

# WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

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Picking Merlot grapes in the heart of Chianti

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# ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Individuality and youth drive stellar new wines to buy.

Two reviewers cover the wines of Italy for Wine Enthusiast. Danielle Callegari reviews wines from Tuscany and Southern Italy, while Jeff Porter reviews wines from Piedmont and Northern Italy.

**Jeff Porter:** I've been saying for years that Italy is the newest, oldest wine-producing country in the world. I see more and more Italian wine producers shaking off the chip that they've had on their shoulders with respect to the rest of the wine-making world and truly understanding that what they have in front of them is amazing.

**Danielle Callegari:** And I agree with you. It seems like the best Italian wines were always trying to imitate another kind of wine—always looking to France or to America, and they're over that now I think.

**JP:** What have you been most excited about in Tuscany and Southern Italy?

**DC:** I think it's the spirit of collaboration that I've seen across the board. The Italian South has long suffered from under-investment and poor infrastructure, compounded by the lack of a coherent vision. Italians pride themselves on an individuality of spirit and a hyper-sensitivity to subregional and local identity, and that's amazing for wine in the sense of production and expression, but not great when it comes to explaining yourself to a wider audience. The incredible success of Sicilian wine has really changed that narrative, and Sicilian whites in particular have so much potential. I think of examples like the Palmento Costanzo Contrada Cavaliere Carricante that received 93 points—a faithful, conscientious representation of its place.

**JP:** I'm really excited about Emilia Romagna. Thanks in part to the world's love affair with sparkling wine and the pét-nat revolution, the smaller growers of fizzy Lambrusco are



Danielle Callegari



Jeff Porter

finally getting to shine, such as the 96-point Terrezieve Lambrusco di Sorbara NV. I'd point our readers towards Valpolicella for a fresh and easy-to-drink—yet complex—red wine that can even be served with a slight chill, like the 93-point Tommasi Rafaël Valpolicella Classico Superiore 2020. Across Italy, we're seeing a great push from the ground up for taking more time and concern in the vineyard with a great number of vineyards being certified organic and or biodynamic. The future is bright for the Italian peninsula.

**DC:** The generation making wine right now is bringing ideas from abroad, but also has a real understanding of the territory. They're sharing all of that information with each other, and the results are stellar. Great examples are the Vino Nobile di Montepulciano from Salcheto, especially the Riserva and the Vecchie Viti di Salco designations, both at 94 points. These are very traditional Tuscan reds in some aspects but also wildly unique and unafraid to push back against expectations.

**JP:** I think that is where the beauty of Italy is today—communication with your neighbors, which didn't happen 15 years ago. Now they're talking to each other. The younger generation is pushing Italy where it needs to be.

**DC:** Yeah, I think that's dead on. There's also a literal newness in the sense that the people making the wine now are young, a new generation.

**JP:** And that is where we're at: the kids will be all right. They are producing wines that are specific, beautiful, and more nuanced. Wines that tell their story.

## 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 Valley, Sonoma  
**Craig Chamberlain** Virginia  
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**Jacy Topps** Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence, Vin de France

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**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** Austria, Germany, Alsace

### 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](http://WineEnthusiast.com/submit-for-rating). Inquiries should be addressed to [tastings@wineenthusiast.net](mailto: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](mailto:dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net).

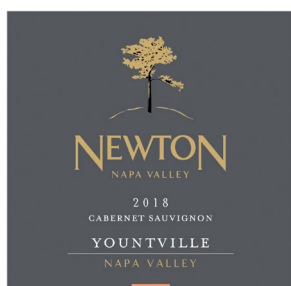
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**100** Quinta do Vale Meão 2020 (Douro). This is another fabulous vintage of this iconic wine, aged for 16 months in wood. It comes from the spectacular Olazabal family vineyard in the Douro Superior. It shows powerful structure and dark, dense black fruits. The tannins and the wine's concentration point to considerable aging potential. Drink this impressive wine from 2027. Deutch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$128



**97** Anderson Family Vineyard 2014 Anderson Family Vineyard - Select Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). If you love ethereal, balanced Willamette Valley Pinot Noir, locate this wine ASAP. I was sold after one sniff of the wine's blackberry sorbet, walnut and Indonesian-coffee aromas. The wine's gentle acidity caresses the palate, while flavors of boysenberries, black tea and mint make promises this wine will keep. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$125



**97** Newton 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Firmly structured yet well-balanced, this wine shows some welcome restraint from pure ripeness, layering complex notes of black cherries, black olives, spearmint and dark chocolate with fine-grained tannins on a not-too-full body. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$210



**97** Ratti 2019 Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo). The stunning wine opens with a mix of tart red and blue berries, rose and sweet and savory spices that evolve into more savory and earthy notes. The palate is refined, framing the cherry-driven sip with tobacco and wild herb flavors to near unison. It's sublime on the finish, with vibrant acidity and fine tannins that will give the wine life for years to come. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$175



**97** Ratti 2019 Serradenari (Barolo). This wine expresses itself with aromas of wild cherries, tart red plums, dried violets and oolong tea leaves. The palate is elegant and almost dances across the mouth, leading with ripe red fruits that give way to savory flavors of fresh bay leaf, clove and balsam. Drink 2025–2040. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$175



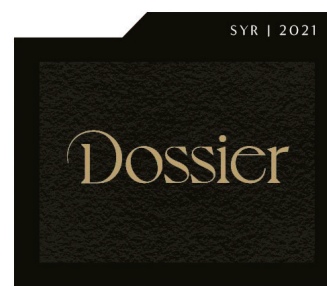
**97** Roar 2021 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Ripe and joyous dark cherry and berry pie aromas leap from the nose of this bottling, but it's the earthy veil of loam, dust and chaparral spice that provides particular depth. The texture is firm and the energy is bright on the palate, where a refreshing acidity drives through black cherry compote, sumac and mace flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80



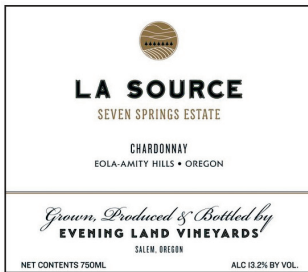
**96** Arzuaga 2017 Reserva Especial (Ribera del Duero). This wine is garnet-ruby colored in the glass, with a pale violet-colored meniscus. In the bouquet there are aromas of red plum, new car leather and ripe cherry, with flavors of dried herbs, cedar, tobacco leaf, and ripe red and black fruits. The tannins are silky, the mouthfeel is round and generous, and the finish goes on for days. Drink through 2042. United Cellars, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90



**96** Bodegas Milvus 2020 Edición Especial (Ribera del Duero). Brilliant garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, red raspberry and black licorice, with a touch of smoked meat. Ripe fruit flavors shine through with secondary tastes of violet and lavender. It has a voluptuous tannic structure that offers pleasant chewiness in the midpalate leading up to the persistent finish. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$159



**96** Dossier 2021 Flagship Syrah (Columbia Valley). The blueberry-like aroma of crushed huckleberries is joined by notes of mushroom and dried oak leaves, with a touch of pickled ginger. Blackberries rule the palate, flanked by saline, black coffee and bacon fat. Silky tannins coexist with elevated acidity and a slick and slippery texture. —M.A.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$80



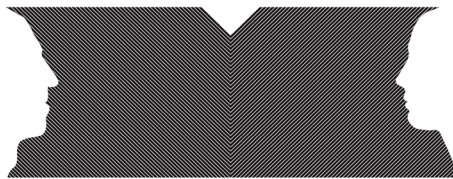
**96 Evening Land 2021 La Source Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This crisp Chardonnay has all the acidity and minerality one could hope for. Lemon basil, cashew and pear aromas float through the air, with a fresh scent reminiscent of sheets washed with French laundry powder hanging on a clothesline. Lime, baked apple and peach scone flavors are equally enticing. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A. **abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$75



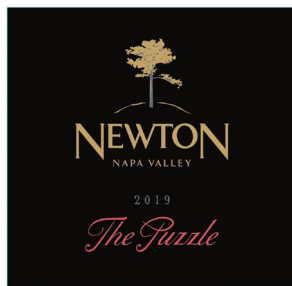
**96 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Beatty Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Powerful, ripe black fig and black cherry flavors are shaded by fresh mint, thyme and dark chocolate in this full-bodied, muscularly tannic wine. Good acidity and the fine-grained tannins provide great structure for further aging and complexity. Best from 2027–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$175



**96 Louis M. Martini 2019 Lot No. 1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Deep and concentrated blueberries, dark chocolate and espresso flavors fill out this powerful but polished wine whose firm but gentle tannins will carry it to a long life. It's the top-of-the-line Cabernet from the now Cabernet-centric 90-year-old winery. Best from 2027–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$250



**96 Merryvale 2019 Profile Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This massively structured and intensely flavorful wine is one for the cellar, as its firm tannins and deep black fruit flavors are impressive now but will only get better integrated and lead to more complex flavors with time. The wine is rich in black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$225



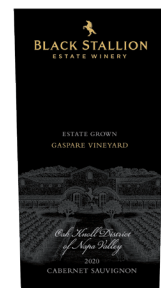
**96 Newton 2019 The Puzzle Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Firmly structured and powerfully flavorful, this wine dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon needs time to shine fully. Handsome oak aromas lead to focused black currant and black cherry flavors topped with a creamy, nuanced mint and cinnamon flourish on the finish. Blended in are Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and a dash of Grenache. Best from 2027–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$135



**96 Pieropan 2021 50th Anniversary Calvarino (Soave Classico).** The nose alone is worth finding a bottle, redolent with wildflowers, almonds, peaches and acacia honey. The sumptuous and expansive palate shows ripe apples, dried flowers and focused minerality that continues long after you drink the wine. Crisp acidity holds the wine in balance and will allow for long cellaring. Drink now–2035. Maze Row Wine Merchant. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45



**95 Bertani 2012 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This wine is pure in its fruit, earnestness and joy. It opens with aromas of vibrant red plum, macerated red cherries and raspberries followed by cocoa powder, oolong tea and dried violets. Each sniff of the glass brings a new aroma. The wine is earth-driven on the palate, with tobacco and dried red and black fruits blending well with mixed herbs, savory spices and elegant tannins, all leading to a fresh acidity that makes the wine pop on the finish. Drink now–2040. Taub Family Selections. —J.P. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$155



**95 Black Stallion 2020 Gaspare Vineyard Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District).** This tempting, concentrated yet well-structured wine packs abundant black cherries, black olives, rosemary and dark chocolate flavors into a velvety, strong frame of tannins and subtle acidity that hold it rather tightly. It should drink best from 2028–2040. —J.G. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75



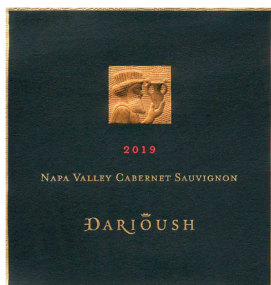
**95 Black Stallion 2020 Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This big and ageworthy wine beautifully captures the black-fruit and black-olive essence of Cabernet, framing them in firm, fine-grained tannins and balanced, elegant acidity. It's a sophisticated, layered and nuanced wine. Best from 2027–2037. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60



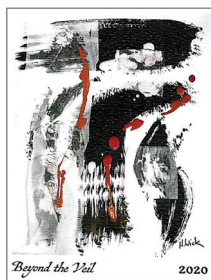


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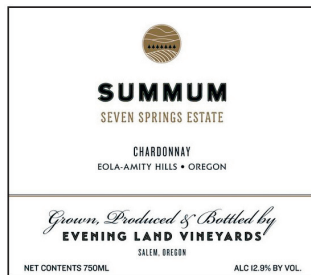
**95 Cotarella 2018 Le Macioche (Brunello di Montalcino).** The brooding nose is all spices and medicinal herbs, old leather and cigar box, though dried cherries, figs and dark chocolate lurk underneath and reveal themselves more clearly on the palate, next to palate-stripping tannins that guarantee age. Trinchero Family Estates. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$N/A



**95 Darioush 2019 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Generous, deep, black-fruit flavors are wrapped in a warm blanket of velvety tannins in this dark, concentrated wine while cocoa, graphite and mint nuances animate the aroma and stick around through the lingering finish. It's elegant and balanced despite its powerful intensity. Best from 2028–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$125



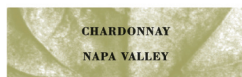
**95 Emercy 2020 Beyond the Veil Fulldraw Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Stewed blackberry and fudge aromas are dusted in ample oak on the intense nose of this blend of 60% Graciano and 40% Syrah, all from Fulldraw Vineyard. The palate is rich, deep and dark, offering blueberry, açai and cracked pepper flavors, layered in a chalky texture. —M.K. **abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$75



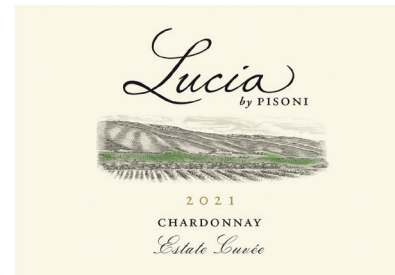
**95 Evening Land 2021 Summum Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The beauty that is Eola-Amity Hills Chardonnay is on full display here. Lemon butter and toasted filbert aromas are joined by a wisp of Genmaicha green tea. Peaches with a touch of cinnamon spice cruise a crisp texture guided by bright acidity. Toasted filberts reappear on the long finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A. **abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$100



**95 Lewis 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This deeply concentrated and firmly structured wine is like an iron fist in a velvet glove. It boasts ultra rich and luxurious black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate backed by firm, fine-grained tannins that give it aging potential. Best from 2027–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$120



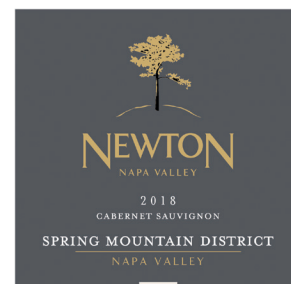
**95 Lewis 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Spicy, toasty oak stands up well to the rich, honeyed pear and pineapple flavors in this full-bodied wine, balancing it well, and giving it great depth and length. This is an excellent choice for fans of big Chardonnay, as it is packed with baking spices, coconut, poached pears and vanilla that are practically irresistible. —J.G. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65



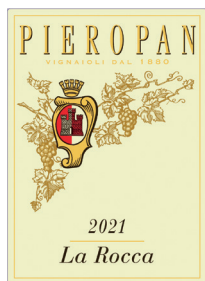
**95 Lucia by Pisoni 2021 Estate Cuvée Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Toasty aromas of hazelnut brioche, lemon glaze and lychee make for a very engaging nose on this bottling. The palate grips with textural glee, offering citrus pith, white peach and pineapple flavors that should appease both acid freaks and butter lovers. —M.K. **abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$50



**95 Majuscule 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** This tightly wrapped wine should open dramatically over time. It offers intense, concentrated blackberries, blueberries, graphite and iron flavors drenched in a high level of fine-grained tannins that give a good, gripping texture for pairing with fatty, rich foods. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95



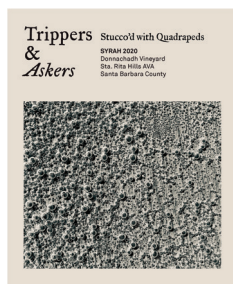
**95 Newton 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District).** A powerful core of black cherries and black currants is wrapped in supportive, velvety tannins and a full body. The wine is balanced on a big scale, offering deep fruits that easily match up to the structure and generous toasted-oak spices. Best from 2028–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$210



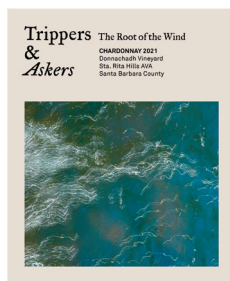
**95 Pieropan 2021 La Rocca (Soave Classico).** Rich yet linear, it is a wine of such profound balance that it can weaken the knees. The 2021 opens with rich and golden apples, honeysuckle, roasted hazelnuts and fresh clover honey. As the wine develops, the minerality shines and brings more nuance to the wine. The palate is textured, layered and so well structured that you might forget that this is wine, not art. Apricots, baked pear and sweet spices drive the palate toward that mineral edge on the finish. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55



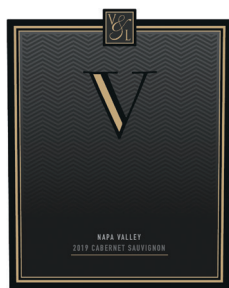
**95 Ratti 2019 Barolo (Barolo).** This Barolo is defined by its purity of tart red fruits that interplay with more delicate aromas of dried flowers and savory spices. The palate is sturdy and structured with a solid core of ripe cherries mixed with dried tea leaves finishing with vibrant acidity. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85



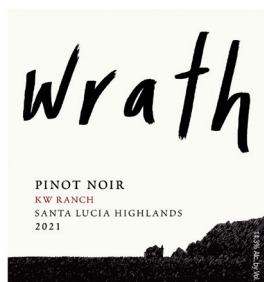
**95 Trippers & Askers 2020 Stucco'd with Quadrapeds Donnachadh Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lighter in the glass, this is a delicate Syrah that's built to last, starting with aromas of brisk black raspberry, pure purple flower and a touch of warm pastry. The palate is wrapped in chalky tannins, delivering pristine purple flower, thyme and peppercorn flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$52



**95 Trippers & Askers 2021 Root of the Wind Donnachadh Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** This new brand by sommelier-winemaker Hayden Felice and Andrew Fitzgerald is one to watch, and this Chardonnay falls excellently into the exciting emerging category of mineral-driven California whites. Tightly focused aromas of chalk, lime pith and lemon blossom lead from the nose into a restrained palate that's grippy in texture while showing just enough citrus glaze and Asian pear flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$54



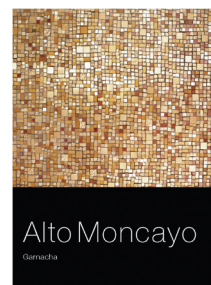
**95 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 V Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Richness and ripeness are the hallmarks of this big but gentle wine, as oodles of soft tannins wrap around late-picked plum, blueberry and black currant flavors. With more sips, espresso and dark chocolate notes come out, adding to the wine's complexity and depth. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$115



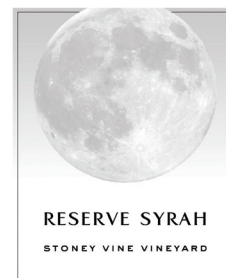
**95 Wrath 2021 KW Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Lighter in the glass, this bottling entices the nose with lovely alpine strawberry, brisk raspberry, mace and star anise aromas on the spicy nose of this expression. The bright and zippy palate dances across the tongue with pomegranate, white pepper and fennel pollen flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49



**94 Alberto Orte 2020 Atlántida Blanco (Jerez).** Made with Vijiriega, a variety that was mostly lost in Jerez due to phylloxera, this wine has aromas of grapefruit, white flowers and a hint of petrol. It has gorgeous acidity and bold minerality alongside flavors of lemon, tangerine, honeysuckle and a touch of salted caramel on the finish. Olé & Obrigado. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$47



**94 Alto Moncayo 2020 Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** This elegant wine is brilliant ruby to the eye, with aromas of ripe red and black fruits, especially red currant and cassis. It has secondary aromas of tobacco, cedar and pencil shavings in the complex bouquet. The tannins are rounded, generous and very silky. It is juicy and full bodied in the mouth with flavors of ripe red cherry, black raspberry and cassis. Winebow Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$145

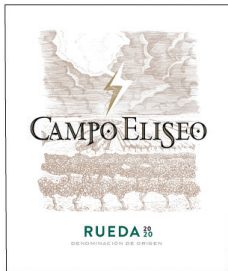


**94 Balboa 2018 Reserve Stoney Vine Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This earthy-funky Syrah doesn't walk, it stomps on the wild side. Brambleberries, violets and white pepper kick things off, followed by braised beef cheeks, black truffles and the most intense blackberry flavor I've ever encountered. This cosmic blackberry experience includes firm tannins and juicy acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$65

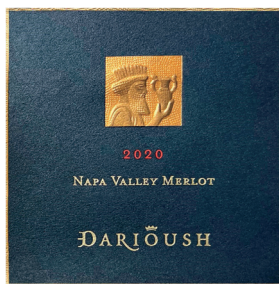




**94** **Barone Pizzini 2018 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).** Crisp and vibrant from the start, this Satèn-style Franciacorta opens with tart green apples, white flowers, pie crust and a touch of roasted almond. It's refined and elegant on the palate with a creamy texture, highlighting the roasted stone fruits wrapped in phyllo dough and drizzled with honey. The finish is long and is marked by fine bubbles. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA



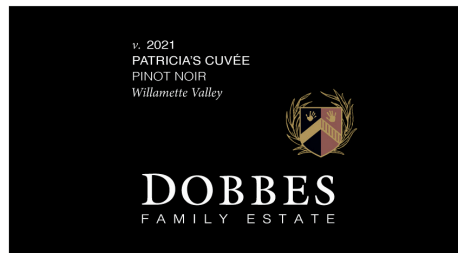
**94** **Campo Eliseo 2020 Verdejo (Rueda).** Aromas of lemon, white peach and cardamom prepare the palate for flavors of grapefruit, guava and vanilla with a whiff of lemongrass. This wine is creamy in the mouth, with a gorgeous texture and well-integrated acidity. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$59



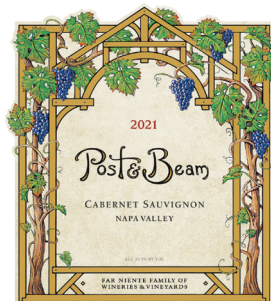
**94** **Darioush 2020 Signature Series Merlot (Napa Valley).** This aromatic, spicy and superripe wine is layered in cinnamon, toast, mint and graphite nuances that enhance deep blueberry and black cherry flavors and a juicy, powerful expression overall. Tempting now and best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$74



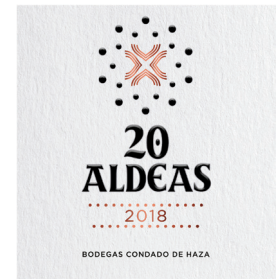
**94** **De Bortoli NV Old Boys Barrel Aged Tawny 21 Year Old Port (New South Wales).** This is cinnamon-hued, with a green rim. The nose is an evocative one—a deep well of aromas from coffee beans, chocolate, dates, dusting polish and a whiff of campfire smoke. The sweet, sticky richness and alcohol heat are what first hit the palate, the dried fruit and mocha flavors creep in later and linger on the finish. Drink slightly chilled with a chocolate mousse or pecan pie. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$70/500 ml



**94** **Dobbes Family Estate 2021 Patricia's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A beautifully ripe Bing cherry coated with bittersweet dark chocolate aroma kicks things off in style. "Just right" acidity and velvety tannins create a plush, buttery mouthfeel to accompany dark raspberry, black tea and clove flavors. This wine is a hedonistic pleasure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.77% **Price:** \$60



**94** **Far Niente 2021 Post & Beam Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** It's difficult to imagine a more appealing, lavishly oaked wine than this indulgent Cabernet. It packs in superripe blueberries, blackberries and black currants, bracing them with tons of fine-grained tannins and some good fruit acidity. Best from 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55



**94** **Fernández Rivera 2018 20 Aldeas (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This garnet-colored wine offers aromas of dried cranberry, freshly picked red cherry and dried Mediterranean herbs. It is soft on entry, with pronounced flavors of red and black plums, brown baking spices and dark chocolate. It is medium bodied with soft tannins, and there is a touch of dried savory herbs in the persistent finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



**94** **Gelson's 2019 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Earthy, figgy notes in the nose lead to generous, concentrated black fruits on the palate braced by good, fine-grained tannins for a mouthfilling effect. It's easy to appreciate now with a steak or roast but there is no hurry to drink it. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40



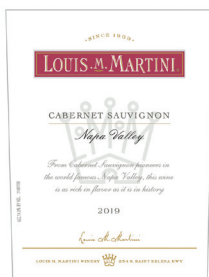
**94** **Gelson's 2020 Single Vineyard Epicure Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** Rich and chocolaty, this supersaturated wine is flush with dried black fruits and cocoa on a full but velvety texture. The lushness and ripeness of the blackberry and blueberry flavors is notable along with the elevated alcoholic strength. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$80



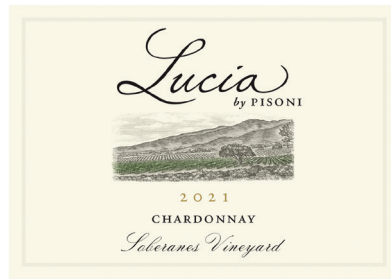
**94 Gelson's 2020 Single Vineyard Reserve Merlot (Coombsville).** Aromas of roasted rosemary and tobacco lead to dense oak char, bittersweet chocolate and road tar in this dramatic, pumped up wine that belies the stereotype of the wimpy Merlot. Moderate tannins and a full body give it the structure for further aging. Best from 2026–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$35



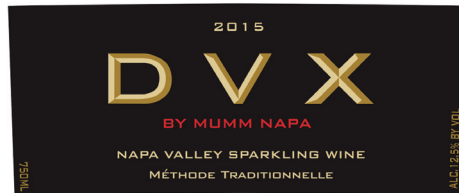
**94 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Petit Verdot (Howell Mountain).** This tightly knit, focused and intense wine holds its vibrant black cherry and cranberry flavors in firm but fine-grained tannins that nicely match the concentrated fruits and oak spices of vanilla and cedar. While delicious beneath the tannins, this wine will only improve with age. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100



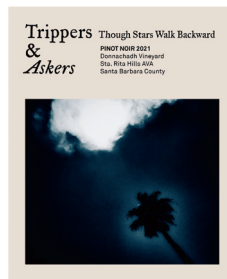
**94 Louis M. Martini 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Layered and lavish, this superconcentrated wine blankets dark chocolate, dried blueberries and mocha flavors in thick, velvety tannins for a powerful effect that lasts through a lingering finish. Best through 2033. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50



**94 Lucia by Pisoni 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Delicate aromas of buttercream and Meyer lemon paste make for a subtly engaging nose on this bottling from the Pisoni family. The palate's textural grip is quite intense and appealing, framing the flavors of lemon cream, apple peel and soft meringue. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$65



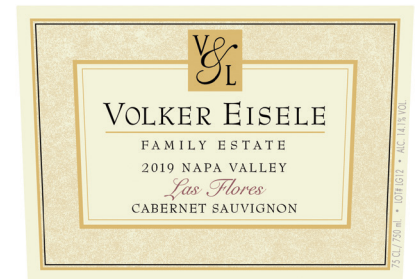
**94 Mumm Napa 2015 DVX Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).** The richness and density of this outstanding sparkling wine is something to experience. Its creamy texture feels velvety and substantial while carrying tasty peaches, cream and pie crust flavors through a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75



