity adds a feeling of length and vibrancy. The wine was made from Swan selection vines and aged in 20% new French barrels. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

97 Melville 2021 Anna's Block Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 3.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$72

96 Blue Farm 2021 King Ridge Vineyard Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

96 Bohème 2020 English Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Dusky, woody and mossy aromas are tempting in this nicely concentrated and savory wine. They temper the black cherry and black currant flavors while light tannins and good acidity give the wine an appetizing tang. Wonderful complexity and great balance will make it the star of your next dinner party. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

96 Bohème 2020 Occidental Hills Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Superbly balanced, complex and complete, this elegant wine offers an array of rose petal, black tea and black cherry aromas. These lead to a layered palate of sour cherries, blueberries and raspberries accented by cinnamon, clove and bay leaf nuances. Light, supportive tan-

nins and slightly tangy acidity keep it fresh and insistent with each sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

96 Cirq 2019 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$150

96 Foxen 2021 Block 43 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$68

96 Furthermore 2019 Nevina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

96 Lynmar Estate 2021 Susanna's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$76

96 Melville 2021 Block M Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark cherry and juicy strawberry aromas fit well into the Melville lineup, but this bottling is more brooding, with dark bay leaf and peppercorn depth. Zippy in acidity, the palate is loaded with patchouli and incense flavors that balance the strawberry fruit. Sappy tannins ensure a long life, so drink the wine now through 2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$76

96 Melville 2021 Sandy's Block Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lively aromas of strawberry, raspberry, wild mint and tarragon make for a stunning nose on this bottling, presenting bright, juicy red fruit with potent herbs in complementary ways. Bay, eucalyptus leaf and cracked rainbow-peppercorn flavors spice up the raspberry jam core of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$72

96 Tolosa 2021 Drum Canyon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Ripe aromas of cherry compote are layered in mace and chai spice on the rich and engaging nose of this single-vineyard expression. Layered in delicious boysenberry and cherry flavors, the palate also shows ample floral influence and plenty of baking-spice touches. The texture is silky smooth yet still firm. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$132

96 Tolosa 2021 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Baked raspberry, violet and lavender aromas are impressively floral on the refined nose of this bottling from a vineyard atop the mountains. The palate is intensely layered, offering black raspberry and more elegant floral flavors into a long, unending finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$132

95 Bohème 2020 Stuller Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Deep, woody aromas and rich, savory flavors make a great combination in this full-bodied, layered and mouthfilling

BUYINGGUIDE

wine made from Dijon clones 115 and 667. Boosted by 30% whole clusters in the fermenter, it has dark plums, red cherries and cinnamon notes that emerge and linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

95 Clos de la Tech 2017 Domaine Valeta Sunny Slope Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Quite dark in the glass, this block-designated bottling from a ridgetop vineyard at 2,350 feet begins with earthy aromas of porcini dust, fennel pollen and muddled mulberry. Beefy tannins make their presence known immediately on the palate, cradling the forest herb, fennel bulb and curry leaf flavors. This will be a fun evolution to track. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

95 Furthermore 2019 Gioia Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 5.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60

95 Gary Farrell 2019 Lancel Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

95 Jax 2021 Calesa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

95 Lucia by Pisoni 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

95 Luli 2021 Lemoravo Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A collaboration between the Pisonis and Master Sommelier Sara Floyd, this bottling begins with cherry compote, plum, baking spice and toasted wood aromas. The palate is impressively dense with sappy tannins, offering dark cherry and dusty sandalwood flavors. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

95 Melville 2021 Terraces Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark, intense and juicy aromas of black raspberry, black cherry, violet and black pepper fire up the amazing nose of this bottling. The palate is vibrant with acidity and layered in a fascinating texture, combining flavors of bay leaf with boysenberry in seamless ways. —M.K.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$76

95 Schug 2021 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

95 Walt 2021 La Brisa Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). An arresting fruit quality and complex layering of flavors lend great interest to this appealing, well-balanced wine. Rhubarb, sour cherry and orange pekoe tea aromas lead to vivid

black cherries and warm, subtle spices like cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Barden 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rich black cherry and cola-spice aromas pick up a slightly caramelized tone on the nose of this appellation cuvée. The palate is tightly woven in a way that gives elegance to the flavors of black raspberry, rose petal and carnation. —M.K.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$68

94 Barden 2020 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Elegant aromas of hummingbird sage, scarlet-red rose petals and lavender meet with sharp raspberry on the nose of this bottling. There is more generous fruit on the palate, which is juicy yet remains elegant with floral and hard-spice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$125

94 Blue Farm 2020 1861 Vineyard Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Sonoma Valley). Spicy oak aromas of cinnamon, clove and cedar play a prominent role in this deeply concentrated, densely fruity wine. Black plums and black cherries lead the palate impressions and match the weight of the substantial structure of moderate tannins and fresh acidity. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

94 Casa Dumetz 2021 Perilune Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Wild cherry and eucalyptus leaf aromas make for a compelling combo of fruit and terpenes on the nose of this bottling. The palate is zippy in energy, as tomato leaf and bay leaf flavors add depth to the core of cranberry and pomegranate fruits. —M.K.

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

94 Clos de la Tech 2017 Domaine du Docteur Rodgers Pinot Noir (San Francisco Bay).

From the single-acre vineyard above Palo Alto in the backyard of owner T.J. Rodgers, a Silicon Valley semiconductor titan, this is perhaps the most unique of the CdLT lineup. Fascinating aromas of yerba santa, muddled cranberry, wild plums and Christmas spices lead from the nose into a palate that's enveloped in leathery tannins. Red fruit and mulling-spice flavors would pair well with a holiday goose. —M.K.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$150

94 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7.

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

94 Fess Parker 2021 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Jubilant aromas of fresh cherry, black raspberry, red currant and red flowers make for an intense nose on this single-vineyard bottling. Rich and powerful, the palate has bold flavors of strawberry and baking spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Fess Parker 2021 Sanford & Benedict 1971 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). From vines planted in 1971, this bottling offers cherry, carnation, cinnamon and loads of earth aromas on the nose. The palate blends ripe cherry flavors with a stony minerality, persistent acidity and white pepper. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

94 Fulcrum 2021 Brosseau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone). A creamy texture in the glass, this bold bottling entices the nose with intense black cherry, violet and baking-spice aromas. The palate lands with powerful, rounded fruit and spice flavors, with creamier, smoother tannins that still have an edge. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

94 Fulcrum 2021 Walala Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 8.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$72

94 Furthermore 2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

94 Gary Farrell 2019 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 8.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$85

94 Kosta Browne 2020 Cerise Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This smooth, mel-low wine is inviting and ripe tasting while staying well balanced and appetizing. The dark plums, cassis and black cherries are shaded with light earthy, peaty tones and bass notes of balsam that linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$210

94 Montagne Russe 2021 Roberts Road Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Abundant fruit flavors from strawberries to dark plums glide on a smooth, almost soft texture that warms and fills the mouth in this wine from Kevin Bersofsky. Light tannins and a rather full body give that soothing effect. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

94 Montagne Russe 2021 Terra De Promisso Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rather light bodied, this elegant, tangy wine made from Calera-clone vines offers red cherries, cranberries, red tea and a hint of orange zest on a lively texture. Its complexity, light tannins and driving acidity come together nicely. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$67

94 Naidu Wines 2021 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Redolent of cinnamon, cloves and dark cherries, this deep and brooding wine feels broad and rich, as its good concentration floods the palate and leads to a lingering finish. While full flavored and moderately tannic, it holds back a bit on body. —J.G.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$70

94 Sandar & Hem 2021 Deerheart Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Elegant floral aromas of lavender and rose petal float through the candied raspberry and earthy sage notes on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense with red plum, raspberry and lemon peel flavors, as the wild herb and verbena elements add depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$56

94 Sangiacomo 2021 Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

94 Scherrer 2018 Hallberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley). Powerful fruit flavors, acidity and tannins give a lot of oomph to this full-bodied, firm-textured wine. It offers black cherries, dried cranberries and raspberry sorbet notes that just won't stop. Fred Scherrer crafts his wines to achieve a properly cellar-aged, robust profile. This wine will pair with game, roasts and risottos. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Sojourn 2021 Riddle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This deep and dark wine offers luscious black fruits, black tea and cloves on a medium to full body. Great concentration, ample black cherries, good acidity and spicy complexity make it a wine to appreciate. Best from 2026–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

94 Sojourn 2021 UV Lucky Well Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Tempting mint and sour cherry aromas lead to tangy, dried cherries, cranberries and pine needle flavors in this lively, nervy and well-balanced wine. Pure fruit flavors and good acidity give it great focus. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Stephen Ross 2021 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Pristine aromas of alpine strawberry, rose petal and hibiscus are focused and intense on the nose of this appellation cuvée by veteran winemaker Steve Dooley. The palate is deliciously ripe and rich yet full of elegant acidity and texture, offering bold strawberry sorbet, cherry and cola-spice flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 Union Sacre 2021 Squire Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). This vibrant, drink-now bottling begins with a lovely nose of expertly captured Bing cherry aromas, with damp soil and cracked spices adding depth. The palate is zesty with raspberry jam, mashed cherry and white pepper flavors, as the zippy acidity pushes deep into the fresh finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$58

94 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2021 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). An alluring pine and redwood aroma leads to savory, sour-cherry and black tea fla-

vors in this captivating wine that matches intense fruit with woody, complexifying undertones. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Wrath 2021 115/667 Pinot Noir (Monterey). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$39

93 Aequorea 2021 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Wine-maker Aaron Jackson isn't afraid of powerful Pinot Noirs, as evidenced by baked black cherry, cola and nutmeg on the nose of this bottling. It's ripe and ready on the palate, delivering juicy dark cherry and baking-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Baileyana 2021 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Lively, fresh and engaging aromas of black raspberry, wild herb and wet stone draw the nose deeply into this bottling, which packs a lot of punch for a fair price. Rich and lush flavors of boysenberry meet with chai on the delicious and engaging palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

93 Blue Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Blue Farm 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Estate Farmed Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Center of Effort 2020 Arrivo Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). The nose on this bottling manages to present red fruits that are both bright and dark, from brisk raspberry to black cherry. Herbs and baking spices round out the experience. It lands with a hefty power on the palate, showing bold red fruit and toasty notes that are hedonistic and pleasurable. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Center of Effort 2019 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For full review see page 10. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Chamisal 2020 Califa Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Dark blackberry aromas are layered in earth, bay leaf and loamy soil on the nose of this bottling. There's a pleasantly gritty texture to the palate, where berry and sagebrush elements converge again, atop an acidity that lingers long. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Clos de la Tech 2017 Estates Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A dark shade in the glass, this blend from multiple vineyards begins with aromas of dried berry, iodine, mahogany and bresaola on the unique nose. The palate combines dark berries with savory touches of tar and charred wood, with wild mint and a firm texture showing on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

93 Clos de la Tech 2017 Twisty Ridge Domaine Lois Louise Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This bottling sports a heavily soil-driven nose, enhanced by dried berry, singed herb and chipped graphite. The palate is texturally solid, framing fennel frond, leather and rich fruit flavors, with a hint of mahogany at the end. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$95

93 Fess Parker 2021 Parker West Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Raspberry and cranberry aromas are lifted by rose petals and crushed rocks on the dynamic nose of this bottling. Pleasantly dense and rich cherry flavors on the palate are dusted in cardamom and more rose elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Fess Parker 2021 Pommard Clone Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Pomegranate, cherry and chaparral aromas are vibrant on the nose of this clonal showcase, which reveals how complete the Pommard clone can be. The fresh, exuberant palate explodes with cherry, cranberry and white pepper flavors while staying lighter weight. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$64

93 Foxen 2020 Block 8 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A combination of bright, snappy cherry aromas and peppery herbs make for a compelling nose on this block-designated bottling. The palate is tense in texture yet generous in flavors of rounded red plum and toasted sagebrush. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

93 Fulcrum 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Warm, oaky baking-spice aromas of vanilla and cinnamon lead to a rich, full palate of cooked strawberries, dark plums and more oak spice. This inviting wine is full bodied, broad and softly tannic. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76

93 Kosta Browne 2020 Treehouse Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This well-structured and spicy-tasting wine shows a fruity frankness and plenty of cinnamon, vanilla and croissant notes from new oak barrels. Moderate tannins and good acidity give it a slight bite on the palate and prepare it for further aging. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$210

93 Luli 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Cranberry and currant aromas are elevated with sagebrush in a charmingly rustic style on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tension to the sip. Flavors start on a toast note before growing more tart, with cranberry, raspberry and pomegranate showing most prominently. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

93 Luli 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Tart red fruit, dusty herbs and iron-like minerality show on the nose of this appellation cuvée. Baked

BUYINGGUIDE

red plum and strawberry flavors lead through spicy, peppery notes on the energized palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

93 McHenry 2021 Swan Clone Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Lighter hued in the glass, this bottling from the family's two-acre vineyard located 1,800 feet up in the mountains of Bonny Doon offers cranberry and warm pine forest aromas on the nose. The palate is packed with juniper and pine spice, surrounding a complex pomegranate and strawberry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

93 Montagne Russe 2021 Gap's Crown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). An earthy complexity and underlying black cherry flavors give a distinctive edge to this moderately tannic, smooth and mouth-filling wine. It was made from grapes grown on the steep slopes of a notable single vineyard and aged in 40% new French oak. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Niner 2020 Jespersen Ranch Reserve Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Rochioli 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A minty aroma leads to nicely ripe, almost sweet, red and black cherries in this vibrant, fruity and well-balanced wine. Moderate tannins shape a refreshing mouthfeel to brace the indulgent cherries and berries. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98

93 Sandar & Hem 2021 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Light with a beautiful hue in the glass, this bottling starts with clean strawberry, cherry and rosewater aromas on the nearly candied nose. The palate lands with elegant layers of brisk pomegranate and cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$56

93 Sean Minor 2021 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Sojourn 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Well balanced, tangy and lightly tannic, this lively wine will be versatile in food pairings. Its red cherry and dried cranberry notes are delicious and appetizing, while the influence of new French barrels stays nicely subtle. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

93 Storm Wines 2021 Duvarita Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Dense aromas of plum and berry meet with a tarry minerality and ample wild herbs on the nose of this bottling. Smoothed-out tannins wrap around the palate, where boysenberry, lavender and white-pepper flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Summerland 2021 Clone 115 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Brightly colored in the glass, this clonal selection from a single vineyard begins with subtle raspberry and mellow toasted wood aromas on the nose. Tannins are very tightly wound on the palate, slowly opening toward rounded raspberry and pastry-crust flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Summerland 2021 Rancho La Viña Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Juicy aromas of raspberry, strawberry and cherry pick up toasted herb and pillowy red-flower elements on the nose of this bottling. It's rich yet still delicate on the palate, with focused red fruit, light white-pepper spice and an acidity that grows sharp by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Testarossa 2021 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Mace, clove and red-fruit aromas make for a spicy, lively nose on this single-vineyard bottling. Pillowy tannins frame the sip, where more clove-like spices enliven the rich red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$76

93 Tolosa 2021 1772 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Rounded aromas of baked strawberry are lifted by nutmeg, allspice and toasted wood on the cohesive nose of this bottling. The palate is well integrated as well, offering cherry compote, clove and barely bitter wood flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

93 Tolosa 2021 1772 Stone Lion Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Elegant aromas of scorched soil meet with pomegranate and cherry on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs that earthy, rocky element with crisp red fruit flavors, as dusty sagebrush adds a bit of depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$74

93 Tolosa 2021 Apex Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers cranberry and raspberry on the nose, with hints of charcuterie as well. The salted meat and red fruit meet with cracked pepper and a creamy texture on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$132

93 Tolosa 2021 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A light color in the glass, this bottling offers dried herb, cranberry and raspberry on the nose. A delicate array of herbs shows on the palate, from sage to thyme to oregano, and a subtle pepper spice rises through the fresh cranberry and pomegranate tones. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$132

93 Union Sacre 2022 Squire Rancho Solo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey). Cherry compote and red-flower aromas create a vibrant nose on this bottling. The palate is energetic and zippy, bringing fun and chillable flavors of pomegranate, cherry and white pepper into a fruit-punchy blend. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$58

93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2021 Marshall Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Sweet-cherry aromas and ripe black-cherry flavors give a rich and mouthfilling effect to this well-balanced and full-bodied wine. Subtleties of mint, redwood forest and black plums keep you coming back for more. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

92 Bernardus 2021 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Well-integrated aromas of dried cherry, baking spice and light toast converge on the nose of this bottling from an iconic vineyard. The palate is quite generous with flavors of ripe red fruit, cinnamon and mace. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$85

92 Castello di Amorosa 2021 Cresta D'Oro Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

92 Comartin 2021 R-Bar-R Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). From a vineyard 1,100 feet high overlooking the ocean, this bottling offers ample floral aromas of hibiscus as well as pomegranate and clove on the nose. The palate is texturally firm with sandy tannins, giving a canvas for the raspberry and hibiscus-tea flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$64

92 DRNK 2019 Hallberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). An earthy, mature and savory character lends mystery to this relatively pale-colored wine. Beef and mushroom flavors mingle with sour cherries, bay leaves and leather. The acid and light tannins balance out this wine, which is ready to drink. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

92 Dusty Nabor 2021 DNW Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Earthy aromas of crushed stone and baked soil are woven through boysenberry, violet and smoky soy on the nose of this bottling. Peppery spice, dried lavender and dark fruit flavors show on the rich palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Foxen 2020 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Terpene-laced aromas of damp herb and forest floor pick up umami-laden scents of dried meat on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines rugged tar, blood sausage and dried-meat flavors with sagebrush and seasoning salts on the savory palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Koehler 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Black raspberry jam, crushed rock and light floral aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is firmly textured and layered in spices, from peppercorn to mace and black cardamom, elevating the raspberry jam core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Lepe 2021 San Saba Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Fresh and clean kicks of raspberry and pomegranate pop against sandalwood

and star anise on the nose of this bottling. It lands softly on the palate but has enough bite to carry the nuanced red fruit and hard-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

92 Lincourt 2021 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

92 Lucienne 2021 Lone Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Dark cherry, toasted wood and baking-spice aromas make for a very cohesive nose on this bottling. The palate is warm and toasty as well, with rich cherry sauce and cracked pepper flavors that float atop a bold acidity deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Luli 2021 Monte Linda Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This rich and bold expression starts with dark plum and blackberry aromas that are lifted by cola, mint and anise scents on the nose. The palate is intense and dense with dark cherry, berry and more cola flavors, with chalky tannins to carry the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

92 Montagne Russe 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Vibrant, almost chewy red berry and black cherry flavors give this medium-bodied wine a big presence. Moderate tannins wrap around the fruit for a good, slightly gripping texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

92 Navarro 2021 Méthode a L'Ancienne Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This Pinot Noir shows vivacity with its fresh-off-the-bush fruit tones of just-ripe raspberry, strawberry, pomegranate and cranberry. Earthy notes of red roses, forest floor, eucalyptus and sawdust complement perfectly. The palate is woven together by a generous dose of acidity and a fine-grained tannic texture before a lovely, lingering finish. —S.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$39

92 Niner 2021 Jespersen Ranch Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

92 Oleandri 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Deep, intense black-fruit flavors are braced by moderate tannins and wrapped in smoky oak tones as this medium-bodied wine packs a big punch in terms of concentration and drama. Black cherries, blueberries and wood char give the wine plenty to chew on. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

92 Piazza Family 2021 Mt. Carmel Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's an earthy focus on this bottling from a historic vineyard. Aromas of crushed rocks, chaparral duff, dried porcini and rose petals arise on the nose. The palate follows a similar line, with muddled red fruit, turned earth and light tar flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$48

92 Schug 2021 Sangiacomo Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This rich and rounded wine shows opulent new-oak flavors of toast, cedar and vanilla, backed by abundant black cherry and dark plum flavors. Soft tannins add to the creamy texture. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

92 Sojourn 2021 Reuling Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Sweet-oak aromas and ripe flavors make this wine easy to love. Dark plums, red cherries, cinnamon and clove mingle on the soft texture and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

92 Thumbprint Cellars 2021 Four Clone Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This smooth, broad, dark-plum and mushroom-scented wine wraps moderate tannins around dark cherry and cranberry flavors for a nice tension between its velvet feel and tangy backbone. Grapes from three California heritage clones and clone 115 were blended together. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$64

92 Trinitas 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Concentrated and well structured, this wine has what it needs to improve with a few years more aging in the bottle. The dark, deep black cherry, sour cherry and mild oak spices are braced by moderate tannins and supportive acidity for good balance. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Valley of the Moon 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Well-concentrated fruit flavors form the core of this moderately tannic, full-bodied wine. Deep black cherries and black currants are handsomely accented by cedar and cinnamon from oak aging. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Honest and uncomplicated, this very good, solid-quality Pinot will be right for any number of occasions. A good balance among fresh acidity, tasty red and black cherry flavors and moderate tannins results in a lively yet satisfying expression overall. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2021 Fay's Reserve Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Smooth, suave and soft, this luscious wine melts in the mouth, bathing the palate with rich, almost jammy, strawberries, sweet cherries and baked plums. Soft tannins and relaxed acidity add to its mouthcoating expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Whitehall Lane 2021 Sonoma Stage Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Tempting ripe plum and cherry aromas lead to a rich, almost sweet palate of red and black fruit. Light tannins and a full body lend a smooth, mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

92 Wrath 2021 Swan/828 Pinot Noir (Monterey). A lighter shade in the glass, this clonal combo shows cranberry sauce, toasted herbs and crushed rocks on the earthy nose. The palate is tense and complex, presenting strawberry and cranberry flavors against smoked meats and peppery spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

91 Barden 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Wild thyme, sagebrush, black raspberry and a hint of tar show on the nose of this bottling. It's very dry on the palate, with intense black plum, more sagebrush and turned-soil flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

91 Barden 2020 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Woodspice aromas lead the nose on this bottling, which also shows roasted fruit. Sandalwood comes through on the palate, which has a somewhat viscous texture plus hints of incense and stewed red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$82

91 Bernardus 2019 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Chai-like aromas of clove and cardamom decorate the red currant and sandalwood scents on the nose of this bottling. Bay leaf and incense elements give nuance to the palate, where muddled red fruit and cinnamon complete the picture. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

91 Center of Effort 2020 Picolo Rosso Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Black raspberry, bay leaf, thyme and dried shiitake aromas are tart and savory on the nose of this four-barrel bottling. The palate is buoyant in red fruit flavors and yet also savory, with plenty of herb and meat accents at play. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Chalone Vineyard 2021 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Chalone). A lighter color in the glass, this bottling offers crisp cherry, light caramel and plenty of woody, earthy aromas on the nose. Vanilla cream and baked cherry flavors align on the palate, which finishes on a graham cracker warmth. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

91 Comartin 2020 R-Bar-R Ranch Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Incense, wet soil and graphite aromas give depth to the dark cherry core on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Creamy red-fruit flavors are elevated by clove, nutmeg and mace on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

91 Decoy 2021 Limited Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

91 Fess Parker 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Prominent minerality marks the nose of this bottling, starting with aromas of volcanic rocks and turned earth that show alongside a boysenberry touch. The palate is

BUYINGGUIDE

fruitier with strawberry and more boysenberry, as peppercorn adds spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Fulcrum 2021 On Point Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Floral aromas and pretty, generous fruit flavors give this full-bodied wine an elegant expression. Raspberries, mint and dark cherries dominate the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Harper's Bench 2020 Riverview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey). A refreshingly easy-to-open wax top unveils aromas of loam, black cherry and sassafras on the nose of this bottling. Gamy notes kick in on the palate, where sagebrush and fresh red fruits gain attention. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

91 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Jackson Estate Seco Highlands Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). This is a bold style of Pinot Noir, starting with aromas of violet, lilac, black cherry and fennel pollen on the nose. The palate is ripe and rich, with baked cherry aromas layered in dried flower and hard-spice elements. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

91 Kessler-Haak 2018 Four Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark, dried berries, smoked wood and a hint of leather show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm structure to the palate, where cherry cordial, cardamom pod and black pepper lead into a vanilla-laced cranberry finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

91 McHenry 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Wild cranberry, pomegranate and sagebrush aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate has a dank pine needle kick along with tart cranberry and gamy meat. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Montagne Russe 2021 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Generous aromas of black plum, black raspberry, crushed clove and shaved nutmeg make for a bold nose on this bottling. The palate is ripe in style with heavy roasted fruit and violet flavors, yet it also retains a freshness due to the persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Wild Series Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A touch hazy in the glass, this young bottling pops on the nose with juicy raspberry jam and rose petal aromas, leaning toward bubblegum. Bouncy flavors of fruit punch, raspberry and hibiscus pick up tea leaf complexity on the fun palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

91 Ron Noble 2021 Family Blend Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This spicy, full and fruit-drenched wine combines concentrated black-fruit flavors with light oak spices on a full body. It has good, textural tannins and refreshing acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

91 Summerland 2021 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Subdued at first, this bottling opens with dark plum and scarlet-red rose petal aromas. The elegant floral aspect extends to the palate, where plummy flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$65

91 Testarossa 2021 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Dark plum, violet and lavender aromas meet with wet-clay minerality on the nose of this bottling. Wild herb and turned-earth flavors are more prominent than the fruit tones of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76

91 Testarossa 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Subtle cranberry, red rose petal, crumpled carnation and dark, tarry earth aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. Sizzling acidity on the palate enlivens the rich cherry syrup flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$76

91 Wrath 2021 Pommard 4/777 Pinot Noir (Monterey). A transparent hue in the glass, this herbal expression shows bay leaf and thyme aromas atop the cherry and cranberry fruit. Flavors are ripe yet rustic, with sugared cranberry, roasted tomato and dried herbs making it like a Sunday gravy experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$39

90 3P Wine Company 2021 Ascona Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). The extremely earthy nose on this bottling shows loam, clay and rock aromas atop an undercurrent of dried berry. Those elements carry through the palate, with wet-clay flavors that are decorated by hibiscus and rose elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$49

90 Absolution 2021 Swan Clone Righetti Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Fresh pomegranate, red plum and cinnamon create a fruity entry to this clonal study from a single vineyard. The landing is fruity as well, with raspberry and plum flavors lifted by sumac and more cinnamon. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$55

90 Bailarin 2019 Manchester Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). Although a bit subtle on the nose, this well-balanced Pinot Noir truly comes to life on the palate. Find generous notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, chocolate, fresh and dried rose petals, wild strawberry and black pepper. All these are knit together by modest tannins and an elevated acidity that ensures freshness from start to finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$54

90 Foxen 2020 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Baked cherry, chaparral, loamy soil and lots of woodspice aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is

tangy and tart, offering fennel pollen, dewy bay leaf and barrel-spice flavors atop the red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

90 Gen5 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$11

90 Kessler-Haak 2018 Ohana Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Heavy baking spices of cardamom and clove meet with ripe cherry, turned loam and light sagebrush on the rich nose of this bottling. The palate adds nutmeg and pastry-crust flavors to the hearty mix. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Lion's Ridge 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Smashed strawberry and dewy sagebrush aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a hillside vineyard. The mouthfeel is rounded on the palate, offering tart cranberry, spicy berry and sagebrush flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Lucienne 2021 Doctor's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Hearty aromas of boysenberry are dense on the nose of this wine but are balanced by rustic earth tones of wet clay. The palate is dense and viscous, showing incense and sandalwood against the dried berry fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Lucienne 2021 Hook Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Blistered cranberry, smoked cherry and dense flowers show on the nose of this bottling. There's a rugged earthiness to the palate, where roasted cranberry and orange rind flavors meet with a pinch of herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Ron Noble 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). All ripeness and richness, this full-bodied, relaxed wine shares generous strawberry and dark plum flavors that are settled into soft tannins, making it easy to sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

90 Tolosa 2021 1772 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Toasty aromas of singed sagebrush and toasted red plum show on the nose of this bottling. Baked raspberry is clearly presented on the palate alongside warm pastry and a touch of bay leaf. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$88

89 Foxen 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Light pomegranate aromas are enlivened by dank herbs and cracked pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a tart, brisk cranberry, pomegranate and raspberry combination, as underlying herbs add depth. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$37

89 Iron Side 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (California). This overall balanced, simple Pinot Noir expresses notes of fresh red cherry, wild straw-

berry, pomegranate, cranberry, basil, tarragon and just-bloomed rose. —S.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

89 Kessler-Haak 2018 Symphony Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark, roasted fruit aromas meet with olive, toasted wood and a hint of leather on the nose of this bottling. Dried plum, clove and nutmeg flavors are quite strong on the palate, which is starting to show a touch of its age. —M.K.

abv: 14.6% Price: \$50

89 Meyye 2019 'Omay Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Woodsy, smoky and black peppery notes arise in the aroma and continue through the flavors of this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. It emphasizes oak toast and spice over good dark-plum flavors. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$75

89 Santa Barbara Winery 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This reliable and classic Santa Barbara Pinot Noir offers soft aromas of strawberry, wet slate, light thyme and soil on the nose. Sandy tannins frame the dark and rich red-fruit flavors of the sip, where sappy tannins, sumac spice and light sagebrush also arise. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$22

88 Alamitos 2021 Running Quail Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Fresh and fruity at first on the nose, this bottling offers cherry, strawberry, cinnamon and mace aromas. The palate is where the heavy use of oak really stands out, with sandalwood and smoked wood flavors wrapped around the ripe red-cherry core. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$65

88 Castle Rock 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% Price: \$13

88 El Pino Club 2021 The Cusp Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Enticing cinnamon and vanilla aromas are followed by sweet-seeming strawberry and red cherry flavors in this smooth, soft and full-bodied wine. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$50

88 Etude 2020 Hallberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Vivid, almost-sweet fruit flavors show up as red cherries, maraschino cherries and ultraripe strawberries in this friendly, fruity and rather soft-textured wine. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$70

88 Head High 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Earthy, barnyardy aromas lend a funky complexity to this broad and indulgent wine. Notes of black tea, tamarind and sour cherry mingle with moderate tannins and decent acidity that gives the wine a lift on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

88 Joseph Jewell 2020 Panther Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Big and tannic for a Pinot, this chunky wine boasts dark plum and black cherry flavors on a very firm structure. The wine is dense and tight, making it hard to appreciate until further aging. Best from 2028. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

88 Kessler-Haak 2018 Intuition Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Extracted aromas of dried fruit and aged oak show on the nose of this bottling. Dark fruit and flower flavors are spiced with clove on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.6% Price: \$50

88 King Palm 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Black cherry and cola spice make for a familiar and pleasing nose on this bottling. The palate is a bit smooth in texture, and the flavors are quite ripe, but the juicy style is sure to please a wide crowd. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$25

88 Loring Wine Company 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Extracted and dried on the nose, this bottling shows blackberry and cola aromas. The palate is quite dense, with dried cherry and wood-smoked berry flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$39

88 Muirwood 2021 Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). Wet riverbed aromas meet with dried raspberry and woodspice on the nose of this bottling. Candied raspberry and hard-spice flavors fire up the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$22

88 Ron Noble 2021 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This heavily spiced, heavily oaked wine wraps firm tannins around toasty, cedary, cinnamon flavors that dominate the black cherry notes. The wine will pair best with superrich dishes. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$95

87 Fresh Vine 2020 Pinot Noir (California). Low-intensity and medium bodied, this wine offers subtle fresh and dried black cherry, red plum, strawberry, dried wood, tobacco and tar. —S.B.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

87 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Vintner's Reserve Pinot Noir 100% Pinot Noir (California). An overall balanced Pinot Noir, this offers notes of red and black cherries and plums, cinnamon and licorice. The palate has a good dose of acid, a moderate amount of tactile tannins and a solid finish. —S.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

86 ALDI 2021 Peaks & Tides Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.2% Price: \$13

86 Matthew Fritz 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Oak, caramel and hickory aro-

mas dominate the nose of this wine. The palate is smoky in flavor, with oak leading the sip. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

CABERNET FRANC

95 Thumbprint Cellars 2018 Ramazzotti Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 7.

abv: 15.4% Price: \$60

94 Corison 2020 Helios Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Franc (St. Helena). This well-balanced, moderately tannic yet relatively light-bodied wine is generous in blackberries and blueberries, with subtle cedar and mint accents that add complexity and interest. Expect it to gain even more complexity and richness with time. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$125

94 Terratorium 2021 T-T Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). Alluring violet and cola aromas are followed by very ripe and juicy black fruits in this medium-bodied, velvety and mouthcoating wine. Mild tannins are well integrated into the lush blackberry and dried plum flavors, while cinnamon and vanilla accents echo the oak barrels. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

93 Luna Hart 2022 Fresh Coquelicot Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Los Olivos District). This “fresh” and young style of Cabernet Franc is a vibrant hue in the glass, offering black raspberry, pepper and chalk aromas on the nose. The wine dances across the tongue with bright acidity and a talc-like texture, delivering flavors of smashed raspberry, pomegranate and a hint of bubblegum on the palate. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 12.2% Price: \$34

92 Absolution 2020 Martian Ranch Cabernet Franc (Alisos Canyon). Peppery spices and a nearly green touch show on the nose of this bottling, which also offers ripe berry aromas. The palate is spicy with intense pepper and loaded with ripe strawberry flavors, all held together by edgy tannins. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$59

92 Andis 2021 Cabernet Franc (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

92 City Winery Chicago 2019 Alder Springs Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Franc (Mendocino). Fresh and vibrant, with a nuanced mix of fruit, floral, earth and savory tones—this expression is everything you want from a Cab Franc and more. Find notes of dark chocolate, black currant, toasted tobacco, black cherry, fennel, tarragon, star anise, black pepper, violet and fresh cedar all held together by mature, structural tannins and a modest acidity.

BUYINGGUIDE

The finish is lingering, pointing toward aging potential through at least 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$38

91 Octopoda 2022 Cabernet Franc (California). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

91 Paradise Springs 2020 Cabernet Franc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Intense black pepper aromas meet with ripe blackberry on the nose of this bottling. It's quite a rich expression on the palate, where fresh while lavish flavors of berry and toasted wood align. —M.K.
abv: 14.8 Price: \$48

90 Firestone 2020 Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley). Rounded berry and cherry aromas are spiced up by cardamom and wood shavings on the nose of this bottling. On the palate, fresh red-fruit flavors are complemented by a vanilla-laced finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

90 Lepe 2021 Tre Gatti Vineyards Cabernet Franc (San Antonio Valley). Ripe cherry aromas meet with dried mushroom and grilled meat on the savory nose of this bottling. The palate embraces the grape's inherent green notes, offering charred jalapeño flavors alongside the rich red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

89 Brecon Estate 2020 Cabernet Franc (Adelaida District). Dark and tarry aromas meet with intense charred fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also in a reductive style even with plenty of aeration, as an earthy, tarry touch subsumes the spicy fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$94

89 Thumbprint Cellars 2022 López Family Vineyards NuVo Of Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). Happy, fruity and bright, this medium-bodied wine is easy to gulp and enjoy. Light tannins lift fresh strawberry and raspberry flavors backed by a snap of acidity that keeps it appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$49

88 Lucas & Lewellen 2020 Valley View Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley). Lighter in color, this bottling offer sharp red fruit and prominent woodspice aromas on the nose. The palate is more forward in fruit than spice tones, with a pinch of pepper showing on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

88 Wilson Creek 2020 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Pleasant aromas of boysenberry and woodspice show on the nose of this bottling. Cracked pepper and oregano meet with tart red-fruit flavors on the palate, where woodspice is also prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$75

CABERNET PFEFFER

94 Stirrm 2020 Wirz Vineyard Cabernet Pfeffer (Cienega Valley). Ryan Stirrm must be making more versions of this nearly forgotten grape variety than anyone else right now. This vintage and vineyard delivers aromas of cranberry, pencil shavings and mushroom on the nose, while the palate is loaded with roasted red fruit, mace and peppercorn flavors. Firm tannins ensure a long life. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$39

93 Stirrm 2021 Siletto Vineyard Cabernet Pfeffer (San Benito County). Strawberry, wet clay and peppercorn aromas enliven the nose on this bottling of a grape nearly forgotten to history. The palate is zippy with freshness and firm in tannins, offering raspberry, chalk and white-pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$36

92 Stirrm 2020 Cabernet Pfeffer (San Benito County). Slightly hazy in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with strawberry, cranberry and thyme aromas. The palate is very peppery, with a zippy, refreshing acidity that enlivens the brisk red-fruit flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$36

91 Stirrm 2021 El Gabilan Cabernet Pfeffer (Cienega Valley). Lively floral aromas of rose and carnation meet with cinnamon, woodspice and brisk pomegranate on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines sour cherry and crumpled flower flavors with hints of sandalwood. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$44

GRENACHE

94 Clementine Carter 2021 Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Black cherry, strawberry compote, mace and cardamom team up for a fantastic nose on this bottling. The palate is very spicy and fresh, entertaining with flavors of ripe red fruit and hard spices while staying nimble. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$48

94 Clementine Carter 2021 Peake Ranch Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Light in the glass, this snappy style of Grenache slaps the nose with raspberry, cranberry, cracked pepper and bay leaf aromas. The palate is herbal in exciting ways, showing peppery and tart pomegranate flavors atop a well-integrated acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$48

94 Clementine Carter 2021 West End Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Coming from vines past the western edge of the Sta. Rita Hills, this bottling is complex on the nose, with candied cherry and cigar-box aromas that are coated in floral tones of rose petal, lavender and hibiscus. The brisk, lively

palate pairs lavender, white pepper and raspberry flavors with a delicately firm texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$56

94 The Language of Yes 2021 Rancho Real Vineyard Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$40

93 McPrice Myers 2021 Sel de la Terre Grenache (Paso Robles). Black cherry, cola, sarsaparilla and even cocoa notes show on the bold nose of this bottling. Roasted cherry and boysenberry flavors decorate the meaty core, where black pepper and soy add savory elements to the likably ripe palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$55

93 MCV 2021 Grenache (Paso Robles). This is a bold and generous style of Grenache, starting with rich red fruits that are spiced with bay leaf and incense on the nose. There's a solid tension to the palate, where tannins wrap around the baked strawberry and red plum flavors, as cracked pepper adds spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$48

93 Tablas Creek 2021 Grenache (Adelaida District). Subtle aromas of red fruit and flower lead into turned earth and a cherry-tonic touch on the nose of this bottling. There's a gritty, intense texture to the palate, where rounded flavors of strawberry, red plum and hibiscus are fired up by spicy cracked-pepper pinches. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

92 Chalone Vineyard 2021 Estate Grenache (Chalone). Very dark in the glass, this Grenache from a historic region shows intense aromas of blackberry, clove and nutmeg on the rich nose. The ripe style extends across the palate, where the baked fruit flavors are nuanced in firm tannins and minty herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

92 Summerland 2021 Mora Vineyard Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Both transparent yet dark in hue in the glass, this wine has a penetrating but delicate nose, with inviting aromas of ripe strawberry and red flowers. The palate is bold and juicy with berry sorbet and fruit punch flavors that are hedonistic and delicious. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$50

91 Epiphany 2020 Rodney's Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). A lightly earthy element of iron shavings lingers behind the aromas of cran-raspberry and French toast spice on the nose of this bottling. Pomegranate, rose and white pepper flavors show on the dry, solidly tense palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$42

91 Lepe 2021 Zabala Vineyards Grenache (Arroyo Seco). A light color in the glass, this wine smells like a basket of crisp strawberries atop a field

of rocks. On the brisk palate, strawberry cruises over pebbly minerality in pleasing ways. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Margins 2022 Paicines Ranch Vineyard Grenache (Paicines). Lightly hazy in the glass, this bottling is loaded with wild pomegranate and red currant on the nose, which also shows sagebrush and thyme. The palate is zippy in acidity and almost spritzly, with herbally influenced flavors of smashed, tangy red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

90 Alta Colina 2022 Carbonic Grenache (Adelaida District). Colored as light as a rosé in the glass, this unique take on Grenache offers maraschino cherry and orange-rind aromas on the nose, recalling an Old Fashioned cocktail. The palate is wrapped in a firm texture, offering mellow flavors of pluot, Rainier cherry and tangerine. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

90 Cass 2021 Grenache (Paso Robles). Muddled cranberry, cherry, hibiscus and smoked meat aromas show on the peppery nose of this bottling. Tart pomegranate and orange-rind flavors come through on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

90 Sierra Vista 2020 Grenache (El Dorado). An initial floral note to this Grenache is quite interesting and engaging. It then opens to classic red-fruited tones of fresh wild strawberries, complemented by black pepper and toasty wood. Tannins are firm, structural and cut by just a modest dose of acidity. The finish is clean and solid. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Summerland 2022 Summer Chill Grenache (Monterey County). This chillable Grenache is a great beach option. Light in the glass, it shows strawberry and bubblegum on the fruity nose. The palate dries up a bit, suggesting hibiscus, red apple and strawberry juice flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$45

89 Piazza Family 2021 Bella Vista Vineyard Grenache (Ballard Canyon). A very light color in the glass, this is a mellow style of Grenache, offering muddled currant, cranberry and white pepper on the nose. The palate is zippy with energy, offering subdued and tart red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$38

88 Villa San-Juliette 2020 Grenache (Paso Robles). Dried cherry, wood chips and fading rose petal aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich with vanilla, caramel cola and more dried-out cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$48

87 Four Lanterns 2020 Grenache (Paso Robles). Ripe aromas of dried cherry, cola and caramel are heavy on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up clove and nutmeg to spice the stewed-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$49

SYRAH

97 Melville 2021 Donna's Block Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). This fantastic model of cool-climate Syrah starts with extremely peppery aromas that mesh into damp sage, bay leaf, tar, squid ink and elderberry on the nose. The palate is ripe with black-raspberry jam flavors that quickly become complex thanks to cracked green peppercorn, olive tapenade, ash and Sichuan peppercorn elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$62

96 Foxen 2020 Tinaquac Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

94 Lester 2019 Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark and inky aromas of smoked meat, crushed asphalt and unctuous fruit converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a peppery freshness to the palate, where blackberry and pastry flavors play against a savory edge. Firm tannins ensure a long life, so drink now to 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$45

94 The Language of Yes 2021 Rancho Real Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

94 Zaca Mesa 2020 Chapel G Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). From a high-density block planted in 2008, this bottling shows lovely layers of blackberry, black currant, maple butter and roasted meat on the lush and lovely nose. Pepper-crusting berry pie and Indian spice flavors enliven the palate, where the tannins are bold yet forgiving. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$52

93 Baldassari 2019 Syrah (Bennett Valley). Slightly reserved and definitely well-balanced, this vivid, elegant wine offers light, charming strawberry and red cherry aromas followed by potent dark cherries and sour cherries on a landscape of tangy acidity and light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$42

93 Cloak & Dagger 2020 The Conspirator Syrah (Paso Robles). Intense aromas of boysenberry, slate and violet are well focused on the nose of this Syrah. The palate is loaded with opulent, dark fruit, as violet and toasted wood flavors float atop a smooth texture that shows just a touch of tannic edge. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

93 Eberle 2021 Steinbeck Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

93 Foxen 2020 Williamson-Doré Vineyard Syrah (Los Olivos District). Lively aromas of blueberry sorbet are topped by scents of tarragon and charred meat on the nose of this wine. Anise, oreg-

ano and pepper decorate the palate, where a ripe blueberry sauce makes for a rich expression. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Lindquist Family 2021 Syrah (Central Coast). This introductory-level Syrah is exciting and satisfying, showing how versatile and bright the grape can be. Fresh aromas of black raspberry, rose petal and tar lead into a fruity palate of strawberry, pomegranate and lavender. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Luli 2021 Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). Intense aromas of violet, lavender and dark, rich fruits draw the nose into this bottling from a region where Syrah tends to age with remarkable intrigue and grace. Blackberry and more purple-flower flavors pop on the palate, which will only grow more cohesive, gamy and interesting with patience. Drink 2025–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

93 McPrice Myers 2021 Brave Fortune Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Charcoal-roasted plum and berry aromas on the nose of this wine are enlivened with fresh lilac that balances the charred aspects. The palate is rich and hearty, with smoked meat and earth-caked berry flavors making for a savory, burly experience. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Red Car 2019 Syrah (Sonoma Coast). Earthy, rustic and herb infused, this expression has an untamed feel, from gamy, barnyard aromas to meaty, peppery flavors grounded in wild berries and grilled plums. Enjoy it for its individuality. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Red Car 2019 Estate Vineyard Syrah (Fort Ross-Seaview). This medium-bodied wine from a cool, coastal region drinks almost like a Pinot Noir, showing dark fruit, mild tannins and a dash of black pepper. It's a nimble, elegant and well-balanced wine that's a pleasure to sip. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55

92 Epiphany 2020 Hampton Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Dense and inky aromas of iodine, dried violet and smoked boysenberry converge on the nose of this bottling. Cherry wood and maple aromas meet with dense black-cherry flavors on the intense palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$49

92 Four Lanterns 2019 Grand Reserve Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Intensely dark fruit aromas of blackberry and blueberry are kissed by warm wood and light cola spice on the nose of this bottling. Baking spices and caramel flavors power the palate, where a lively acidity cuts through the rich baked-fruit flavors into a lush, vanilla-splashed finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$112

92 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Estates Collection Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This is a

BUYINGGUIDE

savory while fresh Syrah, starting with aromas of smashed blackberries, plum skins and peppered meats on the nose. The palate is medium to lighter bodied, offering crisp açai flavors alongside cracked pepper and gamy meats. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 Lasorda Family Wines 2021 The 1958 Collection Syrah (Paso Robles). An ode to the first game that the Dodgers ever played in Los Angeles, this Syrah by the family of the late Dodgers manager, Tommy Lasorda, shows dark rose, hibiscus and charred cranberry on the elegant nose. It's expansive on the palate, with brisk boysenberry, chopped rosemary and a pepper-spiked acidity that lingers long. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Dusty Nabor 2020 Kimsey Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). This is an intensely herbal take on this grape and vineyard, beginning with minty, peppery spices and a touch of wet wool alongside the core of fruit. Baked red berries, cracked pepper and dewy herb flavors make for a more nuanced palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Lindquist Family 2020 Bien Nacido X Block The Good Nacido Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Boysenberry sauce, woodspice and cigar box aromas show on the nose of this block-designated bottling. Leathery tannins frame the palate, where baked bread, black pepper and boysenberry paste flavors ride a sticky texture into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

91 Midnight 2020 Nocturne Syrah (Paso Robles). Elderberry, violet and light pepper aromas make for a familiar Syrah nose on this bottling. The palate's dried fruit, clove and chai spice flavors are well integrated, bold and cleanly presented. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$52

91 Santa Barbara Winery 2020 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Rugged aromas of chaparral, wild flowers, berries and pepper show on the nose of this blend of the Lafond and Joughin vineyards. It's lively with floral flavors on the palate, where crisp plum and hard spices stay nimble. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Sierra Vista 2020 Syrah (El Dorado). This Syrah is generous with its decadent aroma profile, filled with black-cherry pie, boysenberry jam and blackberry compote. It opens further to floral roses and violets, black pepper, Mission fig, and a charred-meat umami that's utterly appetizing. The tannins may be tight at first, so give this hearty red at least 30 to 40 minutes to relax, unwind and become comfortable as a tableside guest. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Chalone Vineyard 2021 Estate Syrah (Chalone). Subtle on the nose, this bottling offers creamy aromas of boysenberry jam, graham cracker and light tar. The palate is also mellow in

expression, offering muddled plums and vanilla spice on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Villa San-Juliette 2020 Syrah (Paso Robles). A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of elderberry, caramelized berry, clove and cardamom on the nose. A splash of acidity on the palate cruises through the brisk elderberry, cardamom and curry leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$44

89 Michael David 2021 Sixth Sense Syrah (Lodi). Ripe black plum, cherry and blackberry jam aromas waft immediately out of the glass, complemented by chocolate, fresh tarragon, fennel and black pepper spice. On the palate of this wine, these flavors come together, woven by soft, plushy tannins and a solid dose of acidity. A well-balanced, easy-to-love Syrah. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

88 Al Lago 2020 Aria Syrah (California). An overall balanced red, this offers notes of black cherry, chocolate, raisin, prune, tar, smoke and dried-violet potpourri. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

88 Shadow Ranch 2021 Syrah (Sierra Foothills). Well balanced and straightforward, this Syrah offers aromas and flavors of black cherry compote, blackberry jam, black plum pie, chocolate and vanilla. These are knit together by soft, plushy tannins and lead toward a smoky finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

88 Vie Winery 2019 Canihan Vineyards Syrah (Sonoma Coast). Smelling densely spicy, smoky and extremely ripe, this full-bodied wine is strong in aromas, from wood char to cloves and cedar. It's full of jammy fruit on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

MOURVÈDRE

94 Paix Sur Terre 2021 The Other One Glenrose Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Ryan Pease started this brand based on a love of Mourvèdre, and that dedication shows in this bottling, which begins with rich black plum, dried violet and soy aromas on the nose. Polished tannins frames the hefty, hearty sip, where dark fruit flavors are dusted in cocoa and peppery spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

93 Clementine Carter 2021 Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County). Dark plum, turned earth and plenty of spices show on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a hefty mouthfeel, carrying rich flavors of dark fruit and a blend of spices that steadily creeps through the sip as the acidity and structure intensify. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

92 Brecon Estate 2021 Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Toasty oak and hearty baking spices

pair with rich blackberry jam on the nose of this satisfyingly ripe Mourvèdre. Oaky as well, the palate works quite well to complement the baked red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$84

92 Paix Sur Terre 2021 Been Away Too Long Denner Vineyard Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark berry, cocoa, warm leather and baking-spice aromas converge on the inviting nose of this single-vineyard bottling. Hearty berry and dried dark-cherry flavors meet with cracked pepper on the intense palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Koehler 2021 Mourvèdre (Santa Ynez Valley). Juicy, even sappy raspberry aromas meet with an earthy funk on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a more energetic side, offering zippy raspberry, wild sagebrush and fennel pollen flavors atop lingering tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Sierra Vista 2020 Mourvèdre (El Dorado). Big, bold and perfectly balanced, this wine delivers everything you want to love about Mourvèdre. Prominent deep-fruited aromas of black cherry, black plum and that telltale earthiness waft out of the glass. Flavors suggest unsweetened cacao, toasted wood, dried violets, fresh and dried sweet tobacco, tarragon, anise and black pepper. The palate offers firm, structural tannins alongside balanced acidity, leading toward a lingering finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

MALBEC

94 Red Door Ranch 2021 Big Brother Malbec (Templeton Gap District). This bottling plants a big flag for the potential of Paso Robles Malbec. Impressively dense on the nose, the wine begins with aromas of elderberry, violet, lavender and graphite. Framed by waxy tannins, the palate combines an asphalt minerality with black pepper and elderberry jam flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

89 Lorimar 2019 Malbec (California). This Malbec offers aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, cinnamon, anise, licorice and roasted coffee bean, knit together by mouthcoating tannins, modest acidity and a solid finish. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$62

88 Arrowsmith 2020 TTT Vineyard Malbec (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Loamy soil, light woodspice and fresh blueberry aromas converge on the nose of this wine. There are enough tannins to hold up the tart berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

88 Hawk Watch Winery 2019 Solo Barrique Malbec (South Coast). Light blackberry and damp campfire aromas converge on the nose of this single-barrel bottling. Blistered red plum and

maple sugar flavors make for a lightly bodied palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$58

85 Peirano 2021 Heritage Collection Malbec (Lodi). This is a simple red, with notes of prune, raisin, red cherry lollies, strawberry gummies, cinnamon and licorice. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

MERLOT

95 Sullivan 2020 J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Merlot (Napa Valley). Opulent, concentrated and polished, this wine packs in the black fruits, espresso and dark chocolate flavors. The texture is dense and the tannins substantial but velvety. The wine matured for 20 months in 80% new French oak barrels. It tastes structured, flavorful and complex. Best from 2026–2032. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$310

94 Sullivan 2019 J.O. Sullivan Founder's Reserve Merlot (Rutherford). A fluid, elegant texture due to juicy fruit flavors and fine-grained tannins make this wine remarkable. It offers slightly restrained blackberries, blueberries and subtle oak spice accents. Still it's a bit grippy to drink now and get full enjoyment. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$320

93 Frei Brothers 2021 Sonoma Reserve Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$17

93 Gundlach Bundschu 2019 Heritage Selection Estate Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Mouthfilling and ripe, this generous wine offers late-picked blackberries and blueberries on firm, fine-grained tannins and a full body. Well balanced for its size, and containing 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is approachable now. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Kendall-Jackson 2020 Vintner's Reserve Merlot (Sonoma County). Concentrated red and black fruits fill out a frame of velvety tannins in this full-bodied wine. It offers ripe cherries and blackberries along with touches of charcoal, sage and mint. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Paradise Springs 2020 F'ing Merlot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Always a fun bottling, this plays on the Sideways film connection. It offers intense dark cherry and berry aromas, with a touch of soil adding depth on the nose. The palate is playful, with juicy red-fruit flavors that grow a stiffer upper lip due to clove and mahogany elements. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$48

91 Raymond 2020 Reserve Collection Merlot (Napa Valley). This is a flavorful, substan-

tive wine. Fully ripe berries and cherries fill up the aroma before a full body, dark chocolate and black cherries take over the palate, backed by moderate tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 J. Lohr 2021 Los Osos Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Le Vigne 2019 Merlot (Paso Robles). Fresh raspberry and tart cherry flavors are dusted in licorice and crushed slate on the nose of this bottling. Anise and woodspice flavors meet with dark red fruit on the palate, as tannins hold firm into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$28

90 Swanson 2021 Merlot (Napa Valley). Mint and oak-spice aromas lead to powerful black currants, cocoa and oak char flavors in this nicely oaked, chunky-textured wine. Sandy tannins give it a lot of grip at this young age. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

89 Havens 2022 Merlot (Mendocino County). A well-balanced Merlot, this offers generously ripe notes of blackberry pie, blueberry jam and black plum compote alongside earthy accents of fresh violets, forest floor and toasted wood. Tannins match with their plushy texture and acidity is modest. The finish is solid medium in length. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$47

89 Serres Ranch 2019 Buchanan Estate Merlot (Sonoma Valley). An almost-sweet, fruity aroma of raspberries and red cherries leads to a moderately tannic texture wrapped around dark plums and cherries. Cedary, sun-baked accents bring a sense of maturity on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

88 Firestone 2020 The Chairman Series Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Intense blackberry, wild herb and light cocoa aromas combine on the nose of this bottling. The herbal elements of oregano and thyme show even more prominently on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

87 Kenwood 2019 Discoveries Merlot (California). For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Raywood 2021 Merlot (Central Coast). A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling has a red-fruit-dominated nose that also shows a hint of tar. The palate is a mix of cranberry, sage and cinnamon flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

86 Castle Rock 2020 Merlot (California). This is a simple Merlot with straightforward notes of red cherry, plum, prune and chocolate, alongside

chunky tannins and a modest dose of acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

85 Gen5 2021 Merlot (Lodi). This simple Merlot has notes of raisin, prune, potpourri, dried tobacco, capsicum and smoke, knit together by tannins and modest acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

NEBBIOLO

93 Lepiane 2017 Alisos Vineyard Nebbiolo (Alisos Canyon). Though already six years old, this bottling will go much longer. It's great now, too, starting with cranberry, rust and salted, peppered-meat aromas on the nose. The palate grabs hold in all the right textural ways, showcasing flavors of rose, citrus rind, herb and gamy meats. Drink now–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

91 Margins 2022 Calleri Vineyard Nebbiolo (San Benito County). Very light and slightly cloudy in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with waves of raspberry, rose petal, cinnamon and peppery verbena. A sharp red-plum-skin flavor pops on the palate, where white pepper and tangerine peel contribute complexity. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$30

87 Anaya 2018 Potrero Vineyards Nebbiolo (Clements Hills). This is a simple, straightforward Nebbiolo, with notes of red plum, wild strawberry, chocolate and cedar wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$48

PETIT VERDOT

92 Paradise Springs 2020 Petit Verdot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Warm, dark and rich aromas of oak, cassis and violet show on the nose of this bottling of a grape rarely seen alone. The palate's sticky tannins present flavors of baking spice, dark fruit and light purple flower. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$48

91 Final Girl 2020 Petit Verdot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Roasted berry and black plum aromas meet with licorice and charred meat on the inviting nose of this bottling. A buoyant acidity floats the palate, where rounded, dark fruit flavors are spiced by clove and nutmeg. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

87 Davine Cellars 2018 Petit Verdot (Tracy Hills). Cassis and blackberry aromas meet with a tart balsamic note on the nose of this bottling. The palate gets a little deeper into the blackberry flavor, with a pinch of herbs, although the tartness is most prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

PETITE SIRAH

93 Zaca Mesa 2020 Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County). Opaque in the glass, this bottling is inky and smoky on the nose, offering iodine, charred beef and maple-butter aromas alongside the black fruits. Expertly polished tannins wrap around the rich roasted fruit and brown sugar flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$52

92 Kessler-Haak 2018 Thompson Vineyard Petite Sirah (Alisos Canyon). Elegant aromas of violet and blackberry are clean and brooding on the nose of this wine. Chalky tannins frame purple fruit and flower flavors as the acidity quickly rises and cracked pepper pops on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

91 Anaya 2017 Viñedos Aurora Petite Sirah (Clements Hills). What a beautiful expression of Petite Sirah coming out of the Clements Hills sub-region of Lodi. Full, voluptuous notes of black cherry, blueberry and black plum are peppered with complementary tones of tarragon, fennel, black pepper and olive tapenade. Corduroy-like tannins are well integrated, adding a solid backbone to the palate, and are balanced by generous acidity. A bold wine that maintains freshness from start to lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Cabana Wines 2021 Petite Sirah (Lodi). For full review see page 16.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

91 Hearst Ranch 2021 The Pergola Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Bold cassis, rich caramel and smoky barbecue spices show on the invitingly rich nose of this bottling. The palate booms in flavors of smoked fruits, as chunky tannins and powerful acidity keep the texture energized. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$43

91 MCV 2021 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Roasted black-fruit aromas are elevated with thyme on the nose of this appellation cuvée. Oregano comes into the mix on the palate, where blackberry reigns as the dominant fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$36

90 Bogle 2020 Petite Sirah (California). For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

90 Le Vigne 2019 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

90 Parducci 2021 Small Lot Petite Sirah (Mendocino County). This big, bold wine is filled with layers of aromas and flavors alongside firm, structural tannins and a solid dose of acidity. Enjoy notes of tart red and black plum, ripe blackberry and black cherry, dark chocolate, tarragon, fennel,

star anise, crushed violets, dried tobacco, cinnamon stick and black pepper. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Epiphany 2020 Rodney's Vineyard Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County). Black raspberry and dark-red rose petal aromas show a wild side on the nose of this bottling. The medium-bodied palate is herb-laced and peppery, with smashed and tart black-fruit flavors more prevalent. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

88 Arrowsmith 2020 TTT Vineyard Petite Sirah (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Black currant and black plum aromas are sharp and spiced with pepper and herbs on the nose of this bottling. The palate pairs black fruit with pepper, growing a bit tart toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

BARBERA

93 La Folia Winery 2018 Barbera (Sierra Foothills). Well balanced, engaging and fun this wine has an “old world” quality, complete with a (pleasant) barnyard funk. Firm tannins provide structure and backbone, while a good kick of acidity delivers vibrancy throughout. Enjoy a plethora of nuanced aromas and flavors including red and black cherry and plum, fresh and dried Mission fig, fertile earth, mushroom, sweet tobacco and saw dust. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$34

93 Lepiane 2020 Barbera (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Blackberry, raspberry, hibiscus and graham cracker coalesce into a very inviting nose on this bottling by winemaker Alison Thomson. The palate is crisp with raspberry jam, tomato leaf and unique annatto flavors, as spicy white pepper pops on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

92 Shadow Ranch 2021 Barbera (Sierra Foothills). Well balanced, vivacious, fresh and fun, this Barbera provides generous notes of red cherry, raspberry, wild strawberry, cacao, fresh fennel and black pepper knit together by corduroy-like tannins. A solid kick of acidity drives energy right through the center and makes this a versatile, food-friendly red. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Rubino Estates Winery 2019 Landmark Collection Barbera (Livermore Valley). Full bodied and rich, this Barbera has a lot going on, in the most fun and appetizing way. Find layered aromas and flavors of violets, ripe black cherry, blackberry compote, macerated black plum, chocolate, fresh cedar, sweet tobacco, star anise and a hint of caramel. Firm, textural tannins and a modest dose of acidity sew it all together. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$54

91 Rubino Estates Winery 2019 Night Owl Barbera (Livermore Valley). On the nose, this

wine has almost overripe fruit aromas, so it's a fun surprise to get the tartness of just-picked black cherry, blackberry and blueberry with that very first sip. The wine has earthiness as well, suggesting slate and fresh fennel, while gentle oak integration brings subtle baking spice and vanilla notes. Suggested food pairings include crispy-skin duck breast with cherry compote. —S.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Andis 2021 Barbera d'Amador Estate Grown Barbera (Sierra Foothills). This is an easy red to sip and savor. Ripe red cherry, boysenberry and strawberry blossom out of the glass, alongside complementary notes of tarragon, cinnamon, fennel, black pepper and crushed violets. The palate offers a modest acidity, resolved and chalky tannins, and a clean finish. Allow to open for 30 to 40 minutes for best enjoyment. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Andis 2020 Barbera d'Amador Barbera (Sierra Foothills). This is a nicely balanced Barbera filled with voluptuously ripe boysenberry, blackberry, black currant and plum, complemented by herb and spice notes of cinnamon, star anise, fennel, tarragon and roses. Fine-grained, friendly tannins gently coat the palate, balanced by a modest dose of acidity and leading toward a medium-length finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

SANGIOVESE

91 Al Lago 2020 Adagio Sangiovese (California). Order up: One seared steak and this Sangio, please. An appetizing expression of the Italian native, this wine offers scrumptious notes of ripe red cherry, boysenberry, marionberry, dark chocolate torte, violets, nutmeg, almond skins and toasted wood, all leading toward a lingering finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

89 Rubino Estates Winery 2020 Riserva Colleccion Sangiovese (Livermore Valley). This solid, well-balanced wine is easy to sip, share and pair with a variety of meals. Find appetizing notes of red cherry, raspberry, wild strawberry, black pepper, forest floor, dried leaf litter, crimini mushroom and a cannabis-like herbaceousness. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Le Vigne 2019 Sangiovese (Paso Robles). Red cherry and woodspice aromas make for a juicy nose on this bottling. The palate combines sharper, slightly tart berry flavors with dried meat elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

TEMPRANILLO

91 Absolution 2019 Pierce Ranch Tempranillo (San Antonio Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this is a lower-alcohol take on the usually rugged Tempranillo, offering aromas of red fruit and

crumpled red flowers. The palate is also more subtle than expected, with rose petal and light red-fruit flavors making for a great food pairing. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$43

90 Crush 2020 Temptation Tempranillo (Adelaida District). Black currant and deep violet aromas pull the nose into this Tempranillo. The palate is rich and powerful with dark fruit and toasty spices, but a firm structure and strong acidity holds the ripeness in check. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$58

90 Longoria 2020 Tempranillo (Santa Ynez Valley). Crushed rocks, rugged meats, wild fruits and graphite aromas introduce the nose to this bottling. The palate is still a bit young, as reductive, tarry flavors meet with lilac and riper berries, leading into a beefy palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$45

90 Shadow Ranch 2020 Tempranillo (El Dorado). This is a rich and ripe Tempranillo, with a tight tannic texture and full body. Enjoy notes of plump, overripe blackberry, blueberry, black plum, cedar wood and cologne. Pair with red meat served on the rare side of medium and topped with a berry-red wine reduction sauce. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

89 Uphill Vineyards 2018 Estate Grown Tempranillo (Amador County). Deep and savory, this full-bodied red offers notes of black currant, black plum skin, star anise, dried tobacco, black olive, black pepper, toasted wood and unsweetened cacao, all leading toward a warm finish. —S.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$33

88 Anaya 2018 Potrero Vineyards Tempranillo (Clements Hills). An overall well-balanced Tempranillo, this has delicate aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, boysenberry, hints of damp forest floor and touches of toasted wood. Moderate tannins and good acidity result in a medium body. An appealing red for a comfy, casual affair. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$42

COUNOISE

94 Tercero 2021 Counoise (Santa Barbara County). This bottling of a grape not usually seen solo is juicy but complex. From Camp Four Vineyard, it shows spicy cinnamon candy, raspberry jam, thyme and pepper on the nose. Candied red-fruit flavors meet with more spicy peppercorns on the lively palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

93 Paix Sur Terre 2022 Days Between Glenrose Vineyard Counoise (Adelaida District). A light shade of red in the glass, this always-refreshing bottling of a still-rare variety starts with candied aromas of cherry, strawberry and fruit punch. Spicy Big Red bubblegum and loamy earth add depth. The palate excites by combining juicy and spicy notes of

strawberry, white pepper and more cinnamon into an engaging sip. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$55

91 Epiphany 2020 Rodney's Vineyard Counoise (Santa Barbara County). Black plum and black raspberry aromas are quite dense on the nose of this bottling, which also offers dark rose and hibiscus tones. The palate is heftier than usual for this grape, showing dried fruit, herb and a hint of roasted meat flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

ZINFANDEL

95 Carol Shelton 2019 Karma Bastoni Vineyard Zinfandel (Fountaingrove District). Dramatically deep and expressive, this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine overflows with blackberries, blueberries, cloves and mint on a silky, juicy texture that belies the wine's power. Adding to its fruitiness and soft tannins are 12% Alicante Bouschet and 3% Petite Sirah. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$34

95 Ridge 2021 East Bench Funsten Ranch Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Supreme concentration and great depth characterize this powerful, structured and age-worthy wine. It boasts luscious dried plums and dried blueberries, plus plenty of black pepper and light wood-smoke accents, all backed by firm tannins. Best from 2025-2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$45

95 Ridge 2018 Buchignani Ranch Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Snappy raspberries and plump blueberries come to mind as this fruity, focused and well-balanced wine wakes up the nose and tantalizes the palate. Its vital, lively fruit expression is bolstered by fine tannins, melding with subtle oak spices on the midpalate and lingering finish. Blended with 20% Carignane grapes. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$40

94 Carol Shelton 2019 Rockpile Reserve Florence Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). Dark, deep and pure fruit flavors mingle with subtle cinnamon and vanilla oak spices in this lush and luscious wine that relaxes in soft tannins. Ripe, indulgent and yet balanced so as not to feel heavy, this wine is truly distinctive. 15% Petite Sirah and 5% Carignane are included. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$42

94 Louis M. Martini 2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Gnarly Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$100

94 Paix Sur Terre 2022 Old Oak Vineyard Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Ryan Pease is exploring a fresh style of Zinfandel in this bottling. It opens with spicy red fruit on the nose, offering cinnamon and cherry elements. There's just

enough tension to the palate, where mace, more cinnamon and peppery spices zip through the red-fruit flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

93 Carol Shelton 2020 Wally Wallstrum Vineyard Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Blackberry jam, dark plums and hints of dill and chives waft out of the glass as this full-bodied, rich-tasting wine coats the palate with relaxed, soft tannins for a soothing texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$38

93 MacRostie 2021 Clockwise Monte Rosso Vineyard Zinfandel (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Supertripe fruit flavors like dried plums and blackberry jam fill out this full-bodied wine with an exuberance that can't be denied. Moderate tannins add some counterpoint to the elevated alcohol so it comes off big but balanced. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$62

92 Baca 2021 Home Base Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Like dark-chocolate syrup over raspberries, this indulgent wine marries richness with tangy fruit flavors in a dessert-wine style. Either alone or with nutty, cheesy desserts, this wine will be a standout. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$40

92 Carol Shelton 2019 Peaceland Vineyard Zinfandel (Fountaingrove District). With the ripeness of a Port, this big, dark and rich-tasting wine offers dried plums and black figs, maple and brown-sugar notes that call for chunks of Parmigiano or a molten chocolate cake for pairing. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$38

92 Ridge 2020 Boatman Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Hints of char and black pepper in the aroma lead to robust black-fruit flavors and a good dash of tannin in this full-bodied wine. Blackberries, wood smoke and beef jus give it a meaty, powerful expression that seems perfect for grills and roasts. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$40

92 Sierra Vista 2018 Tiger Lily Estate Reserve Zinfandel (El Dorado). This wine offers excellent layers of flavors alongside an engaging textural palate filled with corduroy-like tannins, modest acidity and generous alcohol that adds a rounded, glycerin-like backbone. Enjoy aromas and flavors of boysenberry, blackberry, vanilla, cedar, dried tobacco leaf, fresh and dried violets, fennel, star anise and a lingering hit of black pepper. —S.B.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$34

92 Stirm 2019 Wirz Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel (Cienega Valley). Slightly cloudy in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of spicy strawberry flecked with graphite and wild herbs on the nose. The palate sizzles with lively acidity, cutting across the tart red fruit and peppery spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$33

91 Paul Dolan 2021 Zinfandel (Mendocino). Immediate aromas of this wine suggest berries right off the bush—raspberry, boysenberry and cranberry. The palate offers fine-grained, sandy tannic texture and energetic acidity that elevates those fresh fruit components. Find additional flavors of fresh fennel and tarragon, gently toasted wood, cacao and a hint of roasted coffee bean. It's fresh, vibrant, fun and enjoyable. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Sierra Vista 2018 Reeves Estate Zinfandel (El Dorado). Pronounced, appetizing aromas and flavors immediately waft out of the glass, reminiscent of black cherry, blackberry, smoked meat umami (complete with a black-pepper crust), fresh fennel and tarragon. The palate offers a mouthful of grippy tannins, modest acidity and a solid dose of alcohol that lends balanced warmth and elevates the voluptuousness of the fruit structure. Additional flavors include cumin, coriander, fresh and dried violets and a touch of cedar wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

91 Stirn 2020 Wirz Vineyard Zinfandel (Cienega Valley). Baked strawberry aromas are laced in mulling spices and amaro-like scents on the nose of this wine. There's decent tension to the palate, where baked strawberry, cracked hard spices and tea flavors are wrapped in sticky tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Thacher 2020 Homestead Hill Vineyard Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Focused aromas of plum, berry, caramel and cinnamon converge on the nose of this bottling. Spices and herbs meet with a tart fruit flavor on the complex palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$60

90 Dancing Crow 2021 Zinfandel (North Coast). This wine offers a great balance of fresh pops of fruit driven by acidity, and oak integration. It's all interwoven by a firm tannic structure that adds a solid backbone. Enjoy notes of boysenberry, red and black cherry and plum, chocolate, cut wood, black pepper, violets and dried leaf litter. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Kenwood 2021 Discoveries Zinfandel (California). For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

90 La Folia Winery 2018 Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). A very ripe expression of Zinfandel, this offers loads of fruit, herb and oak tones that are seamlessly interwoven. Notes of cedar wood, black cherry, blackberry, black currant, black plum, tar, dried black cherry, prune, fresh and dried tarragon, cacao and roasted coffee bean continue to express and evolve throughout the length. A coarse tannic texture adds structure. Acidity is modest and the finish lingers with a little heat. —S.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$34