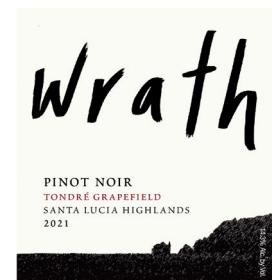
**94 Trippers & Askers 2021 Though Stars Walk Backward Donnachadh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A light hue in the glass, this is a tightly wound rendition of Pinot Noir, offering delicate but precise aromas of raspberry and rose petal on the nose. There's a vice-like grip to the palate, even after being open for an hour or so, framing the sumac, hibiscus and brisk raspberry flavors in a tight cradle. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$56



**94 Undurraga 2018 Altazor Red Blend (Maipo Valley).** Pirque is a subregion of Maipo Valley. Vines grow on the banks of the river and the climate is influenced by the Andes Mountains. That's where the grapes for this Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend come from. This is a well-balanced red, with delicate aromas of strawberry. It has silky tannins and a juicy mouthfeel. Blackberries, cherries and plums blend with cinnamon and light notes of eucalyptus. Drink now through 2030. *Freedom Beverage Co. Cellar Selection.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

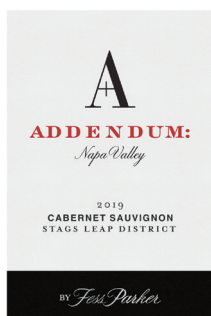


**94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Las Flores Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Enticing oak spices like cinnamon, vanilla and cocoa give the nose plenty to appreciate before rich dark chocolate, blueberry and espresso crema flavors fill the mouth, tucked in by smooth, fine-grained tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$85

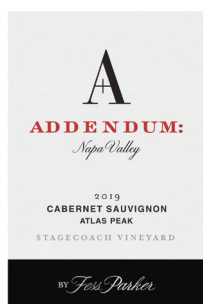


**94 Wrath 2021 Tondré Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This is a ripe and ready Pinot Noir, popping on the nose with accessible aromas of cherry and star anise dust. The palate is grippy and acid-driven, showing vibrant flavors of red fruit and baking spice that shift into a higher gear. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49





**93 Addendum 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags' Leap District).** Well-structured, full-bodied and temptingly ripe, this wine pours black cherries, black currants and blackberries alongside cedar, mint and sandalwood spiciness. It is big but well-balanced, offering moderate, velvety tannins that give great support. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$135



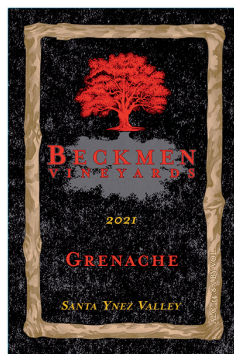
**93 Addendum 2019 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).** Huge and muscular, this impressive wine bolsters sophisticated black fruit and oak spice flavors with firm tannins and a full body. Black cherries, dark chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla are held firmly by the texture, and will gain complexity with time as the mouthfeel softens. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$135



**93 Allegrini 2019 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Aromas of plum and black cherry that give way to notes of black tea, violet and savory spices. The palate is well-balanced, highlighting both the fruit and non-fruit flavors equally. Black and red berries share the stage with notes of espresso, anise, dried leaf and limestone. Fine tannins and meaningful acidity make this wine a standout. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$104



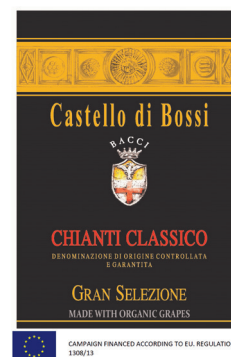
**93 Barone Pizzini 2018 Rosé Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** The moment the cork pops the wine is alive with cranberry, strawberry and wild berry tart aromas, all equally energetic and present. The palate is playful and serious at the same time, with vibrant tart red fruits framed by amazing structure and taut lines that make this wine perfect for a main course, whether lobster or a rare steak. The wine finishes with a bright pop of acidity and a continuous stream of tight bubbles. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA



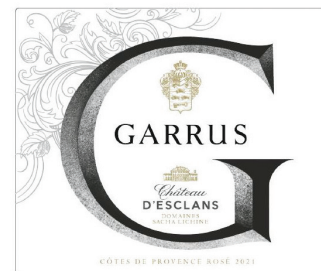
**93 Beckmen 2021 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is a serious wine, starting with cherry, strawberry and rose petal aromas that sail into an extremely textural palate of red fruit and pie crust flavors that are sliced by a rising acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$38



**93 Bodegas Murviedro 2020 La Casa de la Seda Bobal (Utiel-Requena).** Deep-garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of cherry, raspberry and herbes de Provence. It is soft at first sip, and then bold tannins fill the mouth alongside flavors of brambly fruits of the wood, caramel, mocha, lavender and a pleasant touch of cedar that persists on the palate. Schenk Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40



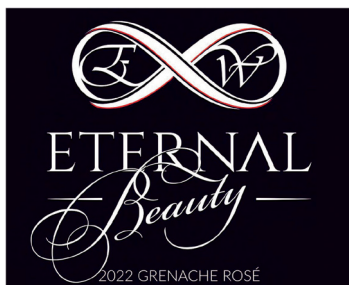
**93 Castello di Bossi 2019 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Woodsy aromas of pine needles and underbrush blend with spices and herbs before a distinctive note of anise takes over on the nose. On the palate, herbaceous, earthy flavors remain dominant, joined by black cherries and finishing with the citric, astringent bite of orange pith. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42



**93 Château d'Esclans 2021 Garrus (Côte de Provence).** This super-rich rosé has great balance, fruit and intensity. Its spice and wood aging support the fine fruit, richness and balanced acidity. This famous rosé remains a pioneering wine while showing the potential of Provence rosé. Drink this fine wine now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125



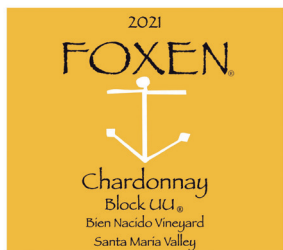
**93 Château Miraval NV ER3 Fleur de Miraval Rosé Brut (Champagne).** The Fleur de Miraval was served at this year's Academy Awards ceremony. It's a balanced wine with a poised fresh and mineral Chardonnay and structured Pinot Noir. It has softened to give touches of maturity as well as retaining balanced freshness. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$350



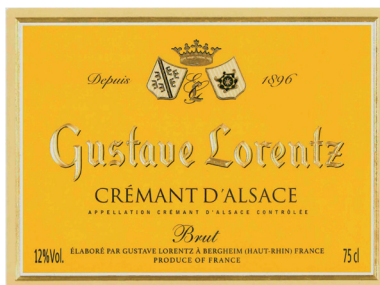
**93 Eternal 2022 Eternal Beauty Ginkgo Forest Vineyard Rosé (Wahluke Slope).** I flat out love this 100% Grenache rosé. It has restrained alcohol, tangy acidity and a lovely aromatic set of peach, sage and the kind of earthy petrichor note you get after a summer rain. The wine's taste of orange marmalade with ginger segments is equally compelling. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$29



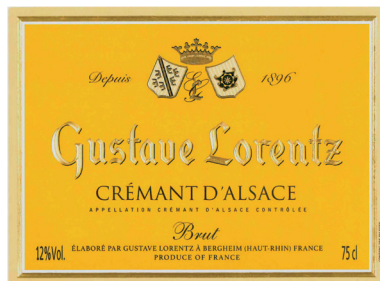
**93 Folded Hills 2021 Estate White Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Tightly woven aromas of citrus peel, wet stone and lychee draw the nose deeply into this bottling. A taut texture and refreshing acidity weave through the mellow flavors of mango and nectarine on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70



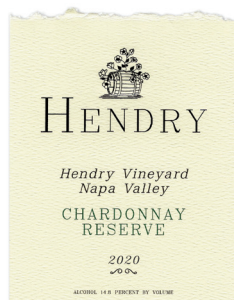
**93 Foxen 2021 Block UU Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** A plump nose of yellow peach, pineapple fluff and sea salt is very inviting on the nose of this block-designated Chardonnay. There's a fantastic sizzle of acidity simmering on the palate, where lemon zest, crushed rocks and savory salts make for a great expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$36



**93 Gustave Lorentz NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** Juicy Red Delicious apple and a hint of smoke on the nose usher you into this wine. At first sip, though, red berries like cherry and cranberry take center stage. The apple, smoke and a delightful hit of pepper are supporting players. A bracing back palate acidity offers a palate-cleansing sensation, but the finish on this wine is gently fruity and ultimately savory. Quintessential. —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30



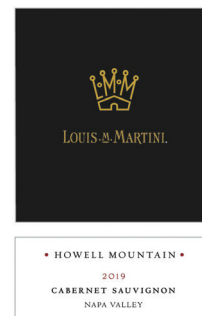
**93 Gustave Lorentz NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** Coppery apple aromas lead into a creamy, tingly mousse. Granny Smith notes are complemented by anise, chervil and marjoram flavors for a sophisticated, herbaceous sip. The long finish is all tangy apple freshness. Pair this wine with roast chicken and let it help you out with the seasoning. Quintessential. —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30



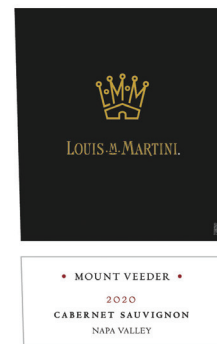
**93 Hendry 2020 Hendry Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Rich and mouthfilling, this hefty, oaky wine is packed with toast, butter, vanilla and coconut flavors on a full body, yet it maintains an appetizing balance with some lemon zest acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55



**93 J. Lohr 2018 Cuvée St. E Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** J. Lohr's ode to St. Emilion satisfies with strawberry, darker berry and oak aromas on the nose of this blend. The palate's tannins are apparent but not in the way, offering oak-soaked berry flavors that will impress the steakhouse table. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50



**93 Louis M. Martini 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Seductively cloaked in perfumed oak flavors, this full-bodied and velvet-textured wine offers opulent, deep dark chocolate, dried blueberry and cooked plum notes. But the cinnamon, vanilla, clove and cedar notions from new oak barrels define it. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$150



**93 Louis M. Martini 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Powerfully fruity and equally strong in oak spices, this mountain-grown wine gets great textural backing from firm tannins and lively fruit acidity. It is well-balanced, tempting to drink now but will improve with age. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$150

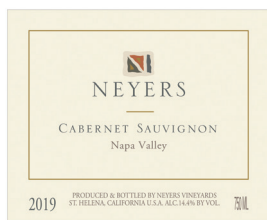




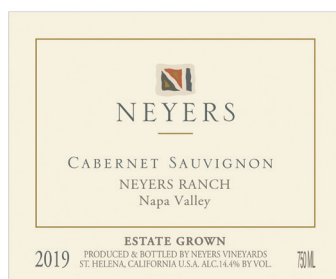
**93 Lucy 2022 Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Pay attention to the rise of Gamay in the Santa Lucia Highlands, because the grape shows tremendous character and charm in the appellation. Tightly woven aromas of dark cherry, boysenberry, rosewater and lilac lead from the nose into a juicy palate, where lovely cherry and berry flavors are lifted by candied lilac and a loamy minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



**93 Morgan 2021 Double L Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Syrah from the Santa Lucia Highlands makes for one of the most reliable additions to any cellar, and this bottling is a prime example. Aromas of blueberry, açai and purple flowers make for a straightforward nose while the palate picks up savory tones of soy, cured meat and black pepper to pair with the boysenberry core. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50



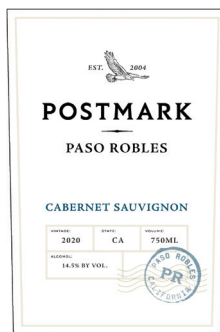
**93 Neyers 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This saturated, broad and superripe wine is laden with blueberries, cooked cherries, dark chocolate and cream flavors on a luxurious texture of soft tannins and soft acidity. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65



**93 Neyers 2019 Neyers Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Very rich, ripe, sweet-seeming fruit and chocolate flavors are wrapped in velvety tannins. The wine offers dried cherries, dark plums and blueberries in a seamless, concentrated expression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$85



**93 Peter Zemmer 2020 Giatl Riserva Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Golden in color, this rich and opulent Pinot Grigio captivates from the start with aromas of ripe Fuji apple, fresh cream, roasted lemon rind, a hint of acacia honey and dried flowers. The palate is rich and full in body, showing creamy pear coated in sweet baking spices from the time the wine spent in oak. The wine finishes with vibrant acidity and stony minerality. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46



**93 Postmark 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Pleasing and accessible aromas of black cherry, oregano, smoke and wet loam show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe with dense black cherry compote flavors but also savory with charred and meaty elements, lingering long into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



**93 Stags' Leap Wine Cellars 2021 Karia Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Buttery aromas and flavors infuse this full-bodied, nicely fruity wine as mild lemon and pineapple flavors are coated with lactic notes. A creamy texture and butterscotch finish add to its appealing richness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



**93 Tommasi 2020 Rafaël (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** Rafaël is from the Tommasi estate's oldest vineyards and has been produced in the same style since the beginning. It shows the beauty of the region in its purity of fruit and savoriness. Tart and vibrant cherries mixed with wild raspberries are on equal footing with the floral and savory herbal aromatics that swirl in the glass. The palate is elegant with depth showing sour plum, dried tobacco leaf, turned earth and violet. This complex wine drinks well now and will continue to develop. Drink now–2035. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23



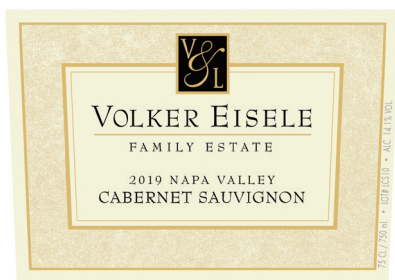
**93 Trus 2020 Punto Geodésico (Ribera del Duero).** This wine is garnet in color, with aromas of freshly picked red cherry, cranberry, and dried Mediterranean herbs. It is soft on entry, with flavors of ripe red and black plums, cinnamon, and dark chocolate. It is medium bodied, with rounded tannins and notes of dried savory herbs in the long finish. Mesk/Wine Nation. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80



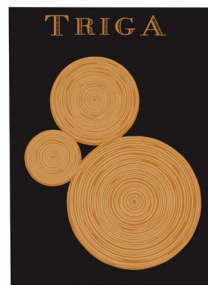
**93 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Barbera (Santa Ynez Valley).** Bright red fruit, spicy cinnamon, red flowers and a hint of wood show on the nose of this bottling by veteran winemaker Steve Clifton. The palate is juicy, spicy and energetic, offering rounded fruit with a tart bite, more red spice and a peppery acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42



**93 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Fresh and vivid aromas of raspberry jam, shaved cinnamon and sumac pick up a pinch of white pepper on the nose of this bold Pinot Noir. The palate is juicy in red fruits and wrapped in a warm pastry flavor, with a persistent hard spice element that keeps the finish energized. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$66



**93 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This classic-style, well-structured and complex wine holds deep black olive, black cherry and tobacco flavors in a comfortable grip of tannins, giving it great balance and potential longevity. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$80



**93 Volver 2018 Triga (Alicante).** Inky ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black currant, purple fig, butterscotch and crumbled sage. A framework of rigorous tannins plays host to fruits of the wood, caramel, dried hillside herb and clove flavors. The finish is marked with a bright note of orange zest. Winesellers, Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$54



**93 William Hill Estate 2021 Winemaker's Series Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** So smooth, fruity and subtly oaky, this full-bodied wine feels relaxed and broad in texture, tastes ripe and tempting in flavor and has good concentration for a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



**92 Beckmen 2021 Cuvée Le Bec Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** This wine always overdelivers, and this vintage's blend of 50% Syrah, 38% Grenache, 7% Mourvèdre and 5% Counoise continues the tradition. Aromas of baked berry, cinnamon, mace and wood on the nose land with lively energy on the palate. The brisk plum and cinnamon flavors are undercut by clay, dust and fine tannins. A very versatile wine for the table. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$30



**92 Bodegas Murviedro 2018 Sericis Cepas Viejas Bobal (Utiel-Requena).** Aromas of Mission fig, purple plum and dried sage pave the way for flavors of black currant, raspberry, caramel, milk chocolate and dried thyme. Rigid tannins slowly give way and endure into a lengthy, fruit-infused finish. Schenk Wines USA. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30



**92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2019 Sentido Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** This elegant wine is garnet-colored, with a violet rim and aromas of ripe red plum, red cherry and tobacco leaf. In the mouth there are flavors of dried Mediterranean herbs, ripe red and black fruits, cedar and tobacco leaf. The tannins are silky smooth with a nice long finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36



**92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 Disco Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** A bouquet of purple fig, raspberry and mocha sets the stage for flavors of cherry, pomegranate, chocolate-covered espresso bean, aniseed and dried Mediterranean herbs. Glossy tannins coat the tongue and gums and then gently drift away to reveal a soft floral note. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31





**92** **Brancaia 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Cherries, wet stones, graphite and balsamic vinegar on the nose with just a hint of soil and wild herbs lead onto a palate that's more stony and red cherry, finished with a fresh, herbal burst of mint and fennel. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$53



**92** **Ca' del Bosco NV Cuvée Prestige 44 Edizione Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** Sourced from 197 certified organic vineyards throughout the Franciacorta region, this sparkler shows the depth and beauty of this region. The nose is a mix of orchard fruits both fresh and baked, combined with spices and fresh bread. The palate is layered between forward ripe apple and lemon notes to cinnamon-dusted brioche to tart cream. It's rich but balanced by the vibrant acidity found on the finish. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45



**92** **Casa Gran del Siurana 2021 GR-174 (Priorat).** Deep-cherry-red to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry, Luxardo cherry, and cinnamon stick. Baking-spice notes open on the palate, joined by flavors of red and black berries, mocha and black-olive paste. Slightly grippy tannins drop off to reveal a smooth, long-lasting finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22



**92** **Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade da Pimenta Grande Escolha (Alentejano).** This powerful, rich wine is solid with tannins and full of potential. It is a concentrated wine with black-plum flavors that is densely textured. The wine certainly needs to age and it should be ready to drink from 2025. Quintessential. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35



**92** **Celler Piñol 2021 L'Avi Arrufi Blanc (Terra Alta).** Intense aromas of white peach, apricot, nutmeg and smoke leads the way for with summery stone-fruit, passion fruit and baking-spice flavors, with a hint of flint. This is a full-textured wine that offers a long finish with touches of eucalyptus. Olé & Obrigado. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58



**92** **Château Abelyce 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A beautiful wine, spicy, structured and with a polished texture, this has swathes of juicy black Merlot fruits. It has a fine future and will be good to drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65



**92** **Château Ascension 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This is a ripe, juicy wine with rich tannins. It has layers of tannins and black fruits, giving richness while also balance. The wine is developing but needs time. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70



**92** **Château Lalande de Gravet 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine is spicy, maturing well. Black fruits and rich tannins go with the wood aging polish in a wine that is dense and full of ripe fruits. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65



**92** **Clay Shannon 2020 The Barkley Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** A high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon hailing from Lake County. Clay Shannon's The Barkley offers a firm tannic texture that provides structural integrity and a solid foundation for the voluptuous fruits. Black plum, currant, cherry are complemented by notes of violets, nutmeg, clove, cacao and walnut skins. The finish lingers with a back-breath of a floral potpourri. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45



**92 Cuatro Rayas 2021 Longverdejo (Rueda).** This medium-straw-colored wine has a nose of casaba melon, apricot and honeysuckle. Bold acidity washes across the palate, bearing flavors of grapefruit, Valencia orange, butterscotch and a touch of almond blossom that lingers into the finish. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25



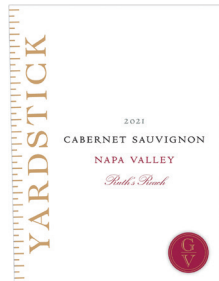
**92 Folded Hills 2021 August White Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Tight and linear aromas of tangerine peel, bright white flower and a hint of lanolin show on the nose of this bottling. There's a stone-driven earthiness to the palate, where zippy lime flesh and blossom meet with a chalky cement tone. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$40



**92 Gelson's 2019 Single Vineyard Epicure Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Earthy, herbal tones in the aroma of this big and tannic wine lead to ripe blackberries, char and grilled plums for a rustic, peppery expression that sets it apart. Best through 2029. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$80



**92 Gelson's 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Light mineral and sage notes in the nose lead to full, extra-ripe flavors of blackberries, blueberries and iron in this distinctive, very full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$35



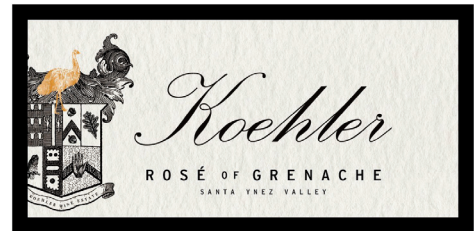
**92 Goldschmidt 2021 Yardstick Ruth's Reach Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Chocolatey, rich in texture and laced with soft tannins, this wine shows the opulent side of the grape variety where the fruit is late-harvest ripe and backed by a full body. It is plush, broad and easy to enjoy young. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39



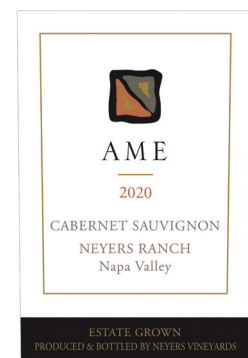
**92 Innocent Bystander 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** Reductive notes reminiscent of leather, mushroom, and damp pavement mingle with sweet, juicy red-berry fruit and savory and baking spices. Chiseled tannins tighten up the plush fruit. There's tangy, crunchy freshness, silky texture and a mineral streak. Oodles of crowd appeal and a sense of place to boot. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**92 J. Lohr 2018 Cuvée POM Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Dense and smooth aromas of roasted black cherry, toasted wood, pepper teriyaki and a hint of seaweed show on the complex nose of this blend based on the wines of Pomerol. Campfire smoke flavors waft through the roasted berry, caramel and nutmeg of the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$50



**92 Koehler 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** A soft salmon in color, this Grenache-based rosé, which also includes 15% Cinsaut, offers aromas of cantaloupe and mandarin orange on the nose. There's a very firm grip to the sip, where nectarine and orange flavors ride a zesty, fresh acidity for a complex while enjoyable experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

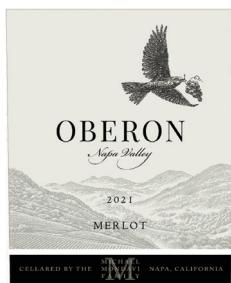


**92 Neyers 2020 AME Neyers Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Gorgeous, indulgent fruit and chocolate flavors infuse this big but velvety wine as it drips with blackberries, blueberries and black cherry syrup. It is full bodied, softly tannic and entirely mouthfilling. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$135





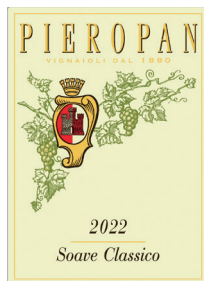
**92 Nivarius 2018 Edición Limitada (Rioja).** Aromas of green apple, Bartlett pear and peach pave the way for pineapple, nectarine, vanilla and honeysuckle flavors, along with a hint of crumbled sage. This full-textured wine is bright at first sip and mellows on the palate as it heads towards a butterscotch-flavored finish. Mesk/Wine Nation. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28



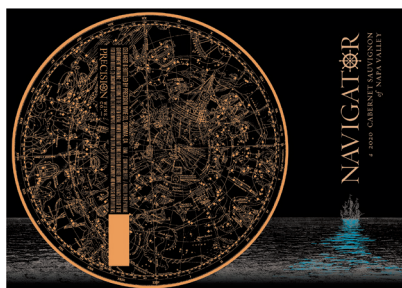
**92 Oberon 2021 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Enticing, spicy oak aromas and vivid red and black fruit flavors highlight this vibrant, well-structured wine. Moderate tannins and bright raspberry and black cherry flavors fill out the palate while the addition of 10% Syrah and 2% Zinfandel contributes some nice layering. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$28



**92 Paco & Lola 2021 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Almost clear to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Valencia orange and star fruit. Zesty flavors of pineapple, Meyer lemon, jasmine and a touch of lime sorbet are set into a full-textured wine with a satisfying finish. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21



**92 Pieropan 2022 (Soave Classico).** This elegant wine is a classic and standard bearer of Soave. It shines with aromas of ripe Fuji apple, orange blossom, marzipan and lemon oil. Cool and crisp on the palate as if biting into a perfect apple, this wine shines with amazing textural depth and finishes with vibrant acidity. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25



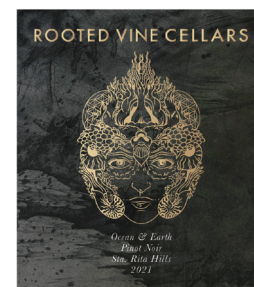
**92 Precision Wine 2020 Navigator Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Well-built and quite flavorful, this full-bodied wine is an amazing value from a smoky year in Napa. Robust yet well-balanced, framing its generous black fruit flavors in velvety tannins backed by good fruit acidity. Black cherries, black olives and hints of dried herbs show the complexity of Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**92 Quinta Sardonía 2017 Q (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This delightful wine is garnet colored with aromas of cigar box, wet river rock, and ripe black fruits. There is a pleasantly firm tannic structure with flavors of black currant, black plum, and red raspberry with a long finish. Trincherro Family Estates. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75



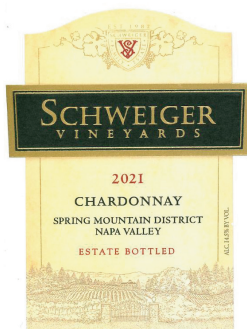
**92 Robert Renzoni 2020 Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Toasted herb, black plum, elderberry and pastry flake aromas enliven the nose on this bottling. The palate is cohesive as flavors of dark, tangy fruits are wrapped in peppered meat, iodine and bay leaf elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$36



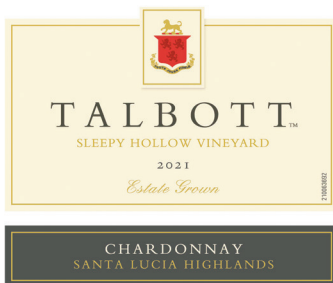
**92 Rooted Vine 2021 Ocean & Earth Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Plummy fruit aromas on the nose of this bottling by Iacon Pohlit are cut by sagebrush and turned-earth elements. The palate packs in soil and rock tones alongside a baked mulberry and roasted plum core, proving rich while lively. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85



**92 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark cherry sorbet, mace, cinnamon and loamy earth aromas make for an attention-grabbing nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate is thick and ripe with more cherry and red spice flavors, balanced by ample acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$52



**92 Schweiger 2021 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District).** This powerful but not overly oaky wine offers intensely ripe apple, pear and honeydew melon flavors on a layered texture and high-octane body. Barrel fermented and aged on the lees, it has an extra lushness in the mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



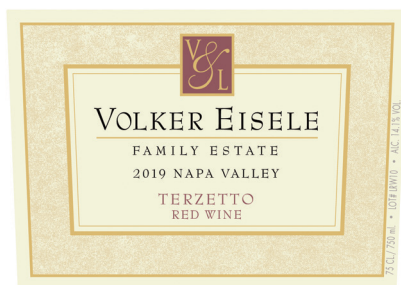
**92 Talbott 2021 Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Subtle aromas of lemon peel, Asian pear and honeysuckle draw the nose into this bottling from an iconic vineyard. A bright spritz of lime and a firm tension meet with underripe pineapple and sea salt on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$45