90 Ruby Hill Winery 2020 Jewel Collection Zinfandel (Livermore Valley). This deep, dark Zinfandel is filled with a solid concentra-

tion of black fruits alongside well-integrated oak tones. Grippy tannins coat the palate and are well met by the voluptuous fruit structure and the elevated alcohol. Enjoyed layered aromas and flavors of blackberry, black plum, fresh and dried Mission fig, prune, menthol, tarragon, cacao, forest floor and cedar wood. —S.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 Zinfandel (Livermore Valley). A very accessible Zin, this has an exceptionally ripe fruit structure and plushy tannins to match. Find notes of plump blackberry, blueberry, fresh and dried Mission fig, cacao, licorice and vanilla. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

89 Cloak & Dagger 2020 The Defector Reserve Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Richly stewed fruit aromas are wrapped in oaky caramel tones on the nose of this bottling. The palate's smooth and creamy mouthfeel carries flavors of baked blackberry, soy and a pinch of herbs. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$55

89 Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Zinfandel (California). Fun and friendly, this Zin has approachable chalky tannins and a good zip of acidity that keeps the fresh, fully ripe fruits front and center from beginning to end. Find notes of red and black plum, black cherry, tarragon, chocolate, licorice and tree bark. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Joseph Jewell 2019 Grist Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Smooth, ripe and almost sweet, this full-bodied wine offers generous plum, strawberry and maple flavors on a rather soft texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Rincon Mountain 2019 Estate Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Muddled black plum, clove and nutmeg aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with baking spice and extracted, rich fruit flavors, with soft tannins. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$56

89 Zinfandelic 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi). A well-balanced and unimposing Zin, this offers notes of plump black cherry and black plum, chocolate, vanilla and the floral-spice of black pepper, licorice and dried wood. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

88 Neyers 2020 Vista Notre Zinfandel (California). Balanced if fairly simple, this wine offers notes of dried fig, dried black cherry, prune, raisin, vegetation and damp forest floor. It's all enveloped in a dusty-smoky aura. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

87 Bogle 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (California). Simple but well balanced, this wine offers straightforward aromas of black cherry, blackberry,

plum and violet with integrated oak, crunchy tannins and a modest dose of acidity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Castle Rock 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi). This well-balanced Zin is approachable in both flavor and price point. Find notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, licorice, cinnamon, chocolate, prune and raisin. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 Sobon Estate 2021 Cougar Hill Zinfandel (Amador County). Simple and cheerful, this has aromas and flavors of candied blueberry, chocolate, licorice, prune and raisin, knit together by a modest acidity and coarse tannic texture. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

TANNAT

88 Crush 2020 Tantalize Tannat (Paso Robles). Dark in the glass, this wine has a nose with a whopping amount of oak, spicing up the core of cassis. The palate is also all about oak, so will please those who seek that as a dominant flavor. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$58

88 Uphill Vineyards 2019 Estate Grown Tannat (Amador County). This wine offers aromas and flavors of rose, violets, black pepper, fresh and dried wild strawberry, raisin and a hint of wood, woven together by a firm tannic texture. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$33

86 Bolero at Europa Village 2019 Bella Colina Vineyard Tannat (Paso Robles). Pecan, woodspice, extracted plum and maple aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up caramelized fruit and dusty herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$43

OTHER RED WINES

93 Margerum 2022 Estate Cinsault (Los Olivos District). Super-juicy aromas of strawberry, hibiscus and pomegranate are enhanced by cinnamon, lavender and rose on the dynamic nose of this wine. The palate is juicy as well but contained by light tannins and a lingering acidity that carries through the dark purple-flower finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

92 Final Girl 2021 Dolcetto (Santa Barbara County). A beautiful shade of red in the glass, this exciting bottling hits the nose with snappy aromas of black raspberry, white pepper and licorice, proving quite fresh. The palate is bright and tense, with just enough tannins to frame the raspberry, strawberry and red-flower flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Longoria 2020 Two Wolves Vineyard Graciano (Santa Ynez Valley). Quite dark in the

glass, this bottling of a grape that's quickly gaining popularity along the Central Coast shows boysenberry extract, violet and loamy soil aromas on the nose. Chalky tannins frame the generous sip, where pure dark berry and baking-spice flavors punch into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$45

91 Castoro Cellars 2021 Oakenshield Reserve Primitivo (Paso Robles). Freshly smashed berries, peppery spices and lively floral aromas arise on the nose of this wine. Chalky tannins frame snappy flavors of fresh strawberry and Bing cherry on the palate, which is zippy and joyous. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$25

91 Piazza Family 2022 Carbonic Graciano (Ballard Canyon). Dense on the nose, this unique take on Graciano is rich yet also fresh, with aromas of black plum, cassis and violet. The palate is inky and intense while framed in sticky young tannins and fiery acidity, showcasing dark fruit flavors without much of the bubblegum that usually comes from carbonic fermentation. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$30

90 Margins 2021 Calleri Vineyard Négrette (San Benito County). This bottling comes off almost more like a cider than a wine, starting with a cloudy hue in the glass, making it look like a hazy rosé. Peppery and tart aromas of raspberry, tea and hibiscus lead from the nose into a zippy palate of brisk red fruit and tart citrus-peel elements. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 11.8%

Price: \$30

90 Tercero 2018 Cinsault (Santa Barbara County). This slightly aged Cinsault, which shows a touch of browning in the glass, offers aromas of stewed plum and earth on the nose. There's a leathery texture to the palate, where dried cherry and baking spice flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$40

88 Sobon Estate 2021 Rezerve Primitivo (Amador County). Ruby-garnet in the glass, this wine has the classic Zin mix of fresh and dried fruits with notes of blackberry, blueberry, prune and raisin, intertwined with earth and oak notes of coffee, toasted wood and cigar smoke. The palate offers a plushy tannic texture, modest acidity and medium to full body. —S.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

88 Villa San-Juliette 2020 Alicante Bouschet (Paso Robles). One of the few teinturier varieties, Alicante Bouschet grapes boast red flesh, making this an interesting wine to share. This bottling offers red currant, chaparral herb and peppery spice on the nose. The palate shows primary red-fruit flavors along with more pepper and a zippy acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$44

RED BLENDS

97 Kenefick Ranch 2015 Founder's Reserve Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Calistoga).

For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$150

96 Crown Point 2019 Estate Selection Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Dark boysenberries, elegant purple flowers and a pinch of pepper make for a compelling nose on this blend, which is presented in a restrained rather than bombastic style. The palate is smoothly textured, with just enough bite to balance the rich, creamy flavors of berry, mocha and lightly cracked pepper. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$175

96 Hertelendy 2019 Signature Mountain Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 4.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$150

95 Aaron 2021 Sand & Stone Red Blend (Paso Robles). Quite dark in the glass, this blend of 44% Grenache, 25% Petite Sirah, 20% Syrah and 11% Graciano is thick with heavy boysenberry paste and violet on the meaty, though not gamy, nose. The palate is packed with blueberry and dark purple flowers. Brawny tannins give these bold flavors a proper platform to shine. Drink now. —M.K.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$52

95 Gundlach Bundschu 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Sonoma Valley). Deep, concentrated and tannic, this wine is also elegant, showing finesse in the velvety tannins, plush black currants and black cherries, and layered-in oak spices of vanilla, cocoa, toast and mint. The wine is quietly powerful and should improve with some age. Best from 2025–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

95 Stone Edge Farm 2019 Surround (Sonoma Valley). Deep, opulent and brooding, this powerful yet silky-textured wine shows great polish, concentration and complexity without being weighty. The entry is smooth, almost soft. Black currants and black cherries mingle with mint, cedar and oak char nuances. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$95

94 Ferrari-Carano 2019 Trésor Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 7.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$58

94 McPrice Myers 2021 Beautiful Earth Red Blend (Paso Robles). Hearty aromas of roasted and charred fruit meet with caramel, baking spice and violet on the nose of this blend of 58% Syrah, 20% Grenache, 10% Mourvèdre, 6% Zinfandel, 3% Petite Sirah and 3% Graciano. Warm maple and brown-sugar flavors show on the palate, where that dark roasted-fruit flavor picks up cappuccino spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$50

94 Ridge 2021 Geyserville Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Toasted oak and wood-smoke aromas lead to equally smoky, spicy flavors of black pepper, blackberry jam and maple in this full-bodied, muscular and firmly tannic wine. Great to pair with barbecue and hatchet throwing. The Zinfandel grapes were supplemented with 16% Carignane, 6% Petite Sirah and 2% Alicante Bouschet. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$55

94 Stirm 2021 Benitoite Red Blend (San Benito County). This fascinating blend of 51% Cabernet Pfeffer, 31% Zinfandel and 18% Negrette, which is named after California's state gem, offers lovely aromas of red spice, pomegranate, wet earth and rose petals on the complex nose. The palate is both juicy and mineral driven, balancing flavors of red fruit, pepper and crushed rocks. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$29

93 Andis 2020 ENOR Rhône-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$50

93 Brecon Estate 2021 Forty Two Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$68

93 Demetria 2021 Pantheon Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). An appealing strawberry-paste aroma is layered in pepper and rustic herbs like sagebrush on the nose of this blend. The palate lands with energetic acidity that sails through flavors of wild herb and black cherry into a fennel-laced finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

93 Epiphany 2020 Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Barbara County). Freshly smashed boysenberry, lilac and peppercorn aromas come together seamlessly on the nose of this split Syrah-Cab blend. Firm tension to the sip gives an edge to the berry, ham, cracked pepper and wild thyme flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

93 Keola 2021 Keola Red Red Blend (Paso Robles). Nearly opaque in the glass, this proprietary red blend offers intense aromas of cassis, roasted wood and impressive extraction without being overdone. The thick and lush palate shows roasted black fruit and fig flavors, with a powerful body proving quite satisfying. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

93 Mountain Peak 2020 Gravity Red Blend (California). Here is a testament to good-quality, California-appellated wines. This red blend opens with immediate aromas of fresh violets, plump black cherry, black currant, chocolate, tarragon, fennel and toasted wood. The palate mirrors those aromatics, but they jump with vivacity from the solid dose of acidity and generous alcohol. Firm tan-

BUYINGGUIDE

nic texture adds structural integrity, leading toward a fairly lengthy finish. —S.B.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$61

93 Paix Sur Terre 2021 Songs of its Own Grenose Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). This blend of 50% Grenache and 50% Mourvèdre proves both pleasant to drink yet intriguingly complex. Aromas of plummy fruit and red spices slide into a tightly woven palate, where baked cranberry and strawberry are dusted in star anise, cardamom and more brown spices. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

93 Piazza Family 2021 Bella Vista Vineyard Dominic Estate Red Blend (Ballard Canyon).

Italian varieties and Super Tuscans are not the common choice in Rhône-focused Ballard Canyon, but this blend of 41% Sangiovese, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Montepulciano and 3% Merlot makes that worthy of reconsidering. Fresh strawberry, rose petal and carnation aromas make for a dynamic nose. The palate stays light on its feet while moving through flavors of brisk raspberry, crushed herb and light woodspice. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$58

93 Tablas Creek 2021 Cotes de Tablas Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).

This Rhône blend of 47% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 15% Counoise and 8% Mourvèdre recalls the charming wines found on so many unassuming European tables. Roasted cranberry, sour cherry and rose petal aromas lead into a bright, appropriately tense palate of snappy raspberry, cracked pepper and crushed thyme. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 The Feminist Party 2021 G-S-M (Santa Barbara County).

Jubilant aromas of raspberry, roasted cherry, oregano and blistered tomato show on the nose of this Rhône blend. There's plenty of garrigue to the palate, giving earthy depth to the sharp red currant and spicy black-pepper flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

93 The Language of Yes 2021 En Passerillage Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast).

For full review see page 12. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Vöcal 2022 Sabroso Red Blend (Central Coast).

Ted Glennon's blend of 47% Grenache, 35% Cabernet Pfeffer and 18% Zinfandel is an ode to old California but celebrates the modern palate. Aromas of dark cherry, dried meats and light sandalwood drop into a palate where baking spice and berry are wrapped in a leathery texture. Refreshingly fun yet also elegant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Whitehall Lane 2020 Tre Leoni Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).

This structured but elegant wine features just-ripe fruit flavors and silky tannins that lend an appetizing

sense of restraint. Fresh acidity buoys raspberries, blueberries and light oak char accents for a polished complexity. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Anderson Conn Valley 2018 Signature Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).

Brawny and beefy, this full-bodied, unfiltered and unfiltered wine wraps full-on tannins around roasted plums, beef jus and black cherry flavors for a big impact on the palate. With a roasted or grilled chunk of protein, the pairing will be great. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$195

92 Chalone Vineyard 2021 G-S-M (Chalone).

The nose on this bottling from a rocky, rugged appellation is more earth than fruit, as subtle dark-cherry aromas are overpowered by wet slate and turned soil on the nose. There's a leathery grip to the palate, where flavors of rounded red fruit and nutty pecan hit a savory streak for a compelling combination. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Détente 2021 Classified Red Blend (Central Coast).

There's ample density to the nose of this intriguing Sta. Rita Hills-Adelaida District blend of 60% Pinot Noir, 20% Grenache and 20% Graciano, with vibrant aromas of blueberry and violet. The palate pairs grape Jolly Rancher with white-pepper flavors, as a floral kick carries into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

92 Epiphany 2020 Inspiration Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).

Blistered cranberry, toasted fennel and sanguine aromas show on the nose of this blend of 28% Mourvèdre, 26% Grenache, 24% Cinsaut, 19% Counoise and 3% Syrah. The toasted herb note carries through the palate, where fresh currant and raspberry flavors meet with cracked-pepper spices. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

92 Epiphany 2020 Revelation Rodney's Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).

Aromas of smoked blackberry, peppery teriyaki, inky iodine and a touch of violet converge on the nose of this blend of 62% Syrah and 38% Grenache. The palate joins baked berry flavors with ample nutmeg, mace and clove spice, making for a powerful sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

92 Four Lanterns 2019 Sardius Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).

Lively aromas of violet, blueberry and cracked pepper are dark, rich and layered on the nose of the blend of 87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot. The palate is packed with floral flavors of violet and lavender, decorating the blueberry-sorbet core. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$49

92 Hearst Ranch 2021 Three Sisters Cuvée Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).

Dark cherry, crumpled rose and carnation petals, and

peppery thyme aromas make for an engaging nose on this bottling. Elegant plum, strawberry and sumac flavors sail across the palate, with hints of fennel pollen arising by the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$33

92 Koehler 2021 Les Trois Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).

Roasted red plum, cracked pepper and thyme aromas align on the nose of this blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre. Sticky tannins frame the sip, where red flower and fruit flavors are lifted by more thyme and pepper touches. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

92 Kukula 2020 Lothario Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).

Lively raspberry, rosewater, cinnamon, clove and warm pastry aromas work together on the nose of this blend of 60% Mourvèdre and 40% Grenache. Roasted red plum and strawberry flavors are elevated by white-pepper spice on the juicy, clean palate. —M.K.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65

92 McPrice Myers 2021 Altas Vinas Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).

Inky aromas of iodine, roasted kelp and dark, roasted fruits are savory on the nose of this blend of 54% Mourvèdre, 26% Syrah and 20% Grenache. Sappy tannins frame the palate, which is loaded with more roasted kelp, olive tapenade and tart black plum flavors. —M.K.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Midnight 2020 Vin Celeste Reserve Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).

Charming aromas of red fruit, crushed carnation, cinnamon and clove linger long on the nose of this blend of Syrah, Grenache and Viognier. There's ample texture and solid acidity on the sip, where baking spices lift the core red-fruit flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Thacher 2021 Working Holiday Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).

This fairly priced blend of 43% Grenache, 42% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre offers rustic aromas of smashed boysenberry, thyme and fennel pollen on the nose. There's decent weight to the palate, where dark fruits and plenty of herbs make for an engaging sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Zaca Mesa 2018 Z Cuvée Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).

The nose on this blend of 45% Mourvèdre, 43% Grenache, 10% Cinsaut and 2% Syrah starts off mellow and subdued, but then the plum, raspberry, rose and violet aromas ripen toward candy. Pencil-shaving minerality shows on the joyous fruit core of the palate, where strawberry is enhanced by cinnamon spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$27

91 Alamitos 2020 Night Owl Red Blend (Santa Clara Valley).

For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65

91 Cloak & Dagger 2020 Cryptology Red Blend (Paso Robles). Rich raspberry aromas are lifted by mace and clove on the nose of this “secret” red blend. The spice-driven palate offers clove, nutmeg and mace against baked strawberry and creamy caramel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$49

91 Cloak & Dagger 2020 Cryptology Reserve Red Blend (Paso Robles). Intensely ripe and creamy dark fruits are heavy but quite inviting on the nose of this proprietary blend. That boldness continues on the palate, where light tension cuts into the creamy mouthfeel and toasty wood spices. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$60

91 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Humble Beginnings Meritage (Paso Robles). Dark red fruit and charred wood aromas are presented in a subdued, restrained manner on the nose of this blend. The firmly textured palate picks up cocoa and espresso elements, giving depth to the roasted red fruit, dark wood and tar-like flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$53

91 Hahn 2021 G-S-M (Arroyo Seco). This is an excellent choice for a wide range of occasions and cuisines. This vintage’s blend of 70% Grenache, 26% Syrah and 4% Mourvèdre offers wet slate, dark soil, black plum and tar on the earth-driven nose. The palate shows a touch more fruit, with boysenberry paste as well as violet and more crushed rock flavors. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Hard Working 2021 High on the Hog Red Blend (Paso Robles). Clean aromas of cassis, lilac and tar make for a rich nose on this bottling, yet it retains freshness. The texture is both creamy and firm on the palate, where the full-bodied fruit flavors pick up spice into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$25

91 J. Lohr 2018 Cuvée Pau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 17.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

91 Majuscule 2021 Assemblage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Good, ripe and rich black fruit flavors highlight this full-bodied and moderately tannic blend of mostly Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Black cherries and blackberries meet light vanilla and cedar accents from oak aging, giving it spicy complexity. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Midnight 2020 Capriccio Italien Red Blend (Paso Robles). There’s strong herbal kick to the nose of this Super-Tuscan blend of 43% Sangiovese, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Malbec, 3% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot, with thyme clippings surrounding the red-fruit aromas. The palate combines dark purple and blueberry fruits with

lavender and cracked pepper for a complex treat. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$68

91 Neighborhood 2022 Blood Moon Red Blend (Central Coast). This avant-garde blend of Pinot Noir, Syrah, Gamay and Sangiovese is light and cloudy in the glass, offering aromas of brisk pomegranate, cinnamon and smoked meat. The lightweight palate combines sour cherry, cranberry and more meat flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Rincon Mountain 2019 Dusty Vinyl Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dense and ripe aromas of black currant and hard spices show on the nose of this blend of 39% Syrah, 33% Mourvèdre and 28% Grenache. The palate is rich and viscous, clothed in creamy tannins that offer black-plum pudding, blackberry brûlée and heavy vanilla flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$54

91 Sierra Vista 2019 Tiger Lily 1855 Estate Reserve Red Blend (El Dorado). This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot offers wonderful layering. Initial aromas recall a field of fresh violets. The palate introduces notes of black plum, blackberry, black cherry, toasted wood, vanilla, cacao, fresh and dried tobacco leaf, star anise and fresh fennel. Modest acidity and firm tannins knit together these elements and keep the voluptuous fruit in check, leading toward a fairly lengthy finish. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Tooth & Nail 2021 The Stand Red Blend (Paso Robles). This blend of 85% Petite Sirah, 9% Syrah, 5% Mourvèdre and 1% Viognier is built to last, starting with aromas of blackberry jam, cassis, wet clay and toasted wood. The palate’s dark fruit and hard spices are framed by textural tannins. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

91 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 Vintners Collective Red Blend (Livermore Valley). Vintner’s Collective is a collaborative winemaking project open to all vintners of Livermore Valley. As a nod to 2020, Wood Family’s expression consists of equal parts (20%) of Grenache, Malbec, Cab Sauv, Cab Franc and Petite Sirah. The result is a stunning red blend filled with expressive flavors of black cherry, black plum, blackcurrant, fennel, cacao and gently toasted wood. A firm textural grip and a lively acidity knit it all together. Enjoy now with your favorite BBQ cuisine and best friends. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

90 Al Lago 2020 Sonata Red Blend (California). This altogether well-balanced red blend offers expressive aromas of fresh blackberry, blueberry, bramble, cacao and nutmeg. Tannins are firm and structural, while the acid is modest. Flavors confirm the nose and bring additional notes

of rehydrated prunes, sea-air salinity and a meaty umami. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Chesebro 2019 Las Arenas Cedar Lane Rhône-style Red Blend (Arroyo Seco). Slate, violet, ripe dark fruit and light cola aromas show on the nose of this blend of 67% Grenache and 33% Syrah. There is a fine grip and buoyant acidity to the palate that frames the baked, dark red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Cloak & Dagger 2020 Subterfuge Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Soft and yet spicy on the nose, this blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Petit Verdot offers red cherry, cinnamon and clove aromas. The palate is peppery and spicy, showing a touch of the higher alcohol, with red fruit that runs from ripe toward bitter. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$49

90 Kukkula 2020 Pas de Deux Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Zesty raspberry, sagebrush and rose petals show on the nose of this blend of 68% Grenache and 32% Syrah, which also offers a hint of leather. The texture is grippy on the palate, with dried fruit and toasted nut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$65

90 La Folia Winery 2017 The Madness Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). This 75–25 split of Cab Sauv and Sangio has expressive aromas of black cherry, plum, raisin and prune, all enraptured in a smoke-meets-tar aura. Soft, corduroy-like tannins and elevated acidity give the fresh fruit flavors vivacity, while the dried-fruit tones act as a balanced complement. Gentle wood integration rounds it all out. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

90 McPrice Myers 2021 L’Ange Rouge Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Muddled plum, light pepper and chaparral herb aromas show on the nose of this blend of 64% Grenache, 24% Syrah and 12% Mourvèdre. There’s a hefty body to the palate, where red- and purple-fruit flavors meet with anise spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

90 MCV 2021 Red Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dense black currant, fudge and loamy soil aromas are lifted by light mint on the nose of this red blend. The palate is rich and intense, with creamy cassis, licorice and incense flavors aligning into a powerful combination. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$22

90 Open Skies 2020 Red Blend (Monterey County). For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$8

90 Opolo 2020 Rhapsody Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Smoked red-fruit

BUYINGGUIDE

aromas are laced with soy sauce on the nose of this blend. The palate of the wine is medium to lighter weight, offering savory smoked meat, tart boysenberry jam and more soy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Rincon Mountain 2020 Sunday Jass Red Blend (Paso Robles). Baked blackberry and chaparral aromas show on the nose of this blend of 25% Tempranillo, 25% Syrah, 25% Grenache, 13% Mourvèdre and 12% Zinfandel. The palate is juicy with fresh berry flavors, as pinches of wild herb add nuance. —M.K.
abv: NA **Price:** \$50

90 Shenandoah Vineyards 2021 Zingiovese Red Blend (Amador County). This fun and well-balanced blend is comprised of 43% Zinfandel, 46% Sangiovese and 11% Petite Sirah. Find notes of blackberry, black cherry, prune, raisin, nutmeg, star anise and sweet tobacco. The palate is filled with a coarse tannic texture, modest acidity and a slightly elevated dose of alcohol, lending just a hint of warmth on the finish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

90 Sierra Vista 2019 Tiger Lily Red Rock Ridge Red Blend (El Dorado). This is a generously full-bodied red, complete with mouthcoating tannins and warmth from alcohol. Find aromas and flavors of black plum, blackberry, black cherry, chocolate, brandy, toasted cedar wood and vanilla bean. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$21

90 Sobon Estate 2020 Single Barrel Kira Red Blend (California). Balanced and engaging, this blend offers notes of ripe, plump boysenberry, marionberry, violets, cedar wood, vanilla bean and flower, cacao, capsicum and dried leaf litter. The palate is warm, with a full mouth of plushy tannins, modest acidity and a finish that lingers just enough. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

90 Tooth & Nail 2021 The Glutton Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Crushed sandstone, muddled plum and strawberry, chaparral herbs and leather make for a pleasantly rustic nose on this blend of 53% Carignane, 30% Mourvèdre and 17% Grenache. The palate is meaty in flavor and mouthfeel, with peppery spice and rugged red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Vienza at Europa Village 2019 Vendetta Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Intensely dark fruit aromas meet with leather and wet clay on the nose of this blend of 60% Sangiovese and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Smoothed-out tannins frame the baked red fruit and licorice-spice flavors of the concentrated palate, which is well weighted. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$56

89 Ancient Peaks 2020 Renegade Red Blend (Santa Margarita Ranch). Smoked dark fruit, oak spice and an iron-driven minerality show

on the nose of this blend of 67% Syrah, 27% Petit Verdot and 6% Malbec. The palate of the wine is smoky, with charred fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$26

89 Bogle 2020 Essential Red Red Blend (California). If you like concentrated, rich reds, then it is “essential” that you stock this bang-for-the-buck blend. Firm, structural tannins give way to voluptuous black cherry, plum and black currant, complemented by star anise, clove, cacao and fresh cedar wood. The finish is filled with violets and roses. A perfect sip for any casual occasion, best served with an equally flavorsome dish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

89 Cloak & Dagger 2020 Sources & Methods Red Blend (Paso Robles). Muddled plum and singed chaparral aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 67% Tempranillo and 33% Grenache. Red fruit flavors are slightly extracted on the palate, where punchy elements are cut by cinnamon spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$49

89 Joyce 2022 Rocas Del Rio Carbonic Red Blend (Arroyo Seco). Cloudy yet translucent in the glass, this carbonic blend offers tart cranberry and wild sagebrush on the nose. Peppery spices fire up the tart red fruits on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Porterhouse Winery 2019 Blackridge Vineyard Reserve Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dense and extracted aromas of roasted black plum, black currant, tar and mahogany make for a woody nose on this bottling. Those wood elements pick up anise and roasted fig on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$90

89 Stiekema 2021 G-S-M (Adelaida District). This blend of 34% Grenache, 33% Syrah and 33% Mourvèdre offers pomegranate, rose petal and pepper on the nose. There’s decent texture to the sip, where warm pastry crust, vanilla and nutmeg flavors wrap around a red plum core. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Tower 15 2020 Red Blend (Central Coast). Earthy aromas of charred wood and dried beef meet with thick, heavy and extracted berry and purple-flower scents on the nose of this blend of 42% Syrah, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Zinfandel and 8% Dornfelder. The palate is candied, with boiled blackberry and licorice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

89 Uphill Vineyards 2019 Estate Grown Red Blend (Amador County). Rustic, big and bold, this 50-50 split of Tannat-Tempranillo offers immediate aromas of seared-meat umami. On the palate, the full mouthcoating tannins and flavors bring on the heat and meat. Flavors suggest dark, voluptuous blackberry and blueberry complemented by earthier tones of fresh fennel, star anise

and charred wood. It finishes on a bitter dark-chocolate note. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$33

88 22 Pirates 2021 Red Blend (Central Coast). Candied black cherry and incense aromas kick off the nose on this bottling. There is a strong herbal streak to the medium-bodied palate, where both juicy and dried fruit flavors make this a reliable table wine for a variety of cuisines. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Absolution 2020 Great Odin’s Blend Red Blend (Central Coast). Dried elderberry, coffee bean and woody, leathery aromas show on the nose of this proprietary red blend. Stewed fruit and heavy woodspice flavors join stiff tannins on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$48

88 Lion’s Ridge 2021 Reserve Red Blend (Central Coast). Licorice and amaro aromas spice up the tart red-fruit aromas on the nose of this blend. The palate is juicy enough with red fruit to balance the woodspice and herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Mina Mesa 2020 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Intense cassis aromas meet with wood oil and pine elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate is packed with fennel bulb, anise and wood shavings, with dark, dried roasted-fruit flavors also apparent. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Shannon Ridge 2020 Appellation Series Red Blend (Lake County). Well balanced and enjoyable, this blend consists of Petite Sirah, Syrah, Merlot and Barbera. Find notes of blackberry jam, black cherry compote, char, smoke, prune, raisin, black pepper and licorice. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Sierra Vista 2020 Fleur De Montagne Rhône-style Red Blend (El Dorado). This Rhône-inspired blend consists of 60% Grenache, 25% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre. Initial aromas of raisin and prune open up on the palate to additional notes of black plum, brandy, cacao, roasted coffee, Brazil nut and walnut skin. The full body is filled with a generous tannic texture, modest acidity and warmth from the alcohol. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

88 Sierra Vista 2019 Tiger Lily Outlaw Estate Reserve Rhône-style Red Blend (El Dorado). This Rhône-inspired blend is an easy-to-sip, easy-to-like red. Notes of red cherry, strawberry, roses and gently toasted wood are tied together by modest, gentle tannins and a solid finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

87 Member’s Mark NV Red Blend (California). This is perfect for when you want just a simple glass of red wine. Find notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, boysenberry jam, bramble, dried violets, chocolate and vanilla. Tannins are

so soft, they're almost nonexistent. That and the modest acidity yields a light-bodied wine for easy drinking. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$9/1.5 L

87 Pillars of Hercules 2021 Estate Bottled Red Blend (Dunnigan Hills). A mixture of over-ripe and dried fruits give this red blend a perceived sweetness on the attack, though the coarse, grippy tannic texture ensures a dry finish. Find notes of raisin, prune, blackberry jam, plum-pie filling, macerated black cherries, vanilla and nutmeg. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$20

86 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2019 Grand Mélangé Bordeaux-style Red Blend (California). Tart aromas of balsamic blackberry meet with licorice on the nose of this blend of 45% Merlot, 35% Malbec and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate picks up peppery spices and a sharp acidity, with a lingering balsamic note on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$71

DESSERT WINE

93 Center of Effort 2020 La Grassa Late Harvest Rhône-style Red Blend (Edna Valley). This intriguing project blended 57% Grenache with 43% Syrah and then aged the wine outside in glass bonbonnes for 27 months. Port-like aromas of prune, raisin, earth and spicecake dough are refined on the cordial-esque nose. The palate is viscous yet still firm with tannins and enlivened by acidity, showing dried fruit, pepper spice and lingering mint flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.
abv: 18.5% **Price:** \$75/500 ml

OREGON PINOT GRIS

93 Ridgecrest 2022 Old Vine Estate Pinot Gris (Ribbon Ridge). Pinot Gris made with great fruit and intention can be epic. This wine is exhibit A. Its aromas and flavors of beach grass, a crisp sea breeze, lavender-lemon tea, orange peel and basil are structured and powered by a jolt of acidity. And if you think Pinot Gris can't age, hold on to this one until 2035. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

92 Territorial 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is a Pinot Gris with some body. The richer texture is a nice backdrop for flavors of juniper berries, coriander and a ripe donut peach. Bosc pear and white peach aromas meld seamlessly with notes of sweet pea flowers and wet slate. Pair with cedar plank salmon and the "Lido Shuffle" by Boz Scaggs. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

92 Vincent Wine Company 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is not your typical Willamette Valley Pinot Gris. This a reddish-hued, extended skin contact beauty with mesmerizing

red apple peel, toasted filbert and chalk dust aromas. Silky tannins provide a frame for flavors like wild strawberries, black pepper and mint. Close your eyes and it could be gamay noir. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.

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

91 Approachment 2022 Point-of-Contact Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Forty-two hours of skin contact created a very nice Pinot Gris. It leads with an earthy, herbaceous aroma that combines loam and oregano. Then peach fuzz and chalky orange aromas take over. Peach and white pepper flavors are backed by silky tannins and a nice bit of citrusy acidity. Foie gras or Fritos—your choice. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Cooper Mountain 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Spring-like aromas of a fresh-cut lawn and day lilies, joined by lime zest and a touch of loam, are quite pleasant. The wine's crisp texture matches its dominant flavors of tonic water on the rocks with a lemon twist. There's some fruit here in the form of a pear galette sprinkled with toasted filberts and nutmeg. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 King Estate 2021 7 Rows Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Airlie 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). All Pinot Gris should be this interesting. The wine's pronounced grassiness tricks you into thinking Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of guava and green apple provide support. Then you get the crisp-textured palate and its flavor combinations of blood orange, carrot juice and apple skins, with a hint of turmeric. This is like the best juice bar mocktail ever. —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$25

90 McBeth 2022 McBeth Vineyards Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). McBeth's Pinot Gris welcomes you to the tropics with its pineapple, coconut and Jamaican orange marmalade aromas. The wine's soft acidity and a round-in-the-mouthfeel is paired with lemon drop hard candy, spearmint and tangerine flavors. Try this Pinot Gris with a baguette, fresh goat cheese, stars and a blanket. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Montinore 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is a snappy Pinot Gris where the aromas and flavors of fresh hay and Granny Smith apples will put you in the mood for a barn dance. The brisk palate shows off flavors like spicy ginger, toasted filberts, mineral water and cedar. This will make a great house white to keep cold in the refrigerator. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$19

90 Sokol Blosser 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The wine's pear tart and lemon curd aromas do an energetic tango with a tangy bit

of lychee fruit. Acidity and a mouthfeel so brisk your teeth vibrate are perfect matches for tart green apple and a citrus flavor that will conjure memories of the iconic Squirt soft drink. Maybe Fresca. This wine is pure fun. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Sweet Cheeks 2022 Vintage Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The scent of an orange peel being rubbed against an Anjou pear slice beckons. There may even be tiny aromas of Thai basil and Gravenstein apples in the background. The wine's creamy texture escorts sweet and savory flavors of lemon Lifesavers and soup dumplings stuffed with spicy pork. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Capitello 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Ripe pineapple meets tart kiwi in an aromatic love connection. I loved the wine's creamy texture and its flavors of guava, candied ginger and orange cake. The wine's acidity is just enough to keep things lively in light of what feels like a touch of residual sugar. Very enjoyable. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Sidereus 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (Laurelwood District). The wine's lemon-scented laundry powder aroma harkens back to the days when people used clotheslines instead of dryers. Additional aromas of creamy coconut and tangy pineapple conjure memories of a piña colada. The flavors here are a cross between a peach galette and pineapple sorbet. A perfect fit with a creamy texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Utopia 2022 Silverback Vineyard Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). There's an interesting starchy aroma that creates a hankering for Tuscan white beans or fried plantains. It is joined by a fruity note that mixes white peaches and Mirabelle plums. Flavors like lemon verbena and pineapple glide along the wine's creamy texture. The acidity is modest; the flavors are not. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Bluebird Hill 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This is an easygoing, light-bodied take on Pinot Gris that leads with a citrus aroma that triggers cravings for lemon pound cake or lemon poppy seed muffins. The wine's mouthfeel feels thin, but the lemon-lime flavored mineral water and peach flavors are refreshing. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

88 Borealis 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Quite an orchard here as an aroma of applesauce made with Ginger Golds collides with a peach tart and notes of nutmeg and saline. Iced green tea and peach flavors are refreshing, although the acidity is restrained. If you like your Pinot Gris with a creamy texture, here's your next house white. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$16

CHARDONNAY

95 Irvine & Roberts 2020 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$50

94 Brittan Vineyards 2021 Estate Chardonnay (McMinnville). This regal wine is a floral treasure trove of hyacinth, freesia and daylilies, joined by notes of lemon gelato, lemon verbena, thyme and melon. Honeycomb, cinnamon, lemon and melon flavors are downright juicy, with plenty of acidity to back them up. This is a joy to sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 Bryn Mawr Vineyards 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Ho-hum, another amazing Chardonnay from the Eola-Amity Hills. This one offers beautiful aromas of grilled peaches, pineapple, lemon zest and a wisp of butter. An orchard's worth of Golden Delicious apples explode on the palate, joined by flavors of spearmint and fresh ginger. The wine's brisk mouthfeel is complemented by vibrant acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 Lingua Franca 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Lingua Franca has another Chardonnay hit on their hands. The wine's aromas are a simple meal of grilled lemons rubbed with sage and butter. A tiny mineral note flutters in the background. Vigorous acidity lights up flavors ranging from Golden Delicious apples and brown butter to roasted filberts and wet rocks. Pair with a seafood salad and an Edith Piaf record. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

94 Nicolas-Jay 2021 Affinités Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The Affinités is one energetic wine, with lemon, butter and toasted filbert aromas joined by a trace of melting beeswax. The wine's crisp mouthfeel is right at home with zippy acidity and flavors of tangerine, thyme and gin botanicals like juniper berry and cardamom. Serve with halibut steaks grilled with lemon and garlic. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

94 Purple Hands 2021 Haakon Lenai Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). It's all orchards and rainstorms with this Chardonnay. The wine's tart Gravenstein apple aroma is complemented by a touch of toasted filberts and the aroma of ozone and a granite patio after a warm summer rainstorm. A sour green apple flavor is softened by notes of lemon gelato and green tea, with zippy acidity and a fresh mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

94 St. Innocent 2018 Cuvée La Liberté Freedom Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This is the Chardonnay to pour to celebrate 4th of July and Bastille Day all at once. Star anise

and vanilla aromas blend nicely with notes of white peach and lanolin. A pronounced tart lemon zest flavor hits first, followed by a pear tart with cinnamon note. Liberate your jaded palate with this wine's lively acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$120

93 Alexana 2021 Signature Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This is a Chardonnay for the citrus lovers. The wine's pronounced lemon gelato aroma is joined by notes of butter and toasted pecans. It is almost a repeat on the palate with lemon shortbread and toasted filbert flavors backed by wet rocks and medium-level acidity. This is a medium-bodied, richly textured affair. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

93 Domaine Serene 2021 Triple Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Light and elegant, this wine dances on air like Fred Astaire. Lemongrass, lime sorbet, butter and chalk dust aromas are a nice introduction to flavors like Meyer lemon, toasted filberts and a touch of sweet pineapple. Balanced, with crisp acidity and lean mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Flâneur 2021 Bon Vivant Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). There's so little of this wine available, it's almost cruel to let you know of its existence. But you want to find some just to smell the lemon water, apricot jam and the porky goodness of crispy chicharrons. The wine's smooth texture and citrusy acidity pave the way for flavors of pear, butter and coriander. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Flâneur 2021 La Belle Promenade Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). The wine's meadowfoam honey aroma is so similar to toasted marshmallows I could taste them. After that, aromas of lemon gelato and chalkboard dust came rushing along. The wine's zippy acidity cuts through complex flavors of a lemon granita mixed with mint sprigs, blood orange juice and a few drops of cassis. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Lingua Franca 2021 Avni Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Aromas of orange blossom flowers and orange zest are powerful, filling the air while notes of peach melba and coconut sugar drift lazily from the glass. The Avni's crisp lime twist in a glass of tonic water on the rocks flavor is joined by a touch of lemon sorbet and earthy oregano. Juicy acidity with a supple texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 Lingua Franca 2021 Bunker Hill Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). I found my Chardonnay thrill on Bunker Hill. This wine's minerality is stupefying, with aromas that make you feel like you are grinding arrowheads in a granite mortar and pestle. Aromas of pine needles, lemon and the saline qualities of salt and vinegar potato chips. Melon and

peach flavors with electric acidity are mere bonuses. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

92 Adelsheim 2020 Boulder Bluff Vineyard Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). I loved the earthiness of this wine's aromatics, as sage and oregano mixed with notes of lemon butter and gardenias. There is some serious acidity here, with a fresh, crisp mouthfeel and juicy tangerine and lemon curd flavors. Pair this wine with the shade of a tree and a book of poems by Ada Limón. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Alloro 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). The scent of a summertime rural road trip on a dusty road with the windows down mixes with pineapple and lemon basil aromas. The wine's soft and creamy texture is laden with flavors of lemon meringue pie, German chamomile and coconut. I would not hesitate to serve this with lobster rolls or a live Grateful Dead album. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$55

92 Bluebird Hill 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$35

92 Bryn Mawr Vineyards 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This is a great value that's packing some serious acidity. It has a compelling set of aromas that includes either lime or guava, lemon gelato and toasted filberts. The wine combines a sense of freshness with a silky texture and flavors like tangerine, lemon curd and the salt off of a Marcona almond. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Domaine Rogue 2021 Quercia Chardonnay (Applegate Valley). A tangy bit of lemon that includes the peel is joined by aromas of coconut water, basil, honey butter and toasted filberts. Classic. The wine tastes like it smells, which in this case is a good thing. Flavors of orange, coconut butter, anise and more filberts are backed by fresh, lively acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$28

92 Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Dundee Hills Incline Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Lovers of heightened acidity experiences will want to find this wine. Its white peach, white pepper and chalk aromas are complemented by a tangy note similar to a tonic water on the rocks with a lemon twist. Equally icy flavors include a lemon granita, lime zest and various gin botanicals. Be careful around the wine's texture; it bites. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$64

92 Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Iron Filbert Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The wine's herbal aromas of chamomile and lemon verbena duel for aromatic supremacy with honeycomb, peach, cinnamon and the leather of a well-oiled baseball glove. The flavors are fresh and clean, ranging from lime zest and wet to the powdery citrus of

lemon-flavored Fruit Stripes gum, with softer acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$126

92 **Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Quartz Acorn Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** Orange zest, jasmine and peach aromas are punctuated by a note similar to a bottle of sparkling water that is packed with minerals. Lemon and tangerine flavors do a brisk tango, fueled by invigorating acidity. Wet slate and thyme flavors also make appearances. Enjoy this wine now until 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$126

92 **Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Yamhill-Carlton Incline Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** The salinity of a clean sea breeze makes for a lovely aromatic introduction, followed by notes of fresh-baked challah bread, lemon ice and pine needles. Medium-bodied, with the kind of acidity that may suggest a long life, the Incline spent 11 months in 100% neutral French oak. Lemon shortbread and nutmeg flavors are flanked by wee bits of chalk and Marcona almonds. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$64

92 **Flâneur 2020 Bon Vivant Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Aged in French and Austrian oak, 100% new, the Bon Vivant leads with Mediterranean-themed aromas of grape leaves drizzled in olive oil, saffron, thyme and grilled lemons. More lemons on the palate, along with flavors like chamomile tea, lemon curd and coriander. A firm texture, with rambunctious acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$95

92 **J.C. Somers 2021 La Revanche Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This wine is not for butter lovers. This is instead a wine for the adventurous, like Alice's "Drink Me" bottle. It begins with the nutty aroma of a fino sherry, followed by tangy lemon and chalk notes. A soft texture with medium acidity awaits, with flavors like passion fruit, basil and Ligurian olive oil. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 **J.K. Carrière 2020 Lucidité Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This medium-bodied Chardonnay packs some sass, beginning with aromas of lemon zest, Golden Delicious apples, wet gravel and a wee bit of honey butter. Lemon chiffon pie and nectarine flavors float on a creamy texture. In a moment of quiet Lucidité, pair this wine with fricasé de pollo and a jai alai match. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 **Jachter 2021 The J Reserve Raindance Foot-hill Vineyards Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Golden Delicious apples, butter and saline aren't big aromatic surprises, but the tiny wisp of bacon fat sure was. It works. Brisk acidity and a crisp texture accompany Ginger Gold apple, lemon verbena, clarified butter and Old Bay seasoning

flavors. An obvious selection for the next round of Dungeness crabs. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

92 **Purple Hands 2021 Dundee Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** This 100% stainless steel stunner brings all the tart lemon and green apple aromas your olfactory system can process. There's also an earthy/starchy note similar to fresh corn masa. Restrained alcohol and frisky acidity are perfect backdrops for lively flavors of yellow grapefruit, anise, rosemary and sage. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 **Sealionne 2021 Halcyon Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Toast your halcyon days with a Chardonnay that fills the air with aromas of poached pears with vanilla, beeswax and fresh pine needles. The acidity of this wine takes no prisoners, with its crisp texture and flavors like lemon shortbread, lemon basil and chilled cucumber slices. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 **Violet Vines 2021 Eola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This medium-bodied Chardonnay, with its creamy-dreamy texture, has the most complex set of aromas—tangerine icing on a poppy seed muffin, buttered popcorn and blistered shishito peppers. Then comes the rich lemon gelato flavor, spiced with white pepper, rosemary and a touch of clove. Fantastic stuff for a great price. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34

91 **Adelsheim 2020 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This lovely Chardonnay's aromas are like someone left a plate of fresh-baked lemon shortbread cookies—with toasted pecans—out for Santa Claus. The wine's major league acidity makes for a lip-smacking, mouthpuckering experience. Flavors like lemon curd and rosemary, with a lean, brisk mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Angela 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Grilled pineapple and wet slate aromas are the perfect marriage of fruit and mineral. The tropical theme continues on the palate with flavors of crushed Macadamia nuts drizzled over pineapple sorbet. The wine's acidity is up to the task. Serve with pork fried rice and an Alfred Apaka album. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 **Argyle 2021 Lone Star Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** A poached bear with Roquefort crumbles is an aromatic combination that makes you long for dessert. Those tempting scents are joined by toasted filberts and lemon zest. The Lone Star delivers a thunderbolt of acidity that would wake Rip Van Winkle. Once awake, prepare for flavors of an icy lemon granita, grapefruit and basil. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 **Cooper Mountain 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Golden Delicious apple slices, chamomile tea and lemon butter aromas fill the air, followed by flavors of toasted cashews, rosemary, lemon sorbet and a touch olive oil. The kind of acidity that triggers goosebumps is quite invigorating. The wine's texture is equally crisp. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Irvine & Roberts 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Rogue Valley).** This lithe and lean Chardonnay dazzles with a rock-chalk aromatic combination worthy of a Kansas Jayhawk chant. The minerals join aromas of peaches, yellow apples and the tangy quality of a salt and vinegar potato chip. Lemon curd and honeycomb flavors surf some lively waves of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$35

91 **J.C. Somers 2021 Anahata Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine is light and lively straight out of the gate, with aromas of orange zest, lemon curd and a touch of something even more invigorating, like menthol, perhaps. The wine's crisp texture is the perfect foil for zippy acidity and flavors like pear, wet rocks and tonic water on the rocks with a lime twist. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 **Knudsen 2021 Family Series Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Acidity lovers, revel in this wine. A white peach aroma is intertwined with a tangy note that hits like a fresh basil-laced salad drizzled with a lemon and olive oil vinaigrette. The wine's blazing acidity and crisp texture showcase lemon sorbet and spicy ginger flavors. Very refreshing stuff. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 **Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Winemaker's Reserve - Kelly Kidneigh Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Lemon cream frosting and melted beeswax aromas are accented by the soothing scent of a cup of chamomile tea. The wine's creamy texture and "just right" acidity accompany flavors of lime sorbet, tangerines and clarified butter. This is a hedonistic Chardonnay experience worth seeking out. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

91 **Ruby 2021 Chardonnay (Laurelwood District).** The wine's citrus and baked good aromas are like smelling a tray of lemon scones right out of the oven, along with butter and graham cracker dust. A tangy iced green tea flavor joins up with touches of lime pastilles, honey and pistachios. A lighter mouthfeel, with restrained acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$40

90 **Argyle 2021 Nuthouse Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Lemons and pears kick off the aromatic rodeo, followed by wet modeling clay and a garrigue potpourri of lavender, juniper and sage. A rich lemon curd flavor unleashes hunger pangs that aren't quite appeased by traces of juniper berries

BUYINGGUIDE

and toasted marshmallow-like meadowfoam honey. Modest acidity with a smooth texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Domaine Rogue 2021 Chardonnay (Apple-gate Valley).** Mirabelle plum, cantaloupe and honeysuckle provide a sweet and perfumed introduction to this pleasing Chardonnay. A pronounced poached pear flavor is livened by spicy notes of cinnamon toast and candied ginger. The wine's rich, round mouthfeel goes hand-in-hand with its restrained acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

90 **Flâneur 2020 Cuvée Constantin Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Constantin's clarified butter, Macadamia nut and lemon cupcake aromas prepare you for a rich drinking experience. In a delightful U-turn, tangy lime, quince and spearmint flavors join with acidity of laser beam intensity to momentarily short-circuit the olfactory system. Confusing, but nice. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$50

90 **Lonesome Rock 2021 The Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Toasted hazelnuts drizzled with caramel are a great aromatic start, with a bonus round of peach, sea salt and a straw-like scent of seagrass. Enlivening acidity drives brisk peach iced tea and mint flavors. Pull up a blanket on the nearest beach and pour this Chardonnay with a baguette and some gouda. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 **Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Winemaker's Reserve - Anthony King Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** With its medium body and round mouthfeel, this Chardonnay is an easy sipping experience to pair with cool jazz and a lazy Sunday afternoon. Pineapple and shea butter aromas evolve into peaches, beeswax and pine needles. Rich butterscotch and pistachio flavors coat the palate, joined by notes of pear and lemon. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

89 **Jachter 2021 Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** This light-bodied and breezy fresh Chardonnay offers freshness in the form of lemon and sea breeze aromas, followed by a really ripe cantaloupe note. Tart lemon and lime zest flavors do a nice tropical dance with sweet banana chips. The texture is smooth and round, with modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

89 **Phelps Creek 2020 Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge).** This lean and light-bodied Chardonnay mixes muted aromas of starfruit and saline with a tart lemon flavor reminiscent of Sour Patch Kids, minus the sugar. The wine's brisk acidity would wake an overnight security guard. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$34

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 **J.C. Somers 2021 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley).** Winemaker Jay Somers is a Sauvignon Blanc master who has worked with this vineyard for many years. The intersection of those two facts results in a wine like this, with its electrifying acidity, and aromas of gooseberries, fresh-cut grass and a rhubarb tart. A rhubarb-strawberry combination is graced by a tart tangerine flavor. Absolute torch and twang. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Capitello 2022 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley).** This vibrant Sauvignon Blanc saw time in both stainless steel tanks and concrete eggs. Aromas of guava and shortbread are punctuated by bursts of cinnamon, hibiscus and the sweetness of a Champagne mango. There is weight here, with a full, creamy texture and flavors like honeydew melon and cream soda. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Andante 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Van Duzer Corridor).** Light and easy, this Sauvignon Blanc begins promisingly with candied guava and petrol aromas. Then, a nutty, Fino sherry-like flavor joins with a saline note to dominate traces of kiwi and grapefruit. The wine's soft texture is pleasing, with modest acidity and a grassy note on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 12.03% **Price:** \$26

88 **King Estate 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Oregon).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*
abv: NA **Price:** \$19

PINOT BLANC

93 **Vincent Wine Company 2021 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** The wine's aromatic combination of lemon zest, ricotta and pistachios will have you longing for a cannoli. Lemon and orange flavors collide on a light palate, joined by bitter almonds, sage and a trace of graphite. There's a citrusy acidity to accompany a smooth and slippery texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Brigadoon 2022 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** An electrical current of acidity drives this crisp and lively Pinot Blanc. Honeysuckle and orange creamsicle aromas suggest something sweet this way comes. Then a bone-dry palate delivers invigorating flavors like peach and a lemon-lime vinaigrette drizzled over fennel. It is light-bodied, but it throws a tangy haymaker. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 **Willamette Valley Vineyards 2022 Pinot Blanc (Tualatin Hills).** This Pinot Blanc is as thrilling as a roller coaster ride. The wine's acidity will cause your entire body to pucker. It starts with

aromas of earthy foraged peaches and fresh rose petals. Then comes the breaker wave of acidity to propel tart flavors like lime zest, fresh ginger and more peaches. This wine will make a great aperitif. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

PINOT NOIR

94 **Cho 2022 Blanc Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Made with fruit from Laurel Vineyard, this great white pinot was whole cluster pressed before aging in French oak, 17% new. The wine smells like the combination of a red cherry snow cone, chunks of peach and a wee bit of sage. Lively acidity and a brisk mouthfeel frame icy flavors of iced lemon basil tea and frozen raspberries—it gave my palate goosebumps. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$55

93 **Domaine Serene 2020 Coeur Blanc Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** If you were to dip a slice of a chilled Bosc pear into an Emmentaler-fueled fondue, you might have a sense of how good and savory this wine smells. Aromas of saline and white peach float in the background. The palate shows a firm body and elevated acidity to pair with flavors like lemon granita, chamomile and pistachio. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$105

89 **Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 White Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Peach and white chocolate battle wet rocks and salt and vinegar potato chips for aromatic supremacy. Peach pastille and Cap'n Crunch's famed red fruited crunch berries coast along a smooth, creamy texture. Modest acidity with a long finish. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 **Montinore 2022 White Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills).** A distinctly fuzzy white peach aroma is paired with notes of thyme and straw. While the acidity is nice and zippy, the wine's mouthfeel edges to the thin side. Lemon and lime dominate the flavor conversation, with wisps of cedar and Thai basil. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

RIESLING

93 **Brigadoon 2022 Dry Riesling (Willamette Valley).** This is one of Oregon's best Rieslings. It is dry and crisp, with aromas of chilled Golden Delicious apple slices, nectarines, jasmine and talc. The crisp mouthfeel is joined by a flavor I can only describe as homemade applesauce with chunks of peach and a few fresh lemon basil leaves. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24

93 **J. Christopher 2020 Sonnenschein Riesling (Chehalem Mountains).** This tip of the cap to the German feinherb style opens with the most

beautiful aromatic combination of donut peaches and the sweetness of Mirabelle plums. Tiny scents of pine needles and wet slate hover in the background. The wine's lemon drop, coconut, yellow apple, spearmint and honeycomb flavors and slippery texture may remind you a bit of a nice Sauternes. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

92 Ribbon Ridge Winery 2021 Estate Reserve Riesling (Ribbon Ridge). I loved the wine's aromatic dynamic duo of peach skins and petrol, with a wisp of Mirabelle plum hovering in the background. A baked yellow apple sprinkled with cinnamon sidles up to flavors of filberts and wet slate. A clean, fresh mouthfeel is driven by nice acidity and a bit of lemon zest on the long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Walnut Ridge 2022 Estate Riesling (Lower Long Tom). I love the way the freshness of the aromas joins with a citrus scent to give the impression of clean laundry drying on a clothesline. Peaches, chalk and honeysuckle aromas are a mere bonus. This is a dry, almost medium-bodied Riesling with a creamy texture that floats peach melba and chamomile flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$32

90 Ridgecrest 2022 Estate Dry Riesling (Ribbon Ridge). Yellow apple and pineapple aromas are matched in natural sweetness by the honeyed scent of a basket of sweet pea flowers. Honeydew melon and lemon drop flavors are joined by an traces of lemon grass, chamomile and chalk. A laser beam of acidity keeps the wine nice and tangy. Dry to the bone. —M.A.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$30

89 McBeth 2022 McBeth Vineyards Riesling (Willamette Valley). The wine's aromas of Anjou pears, fresh-cut hay, lemon verbena and wet rocks are clean and invigorating. A poached pear with vanilla bean flavor is backed by ample acidity that is almost a lemon flavor unto itself. Here's your new session white. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$20

89 Sidereus 2022 Estate Riesling (Laurelwood District). The scent of talc swirls about aromas of guava, peach, icy cold table grapes and a trace of golden straw. The wine's elevated acidity feels prickly, with flavors like passion fruit, lime and saline holding court. The finish is short, but you can't fault the wine's crisp factor. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$25

89 Sweet Cheeks 2022 Vintage Riesling (Oregon). A fresh scent similar to an icy cold mountain stream is joined by lemonade and fresh basil aromas that in no way prepare you for what is to follow. The dominant sweet lemon flavor is like licking the white sugar powder off a lemon drop candy, followed by bits of divinity, cherry and wal-

nut flavors. A sweet tooth's dream with soft acidity. —M.A.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Schmidt 2022 Pavo Real Vineyard Riesling (Applegate Valley). This bone-dry Riesling leads with peach and honeysuckle aromas that are pretty and uncomplicated. The wine's flavors and texture feel a bit thin, with a peach-flavored sparkling water flavor and a hint of lychee in the background. The wine's highlight is its bright acidity. Pair it with fresh goat cheese, crusty bread and a picnic blanket. —M.A.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$30

ALIGOTÉ

92 Andante 2021 Estate Aligoté (Van Duzer Corridor). This Burgundian wild child of a grape seems to thrive in the Willamette Valley. This particular Aligoté saw time in French oak, 18% new. It possesses aromas of melon and lemon verbena, with traces of toasted filberts and butter. The wine's lemon, green apple, pear and chamomile tea flavors are positively Chablis-like. Great acidity, with a crisp mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.62% **Price:** \$35

91 Cho 2022 La Belle Promenade Vineyard Aligoté (Chehalem Mountains). Lemon and saline aromas are encircled by a mineral note similar to the gravel stone dust that coats the rocks of many an old school driveway or alley. The wine's lemon, butter and mint flavors are also graced by a touch of wet slate. Super energetic acidity makes this Aligoté a juicy wonder. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$55

91 River's Edge 2021 Vintage Farm Vineyard Aligoté (Elkton Oregon). The wine's aromatic set features a unique blend of apples, sweet butter, carnations, toasted filberts and a hint of tortilla chips. Filberts and butter return on the palate, joined by lemon curd and chamomile. Best of all, this oak-aged Aligoté has the kind of smooth, elegant mouthfeel you never forget. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$18

GRÜNER VELTLINER

93 Reustle 2022 Green Lizard Grüner Veltliner (Umpqua Valley). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Flâneur 2021 La Belle Promenade Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Chehalem Mountains). Flâneur's debut Grüner Veltliner features Bosc pear and juniper berry aromas that are fresh and lively, with additional notes of treacle and lemon basil. There's more than enough acidity to balance the wine's flavors of lemon curd, white grapefruit and candied ginger. I can't wait to try this wine with the next bratwurst I take off the grill. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Reustle 2022 Hefeabzug Estate Grüner Veltliner (Umpqua Valley). An earthy note that mixes loam and wet gravel transitions to aromas of chilled Cosmic Crisp apple slices and saline. The wine's tangy blood orange flavor is joined by traces of lemon verbena and jasmine green tea. Lighter-bodied, with mildly tangy acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$34

89 Ridgecrest 2022 Estate Grüner Veltliner (Ribbon Ridge). Aged five months in a combination of concrete egg and neutral French oak, this Grüner Veltliner begins with aromas of peach tarts and a sweet citrus and cherry note reminiscent of Swedish Fish. The wine's smooth, velvety texture escorts flavors of yellow apples, spearmint, lime and wet rocks. Modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$27

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Capitello 2021 Dolcino Muscat (Oregon). Capitello's take on a "straw wine" is beautifully executed. The Sprite-like lemon and lime aromas are Muscat delicious without seeming too sweet. Absolutely stunning acidity cuts through green apple galette and lemon drop candy flavors like a knife. The Dolcino has a brisk texture and a medium body that isn't thick, with a sweetness level that is "just right." *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

91 Capitello 2022 Elkhead Vineyard Sauvignon Gris (Oregon). There's not much Sauvignon Gris planted around the world, but a tiny parcel of it is in southern Oregon. Tart grapefruit and lemon aromas are accented by traces of Thai basil and guava. A smooth, slippery texture escorts flavors like lime-flavored tortilla chips, Sugar Kiss melons and an icy lemon granita. Oh yeah, this wine was fermented and aged in concrete eggs. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Abacela 2022 Viognier (Umpqua Valley). This fuller-bodied Viognier packs a creamy texture and all the orchard fruit you can handle. Aromas of apricot jam, spruce needles and a touch of lemon transition to rich flavors like donut peaches and a nectarine tart. A bit more acidity would be welcomed. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$28

WHITE BLENDS

92 Cana's Feast 2022 Vaso Bianco White Blend (Willamette Valley). This worthy homage to Italian whites is made of mostly Pinot Gris, with Chardonnay, Traminer and Moscato bringing up the rear. Mirabelle plum and green tea aromas are a great match with notes of honey and lemon. A sour green apple flavor mixes with Sauternes-like flourishes of spearmint and butterscotch, gliding on a creamy texture. Love this. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$18

92 Johan 2021 Maceration White Blend (Van Duzer Corridor). This extended skin contact blend of Kerner, Friulano and Grüner Veltliner leads with aromas of apricots, roses, white pepper and a tangy banana pepper note. The texture is crisp and tannins gently rough up the roof of the mouth. The flavors combine golden raspberries, rhubarb amaro and cranberry orange kombucha. An invigorating tonic. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$38

91 Cowhorn 2022 Marsanne-Roussanne (Applegate Valley). This medium-bodied blend of 57% Marsanne and 43% Roussanne begins with rich aromas of butterscotch, musk melon, and juicy peaches. Honeycomb and cotton candy flavors are tempered by streaks of lemon citrus and clove spice. The wine's lush texture is pure hedonism. Try it with the Norah Jones album of your choosing. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Airlie 2022 Seven White Blend (Willamette Valley). Seven different varieties of grapes, predominantly Riesling, Pinot Gris and Grüner Veltliner, are used to make this refreshing off-dry white with a creamy texture. Apricot and white pepper flavors are joined by notes of mint and talc. Ripe peaches are tempered by a zesty tonic water and lime combination. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Cowhorn 2022 Spiral Rhône-style White Blend (Applegate Valley). This blend of 43% Viognier, 40% Roussanne and 17% Marsanne begins with ripe butterscotch and lemon curd aromas, along with notes of sage and daylilies. There are flavors of kiwi and lime, but the tiny bits of strawberry, peach fruit leather and wet stones are a joy. There's a touch of sweetness here to accompany mouthwatering acidity. —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$32

89 Cooper Ridge 2022 Cuvée White Blend (Umpqua Valley). This blend of 40% Riesling, 31% Grüner Veltliner and 29% Viognier is a light and easy white destined for outdoor concerts and get-togethers with friends. It smells of ripe, sweet musk melon, with wisps of lemon verbena and beeswax. Apricot and lemonade flavors offer a suggestion of sweetness to accompany a creamy palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

88 Bluebird Hill 2022 Duology White Blend (Willamette Valley). The Duology is a 50-50 blend of Chardonnay and Viognier that uses fruit from the Willamette and Columbia valleys. It features simple aromas of pineapple upside down cake and chalkboard dust. It is light-bodied, with modest acidity and flavors of grilled lemons, focaccia bread drizzled in olive oil and rosemary and orange cake. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINES

93 Flâneur NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). Yes, there are lemon curd, peach and white chocolate aromas. But behind those aromas is a note that reminded me of fried chicken skins. I consider this an amazing combination, as well as a hint to a food pairing. Lime sorbet, vanilla and almond flavors are delivered by delightfully lazy bubbles. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$40

92 Argyle 2018 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Wine Knudsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Aromas of crushed peaches and lime juice swirl up slowly from the glass, along with a tantalizing note of cilantro. The bubbles form a tight column to escort tangy flavors like Thai basil, lemon verbena and mineral water on the rocks with a twist of lime. This is an energizing sparkling wine. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Argyle 2019 Knudsen Vineyard Brut Sparkling Wine Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). One of the Willamette Valley's first sparkling wine practitioners continues their mastery with this 100% Pinot Noir gem. Warm sourdough bread spread with tangerine jam and wet pavement aromas make a heady combination. Lively acidity matches up with Mirabelle plum, lime and powdered sugar flavors, accented by a touch of lime zest. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Le Cadeau 2017 Blanc de Noir Sparkling Wine Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This sparkler is an orchard stroll filled with aromas of pears and Mirabelle plums, with lemon zest and fresh-mowed hay scents in the background. Frothy bubbles help to deliver flavors like lemon, shortbread and white chocolate. Oak fermented, with 56 months en tirage. Disgorged on June 27, 2022. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

91 Irvine & Roberts 2018 Estate Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Rogue Valley). A tangerine glaze on a poppy seed muffin aroma melds with notes of fresh rose petals and wet slate. Flavors of brioche, peach and Cap'n Crunch's red crunch berries glide along a creamy texture. This well-executed 62% Pinot Noir, 23% Chardonnay and 15% Pinot Meunier blend was disgorged in August 2022. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$100

ROSÉ

93 Big Table Farm 2022 Laughing Pig Rosé (Willamette Valley). This acid-driven wine screams, "Eat a peach!" It begins with a peach pastille aroma backed by an earthy blackberry tea note. Peach redux on the palate, with red raspberry, thyme, rosemary and pistachio flavors. The wine's crisp texture and lively personality suggest pairing

it with the Allman Brothers "Live at Fillmore East." *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$36

92 Domaine Roy & Fils 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Dundee Hills). This is a bright and shiny rosé featuring aromas like blood orange juice, donut peaches and saline. A brisk, lively mouthfeel goes hand-in-hand with flavors of lemon vinaigrette, fresh basil, wet slate and ripe apricots. This wine will wake you right up on a warm, sultry evening. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

92 J.K. Carrière 2022 Glass White Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). This is not a typical rosé. The winemaker whole cluster presses and barrel ferments the wine to dry. It is then barrel-aged in older French oak barrels, aged using lees additions and stripped of color with century-old Champagne techniques. It is creamy and packed with aromas and flavors of lemon, melon, almond, tangerine and honeysuckle. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

92 Johan 2021 Disco Chicken Rosé (Van Duzer Corridor). This blend of Blaufränkisch, Pinot Noir, Zweigelt, Kerner and St. Laurent is an homage to a bleak period in American music, Austria and winery chickens. The wine's aromas of peach skins, violets and pine needles are invigorating. The orange marmalade, nutmeg, chrysanthemum tea and pickled plum flavors are mesmerizing. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$32

92 McBeth 2022 Tulipan McBeth Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). This stainless-steel gem is a wall of juicy peaches, which I love. In addition to peaches, the aromatics include meadow grass and the icy qualities of a mountain stream. Peach gelato and lime zest flavors glide along a creamy texture, with a bit of white tea and lemon on the finish. Great value, as well. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Schmidt 2022 Ne's Tempranillo Rosé (Applegate Valley). The wine's fantastic aromatic set features red cherries and butterscotch surrounded by an aroma of high desert sage brush dampened by rain. The texture is creamy and the flavors are a mix of guava, strawberry-flavored Starburst candy and a bit of black tea. 100% stainless steel and 100% pretty. —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Cho 2022 Björnson Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé (Eola-Amity Hills). This rosé might be light and airy, but it packs plenty of flavor and a lightning beam of acidity. Aromas of orange-flavored Starburst candies and salted butterscotch trick the brain into thinking something sweet is on its way. Tart strawberry, peach and lemon zest flavors, along with a brisk mouthfeel, say otherwise. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Ridgecrest 2022 Estate Pinot Noir Rosé (Ribbon Ridge). Aged in a combination of neutral French oak and stainless steel, this rosé has both body and brisk acidity. Sweet gardenias and slices of chilled watermelon describe the wine's aromas to a T. Tart and tangy flavors like apricot, lime zest and a touch of tangerine fill the mouth with every sip. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

90 Irvine & Roberts 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Rogue Valley). Simple, but pleasing aromas of ripe cantaloupe and lemon zest greet the nose. A tangier pink grapefruit flavor rules the palate, with trace amounts of papaya and beeswax. An interesting green tea with lemon note pops up on the finish. The wine's crisp texture goes hand-in-hand with its energetic acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$35

90 J.C. Somers 2022 Whole Lotta Rosé (Columbia Gorge). This 50-50 blend of Grenache and Tempranillo will leave rosé fans thunderstruck. Orange and chalk dust aromas are subtle, but the wine's iced black tea with lemon and raspberry flavors will shake you all night long. Some might think the tangy direct current of acidity is a touch too much, but they'd be wrong. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Saffron Fields Vineyard 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). This wine isn't overly complicated, but it answers all the questions you could ask of a rosé. Apricot and sweet red raspberry aromas set the table, with flavors like strawberry gelato and chrysanthemum tea with a slice of lemon closing the deal. The wine's modest acidity and creamy texture make for easy sipping. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

90 Territorial 2022 Equinox Vineyard Pinot Gris Rosé (Willamette Valley). Dried rose petals and ripe peach aromas unite with a beautifully sweet floral note that's somewhere close to freesia or sweetpea flowers. A tangy bit of acidity backs tart flavors of lemon zest and iced mint tea, along with traces of strawberry and Marcona almonds. The pink elephant on the label is perfect. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

89 Denison Cellars 2022 Johnson Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé (Eola-Amity Hills). This is a fuller-bodied, tank fermented and aged rosé that saw four days of pre-fermentation skin contact. There's a hint of spice on the nose, along with aromas of strawberry, watermelon and basil. The wine's creamy texture floats flavors like cranberry and iced green tea with lemon. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

89 Montinore 2022 Lagrein Rosato Rosé (Tualatin Hills). Here's something you don't see every day in Oregon—an organic/Biodynamic certified, 100% Lagrein rosé done in stainless steel and amphorae. Aromas of strawberries, grilled peaches drizzled in lime and straw lead the way. A lighter-

bodied wine, with a creamy texture floating flavors of tangerines and red raspberries. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Roshni 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (McMinnville). A lighter-bodied pink teeming with bright acidity and fruit. The wine's peach, rose petal and sweetpea flower aromas are an enticing perfume. A crisp texture underscores flavors like strawberry lemonade and toasted filberts. This would make an excellent companion to a picnic featuring cold fried chicken. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$22

88 Bluebird Hill 2022 Estate Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley). The wine's aromatic set features grilled peaches, roasted filberts and the wet pavement scent you get after a good summer rain. Honeydew melon is the main fruit flavor, with additional notes of spearmint and iron. The thing that stands out the most about this wine is its DEFCON 1 level of acidity—it made my teeth chatter. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Scenic Valley Farms 2022 Pinot Gris Rosé (Willamette Valley). A combination of skin contact and carbonic maceration creates a creamy textured wine the color of a penny. Aromas of peach, straw and wet concrete lead to earthy flavors like oregano and cantaloupe, with traces of raspberries and brown sugar. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18

PINOT NOIR

95 J. Christopher 2019 Bella Vida Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The wine's aromatic combination of dried rose petals, red raspberries and lilacs with traces of loam and barnyard may draw comparisons to a certain region in France. Bing cherry, anise and espresso with a lemon twist flavors coat the palate. Muscular tannins and juicy acidity suggest enjoyment until 2032–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Le Cadeau 2021 Trajet Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Domaine Rogue 2021 Oshala Pinot Noir (Applegate Valley). This fuller-bodied Pinot Noir dazzles with aromas of blackcap raspberries, leather and coffee. There's also a lemon and lanolin note that's quite intriguing. Marionberry and lavender chocolate flavors unite with a savory meaty note, all backed by crisp acidity. The wine's graceful texture makes it a pleasure to sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

94 J. Christopher 2019 Volcanique Special Selection Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Lingua Franca 2021 The Plow Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The Plow is grace and power. It exudes aromas of dark raspberries, grilled portobello mushrooms, loamy soil and a sweet herbal note reminiscent of horehound candy. Muscular tannins flex while surprisingly zippy acidity lights up palate-coating flavors of raspberries, bacon fat, figs and black tea with cream. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

93 Alloro 2021 Riservata Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Blackberries and violets mix it up with aromas of leather and wet modeling clay. Impressive acidity and firm tannins back flavors like sweet, ripe marionberries and white grapefruit. The Riservata aged for 11 months in French oak, 51% new. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$68