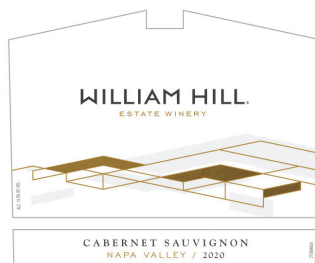
**92 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Nozze d'Oro (Sicilia).** Melon, pear, apple and a hint of white peach are on the nose. The palate is juicy with more pear and melon, with the sweet, slight astringency of candied lemon peel and a welcome salty note, like licking a rock. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$N/A



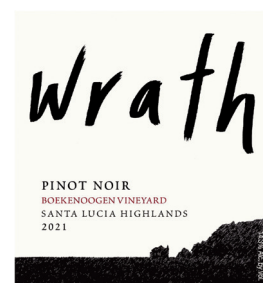
**92 V. Sattui 2020 Entanglement G-S-M (Napa Valley).** Layered, smooth and quite flavorful, this full-bodied wine is soft in terms of tannin but has good acidity to lift up the berries, woodsmoke and meat flavors that keep you coming back for more. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46



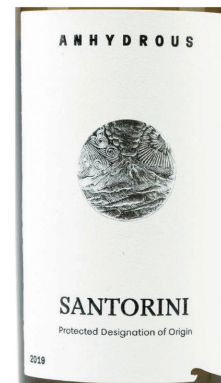
**92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Terzetto Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Firmly structured and well-stuffed with ripe fruit, this powerful blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc is full-bodied, flavorful and tempting. Strong tannins grip the palate as dark chocolate, blackberries and blueberries develop with each sip. Best from 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$85



**92 William Hill Estate 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Inky dark in color, and supersaturated in flavor, this welcoming, generous wine bursts with blackberries, blueberries, mint and cinnamon notes that feel lush and rich on the palate. It is fun to sip, yet should age well for a few years. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50



**92 Wrath 2021 Boekenooogen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Ripe cherry aromas are cut by bay leaf and rustic herbs on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with bold yet crisp plum and cherry flavors, as eucalyptus leaf and a tart touch add nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49



**91 Anhydrous 2021 Santorini Assyrτικο (Santorini).** This translucent, golden wine isn't overly aromatic, but it has juicy lemon and lime aromas alongside stony notes indicative of its volcanic origin. Those mineral, citrus-driven flavors continue on the slightly viscous palate whose texture hints at winemaking that includes inoculation with wild yeasts and time spent on its lees. The long, racy finish will have you reaching for your next glass. Dionysus Imports Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

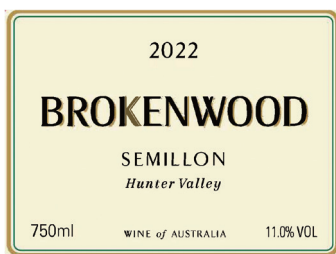


**91 Astrolabe 2022 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** Appealing white peach, citrus and white-floral aromas flow into a dry, crisp and textural palate. Balanced and varietal, this is a solid, versatile and food-friendly bottling. Share a Splash. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25





**91 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 El Arte de Vivir Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Dark-garnet to the eye, this wine offers aromas of pomegranate, Mission fig and milk chocolate. Ripe fruit flavors are joined by feathery tannins and enduring notes of mocha, violet, fennel pollen and black-olive paste. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30



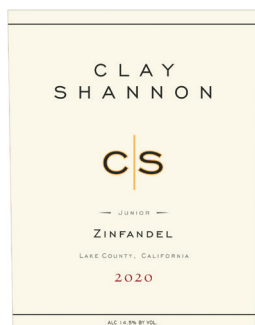
**91 Brokenwood 2022 Semillon (Hunter Valley).** This is a ripe, aromatic, porch pounder that opens with vibrant aromas of lemon balm, peach and pear blossoms, and a herbal undertone. The palate is crisp and gently fruity with a hint of waxy texture and plenty of refreshment. Drink up or leave for a few years—it could gain more interest with time. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$21



**91 Château Léoube 2022 Secret de Léoube (Côtes de Provence).** A straightforward blend of Cinsault and Grenache gives the wine a ripe character. It is bright, yet harbors an underlying richness and a spicy touch. Drink the wine now. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55



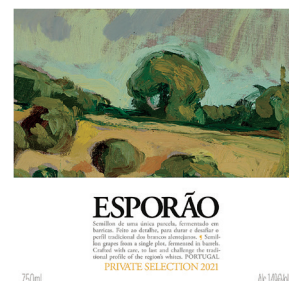
**91 Château Sainte Marguerite 2022 Fantastique (Côtes de Provence).** The estate wine of Sainte Marguerite is rounded and soft. The red apple flavors give a sweet edge to the ripe fruits. That is balanced by the wine's fresh, light aftertaste. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40



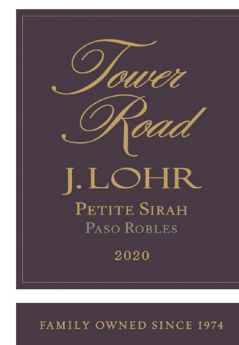
**91 Clay Shannon 2020 Junior Zinfandel (Lake County).** There's a vivacity of fresh fruit that adds an excellent midpalate lift and keeps the energy going through to the lengthy finish. Cottony tannins gently coat the palate and are well-met by the concentration of ripe black cherry, plum and bramble fruits, which are further complemented by herbes de Provence, fresh forest floor and nuanced spices. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45



**91 Herdade do Esporão 2017 Touriga Nacional (Alentejo).** A full, rich and spicy wine, this has solid tannins from finely perfumed black fruits. It has warmth, ripe berry flavors filled with concentration and a peppery edge. Drink this impressive wine now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



**91 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Private Selection (Alentejano).** This is a smooth, superripe wine, with a full-bodied character and a fine toasty edge. The wine is rich with tropical fruits and balanced acidity. Drink this fine wine now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40



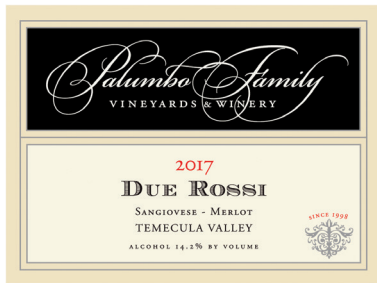
**91 J. Lohr 2020 Tower Road Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Quite dark in the glass, this bottling begins with savory aromas of iodine and black-and-blue steak on the nose. Smoked meat, toasted herb and dense dark fruit flavors show on the palate. This screams “barbecue wine.” —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35



**91 Mumm Napa 2018 Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).** This delicious, soothing sparkler offers a creamy texture, soft bubbles and subtle peach, apple and raspberry flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50



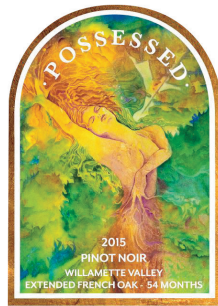
**91 Octopoda 2021 Octopoda Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This broad, spicy wine offers ample oak accents over good, dark plums and blueberries, while fine-grained tannins firm up the mouthfeel just enough. Cinnamon, cedar and cloves all contribute to the welcoming aromas and flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



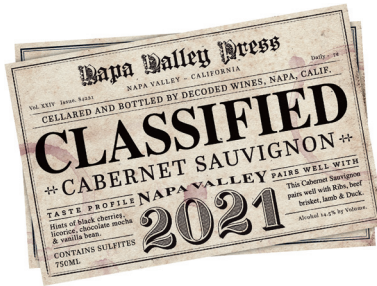
**91 Palumbo Family Vineyards 2017 Due Rossi Sangiovese-Merlot (Temecula Valley).** The age is starting to show a touch on the nose of this blend of 70% Sangiovese and 30% Merlot, so the aromas of sandalwood, baked strawberry, dried cranberry and leather are peaking right now. With caramel, roasted fennel, cracked pepper and dried red fruit flavors, this is a prime wine for food pairing right now. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$58



**91 Pascual Toso 2020 Alta Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Well structured, this wine has a nose of baking spices. After a few seconds in the glass, it shows timid berry aromas. Vanilla bean and cinnamon invade the palate as raspberry flavors slowly reveal themselves, while medium acidity leads the flavors into a lasting finish. Allow this wine to breathe and enjoy it with dark-chocolate truffles. Quintessential. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50



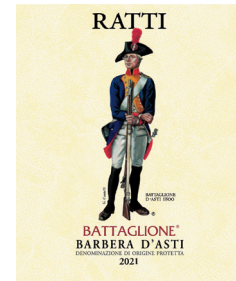
**91 Possessed 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine spent 54 months in French Limousin oak—and talk about delayed gratification! Dark cherry and chocolate cake aromas are laced with notes of vanilla and earth. Modest acidity and integrated tannins are the backdrop for a plush texture and flavors of chocolate-covered cherries, thyme and pistachios. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**91 Precision Wine 2021 Classified Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Handsome oak spices meld with rich dark-plum and black currant flavors in this full-bodied wine. Fine-grained tannins carry the cinnamon, cedar and clove nuances along with the dark fruits through a lingering finish. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40



**91 Quinta do Vale Meão 2020 Meandro (Douro).** Named after the major bend in the Douro river that surrounds the Meão vineyards, this second wine of the estate is firm, structured with dense tannins. It is ripe, full of black fruits with tannins that are beginning to soften. Drink from 2025. Deutch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24



**91 Ratti 2021 Battaglione (Barbera d'Asti).** This Barbera hits it on all levels with aromas of plum, mixed berries in all their forms, from fresh to preserved, wildflowers and dried herbs. The palate is fresh and pops with tart red fruits that then give way to savory and earthy notes as the wine develops in the glass. It has ample structure, with a texture that makes it a very versatile food wine that goes with everything from veggies and fish to grilled meats. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**91 Sequum 2020 MIXT Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This bold and full-bodied blend of Cabernet, Petite Sirah, Syrah and Zinfandel is packed with blackberries, blueberries and raspberries for a blend of tangy and jammy flavors. A mostly soft texture sports light tannins so it's ready to drink. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50



**91 Zenato 2017 Cresasso (Veronese).** This wine showcases why Corvina is at the heart of so many red wines from the Veneto. It's densely concentrated, with aromas of black cherry and baked plums covered in sweet baking spices from the oak the wine is aged in. The wine is polished and elegant on the palate, with tannins that are firm but will soften with some time. The primary fruit will give way to more savory notes that are only just peeking their heads out currently. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$64





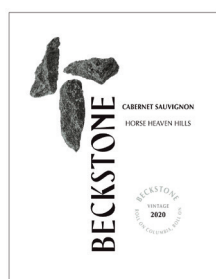
**90 Allegrini 2020 Palazzo della Torre (Veronese).** A portion of this wine undergoes a drying process called appassimento and then is blended into the non-dried wine. This process gives the wine richness and intensity while also keeping the freshness needed to balance out the wine. Aromas of blackberry, cassis, sour cherry, mixed herbs and dried violets spill from the glass. The palate is rich yet in balance, with savory notes and forest floor combining with the densely packed fruit, and a perfectly timed pop of acidity on the finish. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**90 Andrew Murray 2020 Tous Les Jours Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Andrew Murray manages to deliver tremendous value in this bottling each year, even during challenging vintages like 2020. Bold oak and stewed fruit aromas on the nose lead into a thick palate of black fruit, nutmeg and vanilla, proving powerful and hefty. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**90 Argento 2020 Single Vineyard Agrelo Organic Malbec (Mendoza).** Winemaker Juan Pablo Murgia makes wines in which freshness is an important factor. In this Malbec from Luján de Cuyo, a balancing acidity lifts the fruit-forward palate. Blackberry and raspberry flavors join notes of spices over a chalky texture. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40



**90 Beckstone 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** The wine's aromatics are an aerial circus, with cherry cola, vanilla and violets joining a meaty bacon fat note. This is light-bodied fare, with plush tannins and flavors like cherries and black tea. There's also a sweet spice note similar to kissing someone who smokes clove cigarettes. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25



**90 Castello Bonomi 2018 Cru Perdu (Franciacorta).** A blend of 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir, this Franciacorta exhibits classic baked apple, roasted nut, warmed honey and brioche aromas. It's vibrant and bracing on the palate, with notes of green apple, Mandarin orange zest and limestone finishing with crisp acidity. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$43



**90 Castelveccchi 2020 Capotondo (Chianti Classico).** Bookended by expressions of heat, the nose on this Chianti Classico starts with hot tar, gunflint and topsoil with notes of a berry bramble underneath, all rolling onto the palate that closes with black pepper, coffee and chili. Serendipity Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25



**90 Château Ferry Lacombe 2022 Evidence (Côtes de Provence).** A bright, ripe wine with breezy acidity and a lively character, this is immediately drinkable. With freshness and ripe fruits combining well, the wine is ready to drink. Quintessential. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



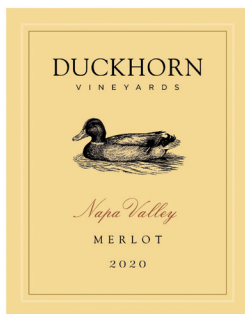
**90 Château Léoube 2022 Love by Léoube (Côtes de Provence).** Fully ripe with a soft texture, the wine is smooth and appealing. It has a tangy character that gives texture and a fine bite at the end. Drink now. Organic. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29



**90 Château Miraval 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** The estate wine of Château Miraval is rich with red fruits and a tangy edge. It is full bodied, ripe and concentrated. Drink the wine now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28



**90 Colle Massari 2017 Poggio Lombrone Sangiovese Riserva (Montecucco).** A nose that brings together vanilla and cherry but also dill, fennel, crushed rock, tar and white pepper gives way to a palate that has more cherries and herbs and an earthiness emphasized by tannins that cling in a clay-like manner. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50



**90 Duckhorn 2020 Merlot (Napa Valley).** This lighter-tasting, vibrant style of Merlot is refreshing to sip. Fresh raspberries and red cherries waft up from the glass before vivid, red fruit flavors hit the palate, freshened by good fruit acidity and light tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58



**90 Eternal 2019 Eternal Evolution Skin Contact White White Blend (Columbia Valley).** If you don't enjoy fino or Manzanilla Sherries, steer clear of this wine. Me? I enjoyed its oxidized nuttiness laced with chamomile, brown sugar and toasted cashews. This equal parts blend of Albariño, Grenache Blanc, Marsanne and Roussanne was fermented on the skins for the 27 day fermentation. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$39



**90 Leclerc Briant NV Réserve Brut (Champagne).** Blending the three Champagne grapes, this wine is well textured. It is warm, the tang of minerality softened by ripe white-fruit flavors. It is ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$85



**90 Maison Sainte Marguerite 2022 Symphonie (Côtes de Provence).** Cinsault, Grenache and Rolle give a fruity, light wine. It is crisply textured with bright acidity. The fine balance comes from the wine's mélange of kiwi and red-currant fruit flavors. Drink now. Organic. Pernod Ricard. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25



**90 Mercer 2019 Edge of Heaven Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills).** This Merlot-driven blend was fermented in stainless steel, followed by 20 months in French and American oak. Sweet cherry and lavender-water aromas are punctuated by traces of balsa and shoe polish. Tart cran-raspberry and lemon join an elegant chrysanthemum-tea flavor on a smooth-textured palate. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21



**90 Possessed NV Goddess Pinot Rosé (Willamette Valley).** This extended-skin-contact “orange” Pinot Gris was aged exclusively in Oregon oak. Persimmons and peaches fill the air with each glass swirl, followed by bits of graham-cracker cookie dust and Madagascar vanilla bean. The wine's creamy texture fits the rich flavors of caramel apples and rose water. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$23



**90 Starmont 2020 Pinot Noir (Monterey County-Santa Barbara County-Napa County).** An all-around engaging Pinot Noir with fresh fruit notes of red and black cherry, plum and red currant complemented by earthier tones of forest floor and toasted wood. With a dusty tannic texture, vibrant acidity and vivacious intensity of aromas and flavors, this is an easy Pinot Noir to love. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$27



**90 Zenato 2019 Ripassa (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore).** This wine has a beautiful balance between fruit and non-fruit aromas from the start. Aromas of wild plums, dried leaves and fresh flowers each share the moment in the glass. The palate is soft and fruit-forward, highlighting black cherry flavors at the core of the palate. This fruitiness is supported by notes of turned earth and Dutch-process cocoa on the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30



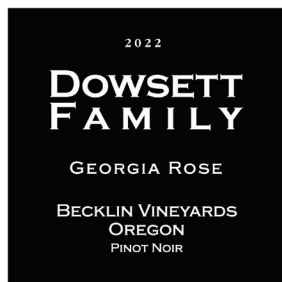


- 89 Jules Taylor 2022 The Jules Rosé (Marlborough).** A fresh, appealing perfume of strawberry and cream, with a gently spiced bass note, leads to a dry, creamy-textured palate that's fresh with a tickle of raspberry succulence. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20



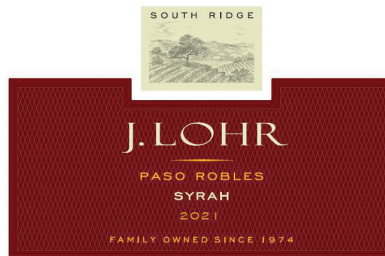
- 88 McManis NV Brut-Sparkling Wine Sparkling Blend (California).** With 80% Pinot Noir and 20% Chardonnay, this California sparkling emits fresh and toasty aromas of crusty bread, nutmeg and coriander spice, along with lemon, lime, green apple and just-ripe white peach. The palate is driven by the high acidity, which brings the primary fruits more forward than those secondaries. An overall well-balanced and easy-to-enjoy sparkling wine. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## BEST BUYS

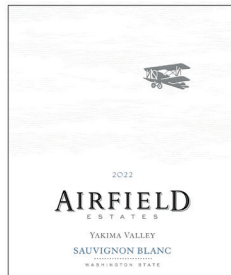


- 94 Dowsett Family 2022 Georgia Rose Becklin Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon).** This ethereal, light-bodied rosé represents a stunning value. Aromatically, it is a mélange of strawberries, watermelon, dried rose petals and bubblegum powder. A strawberry and spearmint flavor combination is elevated by invigorating acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$17

## BEST BUYS



- 93 J. Lohr 2021 South Ridge Syrah (Paso Robles).** This is a very satisfying Syrah for a rather stunning price. Lush and generous aromas of baked berry, hot spice cake and a touch of crushed rock show on the nose. The palate is brooding in cassis, boysenberry pudding and baking spice flavors, framed by impressively deep tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

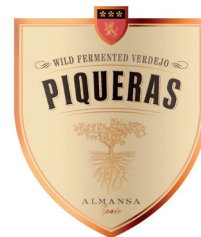


- 92 Airfield Estates 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** Crisp, grassy and packed with aromas and flavors of lemongrass, lemon sorbet, melon and shredded coconut—what more could you ask from a Sauvignon Blanc? The wine's acidity is electric and the long finish showcases guava and saline notes. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$17

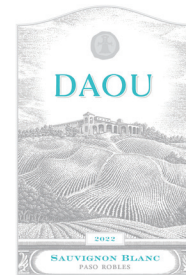


- 92 Arzuaga 2021 La Planta (Ribera del Duero).** Deep-ruby-red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, purple plum and clove. It is soft at first sip, followed by a sensation of fullness as plush tannins fill the palate. Flavors of black cherry, cassis, caramel, anise and a touch of dried thyme linger on the taste buds. United Cellars, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

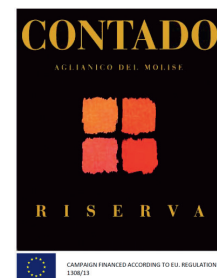
## BEST BUYS



- 92 Bodegas Piqueras 2021 Piqueras Wild Fermented Verdejo (Almansa).** Light-yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of caramelized pineapple, passion fruit and river rocks. It is creamy on the palate, with peach, honeydew, butterscotch, slivered almond and lemon-thyme flavors. Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15



- 92 Daou 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** This is a complete package of a Sauvignon Blanc. Aromas of snappy lime, apple flesh and rainy cement click the variety's main boxes, while the palate is firmly structured, presenting flavors of lime, ash and tropical grasses. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$17



- 92 Di Majo Norante 2017 Contado Riserva (Aglianico del Molise).** Meat jus and balsamic vinegar are first on the nose but are followed quickly by sweet dark berries and a hint of vanilla and backed up by medicinal herbs. The palate is juicy but also earthy, with black cherries and dark chocolate pressing up against the chalkiness of nutrient-rich soil, emphasized by equally chalky tannins. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## BEST BUYS



**92** Fernández Rivera 2018 Dehesa La Granja (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). An intoxicating nose of black cherry, butterscotch and baking spice leads the way for flavors of blackberry, Luxardo cherry, vanilla bean, clove and violet. Velvety tannins coat the tongue and gums and drift off towards a satisfying finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19



**92** Hermanos del Villar 2021 Oro de Castilla Verdejo (Rueda). Aromas of white peach, grapefruit and fresh parsley pave the way for pineapple, ripe summer peach and fennel-pollen flavors, with very soft touches of mint leaf. Bold acidity and a firm vein of minerality make for luscious mouthfeel and a sublime finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

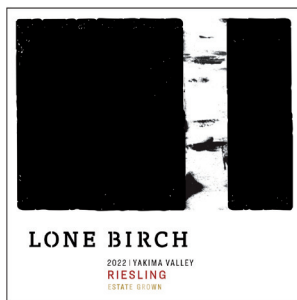


**92** King Estate 2022 Artisan Series Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). When it comes to Pinot Gris, it's good to be King Estate. This 100% estate-grown biodynamic wine begins with an earthy cantaloupe aroma that plays nicely with notes of lavender water, guava and mint. The tangy acidity and clean texture make you pucker for the flavors of strawberry lemonade and gin botanicals. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

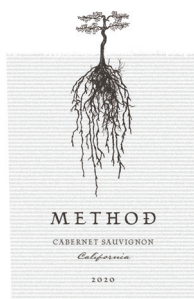
## BEST BUYS



**92** Lini 910 NV Labrusca Rosso (Lambrusco dell'Emilia). The deepest color of purple you could imagine, this wine is loaded with aromas of blackberry pie, spiced plums, violet candy and bay leaf. Supertasty and requiring some restraint, the palate is like biting into the juiciest plum you can conjure yet is balanced with notes of dried leaves, wild herbs and roasted coffee, making this joyous and very drinkable wine more complex than you might think. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18



**92** Lone Birch 2022 Riesling (Yakima Valley). This is a stunning Riesling value, with wonderful aromas of nectarines, rose water, orange sorbet and a hint of clove. It has sweet red-grapefruit and strawberry flavors, with a touch of residual sugar. The wine's bold acidity qualifies as life affirming. Great stuff. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$12



**92** Method 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This densely flavorful yet relaxed wine rests on a cushion of plush, fine tannins that carry its earthy, black fruit, baking spice and dark chocolate flavors across the palate and into a soft finish. Best from 2026. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## BEST BUYS



**92** Quady North 2022 GSM Rosé (Rogue Valley). This Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre delivers a whole lot of flavor for such a modest asking price. Cantaloupe and pineapple aromas are matched by a beautiful white chalk dipped in strawberry juice combination. Nectarines rule the creamy palate, along with saline and basil flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17



**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



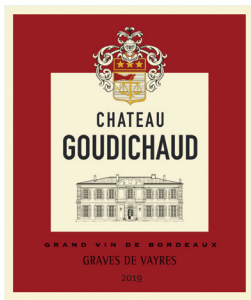
**92** Rocca delle Macie 2022 Famiglia Zingarelli Campo Maccione Vermentino (Maremma Toscana). A nose that's heady and sweet in an indulgent way, with grapefruit candy, green apple, almond and honey, opens for a palate that reiterates these flavors but with a sophisticated restraint and a salty, astringent finish. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17



## BEST BUYS



**91 A to Z 2022 Riesling (Oregon).** Tart, tangy and dry, there's a lot to like here. Kaffir lime, honeycomb and talc aromas are a nice introduction to flavors of tonic water with a lime wedge and chilled red-apple slices. Great acidity keeps things lively. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

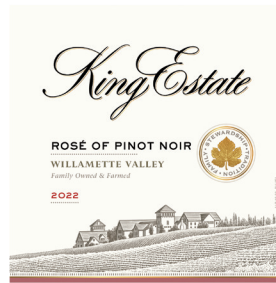


**91 Château Goudichaud 2019 (Graves de Vayres).** This attractive Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon blend is balanced with wood-aging layers of black fruits and acidity. The fine wine has an aging potential with ripe tannins. Drink from 2025. Serendipity Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19



**91 Esteban Martín 2019 Garnacha-Syrah-Tempranillo 6M (Cariñena).** Aromas of blackberry, Mediterranean herbs and clove waft from the glass. Deep red-violet to the eye, this wine has flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, fennel bulb, baking spices and a soft touch of mint. Feathery tannins fade into a milk-chocolate finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

## BEST BUYS



**91 King Estate 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Who doesn't love a whole-cluster-pressed saignée method rosé that brings back grade-school memories with cherry Starburst and blackboard chalk-dust tray aromas? There's even a hyacinth note for the days you brought flowers to class. The pink grapefruit and toasted filbert flavors? That's high school. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**91 Marqués de Cáceres 2018 Excellens Cuvée Especial (Rioja).** Deep-garnet in the glass, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, cassis and dried sage. It is bold at first sip, with grippy tannins that back off to reveal Mission fig, black-plum, cocoa-powder and coffee-bean flavors, with a hint of eucalyptus that lingers on the palate alongside a soft floral note. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20



**91 Michael David 2022 Rosé (Lodi).** This medium- to full-bodied rosé has immediate appetizing aromas of white chocolate, wild strawberries, fresh basil, dewy grass with lawn daisy and crispy biscuit. The palate opens further to dried rose petal potpourri and ripe watermelon. With good depth of flavor and hearty weight, this is the perfect food-pairing pink. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## BEST BUYS



**91 Revelation by Goose Ridge 2022 Rosé (Goose Gap).** A kitchen-sink blend of Syrah, Pinot Gris, Merlot, Grenache and Mourvèdre works amazingly well. Raspberry lemonade, apricot and Haribo orange-flavored gummy-bear aromas lead into a delightful grilled peaches sprinkled with sea-salt flavor. It is light bodied and yet packed with acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$18



**91 Tenuta Regaleali 2022 Cavallo delle Fate Grillo (Sicilia).** Tennis balls, sliced lemons and fresh thyme emerge on the nose before a citrus, saline palate that's so rich and round but also piquant that it recalls fresh olive oil. Trincherio Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$N/A



**91 Tommasi 2020 Masseria Surani (Primitivo di Manduria).** Raspberry coulis and fresh soil with grass popping through on the nose turns to an almost cake-like raspberry and dark chocolate palate that nonetheless maintains the freshness of the nose with more soil and grass on the back, unchallenged by relaxed tannins and low acidity. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

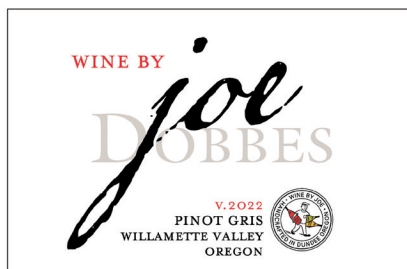
## BEST BUYS

### TARIMA HILL

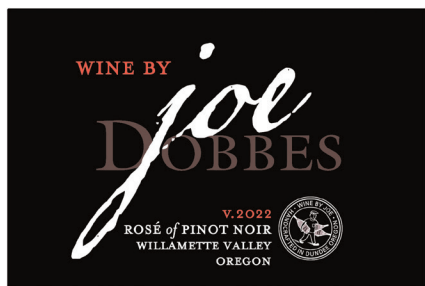


ESTATE BOTTLED  
OLD VINES

**91** **Volver 2020 Tarima Hill Old Vines (Alicante).** Inky violet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of brambly dark and red berries, olive tapenade, and mocha. Tannins come on slightly strong and then recede, revealing flavors of purple plum, cherry, saddle leather and caramel. There is a nice splash of acidity on the closing note. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20



**91** **Wine by Joe 2022 Pinot Gris (Oregon).** If you are fans of acidity tuned up high enough to light a room and make your mouth water, grab a bottle of this electrifying Pinot Gris. The show begins with aromas of lime zest, chilled cucumber slices and cantaloup, then grapefruit and pistachio flavors fill the mouth. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$14



**91** **Wine by Joe 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon).** This pink wine's aromatics form a pretty perfume of tart red raspberries and a hint of guava and lemon peel. There's a hint of sweetness on the palate with flavors of strawberries, red cherries and chrysanthemum tea, with a slice of brisk lemony acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$14

## BEST BUYS



**90** **A to Z 2022 Oregon Pinot Gris (Oregon).** Golden Delicious apple and Bosc pear aromas let you know refreshment has arrived. This wine has a bit of body to accompany a crisp texture and slightly elevated acidity. Pear, apple butter and lemon flavors are all you need for fun. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17



**90** **A to Z 2022 Rosé (Oregon).** I'm not sure what grape varieties were used to make this, but Sangiovese may be involved. Regardless, it is a pink wine for those looking for a creamier texture and softer acidity. It is packed with aromas and flavors of peach pie, quince and strawberry lemonade. It's great with grilled brats. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17



**90** **Alpine Rift 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** With fruit sourced from the historic Auntsfield Vineyard in the Southern Valleys subregion, this sees partial native yeast fermentation in old oak barrels. The result is a bright, food friendly bottling that bursts with white peach, honeysuckle, lime and bell pepper. It's slippery textured and fresh, with a long citrusy finish. Daylight Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## BEST BUYS



**90** **Bogle 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (California).** This California Zin does not disappoint. An elevated acidity gives the wine energy, uplifting the fresh fruit notes of blackberry, black cherry and boysenberry. Well-integrated oak means a subtle dusting of nutmeg, star anise and clove. Tannins are a resolved, chalky texture, adding structural integrity and never distracting. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11



**90** **Borsao 2020 Tres Picos Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** A nose of slightly brambly fruits of the wood and cherry pipe tobacco paves the way for flavors of blackberry pie, cherry preserves, cocoa butter, anise and a hint of orange zest. Glossy tannins and a note of freshly ground black pepper linger gently on the palate. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18



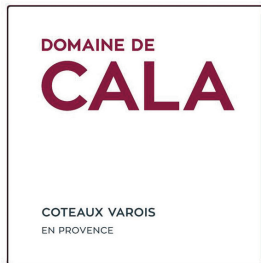
**90** **DFJ Vinhos 2022 Grand'Arte Chardonnay (Lisboa).** With light touches of wood, the wine is rich and full of creamy white fruits. Its spice is balanced by acidity along with a soft aftertaste. Age for a few months and drink at the end of the year. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14



## BEST BUYS



**90 Di Majo Norante 2021 (Falanghina del Molise).** Lemon-lime soda, almond flower and pine cone on the nose open onto a honeyed palate with notes of lemonade iced tea and a bit more astringency offered by almond skin on the finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16



**90 Domaine de Cala 2022 (Coteaux Varois en Provence).** This estate, near Brignoles on the coast, has produced an attractive wine with its ripe red fruits and tangy acidity. It is bright and ready to drink. Organic. Wine Warehouse Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18



**90 Elena Walch 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Roasted lemon peel, green apple and white flower aromas dance in the glass on this mountain Pinot Grigio. The palate is bright with crisp acidity and focused flavors of tart nectarine and lemon finishing with subtle hints of almond and river stones. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## BEST BUYS



**90 King Estate 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Pretty classic 100% stainless-steel Willamette Valley Pinot Gris that aged *sur lie* for four months. Aromas of watermelon drizzled with sea salt, rosemary and pine needles lead to flavors of lime, Marcona almonds and lemony Citra hops. Brisk acidity and a crisp mouthfeel. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19



**90 Michael David 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** A vivacious and bodacious Sauvignon Blanc with 1% Sémillon included that adds just enough weight and complexity. Engaging aromas waft immediately from the glass—apple blossom, Granny Smith apple, white peach and nectarine. The palate opens further to notes of white grapefruit, kiwi and star fruit, cut grass and just a hint of capsicum. Lively, fun, engaging. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20



**90 Mionetto NV Brut (Prosecco Treviso).** Fresh and vibrant, this classic Prosecco is exactly what we are all looking for: freshness, fun and fruitiness. Ample apple and lemon notes with a touch of white flower define the nose. These lead to a zippy palate that directly translates from the nose with loads of fresh apples and a touch of minerality. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

## BEST BUYS



**90 Nine Hats 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This chalky textured blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Syrah is light in body, with some nice acidity and surprisingly firm tannins. Aromas like black currants, cranberries and honeycomb lead into flavors of Bing cherries, coffee and sage. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$20



**90 Perelada 2020 Stars Touch of Rosé Brut (Cava).** This pale-pink sparkler offers aromas of apricot jam, pomegranate and toasted almond. Softly effervescent, it has flavors of nectarine, Valencia orange, rose petal and a touch of just-baked baguette that sail into a refreshing finish. Vinovia Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18



**90 Quinta da Raza 2022 Alvarinho Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** This ripe, full wine comes from the north of the Vinho Verde region. It has a granite edge with firm acidity that will soften over the next few months as richness takes over. Drink from later this year. OZ Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## BEST BUYS



**90 Revelation by Goose Ridge 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Goose Gap).** This barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc aged on its lees for five months prior to bottling. Pineapple, freshly cut grass, lemon-peel and straw aromas are joined by a pronounce mineral note. A nutty fino-sherry-like flavor plays well with lemon-tart and Marcona almond notes. Crisp and lively. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$18



**90 Rocca delle Macie 2021 (Chianti Classico).** A combination of vanilla, tar and rose petals on the nose meets with wild herbs and fresh red fruit. Cranberries, strawberries and cherries on the palate stay in balance with more savory notes of tar and rock, pressing up against firm tannins. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**90 Serego Alghieri 2020 Possessioni Rosso (Veneto).** Aromas of blackberry, tart cherry, tobacco and baking spices spill from the glass. The wine evolves on the palate, showing the balance between black and sour plums and black tea and wild herbs. It's medium in body with gentle tannins and the right amount of acidity to keep each glass fresh. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

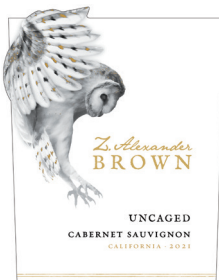
## BEST BUYS



**90 Viña Arnáiz 2021 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** A bright nose of cherry, red currant, coffee bean and clove leads the way for flavors of black cherry, raspberry, cocoa powder, licorice and a touch of dried sage. Midweight tannins glide into a fruit-filled finish. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

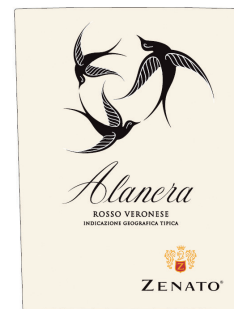


**90 Wine by Joe 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** While this medium-bodied Pinot Noir offers mostly red raspberry and cherry aromas, there are fresh notes of lemon zest and shredded coconut in the background. Juicy acidity and plush tannins are the backdrop for flavors of Bing cherries, lavender and lemon verbena. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19



**90 Z. Alexander Brown 2021 Uncaged Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This is a great bang-for-the-buck Cab Sauv that offers layers, aromas and flavors alongside a solid structure of firm, mature tannins and elevated acidity. Enjoy notes of black cherry, plum and currant, violet, fennel, anise, cacao and coffee, and dried forest floor, complete with leaf litter. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

## BEST BUYS



**90 Zenato 2020 Alanera (Rosso del Veronese).** The wine has an intense nose of black, blue and red fruits with dried leaves, roasted coffee and baking spices all dancing together on the nose. The palate is lush with a deeper core of black plum, dark chocolate and savory herbs, finishing with fine tannins and a pop of acidity. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

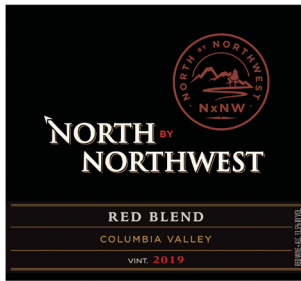


**89 Cline 2022 Mourvèdre Rosé (Contra Costa County).** This rosé of Mourvèdre is fresh and vibrant, yet carries some weight and offers enough body to stand up to a variety of cuisine. Aromas open with rose perfume, ripe strawberry, watermelon, orange zest and a wet stone minerality; the palate continues the journey with additional notes of pink grapefruit and just-ripe nectarine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

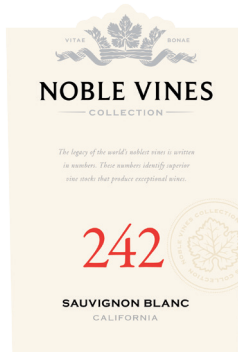


**89 Clos du Bois 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A solid Sauvignon Blanc with classic citrus-meets-tropical notes of pink and white grapefruit, capsicum, cut grass, just-ripe pineapple and pineapple juice and sour kiwi fruit. A slight effervescence on the palate adds an extra dose of energy alongside the high acidity. An overall happy summer-sipper. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## BEST BUYS



**89 King Estate 2019 North by Northwest Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Sweet aromas of overly ripe blackberries and vanilla gelato rise from the glass without the need for much swirling. Black-cherry and chocolate-ganache flavors match up with gritty tannins that feel a long way from integration. The acidity is soft and easy. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

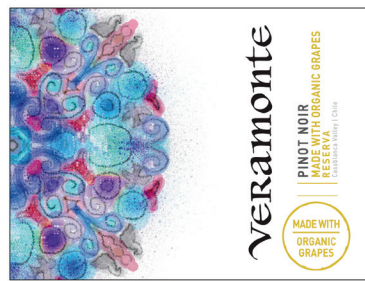


**89 Noble Vines 2022 242 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A fun, uncomplicated—not to mention bang-for-the-buck—Sauvignon Blanc perfect for casual consumption. Find fun notes of Meyer lemon juice, ripe white peaches, cut grass, lawn daisies, green melon pith and a touch of passionfruit. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

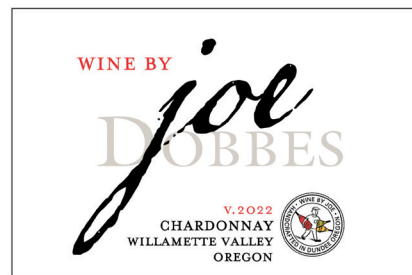


**89 OTU 2022 Otuwhero Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley).** Green grass and floral soap notes leads on this aromatic wine from Marlborough's sea-swept Awatere subregion. There's a fresh, slippery mouthfeel and tangy fruit on the palate. A straightforward, refreshing summer sipper with a citrus finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

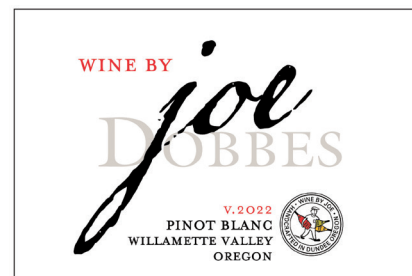
## BEST BUYS



**89 Veramonte 2020 Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** This easy-drinking Pinot Noir with aromas of raspberry and a touch of Provençal herbs comes from the winery's beautiful vineyards in Casablanca. It's flavorful, featuring thyme, rosemary and a fair amount of red fruits on the palate. It has a good balancing acidity and a pleasant finish with hints of smoke finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

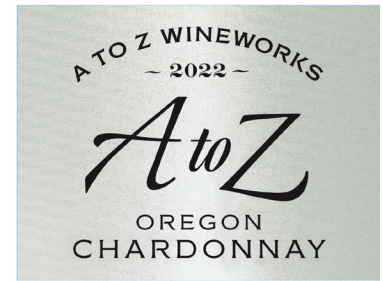


**89 Wine by Joe 2022 Chardonnay (Oregon).** Aromas of lemon verbena, peach and a strawberry-rhubarb tart make for a nice introduction. The lemon and mild mint flavors are joined by a bitter grapefruit pith note that adds a sharpness to the wine. Great acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14



**89 Wine by Joe 2022 Pinot Blanc (Oregon).** A summery wine that begins with a botanical aroma similar to a gin & tonic. Additional aromas of mint and lemon-scented candle wax are equally refreshing. Elevated acidity lights the way for flavors of guava, white grapefruit and a bit of toasted filberts. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$14

## BEST BUYS



**88 A to Z 2022 Oregon Chardonnay (Oregon).** The wine's nectarine and Asian pear aromas blend with notes of white grapefruit, fresh-cut grass and lime. There's modest acidity here, with white grapefruit again, lemon, saline and orange pith flavors. It's an enjoyable white wine, but I didn't initially peg it as a Chardonnay. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17



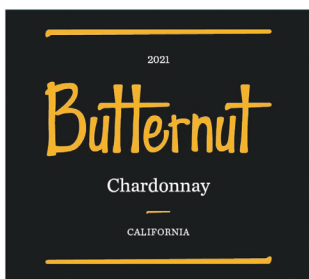
**88 ALDI 2021 Bear Bros. Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A solid bang-for-the-buck Cab Sauv that offers a wide range of flavors against a firm tannic structure and balanced acidity. Find notes of capsicum, black currant, black cherry, black plum, tree bark, dried eucalyptus. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9



**88 Bota Box NV Pinot Grigio (California).** This simple white leads with floral aromas of jasmine blossom, lily of the valley, gardenia and lime leaf. Fruits soon follow with flavors of lemon, lime, peach skin, banana peel and papaya. Overall a well-balanced wine for casual consumption. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23/3L



## BEST BUYS



**88 Butternut 2021 Chardonnay (California).** A balanced, basic Chardonnay with notes of lemon, lime, white blossoms, matchstick flint and toasted bread with butter. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$15

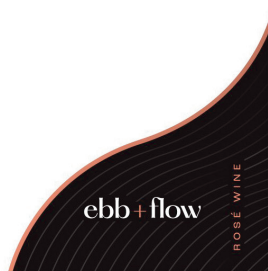


**88 Clos du Bois 2022 Pinot Grigio (California).** High acidity and a bit of fizz on the palate give this light-bodied white much-needed energy. Find notes of capsicum, cut grass, citrus blossom, pink grapefruit and mandarin zest, just-ripe passion fruit, kiwi and star fruit. Best enjoyed on its own or with lighter fare. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10



**88 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Paxis Reserva (Lisboa).** A balanced, fruity wine, this is ripe with berry fruits giving strawberry flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

## BEST BUYS



**88 ebb+flow 2022 Rosé (California).** A blend of 55% Grenache, 25% Zinfandel and 20% Pinot Noir, this medium-bodied, soft-textured rosé offers delicate notes of rose petal potpourri, fresh-picked strawberry and raspberry, cantaloupe, watermelon rind, orange pith and just a hint of petrol. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$16



**88 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Bico Amarelo (Vinho Verde).** Bright and fruity, this comes with a fine streak of acidity and citrus. The wine is poised and stylish, fresh and bright. There is a fine mineral edge that gives the wine its shape. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12



**88 Open Skies 2021 Rosé (California).** An overall fun, balanced, medium-bodied rosé with notes of red cherry, wild strawberry, rhubarb, basil and wet stone minerality. A little bit of fizz on the palate adds texture and further accentuates the lively acidity throughout the length. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

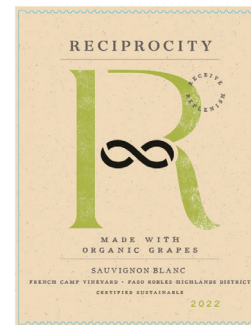
## BEST BUYS



**88 Open Skies 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A light, crisp, easy-drinker, this Sauvignon Blanc offers notes of lemon, lime, chamomile, just-ripe white nectarine, cut grass and wet stone. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8



**88 Quinta da Raza 2022 Alvarinho-Trajadura Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde).** A bright, fruity and crisp wine, this is full of citrus with a tight mineral texture. The majority Alvarinho in the blend gives a softer edge to the wine's aftertaste. Free Run Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17



**88 Reciprocity 2022 French Camp Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles Highlands District).** Made from organic grapes, this bottling begins with stone, lime and green apple on the mellow nose. The palate is also subdued yet refreshing with lime and crisp pome fruit flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

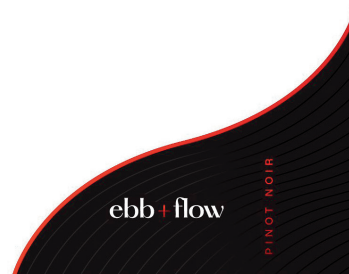
## BEST BUYS



**87** ALDI 2020 Exquisite Collection Chardonnay (California). A simple Chardonnay with notes of lemon pith, lime zest, yellow apple, nutmeg and Honey Nut Cheerios. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$9

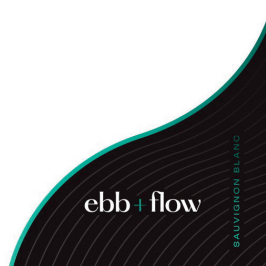


**87** ebb+flow 2021 Chardonnay (California). An extremely ripe expression of Chardonnay with notes of baked apple, poached pear, nutmeg, clove, butter, ripe mango and pineapple, banana and baked bread. The palate is soft, round, plush with a modest acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16



**87** ebb+flow 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This Pinot Noir is filled with overripe fruits of raspberry, boysenberry and strawberry overlaid with intense oak notes of chocolate, vanilla and nutmeg. This combination, along with the modest acidity, gives this dry red the perception of a bit of sweetness. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

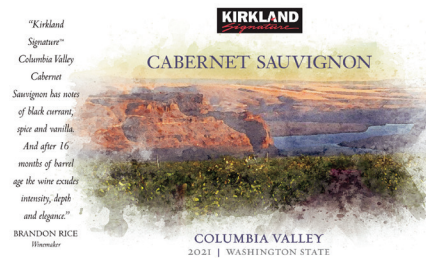
## BEST BUYS



**87** ebb+flow 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). A simple white with light-intensity notes of white blossoms, mandarin zest, kiwi and star fruit. An overall easy-sipper best enjoyed on its own. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16



**87** Herdade do Esporão 2022 Monte Velho (Alentejano). The wine is soft, with red fruits and balanced acidity. It is fruity with a light structure and fine freshness at the end. Drink the wine now. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12



**87** Kirkland Signature 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A surprisingly mineral nose has aromas of earth, wet slate and saline mingling with faint traces of tart boysenberries, leather and lilac. The medium-bodied wines fills the mouth with juicy blackberry and toasted marshmallow flavors, all backed by fine-grained tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$9

## BEST BUYS



**87** Kirkland Signature 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Soft and oaky, this plummy, cedar- and char-scented wine is laced with ripe fruits, cloves and floral notes while soft acidity and a full body give it a broad texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10



**87** Quinta da Raza 2022 Dom Diogo Arinto Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde). Bright fruit comes from this vibrant Arinto. It is fresh, fruity and full of life, with green apples and citrus. Drink now. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14



**87** Vinafore 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Delicate aromas of florals, lemon-grass and passionfruit lead to palate of prickly, somewhat shrill acidity with a touch of sweetness and a lovely limey finish. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## NORTHEAST ITALY WHITE WINES

### ALTO ADIGE

**93 Peter Zemmer 2020 Giatl Riserva Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** For full review see page 11. HB Wine Merchants. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**92 Colterenzio 2021 Puiten Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** This Pinot Grigio is a beautiful distillation of the Alps themselves, with aromas of fresh apples, alpine herbs and rocks, like the mountains. The palate is creamy, with some of the wine having been aged in large wood casks, which shows hints of ripe Comice pear, roasted lemon and pressed yellow flowers, finishing with the alpine crisp acidity on the finish. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Abbazia di Novacella 2021 Praepositus Sauvignon (Alto Adige).** Forward aromas of ripe melon, white peach and a large bouquet of flowers with subtle hints of oak spice produce an evocative and compelling nose for this singular Sauvignon Blanc. Layered and with loads of texture, the palate has both weight and freshness at the same time, with ripe stone fruits and tropical fruits being perked up by fresh lemons. The wine finishes with vibrant acidity and wet gravel notes. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**91 Cantina Valle Isarco 2021 Aristos Grüner Veltliner (Alto Adige).** There is no mistaking this wine is from the mountains, with its aromas of fresh apple blossom, alpine herbs, ripe apple and candied lime. It's zippy and almost prickly on the palate, with an energetic verve highlighting a lemon-lime soda note, magnolia and exotic spice, finishing with crushed rock. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**90 Cantina Tramin 2021 Nussbaumer Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige).** Lime pith, lemon-grass, lemon verbena, white rose, peach and ripe melon...the list goes on and on as aromas fill the glass from this heady Gewürz. The palate is lush and full in body with an upfront floral note followed by ripe stone fruits and sweet and savory spices, finishing with a pop of acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Cantina Tramin 2021 Stoan (Alto Adige).** This is heady on the nose, with intense aromatics of peach, apricot, juicy pear, honeysuckle and sweet and savory spices. It's rich and full in body on the palate, showing tropical fruit notes, rose water and lychee, finishing with the right amount of acidity to balance out the richness in the wine. Winebow Imports. —J.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Cantina Tramin 2021 Unterebner Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Reserved at first, this Pinot Grigio from Alto Adige opens with fresh green apple, lemon rind, white flower, crushed stone and slate aromas. Crisp flavors of green pear and mixed spices along with a creamy texture are balanced by mountain fresh acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Castel Sallegg 2021 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Mandarin orange peel, white flower, yellow pear and crushed stone spill out of the glass of this mountain Pinot Grigio. The palate shows ripe peach with a touch of honey and texture from lees aging. The wine finishes with a touch of acidity keeping the ripe fruit notes in check. Crimson Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$8

**90 Colterenzio 2021 Prail Sauvignon (Alto Adige).** Passion fruit, lemon oil, lily and wild herb aromas all work together in the glass of this very pretty Sauvignon Blanc. This is fruit-forward on the palate, with lemon-lime zest and pith evolving to white peach and finishing with wet stone to create an inviting wine to explore with each glass. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90 Elena Walch 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** For full review see page 25. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**90 Elena Walch 2021 Vigna Castel Ringberg Sauvignon (Alto Adige).** Golden in hue, this Sauvignon Blanc has ripe tropical fruit aromas, citrus blossom, Makrut lime leaf and crushed stone aromas all swirling in the glass. Ripe passion fruit, green mango and kiwi fruits dance on the palate, finishing with a pop of fresh mountain acidity. USA Wine West. —J.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Elena Walch 2020 Beyond the Clouds Bianco (Alto Adige).** Rich and powerful out of the gate, this Chardonnay-driven blend is a basket full of apples, fresh white flowers, roasted honey and toasted oak aromas. The palate is lush with ripe stone fruits mixed with roasted pineapple and hints of cream and vanilla. Though rich, the wine is balanced with a vibrant acidity. USA Wine West. —J.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Elena Walch 2020 Vigna Kastelaz Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige).** Golden in color, this wine features aromas that waft out of the glass and draw you in immediately, enticing you with notes of fresh roses, Millefiori honey and mixed citrus. Rose water, melon and apricot meld together on the medium-bodied palate, finishing with a touch of acidity to keep the wine in balance. USA Wine West. —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**89 Cantina Produttori San Michele Appiano 2021 Sanct Valentin Sauvignon (Alto Adige).**

Herbal, citrus pith and zest and crushed stone aromas open the nose of this fresh wine. Well-defined flavors of lime and peach are on the palate, which finishes with white flowers and wet gravel. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Castelfeder 2021 Vom Stein Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige).** Fresh aromas of wild apples, tuberose, crushed stones and lemon oil spill from the glass. The textured palate is inviting, with more creamy pear notes and a firm mineral note on the finish. Volio Vino. *Best Buy.* —J.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Colterenzio 2021 Lafoa Sauvignon (Alto Adige).** This alpine Sauvignon Blanc opens with aromas of guava, passion fruit and lemon rind, with crushed stone and wild herbs in the background. It's round at first, with ripe peach and melon notes that focus into more tart citrus notes, finishing with more savory notes of herbs and fresh grass with a pop of acidity. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**89 Elena Walch 2022 Sauvignon (Alto Adige).** Mixed citrus, fresh white flower and wild herb aromas define the nose of this classical Sauvignon Blanc from Alto Adige. Laser-like acidity meets ripe Mandarin orange and husk cherry flavors, finishing with a distinct and intense mineral note. USA Wine West. —J.P. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**89 Pfitscher 2019 Rutter Gewürztraminer Riserva (Alto Adige).** Fresh and pretty aromas of cantaloupe, honey and wildflowers spill from the glass. The palate is vibrant, with stone fruit and crushed rock taking center stage. The wine finishes with subtle hints of rose and white pepper with a kiss of acidity. Vera Wine & Spirits. —J.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**88 Cantina Tramin 2022 Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** Wafting aromas of fresh apples, lilies and crushed stone gently pour out of the glass of this mountain Chardonnay. The palate is balanced between ripe orchard fruit notes and savory herbs with a creamy texture ending with lifted acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Cantina Tramin 2022 Selida Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige).** Intense aromas of mango, white peach, honeydew, rose water and lily bowl out of the glass. It's rich and round on the palate with a lush texture with flavors of beeswax, mango and apricot and finishes with a fresh green herbal note, giving the wine a balanced savory element. Winebow Imports. —J.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Castel Sallegg 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Alto Adige).** This intense Sauvignon Blanc leaps out of the glass with passion fruit, grapefruit zest, pith and tropical flowers giving it an almost heady



profile. The palate is electric, showing more ruby red grapefruit notes, lime leaf and white flowers with crisp and cool acidity on the finish. Keystone Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$9