93 Arborbrook 2019 Corrine Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Briary red fruit lays the foundation for an aromatic set that turns notes of fresh-turned earth, gardenias and the wormwood of an antique bookstore into pure magic. The flavors are equally alluring, with tart blackberries, orange cake and earthy sage casting a spell. The wine's tannins are integrated, with crisp acidity still kicking. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Arborbrook 2018 Olenik Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This wine's Bing cherry and strawberry pie aromas alone are worth the price of admission. They are joined by notes of mineral water, wet rocks and loamy soil. Tarter cranberries lurk on the palate, along with flavors of dried rose petals, lavender and citrus. Muscular tannins and zingy acidity suggest a long future, perhaps until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Bergström 2021 La Spirale Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This 100% whole cluster gem delivers a rich black cherry fruit aroma that is joined by sweet and floral notes of lilac and gardenia. Blackcap raspberry and blueberry sorbet flavors are accented by cedar, leather and a chalky mineral note. Beautifully balanced, with invigorating acidity. Enjoy now until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$92

93 Bergström 2021 Winery Block Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Dark raspberry and blueberry fruit aromas explode from the glass, followed by a touch of cedar and a slightly sweet citrus note similar to Meyer lemons or lemon pastilles. Sturdy tannins support tart and tangy flavors like marionberries, fennel and strawberry black tea. Try

BUYINGGUIDE

it with an herbed rack of lamb. Enjoy 2024–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$130

93 Flâneur 2021 Rivoli Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The Rivoli is rarely seen, but it is well worth tracking down. Its dusty bramble-berry, lavender and earthy oregano aromas are like an Oregon garden stroll. Darker raspberry and blueberry flavors are punctuated by bursts of cedar plank and cinnamon. The creamy texture is befitting soft acidity and plush tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

93 Flâneur 2018 La Belle Promenade Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This treat from the Flâneur cellars features a medley of sweet and brambly fruit aromas of blackcap raspberries, blueberries and black currants. There's also a smoky/meaty note similar to steaks on a BBQ grill. Black cherries rule the flavor roost, where they are joined by bursts of espresso and lemon. Bracing acidity carries the day, with still sturdy tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 J. Christopher 2021 Medici Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Briary red raspberries, lime zest and the fresh saline scent of the lining of a fresh-shucked oyster are lively and refreshing. This is a beautifully balanced wine, where the smoked red cherry, lemon citrus and black tea flavors are in harmony with snappy acidity and sturdy tannins. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Knudsen 2021 Family Series Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The wine's dark cherry and raspberry aromas are surrounded by a bundle of sweet-scented phlox and lavender. Bright red cherry fruit is nice, especially when paired with silky tannins and a laser beam of acidity. But the figs and peppery edible nasturtiums are the stuff of flavor memories. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

93 Phelps Creek 2021 Cuvée Alexandrine Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). The beauty of Alexandrine is undeniable. Ripe blackberry and black cherry aromas are counterpointed by tangy wisps of aged balsamic vinegar and pickled daikon. Zingy acidity is the equal of brawny tannins, providing ample support for flavors like cherry clafoutis and black tea with a lemon wedge. Enjoy now until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$63

93 Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Classique Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Wow. Blueberry compote and coriander is an almost perfect aromatic combination. The tiny bit of leather is just a bonus. Tangy boysenberry and ripe wild strawberry flavors are joined by an elegant note of white chrysanthemum tea with lemon. A smooth, rich

mouthfeel with velvety tannins and elevated acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

93 Ruby 2021 Flora's Reserve Pinot Noir (Laurerwood District). This wine represents two barrels of Wädenswil clone Pinot Noir fruit plucked from 50-year-old vines. Its aromas of blackcap raspberries, blueberries and lemon peel are accompanied by notes of nutmeg and vanilla. Silky tannins are matched by crisp acidity, with flavors like tart red cherries and horehound candies. Enjoy now until 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

93 Ruby 2021 Hendrick's Legacy Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is a nicely balanced Pinot Noir with a smooth, soft texture, silky tannins and enough acidity to keep things lively. Aromas of red raspberries and lilacs are joined by a chocolate note similar to the chips in a Tollhouse cookie. Darker raspberries appear as a primary flavor, along with a cup of Assam tea flavored with agave syrup. Quite a legacy. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Ruby 2021 Steve's Reserve Pinot Noir (Laurerwood District). What a great aromatic mix of blackcap raspberries, violets, meat fat dripping down to hot coals and the saline of a fresh-shucked oyster lining. This wine smells like Oregon. The energetic acidity and velvety tannins back flavors like black cherries and peaches, with a bit of dark chocolate. The wine's mouthfeel is gracefully smooth. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$75

92 Adelsheim 2021 Boulder Bluff Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The Boulder Bluff is still wound a little tight, with muscular tannins dominating the scene. A dusty roadside wild blackberry aroma is joined by a saline note reminiscent of pan-seared scallops drizzled in lemon juice. Dark raspberry and cherry flavors hold court on the palate, along with a note of black tea with a lemon wedge. Enjoy 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$85

92 Alexana 2021 West Blocks Sedimentary Soil Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Earthy forest floor notes of loam and wild mushrooms join forces with blackberry jam and bittersweet dark chocolate to create a picnic of aromas. Lemony acidity gives the wine's mouthfeel a bit of snap to accompany sinewy tannins and flavors of dark raspberries and dark Indonesian black coffee. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Argyle 2021 Lone Star Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). A delightfully savory nose combines bowls of blackberries with the qualities of a rare steak. A bit of cinnamon spice hovers in the background. Tart raspberry and lemon flavors, with traces of rosemary and cedar, match nicely with energizing acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Bergström 2021 Cumberland Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A burst of bright red cherries leads the way, followed by aromas like chalkboard dust, the clean marine saline of a fresh-shucked oyster shell lining and grated nutmeg. Raspberry fruit is joined on the palate by flavors of red apple, pear and cedar. Elevated acidity, restrained alcohol and firm tannins. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$45

92 Bluebird Hill 2021 Flagship Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

92 Capitello 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A wonderfully mineral and chalky nose blends seamlessly with aromas of tart cranberry and hay warming in the sun. Red cherry and lemon flavors are backed by crisp acidity and tannins that slightly rough up the roof of the mouth. I might hold on to this wine for another 10 years to see what it can do. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Denison Cellars 2019 Tête de Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This graceful Pinot Noir is made from two "best barrels" from vineyards in the Eola-Amity Hills and Ribbon Ridge AVAs. It has tangy cranberry and raspberry aromas to go with a meaty-smoky quality that will have you hankering for BBQ short ribs. The wine's elevated acidity creates a juicy mouthfeel to accompany flavors like blackberry lemonade, black tea and a trace of bacon fat. Yummy. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Dundee Hills Incline Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The smell of a blackberry pie straight out of the oven is a nice aromatic introduction. The Incline then rolls on with aromas of violets, wet granite and a touch of cinnamon. Blackberries are tarter as a flavor. Firm tannins and lemony acidity back additional flavors of tart raspberries and wild strawberries. Enjoy now until 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Iron Filbert Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Aged in mostly neutral French oak, this balanced and graceful beauty entices with aromas of bright red cherries, violets and spicy coriander. Tart blackberry and tannic black tea flavors, with a bit of grilled meat in the background, are supported by silky tannins and zingy acidity. Enjoy now until 2034, perhaps longer. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$126

92 Domaine Serene 2019 Mark Bradford Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). What an intriguing aromatic combination of smoked cherries, bittersweet dark chocolate and coconut macaroons. The wine's flavors range from black cherry and rose water to a spicy edible flower, like nasturtiums, and a ripe Oregon white truffle. Velvety tannins, with soft acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$165

92 Dusky Goose 2018 Rambouillet Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This is such a fresh and lively Pinot Noir; each sip was like a cold washcloth on a hot day. The wine's raspberry compote and maple aromas provide cover for violets and white pepper in the background. Bright, crisp red raspberry and citrus flavors are a perfect match for the kind of acidity that causes dancing to break out. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$100

92 Et Fille 2021 Maresh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). They say wine is made in the vineyard. In that case, Maresh Vineyard is a great place to work. Et Fille has translated that epic Maresh fruit into an elegant Pinot Noir filled with aromas and flavors of red cherries, pomegranate seeds, wet rocks, loamy soil, orange blossom flowers and black tea. Bright acidity makes for an electric texture to pair with silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

92 J. Christopher 2021 Bieze Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This wine is the Bieze knees. Its raspberry and dried rose petal aromas are counterpointed by the smell of worn leather that may as well be James Dean's motorcycle jacket. The fruit is darker on the balanced palate, with a blackberry popsicle flavor uniting with notes of black tea and cedar. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

92 J.C. Somers 2021 La Colina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Wow. Raspberry chewing gum, rose petals and popped sweetcorn aromas are quite the introduction. There's a nice bit of acidity here, but this medium-bodied wine's hefty tannins have yet to unwind. Black cherry and black tea flavors are powerful, with a slightly chewy texture. Enjoy 2024-2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 J.C. Somers 2021 Nicholas Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Magical things happen when you combine Dundee Hills fruit with the winemaking touch of Jay Somers. Like this wine, with its perfumed nose of lavender, dried rose petals and marionberry pie. The flavors are equally rich, with ripe blackberries tempered by leather and wet slate, with lively acidity and firm tannins. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Le Cadeau 2021 Côte Est Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Wild mushrooms and other forest floor wonders are earthy aromatic treats, followed by notes of black cherry and violets. Silky tannins and a moderate amount of acidity help create a slick and slippery environment for flavors like blackberry jam, clove and cedar. Medium-bodied, with a long finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Le Cadeau 2021 Rocheux Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Red raspberries lead a roller coaster ride of aromas that include wet stone,

sage, lavender and lemonade. A darker boysenberry and blackberry fruit combination joins flavors like aged balsamic vinegar and agave. Brilliant acidity steers the ship, along with an assist from silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$60

92 McBeth 2021 Farm House Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is no witches brew. This is a pretty, acid-driven Pinot Noir with layers of fruit on the nose. A bright red cherry scent is followed by cranberries and blackberry jam, with a little olive oil for good measure. A crisp mouthfeel, with silky tannins and cherry sorbet, orange and cedar flavors. This is a well-executed fruit basket of a wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

92 Nysa Vineyard 2018 Leda's Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). An invigorating aromatic trio of blackberries, spearmint and fresh-pulled espresso shots get things off on the right foot. Bright acidity and integrated tannins provide a lively backdrop for raspberry soda, orange zest and dark chocolate flavors. A nice, long finish is the perfect ending. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$95

92 Privé 2021 Chehalem Mountains Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). An earthy burst of loamy soil and oregano quickly gives way to aromas of red raspberries and violets. Silky tannins and vigorous acidity are in balance with a bushel of bright red cherries. Other flavors include a breakfast medley of a cup of orange pekoe tea with a plate of waffles with butter. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Purple Hands 2021 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aromatically, this Pinot Noir is a wonderful combination of really ripe blackcap raspberry fruit, lemon citrus and a trace of loam. Dried red cherries and black tea flavors grace a silky smooth texture, supported by a balanced selection of slightly elevated acidity and supple tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Purple Hands 2021 Haakon Lenai Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). First it's an earthy aroma similar to potatoes just plucked from the ground. Then the wave of blackberries hits, followed by aromas of chamomile and roasted meat. It's all très sauvage. The wine's blackberry flavors are equally intense as they mix with black tea and a saline note. Firm tannins, with modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Purple Hands 2021 Latchkey Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The wine's blackberry tea aroma blends seamlessly with perfumed notes of violets, bergamot and cedar. Tart blackcap raspberry and espresso flavors are backed by just enough acidity and velvety tannins. The wine's tex-

ture is smooth and soft, with a spicy note on the finish similar to Old Bay seasoning. It works. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Purple Hands 2021 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Blood orange juice and spearmint aromas form an alluring perfume to match with ripe blackcap raspberry scents. Fine-grained tannins and lemony acidity join with flavors of a cherry pie right out of the oven, lemon zest and toasted walnuts. Might make a fine match with pork chops and thyme. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Mei's Cuvee Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). An aroma of red raspberries is joined by the sweet summertime beauty of ripe watermelon. Black cherries coated in bittersweet dark chocolate are the dominant flavors, joined by an earthy saline note similar to a handful of sunflower seeds. The wine's texture is supple, with fine-grained tannins and restrained acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

92 Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Winemaker's Reserve - Kelly Kidneigh Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a Violet Beauregarde special with aromas and flavors of blueberries galore. Plum and lavender aromas add to the fun, followed by non-blueberry flavors like dark chocolate, dark raspberries and white chrysanthemum tea. A supple texture, with velvety tannins and just the right amount of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Trout Lily Ranch 2018 Adams Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Rich, ripe blackberries fill out an aromatic set featuring sweet tea and violets. The wine's creamy texture envelops black cherry, fresh rose petal and honeycomb flavors. Look for velvety tannins and subdued acidity. There's also a nice flavor of English breakfast tea with a wedge of lemon that goes on forever. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

92 Violet Vines 2021 Estate Origin Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville). A distinctly floral nose, with fresh rose petals and lilacs blending with blueberries, red apples and a bit of cinnamon. The wine's mouthfeel is smooth and supple, with enough tannins and acidity to give a sense of balance to copious amounts of cherries and boysenberries. The wine spent 11 months in French oak, only 4% new. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

91 Adelsheim 2021 Breaking Ground Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The wine's earthy aromas of loam and wild mushrooms are joined by a sweet blackberry and lilac note that is perfume-like. Vigorous acidity and silky tannins back flavors of tangy red raspberries, cacao nibs and a trace of spicy Ligurian olive oil. Such a lively Pinot Noir. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Alexana 2021 East Blocks Volcanic Soils Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Flower power meets the mineral world as aromas of rose petals, boysenberries and lilacs battle notes of iron filings and wet stones for supremacy. The East Blocks show balance among fruit, acid and tannins with a satiny smooth texture and flavors like Bing cherry and white tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Alexana 2021 Terroir Series Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a rich, fuller-bodied Pinot Noir with something for everyone. Smoked meat, blackberries and worn saddle leather will appeal to backyard BBQ enthusiasts, while concentrated cherry, raspberry and Valencia orange flavors will appeal to the fruit followers. Gardeners rejoice—sage and thyme make appearances. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Arborbrook 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). I have never encountered such a powerful aroma of lilacs in a wine. It is this powdery perfume that smells like a handful of lavender smashed into a bowl of strawberries. The flavors are just as interesting, as black cherries and Dr. Pepper duel with coffee and sage. Juicy acidity is a bonus. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Bravuro 2020 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Everything about this wine is fresh, bright and lively. It kicks off with red raspberry, lemon icing and fresh hay. Then tart red cherry and orange zest flavors kick into gear. The wine's acidity is invigorating, with silky tannins and additional notes of green tea and earthy oregano. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaine 524 2019 Estate Prophet Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The Prophet's rich boysenberry gelato aroma is counterpointed by notes of loam and graphite. The wine's medium level of acidity balances nicely with silky tannins, with flavors like red raspberries, oats, and honey. This tastes like a traditional Scottish cranachan dessert, which is a great thing! —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$45

91 Domaine Rogue 2021 Quartz Vein Pinot Noir (Applegate Valley). A wine like this should remind folks that great Pinot Noir also happens in the southern part of Oregon. A dark raspberry aroma drifts up from the glass, followed by a most compelling combination of bacon fat and green tea. I like it. Darker fruit appears on the balanced palate, with lots of blackberries and black tea. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

91 Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Perhaps the wine's blazing acidity offers a distraction, but in no way did this wine feel like it was close to 15% abv. Its aromas mix fruit and earth with blueberry compote, blackberry tea, loamy soil and orange zest. The flavors are to the tart side, with cranberries and red rasp-

berries playing nicely with green tea and lemon. There's a sense of balance here. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$44

91 Domaine Serene 2019 Yamhill Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The wine's nose is sweet and floral, with notes of Oriental lilies and sweet pea flowers to accompany blackcap raspberries and warm beeswax. Brisk acidity and velvety tannins escort flavors like blackberries, lemon shortbread and a touch of mocha. Try this cuvée with a turkey burger right off of the grill. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

91 J.C. Somers 2021 Nouvelle Lune Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). With enough lemony acidity to give you shivers, the Nouvelle Lune is quite the pick-me-up. Crushed boysenberry and blueberry aromas almost eclipse tiny notes of chalk and hay. Ripe Bing cherry and lemon basil flavors fill the mouth, supported by fine-grained tannins and a lightning bolt of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Jachter 2021 Cuvée Karen Ann Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). The aroma of a bowl of ripe red raspberries is joined by earthy notes of loamy soil and baled hay. Multiple layers of fruit coat the palate. The medley includes tart red cherries, dark plums and blueberries. Firm black tea-like tannins and electrifying acidity provide balance. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$80

91 Johan 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Tangy raspberry and juniper berry aromas lead to tiny notes of balsa wood and a fresh sea breeze. Blueberries drizzled in dark chocolate dominate the flavor scene, along with black tea and cinnamon. Firm tannins and elevated acidity provide balance. The wine aged for 11 months in French oak, 4% new. —M.A.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$36

91 Sokol Blosser 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Stargazer lily and lavender aromas swirl around a bowl of blueberries and a warm slice of fresh-baked bread. The soft-textured wine is balanced, with bright acidity, silky tannins and dark cherry, clove, citrus and espresso flavors. A medium-long finish is accented by a touch of cinnamon. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Utopia 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Fans of flowers, prepare to sniff Utopia—there are spicy-sweet lilies, lilac and hyacinth aromas galore in this wine. The flower bouquet is joined by a ripe boysenberry aroma. A raspberry tart with dark chocolate flavor combination is dazzling, joined by notes of olive oil and cedar. Firm tannins and crisp acidity provide balance. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Violet Vines 2021 Andrew Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville). This lighter-bodied Pinot Noir is driven by electric acidity and a texture as crisp

as a new dollar bill. Mixed dark cane fruit aromas swirl about the glass, with tiny bits of violets and spearmint. Tangy persimmon and boysenberry flavors mix it up with wet rocks and chocolate-covered espresso beans. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Argyle 2021 Nuthouse Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). This is a lighter-bodied pinot experience, with a smooth, clean mouthfeel flanked by velvety tannins and citrusy acidity. Dark chocolate and sweet cherry aromas create an impression that you are about to inhale a slice of red velvet cake. The wine's cherry tart and sweet tea flavors only increase the hunger pangs. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Cooper Mountain 2021 Life Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). No sulfites were added to this certified organic wine at any stage of the process. It is a walk on the natural side, with aromas of blackberries, blueberries, saffron and the saline snap of a fresh ocean breeze. Boysenberries rule on the palate, mixed with flavors of black coffee and a hint of kirsch. The acidity is as nappy as that sea breeze. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Domaine Rogue 2021 Gravel Lane Pinot Noir (Applegate Valley). After a year in once-used French oak barrels, the Gravel Lane offers a perfume of rose water, raspberry, sandalwood and leather aromas. Darker blackberry fruit and espresso flavors are flanked by grilled meat and tobacco notes. Silky tannins and bright, lemony acidity make it all nice and tangy. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Domaine Roy & Fils 2021 Yamhill-Carlton Incline Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). A fresh-baked tart made with marionberries and peaches describes this wine's aromas, along with hints of cassis and sweet grass. The wine is full-bodied at a staggering 14.9% abv, with plush tannins and flavors like cranberry sorbet, orange, cola and black tea. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$64

90 Irvine & Roberts 2020 Convergence Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). This lithe and lean Pinot Noir begins with a fun aromatic combination of red raspberries, thyme and a wisp of cotton candy. The crisp, light mouthfeel fits perfectly with the wine's zingy acidity and tart flavors like boysenberries and orange zest. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

90 J. Christopher 2019 Basalte Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). An aroma pleasingly similar to a grape popsicle collides with notes of wet granite, rose petals and clove. Bright red raspberry and cranberry flavors are joined by dark chocolate and coriander. Gentle acidity and soft tannins make for easy sipping. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 J.K. Carrière 2022 Clarion Atypical Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The winemaker wanted to create a chillable red offered a patio party experience with brisk acidity and a light tannin touch. Mission accomplished. The Clarion smells like dried rose petals, orange zest, wet slate and the tartest red raspberries ever. Boysenberry and strawberry flavors meld seamlessly with green tea and citrus notes. Big time fun. —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Jachter 2021 Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The wine's nose is sweet and floral, with blueberry scone and hyacinth aromas balanced by notes of lemons and laundry fresh out of the dryer. A similar pattern emerges on the palate, with a rich cherry jam flavor counterpointed by cedar, clove and spicy edible nasturtiums. The acidity is almost too subtle, with sturdy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

90 Jachter 2021 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Medium-bodied and packed with fruit, this Pinot Noir begins with aromas of blackberries, dried cherries, figs, rosemary and warm sourdough bread. Black currant and dark plum flavors mix with spicy clove and Bergamot tea notes. The acidity is restrained and the tannins are plush, with a bit of heat detectable. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Jolété 2021 Le Verre Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). What a great value. The wine's blackberry and lavender aromas are joined by a combination of wet concrete and leather. There's nice acidity here, with velvety tannins and flavors of black cherry compote and orange pith. It all works, and for a great price. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$23

90 Le Cadeau 2021 Red Label Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Blackberry and black pepper aromas are an excellent introduction to this balanced estate wine. The wine has a slick and slippery mouthfeel, with velvety tannins and restrained acidity. Flavors like black cherry compote and orange zest coat the palate in pleasing fashion. The Red Label spent 11 months in French oak, 30% new. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Privé 2021 L'ouest Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Briary fruit aromas, like a cross between raspberries and black pepper, are joined by an earthy touch of loam. Bright red cherry and mineral water on the rocks, with lemon twists, flavors are a perfect lively match for a crisp mouthfeel, elevated acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

90 Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Winemaker's Reserve - Anthony King Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). A distinctly spicy nose kicks off with sandalwood and cinnamon toast aromas, followed a dollop of dark raspberries. The soft acidity and silky tannins make for a smooth mouthfeel,

with flavors like blackberry jam, blueberry sorbet and crushed filberts. I might try this with lamb lollipops done in garlic and rosemary. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

90 Rambeaux 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A fresh and clean combination of cherry and guava aromas is followed by notes of thyme, leather and cold well water. The palate is equally tangy, with elevated acidity, velvety tannins and flavors like green tea, strawberry and kiwi. The Rambeaux might just be an excellent choice to accompany shepherd's pie on a cool fall evening. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Ruby 2021 Laurelwood Blend Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This wine's sweet and spicy floral scent combines irises and violets, followed by red raspberries and country aromas like red clover and sweet hay bales. A tart cranberry fruit flavor is a great match with bracing acidity, while the wine's orange pekoe tea tannins gently rough up the roof of the mouth. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Scenic Valley Farms 2018 Family Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). What a treat to come across a Willamette Valley wine from such an excellent vintage. The wine's aromas mix watermelon, raspberry, tomato-like golden gooseberries and aged balsamic vinegar. Cherries and seared steak flavors dominate the palate, along with coriander and pine needles. A smooth mouthfeel, with silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

90 White Rose 2021 The Convivial Feast Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aged in neutral oak for 11 months, this lithe Pinot Noir is the poster child for restraint and grace. The wine's aromas of black cherries, loam and roasted pork shoulder will induce hunger pangs, while its blackberry fruit leather and lemonade flavors will trigger summertime memories. A soft texture, with silky smooth tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$65

89 Cooper Mountain 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aromas of blackberries and poppies collide with fascinating notes that smell like sugar cookies and gin botanicals. The medium-bodied Pinot Noir offers flavors of earthy oregano, a crisp sea breeze and pie cherries. Sturdy tannins add a bit of chewiness to the wine's texture. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Domaine 524 2021 Estate Prophet Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An earthy blackberry tea aroma is accented by notes of wild mushrooms and lemon citrus. Ripe blackberries and boysenberries match up with flavors of cedar, beets and clove. Acidity is nice and crisp, but a bit more tannic structure would be welcome. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Domaine 524 2018 Estate Prophet Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An intriguing floral note that combines sweet poppies and pumpkin seeds is joined by scents of blackberries and black olives. The wine's black cherry flavor is eclipsed by super tart cranberries and balsa wood, with tart acidity and grippy tannins. Decanting is a fine idea. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$45

89 Nysa Vineyard 2018 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Dusty roadside raspberries are matched by a compelling combination of watermelon, coconut water and talc. The wine's tannins are integrated, with soft acidity caressing flavors like red currants and Rainier cherries. There's a bit of dark chocolate as well. The wine's mouthfeel is velvety, with perhaps a touch of heat. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

89 Phelps Creek 2021 Pinot Noir (Columbia Gorge). Fruit and meat aromas combine to give one a craving for BBQ ribs with a blackberry-based sauce. Tart red cherries patrol the palate, with accompanying notes of Earl Grey tea and fresh-baked bread. The wine's tannins are brawny, with enough acidity to give it a crisp bite. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$34

89 Privé 2021 Le Nord Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Boysenberries and lavender are an interesting combination with aromas like dill and bison steaks grilling over an open flame. Then comes breakfast with flavors of toast, espresso shots and a bowl of cherries with cream. This is lighter-bodied fare, with velvety tannins and restrained acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

89 Purple Hands 2021 West Wind Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Talk about a rich set of aromas—blackberry trifle and blueberry soda. In a bit of a reverse course, tart red cherry, lemon and earthy blackberry flavors arrive. The lighter-bodied wine has a lithe and lean texture to pair with modest acidity and tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

89 Quailhurst Vineyard 2021 Winemaker's Reserve - Drew Voit Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). A rich boysenberry yogurt aroma is matched with a spicy note similar to paprika and a trace of graphite. Boysenberries and blueberries form a fruit medley to accompany flavors of black coffee and caramel. Firm tannins and elevated acidity, with a somewhat short finish. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

89 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Triple Block Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This medium-bodied Pinot Noir offers an earthy set of aromas that feature ripe Oregon white truffles, loamy soil, lavender and blueberries. A pronounced balsa wood flavor is joined by notes of dark plum and tart marionberries. The Triple Block, with its fine-grained

BUYINGGUIDE

tannins, spent 13 months in French oak, 47% new. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Trout Lily Ranch 2019 Adams Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Fruit from one of the Willamette Valley's older vineyards was used to make a wine with a dusty perfume of roadside raspberries and violets. Crisp acidity and a lean texture make this an invigorating Pinot Noir experience, with flavors of mixed berries, pipe tobacco and demerara sugar in a cup of black coffee. The tannins feel fully integrated. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Violet Vines 2020 Estate Origin Block Pinot Noir (McMinnville). A fresh aroma similar to the water in a mountain stream is followed by notes of blackberries, lemon and dried rose petals. Flavors of cola, cedar and wet slate are joined by a wisp of raspberry. Pronounced acidity, with silky tannins, with a somewhat thin mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$49

88 Airlie 2020 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This lighter-bodied Pinot Noir features aromas and flavors of blackcap raspberries, cola, and a starchy note similar to a baked sweet potato. The wine's lithe and lean texture matches up with lively acidity and surprisingly chewy tannins. Try this wine with a crispy pork belly sandwich. —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$28

SYRAH

93 Cowhorn 2019 Syrah (Applegate Valley). Tart boysenberries rule this aromatic roost, followed by notes of violets, loamy soil and roast pork shoulder. Comparisons to the Northern Rhône are not out of the question. Citrusy acidity lights up a crisp texture that complements lively flavors like lemon zest, white peach, blackberries and black pepper, all backed by silky tannins. Enjoy now until 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

93 Schmidt 2020 Estate Syrah (Applegate Valley). Sweet floral freesia and honeysuckle notes blend with aromas of raspberry, bacon fat and modeling clay. The wine's blueberry tart and crisp bacon flavors are like breakfast, with traces of dark chocolate and bitter almond for dessert. Lively acidity meets velvety tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.72% **Price:** \$40

92 Cliff Creek 2018 Sams Valley Vineyard Syrah (Rogue Valley). A dazzling combination of black cherry and blueberry fruit highlight an aromatic set that also features fresh-picked violets, talc and a touch of mint. Flavor-wise, this Syrah is a wall of blackberries supported by notes of bacon fat, cedar and silky tannins. The wine's crisp texture is highlighted by energetic acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

92 Reustle 2021 Reserve Syrah (Umpqua Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Brittan Vineyards 2018 Estate Syrah (McMinnville). I love this cool-climate Syrah's restrained acidity and graceful body. After 15 months in French oak, 20% new, it offers dark plum and orange citrus aromas, along with notes of cedar and a dewy morning lawn grass. Tart flavors of sour cherry and lemon zest go hand-in-hand with brisk acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$50

91 Moonbase Cellars 2021 Max Q Funk Vineyard Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). This wine tastes exactly like it smells, which in this case, is a good thing. It is medium-bodied, with firm tannins, a smooth texture and some nice, lively acidity. It is packed with aromas and flavors of blueberries, lilac, black coffee and vanilla, with a touch of coriander. I don't know who Max is, but I enjoy his Syrah. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

91 Reustle 2021 Estate Syrah (Umpqua Valley). Powerful black cherry and vanilla aromas are accented by notes of grilled meat and apple blossoms. The flavor combination of tangy blackcap raspberries, black coffee and leather is a winning one. The wine's medium acidity is matched by silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$39

91 Ryan Rose 2019 Carpenter Hill Syrah (Rogue Valley). Surprisingly brisk acidity turns this Syrah into something special. The wine's blackberry, violets and bacon fat aromas are Côte-Rôtie-like, with paprika substituting for white pepper. Dark plums and oranges accent a seared steak flavor that will induce hunger pangs. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

TEMPRANILLO

92 Abacela 2020 Barrel Select Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). A vanilla cupcake with blackberry icing is a heck of an aromatic introduction. Additional aromas of pipe tobacco, lemon zest, lavender and leather are equally enticing. Muscular tannins ripple in support of blueberry, mocha latte, hibiscus and almond flavors. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

90 Ryan Rose 2020 Folin Vineyard Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). Persimmons and raspberries dominate the wine's aromas, with trifling meaty bits of leather and baby back ribs. Flavors like tart cranberries, tobacco, cedar and earthy oregano are well-defined by a laser beam of acidity and truly silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

90 Valley View 2019 Pioneer Label Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). An incredibly ripe black-

berry aroma fills the room, followed by bursts of damson plum, violets and bittersweet dark chocolate. Tart boysenberries dominate other flavors like figs wrapped in bacon, cedar and a trace of cassis. While the wine's acidity is restrained, the tannins are still brawny. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

89 Reustle 2020 Winemaker's Reserve Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley). Red fruit aromas—strawberry and raspberry—are almost overwhelmed by large amounts of leather and Applewood smoked bacon. The wine's tart red cherry, orange pipe tobacco and cedar flavors are accompanied by a lighter mouthfeel, with restrained acidity and integrated tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 Schmidt 2020 Estate Tempranillo (Applegate Valley). Himalayan blackberries that smell like they were plucked at the side of a dusty country road mix with aromas of figs and pipe smoke. Silky tannins and modest acidity, with flavors of dried cherries, saline and a cup of Irish breakfast tea. This wine has beef empanadas written all over it. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$46

OTHER RED WINES

93 Abacela 2020 Touriga Nacional (Umpqua Valley). This wine is an almost perfect match of brawny tannins and electric acidity. Its aromas of violets, black currants, black pepper and spruce needles are impossible to resist. A tart marionberry flavor holds court on the palate, along with notes of saline and wet rocks. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$34

93 Ridgecrest 2021 Old Vine Estate Gamay Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This wine was made with fruit from own-rooted Gamay Noir vines planted in 1985. It is not a shy thing, packing some body on a frame of muscular tannins. Dusty roadside blackberries and a touch of tangy cranberry aromas are joined by a bit of chalkboard dust. Elevated acidity provides some pucker power, with flavors like tart red raspberry and lemon holding court. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$36

93 Ryan Rose 2020 Adamson Vineyard Mourvèdre (Rogue Valley). The wine's dark plum and saline aromas are just part of the story. Thai basil, lemongrass and grilled chicken aromas unite to trigger bánh mì cravings. Blueberries and bacon fat dominate the palate, followed by flavors of mint and dark chocolate. Tannins are firm, but juicy acidity steals the limelight. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Flâneur 2021 La Belle Promenade Vineyard Pinot Meunier (Chehalem Mountains). This Pinot Meunier sees 100% whole cluster fermentation and partial carbonic maceration. Violets and

sweet freesia provide a floral perfume, followed by aromas of blackberry kombucha and coriander. The wine drinks like any icy grape popsicle, with bits of wild strawberries and olive oil. A lithe and lean texture, with blazing acidity. *Hidden Gem*. —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$45

91 Ryan Rose 2021 Malbec (Rogue Valley). What separates this wine from most of the Oregon Malbec pack is its brilliantly brisk acidity. Black cherry and grilled pork shoulder aromas form a dynamic duo, along with traces of fresh hay and anise. Tangy boysenberry and tart pie cherries encircle the accompanying flavors of dark chocolate, mint and black tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Famiglia Gerlini 2019 Maria Barbera (Rogue Valley). There's not a lot of Barbera growing in Oregon, but based on this wine, perhaps there should be more. Tart marionberry and dark raspberry aromas are laced with scents of sweet pea flowers and vanilla. A lithe and lean texture marked by firm tannins is the backdrop for crisp flavors like sour cherry, saline and green tea. *Hidden Gem*. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

90 Foris 2019 Cabernet Franc (Rogue Valley). This light, almost ethereal Cabernet Franc is as graceful as an Alvin Ailey dancer. Fruit and flowers mix with the savory as ripe peaches, blueberries and violets meld with a tiny bit of pork fat. Bright acidity and a lithe, chalky texture guide flavors of Bing cherry, dark chocolate and black tea. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Schmidt 2018 Schmidt Family Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Applegate Valley). A wave of blueberries encircles your head before aromas of dark plum, coriander, vanilla and Stargazer lilies get to play. Brawny, rippling tannins ride herd over thick flavors of black cherry jam, anise and an espresso macchiato. Serve this wine with turkey burgers and prepare to be revered by friends and family. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$46

89 Cliff Creek 2018 Sams Valley Vineyard Merlot (Rogue Valley). Aged in a combination of French and America oak, this Merlot brings the blueberry aromas before allowing notes of dark chocolate, leather and baked apples to play. The tannins are still firm and the acidity is adequate. The fruit is muted on the palate, with a wisp of sour cherry equally matched by balsa wood. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$32

89 Reustle 2021 Estate Grenache (Umpqua Valley). Aromatically, this Grenache is a bowl of blueberries and strawberries, with a side of bacon fat and chalkboard dust. Its creamy texture, soft tannins and modest acidity allow flavors like sappy red raspberries, cinnamon and dark chocolate to slip and slide all over the palate. This would

be a nice pairing with turkey burgers topped with tomato relish. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

88 Schmidt 2020 Estate Touriga Nacional (Applegate Valley). Blackberries and violets play second fiddle to the leather, pipe tobacco and chocolate brownie aromas. Ripe black cherries meld with salted chocolate ganache and bitter almond flavors to suggest a Black Forest cake dessert. The tannins are plush, with waning acidity. Sip by itself or with a Nina Hagen record of your choice. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$46

RED BLENDS

91 Cliff Creek 2018 Claret Sams Valley Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Rogue Valley). This is a proper claret worthy of Yorkshire pudding and an airing of Mr. Bean's Christmas special. The wine's grilled pork, fresh-cracked black pepper and tart red cherry aromas are simple, but gratifying. Then a seared steak flavor is cut by the acid of tomato relish and lemon citrus. The tannins are as silky as a smoking jacket. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

90 Moonbase Cellars 2021 Max Q Reserve Red Blend (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). Max Q is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 25% each of Merlot and Syrah. A meaty teriyaki beef and soy sauce aroma blends nicely with notes of blackberry and mildly earthy mung bean sprouts. A spicy clove note is joined on the palate by black cherries and dark chocolate. A smooth texture, with velvety tannins and restrained acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

90 Territorial NV Mongrel Red Blend (Rogue Valley). This proud six-grape Mongrel blend includes everything from Petite Sirah to Riesling. Dark raspberry and black cherry aromas are joined by traces of dried flowers, cedar chests, leather and vanilla. This smooth-textured wine offers sprightly acidity and velvety tannins to accompany flavors of blackberry compote and thyme. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$42