**88 Mezzacorona 2022 Tolloy Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige).** This Pinot Bianco is like walking through an apple orchard at harvest time. Ripe aromas of McIntosh apples, fresh flowers and gravel pour from the glass. Clean and focused on the palate, the wine shows the vibrancy of the orchard fruits, lemon zest and minerality, giving depth to the wine. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88 Mezzacorona 2022 Tolloy Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Lifted aromas of apples still on the tree, lemons and lemon blossoms gently waft from the glass. It's bright, light and fresh on the palate, with citrus oil and green apples finishing with a zap of refreshing acidity. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88 Peter Zemmer 2020 Vigna Crivelli Riserva Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** Rich and full of baked apples and roasted lemons all surrounded by aromas of the brand-new oak used for aging the wine. It's rich and creamy on the palate, with spiced pears, lemon curd and bananas foster finishing with intense toasted acacia notes. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

**88 Rottensteiner 2021 Cancenai Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige).** This classic Gewürz hits all the key notes: rose, lychee, nectarine and minerality. It's round and plush on the palate, with notes of jasmine, citrus blossom and preserved peaches. Massanois Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**88 Rottensteiner 2021 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Lacy and wafting on the nose, this elegant Pinot Grigio opens with fresh white flowers, creamed pears, nectarines and wet gravel. Fresh apples and lemon zest give the palate a vibrancy that extends to the finish with a pop of acidity and minerality. Massanois Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**87 Cantina Tramin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige).** Aromas of yellow pears, white flowers and a hint of banana greet you from the moment the cork is pulled. The wine is light and fresh on the palate, with a mix of green and McIntosh apples giving way to hints of peach pit and beeswax. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$19

**86 Cantina Tramin 2022 Sauvignon (Alto Adige).** Upfront aromas of grapefruit, mango, sweet corn and white flowers leap out of the glass of this Sauvignon Blanc. The palate is vibrant

and tart with lemon and lime oil, lime leaf and a touch of minerality. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## ALTO ADIGE VALLE ISARCO

**96 Abbazia di Novacella 2021 Praepositus Sylvaner (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** It is hard to even nail down this wine; there are waves of flavor with notes of peach, tart apricots, apples, lime, orange blossom and wild mountain herbs. The palate is yummy in all the best ways, being upfront and complex. Notes of cantaloupe, jarred peaches, honey, spice and flint make this one dynamic wine. Drink now–2030. Abbazia di Novacella USA. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**95 Abbazia di Novacella 2021 Praepositus Kerner (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** This wine knows no boundaries. It is at once immediately delicious, exciting and interesting but also is still holding back, daring you to see what some age will do. Today, the wine is a cornucopia of Meyer lemon, nectarine, alpine flowers, fresh grass and pine, all brought together by a minerality that won't let you forget it. The palate is rich with fresh and baked peaches, kissed with sweet spices and lemongrass. Citrus oils and wet gravel add to the wine on the bright and vibrant finish. Drink now–2033. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**94 Abbazia di Novacella 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** This textbook example of great Pinot Grigio opens with aromas of apple flesh, wildflowers and citrus oils. Textural and giving yet bright and energetic, the wine hops back and forth between giving peach and melon notes and then crushed rock, bitter almond and delicate flowers. Vibrant acidity keeps the wine moving forward with each sip—it's a classic. Abbazia di Novacella USA. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**94 Abbazia di Novacella 2020 Praepositus Riesling (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** One of the benchmarks of Riesling from Alto Adige, the Praepositus has dynamic and enticing aromas of baked white peaches, McIntosh apples, pressed yellow flowers and slate. The palate at first seems rich, but the laser-like acidity swoops in and makes the wine as fresh as a cool mountain breeze. Textured, layered and complex, this wine is very special. Drink now–2030. Abbazia di Novacella USA. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**93 Abbazia di Novacella 2022 Kerner (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** Lemon and lime zest mixed with fresh green herbs, lemongrass and wildflowers leap out of the glass of this zippy and beautiful Kerner. Energetic on the palate, the wine doubles down on the lemon and lime note, with more savory

herbal notes showing up on the finish. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**93 Abbazia di Novacella 2021 Praepositus Grüner Veltliner (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** Ripe stone and orchard fruits bound out of the glass while subtle hints of dried flowers, spice and wet slate gently follow the upfront fruit notes. The bright and refreshing palate shows lemon zest, apricot, lemongrass, white pepper and very present minerality. The texture of the wine is captivating and adds to the long and impressive finish. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**91 Abbazia di Novacella 2021 Praepositus Gewürztraminer (Alto Adige Valle Isarco).** As if walking into a flower shop, this stunning Gewürztraminer from the Alto Adige delivers on all fronts. White and yellow rose, apricot and gravel notes emerge from the glass. This wine is medium in body with oodles of texture showing notes of melon, fresh herbs and exotic spices and finishing with a freshness that keeps the wine vibrant after each sip. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

## COLLIO

**92 Borgo del Tiglio 2020 Malvasia Italo & Bruno (Collio).** This classic Malvasia is engrossing with aromas of exotic flowers, tropical fruits, ripe melon and beeswax. Each sniff is a playground for the senses. Ripe and dried apricots, candied flower petals and mineral notes all work together on the palate to keep the senses engaged with each sip. Volio Vino. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$105

**92 Russiz Superiore 2021 Collio Sauvignon (Collio).** Pretty aromas of lilac, white peach, wild herbs and lime zest interplay in the glass, creating a stunning mosaic of aromas. Lemon and lime zest with passion fruit and crushed chalk give the palate a balance between fruit and minerality. The wine finishes with bright and fresh acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**91 Marco Felluga 2021 Maralba Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** A panoply of fruits greets you the moment you open the cork of this 100% Ribolla Gialla. Aromas of yellow peach, cantaloupe and McIntosh apple all weave in and out of the glass with subtle floral aromas lingering in the background. The palate is lively and fresh with a zing of acidity that electrifies the wine. A core of stone and orchard fruit are complemented by notes of crushed stone and gravel. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88 Marco Felluga 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Fresh peach, cantaloupe, lemon and white flowers define the nose of this fresh Sauvi-

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gnon Blanc. The palate is crisp but textured from extended lees contact. Tart stone fruits and citrus mix with notes of crushed stone and saltiness on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Marco Felluga 2021 Mongris Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Ripe and upfront, this Pinot Grigio shows the more unctuous side of the grape with aromas of baked pears, roasted bananas and dried yellow flowers. The palate is lush and round with warmed apples, cream and sweet spices. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**86 Vidussi 2021 Traminer Aromatico (Collio).** Canned peaches, warmed honey and white roses roll out of the glass. It's lush on the palate, showing notes of gravel, tropical fruits and melon, but finishes a touch short. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.P.

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

## VIGNETI DELLE DOLOMITI

**92 Alois Lageder 2020 Löwengang Chardonnay (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** The Löwengang Chardonnay is an icon of Italian Chardonnay and continues to show the dedication of the Lageder estate to producing the highest quality of wines. Aromas of spiced baked apples, Comice pears, candied lemon zest, white flowers and baking spices are present. The wine is rich and broad on the palate with a creamy texture and hints of vanilla and both sweet and savory spices. The wine finishes with the energy and pulse of the mountains, showing both the mineral edge and the important acidity that gives this wine the structure for the long haul. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Alois Lageder 2021 Porer Pinot Grigio (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** This may be one of the most captivating Pinot Grigios from Alto Adige. One-third of the wine was in contact with the skins and stems for roughly a year, giving the wine an earthy and mineral-driven nose that is supported by baked apple and dried wildflowers. The palate is dynamic and complex, seesawing between peach and pear, then wet gravel, savory spice and dried herbs, finishing with amazing texture. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

**91 Castelfeder 2021 Raif Sauvignon (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** Grown at 1,968 feet, this Sauvignon Blanc sees the extremes of mountain life. Lush and ripe tropical fruit aromas of passion fruit, guava, mixed citrus and wildflowers flow from the glass. The cool evenings atop the mountain give this wine its laser-like acidity and showcases the vibrancy of the wine with flavors of white peach, saline and crushed stone. Volio Vino. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Rottensteiner 2021 Kitz (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** As if being on top of a mountain, this wine's mineral-driven aromatics are fresh and energetic. Stone and slate notes give way to perfectly ripe apples and white flowers. The palate is focused and linear with green apple, mixed citrus and loads of minerality finishing with vibrant acidity. Massano Imports. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Tenuta San Leonardo 2022 Vette Sauvignon Blanc (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** This Sauvignon Blanc opens with aromas of yellow peach, fresh herbs and lemon zest. The palate pops with bright acidity followed by tropical fruit, savory spice and a touch of roasted honey flavors that are all supported by a textured palate that evolves as the wine opens. Vias Imports. —J.P.

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

**89 Mezzacorona 2021 Chardonnay (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** Energetic and lifted aromatics greet you immediately on this fun Chardonnay. Aromas of green and Fuji apple mix with white peach and white flowers. The palate is a solid example of mountain Chardonnay with ample fruit, roasted nuts and a touch of wild herb, finishing with crisp acidity. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

**88 Infiné 1939 2020 At Last Cuvée Bianco (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** Juicy peach aromas leap out of the glass of this plush and plump white wine. The fruit aromas make room for dried flowers, wet slate and hints of wild herbs as the wine opens. It's round on the palate, with a soft texture showing more preserved stone fruits and creamy pears. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$51

## VENEZIA GIULIA

**91 Tenuta Luisa 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Venezia Giulia).** Upfront aromas of ripe peach, wild mint and freshly picked wildflowers open the nose of this pretty wine. Blanched almonds and ripe apricots are generous on the palate of this wine, which wraps up with a pop of acidity giving the wine a clean and laser-like finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Fantinel 2021 Tenuta Sant'Helena Ribolla Gialla (Venezia Giulia).** Loads of freshly picked pear and white nectarine pop out of the glass from the easy-to-enjoy Ribolla Gialla. As the wine develops in the glass, hints of white flowers entice you deeper into the glass. The palate highlights the stone fruits with a touch of lemon zest and finishes with a stone slab note that is reminiscent of a quarry. Volio Imports. —J.P.

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

**88 La Roncaia 2021 Eclisse Bianco (Venezia Giulia).** A blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% of the rare Picolit, this wine is a unique treasure from Friuli. Aromas of beeswax, cooked

peaches and drying flowers waft from the glass. The palate is creamy and waxy, with baked pears, honey and roasted nuts finishing with trademark Sauvignon Blanc acidity. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87 I Feudi di Romans 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Venezia Giulia).** White peach, green apple and bitter almond aromas define the nose of this 100% Ribolla Gialla. It's clean and crisp on the palate, with more focus on green apple and lemon zest, with a touch of minerality on the finish. This is an easy and versatile wine. Santa Maria Imports. —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## DELLE VENEZIE

**88 Cà di Rajo 2021 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Roasted orchard fruits with baked lemons, sweet spices and dried white flowers open the nose of this intriguing Pinot Grigio. Long lees contact gives the wine significant texture and roundness on the palate, with fleshy McIntosh apple flavors followed by notes of saline and crushed rock and enough acidity to balance the richness of the wine. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87 Bosco del Merlo 2022 Tudajo Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** This Pinot Grigio is upfront with aromas of ripe Golden Delicious apples, lemon zest and fresh lilies with a hint of stone. Crisp and bright acidity greets the palate with a core of green apple and Bosc pear, with a touch of almond on the finish. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Cabert 2022 Villa San Martino Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Fresh orchard fruits, white flowers and steely minerality waft from the glass of this classic Pinot Grigio. It's round on the palate with a soft texture and fruit-forward focus. Ideal Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Zenato 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** This light and refreshing Pinot Grigio opens with lemon candy, green apple and spring flower notes. The palate is soft and easy, with notes of pear drops and lemon oil, and finishes with ripe peach skin. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Paladin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Light and fresh, this Pinot Grigio opens with aromas of red apples, Bosc pear and white flowers. Fruit is forward and soft on the palate, highlighting the ripe orchard fruits with a touch of lemon zest on the finish. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Santa Cristina 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** This light Pinot Grigio opens with wafting white floral and lemon zest aromas with a subtle hint of wet gravel. It's tart and crisp on the

palate, with notes of lemon, tart apricot and bitter almond. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**85** **Piera Martellozzo 2022 Blu Giovello Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Straightforward and easy, this fresh and fruit-forward Pinot Grigio offers fresh apples, lemon zest and fresh herbs on the nose. The cool and crisp palate follows the nose with a gentle, light finish. Tuscany Wines Import. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**85** **Villa Puccini 2021 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Baked apples with sweet spices and candied lemon zest form the primary aromas of this Pinot Grigio. The palate highlights fresh citrus, wildflowers and a touch of bitter almond. WinesU. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

## FRIULI

**88** **Bosco del Merlo 2022 Turrano Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli).** If you are looking for an intense and aromatic Sauvignon Blanc, this is for you! The wine opens with ripe passion fruit, ruby red grapefruit and freshly cut leafy herbs. The palate is just as expressive, with flavors of tart apricots and white flowers finishing with a present minerality. Serendipity Wines TX. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Fantinel 2021 Borgo Tesis Pinot Grigio (Friuli).** This white is pretty and lively on the nose, with fresh and ripe orchard fruits, yellow broom and citrus zest. The palate is bright with green apple skin, pressed flowers and a hint of minerality. Volio Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**83** **Cabert 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli).** Simple and fresh with creamy pear and citrus zest aromas on the nose, this wine is clean and crisp with subtle green apple, herb and mineral notes. Vos Vinum Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

## ISONZO DEL FRIULI

**93** **Vie di Romans 2020 Dessimis Pinot Grigio (Friuli Isonzo).** This copper-colored Pinot Grigio (better known as Ramato in Friuli) is a pure delight. Aromas of strawberry and cherry mix with peach and crisp apples as if the best fruit salad were in your glass. Subtle hints of mint, fresh flowers and sweet spice dance between the fruit aromas. The palate is forward but is pulled together with a nervy strain of acidity from beginning to end. This is a wine that crosses so many culinary boundaries that it warrants experimenting and having some fun. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**89** **Lis Neris 2019 Jurosa Chardonnay (Isonzo del Friuli).** Rich and ripe, this Chardonnay highlights fleshy and juicy orchard and tropical fruits mixed with baking spices and crème fraîche. The palate is full-on yet balanced with enough acidity to keep the wine's rich and ripe fruit from not fully dominating the wine. If you love rich and full-bodied Chardonnays with ample fruit and a creamy texture, grab this wine. Wine Twist. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**88** **Lis Neris 2020 Gris Pinot Grigio (Isonzo del Friuli).** This is bold and forward Pinot Grigio with a golden color and ripe aromas of baked apples covered in clove and cinnamon, fresh cream and dried yellow flowers. The rich palate is lush and creamy with baked spiced pears, roasted lemon and Key lime notes followed by a hint of peach pit and crushed stones. Wine Twist. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**88** **Lis Neris 2020 Picol Sauvignon Blanc (Isonzo del Friuli).** Wild herbs, wildflowers and mixed citrus aromas open this fresh and classic Sauvignon Blanc. The palate shows more stone fruit notes with tart apricot followed by a distinct rocky and mineral note. Wine Twist. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**87** **Lis Neris 2020 La Vila Friulano (Isonzo del Friuli).** Baked McIntosh apples drizzled with acacia flower honey and lemon zest aromas pour out of the glass of this forward Friulano. It's round and lush on the palate, with preserved peaches, roasted nuts and crushed stone finishing with a pop of acidity. Wine Twist. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**86** **Tenuta Luisa 2021 Pinot Grigio (Isonzo del Friuli).** Easygoing and fresh out of the gate, this Pinot Grigio is generous in its fruit-forward aromatics of fresh green apple, lemon and white peach. Subtle hints of white flower mingle between the core of the fruit. The palate is bright and fresh, carrying the aromas straight onto the palate. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

## TRENTINO

**92** **Tenuta San Leonardo 2019 Riesling (Trentino).** The nose of this Riesling is penetrating and visceral with aromas of preserved peaches, pressed mountain flowers and heady petrol vapors. The palate is lush with creamy tart pears, apricot and jasmine flavors finishing with intense minerality and classic Riesling acidity. Drink now–2035. Vias Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$63

**88** **Fondazione Edmund Mach 2021 Chardonnay (Trentino).** This classically styled Chardonnay evokes aromas and flavors of roasted apples with lemons, sweet baking spices and a hint of roasted pineapple. The palate mirrors the nose nearly per-

fectly with an added note of dried aromatic white flowers. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**88** **Mezzacorona 2020 Oaked Riserva Chardonnay (Trentino).** Opulent and rich on the nose, this Chardonnay opens with aromas of baked apples and roasted citrus with vanilla and clove notes from the time spent in the barrel. It's creamy and mouthfilling on the palate, with notes of lemon curd, Comice pear and roasted almonds. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## SPARKLING WINES

**92** **Cantina Toblino 2015 Vent Riserva Extra Brut (Trento).** Baked apples, fresh pie crust and warmed honey drizzled over roasted almonds waft from the glass of this 100% Chardonnay sparkling wine. The palate highlights the baked orchard fruits with an added touch of lemon curd, with the long lees aging giving the wine added texture and finishing with taut and crisp acidity. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Blancjat NV Frizzante Sur Lie Glera (Venezia Giulia).** Lemon, green apple, fresh white flowers and a touch of thyme flow from the glass on this Colfondo Glera. Notes of apple cider, sour green apples and crushed rocks show themselves on the palate with a hint of chamomile on the bright finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$28

**88** **Cantina Toblino 2018 Vent Extra Brut (Trento).** This 100% Chardonnay classic method sparkling wine opens with ripe aromas of red apples, fresh cream, almond brioche and stone. The palate is crisp and focused, with a hint of green apple skin that gives way to a more lush creamy pear note followed by a leesy and yeasty richness. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Cantina Toblino 2017 Antares Brut Rosé (Trento).** This light pale rosato dances between aromas of freshly picked apples and wild strawberries, with hints of wild mint adding more depth to the nose. The palate is bright and fresh with tart hints of cherry and an elegant and fine finish. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94** **Alois Lageder 2021 Versalto Pinot Bianco (Mitterberg).** This wine is both serious and immediately enjoyable at the same time. The grapes were sourced from four different vineyard sites, each giving a unique profile to the wine. Together they shine as a whole in this wine, with aromas of mixed fresh apples, crushed stones, lemon rind and freshly picked flowers. The palate is layered and nuanced, and so much is going on that you might



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have to take a breath. Driven by minerality on the palate and supported by fresh and baked pears, apples and citrus, this is a stellar wine. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**94 Livio Felluga 2020 Terre Alte (Rosazzo).** This dynamic wine has helped define the greatness of the wines from Friuli. This blend of Friulano, Pinot Bianco and Sauvignon shines with notes of passion fruit, white peach and mixed citrus zest. As the wine evolves, it opens to show wild green herbs, pressed wildflowers, ginger and a creamy texture that all lead to a minerally driven finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$110

**91 Maison Vevey Albert 2020 Blanc de Morgex et de La Salle Prié Blanc (Valle d'Aosta).** Grown high in the Alps, this wine smells as if you are on top of a mountain with fresh air, rocky minerality all around and wild herbs. As the wine opens, notes of fresh pear and lemon oil develop. The palate is crisp and energetic with nectarine, honey and nervy acidity all wrapped up together. Blue House Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 La Roncaia 2021 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Colli Orientali).** Ripe golden apples, lemon peel, yellow flowers and crushed rock all combine on the nose of this classic Pinot Grigio. It's textured on the palate, with layers of ripe apple, melon and apricot finishing with a pop of acidity on the finish. Volio Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Marinushof 2021 Riesling (Südtirol Vinschgau).** Delicate white flowers and perfectly ripe apples define the nose of this elegant Riesling from Alto Adige. As the wine opens, aromas of petrol and wet gravel emerge. The palate is round and mouthwatering, with vibrant acidity that works well with the ripe nectarine and peach pit flavors. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**90 Tenuta La Ghiaia 2019 Ithaa Vermentino (Liguria).** This macerated wine shows baked apples, saffron, white tea and chamomile on the nose. The exotic palate shows roasted pineapple and candied orange rind and finishes with a slight tannic edge and sea salt. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Terlato 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Colli Orientali).** Lifted and fresh aromas of green and Golden Delicious apples with subtle hints of lemon peel and white flowers grace the glass. The fleshy palate is generous with mixed stone fruits and blanched almonds, finishing with a pop of acidity. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**87 Colli Di Poianis 2021 Gli Stormi Ribolla Gialla (Colli Orientali del Friuli).** Ripe pear, white flowers and a touch of savory herbs waft from the

glass of this Ribolla Gialla. It's textured on the palate, with notes of peach skin, green apple and wet gravel. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**87 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2021 Scaia (Trevenezie).** Very forward aromas of McIntosh apples, citrus blossom, fresh honey and white flowers leap from the glass of this pretty wine. It's easy on the palate, with a core of pears and lemons ending round and plush. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Torre di Luna 2021 Chardonnay (Trevenezie).** This easy-drinking and pleasing Chardonnay has upfront aromas of both green and red apples and roasted lemon rind. The palate is fresh and vibrant with Granny Smith apple notes dominating the palate with a subtle yet important minerality on the finish. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**86 Colli Di Poianis 2021 Gli Stormi Friulano (Colli Orientali del Friuli).** Easy and straightforward, this Friulano shows the fresh peach, wildflowers and almond notes that define this grape. Crushed stone and bright acidity are highlights on the palate, which finishes with a slight hint of herbs on the finish. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**86 Gran Passione 2021 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Grave).** Light and wafting aromas of fresh white flowers, lemon zest and green apples are found on the nose of this easy Pinot Grigio. The palate shows creamy and ripe pear flavors with a subtle touch of minerality. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## ROSÉS

**90 Tenuta San Leonardo 2022 Gemma di San Leonardo Lagrein Rosato (Trentino).** Bright and fresh from the moment you pull the cork, this 100% Lagrein rosato is packed full of aromas of sour cherries, wild herbs and a touch of saltiness. The palate is refreshing and lively, focusing on notes of pomegranate and watermelon, finishing with mouthwatering acidity. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Bosco del Merlo 2022 Pinot Grigio Rosé (Delle Venezie).** Forward and upfront, the nose of this pink Pinot Grigio opens with aromas of red nectarine, cherry and a touch of wildflowers. The palate is zippy, with fresh acidity mimicking tart red fruits and finishing with a hint of salinity, making you grab for another glass. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**87 Paladin 2021 Pinot Grigio Rosé (Delle Venezie).** Gentle aromas of red apple skin and fresh white flowers define this wine. The palate is

tart with a vibrant acidity leading to a clean, crisp and fresh finish. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## NORTHEAST ITALY

### RED WINES

#### ALTO ADIGE

**94 Abbazia di Novacella 2019 Praepositus Pinot Nero Riserva (Alto Adige).** Since the late 1100s (yes, the 1100s), Abbazia di Novacella has been working the land and making wine on the steep hills of Alto Adige. The Praepositus wines represent the best of the estate and they deliver. Deep aromas of black cherry, rosewood, laurel and oak spice permeate the glass. Lush, warmed wild berries and silky-smooth tannins glide onto the palate with ease, evolving into earth, cedar and tea notes, finishing with the acidity needed to keep the lush fruit in balance. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Colterenzio 2021 Lagrein (Alto Adige).** This inky dark Lagrein opens with deep and dark aromas of plum and blackberry mixed with savory spices with a distinct crushed rock note. It's round and plush on the palate, with blueberry, violet and white pepper being supported by fine tannins with a bright acidity on the finish. Ideal Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Abbazia di Novacella 2019 Praepositus Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige).** Blackberry jam, spearmint and white pepper leap out of the glass of this impressive Lagrein. Forward and present clove, cinnamon and anise spices waft from the glass as the wine opens, showing the presence of oak. The palate is packed full of plum pie, black currant and candied violets that coalesce around a mineral-driven and mouthwatering finish. Drink now–2033. Abbazia di Novacella USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Gottardi 2015 Blauburgunder Riserva (Alto Adige).** This Pinot Noir shows off the warmth of the 2015 vintage with dark cherry, ripe raspberry and cola aromas. After a bit of time in the glass the wine will highlight the more earthy, floral and savory notes. The palate is lush and rich with loads of ripe fruit flavors and dried mushrooms. This wine is firm with oak tannins being very present with a warm and rich finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$117

#### OTHER RED WINES

**92 Mezzacorona 2021 Pinot Nero (Trentino).** At first, this wine is a touch shy, but with a little time in the glass it shows just how Pinot Noir from northern Italy can shine. Bing cherry meets cranberry with alpine herbs and just a kiss of sweet

spice defining the core of the aromatics. Earthy notes and hints of black tea mingle with strawberry and clove on the palate followed by fine tannins and the expected spark of acidity from a mountain wine. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**91 Mezzacorona 2020 Tolloy Pinot Noir (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** Dark and ripe wild berries combine with clove and star anise in this ripe and lush Pinot Noir from the mountains of Alto Adige. Within a few moments, the wine shows notes of dried herbs, turned earth and forest floor. The palate emulates the nose with oak tannins letting their presence be known on the finish. This wine is a solid example of alpine Pinot Noir and with a little more time in the bottle will reward those who are patient. Drink 2025–2030. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**90 Mezzacorona 2021 Pinot Noir (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** This mountain-grown Pinot Noir opens with vibrant high-toned red fruit, fresh bay leaf and crushed stone. Well-balanced with sour cherry notes mixing seamlessly with subtle mushroom and earthy notes, it finishes with just the right amount of acidity. Give it a little chill and you will be well rewarded. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## VENETO

### SPARKLING WINES

**90 Barollo Winery 2015 Alfredo Barollo Riserva Metodo Classico (Veneto).** Aged for over 72 months on the lees and made from 100% Chardonnay, this traditional method sparkler from the Veneto has aromas of baked apples, dried yellow flowers, ginger spice, cream and loads of fresh doughy bread. The palate is layered with more pear flavors with roasted lemon peel and almond, finishing with a tart creaminess that evokes crême fraîche. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$46

**90 Casa Belfi NV Naturalmente Frizzante (Veneto).** Superfun and exciting, this Raboso opens with aromas of mixed floral notes giving way to sour and candied cherries with subtle mixed herbs. The palate is refreshing, with tart red fruits, dried raspberries, black tea and rosebud, finishing with fine tannins and bright acidity. Critical Mass Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Mary Taylor 2021 Frizzante (Veneto).** This fun wine is full of enticing aromas that get the senses firing on all cylinders. Aromas of fresh lemon, lemon oil and wet slate with a leesy yeast note pour from the glass. The palate is packed with fresh, ripe orchard fruits and yellow roses to finish with a bright pop of acidity. Mary Taylor Wine. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$12

**88 Nino Franco 2020 Faive Rosé Brut (Veneto).** Out of the gates, this wine is full of ripe strawberries and raspberries that never seem to stop. Subtle hints of wild herbs and flowers support the lush core of fruit both on the nose and the palate. It's creamy and textured, with luscious bubbles and a bright finish. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$30

### PROSECCO

**90 Cà di Rajo NV Extra Dry (Prosecco Treviso).** This energetic Prosecco opens with aromas of tart green apples, jasmine and crushed stone. The palate is refreshing and the mousse is refined for such a value-centric wine. Hints of McIntosh apples and candied citrus zest round out the wine, which ends with a bright and snappy finish. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**90 Cà di Rajo 2021 Millesimato Rosé Brut (Prosecco Treviso).** Sour cherries, cranberries and wild raspberries jump out of the glass of this fresh and buoyant Prosecco rosé. This sparkler is jovial on the palate and easily showcases the core of the fruit found on the nose with a subtle floral hint. It finishes with zippy acidity and superfine bubbles. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Mionetto NV Brut (Prosecco Treviso).** For full review see page 25. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**90 Villa Sandi NV La Rivetta 120 Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Energetic and zippy, this single vineyard Prosecco has aromas of fresh apples, jasmine, lemon zest and crushed stones. The palate pops with crisp acidity with notes of Granny Smith apple and tart melon, finishing with a fine and persistent perlage. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Zardetto NV Extra Dry (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This is one of the Proseccos that started it all! It's vibrant and fresh with superfruity notes that are driven by fresh apple, melon and stone fruit aromas with a touch of white flowers. The palate is slightly sweet but with enough acidity to keep the palate fresh while you concentrate on all the forward pear, apple and lemon drop notes. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 La Tordera 2021 Brunei Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco).** This lively Prosecco opens with aromas of fresh apples, freshly cut flowers, wet gravel and mint. The palate is gentle with peach, pear and lemon flavors finishing with a bright zip of acidity. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Montinore NV Vivacé Made with Organic Grapes Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Clean, fresh and fruity, this easy-drinking Prosecco gives you what you want with aromas of fresh apples, white flowers and a hint of ginger. Soft bubbles gently roll on the palate to show green apple, candied lemon zest and honeydew, finishing with a touch of sweetness. Montinore Estates. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Paladin 2022 Rosé Brut (Prosecco).** Electric pink in color with aromas of red apple skin, tart berries and rosebuds, this is refined and vibrant on the palate, with a fresh core of tart red fruits and wild herbs, finishing with a well-defined perlage. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Zardetto NV Long Charmat Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Ripe honeydew, yellow peach and red apple leap from the glass of this Prosecco. The palate is vibrant and fresh with the combined fruit flavors showcasing a great fruit salad with a touch of lemon and finishing with a creamy and persistent perlage. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27

**88 Bisol 2021 Crede Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This sparkler is classic in its style, with forward fruitiness defined by pear, apple and peach. The palate shows this mélange of fruits but adds more nuance with hints of white flowers, fresh green herbs and wet gravel. It's clean and crisp on the finish, with a soft and gentle perlage. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Cabert NV Extra Dry (Prosecco).** This wine opens with aromas of Fuji apples, Bartlett pears and wildflowers. It's fresh and crisp, with notes of green apple skin and mixed citrus on a soft and creamy palate. Vos Vinum Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$22

**88 Candoni NV Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Mixed ripe apples, lemon blossom and candied lemon zest waft from the glass on this fresh Prosecco. The wine is creamy on the palate, hinting at notes of Comice pear and finishing with a bright pop of acidity. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$16

**88 Candoni NV Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Fresh, fruity and forward, this Prosecco pops with crisp apple aromas that give way to subtle hints of white flowers and lemon zest. The palate offers Bosc pear, wild broom, ginger and a mineral edge with a fruity finish. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**88 La Marca NV (Prosecco).** This sparkler is fresh and fruity on the nose, with aromas of a mixed bushel of ripe apples, along with freshly cut white flowers and lemon zest, making this an easy

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wine to like. It's forward and soft on the palate, with more of a creamy pear note, finishing with a touch of yellow peach. E. & J. Gallo. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

**88 Mionetto NV Made With Organic Grapes Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Ripe apples and citrus blossom define the nose of this lively Prosecco. Nectarine and apricot combine with ripe honeydew on the palate, finishing with a pop of refreshing acidity giving the wine the balance it needs. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$16

**88 Mionetto 2021 Rosé Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Wild strawberry, cranberry and a touch of wild herbs open this soft and gentle sparkler. It's fresh and vibrant on the palate with tart cherries and sour red plum, finishing with soft yet persistent bubbles. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**88 Villa Sandi 2021 Millesimato 2021 Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Wafting aromas of green apple, jasmine, ginger and white rocks define the nose of this Prosecco. The core of the wine is a mélange of peach, pear and orange finishing with a gentle yet persistent perlage. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

**88 Villa Sandi NV Brut (Asolo Prosecco Superiore).** This Prosecco is brimming with aromas of freshly cut Golden Delicious apples, wildflowers, honeysuckle and mint. The wine is generous with ripe peach and melon notes on the palate, finishing with a note of green apple skin and soft bubbles. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$19

**87 Francis Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Rosé Extra Dry (Prosecco).** This soft and gentle wine offers breezy aromas of wild red berries, baby roses and cherry candy. The palate focuses on a note of macerated strawberries followed by a hint of fresh flowers, finishing slightly off-dry. Delicato Family Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$16

**87 Gooseneck NV Extra Dry (Prosecco).** Fresh and fruity, this upfront and easy Prosecco hits all the notes with fresh apples, pears and a touch of lemon on the nose. The palate is cool and crisp with a creamy palate texture focused on orchard fruits and soft bubbles. Wickford Wine Company. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Luna NV Brut (Prosecco).** Green apples, tart peach and fresh white flowers define this easy Prosecco. Light on the palate with bubbles that are as light as a feather, this Prosecco makes for an easy garden party or picnic wine with its forward and fruity palate and pop of acidity on the finish. Blicher Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**87 Paladin 2022 Extra Dry (Prosecco).** If you could bottle fresh apples, this is what it would smell like. Fruity and forward, the wine is giving and easy. The palate is light and fresh, continuing with mixed orchard fruits and hints of white flowers. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$17

**87 Piera Martellozzo 2021 Clâr Delune Rosé (Prosecco).** Fresh apples and strawberries are at the center of this fresh and fruit-forward rosé Prosecco. The palate is refreshing with crisp bright acidity, soft bubbles and a fruity finish. Tuscany Wines Import. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Villa Sandi NV Extra Dry Superiore (Valdobbiadene Prosecco).** Aromas of freshly cut apples and peaches with a squeeze of lemon on them flow out of the glass of this fresh Prosecco. It's creamy on the palate, with pear, melon and white flowers along with gentle bubbles. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

**86 Bosco del Merlo 2022 Millesimato Brut (Prosecco).** Loads of wildflowers, freshly cut ginger, wild herbs and tart green apples open this peppy Prosecco. The sparkler is light and tingly, with soft bubbles that dance on the palate. The wine's flavors mirror the nose to perfection. Franco Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Bosco del Merlo 2022 Millesimato Brut Rosé (Prosecco).** With wafting aromas of strawberry, cranberry and red apple skin, this Prosecco is light and easy on the palate, with hints of apple and tart cherry. It finishes soft and gentle. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Cabert 2022 Rosé Extra Dry (Prosecco).** The wine is driven by pretty floral aromas that give way to raspberry and sour cherry notes. It's fresh on the palate with loads of tart red fruits. A gentle perlage gives the wine a creamy and soft texture. Bravo Wine Cellar. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Francis Coppola NV Diamond Collection Extra Dry (Prosecco).** This straightforward and easy Prosecco opens with aromas of Golden Delicious apples, wild ginger and freshly cut flowers. The palate is dedicated almost solely to orchard fruits, finishing with soft and easy bubbles. Delicato Family Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$16

**86 Gran Passione NV (Prosecco).** This Prosecco jumps from the bottle with fruity aromas of apple, pear and peach giving way to an almost birthday cake aroma. The palate is fresh with more pear and melon notes and a touch of fresh white flowers followed by soft and gentle bubbles. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**86 Latransa NV Cuvée Silver Brut Rosé (Prosecco).** Light and lifted with sour cherry, strawberry and a hint of rose on the nose, this sparkler offers a creamy palate with ample amounts of red berry fruits that give way to a foamy and persistent perlage. The Marchetti Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

**86 Villa Sandi NV Il Fresco (Prosecco).** This easygoing and fun Prosecco has aromas of ripe red apples, lily and wet gravel. The foamy palate pops with zippy acidity and tart green apples. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER SPARKLING WINE

**92 Bisol 2021 Cartizze Dry (Valdobbiadene Superiore di Cartizze).** The Cartizze Vineyard is the crown jewel of Bisol. They farm seven acres on this special site and produce a vibrant wine. Crisp green apple, white peach, lily and wild herb aromas spill out of the glass. The palate pops with fresh acidity, green pear and honeydew and finishes with a noticeable minerality showing the importance of this vineyard site. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$56

## VENETO WHITE WINES SOAVE CLASSICO

**96 Pieropan 2021 50 Anniversario Calvarino (Soave Classico).** For full review see page 4. Maze Row Wine Merchant. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**95 Pieropan 2021 La Rocca (Soave Classico).** For full review see page 6. Maze Row Wine Merchant. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**94 Pieropan 2020 La Rocca (Soave Classico).** This wine is so complex and intriguing you have to just sit with it. Aromas of roasted apples drizzled with honey, dried flowers and candied orange zest are just the tip of the wine. It continues to evolve until you run out and want more. The palate has an amazing texture with weight yet acidity to balance out the richness of the ripe orchard fruits, baking spices and orange blossom flavors. Enjoy it now or be rewarded with more time in the cellar. Drink now—2035. Maze Row Wine Merchant. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**92 Pieropan 2022 (Soave Classico).** For full review see page 15. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88 Corte Adami 2020 CimAlta (Soave Classico).** Orange blossom, white peach and honey



waft from the glass once this wine is poured. It's bright and clean, with apple, apricot, bitter orange and almond on the palate. Blue House Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**92 Monte del Frà 2018 Bonomo Sexaginta (Cus-toza).** Grown just south of Lake Garda, this dynamic blend of Garganega, Cortese and Trebbiano presents a mélange of fruit and savory notes in harmony. Spiced pear, preserved apricot and orange blossom waft from the glass, opening into a hint of herbs and crushed stone. The palate is layered with notes of honey, citrus rind and fresh herbs all leading to a long and giving finish. Drink now–2030. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Selva Capuzza 2021 Campo Del Soglio (San Martino della Battaglia).** Intriguing and captivating, this Friulano grabs you from the start with aromas of fresh and dried white flowers, ripe nectarine and stony minerality. The palate is round yet focused with bright acidity and shines a light on the flavors of white peach, fresh Fuji apple and hints of almond with honey, finishing with a crisp and taught finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Casa Belfi NV Bianco (Veneto).** This exciting and joyous wine made from 100% Incrocio Manzoni (say that three times) bounds out of the glass with aromas of ripe peaches, chamomile and wild herbs. Popping with vibrant acidity, the wine showcases mixed apples on the palate with a sustained mineral finish. Critical Mass Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88 Bosco del Merlo 2022 Bricola Chardonnay (Venezia).** Fresh mixed apples, baked lemons and hints of fresh bread with sweet spices open from the glass of this easy Chardonnay. It's well-structured, with fine acidity showing loads of orchard fruit and finishing with a salty mineral note. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Cloud Watcher 2021 Pinot Grigio (Valdadige).** Fresh and fruit-forward, this energetic Pinot Grigio delivers fresh apple, pear and citrus notes on the nose. The palate continues the orchard fruit profile with lemon blossom on the nose, finishing with fresh acidity. The Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Serego Alighieri 2020 Possessioni Bianco (Veneto).** This easy and fun white from Veneto combines the historic grape of Garganega with the world-famous Sauvignon Blanc. Together they make a fresh and fruit-forward wine with aromas of fresh apples, tart peaches and freshly cut white flowers. The palate is crisp with green apple

notes, blanched almonds and a hint of minerality. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Bosco del Merlo 2021 Bricola Chardonnay (Venezia).** Herbal notes open the nose of this Chardonnay, which also reveals hints of pine, lemon SweetTarts and ripe pear. It's tart and fresh on the palate, with flavors centered on sour green apples with baked lemon rind and a touch of wildflowers. Franco Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**86 Monte del Frà 2017 Colombara da uva Garganega (Veronese).** Aromas of mango, orange and magnolia flowers along with a touch of crushed rocks define the nose of this wine. The palate has a tarter note of mixed citrus with a nuttiness and a volcanic rock note on the finish. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## ROSÉ WINES

**88 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2021 Rosato (Veneto).** Wafting aromas of strawberries and tart cherries bound from the glass of this rosato. The nose translates directly to the easy and fun palate, with the addition of fresh herbs and floral tones. It's bright and fresh on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Zenato 2022 (Bardolino Chiaretto).** Light and refreshing aromas of strawberry and raspberry with a subtle hint of rose rise from the glass. Tart red currant and sour cherry flavors pop on the palate of this refreshing and easy-to-drink rosato that finishes with a touch of fresh thyme, giving a solid savory balance to the wine. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## VENETO RED WINES

### VALPOLICELLA

**90 SalvaTerra 2018 Superiore Ripasso (Valpolicella).** Ripe raspberry and tart cherry mixed with dried chili, wild herbs and tobacco leaf are all present at once on the nose of this interesting wine. The wine is gentle and soft on the palate but shows depth and complexity with a balance between ripe red fruit, herbal, floral and earth flavors, making it very intriguing. Salvaterra USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Tedeschi 2021 Lucchine (Valpolicella).** This is classic and fun-loving Valpolicella with aromas of fresh cherries, red currants and fresh purple flowers. The palate is well-balanced and gives equal time to savory and herbal flavors as well as the fresh red fruits that drive the wine. Bright

acidity and soft tannins on the finish make this an easy everyday wine. It's good with a slight chill on it. Tedeschi USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2021 Nanfrè (Valpolicella).** The nose of this Valpolicella opens with a mix of fresh, candied and preserved cherries with subtle hints of fresh herbs and underbrush in the background. The wine is very primary on the palate and focused on the upfront red fruit characteristics. It's easy and superdrinkable now. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

### VALPOLICELLA SUPERIORE

**93 Dal Forno Romano 2016 (Valpolicella Superiore).** Dense and concentrated aromas of blackberry compote, macerated plums with star anise, cocoa dust and freshly turned earth stake their claim in the glass of this powerful wine. Youthful, this wine shows the upfront new oak notes and tannins, but the core of black fruit stands its ground and is supported by a mixture of savory herbs and dried violets on the finish. Drink 2025–2035. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$121

**89 Zenato 2020 (Valpolicella Superiore).** Macerated red and blue fruit sprinkled with fresh and dried herbs waft from the glass of this classic Valpolicella. A balanced palate highlights a core of warmed ripe cherries, thyme and fresh tobacco that finish with ripe and gentle tannins. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Ca' Botta 2018 Torcinato (Valpolicella Superiore).** Espresso grounds, moss and roasted black cherries define the aromas of this Valpolicella. The wine evolves on the palate, giving bitter chocolate, fresh wild herbs and sour plum. It's rich but balanced with the right amount of acidity to keep the palate fresh. 8 Vini, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

### VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO

**89 Monte del Frà 2021 Tenuta Lena di Mezzo (Valpolicella Classico).** Playful aromas of cherry, red sour plum and purple flowers bounce around in the glass like joyful kids at a playground. It's juicy and well-balanced on the palate with tart red fruits evolving into a mix of fresh herbs and freshly turned earth and finishing with ripe tannins and crisp acidity. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 SalvaTerra 2017 Classico (Valpolicella Classico).** Aromas of spiced prunes, dried fig, star anise and cinnamon stick waft from the glass of this Valpolicella Classico. Savory flavors of ground coffee, forest floor and dried herbs are the focal

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point of the palate, with dried fruits and flowers in the background. Salvaterra USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$35

**88 Speri 2021 (Valpolicella Classico).** Tart strawberries, cranberries and strawberry tops mixed with fresh earth and wild herbs define the nose of this fresh Valpolicella. Tart red fruits dominate the core of the palate with hints of sweet tobacco, cherrywood and dried herbs on the savory and vibrant finish. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE

**93 Tommasi 2020 Rafaël (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** For full review see page 11. Vin-tus LLC. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**91 Buglioni 2019 (I'm) Perfetto (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** This Valpolicella is unique in that a portion of the wine has been dried (like in Amarone) for a little over a month. This blend of fresh and dried immediately shows on the palate with aromas of tart red cherries and then dried black cherries mixed with sweet and savory spices, dried flowers and fresh tobacco. The palate mirrors the nose and is lush but pops with vibrant acidity on the finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**91 Buglioni 2019 44 Verticale (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** Reserved at first, the wine begins to open with a diversity of red, blue and black fruit aromas that span the realm of fresh off the tree to compote. Savory spices begin to emerge alongside subtle hints of underbrush. The palate pops with more tart and red-driven fruit notes mixed with wild fresh herbs, bitter chocolate and a fresh bouquet of flowers. It's plush but has a structure that holds each component in its place. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$47

**90 Speri 2019 Sant'Urbano (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** Wild strawberries and sweet and savory spices along with turned earth waft from the glass of this pretty Valpolicella. It's savory on the palate with herbal notes and dried violets taking center stage and fresh and dried sour cherries playing supporting roles. The wine finishes with fine and easy tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2019 La Bandina (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** Ripe cherry macerated with clove and savory herbs flow from the glass. The wine is mouthfilling with notes of plum and strawberry integrated with cocoa powder, dried leaf and subtle savory herbs. It finishes with a bright pop of acidity, keeping the wine fresh. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## VALPOLICELLA RIPASSO SUPERIORE

**90 Zenato 2019 Ripassa (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore).** For full review see page 20. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Ca' Botta 2017 Costa Rossa (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore).** This wine opens with a dense core of black cherry and plum mixed with both savory and sweet herbs that give way to a very delicate violet note. The palate continues the upfront fruity nature of black fruits with more developed notes of dried leaf, stony minerality and fresh black tea. Soft tannins with a vibrant pop of acidity on the finish keep each glass refreshing and interesting. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**88 Domenico Fraccaroli 2018 Grotta Del Ninfeo (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore).** Wildflowers and mixed red and blue fruit aromas lift from the glass. Subtle herbal notes arise from this pretty wine after a few swirls in the glass to give it a more complex edge. The palate is soft and plush with an almost cherry pie-like flavor giving way to notes of baking chocolate, freshly ground coffee and wild herbs. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**88 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2019 Monti Garbi (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore).** Polished and vibrant, this enticing wine is expressive on the nose with aromas of ripe cherries, candied plums and blackberries. Faint hints of violet and dried herbs develop over time in the glass. The palate pops with bright sour cherry notes and hints of dried tobacco leaves and savory spices. Gentle and soft, the wine finishes with light tannins, making it easy to drink. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE RIPASSO

**90 Buglioni 2019 Il Bugiardo (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso).** Focused and lively mixed wild berries—some fresh and some dried—explode out of the glass on this wine. As you begin to explore the wine, the fruit is joined by aromas of forest floor, black tea and savory herbs. Lush but balanced, the palate shows tart red plum skin and sour blueberries combined with subtle hints of chalk, finishing with a zap of acidity that really brings the wine home and prepares you for the next glass. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**87 Ilaria De Nardi 2019 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso).** Aromas of dried Bing cherries dusted with cocoa and dried earth waft from the glass on this old-school styled wine. As the wine develops in the glass, flavors of bitter chocolate, coffee bean and violet candy wrap around the

core of plush red and black fruits. The palate is soft and gentle, with a touch of acidity on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Corteforte 2020 Bertarè (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso).** This wine opens with an even mix of plum, fresh green herbs and mixed spices. Medium in body with notes of black cherry, anise and fresh thyme, it finishes with fine tannins and a zing of acidity. Five Flights Wine & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

## AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

**91 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2018 Selezione Antonio Castagnedi (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Dried cherry, dried cranberry, star anise, clove and a hint of pepper open the nose of this well-crafted Amarone. Soft and plush on the palate, highlighting dried cherry and loads of baking spices, the wine begins to reveal turned earth, bitter chocolate and floral notes as it opens. It's really well-structured, with elegant tannins and the needed acidity to keep the wine in balance. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$47

**90 Tutela 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Aromas of ripe black plums covered in clove and cinnamon open this rich and potent Amarone. The wine shows blackberry, prune and black cherry notes at the core of the palate, with savory herbs, bitter cocoa and anise in supporting roles. Superfine tannins give the wine grace on the finish. Drink now–2035. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Domenico Fraccaroli 2016 (Amarone della Valpolicella).** This classically styled Amarone opens with aromas of dried cherry, sweet tobacco, worn leather and cocoa powder. The palate is centered on a mix of plum and dark cherry that is then framed by dried lavender, thyme and coffee bean. The palate is giving and shows sweet and easy tannins on the finish. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**89 Piona Franco e Luciano 2018 Torre d'Orti (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Aromas of baked cherries, coconut, dark chocolate and baking spices leap out of the glass of this generous Amarone. The palate amplifies what the nose offers and adds more earthy notes with hints of dried leaf, herbs and roasted coffee. Soft tannins keep the palate easy, but there are enough of them to not have the wine fold under the pressure of the rich fruit notes. Drink now–2035. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$35

**87 Antiche Terre Venete 2018 Baorna (Amarone della Valpolicella).** This earth-driven Amarone begins with aromas of soy, fresh mulch

and roasted mushrooms. As the wine develops in the glass, notes of chocolate-covered cherries and tobacco begin to waft from the glass. The palate is soft and lush with a core of dark fruits mixed with sweet and savory spices coming full circle on the finish with a deep umami note. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$65

**87 Ca' Botta 2015 Pian Di Mezzo (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Aromas of brown sugar and roasted plums doused in North African spices waft from the glass of this Amarone. Dried cherry, fig and prune define the palate of this wine, with clove, allspice, cinnamon and dried chilies supporting the fruit. Soft tannins are on the palate, with a subtle hint of dried earth on the finish. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.

abv: 17%

Price: \$47

## AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO

**96 Tommasi 2011 De Buris Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This single vineyard Amarone, grown on limestone high in the hills of Valpolicella, represents the depth and beauty of this place and the production method for making Amarone. The wine is at once intense but also lifted and lithe in some respects. Dense and concentrated aromas of black plum, sweet dates and licorice present themselves immediately, but over time floral and exotic spice notes emerge to give balance. Herbal flavors run alongside the dense core of dark fruits, bittersweet chocolate and roasted coffee beans. Luscious with fine tannins and the acidity needed for a wine of its density, this is a stunner. Drink 2025–2040. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$NA

**95 Bertani 2012 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** For full review see page 4. Taub Family Selections.

abv: 15%

Price: \$155

**94 Corteforte 2015 Vigneti di Osan (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This single vineyard Amarone opens with aromas of black plum and black cherry alongside notes of underbrush and worn leather. The palate is elegant and shows a balance between all aspects of the wine with the dark-hued fruits having equal billing with savory spice, tea and earthy flavors. This wine shows the deft skill of this estate in its ability to craft a wine of place within a wine of process. Five Flights Wine & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$108

**93 Allegrini 2019 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** For full review see page 9. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 16%

Price: \$104

**93 Buglioni 2015 Teste Dure Single Vineyard Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This amphora-aged Amarone opens with

aromas of black plum, smoked tea, licorice and baking spices. Mouthfilling and rich, the wine has a unique texture that vacillates between being plush and firm. Each sip brings new flavors from ripe cherry to blackberry compote, then fresh mulch and dried herbs to freshly ground coffee and cocoa dust. It's a big and beautiful wine. Drink now–2035. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 17%

Price: \$270

**92 Farina 2016 Montefante Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** One of Farina's single-vineyard cru Amarone, Montefante is grown at 1,148 feet on a mix of volcanic, limestone and gravel soils that are unique for the region. The combination of altitude and such specific soils gives this Amarone upfront and vibrant aromas of ripe cherries, dried violets and spiced chocolate. Coffee, dried bay leaf and anise combine with plums and warmed blackberries on the palate, giving the wine a plush and gentle finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 16%

Price: \$NA

**91 Corteforte 2016 Terre Di San Zeno (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Cherry preserves, cooked plums, sweet spices and tobacco leaf permeate the glass of this Amarone. The palate shows the depth that Amarone can achieve when acidity is maintained and the grapes are not too ripe. Tart cherries mix with earthy and savory flavors, finishing with a tea note and vibrant acidity. Five Flights Wine & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$57

**91 Tommasi 2013 Ca' Florian Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** The Ca' Florian comes from the estate's oldest vineyards in the heart of the region. The wine opens with dried black cherries that have been dusted with sweet and savory spices, roasted herbs and turned earth. The palate is detailed and elegant, with notes of worn leather, clove, anise, prune and black tea. Gentle yet present tannins frame the wine to give it strength without heft. Drink now–2035. Vintus LLC. —J.P.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$137

**90 Corte Volponi 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Aromas of roasted plums and blackberries mix with fresh coffee beans, dried marjoram and violets. It's round and soft on the palate, with plush red and black cherries giving way to rosemary, anise, coffee and dark chocolate on the silky finish. Uva Imports. —J.P.

abv: 16%

Price: \$NA

**90 Farina 2011 Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This old-school styled Amarone opens with a well-balanced mix of fruit and earth on the nose, showing spiced plums, mulled spices and underbrush. Mixed berry compote combined with savory spices and rosewood roll on the palate, finishing with earthy tones and superfine tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Palazzo Montanari 2015 Amarone Classico Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This Amarone opens with aromas of baked cherries dusted with bittersweet chocolate, macerated raspberries and dried herbs. The wine displays grace and elegance, with notes of coffee, turned earth and black figs, finishing with fine tannins and the right amount of acidity to keep the wine balanced. Drink now–2035. Alberello Imports. —J.P.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$93

**90 Zenato 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** The aromas of this wine—pomegranate syrup, blackstrap molasses and macerated plums with bay leaf and star anise—bring you deeper into the glass with each sniff. The wine unfolds onto the palate with a silky texture and is currently focused on lush fruit flavors. Rich and mouthfilling, the wine finishes with a touch of acidity that helps perk it up. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$70

**89 Le Ragose 2011 Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Cocoa-dusted black and red berries, anise and dried leaves waft from the glass of this Amarone. Round and giving on the palate, the wine bursts with loads of red and black cherries, plum preserves, roasted coffee and dried violets, finishing with fine tannins. Drink now–2035. MS Walker. —J.P.

abv: 16%

Price: \$75

**88 Corteforte 2013 XXX Anni in Due Secoli (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Cherry compote, wild raspberry jam, sweet baking spices and dried bay leaf gently roll out of the glass of this decade-old Amarone. The palate shows more secondary flavors with dusty earth, black tea, cherry leaf and fig. The wine's tannins are soft and gentle, with savory notes lingering on the finish. Five Flights Wine & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 16%