89 Famiglia Gerlini 2020 Evangelina Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon (Rogue Valley). This medium-bodied blend of 70% Sangiovese and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon unleashes an aromatic wall of blackberries, followed by notes of cedar and spicy peonies. The wine's chalky texture provides the backdrop for tart black cherry, espresso, clove and dark plum flavors. A nice tribute to Evangelinas everywhere. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$60

89 Famille Valot 2019 Cesar Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Rogue Valley). Cesar's aromas of bittersweet dark chocolate and blackcap raspberries mingle with a bouquet of violets and roses. Red cherries rule the palate, but the background flavors of sliced orange heirloom tomatoes drizzled

with a good aged balsamic are hard to beat. Velvety tannins and shockingly brisk acidity complete the show. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

86 Cooper Ridge 2020 Segovia Red Blend (Umpqua Valley). A massive white pepper cloud threatens to overwhelm the faint heartbeat of a blackberry fruit aroma. Cherry, tobacco and significant oak flavors are joined by a leathery mouthfeel and grippy tannins that strongly suggest decanting in the near future. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$36

WASHINGTON

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Dunham 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Bitner Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This wine is a citrus lover's dream, with a spicy and floral Buddha's hand aroma mingling with lemon verbena and lime zest. A giant peach flavor dominates the palate, with the bit of a Ligurian olive oil and a silky smooth texture. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 DeLille 2022 Métier Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 23. *Best Buy*.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$20

90 Saviah 2022 The Jack Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Guava and kiwi aromas form a successful partnership with pistachios and lemon grass. This medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc has just enough acidity to provide a sense of balance to all the white grapefruit, coconut sorbet and lime flavors you can handle. There's also a tiny note of juniper berries. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

89 Canoe Ridge 2022 Expedition Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This 80-20 blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon dials up aromas of peaches, honeysuckle and the high desert country treat of walking past a fragrant juniper tree. There are bushels of Asian pear and honey flavors, but the wine's zingy acidity is up to the task. Other flavors to accompany a crisp texture include lemon tea and fresh ginger. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Longship 2022 Mind and Memory Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley). The wine's apricot, fresh-cut grass and lime zest aromas are joined by a chalky, talc-like note. There's some weight and crisp acidity here, but the flavor profile is a wall of sharp

BUYINGGUIDE

gooseberries. This wine is a simple pleasure for a good price. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Waterbrook 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This lively Sauvignon Blanc's lime sorbet and gooseberry aromas are joined by an unusual sweet-spicy note similar to fresh-cut alfalfa hay. A simple guava flavor is accented by traces of tonic water and lime. Serve poolside with SPF 30. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$12

87 Pendulum 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). A pronounced tangerine aroma is joined by a spicy note that reminded me of stuffed grape leaves. The wine has a thick, viscous texture and a tangy combination of guava paste and a pickled daikon radish. A bit more acidity would be welcomed. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$15

CHARDONNAY

90 Longship 2021 Luck Dragon Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). Fresh, crisp aromas of lime zest and lemon verbena join with a slightly sweet pineapple slushie note to make a tropical introduction to the Luck Dragon. A ripe cantaloupe flavor accented by cinnamon spice floats along a creamy texture. The wines spent 12 months in French oak, with six months of bâtonnage and 40% malolactic fermentation. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Cataclysm 2021 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Rich, tropical coconut butter and macadamia nut aromas are counterpointed by fresh and lively notes of fresh-cut grass and lavender. Light-bodied, with modest acidity and flavors like lemon gelato, rose water and earthy sage tea. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$14

89 Saviah 2021 The Jack Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The light scent of coconut water is joined by ripe musk melon and tangy pineapple aromas. The wine is medium-bodied, with a creamy texture and pleasing flavors of pineapple upside down cake and roasted cashews. Might be nice with chicken satay and a peanut dipping sauce. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$15

88 Castle Rock 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). While ripe pineapples are this wine's primary aroma, its scents of fried plantains and buttered popcorn are oddly mesmerizing. Tangy acidity blazes a trail for lime, lemon, marshmallow and mineral water flavors. Nothing complicated here, but it is a refreshing sip. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

PINOT GRIS

89 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Bitner Estate Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). What an aromatic show—fresh-cut grass, tart and tangy guava and the earthiness of huitlacoche. The wine's acidity is positively electric, with white grapefruit and salty Marcona almond flavors dominating the palate. If you have a favorite ceviche recipe, consider pairing it with this wine. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Canoe Ridge 2022 Expedition Pinot Gris (Horse Heaven Hills). A tropical paradise of aromas includes guava, lime and the sweet and spicy scent of plumeria flowers. The Don Ho theme continues on the palate as pineapple, coconut, passion fruit and Macadamia nut flavors float on a soft, creamy texture. There should almost be a little umbrella in the glass. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$12

89 Waterbrook 2022 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). Classic Anjou pear and Golden Delicious apple aromas are joined by the scent of an icy cold lemon granita. The citrus theme continues on the palate with lemon, tonic water and juniper berry flavors creating a deconstructed gin and tonic. Bottoms up! **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

VIIGNIER

92 Gramercy 2022 Viognier (Columbia Valley). Just swirling this wine in your mouth makes you feel like you've run through a lawn sprinkler on a hot day. The wine's crisp texture and bracing acidity are perfect backdrops for its rich aromas and flavors of peach melba, butterscotch, lime zest, saline and chilled chunks of Mandarin orange. **Vio-yay! Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Forgeron 2022 Viognier (Horse Heaven Hills). Ripe Bosc pear and Golden Delicious apple aromas are joined by a tangy lemon note and an earthy bit of wild mushrooms. The wine's pear tart and marzipan flavors are balanced by a nice bit of citrusy acidity. The mouthfeel is crisp and lively. This Viognier spent six months in neutral oak. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

91 Moonbase Cellars 2022 Les Collines Vineyard Viognier (Walla Walla Valley). This creamy, lighter-bodied Viognier coats the palate with a flavor combination of orange sorbet, lemon grass, juniper berries and ginger and the threat of acidity. Peach, walnut and jasmine tea aromas are relaxing. This wine is a simple pleasure beautifully executed. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

89 Waterbrook 2022 Icon Viognier (Columbia Valley). This is a perfect pour for fans of

a big and rich Viognier with a soft, creamy mouthfeel. The Icon's aromas range from butterscotch and Golden Delicious apples to lemon basil and a touch of tangerine. The wine's primary flavor is a Key lime soda on the rocks, but there's also this white chocolate mocha quality that is oddly compelling. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$33

88 Canoe Ridge 2022 Summit Series Viognier (Columbia Valley). The scent of fresh-cut carnations gives this Viognier's nose a spicy start. Pistachio and banana pudding aromas are equally interesting. The wine's texture is thick and creamy, with rich lemon curd, peach ice cream and white chocolate flavors slipping and sliding all over the palate. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$27

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Phelps Creek 2021 Gorge Crest Gewürztraminer (Columbia Gorge). This wine is an acid test. If avowed Gewürztraminer haters try this wine and don't like it, they need not try any others. The wine brings searing acidity to bear on aromas and flavors of guava, Macadamia nuts, rose water, coconut milk and golden hay. Its crisp, energetic texture is delightful. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 DeLille 2022 Roussanne (Red Mountain). Any wine that smells like a green papaya salad served with a peach dressing is OK in my book. Lime granita and lemongrass tea flavors are punctuated by streaks of salinity and parsley. Great acidity here, with a tangy, almost vibrating mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

91 Longship 2022 Rock Biter Albariño (Rocky Reach). You do not need to bite rocks to get a sense of saline and chalk-style minerality—just sip this wine. It starts off with the wine's clean sea breeze and chalkboard dust aromas, which are joined by pineapple and pistachio nuts. Acidity so pronounced that it vibrates unites with flavors of lemon zest, lemon grass and a touch of spicy olive oil. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Sidereus 2022 Roussanne (Columbia Valley). A wispy wine in terms of body, but don't worry, it packs a big flavor punch. Lemon and blood orange aromas mingle with lilies and a hint of tangy pineapple. A creamy texture floats flavors of honeycomb, wet slate and a slice of melon drizzled with sea salt and wrapped in prosciutto. The wine's soft acidity is just enough to get by. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

89 Phelps Creek 2021 Underwood Mountain Vineyards Riesling (Columbia Gorge). Fermented and aged in stainless steel, this light-bodied Riesling has a winning aromatic one-two punch of petrol and lemon drop hard candies. Tart lemon and spearmint flavors are complemented by a touch

of honeyed sweetness. The wine's acidity is dialed back, making for a gentle mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 10.1% **Price:** \$28

89 Sokol Blosser 2022 Evolution Riesling (Columbia Valley). Really ripe white peach and mango aromas unite with each swirl of the glass. An equally ripe and sweet Tommy Atkins mango flavor is joined by Juicy Fruit gum and lemon notes. The wine's creamy texture is pleasing, with perhaps a touch of residual sugar. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$16

WHITE BLENDS

91 DeLille 2022 Chaleur Blanc Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Columbia Valley). Really aggressive acidity rattles the olfactory system like a caged squirrel. Fresh-cut grass and juniper berry aromas duel with lime and lemon zests. Then, in an about-face, flavors like animal crackers with lemon icing and thyme present themselves along with mouth-watering acidity. This one may need some air or time to settle down. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$42

91 Forgeron 2022 Blacksmith Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Yakima Valley). This 60-40 Picpoul-Marsanne blend made with Boushey Vineyard fruit is a tangy treat. Aromas of a lemon tart and fresh-cut grass mingle with a puff of talc. A prominent citrus flavor is like a lemon-flavored Starburst candy. Additional rosemary, lime zest and mineral water flavors are backed by crisp acidity. The Pacific NW clearly needs more Picpoul. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉ

93 Gramercy 2022 Olsen Vineyard Rosé of Mourvèdre (Columbia Valley). 100% Mourvèdre, 100% fun. Rose petals spread out on a wooden table made of pine set the pace for an aromatic set that also includes peach, maple and a trace of a coconut-flavored Jelly Belly. Bright red cherries dominate flavors of lemon sorbet and rosemary. Try it with white anchovies flayed on bruschetta with a garlic rub and olive oil. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Cana's Feast 2022 Rosato Rosé (Columbia Valley). This saignée of a dozen grape varieties is a trip to the beach with its saline/brine aromas of fresh-boiled bay shrimp and kelp salad. Additional aromas include lemon grass tea and daikon. The flavors are a bit more traditional, with pink grapefruit and slices of fresh ginger. The wine's acidity is modest, with a creamy texture. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$18

90 Saviah 2022 The Jack Rosé (Columbia Valley). This is my favorite Jack since Nicholson. It's bright, crisp and smells and tastes like

the G-S-M fruit in the blend. Oh yes, it is also very reasonably priced. This ticks all the right boxes to become a house pink. It is packed with aromas and flavors of peaches, red cherries and lemon, with a trace of something similar to a strawberry-rhubarb tart. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

89 DeLille 2022 Rosé (Columbia Valley). With its pale pinkish hue, lithe body and energetic acidity, this blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Cinsault would be right at home on a Mediterranean beach. The surprisingly rich aromas include watermelon and a sweet vanilla note similar to cake icing. The palate is a wall of pink grapefruit flavor, tempered by a wee bit of stevia. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

94 Trothe 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). This Cabernet Sauvignon takes no prisoners. Its aromatic set of dark chocolate, blackberries, espresso, cedar and pencil lead win you over from the get-go. Then the elegant, medium-bodied wine wraps you up in smooth, supple black cherry, cigar box and orange citrus flavors. Pair this beauty with marriage proposals. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$239

92 Confluence 2020 Les Collines Vineyard Block 29 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 14. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$68

92 William Marie Wines 2020 Weinbau Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). Full-bodied and packing a tannic punch, this Cabernet Sauvignon softens you up initially with aromas of black cherry, cigar box, cedar and a slightly sweet and spritely note similar to grape Nehi soda. Grippy tannins back blackberry tart, thyme and vanilla flavors, followed by a nice, long finish. Enjoy now until 2032. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Longship 2020 Star Ship Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Star Ship has its tractor beams locked on value. Its pretty nose shows off aromas of boysenberry, thyme, rosemary and violets, with a hint of vanilla in the background. The creamiest texture this side of an Alfredo sauce caresses flavors like blackberry syrup, espresso and fresh chunks of ginger. Big time bang for the buck. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Saviah 2020 The Jack Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A captivating combination of violets and perfectly ripe blackberries is accented by a wisp of juniper wood-fueled campfire smoke. Concentrated black cherry and blackberry fruit flavors are supported by bright acidity and silky tan-

nins. Over time, flavors like shortbread and sliced almonds materialize. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Anvil by Forgeron 2019 Dionysus Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). With the inclusion of 8% Petit Verdot, this medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon possesses a remarkably creamy texture, with bright acidity and fine-grained tannins. Its blueberry and ginger aromas are punctuated by the graphite of a Ticonderoga pencil. The wine's flavors focus on smoked cherries, thyme and a touch of dark chocolate. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

90 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Heritage Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This wine displays a pleasing mix of elevated acidity, silky tannins and restrained alcohol. Aromatically, it is a heady mix of blackberries, straw and oily, dark-roasted coffee beans. It feels crisp and lively in the mouth, with flavors like blackberries, sweet, buttery edamame and a ristretto shot of espresso. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

90 Longship 2020 Wise Man Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A red wine with this kind of acidity at 14.5% abv is a beautiful thing. The Wise Man's tart blackberry, espresso and sourdough bread aromas are joined by flavors like cranberry, red raspberry, cedar and mocha powder. This is a balanced wine, with a crisp texture and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

89 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Vineyard Collection Quintessence Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). A wine in this price range that is made with 100% Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon fruit is a good thing. While cherry, cinnamon and lavender aromas are more than enough, the mineral-like note of wet modeling clay is the cherry on top. Bing cherry, toasted walnut and cedar flavors glide on a smooth texture. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

MALBEC

92 Longship 2020 Lady Wolf Malbec (White Bluffs). Ripe, sweet aromas of Bing cherries, dark chocolate and Tahitian vanilla bean set the tone for this silky smooth-textured wine. Blackberries rule the palate, joined by earthy oregano, spicy cinnamon and black tea notes. The wine's tannins are elegant and refined, with each sip conjuring memories of a Robert Palmer video. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Mad Violets 2018 Loess Vineyard Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). Tangy plums and aged balsamic vinegar are complemented by aromas of sweet pea flowers and fresh-cracked black pepper. Peppy acidity goes hand-in-hand with dominant tangy cranberry-orange flavors and wee bits of

BUYINGGUIDE

green tea, lemon and chalk. The acidity and modest alcohol made this wine easy to savor. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$75

90 Confluence 2020 Reserve Malbec (Walla Walla Valley). Balance is the keyword for this Malbec made with fruit from Les Collines Vineyard—it's as silky smooth as Bryan Ferry singing "Goddess of Love." Aromatically, it's a big bowl of blueberries along with notes of petrichor, orange blossoms and pine needles. Cherry cordial and sage flavors float on a layer of Irish breakfast tea and balsa. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

88 Forgeron 2020 Stone Tree Vineyard Malbec (Wahluke Slope). The wine's aromas of ripe blackberries, sweet pea flowers and mint are powerful and persistent. This is a fuller-bodied wine offering concentrated dark chocolate, coconut and cassis flavors, supported by tannins eager to flex their muscles in a most chewy way. If opened any time soon, decanting will be rewarded. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35

86 Baer 2019 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Malbec (Royal Slope). A black cherry cordial aroma encircles notes of loam, mushrooms and grilled meat. The alcohol is perceptible on the palate, with cherries, bitter almonds and anise uniting to create flavor similar to aquavit. Acidity is modest, especially in the face of a massive wall of brawny tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38

SYRAH

94 Rocky Pond 2021 Estate Syrah (Rocky Reach). This Syrah—with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon—draws on three different estate vineyards in the Rocky Reach and Chelan AVAs for its fruit. The wine's black cherry and bacon fat aromas are joined by a warm chocolate brownie note. Intense blackberry cobbler, white pepper and bacon flavors—yes, more bacon—are backed by amazingly brisk acidity and plush tannins. Great stuff. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 Canvasback 2019 Funk Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). This balanced beauty is a mighty nice place at the moment, beginning with aromas of fresh-turned garden soil, black cherries and a saline note I usually associate with eating sea urchin. Blackberries and leather dominate the palate, along with flavors like balsa wood and cocoa nibs. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$74

91 Forgeron 2020 Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). The wine's pretty boysenberry, chrysanthemum tea and cinnamon spice aromas in no way prepare you for the show of Syrah force that is coming. Muscular tannins flex, daring you to decant. Thick black cherry compote, grilled rack of lamb, tobacco and fresh-cracked black pep-

per flavors fill the mouth, taking no prisoners. Enjoy 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

91 Privé 2021 Reserve Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). While Bing cherries and orange zest are the main aromas, there's an interesting note that combines the earthiness of peat with the grassiness of tulips. The wine's velvety tannins and elevated acidity are a nice backdrop to its blackberry, green tea and miso flavors. Try this wine with pork-filled soup dumplings. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Canvasback 2020 Funk Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). These aromas of dusty, wild roadside berries, grilled meat and toasted marshmallow bring summertime memories flooding back. The medium-bodied Syrah packs a lot of blackberry and boysenberry fruit flavor, backed by firm tannins and velvety acidity. After a few swirls of the glass, flavors like black tea, lemon and clove spice appear. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

89 Saviah 2019 Lewis Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). Dark raspberry and watermelon aromas encircle notes of bacon fat and leather. The wine's ripe blackberry and blueberry flavors are joined by a dollop of bittersweet dark chocolate. Grippy tannins are hard to miss, as is just a touch of heat. Pair this wine with steak sandwiches and a Vin Diesel blockbuster. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

88 Saviah 2019 The Jack Syrah (Columbia Valley). The vanilla and cherry aromas of Cavendish pipe tobacco swirl into the air, followed by notes of blackberries and lavender. This is a light-bodied Syrah with modest acidity and plush tannins. It is an easy sipper with flavors like bacon fat and a cherry snow cone. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER RED WINES

91 Confluence 2018 Primitivo (Horse Heaven Hills). After five years in barrel, this Primitivo's creamy texture and modest levels of tannins and acidity are a revelation. A perfume of vanilla, gardenia and lilac greets the nose, along with plenty of blueberries and bacon fat. The wine's intensely ripe and concentrated cherry flavor is joined by a chocolate note similar to crinkle cookies. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

91 Two Vintners 2021 Grenache (Columbia Valley). This rich 100% Grenache comprised of fruit from the Boushey, Olsen, Weather Eye, and Dineen vineyards aged for 18 months in French oak, 30% new. Boysenberries, thyme and pine needles unite with aromas of cedar wood smoke and loam. The wine's muscular tannins and thick texture unite with black tea, cherry nougat dark chocolate and almond flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Baer 2019 Stillwater Creek Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Royal Slope). Blueberries and cedar make for a nice aromatic combination here, with a touch of cornstarch. Blackberry fruit, wet slate and Irish breakfast tea flavors push against a leathery mouthfeel while lined up against a wall of muscular tannins. This wine spent nearly two years in French oak, 38% new. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

90 Forgeron 2020 Sagemoor Vineyard Barbera (Columbia Valley). A sweet aroma similar to cherry-flavored Jolly Rancher candies joins notes of dark chocolate and aged balsamic vinegar. The wine's flavors of strawberry preserves, lemon, salty Marcona almonds and cedar glide along a smooth-textured palate, supported by velvety tannins and modest acidity. Try it with an aged hangar steak. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Longship 2020 Invader Tempranillo (Columbia Valley). A perfume scent of dark raspberries is joined by an aroma similar to an espresso bean coated in bittersweet dark chocolate that has been crushed between a thumb and index finger. Pie cherry and orange peel aromas hold court on the palate, along with ginger, black tea and leather. Medium-bodied, with tannins and brisk acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Moonbase Cellars 2021 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Mourvèdre (Red Mountain). A bowl of blackberries and raspberries provides the aromatic foundation for bursts of tulips, black pepper and thyme. Damson plum and grape popsicle flavors fill the mouth, while notes of lemon, clove and oolong tea provide support. Silky tannins and bright acidity are in balance with the fruit. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

89 Baer 2019 Star Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot (Royal Slope). Baer's Star opens with a refreshing saline aroma similar to the spray that erupts when a wave hits a jetty. The ensuing aromas of blackcap raspberries and chalk ride the wave. A rich black cherry flavor is countered by bursts of pipe tobacco and chocolate-covered espresso beans. Plush tannins and a smooth, creamy texture. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Chris James 2020 Petit Verdot (Columbia Valley). This full-bodied Petit Verdot's color screams, "Paint it black!" Black cherries (appropriately enough) unite with aromas of bacon fat, iron and black pepper to fill the immediate airspace. The porcine theme repeats on the palate with roast pork shoulder and spicy rub flavors. The wine's thick and creamy texture matches with soft acidity and tannins. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$42

88 Forgeron 2020 Boushey Vineyard Grenache (Yakima Valley). This is an aromatic stroll down mulberries street as that black and red fruit is joined by notes of blistered shiso peppers and

orange zest. The wine tastes spicy with coriander and ginger at play with black cherry gelato. Firm tannins and restrained acidity provide a sense of balance. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$45

88 Paco y Gustavo 2019 Estate Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley). This brisk, light-bodied Sangiovese's fresh aromas of lemon peel, maritime winds and blackberries will have you taking sniff after sniff from the glass. Acidity that vibrates is the highlight, with simple briary red fruit, ginger, cedar and red pepper flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 11%

Price: \$38

RED BLENDS

93 Baer 2019 Ursa Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Royal Slope). The Ursa is my favorite bear since Yogi. It has an incredibly floral nose sporting violets and freesia to go along with ripe blackcap raspberries. The fruit is darker on the palate, where blackberries unite with steaks grilled over a cherry wood fire. A round, full mouthfeel is graced by integrated tannins and surprisingly crisp acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$40

93 Rocky Pond 2021 Stratastone Rhône-style Red Blend (Rocky Reach). This S-G-M blend will knock your socks off with its aromatic combination of ripe, dark brambleberries and a grilled porterhouse steak served with a chimichurri sauce. There's more fruit and meat on the palate, with cherries and bacon fat holding court. The wine's silky smooth texture is complemented by crisp acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$50

92 Cana's Feast 2021 Bricco Red Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This blend of 45% Sangiovese, 18% Primitivo, 13% Barbera, 13% Dolcetto and 11% Nebbiolo is a 100% delicious medium-bodied treat. Its dusty aromas conjure memories of driving rural back roads in the summer, with jammy roadside berries and green hay that's just been baled. Tart pie cherry, orange zest and white tea flavors glide on a silky smooth texture. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$20

92 DeLille 2021 Le Dessein Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This ripe and ready M-G-S blend sports silky tannins and an ample amount of acidity. Aromas of blackcap raspberries, rose petals, thyme, coriander and grilled meat are just the beginning. The wine's black cherry and blackberry flavors are ripe, with jasmine tea, lemon and toasted pecans joining the fun. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$45

92 Moonbase Cellars 2021 The LGM G-S-M (Red Mountain). A bouquet of violets swatting ripe peaches makes for an impressive aromatic combination. The boysenberry jam aroma is an innocent

bystander. Dark raspberry and black cherry flavors, with a hint of bacon fat, are joined by strong pulses of espresso and cocoa nibs. Plush tannins and juicy acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$48

91 Anvil by Forgeron 2020 Proprietary Blend Minnick Hills Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven traditional five-grape Bordeaux blend is made entirely with fruit from Minnick Hills Vineyard. The wine's dark raspberry and boysenberry aromas are coated with bittersweet dark chocolate and chalk dust. Grippy tannins back flavors like cassis, black tea and lemon zest. Decanting is recommended. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$65

91 Baer 2019 Callisto Red Blend (Royal Slope). Callisto's aromas of cherry, leather and pipe tobacco are complemented by sweet floral notes of jasmine and honeysuckle. A blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot creates flavors like dried black cherries, dark plums and cigar box. The wine's texture is slick and slippery, with velvety tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$42

90 DeLille 2021 Métier Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The Métier's aroma of orange-scented pipe tobacco makes a nice foil for notes of black cherry and boysenberry. The Syrah-driven blend offers blueberry, leather and black tea flavors that fill the mouth. A touch of powdered sugar floats in the background. Muscular tannins, with a chewy texture. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$25

90 Dunham 2020 Trutina Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Trutina is Latin for "balance," making it a fitting name for this blend of 53% Merlot and 47% Cabernet Sauvignon. It is filled with aromas and flavors of black cherries, dark chocolate, lemon, lilacs and cedar. Silky tannins and bright acidity reflect harmony and balance. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$32

90 Gramercy 2019 Lower East The Bowery Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Marionberries and blueberries mix it up with accompanying aromas of grilled flatbread and the clean saline of a fresh-shucked oyster shell lining. A ripe black cherry flavor is accented by a touch of pine needles and a hint of bacon fat. The Bowery was 25% whole cluster fermented and aged in neutral French oak. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$28

90 Moonbase Cellars 2021 Moonlapse Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This medium-bodied palate pleaser is one heck of a nice value at \$25. It's equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, with 10% Merlot and aromas of sweet dark cherries and meat grilling over hot coals. Sturdy tannins

support blackberry and dark chocolate flavors, with all the bacon fat you can handle. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$25

90 Saviah 2019 Reserve Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend saw 24 months in French oak, 25% new. It has a sweet floral aroma of hyacinth and freesia, followed by aromas of red raspberries and corn masa. The wine's earthy blackberry tea and blueberry fruit leather flavors float along a velvety texture, with plush tannins and modest acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$25

89 Baer 2019 Arctos Stillwater Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon-Petit Verdot (Royal Slope). The Arctos begins with ripe blackberry and vanilla aromas, with lesser notes of thyme, pine bark and crushed brick dust. There's a little heat on the palate, with flavors like black cherry, smoke brisket and lemon basil tea. The wine's firm tannins are equaled by elevated acidity, with a viscous mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$47

89 Canoe Ridge 2021 Expedition Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills). This is a well-made session wine. It is a Syrah-driven blend offering powerful aromas of Bing cherries, grilled meat, loam and a touch of orange zest. Rich, ripe black cherries mix it up with flavors like black tea and cedar. Nothing complicated here, just good fruit and velvety tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$13

89 Longship 2020 Star Ship Red Blend (Columbia Valley). From a galaxy far, far away—Richland, Washington—comes this unknown blend of red grapes with aromas of back cherry, vanilla and cedar. The Star Ship has weight and a chewy texture, fueled by grippy tannins and flavors like wild strawberries, cocoa powder, vanilla crème brûlée and more cedar. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

89 Saviah NV The Jack Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This blend of 70% Merlot, with 10% each of Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot, is a heck of a value. Aromas of marionberry pie, lilac and orange blossoms are joined by a savory bit of prosciutto. Sweet red cherries dominate the flavor profile, with tiny amounts of coffee and horehound candy joining the fun. The tannins are chewy, so prepare to be patient. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$18

DESSERT WINE

87 Frost Bitten 2022 Ice Riesling (Yakima Valley). Every swirl of the glass unleashes waves of Honeycrisp apples, honey, hyacinth and lemon gelato. The Ice's texture is viscous, with a modicum of acidity and a morass of golden syrup and peach pie flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 10.8%

Price: \$15/375 ml

ARGENTINA

SAUVIGNON BLANC

87 Antigal 2022 Uno Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza). A strongly citrus note emerges from this Sauvignon Blanc, leading to lemon and tangerine peel aromas. Crispy acidity guides mild flavors of lemon, tangerine and peach to a medium finish. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Finca Lalande Made With Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Tupungato). Herbal and citrus, this wine has a pleasant lively character. The nose exhibits linden tea and Key lime aromas. The wine's high acidity backs grass and lemon peel on the medium-bodied palate. WISD LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Fincas Patagonicas 2022 Osmosis Sauvignon Blanc (Luján de Cuyo). Produced in Luján de Cuyo, this low-alcohol wine has bright citrus notes. It's light and exhibits grapefruit, lemon and apricot fruit flavors alongside moderate acidity. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

WHITE BLENDS

91 Mil Suelos 2021 Buscado Vivo o Muerto El Limite White Blend (Uco Valley). The grapes for this Chardonnay are sourced from the southernmost region of the Uco Valley. The nose is aromatic, revealing aromas of herbs, white flowers and lemon zest. Notes of Key lime, grapefruit, white peach and mint fill the mouth. Vibrant acidity makes this wine enjoyable by refreshing the flavorful palate and driving the flavors through a tasty finish. Vineyard Brands. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$50

90 Ruca Malen 2021 Capítulo Dos Corte de Blancas White Blend (Mendoza). Pleasant herbaceous aromas perfume the nose of this structured blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon. The bouquet is complemented by hints of chalk and lime. Lifting acidity elevates flavors of apricot, dried fruit and lime and leads them through the finish. A touch of mint lingers in the aftertaste. Opici Wines. —J.V.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$26

MALBEC

91 Durigutti 2021 Proyecto Las Compuertas Malbec 1914 Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). The name of the wine refers to the place where the vines are grown and the year they were planted. The wine from these over 100-year-old vines was aged in foudres and concrete vats, resulting in a fruit-focused red, with fine tannins and a soft texture. Aromas of berries and hints of mint emerge from the glass. It

has concentrated flavors of cranberry, blackberry, plum and herbs, alongside good acidity. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Viña Cobos 2021 Bramare Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). The winery was founded by Paul Hobbs in 1998. The winemaker and his local team focus on Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, two grapes that love Mendoza's terroir. This is a balanced Malbec, with notes of raspberry and oak-driven aromas. It delivers flavors of cherry jam, mulberry, herbs and vanilla bean. Excellent acidity infuses energy to the palate, as round tannins provide support. Paul Hobbs Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

90 Luigi Bosca 2021 De Sangre Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). For full review see page 20. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Pascual Toso 2021 Reserva Barrancas Vineyards Malbec (Mendoza). This is a well-balanced Malbec that opens with berries and black pepper on the nose. The palate is supported by round tannins and lively acidity. Bright cherry, blackberry and smoky flavors fill the mouth. Hints of dried herbs rise on the finish. Quintessential. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 SonVida 2021 Malbec Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Pleasant herbaceous notes lead the way in this Malbec. The nose shows subtle aromas of berries and thyme. It exhibits dried herbs and light flavors of black fruit on a soft palate, with fine tannins and gentle acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

89 Vaglio 2021 Chacra Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). The nose displays ripe red fruit aromas that emerge slowly from the glass. There is a concentrated mix of raspberry, blackberry and plum flavors. It's fruit-forward, with notes of rosemary adding complexity to the medium-bodied palate. This is an approachable Malbec with soft tannins. Misa Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Bodegas Lopez 2021 Casona Lopez Old Vines Malbec (Mendoza). Bodega Lopez has a long history of winemaking in Argentina and offers wines with a ripe character. This Malbec opens with light aromas of grass and introduces a lean palate that features ripe berries, herbs and a drop of espresso. Polaner Selections. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

87 Durigutti 2021 Malbec (Mendoza). In this Malbec, candied cherry aromas are inviting and introduce a medium-bodied palate. Thyme, plum, cherry and oak spice flavors are subtle and disappear on a finish that displays notes of grass. Boutinot USA, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Finca Flichman 2021 Reserva Estate Bottled Malbec (Mendoza). The winery was founded in 1910 and its wines hail from vineyards in Uco Valley and Maipu. This Malbec comes from the latest and exhibits aromas of cassis and black pepper. It's dense and has a concentrated palate, with plum, blackberry and licorice flavors over a soft texture and is supported by good acidity. Evaton, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

87 Fincas Patagonicas 2021 Black Cabra Malbec (Mendoza). This is an easy-drinking red that opens with herbaceous aromas. It delivers a good amount of plum and mulberry flavors that fill the mouth, as good acidity lifts the fruit in the medium finish. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$10

87 La Posta 2021 Paulucci Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This opens with classic Malbec aromas of red and black fruit. The palate is straightforward, with notes of vanilla and raspberry. It has gentle acidity and light tannins, making this an easy sipper. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Santa Julia 2021 Reserva Malbec (Uco Valley). Rosemary meets with bright notes of berries on the nose of this Malbec. Concentrated flavors of ripe cherries and herbs fill the palate and linger on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$13

87 Septima 2021 Obra Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Subtle ripe plum aromas introduce a medium-bodied palate. Prune and fig flavors fill the mouth and are backed by moderate acidity. This is a good wine for everyday enjoyment. Raventos Codorniu. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

86 Ruca Malen 2021 Capítulo Uno Malbec (Mendoza). This Malbec has a restrained nose that unveils subtle aromas of berries. The palate is juicy, with a good amount of red berries joining light notes of smoke and grass. There is heat, but lively acidity makes the wine pleasant. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$15

86 Septima 2021 Malbec (Mendoza). The aromas of red fruit on the nose of this Malbec are subtle and ripe. Notes of grass are included in the bouquet. It has thin tannins and gentle acidity, framing flavors of ripe cranberries and herbs. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

85 Fincas Patagonicas 2021 Bastante... Bien! Malbec (Mendoza). Berry aromas smell sweet on the nose. There is a charred wood flavor to the palate, where the fruit is overripe and backed by moderate acidity. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Kirkland Signature 2021 Malbec (Mendoza). Simple and medium-bodied, this Malbec is more generous on the palate than on the nose. It delivers vanilla, berry jam and light notes of bell pepper, alongside gentle acidity and thin tannins. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$7

85 Trivento 2021 Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). The nose of this Malbec offers shy aromas of green bell pepper and berries. The palate shows that this wine has an herbaceous character, with grass and mild notes of ripe berries framed by thin tannins. Fetzer Vineyards. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Viejo Isaias 2021 Malbec (Mendoza). This Malbec offers light intensity of aromas and flavors. Notes of cherry, grass and smoke fade in the medium finish. Drink this wine while it's still young. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$16

84 El Ganador 2021 Malbec (Mendoza). The nose offers shy aromas of cooked berries and hints of black olive. It has herbal flavors on the lean palate, with red fruit and bell pepper notes in the background. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Trapiche 2020 Gran Medalla Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). For full review see page 16. WX Brands.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Altocedro 2020 La Consulta Vineyards Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). There is a subtle perfume of plum and bell pepper on the nose of this balanced Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged for 18 months in oak barrels, it feels fresh, with smooth tannins and savory notes of thyme, plum and chocolate. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30

91 Luigi Bosca 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). For full review see page 22. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

91 Mascota 2020 Unánime Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Green bell pepper, plum and black cherry aromas are dusted with cinnamon on the nose of this Cabernet. Velvety tannins support prominent notes of vanilla and other baking spices, as bright black and red fruit flavors enrich the palate. The finish shows light notes of herbs. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Casarena 2020 Owen Single Vineyard Agrelo Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). Oak flavors are well integrated into this Cabernet Sauvignon from the winery's old vineyard in Luján de

Cuyo. It's balanced and soft in texture, with concentrated black fruit flavors and oak spices in the background. Nice acidity adds freshness, making this an enjoyable red. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Pascual Toso 2021 Reserva Barrancas Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This Cabernet from a low elevation vineyard (2,460 feet) for Mendoza's standards shows a nose of sweet spices and cherry. It's balanced, with tobacco notes mixed with herbs and bell pepper. A touch of black pepper accents berry flavors on the finish. Quintessential. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Sur de los Andes 2020 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Inviting aromas of ripe berries open the nose of this full-bodied red. The wine shows concentrated flavors of black and red fruits over a chalky texture. It's structured, with moderate acidity and notes of green bell pepper on the midpalate and the finish. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