Price: \$120

## VENETO

**91 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2019 Scaia (Veneto).** This 100% Corvina highlights the beauty and depth of this grape. The wine opens with a balanced mix of dried herbs, savory spices and wild red fruits. The wine is medium in body with tart cherry, bay leaf and tobacco flavors darting in and out on the palate. The wine finishes with a vibrant and refreshing level of acidity, giving it lift at the end of each glass. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

**90 Casa Belfi NV Rosso (Veneto).** A blend of 50% Raboso and 50% Cabernet Franc, this wine is packed with aromas of plum, black cherry, wild strawberry, alpine herbs and dried leaves, each playing a part on the nose, both singularly and together. The palate is vibrant and energetic, with more tart fruits and dried sour cherries evolving into black tea, roast pepper and savory spice on the



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finish. This is a fun wine! Critical Mass Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**90 Serego Alighieri 2020 Possessioni Rosso (Veneto).** For full review see page 26. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Bosco del Merlo 2020 360 Ruber Capite (Veneto).** This polished and stylish blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon opens with lush aromas of plum, violet, dried leaf and graphite. The wine is rich and unctuous on the palate, with blackberry, vanilla and baking spices taking center stage. It's firm on the palate, with gripping tannins that will soften with a little more time in the bottle. Drink 2024–2034. Franco Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**88 Alessandro Berselli 2018 buseta e boton (Veneto).** Dark-fruited aromas of black plum and blackberry combine with fresh sweet tobacco, forest floor and sweet spices on the nose. Easy and soft on the palate, the wine is fruit-forward, with subtle notes of fresh earth, cocoa powder and dried flowers on the finish. Inbo Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Paladin 2020 Drago Rosso (Veneto).** This 100% Merlot is reserved at first on the nose, needing time to open and evolve. Once awake, the wine expresses itself with aromas of cherry pie filling, plum jam, mixed spices and tobacco. The palate is mouthfilling, impressive and eager to please. Rich and ripe dark-hued fruits are the showcase here, with supporting notes of coffee, chocolate and dried leaves, finishing with soft polished tannins. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88 Tenuta Sant'Antonio 2019 Scaia Paradiso (Veneto).** Ripe and rich plum and black cherry aromas immediately waft from the glass of this lush blend of traditional grapes of the Veneto: Corvina, Corvinone and Rondinella, with the addition of the international favorite, Cabernet Sauvignon. As the wine opens, notes of dried herbs, violets and black tea begin to take form. The palate is soft and gentle, with notes of dark bitter chocolate and blackberry carrying over into more herbal notes on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 Ca' Botta 2020 Cerviero (Veneto).** Aromas of strawberry fruit leather, dried cherries and dried herbs help define the nose of this Veneto blend. The palate is savory with notes of underbrush, dried thyme, coffee beans and dried violets. Gentle tannins keep the palate soft and silky. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**87 Gran Passione 2021 Rosso (Veneto).** Inky purple in color, this wine has aromas of black cherry, cola, clove and dried herbs. The palate

is polished and juicy with notes of plum, blackberry and fresh tobacco leaf, finishing with ripe and soft tannins. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**87 Paladin 2022 Salbanello (Veneto).** A blend of 70% Cabernet Franc and 30% Malbec, this heady and lush wine leaps out of the glass with aromas of plum tart, cherry cola and fresh and dried violets. The palate is rich and full in body, focusing on ripe blackberry pie filling mixed with sweet spices and dried flowers, finishing with soft ripe tannins. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

## VERONESE

**91 Zenato 2017 Cresasso (Veronese).** For full review see page 18. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$64

**90 Allegrini 2020 Palazzo della Torre (Veronese).** For full review see page 19. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Zenato 2020 Alanera (Rosso del Veronese).** For full review see page 26. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**86 Ca' Botta 2016 Il Priore (Veronese).** This heady wine is intense and concentrated on the nose, with cooked plums, blackberry compote and clove bursting out of the glass. As the wine opens, dried herbal notes, graphite and aged tea begin to be found around the luscious fruit notes. The palate is mouthfilling, with notes of dried fig, mixed berry preserves and cinnamon. At 18% alcohol, it is not for the faint of heart. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 18% **Price:** \$139

## OTHER RED WINES

**91 Speri 2019 La Roggia (Recioto della Valpolicella Classico).** This rich dessert wine is loaded with aromas of blackberry pie, spiced plums and candied figs. Notes of vanilla, clove and anise weave in between dark chocolate and coffee aromas, making you want to just park your nose over the glass. The palate is coating and mouthfilling, but just as the wine seems too much, there is enough acidity to keep the wine together and allow the drinker to experience the plump cherry compote and candied violets on the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60/500 ml

**88 Bosco del Merlo 2018 Vineargenti Rosso Riserva (Lison-Pramaggiore).** Blackberry and cherry cola aromas lift out of the glass, followed by notes of freshly ground coffee and baking spices. The palate is rich and full in body, focused on black plum, dried violets and turned earth, giving way

to mixed spices, dried herbs and an elegant finish. Franco Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$37

**88 Italo Cescon 2018 TesiRare Rabià Creta (Raboso).** Raboso is a historic and old-school grape of the Veneto, which derives its name from the Venetian word *raboxo*, which means “angry.” But don't be fooled—this wine is pure joy with upfront aromas of cherries in three ways: fresh, cooked and preserved. Those fruit aromas are supported by notes of dried leaf, baking spices and bay leaf. The palate pops with tart red fruits, then shows the more earthy and savory qualities of the wine, finishing with fine yet firm youthful tannins. Drink now–2035. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$74

**88 Monte del Frà 2020 Bonomo Sommacagnagna (Bardolino).** This wine is a bowl of fresh berries next to a vase of freshly cut flowers—a still life in the glass. It's vibrant, bright and fresh, popping on the palate with juicy red fruits, dried herbs and savory earthy spices that give the wine a little more complexity on the finish. Try it with a slight chill. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## LOMBARDY WHITE WINES LUGANA

**93 Selva Capuzza 2022 (Lugana).** This energetic wine opens with a mix of ripe apples, peach and citrus aromas giving way to fresh flowers and crushed chalk. The palate is lifted and balanced between the ample fruit and mineral notes found across the palate. Textured, layered and with a long finish, this wine is good now but will age quite well. Drink now–2035. Artisan Wines, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Le Morette 2022 Mandolara (Lugana).** Loads of mixed citrus, orchard fruit and white flowers spill from the glass of this fresh and pretty wine. The palate hits with a truckload of fresh apples, honeydew and hints of savory herbs that focus into a tight and structured mineral finish. Uva Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Zenato 2020 Sergio Zenato Riserva (Lugana).** Spiced baked apples with hints of star anise and dried magnolia waft from the glass of this intriguing white wine. Baked lemons with lemon curd and fresh cream on top give the palate a rich and mouthfilling texture but finish with a crisp bright finish. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43

**89 Allegrini 2022 Oasi Mantellina (Lugana).** Gentle and wafting, this breezy wine has

aromas of white peach, lemon zest and fresh white flowers. It's easy on the palate, with mixed citrus notes, green almond and tart apricot, finishing with bright acidity. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88 Zenato 2022 San Benedetto (Lugana).** Fresh aromas of lime leaf, grapefruit and fresh lilies lift from the glass of this pretty wine. It's gentle and vibrant on the palate, with apricot, lemon oil and crushed stones, finishing with crisp acidity. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Sansonina 2020 Fementazione Spontanea (Lugana).** This wine begins with aromas of lemon zest and pith, white flowers, sea salt and a touch of honey. The palate is textured with layered flavors that switch between being mineral-focused and fruit dominant yet work together well. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**87 Selva Capuzza 2018 Menasasso Riserva (Lugana).** This wine opens with baked orchard fruits, roasted lemons and dried white flowers, with subtle hints of herbs and dried white flowers. The palate highlights the soft and creamy orchard fruits with bright acidity and a touch of bitter almond on the finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

**85 Selva Capuzza 2021 Selva (Lugana).** Ripe and roasted apples meet hints of honey and dried white flowers on the nose. The wine is fresh and easy on the palate, with ample orchard fruit and a clean, bright finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Nino Negri 2021 Ca' Brione (Alpi Retiche).** This superexotic white from the terraces of Valtallina is made from Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Incrocio Manzoni and Nebbiolo, vinified white. The Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay are both partially dried before vinification, giving the wine greater aromatic intensity and richness. The wine has aromas of baked peaches, roasted apples, dried alpine flowers and sweet baking spices. The palate is very lush with grilled pineapple, creamed pear, wild herbs and toasted acacia, finishing with crisp mountain acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 Cordero San Giorgio 2021 Katari (Oltrepò Pavese).** This organically grown Pinot Grigio highlights the beauty of this grape. Aromas of fresh mixed apples, lemon oil, lilies and minerality are present. The palate is balanced with ample fruits that mimic the nose, followed by a round mouthfeel that is balanced by crisp acidity on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**85 Gooseneck 2021 Pinot Grigio (Pavia).** Fresh aromas of Pink Lady apple, Bosc pear and white flowers waft from the glass on this Pinot Grigio. Loads of mixed orchard fruits, fresh and dried flowers and blanched almonds are found on the palate, and there's a light zip of acidity on the finish. Wickford Wine Company. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

## LOMBARDY SPARKLING WINES

### FRANCIACORTA

**98 Ca' del Bosco 2013 Annamaria Clementi Dosaggio Zero Rosé Riserva Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** From its first vintage in 2008, Annamaria Clementi has been an icon of a wine. The 2013 continues this tradition with grace, elegance and depth. As the wine develops, aromas of macerated cherries, baked strawberries, Damson plums, vanilla and warm bread show themselves. Rich, yet with some restraint, the palate showcases the 100% Pinot Noir fruit from the estate's oldest vines, highlighting the darker red fruit notes. The wine then walks a tightrope between richness and finesse, showing the skill and passion that it takes to make this wine. Santa Margherita USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$135

**96 Ca' del Bosco 2017 Vintage Collection Dosaggio Zéro (Franciacorta).** From the certified organic vineyards of Ca' del Bosco, this blend of Chardonnay (69%), Pinot Nero (18%) and Pinot Bianco (13%) shines from the moment it's poured. Pure and crystalline aromas of white peach, Honeycrisp apples, fresh honey and strawberry couple with undertones of crushed chalk, wild herbs and ginger. The finesse-driven palate shows the balance between the richness of tarte tatin and cream with the lemon zest and pure mineral edge on the finish. It's a show-stopper. Drink now–2035. Santa Margherita USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

**95 Berlucchi 2016 '61 Nature Blanc de Blancs Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** This finesse-driven wine captivates the senses the moment the cork is pulled. The wine opens with fresh and baked apples, Meyer lemon tart, wildflowers and roasted honey. The palate is lifted and defined by orchard fruits, roasted citrus rinds, notes of crème fraîche, roasted hazelnuts and minerality. It finishes with an elegant perlage and vibrant acidity. Volio Vino. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$78

**95 Ca' del Bosco 2017 Vintage Collection Satèn (Franciacorta).** Elegant and refined, this Chardonnay-dominant wine (with a touch of Pinot Bianco) shines out of the glass with roasted orchard fruits, candied lemon zest, ginger flowers and a persistent note of chalk. Roast hazelnuts, pears with honey and brioche give the palate its core, which is supported by lively acidity and a silky texture, fin-

ishing with gentle and creamy bubbles. Santa Margherita USA. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$75

**94 Barone Pizzini 2018 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).** For full review see page 7. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Berlucchi 2016 '61 Nature Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** This exciting wine is full of energy and vibrancy. The blend of 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir has compelling aromas of tart apples, candied citrus zest, fresh pastry dough and wild herbs. The palate is dry and leads off with lemon zest, green pear, thyme and marjoram, finishing with roasted almonds and minerality. Volio Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$74

**94 Berlucchi 2016 '61 Nature Rosé Dosaggio Zero (Franciacorta).** This complex and vinous wine by the historic Berlucchi estate opens with strawberries and cream, dried roses and rhubarb brioche. The palate shows a darker cherry note with a creamy texture that is lifted by the energy of the wine. Drink now–2033. Volio Vino. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$85

**94 Mosnel 2007 Riserva (Franciacorta).** This late release from Mosnel shows just how good Franciacorta with age can be. It's vinous, with spiced pear, apple tart glazed with roasted honey and hazelnut being just the first aromas that pour out of the glass. As you drink the wine it continues to evolve and evoke spice, cream and dried flowers. The palate is rich and full in body, with a rich yeasty quality that makes this a great gustatory wine. Drink now–2030. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Barone Pizzini 2018 Rosé Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** For full review see page 9. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Mosnel 2016 Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** Baked apples, freshly baked pie crust and fresh cream with roasted hazelnuts help define the opening of this classic Franciacorta. It's bright on the palate, with creamy overtones giving way to lemon curd, creamed pears and mixed spices. It's a very tasty wine. Drink now–2035. Vintus LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Ca' del Bosco NV Cuvée Prestige 44 Edizione Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** For full review see page 13. Santa Margherita USA.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Ca' del Bosco NV Cuvée Prestige 44 Edizione Extra Brut Rosé (Franciacorta).** This classic Franciacorta consistently performs. Aromas of baked apples, brioche and toasted acacia with cinnamon rise from the glass with class. The palate,

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with flavors of baked lemons, fresh pie crust and minerality, is rich yet balanced by the persistent acidity found in the wine. This is one classy wine. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$65

**90 Castello Bonomi NV Cuvée 22 Brut (Franciacorta).** Crisp green apples mixed with lemon and Mandarin orange zest lift from the glass of this focused Franciacorta. Hints of fresh bread and white flowers dance between the fruit aromas. Mirroring the nose, the palate is full of apples and citrus all leading toward a clean and fresh finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$41

**90 Castello Bonomi 2018 Cru Perdu (Franciacorta).** For full review see page 19. Serendipity Wine Imports.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$43

**90 Castello Bonomi 2018 Rosé Brut (Franciacorta).** Wild tart red fruits define the aromas of the bright and refreshing Franciacorta rosé. Hints of brioche filled with cream develop after just a few minutes in the glass. The palate emulates the nose in near perfection with a soft and gentle finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$48

**88 Monzio Compagnoni 2018 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).** Wafting aromas of yellow apple, tart yellow plum and white flowers highlight the light and lifted nature of this wine. Creamy and soft on the palate, with baked pear tart, acacia honey and a touch of limestone, it finishes in an almost delicate manner. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$36

## OTHER SPARKLING WINE

**88 Zenato 2019 Brut (Lugana).** This fresh sparkling wine opens with a basket of fresh apples of various types, lemon peel and white flowers. It's crisp on the palate with more green apple, lemon oil and stone flavors with soft perlage and bright acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$32

## PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

### GAVI

**90 Ricossa 2021 Antica Casa (Gavi).** Roasted lemon zest, baked apple and pressed yellow flowers define the aromatics of the lofty Gavi. The palate greets you with tart green apple, white peach and bitter almond, finishing with a distinct and defined minerality that goes the distance. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$17

**89 Scrimaglio 2022 (Gavi del Comune di Gavi).** Wafting aromas of Fuji apple, white flowers and fresh thyme define the opening notes of this Gavi. It's crisp and fresh on the palate, with lifted citrus notes, pulsating minerality and acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

**88 Vite Colte 2022 Ca' da Bosio (Gavi).** Lemon blossom, pine needle, honeydew and crushed white stone gently pour from the glass of this pretty Gavi. Pithy mixed citrus, fresh white flowers and tart green apple skin define the palate, keeping the wine lively through the finish. Impero Wine Dist.. —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

**87 Franco Serra 2021 (Gavi).** Tropical fruits, banana chips and citrus blossoms are heady and intense out of the bottle from this 100% Cortese. Lemon rind, gardenia and bitter almonds meld together with crisp acidity on the finish. The Marchetti Co. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

## LANGHE

**90 Pecchenino 2021 Maestro Chardonnay (Langhe).** This single vineyard Chardonnay comes from a tiny parcel of land tucked into the hills of the Langhe. The wine opens with ripe notes of Fuji apples, roasted pineapple, whipped butter and spices from the time in French oak barrels. The palate is broad and coats the mouth with a rich, creamy texture, finishing with hints of lemon and bright acidity to balance the wine. Vias Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

**88 Dosio 2022 Riesling (Langhe).** This Riesling is fresh and lifted on the nose, with bright citrus, green apple and white flower aromas. The palate is crisp and tart with loads of orchard fruits, lemon and a mineral finish. Eagle Eye Brands. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

**88 Luca Bosio 2021 Arneis (Langhe).** The nose of this fresh and easy Arneis is a perfect mix of green apples and white peaches with a hint of thyme. The palate follows with tart apricot notes and finishes with a vibrant saltiness keeping the taste buds wanting more. Quintessential. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

**88 Monchiero 2021 Arneis (Langhe).** Ample aromas of ripe and fresh apples with gauzy white flower notes permeate the glass with subtle roasted almond notes emerging as the wine opens. The palate is round with more stone fruit flavors moving toward a subtle herbal finish. It finishes with zippy acidity, which keeps the wine fresh. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

**88 Scrimaglio 2022 Arneis (Langhe).** This 100% Arneis opens with aromas of ripe orange zest, citrus blossom and saline. The palate is round with fleshy white peach, dried flower and bitter almond flavors followed by the right pop of acidity on the finish. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$26

**87 Ellena 2021 Nascetta (Langhe).** Beeswax, dried yellow flowers and cooked lemon rind with hints of savory spice pour from the glass of this Nascetta. It's layered and textured on the palate, with a creamy pear note, orange blossom honey and balanced almond on the finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

**87 La Spinona 2022 Chardonnay (Langhe).** Aromas of ripe Golden Delicious apples meet slate and white flowers. It's tart and fresh on the palate, with notes of green apple and crushed rock finishing with crisp acidity. Grantham Distributing. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

## MOSCATO D'ASTI

**93 Saracco 2022 (Moscato d'Asti).** This Moscato d'Asti is vibrant and electric on the nose, with freshly cut peach, candied lemon zest, fresh mint and wildflowers all swirling out of the glass. It's sweet but not cloying and has loads of stone fruits on the palate. The balance of this wine is masterful with zippy acidity that keeps the wine lively at all times and each glass as refreshing as the first. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 6%

Price: \$19

**90 Ricossa 2022 Antica Casa (Moscato d'Asti).** Jasmine, ginger and apricot aromas show how pure and pretty this classic Moscato d'Asti is. Light and fresh, the wine dances on the palate with stone fruits and flowers equally sharing the stage, finishing with refreshing acidity to balance the sweetness of the wine. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 5%

Price: \$14

**87 Vite Colte 2022 La Gatta (Moscato d'Asti).** Candied apple, lemon peel and wildflowers permeate the nose on this fresh and fruity Moscato d'Asti. The palate is loaded with peach, apricot and green apple with a hint of melon. It has a soft and creamy texture with just enough acidity. Impero Wine Dist.. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 5%

Price: \$16

## ROERO ARNEIS

**89 Pelassa 2022 San Vito (Roero Arneis).** Tart green pear, lemon and lime zest, and fresh white flowers pop out of the glass from this wine. It's light and crisp on the palate, hinting at white peach and melon, with a savory herbal finish. R&B Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21



**89 Pelassa 2021 Tucci (Roero Arneis).** This Arneis opens with fresh citrus notes, green almonds and wildflowers giving way to fresh herbs. The palate is clean, cool and crisp with inviting peach, apricot and lemon zest flavors finishing with lively acidity. R&B Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**86 Vite Colte 2022 Villata (Roero Arneis).** Light and fresh aromas of peach, honeydew and fresh white flowers waft from the glass. The palate is focused on flavors of lime zest and ripe pear, finishing with a hint of acidity. Impero Wine Dist.. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## SPARKLING WINES

**93 Giribaldi 2019 Matteo Giribaldi Metodo Classico Extra Brut (Alta Langa).** Out of the gate, this wine shines with fresh and baked apples, flaked with sea salt and brioche. The palate shows the depth of how good Alta Langa can be, with layers of flavor from orchard fruit, flowers and fresh pastries to limestone. It's well-balanced and has beautifully taught bubbles on the finish. Ribevi Wine Int. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**92 La Ghibellina 2019 Brut Metodo Classico (Gavi del Comune di Gavi).** Pear tart with ginger, jasmine and exotic spices open this sparkling Cortese. It's lifted and bright on the palate, with green apples baked in phyllo dough drizzled with acacia honey. It finishes with a beautiful consistent perlage. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**88 Ghèddo 2020 Vino Bianco (La Morra).** Roasted peach, baked apple and orange zest aromas open this blend of Arneis and Nascetta from Piedmont. As the fragrant wine opens, notes of citrus blossom and crushed stone begin to show. Textured and layered on the palate with more minerality showing, the wine finishes with a note of bitter almond and hints of chalk. It's Good Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**87 Vite Colte 2022 Fosche Chardonnay (Piemonte).** This Chardonnay opens with fresh orchard fruits, spring wildflowers and a touch of lemon zest. The palate is crisp and refreshing with Honeycrisp apple notes giving way to a slight chalky minerality finishing with a decent pop of acidity. Impero Wine Dist.. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**87 Vite Colte 2022 Tra Donne Sole Sauvignon (Piemonte).** Wafting aromas of peach and green melon move toward kiwi and white flowers as the wine develops in the glass. It's lean and focused on the palate, with lime, lime zest and fresh grass

and a touch of minerality on the finish. Impero Wine Dist.. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

## PIEDMONT RED WINES

### BARBERA D'ALBA

**90 Marchesi di Barolo 2021 Ruvei (Barbera d'Alba).** Fun fact: The rules of Barbera d'Alba allow for up to 15% Nebbiolo to blend in! And guess what. The Ruvei Barbera does just that, which gives the wine even more bright freshness on both the nose and the palate. The wine is vibrant from the get-go with a basket of mixed berries—blue, black and red. The fruit is balanced by fresh purple flowers and savory spice. The palate is polished and has ample fruit at its core surrounded by earthy tones, bright acidity and fine tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Ellena 2020 Vigna Alferi (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** This cru Barbera opens with ripe cherry and raspberry coulis aromas that mingle with hints of sweet and savory spice and dried thyme. The palate is tart with red currant and pomegranate flavors balanced by dried floral and dusty earthy notes on the finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 Ellena 2021 (Barbera d'Alba).** This starts with ripe and forward aromas of cherry, raspberry and blackberry, with notes of thyme and rose. It's bright and vibrant on the palate, driven by more sour red fruit, savory spices and dried flowers. Vine Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**86 Pelassa 2021 San Pancrazio Superiore (Barbera d'Alba).** Light and fresh, this Barbera opens with aromas of red and purple plum, wild herbs and dried flowers. Crunchy red berry fruits meet forest floor and savory spices, finishing with a bright pop of acidity. R&B Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

### BARBERA D'ASTI

**92 Ricossa 2020 Antica Casa (Barbera d'Asti).** For full review see page 22. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**91 Ratti 2021 Battaglione (Barbera d'Asti).** For full review see page 18. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Covalli 2020 (Barbera d'Asti).** This Barbera has aromas of tart cherries and cranberries that command your attention from the moment

you pull the cork. As the wine opens, hints of wild herbs, flowers and savory spices develop. The fruit flavors from the nose directly translate to the palate, giving this wine an easy-drinking nature. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**88 Scrimaglio 2020 (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Lifted and fruit-forward, this Barbera opens with classic mixed red berry aromas and subtle hints of dried rose and wild herbs. Juicy and plump on the palate, the wine's focus is the ample fruit flavors of ripe cherry, raspberry and red currant all wrapped up with the bright natural acidity of Barbera itself. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

## BAROLO

**97 Ratti 2019 Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo).** For full review see page 3. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$175

**97 Ratti 2019 Serradenari (Barolo).** For full review see page 3. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$175

**95 Ellena 2019 Ascheri (Barolo).** Reserved at first, this wine begins to wake up with soft and pretty aromas of sour cherries, wild raspberries, dried herbs, roses and dried underbrush. It's compact on the palate, with firm tannins that will need time in the bottle to come around. Spiced flavors mixed with red fruit are wrapped around a core of compact earth that gives the wine a welcomed depth. Vine Street Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**95 Ratti 2019 Marcanasco (Barolo).** For full review see page 6. Maze Row Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85

**94 Ellena 2019 del Comune di La Morra (Barolo).** Cranberry, sour red fruits, dried herbs, roasted earth and dried flowers open this very pretty wine. The palate shows more floral and earth notes at first, then moves into a deep core of fresh cherry. Fine tannins go nicely with well-balanced acidity. Drink now–2035. Vine Street Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 La Spinona 2017 Bergera - Pezzole (Barolo).** This is the first vintage of this bottling to show the full name of the MGA: Bergera Pezzole. But do not fret if you are a fan of the wine; it is the same place as when the wine was labeled Bergera. The nose is a bit shy, and if you're planning to drink it today, it'll need a decant. Subtle aromas of cranberry and pomegranate with dried herbs and flowers waft from the glass. The palate is harmonious with tart red fruits, dried leaves, earth and crushed rock. Firm tannins are present but give the wine a beautiful structure. This wine will be really good

# BUYINGGUIDE

with some time in the cellar. Drink 2030–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**93 Marchesi di Barolo 2019 Tradizione (Barolo).** Concentrated aromas of black cherry, red plum, star anise, licorice and cola spill out of the glass as the wine opens. Juicy and ripe fruits leap across the palate with concentrated cherries in fresh and preserved forms mixed with sweet and savory spices with a hint of dried rosebud, finishing with crisp acidity. Drink now–2035. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$72

**92 Cascina Adelaide 2019 Baudana (Barolo).** This single cru Barolo opens with dark cherry aromas mixed with turned earth, clove, anise and dried wildflowers. It's opulent on the palate, with a deep core of red and black fruits, yet is buttressed by firm and forceful tannins and bright acidity that will take this wine way into the future. The wine finishes with roasted hen of the wood mushrooms, thyme and tea notes. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**92 Dosio 2019 Del Commune di La Morra (Barolo).** Aromas of warmed cherries, black tea, dried rose, leather and dried earth swirl in the glass. Well-concentrated mixed berry fruits on the palate with fine and present tannins lead to a hint of chalk. Drink now–2040 Eagle Eye Brands. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Pelassa 2019 San Lorenzo di Verduno (Barolo).** Plump and juicy raspberry, cranberry, fresh flower and chalky aromas lift from the glass. Vibrant sour plums center on the deep core of fruit found on the palate. Tannins are present, but they are supple and finish with classic Nebbiolo acidity. Drink now–2035. R&B Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**91 Cascina Adelaide 2019 Cannubi (Barolo).** From the famous cru of Cannubi, this Barolo opens with an intense floral note that is quickly followed by fresh raspberries, dried herbs and roasted tea leaves. Structured tannins greet the palate but do not overpower the elegant and pure core of the fruit and flowers found across the wine. Drink now–2040. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**91 Cascina Adelaide 2019 Preda (Barolo).** Forward aromas of macerated cherries, clove, cinnamon and anise pop out of the glass with subtle hints of rose and black tea. The palate is rich with fresh and dried cherries and plums at the core of the wine, with savory spices and dried herbs playing supporting roles. Firm tannins give the wine heft, and the vibrant acidity keeps the wine balanced. Drink 2028–2040. Specialty Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**90 Camerano 2016 Terlo (Barolo).** Ripe and upfront aromas lead the way on this sump-

tuous Barolo. Notes of black cherry and raspberry compote mixed with savory spices and dried roses pour out of the glass. The palate keeps the core of fruit centered on the palate but has a classic Nebbiolo structure on the finish with fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$64