90 Susana Balbo 2021 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Susana Balbo, "the Queen of Torrontés," makes balanced red wines as well. This structured Cabernet hails from vineyards in Gualtallary, Uco Valley, where a combination of high altitude, limestone soils and 13 months of oak aging, result in a full-bodied and spicy red. Notes of black pepper and cranberry on the palate echo the nose. Soft tannins pave the way to toasted oak flavors of chocolate and cinnamon. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Terrazas de Los Andes 2019 Grand High Altitude Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Made with grapes from high-altitude vineyards in Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley, this Cabernet shows varietal expression. The nose is austere, but the palate is more generous, offering bay leaf, thyme, strawberry, raspberry and tobacco. It has a soft texture and a fresh finish. Moët Hennessy USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Clos d'Argentine 2021 Winemaker's Selection Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The nose of this lively Cabernet offers subtle aromas of berry. Nice acidity energizes the herbaceous palate, where grass, plum and juicy blackberry flavors meet and blend with notes of toasted oak. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

88 Durigutti 2020 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Aromas of plums, cherry and eucalyptus bring forward the wine's varietal expression. It's flavorful and soft in texture, with subtle strawberry and cherry flavors accented by hints of clove. Boutinot USA, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Terrazas de Los Andes 2020 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from high-altitude vineyards in Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley that has chalky tannins, moderate acidity and ripe berry flavors. Light notes of smoke and dried herbs mingle on the finish. Moët Hennessy USA. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Durigutti 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The fruit in this Cabernet leans toward the overripe spectrum. It offers aromas of berry jam and fig. Cherry, plum and fig flavors are supported by good acidity. Slightly astringent tannins provide enough grip to make this wine a good red for barbecue. Boutinot USA, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

86 Bodegas Lopez 2020 Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Aromas of fresh red fruits are attractive and inviting on the nose. The palate displays an herbaceous character, where light notes of berries and spices are overpowered by leafy flavors and backed by gentle acidity. Polaner Selections. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Casir Dos Santos 2020 Avatar Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The nose exhibits hints of cherry and leads to a warm soft palate, with licorice and black fruit flavors. There are subtle notes of grass on the medium finish of this Cabernet. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

84 Viniterra 2018 Serie Terra Mg12 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is fruit-forward and easy to sip, with aromas of cooked berries on the nose. Red fruit and bell pepper flavors show on the gentle palate and disappear in the brief finish. Arcadia Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

CABERNET FRANC

94 Rutini 2019 Single Vineyard Gualtallary Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). For full review see page 9. Graziano Imports. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: NA **Price:** \$70

93 Bodega Renacer 2019 R Cabernet Franc (Luján de Cuyo). The fruit was sourced from high-altitude vineyards in Uco Valley and Luján de Cuyo, and the wine was fermented for 24 months in oak barrels. As a result, this red opens with aromas of wood-driven spices and licorice. The palate shows notes of cinnamon and nutmeg that are balanced by herbs and bright notes of cranberries and cherries. Fine tannins and lifting acidity shape an elegant structure. Drink now–2033. Wein Bauer Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Finsa la Celia 2018 La Consulta Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). For full review see page 11. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

91 El Enemigo 2019 Cabernet Franc (Gualtallary). This is a delicious Cabernet Franc at great value. Winemaker Alejandro Vigil sourced grapes from Gualtallary and aged this wine for 15 months in 100-year-old foudres. Aromas of cranberry and mulberry perfume the nose. It's beautifully balanced, with oak spices, green bell pepper and ripe black fruit flavors. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 SonVida 2021 Cabernet Franc Cabernet Franc (Paraje Altamira). Made with grapes from appellation Paraje Altamira, the wine is vibrant and tasty. It has varietal expression, showing savory flavors of herbs, cranberry and blueberry over a rich texture. Nice acidity lengthens the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

86 Septima 2019 Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). This red has a nose of Christmas spices, with aromas of dried berries and clove. Plums and black tea flavors meet hints of orange peel and herbs on the soft palate. It's an easy-drinking Cabernet Franc that should be enjoyed now. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

PINOT NOIR

91 Luca 2022 G Lot Pinot Noir (Tupungato). Blackberry, cherry and thyme shape an attractive nose. This is an elegant and structured Pinot Noir that has optimal acidity. The palate shows complexity, with black tea flavors followed by blackberries, herbs, peppercorn and nutmeg. Hints of cardamom add depth. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Manos Negras 2021 Red Soil Pinot Noir (Mendoza). Fresh and subtle, this Pinot Noir smells like light rain on Mendoza's arid soils. The grapes were sourced from the southernmost region of the Uco Valley. It's structured and vibrant, with bright cranberry, red plum and meaty flavors filling the mouth. Uva Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Zorzal 2019 Gran Terroir Pinot Noir (Tupungato). The winemaking team at Zorzal is focused on fresh wines with a sense of place. In this Pinot Noir from a cool region with limestone soils, the nose opens with aromas of berries, dried herbs and orange peel. The mineral-textured palate offers fresh berries and a layer of spices. Light notes of peppercorn and tobacco are balanced by moderate acidity. Brazos Wine Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Manos Negras 2021 Pinot Noir (Mendoza). This Pinot Noir used to be made with fruit

from Patagonia, but this vintage is from the Uco Valley in Mendoza and shows a fruity character. Cranberry blends with hints of black pepper on the nose. It's lively, with good acidity carrying cherry, cranberry and raspberry through the medium finish. There is also a pleasant note of cardamom in the aftertaste. Uva Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$18

88 Zorzal 2019 Terroir Unico Pinot Noir (Tupungato). The high-altitude regions of Uco Valley allow winemakers to grow Pinot Noir grapes in a cooler climate. This wine comes from the Gualtallary subregion and is a tasty red at a budget-friendly price. The nose exhibits raspberry and introduces a fruity palate, with cranberries and raspberries. There are also subtle flavors of meat and dried herbs. Drink this wine while it's still young. Brazos Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Sur de los Andes 2021 Reserva Pinot Noir (Argentina). This has a nose of eucalyptus and peppercorn. The same spicy and herbal notes repeat on the soft palate and mix with berries. The wine's moderate acidity and light body make it a good everyday wine. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

86 Bodega del Fin del Mundo 2022 Postales Pinot Noir (Patagonia). At a modest price, this Pinot Noir from Argentina's Patagonia region delivers value. It offers nice herbal aromas followed by light notes of berries. Tea-like tannins frame flavors of grass, peppercorn and red fruit in the background. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

OTHER RED WINE

87 Montlaiz 2021 Dandelion Natural Bonarda (Mendoza). If you ever heard of Bonarda, you know of its fruity character. This easy-sipping wine could be a good pairing for cranberry sauce and turkey. It has notes of ripe berries and rosemary backed by high acidity and soft tannins. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$22

RED BLENDS

95 Cheval des Andes 2019 Chateau Cheval Blanc & Terrazas de Los Andes Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Luján de Cuyo). Made with equal parts Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, this blend shows balance, depth and strength. It has a firm palate with a chalky texture and savory notes of rosemary, bay leaf, tobacco and berries in the background. Remarkable acidity drives the flavors through the long finish. It's delicious now, but it will develop more complexity in the years to come. Drink now—2035. Moët Hennessy USA. **Cellar Selection.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

94 Pascual Toso 2020 Magdalena Red Blend (Mendoza). For full review see page 9. Quintessential. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$130

93 Trapiche 2020 Iscay Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). For full review see page 12. WX Brands. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Zuccardi 2019 Tito Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Paraje Altamira). This winery in the heart of Uco Valley has produced a full-bodied and polished blend of 85% Malbec and 15% Cabernet Franc. The nose reveals aromas of herbs and wet stones and introduces a balanced palate. Plum, blackberry and raspberry join notes of jarilla and rosemary. It's structured, with a mineral texture and lively acidity. Drink now—2030. Winesellers, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Sposato Family Vineyards 2017 Sabia Savia Red Blend (Mendoza). It has a lovely nose of sweet baking spices complemented by jammy notes of plum and dried fig. This silky blend was made with equal parts Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon and aged for 24 months in oak barrels. Chocolate and vanilla command the palate and mix with hints of prune and ripe berries, offering a fruity aftertaste. Sposato Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

91 Mascota 2020 Unánime Gran Vino Tinto Red Blend (Mendoza). This Cabernet-based blend can be described as juicy, full-bodied and smooth. If those words caught your attention, know that there is more to this very affordable wine. Blackberry, plum and a light note of dried orange peel show on the nose. The firm palate offers plum, cherry, fig, cacao nib, cinnamon and thyme. Leafy notes persist in the aftertaste. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Doña Paula 2020 Altitude Series 1350 Red Blend (Mendoza). The 2020 vintage was warm, but this wine shows freshness and balance. The grapes were sourced from vines at 4,429 feet in the Gualtallary subregion of the Uco Valley. This is a fruit-driven blend with aromas of herbes de Provence and plums. Its tannic structure and vibrant acidity hold concentrated plum, raspberry and cherry flavors that are mixed with cinnamon and chocolate. Prestige Beverage Group. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Fuego Blanco 2019 Cabernet Franc-Malbec (Pedernal Valley). There is an inviting aroma of black pepper and herbs in this blend of 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Malbec. The grapes are sourced from high-altitude vineyards in the Pedernal Valley, San Juan. It's flavorful and vibrant, with tasty notes of bay leaf, berries and paprika supported by lovely acidity and fine tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

90 Pascual Toso 2019 Finca Pedregal Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza). Made with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Malbec sourced from vineyards near the Mendoza River, this blend was aged for 18 months in oak barrels. There is an inviting mix of strawberries and herbs in the bouquet. Strawberries reappear on the round palate, alongside notes of raspberry, blackberry, green bell pepper and meat that linger long into the finish. Quintessential. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$74

90 Lagarde 2019 Proyecto Hermanas Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Soft aromas of red and black fruit emerge from the nose of this 75% Malbec and 25% Cabernet Franc. Malbec's fruity character prevails in this approachable red, with plush tannins and enough acidity to hold a mix of grass, cherries and mulberries. Misa Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Las Estelas 2020 Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). Malbec and Cabernet Franc grapes shine under the Argentine sky and are usually combined in blends like this one. In this red, the fruity character of Malbec takes the stage and is supported by chocolate and light leafy notes. This is an enjoyable wine with good acidity and delicate tannins. Seaview Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Viñalba 2021 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). Cacao nibs and black fruit aromas perfume the nose. The tannins in this blend of Malbec and Cabernet Franc are soft but firm. Lifting acidity backs dark chocolate-covered blueberries and prune. Additional flavors include thyme, mint and black pepper. Vinovia Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Finca Flichman 2020 Dedicado Gran Corte Malbec Blend (Uco Valley). Black olive, plums and hints of smoke repeat on the nose and the palate. Smooth tannins support additional flavors of ripe red berries alongside moderate acidity in this blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Evaton, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Etchart 2019 Arnaldo B Gran Reserva Red Blend (Salta). Made with 60% Malbec, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Tannat, this wine offers herbal aromas and flavors. Cranberry and cherry meet bay leaf on the plush palate. Enough acidity and round soft tannins support the wine's medium body. State Wines Selections. —J.V.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

87 Bodegas Caro 2020 Amancaya Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is a Cabernet-based blend, with 40% Malbec adding fruity flavors. It has an austere nose and a lightly structured palate that displays concentrated black fruit

flavors of plum and blueberry, with a leafy undertone. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

CHILE

SAUVIGNON BLANC

93 Viña Leyda 2022 Lot 4 Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). At first, this Sauvignon exhibits Leyda Valley's classic aromas of green peas and celery. After a few minutes in the glass, the wine opens and shows its complexity. It has a beautiful citrusy character that shines through delicate notes of lime and vervain on the palate. Vibrant and structured, this is a good example of the quality that white wines from Chile's coastal vineyards can achieve. VSPT USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

87 Veramonte 2022 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Easy to drink, this wine opens with aromas of ripe lime and pome fruit. It has good acidity supporting notes of lemon, pear and herbs. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Boutinot 2021 The Myth of Motu Nui Sauvignon Blanc (Aconcagua). Green peas and grass are prominent on the nose and palate of this pungent wine. It's herbaceous and light-bodied, with gentle notes of citrus fruit. Boutinot USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Misiones de Rengo 2022 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley). This wine leans toward tropical flavors. The nose is austere, but the palate offers notes of mango, honeydew, pineapple and grass alongside moderate acidity. Terroir Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Undurraga 2022 Aliwen Sacred Tree Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (San Antonio-Maipo Valley). Prominent notes of green peas emerge from the glass of this lightweight wine. The palate offers citrus fruit, herbs and celery. Good acidity makes it an easy sipper and a good match for fish tacos. Freedom Beverage Co. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

ROSÉ

89 Concha y Toro 2021 Marques de Casa Concha Cinsault Rosé (Itata Valley). This balanced rosé was made with Cinsault grapes and opens with light notes of strawberries and a pinch of salt. It shows freshness on the medium-bodied palate, with tangy berry flavors that linger on the finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Calcu 2022 Gran Reserva Malbec Rosé (Colchagua Valley). Lovely aromas of flower blossoms open this Malbec rosé. The wine has texture and moderate acidity backing subtle flavors of strawberry and hints of lime. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Maquis 2022 Gran Reserva Rosé (Colchagua Valley). There is a concentrated note of cherry on the nose. The palate shows a mix of orange zest and cranberry. The wine's moderate acidity is enough to hold the flavors and make it an easy sipper. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Misiones de Rengo 2022 Rosé (Central Valley). This rosé is crisp, with a raspberry nose and a flavorful palate. Cherry, cranberry and hints of apple are lifted by lively acidity. Terroir Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

SOUTH AFRICA

CHENIN BLANC

94 Sadie Family 2021 Skurfborg Chenin Blanc (Citrusdal Mountain). Gentle aromas of herbs meet light notes of ginger on the delicate nose. The mineral-textured palate is more generous. It has depth and layers of lime, peach, apricot, ginger spice, linden tea and honey that sing in tune, alongside lively acidity. Drink now–2031. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$170

92 Alheit 2021 Hareafter Here Chenin Blanc (Western Cape). Delicate citrus aromas take the lead, supported by herbs and vanilla bean. Flavors of baking spices are integrated and persistent on the medium-weight palate. It has layers of grapefruit, lime and hints of mint lifted by excellent acidity. This is a delicious, structured Chenin Blanc. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$41

91 Wolf & Woman 2022 Chenin Blanc Chenin Blanc (Swartland). Oak spices are well-integrated in this balanced wine in which vanilla extract perfumes the nose. It has a rich texture and good acidity, driving flavors of grapefruit, Key lime and lemon through a pleasant aftertaste. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Alheit 2021 Nautical Dawn Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch). Notes of exotic fruit add complexity to this wine. Enjoy honeydew, mango, kiwi and guava on the nose and palate. Subtle flavors of grapefruit linger in the fresh finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

BUYINGGUIDE

89 A.A. Badenhorst Family Wines 2019 Kelde Steen (Swartland). This savory Chenin Blanc opens with ginger and honey. Lemon zest and white peach are included in the bouquet. It has a waxy texture and flavors of lemon, linden tea, honey and ginger. It finishes with notes of lemon pith and herbs. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

89 Aslina by Ntsiki Biyela 2022 Skin Contact Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch). Aromas of wet stone and peach show on the nose. Bright peach flavors and good acidity make this wine enjoyable. Hints of herbs follow the fruit for a satisfying finish. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Paulus Wine Co. 2021 Bartàs Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch). Gentle acidity, citrus and stone fruit flavors give this Chenin Blanc a pleasant character. The nose is austere, with hints of vanilla bean. Ripe lime, apple, peach and subtle oak spice combine and linger on the finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Storm Point 2022 Chenin Blanc (Swartland). The bouquet offers a fresh note of orange zest. It has a lovely fruity profile, showing lime, peach, orange and leafy flavors over an oily texture. Lively acidity keeps the fruit bright through the finish. Vine Street Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Bosman Family Vineyards 2022 8th Generation Chenin Blanc (South Africa). The nose has sweet notes of peaches in syrup. Refreshing acidity backs lemon, ripe mango and pineapple flavors that fade away quickly, leaving behind a clean, short finish. Wine For The World. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Indaba 2022 Chenin Blanc (Western Cape). There is a subtle bouquet of Key lime and white flowers. Stone fruit and lime fill the lightly structured palate. High acidity makes the wine easy to drink. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

85 Cape D'or 2022 Chenin Blanc (Western Cape). The wine's aroma of ripe apple leads to a light palate. Cooked pear and grapefruit flavors are framed by moderate acidity and disappear in a brief finish. Oaktree Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

SAUVIGNON BLANC

89 Steenberg 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Constantia). This is a balanced and savory Sauvignon Blanc from a coastal region. Pleasant aromas of fresh herbs open the nose. Grapefruit, hints of peppermint and nuts are backed by good acidity on the palate. Beck Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Ken Forrester 2022 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Stellenbosch). Aromas of lime lead the way to light citrus and stone fruit flavors in this wine. Vibrant acidity keeps it fresh and easy-drinking. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Springfield Estate 2022 Life From Stone Sauvignon Blanc (Robertson). In this wine, aromas of grass and lime introduce a citrus palate. Lightweight, this Sauvignon Blanc is fresh and easy to drink. Stellies Wines. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Zorgvliet 2022 Estate Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Banghoek). This is a medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc that starts with aromas of apricot. The palate is filled with flavors of green peas, lime peel and peach. Moderate acidity is enough to keep it fresh through the green tea finish. Boutinot USA, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Indaba 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape). The wine's high acidity lifts a palate of mild citrus fruit and intense bell pepper flavors. The finish shows hints of celery. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Ken Forrester 2022 Petit Sauvignon Blanc (Stellenbosch). Grapefruit aromas lead to a citrusy palate where overripe lime and pear are lifted by vibrant acidity. It has a sharp and short finish. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Off-Piste 2022 Kosi Bay Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape). Tropical notes dominate the nose of this easy pour. Flavors of apple, grass and pineapple lead the way on the mid-palate, then quickly disappear in the citrusy finish. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

CHARDONNAY

91 Lismore 2020 Chardonnay (Cape South Coast). Coming from a cool-climate region, this wine shows balance and energetic acidity. Aromas of stone fruit and salt introduce a mineral-textured palate. Flavors of lime, honeydew and salt give it an umami character. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 Aslina by Ntsiki Biyela 2022 Chardonnay (Western Cape). Far from being just an easy Chardonnay, this white shows delicate aromas of herbs, pear and lime. It's well-structured and has ripe flavors of pear, peach and honeydew supported by good acidity. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 De Wetshof 2022 Lesca Chardonnay (Robertson). Notes of citrus fruit and dill are balanced by tropical flavors in this white. Lively

acidity backs chamomile tea, lime, orange peel and mango, driving the pleasant blend of fruits through the aftertaste. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Topiary 2021 Chardonnay (Franschhoek). It starts with subtle aromas of white flowers. The palate is less expressive, showing light notes of stone fruit and lime pith, alongside gentle acidity. Cape Classics. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

86 Springfield Estate 2018 Wild Yeast Chardonnay (Robertson). Bright aromas of celery leaf and lemon show on the nose. The palate offers a grassy and citrusy character supported by light acidity. RSF Wine. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

PINOTAGE

92 Kanonkop 2021 Estate Pinotage (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch). Winemaker Abrie Beeslaar shows the complexity and age potential of Pinotage in his wines. The Estate collection is proof of that. This vintage offers aromas of sweet spices and berries. It's full on the palate, with a good concentration of raspberries and red plums. A touch of licorice lingers on the finish. This is still young, but it's ready to drink now, or hold through 2035. Cape Classics. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Babylon's Peak 2020 Pinotage (Swartland). After a few minutes, aromas of spices and herbs slowly reveal in the glass. This Pinotage has layers of oak spice, juicy blackberries, cherries and bay leaves. The palate has a rounded texture, fresh acidity and a long finish. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Kanonkop 2020 Kadette Pinotage (Stellenbosch). Light notes of eucalyptus and oak spice mingle on the nose and reappear on the fresh palate. Nicely balanced by good acidity and concentrated fruit flavors, this Pinotage is smooth and finishes with notes of tobacco. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Wolf & Woman 2022 Pinotage (Swartland). All but 10% of the grapes for this Pinotage were sourced from old vines in the Paardeberg region, resulting in a lively wine with aromas of fresh mulberry and raspberry. The palate offers red berries and light notes of oak spice. This is a medium-bodied fruit-forward Pinotage. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Southern Right 2020 Pinotage (Western Cape). Nine months in oak barrels provide subtle notes of sweet spices to this fruit-driven red. Bright flavors of berries are backed by fresh acidity

and soft tannins. The palate has a gentle texture and an herbaceous finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Niel Joubert 2018 Pinotage (Paarl). The nose of this wine is austere, with flinty notes unfolding after a few minutes. The palate offers mild notes of red berries framed by thin tannins that lead to a medium finish. Stellies Wines. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

86 Spier 2021 Million Trees Pinotage (Western Cape). This opens with fruit-forward aromas in the form of blackberries and plums. Flavors of ripe berries invade the soft palate of this easygoing Pinotage. USA Wine West. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

91 David Finlayson 2020 GS Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch). Baking spices are prominent on the nose and the palate. Full-bodied, this red has notes of chocolate, vanilla, raspberries and maraschino cherries. Tannins are ripe and round, with medium acidity driving the flavors through the smooth finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Aslina by Ntsiki Biyela 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch). The bouquet includes aromas of red berries and thyme. Nice acidity lifts raspberry flavors and adds freshness to the smooth palate. It has just enough oak spice and herbs to keep the wine balanced and enjoyable until the last drop. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Braai 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape). A South African braai is a barbecue that brings family and friends together. In this scenario, a balanced red like this Cabernet Sauvignon would pair fantastically well with the whole braai experience or with an American BBQ. Red fruits and light notes of bay leaf and tobacco, alongside excellent acidity make this wine enjoyable. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Glenelly 2020 Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch). This is fruit-driven, with tasty notes of spices and eucalyptus. Thin tannins shape its lightly structured palate. Drink now. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Spier 2021 Million Trees Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape). Light notes of fruits and herbs add a subtle perfume to the nose. The palate leans toward overripe flavors. There are savory notes of bell pepper, grass and plum supported by soft tannins and moderate acidity. USA Wine West. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

SYRAH

91 Cederberg 2018 Shiraz (Cederberg). There are aromatic notes of cherries, strawberries and black pepper on the nose. After 15 months of oak aging, barrel-driven spices integrate well into the fruity palate. It's structured, with firm tannins and good acidity carrying the flavors from the midpalate through the close. Banks Channel. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Boschklouf 2020 Syrah (Stellenbosch). This one has a spicy character displaying notes of black pepper and cumin on the nose and palate. Flavors of mulberry and cherries blend with light notes of eucalyptus and lead to a lasting finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 HER 2021 Shiraz (Western Cape). The nose has varietal expressions of spices and ripe berries and introduces a savory palate. Red plum, cherry, thyme and black pepper are lifted by lively acidity, providing depth to this young Shiraz. Wine For The World. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 DeMorgenzon 2018 Syrah (Stellenbosch). Lightly oaked, this Syrah reveals aromas of raspberries and cherries. It has savory notes of grass and ripe red fruit backed by enough acidity to make it a food-friendly red. Indigo Wine Group. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Trizanne 2021 Syrah (Swartland). The nose opens with berry aromas. Ripe fruit and hints of grass dominate the flavor profile of this lightly structured red. Drink now. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANC

98 Clos Henri 2020 Clay Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A special cuvée launched in honor of this top biodynamic winery's 20-year anniversary, Clay is, as the name suggests, from vines with feet in the estate's Broadbridge clay soils. Native yeast, lees and old Austrian oak barrels all contribute to this pristine wine, which is round, elegant and poised. With aeration, it opens to a multifaceted nose of tangerine, white peach, orchard blossom and grass, shaded in salted cream. The palate is full-figured, with depth and weight but also freshness, length, a saline spine and a gorgeous chalky texture. There's a level of complexity here rarely seen in Marlborough that, frankly, raises the bar for the whole region. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

96 Clos Henri 2020 Stones Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This new special cuvée, launched for this biodynamic winery's 20th anniversary, is a finessed and beautiful bottling from vines on the estate's Greywacke river stones. Wild fermented, with time on lees in old Austrian oak and minimal sulfur, it's bright, upright and linear. Aromas of pineapple, peach, lime granita and white florals are underscored with fresh wild herbal tones like fennel and cilantro. The palate is slinky, with more tempered acidity than your typical Marlborough Sauvignon. The focus here is on texture, complexity and food friendliness. A beautiful expression of place from one of Marlborough's leading producers. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 Clos Henri 2022 Otira Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This French-owned biodynamic estate had a rebrand in 2023. Otira, grown on glacial river stones, is part of a new single vineyard range that shows a layer of complexity above your everyday Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Ripe lime and pink grapefruit mingle with yeasty apple flesh, peach, white florals, subtle dried herbs and a stony mineral note. Still young, there's a big lift of tingy acidity on the palate. But it's balanced by generous texture and flavor, the lime essence lingering long on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

93 Dog Point 2020 Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). From one of Marlborough's most distinctive producers, this single site Sauvignon Blanc is aged and fermented in older French oak barrels in the Pouilly-Fumé style. The resulting wine is golden hued with opulent aromas of roasted nuts, grilled pineapple, lemon oil and gun smoke. The palate is equally rich but restrained, countered by mouthwatering acidity, with focus and flavor depth that lingers long on the finish. It's a Sauvignon made like a Chardonnay, so it won't be to everyone's tastes, but this bottling, from a strong vintage, finds great balance and could cellar for several years. Vintus LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

93 Greywacke 2022 Sauvignon (Marlborough). Heady—but not bombastic—aromas of passion fruit, guava and jasmine, with grassy, flinty pungency beneath, pop from the glass. The palate shows lovely texture and balance with a saline, mineral core and a limy finish. This is a classic expression of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc from one of its masters. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

93 Greywacke 2021 Wild Sauvignon (Marlborough). For full review see page 11. Old Bridge Cellars.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

92 Loveblock 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). There's a lovely lift of passion fruit, guava, citrus and floral aromas to start, backed by a gunflint and briny note. The palate is a graceful balance of texture, acidity, flavor and length. The long, lifted acidity and chalky bite to the finish make one want to reach for another glass. This is classy and food-friendly. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

91 Archetype 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 16. The Wine Group.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

91 Whitehaven 2022 Windward Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 18. E. & J. Gallo.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Clos Henri 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A flinty, mineral character mingles with fleshy melon, lime leaf and dried wild herbs on this organic Sauvignon Blanc. There's a lovely tangy freshness amid the chalky textural elements. While still quite young, this is, in general, a step up from your average Marlborough SB. It captures the world-famous style while adding an extra level of complexity and class. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Elephant Hill 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Hawke's Bay). There's an intriguing nose to this Hawke's Bay Sauvignon Blanc: a struck match edge to the lemon and lime zest, peach pit and green garden veg aromas. The palate shows some lovely textural, saline notes amid a crunch of acidity that add yet more interest, making this a food-friendly bottling with a sense of place and personality. Smith Wine & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Te Pa 2020 Oke Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Golden hued, this is a full-throttle Sauvignon that's been aged on full lees in French cigar barrels. Nothing is done in halves here. The nose is rich and intense with concentrated aromas of flint, toasted cashews, nutmeg, briny sea air and grilled lemons. The palate would be a beast if not for the bright line of shimmering acidity that slices through the richness and power like a ray of sunshine. There's a toasty quality that lingers long amid the citrus and pineapple flavors. For everyone? Probably not, but it certainly takes cojones to make such a wine. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Duck Hunter 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Bright and fruity, peach, passion fruit and lime leaf notes bounce from nose to palate. There's a round mouthfeel, a gently creamy texture, an abundance of stone fruit flavor and mouthwatering acidity. This makes for both food-friendly and easy solo sipping. Stratus Wine & Spirits LLC. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Eradus 2022 Eradus Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley). Lime pith, passion fruit, bell pepper and white spice open this fresh, aromatic Sauvignon Blanc from the cool Awatere Valley. It's young and crisp, with lovely crunchy textural elements. It's a food-friendly drop now, but an extra few months in the bottle should bring added complexity. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Lawson's Dry Hills 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is classic Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc with punchy aromas of grass, bell pepper and green herb woven into passion fruit and lime. The palate is dry, crisp and slightly slippery with prickly green veg and zippy fruit flavors to the finish. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 OTU 2022 Limited Release Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This pungent Sauvignon Blanc highlights the summer veg and herb garden characters. They top lemon and grapefruit pith and passion fruit. There's a smoky, flinty element, too. The palate shrieks with acidity, but the texture and depth of flavor bring it into balance. Still young, this could age for several years. Winesellers, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 Ant Moore 2022 Estate Series Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 24. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Cloud Watcher 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A few years in the bottle has imbued a richness to this wine in the form of honey grilled peach, citrus tart and ripe tropical fruits. The palate shows some texture, fruit weight and well-integrated acidity. The wine finishes on the short side but still makes for crowd-pleasing sipping. The Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Fire Road 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Freshly cut grass and lime zest with some spring blossom florals and a slight flintiness are succeeded by a palate that's as crisp and refreshing as the nose implies. Summer veg and citrus flavors are clean and mouthwatering, making another sip an easy task. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Glazebrook 2022 041°S-174°E Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Freshly mowed grass, jalapeños and dried green herbs dominate the first sniff. Pineapple and passion fruit soap aromas come second. The palate is tightly wound with a chalky texture and searing acidity. It doesn't feel under-ripe, though, and could make for an interesting food pairing. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Kono 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A fragrant combo of honeydew, passion fruit, Meyer lemon and lime leaf lead to a palate of

tingly acidity, slippery texture and crunchy, piercing acidity. A bright citrus flavor lingers on the finish. Total Beverage Solution. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Mud House 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a comparatively ripe style of Sauvignon Blanc with heady aromas of kiwi, melon and lime sorbet with gentle florals, some green bell pepper and soft white spice. The palate is dry overall, but there's a hint of sweetness to balance the racy, limy acidity. Drink well chilled with spicy fish tacos or Thai curry. Accolade Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Spy Valley 2022 Satellite Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Aromas of guava, passion fruit and lime leaf, with a dried green herbal underbelly, leads to a palate that's dry and crisp with the slightest bit of sweetness and oodles of fruit and green veg freshness. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Moko 2022 Black Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a fruity Sauvignon Blanc with comparatively ripe aromas of pineapple, lemon-lime and jasmine with a little flintiness. It's dry, lightweight and easy to sip cold on a hot summer day. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Te Pa 2022 Seaside Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). White grapefruit, lime and passion fruit aromas mingle with more pungent ones like flint, onion peel and grass. There's a big bite of acidity on the palate, along with a touch of sweetness and a sulfuric burn. Still very young, this likely will benefit from another year or more in the bottle. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

87 Ten Sisters 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). There's a struck match sulfuric note amid the guava, citrus rind, green pepper and grass aromas that fades slowly with aeration. The palate is on the lean and mean side with searing acidity, but there's an appealing textural element and herb and green citrus peel notes that flow to the finish. Bartow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Echo Bay 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Fruity with some oniony reduction, there's passion fruit, tangerine and lime with some bell pepper greenness at the back. It's crisp, dry and straightforward. Trinchero Family Estates. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

85 Kim Crawford 2021 Illuminate Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand). Heady, high-toned aromas of lime blossom, passion fruit and peach are backed more pungent, green herbal notes. There's a slight sourness to the palate, and it finishes on the short side. There's citrusy refreshment but quite a

synthetic, overly made feel about this low-cal bottling. LaForce. —C.P.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$18

84 **Wonderland 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Quite pungent, reductive aromas of sweaty onion and Band-Aid sit atop the citrus and tropical fruit and green veg notes here. There's a sharp, chemical edge to the palate, and it leaves a burn on the finish. Precept Wine. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 **Yealands 2022 Lighter Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's a pungent flint-and-onion reduction at the start here, but it's quickly followed by lemon-lime peel and green herbal aromas. Acidity is sharp, slicing through the citrus and floral flavors. This feels over made and underwhelming on the whole. Palm Bay International. —C.P.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

CHARDONNAY

94 **Te Pa 2019 St. Leonard's Reserve Chardonnay (Marlborough).** This is a beautifully composed Chardonnay from one of New Zealand's quality-driven, Māori-owned wineries. It starts with layers of heady aromatics from flint and seashells to preserved lemons, peach pit and toast lead. The palate is concentrated and mouthfilling but is comfortable in its own skin, with balance, length and poise. A classy little number that would give Burgundy a run for its money. Banville Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

92 **Te Awanga 2019 Trademark Chardonnay (Hawke's Bay).** Heady aromas of grilled nuts, pineapple, smoke and struck match dominate this rich, reductive, golden-hued Chardonnay. Wine-making wins over site and varietal expression, but it doesn't feel over the top. This is a divisive style, for sure, but a well-executed one that retains freshness, shape and length. LeVecke. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 **Elephant Hill 2020 Salomé Chardonnay (Hawke's Bay).** Seashell, struck match and grilled peach and pineapple open this opulent Chardonnay. This is a broad, lactic style with concentration and a good helping of buttered toasty oak. Though a little too chubby for this reviewer, many big Chardy lovers will dig it. Smith Wine & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$95

89 **Elephant Hill 2018 Reserve Chardonnay (Hawke's Bay).** A vibrant golden shade, this opens bright and fruity but also buttery and rich, with white peach and lemon peel underscored by brioche and flint. The palate is supple and round. It's an opulent style displaying toasty oak and lactic

creaminess, but it's in balance overall. Smith Wine & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

ROSÉ

89 **Yealands 2022 Rosé (Marlborough).** This ballerina pink rosé sings a more vegetal tune than fruity one, indicative of its Sauvignon Blanc composition. There's a nose full of green beans, bell peppers, fresh herbs and strawberries still with their stems and leaves. It's crisp, dry and slippery, with the red fruit more prominent on the palate. It's balanced and refreshing. Palm Bay International. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Mt. Beautiful 2022 Rosé (North Canterbury).** Vibrant, appealing aromas of watermelon Jolly Rancher and strawberry preserves flow to a palate that's dry, crisp and slightly creamy, with ample tangy red berry fruit flavors. This wine is easy to knock back solo or with a wide range of cuisines. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 **Oyster Bay 2022 Rosé (Marlborough).** A pale strawberry juice color, this opens with appealing aromas of watermelon and cherry. There's a crunch to the palate and a texture element, too. The fruit is more muffled here, seemingly from quite a bit of sulfur, but this nevertheless makes for easy, dry, summer sipping. Delectat USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

85 **Lobster Reef 2022 Rosé (Hawke's Bay).** Ripe, somewhat confected red fruit aromas mix with more pungent, reductive ones on this sunset-hued rosé. The palate is creamy and concentrated but lacking in harmony, verve and flavor depth. Vino Logics. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

PINOT NOIR

92 **Deep Down 2021 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** There's a rustic, vin de table feel about this hands-off wine from former Seresin winemaker Clive Dougal. Vibrant black cherry and blackberry fruit mingle with myriad herbs, spices and dried florals. It's fresh and crunchy with an electricity that can only come from minimal winemaking. Tannins are massive—chiseled and drying—but drink this with a plate of fatty protein and all will be forgiven. Vintage '59 Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Seifried 2021 Pinot Noir (Nelson).** From a pioneering family in New Zealand's Nelson region, at the top of the North Island, this takes its time opening but eventually reveals succulent plum and blueberry fruit, white spice, scrubby herbs and subtle coffee-like oak influence. The mouthfeel is

tart and fresh, framed with distinctive chalk dust-textured tannins. It's a classic regional bottling. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Seifried 2021 Old Coach Road Pinot Noir (Nelson).** There's a raw, rustic verve to this, with some reductive undergrowth notes smudging the red fruit and earthy spice. The palate has surprising weight to it, with heavysset, somewhat drying tannins that would be borderline overwhelming if not for the lifted acidity that adds a tingle to the fruit. Drink with a plate of fatty protein. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 **Allan Scott 2021 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Ripe cherry and currant fruit take the lead in this fruity Pinot. A cocktail bitters element gets tangled up in mealy, vineyard floor notes. There's a lightness to the palate. Elevated acidity lends a crunch to the brambly fruit and soft, savory tannins. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 **OTU 2021 Otuwhero Estate Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** The color of cherry juice, this is a subtle, sweet-fruited Pinot with aromas of strawberry, florals and spice. The palate is light on its feet and silky with juicy fruit and a gentle tug of tannins. Winesellers, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 **Savvy 2021 Little Darling Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** A melody of herbs and spices mingles with brambly berry fruit. The palate is light and crisp with a gentle frame of savory tannins. An easygoing Pinot to drink over the next few years. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

86 **Te Pa 2021 Koha Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Ripe red currant, cherry jam and earthy, peppery spice—with a fair bit of mealy oak—lead to a palate that's on the fuller end of the Pinot spectrum, with drying, granular tannins and elevated acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Te Pa 2021 Te Pa Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Plump cherry and currant fruit with meaty, savory spiced bass notes march forth toward a midweight palate that's dominated by chunky, drying tannins with a tart, short finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Yealands 2020 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Ripe cherry and spice get a little lost amid the mealy oak and sulfuric undergrowth notes. The palate is medium-bodied, with astringent tannins, the heavysset oak once again at the fore. It finishes short. Palm Bay International. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

SYRAH

94 Te Awanga 2018 Trademark Syrah (Hawkes Bay). A heady nose of mint, cracked pepper, bay leaf and baking spices is woven with currant and mulberry. The silky palate is mouthfilling with spicy, granular tannins and lovely freshness. Balanced, with regional and varietal character, this is a complete wine now that could cellar gracefully well into the 2030s. LeVecke. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Elephant Hill 2019 Airavata Syrah (Hawkes Bay). The densely packed nose opens with a slight meaty, mushroomy funk, alongside green peppercorn and other savory spices. They dress the ripe dark berry fruit and violet-like florals. Powerful, savory tannins structure the luscious fruit on the palate. This is a big but balanced wine that would benefit from a decant now, but it should age gracefully for several decades. Smith Wine & Spirits. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

90 Te Awanga 2020 Wildsong Syrah (Hawkes Bay). There's richness and roundness to the nose: plump raspberries and blueberries with gentle spice and a vanilla oak spine. The palate is fresher than the nose implies, silky, with a cinch of spicy tannins that creep in on the midpalate. This makes for a polished, complete bottling now beside a plate of protein. LeVecke. *Best Buy*. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

RED BLEND

89 Halcyon Days 2021 Luz Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). This small-batch natural wine, which sees zero added sulfur, opens with some vineyard floor funk, followed by graphite, mint, spice and mulberry aromas. They flow to a palate that's powerful but with freshness and linearity. There's a crunch of tart berry fruit and gentle, savory tannins. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$28

BLANCO TEQUILA

Top-scoring blancos now show nuance and even terroir.

For margaritas, ranch waters and other tequila-based cocktails, blanco tequila is the clear choice for mixing. Whether called blanco, plata or silver, it tends to be crisp and clear, with nuanced cooked agave and lively peppery tones.

To many, blanco is the purest expression of Mexico's signature agave spirit. Typically unaged, or rested up to 60 days in steel tanks, the tequila can't hide behind the aromas and flavors that barrel aging can provide.

Thanks to celebrity-driven labels and enthusiasm for agave-based cocktails, tequila sales continue to skyrocket. According to data released by IWSR Drinks Market Analysis, U.S. tequila sales by volume surged 12% in 2022, handily beating both whiskey (+3%) and vodka (+1%) in the same period.

"Over the years, tequila has evolved from being a low-price shot to a more premium option used in cocktails and high-end sipping," says Jose Luis Hermoso, IWSR's Research Director.

To many, blanco is the purest expression of Mexico's signature agave spirit

What makes for a great bottle? In a word: nuance. The top-scoring blancos built on a foundation of cooked agave, layering on hints of fresh-cut herbs, green and vegetal notes, citrus peel, or earthy or mineral tones. None of these elements are infused in the tequila, of course, but create a perception of vibrancy—a lively, dynamic spirit that almost seems to breathe in the glass, evolving with each sip.

And for wine-lovers seeking to experience the "terroir of tequila," there's good news. A small but growing number of tequila producers are now spotlighting single-estate and single-vintage bottlings. For example, newcomer Lagrimas del Valle has launched in the U.S. its 2022 bottling harvested from a single field, Palo Verde. It's a savory symphony of sundried tomato, mesquite, ancho chile and even a fleeting hint of bacon. While it's complex enough to sip neat, just imagine the spicy margaritas you could mix with that flavor profile.

—Kara Newman



96 Don Vicente Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Don Vicente, El Paso, TX). The aroma suggests fresh-cut jalapeño, with a spicy hint that makes the nose prickle. Peppery notes follow on the palate. Jalapeño as well as bell pepper and black pepper are framed with hints of tarragon and graphite. Grapefruit-peel astringency and white-pepper sparks complete the lively finish. Sip or mix.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$40



96 El Sativo Tequila Blanco (Mexico; El Sativo, Reno, NV). A whiff of fresh spearmint introduces the lightly herbaceous aroma. The light palate echoes the fresh herb note, mixing it with lemon peel and fresh jalapeño, plus a hint of vanilla. Each sip finishes bracing and crisp, with pleasantly peppery heat. Sip or mix.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50



94 Codigo 1530 Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Codigo, Niwot, CO). This limited edition is bottled at still strength, meaning plenty of flavor intensity and alcohol power. Look for a roasted jalapeño scent and a hint of rubber. The memorable palate opens with graphite, fading into coconut sweetness framed by baking spice and a mouthwatering saline hint.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$75



94 Hacienda Navarro Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Carreon Enterprises, Denver, CO). A vegetal aroma, with a hint of fresh tomato, leads into a light, crisp palate. Mild honey and vanilla flavors fade into a lightly peppery exit warmed with cayenne heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$45



93 La Pulga Tequila Blanco (Mexico; La Pulga Spirits, Fort Worth, TX). Overall, this is a citrusy and lively tequila. A fresh tomato scent welcomes the savory and zesty palate. Lemony acidity leads to pickled jalapeño and ginger, plus white-pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$45



93 Mijenta Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Altos Planos, Dallas, TX). Hints of bell pepper and fresh mint perfume this blanco. The palate opens with vegetal bell and jalapeño peppers, leading to a mouthwatering saline hint on the midpalate. The exit blazes with alcohol heat, melding with cayenne, ginger and jalapeño, soothed with cooked agave and rich honey on the way out.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$49



92 Aman Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Erie Beverage, Sandusky, OH). The zesty, slightly savory aroma channels roasted pepper. Bold, vegetal notes open the palate. Bell and jalapeño peppers mingle with fresh oregano and tarragon into the long, numbing and lemony finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$56



92 Painted Donkey Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Dynasty Spirits Brands, Dallas, TX). Herbal notes lead the nose and palate, with a bouquet of mint, tarragon and lemongrass that head to a mentholated finish. Fennel seed, bell pepper and lime peel exit with a final, sneaky burst of heat. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25



90 Mayenda Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Campari America, New York, NY). The lightly sweet aroma incorporates honey and coconut. Almond sweetness opens the palate, with a fleeting fresh melon hint, like honeydew. The fiery finish snaps with cinnamon sparks.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$70

96 Don Vicente Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Don Vicente, El Paso, TX). For full review see page 148.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$40

96 El Sativo Tequila Blanco (Mexico; El Sativo, Reno, NV). For full review see page 148.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

95 4 Copas Organic Overproof Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The light vanilla scent includes hints of zesty citrus and bell pepper. A lightly sweet note opens the palate, followed by lots of bright lemon peel and vegetal hints of pepper and tarragon. The finish is clean and drying.
abv: 55% **Price:** \$78

95 Campovaso Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Distiller Sales, St. Paul, MN). Honey richness and sundried tomato on nose and palate give depth to this limited-production tequila, while lemon peel jazzes up the exhale. A teasing oaky note suggests the barrel-aged expressions will be worth a closer look.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

94 Codigo 1530 Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Codigo, Niwot, CO). For full review see page 148.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$75

94 Hacienda Navarro Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Carreon Enterprises, Denver, CO). For full review see page 148.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$45

94 Lagrimas del Valle Tequila Palo Verde Plata 2022 (Mexico; Altamar Brands, Corona del Mar, CA). Savory and smoked—but not smoky—hints mean this complex blanco is a wild ride. Lively lemon, sundried tomato and tarragon open each sip, leading into a zesty, savory blast of smoked paprika, mesquite, ancho chile powder and a fleeting hint of bacon, finishing with black-pepper fumes. Note:

each bottling will be a single vintage (2022 is the first), harvested from a single field (in this case, Palo Verde).
abv: 46% **Price:** \$55

94 Siete Leguas Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Sazerac, Louisville, LA). Bold, zesty, savory aromas hint at fresh and pickled jalapeño. The palate is equally robust and complex, adding lemon peel and a steely, mineral midpalate. It finishes clean with an enticing mouthwatering saline note and flicker of cayenne heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$47

93 Buendia Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Buendia, Wyomissing, PA). This tequila has a tropical touch, opening with coconut, citrus and pineapple aromas. The complex palate offers coconut and bracing hints of rubber and graphite. Almond sweetness smooths the exit, sprinkled with clove and cinnamon heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$48

93 Don Sergio Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). The bright aroma mixes citrus and floral notes. Meanwhile, the palate opens with sprightly mint, leading into a lingering grapefruit and lemon-peel finish plus white-pepper sparks. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$28

93 Jaja Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Proximo Spirits, Jersey City, NJ). This tequila shows the sweeter side of blanco. Agave nectar, vanilla cookie and almond are balanced by drying white pepper and ginger notes. The exhale includes a hint of butterscotch.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

93 Lalo Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Lalo Spirits, Austin, TX). Look for bold tropical fruit on nose and palate. Each complex sip opens slightly sweet and finishes with citrus zing, mouthwatering salinity and a mineral hint of graphite.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

93 La Pulga Tequila Blanco (Mexico; La Pulga Spirits, Fort Worth, TX). For full review see page 148.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$45

93 Mijenta Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Altos Planos, Dallas, TX). For full review see page 149.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$49

92 Aman Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Erie Beverage, Sandusky, OH). For full review see page 149.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$56

92 Painted Donkey Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Dynasty Spirits Brands, Dallas, TX). For full review see page 149. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

92 Pasote Tequila Blanco (Mexico; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA). Overall, this is a classic tequila profile. Cooked agave and jalapeño entice the nose, while the palate is tingly and bright, offering fresh jalapeño, lemon peel and white pepper. Honey smooths the long exit.
abv: 40% Price: \$49

92 Señor Rio Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Jalisco International Imports, Gilbert, AZ). Deep, savory aromas suggest sundried tomato and dried oregano. The palate opens with fresh herbs, while the vegetal midpalate includes bell pepper and jalapeño. A saline hint sets the mouth watering. Crisp and peppery finish.
abv: 40% Price: \$54

92 Teremana Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Siete Bucks Spirits, White Plains, NY). Owned by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, this crystalline tequila resounds with zesty bell pepper and poblano aromas. The light, crisp palate entwines lemon peel with gentle almond and marshmallow sweetness, finishing with white-pepper sparks. Mix in margaritas or palomas. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$30

91 Azteca Azul Tequila Plata (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL). Overall, this is a mild, delicate tequila. Floral notes introduce the palate, tinged with grapefruit peel, ginger and coriander. The drying finish shows ginger and white-pepper heat. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$25/1L

91 De-Nada Tequila Blanco (Mexico; DNA Spirits, Stony Point, NY). The mild aroma shows floral and vanilla hints. Almond leads the palate, with hints of coconut and lime. The long and warming finish offers cinnamon, cocoa and cayenne, plus a mild floral tinge that echoes the aroma. Consider for tropical drinks.
abv: 40% Price: \$39

91 Divertido Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Overall, this tequila is mild and light, opening with hints of graphite and violet. It trails off into a cinnamon- and cardamom-tinged finish.
abv: 40% Price: \$52

91 Sin Pensar Tequila Silver (Mexico; Sin Pensar, Las Vegas, NV). Look for a mild almond aroma and hints of cocoa and roasted tomato on the toasty palate. Fiery cinnamon and clove warm the finish.
abv: 40% Price: \$92

90 1924 Don Roberto Tequila Plata Cincuenta y Cinco (Mexico; Clay Street Imports, Pico Rivera, CA). “Cincuenta y Cinco” translates as 55, a reference to the overproof strength of this tequila (55% abv, or 110 proof). It’s predictably fiery and flavorful, mingling ripe banana with dulce de leche, toasted coconut and star anise.
abv: 55% Price: \$45

90 3 Amigos Tequila Blanco (Mexico; San Bartolo Farms, El Mirage, AZ). The alluring aroma mixes fresh jalapeño, tarragon and thyme. Vanilla dominates the palate, heading into a finish packed with warming nutmeg, cinnamon and ginger sparks. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$30

90 Cenote Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Stoli Group, New York, NY). Light but complex, this tequila opens with a white flowers and rosewater, followed by hints of pine and lemongrass, plus a final touch of vanilla. The finish is drying and lean.
abv: 40% Price: \$50

90 Corazón de Agave Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Sazerac, Louisville, KY). Coconut and light pineapple aromas lead into a concentrated palate that reads like coconut water. The exhale shows wisps of almond sweetness plus grapefruit peel, spearmint and white pepper. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$25

90 El Padrino De Mi Tierra Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). Lively lemon and almond flavors lead into jalapeño and cayenne sizzle. A light touch of honey balances the fiery finish. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$30

90 González 1939 Tequila Blanco (Mexico; San Bartolo Farms, El Mirage, AZ). Fresh jalapeño and a hint of aloe lead the nose. The palate opens lightly honeyed, with a shimmer of coconut. Lemon-peel astringency and white-pepper sparks brace up the crisp finish.
abv: 40% Price: \$39

90 Gran Orendain Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Frank-Lin, Fairfield, CA). Lithe and lean, this tequila offers a mild, citrusy aroma and light lime-peel flavor, finishing with a drying, mentholated exhale.
abv: 40% Price: \$35

90 Hervás Tequila Silver (Mexico; Sazerac, Louisville, KY). Fresh basil and tarragon aromas lead into a light, herbaceous palate. Savory spices emerge with repeated sips, suggesting cayenne, cinnamon and cumin, before winding into a fiery finish and final herbal exhale.
abv: 40% Price: \$33

90 Inspiro Luna Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Inspiro Tequila, Northbrook, IL). This comes from a women-owned brand and the distiller is master tequiliera Ana Maria Romero Mena. Soft vanilla and traces of white flowers lead into a spicy finish that crackles with cinnamon and black-pepper heat.
abv: 40% Price: \$57

90 Mayenda Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Campari America, New York, NY). For full review see page 149.
abv: 40% Price: \$70

90 Regalo Ancestral Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Ancestral Spirits, Bay Harbor Islands, FL). At first, this tequila is relatively light on nose and palate. Repeated sips add a richer honey flavor, finishing with cardamom, cinnamon and bit of prickly jalapeño heat. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$26

90 San Matias Legado Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Sazerac, Louisville, KY). Tropical fruit aromas are accented by a floral hint. The lightly sweet, fruity palate mixes ample tropical fruit with hints of lemon and vanilla. A grind of white pepper fades into the gentle exit. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$17

90 Tequila Ocho Puntas (Mexico; Heaven Hill, Bardstown, KY). This overproof blanco opens big and bold, melding mineral, lime peel and lime blossom notes, plus a hint of saline. Black pepper frames the fiery and astringent finish.
abv: 50.5% Price: \$60

89 1924 Don Roberto Tequila Plata (Mexico; Clay Street Imports, Pico Rivera, CA). Gentle lychee, banana and coconut entice the nose and palate. The slightly vegetal finish brings in fresh thyme and jalapeño heat.
abv: 40% Price: \$37

89 3 Amigos Tequila Blanco Organic (Mexico; San Bartolo Farms, El Mirage, AZ). The mild honey aroma is echoed on the palate, showing just a faint wash of honey. Delicate grapefruit peel dries the finish, plus a sprinkle of white pepper and cinnamon.
abv: 40% Price: \$35

89 Agave Boom Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). Take a moment to appreciate the dynamic, comic book-like packaging. The liquid inside the bottle is relatively herbaceous, showing tarragon and mint. A distinct vanilla note lingers, with a tingly finish warmed with ginger heat. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% Price: \$28

89 Don Diego Santa Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Pico Rivera, CA). This light-bodied tequila opens with delicate rosewater and coconut. The slightly sweet finish is framed by pink peppercorn.
abv: 40% Price: \$35

89 El Padrino De Mi Tierra Tequila Blanco 100 Proof (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). The palate opens with tropical fruit and a floral lit. With repeated sips, banana takes center stage, accented with anise. The finish on this overproof tequila is appropriately fiery.
abv: 50% Price: \$35

88 Eterno Verano Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Grain & Barrel Spirits, Charleston, SC). Touches of rubber and clove lead into this vanilla-tinged

BUYINGGUIDE

tequila. The fiery finish shows clove and black-pepper heat, plus a surprising floral exhale.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

89 Identity Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). Expect a faint honeyed aroma. The sprightly palate echoes light honey sweetness, layering that with coconut. Lemon studded with clove closes each sip.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

88 Los Cabos Tequila Silver (Mexico; LeVecke Corporation, Mira Loma, CA). Sweet coconut aromas show what's to come. The palate echoes coconut, adding vanilla sugar and leading to an elongated sugary fade. Pink peppercorn and black-pepper heat brace up the finish. Labeled as "tequila with natural flavors." *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$13

88 Manik Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Jalisco Trading, Carrollton, TX). A whiff of jalapeño teases the nose. The palate opens lightly, with mild lime peel and a white floral note. A hint of coconut takes the edge off the brisk, drying and peppery finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$31

88 Mi Familia Flores Tequila Plata (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). The zesty aroma focuses on jalapeño. Savory and sweet notes mingle on the palate, with almond and honey dominating the spice, finishing with a vanilla fade.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

88 Poder de la Tierra Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). It's hard to miss the spiky, golden crown-shaped stopper. The liquid in the bottle offers a zesty, herbaceous scent. Lightly sweet vanilla and coconut linger on the tongue, exiting with tingly mint and white-pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$45

88 Suavecito Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Clay Street Importers, Pico Rivera, CA). Of note, this tequila has agave nectar added, and is bottled at an unusually low 35% abv. The end result is a minerally, wet-rocks-like quality on nose and palate. Vanilla sweetness and anise head into a mild finish.
abv: 35% **Price:** \$45

88 Zarpado Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Latitude Beverage, Newton, MA). This tequila has a mild, almost milky feel. Mellow coconut and vanilla sweetness leads into a glimmer of cinnamon heat into the finish. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

87 Cierta Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Elevated Spirits, Sherman Oaks, CA). Agave-nectar aromas plus a saline breeze lead into a floral palate. Delicate aloe vera and honeydew precede a perfumy and numbing finish accented with white pepper.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$89

87 Don Teco Tequila Plata (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). This mild tequila offers a light floral flavor, finishing brisk and drying with a hint of white pepper. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

87 La Caza Tequila Blanco (Mexico; La Caza, Austin, TX). Perky honey and citrus aromas entice. The palate shows coconut sweetness, leading to a sugary vanilla midpalate and long almond fade. Cinnamon sparks and a fleeting floral note enliven the exhale.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$58

87 TCapri Tequila Blanco (Mexico; Clay Street Imports, Pico Rivera, CA). Lemon peel aromas please the nose. Bell pepper leads the palate, with a mentholated midpalate that includes a hint of rubber. Lemon shows up on the drying finish, flanked by hints of espresso and tobacco.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

ESPRESSO MARTINIS

95 Thomas Ashbourne Craft Spirits The After Hours Espresso Martini (USA; Endless West, Detroit, MI). This ready-to-drink espresso martini hits all the right notes. Look for a deep brown hue and rich, nutty aroma that suggests hazelnut coffee. The espresso flavor lingers on the plush palate, along with a pleasing hint of dark chocolate. Neil Patrick Harris is listed as a co-founder. Released in May 2023. Vodka based.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14/375ml

91 Via Carota Espresso Martini (USA; Via Carota Craft Cocktails, Chamblee, GA). From NYC Italian restaurant Via Carota, this RTD features fruity and bright coffee aroma and flavor, with an appropriately bitter exit. The liquid pours with a deep brown hue and some bubbles around the edges; serve well chilled. Vodka based.
abv: 19.2% **Price:** \$29/375ml

89 Night Owl Martini Espresso Martini (USA; Night Owl Martini, Middlebury, VT). Expect a deep brown hue, with a little foam around the edges when poured. Bold, fresh-brewed coffee aroma leads into a full-bodied sip with hints of allspice, vanilla and a roasty, toasty finish. Vodka based.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20/200ml 4 pack

88 Can-Tini Espresso Martini (USA; Can-Tini, Austin, TX). Nitro dosing means this RTD pours straight from the can with luxuriously foamy head. Espresso and vanilla aromas lead into a light-bodied, slightly effervescent palate with a faintly nutty finish. Vodka based.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$20/200ml 4 pack

87 Songbird Spiked Cold Brew (USA; Cardinal Spirits, Bloomington, IN). Think coffee soda, not espresso martini. The liquid pours medium brown and fizzy, with a bit of froth that quickly dissipates. Assertively carbonated, the palate includes

vanilla and light coffee tones. Pour over ice. Made with vodka, dark roast coffee and Cardinal's Songbird Coffee Liqueur.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$13/12oz 4 pack

DARK LAGER

Cold-fermented lagers and pilsners aren't always heavy.

New-to-beer drinkers have an unfounded worry that the darker the color, the harder the beer will be to drink. The idea that light-colored beers are easy drinking comes from decades of advertising by the ubiquitous American light lagers.

It's true that some imperial stouts or porters, or barleywines, can be dark in hue, full bodied, and high in abv. However, dark lagers can offer up both depth of flavor and a refreshing nature.

There are several dark lagers on the market. Some are more readily available, like Vienna lagers, schwarzbiers and festbiers. Others are harder to find or more obscure like Baltic porter or rogggenbier, which is brewed with copious amounts of rye malt.

As the name suggests, dark lagers are in the lager and pilsner family. This means they are (typically) fermented cold with a lager strain of yeast. The darker hue, which can range from copper to ruby, ruddy brown to black, comes from the malts used by the brewer.

Caramel malts add sweetness, where darker kilned malts can bring roasted flavors of coffee,

espresso, chocolate, toffee and ash to the forefront. The key is to keep flavors bright, not heavy, while allowing for the crispness and light nature of the lager to remain prominent.

Over the last few years American brewers have embraced European brewing traditions and added Czech-style dark lagers to their rosters.

The key is...
for the crispness
and light nature of
the lager
to remain
prominent

Pilsner originated in the now Czech Republic and the clear, golden lagers are known throughout the world thanks to a spicy hop note and biscuity malt.

Czech dark lagers can vary in strength and hue but retain much of the DNA of its lighter counterpart. Brewers around the country are making consumer inroads with these beers

thanks to their appeal.

While dark lagers are well suited for any time of year, they are especially fun in the hotter months. Thanks to the light roast they can pair with a variety of grilled foods from burgers to vegetables to sausages. The moderate abv and light-bodied aspects bring on needed refreshment.

—John Holl



94 Bonn Place Echonacht (Schwarzbier; Bonn Place, PA). This is delightfully full of coffee and baked-chocolate notes backed by spicy, earthy hops. It finishes with faint fudginess and should be paired in the evening with a good book and solitude.
abv: 5.8% Price: 14/16oz 4 pack

97 Fiction Alternate Present (Schwarzbier; Fiction Brewing, CO). Aromas of lightly roasted dark malts carry an earthy fruitiness along with fun sweetness. The roast remains easy and allows for a crisp lager quality to pop through. Wafts of fresh marshmallow fluff come through towards the finish, giving the drink a dessert-like bent.
abv: 5.5% Price: \$14/16oz 4 pack

96 Benchtop Polotmavy 12° (Czech Ruby Lager; Benchtop Brewing, VA). A lovely dark-ruby-colored lager, this offers aromas of sweet berries and fruits mixed with caramel malt and burnt sugar. Light and easy drinking, with a slight hop-spice kick towards the finish.
abv: 4.8% Price: \$15/16oz 4 pack

96 Fox Farm Quiet Night (Czech Dark Lager; Fox Farm Brewery, CT). Lightly roasted and light

bodied with twirls of coffee and toffee, this lager is easy drinking and satisfying. Pair with a warm evening with burgers directly from the grill.
abv: 5.3% Price: \$20/16oz 4 pack

96 Goldfinger Vienna-style Lager (Vienna Lager; Goldfinger, IL). A smooth, everyday-drinking lager, this has a touch of caramel malt sweetness and a good bite of earthy hips that keep it from being too sugary. It would be a good choice at an airport bar during a layover, or on any night of the week at home.
abv: 5.5% Price: \$13/16oz 4 pack

95 Metazoa Whiskers on Kittens (Vienna Lager; Metazoa Brewing, IN). Easy drinking with earthy sweetness and spicy country hops, this Vienna lager is soft, welcoming, well constructed and a delight to look at in the glass. The brewery donates profits of this beer (and others) to animal welfare programs.
abv: 5.1% Price: \$11/16oz 4 pack

95 Wallenpaupack Polotmavy Lezak (Czech Amber Lager; Wallenpaupack Brewing, PA). This is smooth, with a thin thread of caramel malt and dark fruits. Paired with grilled sausages or with flan, it's a versatile beer that deserves attention.
abv: 4.9% Price: \$14/16oz 4 pack

94 Bonn Place Echonacht (Schwarzbier; Bonn Place, PA). This is delightfully full of coffee and baked-chocolate notes backed by spicy, earthy hops. It finishes with faint fudginess and should be paired in the evening with a good book and solitude.
abv: NA Price: \$15/16oz 4 pack

94 Triptych Dark Lager (Schwarzbier; Triptych Brewing, IL). Delightfully refreshing, this has low roast malt notes that let the crispness of the lager ferment shine through. It's easy drinking, with faint cola and chocolate undertones. Suited for pairing with sausages at the ballpark.
abv: 5.5% Price: \$11/16oz 4 pack

94 Wayfinder Golden Tiger (Czech Amber Lager; Wayfinder Brewing, OH). Warm and crisp, this has a nutty malt character and a healthy dose of earthy, spicy hops that keep the taste buds engaged from start to finish. A collaboration with Bierstadt Lagerhaus and Heater Allen.
abv: 5.3% Price: \$16/16oz 4 pack

93 Old Irving Ursa Major (Baltic Porter; Old Irving Brewing, IL). Fudgy with espresso aromas, this full-bodied lager comes on strong but not boozy. Rich with an ashy quality midpalate, it finishes with a touch of roast. Perfect for heartier meals or cold winter evenings.
abv: 6.2% Price: \$11/16oz 4 pack

91 Akronym Schwarzbier (Schwarzbier; Akronym Brewing, OH). Cola colored with a tan head, this kicks off with a delicious roasted malt character and brings on sweet chocolate and nuttiness in the

BUYINGGUIDE

flavor. It's rich, smooth and just right for an after-dinner lager.
abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

91 Confluence Capital Gold (Vienna Lager; Confluence Brewing, IA). Mineral forward with an earthy hop bite, this golden amber lager has an easy-drinking quality that brings a touch of malt sweetness to the finish. Perfect for post-yard work on hot days.
abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$11/16oz 4 pack

90 Von Trapp Tmavé Pivo (Czech-style Dark Lager; Von Trapp, VT.) A collaboration between Von Trapp and Counter Weight, this lightly roasted lager shows a touch of minerality in the middle and hop flowers on the finish. Pair with stews on a cold evening.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$21/16oz 46pack

89 Bolero Snort BYK (Czech Dark Lager; Bolero Snort, NJ). Rich and roasted, this has a soft coffee malt flavor. Well suited for cold nights around the campfire or firepit.
abv: 4.2% **Price:** NA/16oz 4 pack

89 Finback Tempered (Vienna Lager; Finback Brewing, NY). With an easy-drinking nature and relatively low sweetness and hop bite, this Vienna lager is suited for long afternoons at a tailgate or cookout, or on the days when total relaxation is on the docket. Finishes with a touch of minerality that keeps the tastebuds engaged.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$17/16oz 4 pack

89 West Kill Buck Fever (Vienna Lager; West Kill Brewing, NY). Well constructed and easy drinking, this offers threads of caramel malt and sweetness backed by spicy, earthy hops. Finishes with a mineral water essence. Pair with a good hike.
abv: 5.2% **Price:** NA/16oz 4 pack

88 Burial Fade (Schwarzbier; Burial Brewing, NC). With a pleasing malt roast and slight hop bite, this has a depth that merits exploring as the glass empties. Lager crispness comes on midpalate and lasts through the finish, adding lightness to the overall experience.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

88 Good Word Rye So Serious (Roggenbier; Good Word, GA). This spicy, full-bodied yet easy-drinking lager brings a strong sense of grain character to every sip. A small metallic note on the finish adds minerality to the overall experience. Pair with shrimp and grits.
abv: 5.4% **Price:** NA/16oz 4 pack

88 Jersey Girl Black Diamond (Schwarzbier; Jersey Girl, NJ). This is medium bodied, with a low coffee malt roast followed by a java syrup twinge at the finish. Enjoy in place of a coffee in the afternoon.
abv: 4.1% **Price:** \$11/16oz 4 pack

87 Bruz Czech Dark (Czech Dark Lager; Bruz Beer, CO). This lightly roasted, easy-drinking dark lager showcases light chocolate and coffee notes before adding a slight metallic twinge to the glass. Aromas of dried candied fruit round out the finish.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

87 Idle Hands Griselda (Schwarzbier; Idle Hands, MA). In this ruddy brown, easy-drinking lager, slightly assertive malts bring a pleasant roast character throughout the whole experience. It finishes with a touch of hop bitterness. Pair with a rainy night at the pub.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

HARD SELTZERS

88 Willie's Superbrew Juicy Tangy Zesty (Hard Seltzer; Willie's Superbrew, RI). This is more like a health tonic than a hard seltzer. Ginger makes an assertive mark early but is never overly spicy. Citrus appears with a lively and fresh twang before a pleasantly grassy, herbal finish. 160 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

87 Nütrl Pineapple (Hard Seltzer; Anheuser-Busch, MO). Bright, this seltzer has warm, slightly funky candied-pineapple aromas that continue through the whole taste experience. Warm coconut oil appears towards the finish giving it a slight mai tai experience, but with bubbles. 100 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$9/12oz variety pack

86 Sonic Classic Lemonade (Hard Seltzer, Coop Ale Works, OK). With a lively citric bite and candied-lemon-peel aromas, this is easy drinking and light on the sugar. A back porch sipper on the hottest of days. 100 calories.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$22/12oz variety pack

86 Tampico Citrus (Hard Seltzer; Coop Ale Works, OK). Pouring the color of Sunny Delight, this has an almost unnatural but still pleasing yellow and electric-orange hue. A full-bodied seltzer, it hits all the sweet generic citrus notes, leaning heavily into orange juice concentrate.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$9/12oz 4 pack

86 Tampico Island (Hard Seltzer; Coop Ale Works, OK). Electric yellow in color, this is an explosion of coconut and banana daiquiri. Full bodied, strong and not shy about the sweetness, it's an indulgence for days off.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$9/12oz 4 pack

85 Nütrl Raspberry (Hard Seltzer; Anheuser-Busch, MO). Pouring a dusty dark pink, nearly purple, this evokes a sense of the berry flavor to come. Sweet with a touch of tart, and a little earthy with a pucker, it fits in well as an after-dinner seltzer option. 100 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

85 Nütrl Orange (Hard Seltzer; Anheuser-Busch, MO). Reminiscent of Orange Slices candy, this has a depth of sweetness that is not cloying. A touch of citric acid keeps the tastebuds happily occupied. Just right for summer brunches. 100 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

85 Sonic Classic Lemon Berry (Hard Seltzer, Coop Ale Works, OK). Bubblegum aromas come with a touch of lemony assertiveness. This drive-up drink with carbonation and a touch of booze feels suited for casual afternoon gatherings. 100 calories.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$22/12oz variety pack

85 Willie's Superbrew Juicy Mango Tango (Hard Seltzer; Willie's Superbrew, RI). Nectar forward with a full body and pleasing carbonation, this juicy seltzer feels suited for brunch in tropical locations. 150 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

84 Funny Water Watermelon (Hard Water; Funny Water, IA). Faint aromas suggest candied tropical fruit and a whiff of melon rind. Soft and easy drinking, without carbonation, it finishes with a bit of slickness. 80 calories.
abv: 3.75% **Price:** \$10/12oz variety pack

84 Funny Water Citrus (Hard Water; Funny Water, IA). With suggestions of sliced oranges and a touch of blossom, this non-carbonated offering is refreshing when served super cold. 80 calories.
abv: 3.75% **Price:** \$10/12oz variety pack

84 Funny Water Ginger Lemon (Hard Water; Funny Water, IA). The spiciness of the ginger never lands with assertiveness and is well complemented by dried lemon peel. The root and citrus have an almost hot-toddy-like character. No carbonation; serve ice cold. 80 calories.
abv: 3.75% **Price:** \$10/12oz variety pack

84 Funny Water Blueberry Acai (Hard Water; Funny Water, IA). Uncarbonated, this has aromas of perfumy breakfast cereal marshmallows. A dusty berry flavor is revealed midpalate and stays to the finish. 80 calories.
abv: 3.75% **Price:** \$10/12oz variety pack

84 Nütrl Mango (Hard Seltzer; Anheuser-Busch, MO). Pouring with a touch of yellow haze, this funky and peppery tropical concoction plays into the dried-fruit, leathered-mango taste rather than the fresh flesh. Suitable for a snack. 100 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$18/12oz variety pack

84 Nütrl Black Cherry (Hard Seltzer; Anheuser-Busch, MO). A mix between the popular soda and childhood medicine, this dusty purple seltzer goes big on the candied cherry. The medici-

nal factor is present but not unpleasant. Scratches a sweet tooth itch. 100 calories.

abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$18/12oz variety pack

84 Wild T Original (Hard Tea; Wild Ohio, OH). Perfumy with a sweet-tea soul, this offers a slight citrus kick that is followed by earthy, herbal flavor. Pair with fried chicken at the family picnic .
abv: 5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

83 Funny Water Jalapeno Lime (Hard Water; Funny Water, IA). No mistaking the hot pepper on the aroma and it lands with a boom with the first sip and stays long past the finish. The lime is present in a leafy, dried way in the background. Spice lovers rejoice but proceed with caution and tacos. 80 calories.
abv: 3.75% **Price:** \$10/12oz variety pack

83 Funny Water Cucumber Mint (Hard Water; Funny Water, IA). Strong aromas recall fresh green cucumber peel and candied mint, while flavors are muted on the palate. The lack of carbonation gives this a spa water appeal, with a slight alcohol bite on the finish. 80 calories.
abv: 3.75% **Price:** \$10/12oz variety pack

83 Nütrl Watermelon (Hard Seltzer; Anheuser-Busch, MO). Sweet and plastic aromas suggest candied watermelon. Vague aromas of funk and sulfur bring the senses out of the expected tropical fun. 100 calories.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$18/12oz variety pack

82 Sonic Melon Medley (Hard Seltzer, Coop Ale Works, OK). Based on the drive-up restaurant signature drinks, this has a subtle aroma that never lands with certainty. The palate shows faint honeydew and a touch of candied watermelon, but any melody is muted. 100 calories.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$22/12oz variety pack