**90 Collina San Ponzio 2019 Fossati (Barolo).** This superpretty Barolo from the Fossati cru highlights Nebbiolo's pretty side with aromas of strawberry, sour cherry, bay leaf and dried rose. The palate is well-structured with fine yet firm tannins that just need a bit more time. Ample fruit on the palate is framed by a vibrant pop of acidity on the finish. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**90 La Bioca 2019 Aculei (Barolo).** Dark cherries, dried flowers and sweet and savory spices open from the glass of this Barolo. It's mouthfilling with ample red fruits that give way to oak spice and a firm tannic structure. Drink now–2035. Kindred Vines Import. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$69

**89 Collina San Ponzio 2019 (Barolo).** Reserved at first, this youthful Barolo does well with a decant or a bit more time in the cellar. Classic Nebbiolo aromas of dried sour cherries, red plums, roses and turned earth are all here. The palate is fine and firm with present tannins that will ease over time and focus on the more herbal and earthy notes. Drink 2028–2038. Well Crafted Wine & Beverage. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**89 Sordo 2016 (Barolo).** This Barolo has pretty aromas of warmed red fruits mixed with sweet and savory spices and dried hay. On the palate, the wine is well constructed with fine tannins and vibrant acidity that frame the core of vibrant cherry flavors and finish with a hint of wild herbs and dried earth. Tita Italian Import & Export. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$52

**88 Camerano 2015 Cannubi San Lorenzo (Barolo).** Intense aromas of dried cherries, roses and wild herbs highlight this impressive wine. The palate is soft, highlighting the warmth of the vintage and giving the tannins an almost plush feeling with moderate acidity on the finish. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

## DOLCETTO D'ALBA

**89 Dosio 2021 Nassone (Dolcetto d'Alba Superiore).** This Dolcetto opens with bright and ripe red plum notes, tart blueberries, a giant bouquet of flowers and subtle hints of savory spices. It's polished on the palate with superfine tannins that frame the lush black cherry and raspberry notes that are accented by fresh herbs and dried earth on the finish. Eagle Eye Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Franco Serra 2021 (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Lively aromas of both tart red fruits and black fruits meld with exotic floral aromas on this classically styled Dolcetto. Dense and concentrated on the palate with plum and sour cherry notes, the wine then shows savory herbs and fine tannins on the finish. The Marchetti Co. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Camerano 2020 (Dolcetto d'Alba).** This wine opens with aromas of blackberries, red cherries and currants with hints of dried herbs and roasted earth. Ample mixed berries on the palate give the wine some juiciness that is fun and inviting and that are balanced by savory spice and fine tannins. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

## LANGHE

**91 Ellena 2021 (Langhe).** This Langhe Nebbiolo is a great gateway into the region as it personifies what the wines should taste like: vibrant fresh red berries, drying wildflowers, fresh herbs, savory spice and mineral and earthy notes. The palate has energy with vibrant acidity and an easiness about it with cherries, red currants and dried thyme all in harmony, finishing with easy supple tannins. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**89 Marchesi di Barolo 2021 Sbirolo Nebbiolo (Langhe).** This framboise-like Nebbiolo bounds out of the glass with a youthful and playful energy. Layered red berried fruits shine while red roses, mixed herbs and chalky minerality give an extra dimension to the wine. It's plump on the palate with easy tannins but classic Nebbiolo acidity that creates a refreshing finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

**89 Ratti 2021 Ochetti (Langhe).** This elegant and gentle Langhe Nebbiolo opens with aromas of bright and tart red berries, drying roses and crushed chalk. Sour cherries dominate the palate with hints of raspberry in the background, all framed by dried herbs, fine tannins and persistent minerality. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Dosio 2021 (Langhe).** Aromas of Bing cherry and raspberry leap out of the bottle, followed by mint and fresh roses. The fruity forward and soft palate is inviting with ripe red fruits taking center stage and subtle hints of dried herbs, flowers and dried earth peeking through. Eagle Eye Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER RED WINES

**90 Cantine Volpi 2020 Cascina La Zerba Di Volpedo Barbera Superiore (Colli Tortonesi).** This Barbera hails from the rolling hills of the

Colli Tortonesi and highlights how terroir matters to Barbera. Vibrant aromas of tart wild strawberries, fresh sour cherries, purple flowers and a distinct earthy note all work in concert to make this a compelling wine. The palate pops with acidity that balances the plush fruit that is at the heart of this wine. Generous but not over the top, this will be the wine that pleases everyone at the table. Saranty Imports. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

**90 Marchesi di Barolo 2021 Maraia (Barbera del Monferrato).** *Maraia* translates from the Piedmontese dialect to “little rascals” and this wine plays right into that moniker. Vibrant and playful aromas of sour cherry and raspberry dance with fresh flowers and wild herbs. The palate is zippy and pops with red currants and pomegranate that give way to savory flavors before finishing with crisp acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19

**89 Ricossa 2021 Antica Casa Barbera Appassimento (Piemonte).** This plush and high-toned Barbera jumps out of the glass with plump juicy aromas of cherry, macerated strawberry and a mix of sweet and savory spices. The palate expresses its youthful self with a basket of mixed red fruits with a distinct ripe raspberry that is perked up on the finish with a classic pop of acidity. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$17

## CENTRAL ITALY

### WHITE WINES

#### VERDICCHIO DEI CASTELLI DI JESI CLASSICO

**93 La Staffa 2017 Selva di Sotto (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico).** Fermented and aged in concrete, this golden-hued Verdicchio is as complex as they come. Aromas of candied and spiced pears that evolve into ripe peach, ginger and dried white flowers will entice you with each sniff you take. The palate is broad and mouthfilling with roasted stone fruit flavors, baked almonds and salty minerality. Drink now–2030. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$89

**93 Marchetti 2021 Verdicchio (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico).** Savory aromas are the first to show on this intriguing wine from the Marche region. Fresh thyme, hints of sage, lemon zest, green almond and white peach wave in and out as the wine develops. The palate is well-structured with a base of stone fruit wrapped around an important mineral note that holds court among the more savory flavors of the wine. Drink now, or age it for a few years to see how it develops. Drink now–2033. August Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$15

**91 Cantina Zaccagnini 2021 (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico).** Complex and lasting aromas of white nectarine, yellow rose, crushed stone and lemon oil all whirl away in the glass, making it hard to take a sip, not knowing what other aroma awaits you. But once you take a sip, lush and broad strokes of flavor awash the palate with roasted Mandarin orange skin, candied honeydew, fresh thyme and fine acidity showing hints of sea salt on the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

**86 Marchetti 2022 (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore).** Roasted tangerines, canned peaches and dried yellow flowers define the opulent nose of this wine. Apricot compote with magnolias are the primary flavors on this rich Verdicchio, which finishes with the classic bitter almond note and a hint of acidity. August Wine Group. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

### TREBBIANO D'ABRUZZO

**92 Masciarelli 2020 Marina Cvetic Riserva (Trebiano d'Abruzzo).** Vanilla, pineapple and coconut and then a final hint of lemon and orange zest on the nose are repeated on the palate, where they gain depth from notes of spices and herbs cooked in butter before a citrusy, saline lift carries through a long finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

**89 Cataldi Madonna 2021 Malandrino (Trebiano d'Abruzzo).** On the nose, a vibrant, aromatic mix of fresh and cooked yellow apples, green melon and lemon slices. That citrus is the star of the palate, which stays vibrant thanks also to the salty, gritty notes of crushed oyster shells. Vias Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$21

**88 Masciarelli 2021 (Trebiano d'Abruzzo).** Yellow and green apples, lemons and limes and the salt of a sea breeze on the nose lead to a palate that's almost metallic with a combination of high acidity, lemon zest and pith and a sandy, salty through line. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

### UMBRIA

**93 Raïna 2021 Grechetto (Umbria).** Golden in color, this wine boasts aromas of orange-flower water, roasted citrus rind, honey and hazelnuts. The palate has notes of dried mango, chamomile and wet stone with vibrant acidity. This is a supercool wine! Dionysus Imports Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$27

**91 Madrevite 2021 Il Reminore Trebbiano (Umbria).** This wine is golden in color with aromas of pressed yellow wildflowers, honey, roasted nuts and dried apricots on the nose. It's tex-

tured with spiced pears, savory herbs and white tea on the finish. Piceno Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

**90 Viandante del Cielo 2021 (Umbria).** Wild aromas of dried yellow flowers, apricot, roasted almond and baked apple are all found in the glass. The palate is layered and textured with a distinct nuttiness and salty characteristic that evokes Sherry. There's fine minerality with a distinct chalky note on the finish. Skywalker Vineyards. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

### TORGIANO

**89 Lungarotti 2019 Torre di Giano Vigna il Pino (Torgiano).** A blend of Trebbiano, Grechetto and Vermentino with one-third fermented and aged in a barrel and the rest in steel tanks gives an opulent and giving nose of baked apples with loads of fresh and dried flower notes and acacia honey. The palate is full in body with lush roasted lemon and orange rind dusted with star anise and vanilla. The wine finishes with a bitter almond note with moderate acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

**88 Lungarotti 2018 Aurente Chardonnay (Torgiano).** This rich and opulent wine makes its mark from the moment it is open. Aromas of grilled citrus, tropical fruits, cream and oak spice from the time in barrel leap from the glass. It's full in body with loads of lemon curd, crème fraîche and sweet spices that then hint at dried yellow flowers, finishing with a touch of minerality and a kiss of acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

**88 Lungarotti 2021 Torre di Giano (Torgiano).** This wine opens with ripe orchard fruits, clover honey, roasted lemons and pressed wildflowers on the nose. It's elegant on the palate with more defined Comice pear notes that give way to mixed spices and subtle mineral notes. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

### OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Fontezoppa 2022 Altabella (Colli Maceratesi Ribona).** Ribona is a rare white grape, and this wine is a great example with fresh apples, pear and fresh mountain flowers. The palate is bright and crisp with hints of citrus pith, white almond and apricot and finishes with vibrant acidity and intense minerality. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Talamonti 2022 Trabocchetto Pecorino (Abruzzo).** Orange blossom and jasmine meet beach grasses and crushed rocks on the nose, with the floral minerality coming through on a balanced and rich palate that's ripe with citrus through the finish. Palm Bay International. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$23



# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 Agricoltura Capodarco 2021 Biancodarco (Lazio).** The evocative scent of slightly burnt, buttery last kernels of popcorn on the nose transition onto the palate where they meet more savory, toasty flavors offset by a squeeze of fresh lemon. Wine For The World. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Cantina Tollo 2021 Roccaventosa Pinot Grigio (Terre di Chieti).** Citrus blossoms and apple slices blend with toasted almond and flinty, mineral notes of freshly turned soil on the nose. The palate offers more lemon and apple, but with a rich, almost oily texture and final notes of spice on the finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Cantina Tollo 2021 Pietrame Pinot Grigio (Terre di Chieti).** A playful lemon-lime nose becomes more serious as aromas of spices and nuts emerge, followed by a bit of turf. The palate makes more of the savory, with cumin and turned soil notes, and lemon slices and curd offering depth. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Marchesi De'Cordano 2021 Atlavilla Pecorino (Abruzzo).** A subtle nose of citrus and white flowers opens for a palate that offers more citrus, with a floral, herbal undertone and a mouthcoating texture. Grape Juice Group. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Fontezoppa 2019 Asola (Colli Maceratesi Ribona).** This wine sees over 18 months in French barrels and opens with the rich and intense aromas of that time in wood: vanilla, clove and anise. As the wine opens, notes of honeyed apples, roasted lemons, peaches and wildflowers begin to emerge. The palate is mouthfilling and round with candied melon, canned peach and baked apple notes finishing with a touch of acidity. Multiple U.S. importers. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

## ROSÉ WINE

**89 Masciarelli 2021 Villa Gemma (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo).** Notes of tennis ball and lemonade with a bit of crushed stone and fresh grass make for a summery nose, and the palate keeps things light and bright with lots of citrus and lively acidity. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

## CENTRAL ITALY SPARKLING WINES

### LAMBRUSCO DI SORBARA

**96 Paltrinieri 2021 Radice (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** When you get a wine like this, there is no turning back. A wine that is both pure, delicious and intriguing all at once is a rarity and is

to be celebrated. At first, it is reserved. But once it wakes up, the wine shows a fresh mix of strawberry, boysenberry and pomegranate that give way to intense floral notes, wild herbs and game. It's energetic and vital with acidity that's so crisp you will not realize you have just downed the bottle. Paltrinieri. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$23

**94 Fiorini 2021 Vignadelpadre a Giuseppe (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** This wine opens with aromas of cut strawberries macerated with mint in their own juice alongside wild rose and subtle yeastiness. Sour Bing cherries and fresh thyme lead the way on the palate of this complex and beautiful wine, finishing with zippy acidity and near-perfect bubbles. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$27

**92 Fiorini 2021 Corte delgi Attimi (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** This Lambrusco di Sorbara explodes with aromas of a gigantic bouquet of fresh roses and an entire bushel of fresh cherries, each equally holding court on the nose. The palate continues the story of roses and cherries with a creamy texture finishing with the natural vibrance of the grape. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$24

**91 Cleto Chiarli 2021 Lambrusco del Fondatore (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Candied cherries, strawberries, wild herbs and dried violets weave in and out of the glass with subtle hints of smoked game. The palate balances the savory quality of the wine with cherries jubilee, cranberry and dried rose finishing with a creamy texture and an elegant sparkle. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Medici Ermete NV Carezza Metodo Classico (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Electric pink in color, this 100% Sorbara is lifted with forward aromas of watermelon, sour cherry and a giant bouquet of fresh flowers. It's tart and lively on the palate with notes of cranberry, raspberry, fresh herbs and a hint of blood orange zest. The wine has a lovely balance between fruit and savory qualities, making each sip its own adventure. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$34

## LAMBRUSCO REGGIANO

**94 Podere Giardino 2021 Suoli Cataldi Rosé (Lambrusco Reggiano).** This perfumed Lambrusco is very pretty and engaging. Dried red currants, raspberries and sour cherries effortlessly lift from the glass. After a few swirls, they are joined by hints of flowers and aromas of the forest. The palate is electric with vibrant acidity showcasing sour cherry flavors with loads of dried flower petals giving the wine an irresistible quality...like you gotta have it. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**93 Podere Giardino 2021 Suoli Cataldi (Lambrusco Reggiano).** This is a true classic. Bold

and upfront out of the glass with Bing cherry aromas combined with savory herbs, anise and turned earth. The palate pops with more tart fruit notes of Damson plums, pomegranates and sour cherries combined with fresh and dried flowers and a subtle hint of game. It finishes with gentle bubbles and zingy acidity just screaming for a slice of cured meat or aged cheese. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Medici Ermete 2022 Concerto (Lambrusco Reggiano).** This forward and plump Lambrusco is a bundle of blackberries, macerated black cherries and savory spices from the get-go. The aromas carry over to the palate with an addition of floral and game notes that give the wine more depth. Soft and fizzy, this wine can only bring smiles. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Medici Ermete 2022 Le Tenute Solo (Lambrusco Reggiano).** Blackberry compote, black cherry jam and loads of savory spice leap out of the glass of this forward and giving Lambrusco. Herbs mixed with wild-berry pie filling fill the palate, finishing with a dried violet note. It is almost as if you are eating the grapes themselves. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Medici Ermete NV Quercioli Secco (Lambrusco Reggiano).** This Lambrusco is giving and upfront on the nose with juicy ripe black plums and blackberries central to its expression. Violets and savory herbs add to the wine as it opens. It's lush and soft on the palate with a foamy mousse finishing with more vibrant dark fruits and a pop of acidity. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**87 Medici Ermete NV Quercioli Dolce (Lambrusco Reggiano).** Dark sweet blackberries, candied plums and raspberries all converge on the nose of this lush sweet Lambrusco. As the wine opens there are some wild exotic spices and a hint of banana. The palate is sweet but balanced by the natural acidity of the grapes. The focus of the wine is on the dark-hued fruits that form the core of this wine. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$15

## LAMBRUSCO GRASPAROSSA DI CASTELVETRO

**95 Sebastian Van de Sype 2021 Ancestrale (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro).** Sebastian Van de Sype is a former aerospace engineer who worked on Formula 1 race cars, but now he is taking his genius to the fields to produce pure, earnest and truthful Lambrusco from 100% Grasparossa. Fresh aromas of plum, blackberry and cassis rise out of the glass with subtle hints of dried leaf and wildflowers in the background, which move to the front as the wine opens. It's energetic on the palate with a spark of acidity that keeps the palate fresh. Fine bubbles tingle the palate, and the core of fruit continues to develop with each sip. This is

an estate to follow. Zev Rovine Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Fiorini 2019 Terre al Sole (Lambrusco Grasp-rossa di Castelvetro).** This 100% Grasp-rossa made via the Champagne method opens with a superpretty nose of wild roses, macerated cherries, black currants and fresh leafy herbs. It's elegant on the palate, showing a balanced combination of sour plum and violets and finishing with a hint of graphite. Complex and nuanced, this wine will wow all the senses. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Sebastian Van de Sype 2020 (Lambrusco Grasp-rossa di Castelvetro).** This beautiful deeply colored wine, made of 100% Grasp-rossa, shines with an even mix of fruit-forwardness and savoriness. Wild black raspberries and sour cherries merge with violets and savory herbs. The palate is well-balanced, with ample dark fruit flavors that are highlighted by subtle notes of turned earth and smoked game. The wine finishes with bright acidity and fine bubbles. Zev Rovine Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Fiorini 2021 Becco Rosso (Lambrusco Grasp-rossa di Castelvetro).** Black plums and blackberries doused in sweet and savory spices open the nose on this forward and lavish Lambrusco. Mouthfilling, the palate is loaded with black-hued fruits and notes of game, finishing with violet candy and the acidity needed to keep the fruits from being too forward. This wine is fun! Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$21

## LAMBRUSCO DELL'EMILIA

**95 Podere Giardino 2020 Suoli Cataldi (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** The Crotti family organically farms a little over 123 acres with only 12 acres devoted to vines. Their dedication to their craft shines in this stunning Lambrusco. Aromas of sour red cherries, fresh cola nut, savory spices and dried flowers waft from the glass. The core of the palate is a mix of sour plums and wildflowers with a touch of hoisin sauce on the finish. This is a serious and equally fun wine at the same time, but know that it shines best with some prosciutto, cheese or other savory snacks. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

**95 Vigneto Saetti 2021 Rosso Viola (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** Made with 100% Salamino grown organically in the hills north of Modena, this wine is the personification of the Saetti family's dedication to their craft. Aromas of blackberries, mulberries and tamarind share the glass with violets, dried roses and wild herbs. The palate is lush and vibrant at the same time with rich ripe black-hued fruits balanced with crunchy acidity. The wine has a long and refined finish highlighted by the well-

crafted perlage. Louis/Dressner Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$24

**93 Lini 910 NV Labrusca Bianco (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** Enticing aromas of Bosc pear, chamomile, singed orange rind and lemon oil waft from the glass. It's vibrant and crisp on the palate with tart nectarine, pressed yellow flowers, gentian and bitter almond on the finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**92 Lini 910 NV Labrusca Rosso (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** For full review see page 22. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**90 Lini 910 NV Lambrusco Riserva (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** A blend of 85% Lambrusco Salamino and 15% Ancellotta, this wine opens with plump and ripe blueberries and blackberries that fold into aromas of wildflowers and freshly picked herbs. The palate is rich and lush with black plums, a touch of bitter chocolate and espresso with a twist of lemon giving a tart and vibrant pop of acidity on the finish, keeping the palate refreshed with each sip. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$22

**90 Lini 910 NV Lambrusco Rosé (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** Aromas of strawberries and cream with freshly cut wild mint and dried rose petal waft from this chic wine. It's bone-dry on the palate with notes of tart cranberry and sour cherry with an equal proportion of fresh herbs and wild game. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

## OTHER SPARKLING WINES

**96 TerreVive NV Stiorosso (Emilia).** Established in 2008, TerreVive is not just a vine grower but also an integrated farm that creates biodiversity that makes healthier grapes and people. The Stiorosso has aromas of blackberry, cherry and white pepper. The palate is mouthfilling and supremely structured, balanced between a deep core of black fruits and intriguing savory herbs and spice, finishing with crisp acidity and superfine bubbles. Rosenthal Estate. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**94 Vigneto Saetti 2021 Il Cardetto Rosato (Emilia).** Wild strawberries, sour cherries, fresh herbs and baby rosebuds gently spill from the glass of this 100% Salamino Lambrusco rosato from organically farmed vines. Vibrant and crisp acidity pops on the palate, highlighting the wild red fruits. Fresh thyme and dried flowers emerge on the savory and delicious finish. Louis/Dressner Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$24

**92 Fiorini 2020 Nebbia Felsinea (Colli Bolognesi).** This zippy Pignoletto frizzante is a

ball of energy that once open jumps from the glass with white peach, tart green apple, fresh thyme and white flowers. The palate is electric with zesty notes of lemon, lime and grapefruit that are followed by quince, crushed stone and vibrant acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

## CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

### UMBRIA

**92 Lorenzo Mattoni 2020 Dinamico (Umbria).** This dynamic wine is a blend of the classic Umbrian grape of Sagrantino with Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. The nose is loaded with aromas of blackberry and black plum but with equal proportions of turned earth, dried wildflowers and savory spices. The palate is rich but elegant, with fine and firm tannins that keep the density of fruit in check. The wine finishes with a savory and dried herbal note that is lingering and complex. Well-structured and well-made, it will benefit from some cellar time. Drink 2025–2035. DMK Incorporated. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 La Carraia 2019 Solcato (Umbria).** This rich blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot shows the best of each grape. Vibrant and high-toned red fruit notes from the Sangiovese open the wine with the base of dark blackberry of the Cabernet Sauvignon following. Plum and purple flowers from the Merlot add more depth to the wine. The palate is rich and full in body with an abundance of black fruits mixed with baking spices, fine oak spice and firm tannins. Drink now–2035. Vintus LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**91 Lungarotti 2018 San Giorgio (Umbria).** This wine needs time, so if you are drinking it now, a minimum of three hours in a decanter will give the wine time to open. This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese shows the regal nature of both grapes with aromas of dark-hued fruits that are near-perfect ripeness with hints of tobacco, leather and oak spice. The palate is firm to the point that only time in the cellar will soften it. The core of the palate is focused on dark cherry and cassis mixed with savory spices and the highlights of pristine new French oak. The wine finishes with a more savory and meaty note, making food a necessity with this wine. Drink 2025–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**90 Roccafiore 2019 Il Roccafiore (Umbria).** This dark-hued Sangiovese is brooding with sour black plum, dried herbs, underbrush and baking spices. The palate is round and lush, moving toward macerated cherries, roasted earth and sweet hay. Firm yet fine tannins and vibrant acidity nudge

# BUYINGGUIDE

the drinker to know this wine needs food to be at its best. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Lungarotti 2020 L'Um (Umbria).** A blend of Sangiovese and Merlot, this wine is a touch reserved at first on the nose. As it opens, aromas of macerated cherries, raspberries and ripe plums make their way out of the glass, followed by a mix of dried herbs and leather. The palate is soft with a vibrant core of cherry notes mixed with sweet and savory spice. Soft tannins make this an easy wine to enjoy. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 La Carraia 2020 (Umbria).** Dark cherry, black raspberry, savory herbs and graphite open the nose of this sumptuous Sangiovese. The wine is juicy and plump on the palate, with a mix of red and black fruits balanced by classically tart Sangiovese acidity. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

## CONERO

**89 Marchetti 2021 Due Amici (Conero).** Deep in color, this heady wine opens with aromas of roasted plum, cassis, fresh violets and a hint of wild herbs. The palate is lush and rich with concentrated wild berries, medicinal herbs and licorice all neatly tucked in by the well-structured tannins on the finish. This is a tasty wine for your weekly (or daily) dose of pasta. August Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Marchetti 2021 Castro di San Silvestro (Conero).** This 100% Montepulciano leaps out of the bottle the moment you pull the cork. Aromas of blackberry jam, strawberry fruit leather and five-spice powder pour out of the glass, followed by subtle dried violet notes. Flavors of black cherry pie and roasted plums with cinnamon dominate the palate. This is a high-octane wine that finishes a touch hot. August Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$14

**86 Marchetti 2018 Villa Bonomi Riserva Montepulciano (Conero).** This juggernaut of a wine is for those that love power and richness above all else. Intense and concentrated aromas of wild berry jam, prunes and dried mountain herbs all covered with sweet and savory spices start things off. The palate is a hammer of dark fruits that have been stewed with clove and vanilla and sits in the mouth with a weight not many wines can achieve. August Wine Group. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

## OTHER RED WINES

**93 Palazzona Di Maggio 2022 Ulziano (Rubicone).** Have you ever had a wine that just makes you smile? Well, this is one. This joyful blend of organically grown 90% Sangiovese and

10% Ciliegiolo from the hills of Emilia-Romagna will knock your socks off. It's vibrant and expressive from the start, with juicy cherries, ripe raspberries combined with fresh flowers and a touch of dried hay, which only scratch the surface of what this wine offers. The palate is plump and easy with superfine tannins that wrap themselves around the core of fruit that defines this wine. Buta. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Lungarotti 2019 Montefalco Rosso Riserva (Torgiano).** This wine is a blend of 60% Sangiovese, 25% Merlot and 15% Sagrantino and highlights the characteristics of each grape. Aromas of ripe black cherry, plum and blackberry are layered with fine oak spice and roasted earth. The palate is firm and exhibits youthful fruit that is framed by the usage of new oak and taut tannins found in the wine. It is very posh and needs some more time in the bottle for each part to come into balance. Drink 2025–2040. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$34

**89 Lungarotti 2020 Rubesco (Torgiano).** This wine can use a decant and you will be happy you did, as once the wine opens, aromas of ripe wild cherries and blackberries mixed with freshly cut flowers and wild herbs rise from the glass. The palate is lush with ripe and concentrated red fruit notes that are more jam or macerated. Subtle hints of blue and purple flowers with green herbs and savory spice are found on the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Palazzona Di Maggio 2016 Le Armi Riserva (Romagna).** Dark and ripe cherry mixed with tart blackberry and savory spices lead the way for this 100% Sangiovese. As the wine opens, notes of black tea and dried flowers emerge to give the wine another dimension in which to showcase the beauty of Sangiovese from Emilia-Romagna. The palate is plush but balanced with the natural acidity from the grape itself, making the bottle disappear faster than you might notice. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

## TUSCANY WHITE WINES

**90 Tenuta Montauto 2021 Vermentino (Toscana).** Fresh white flowers, raw almond, pink grapefruit and crushed rock on the nose are repeated on a palate that's even more lively with salt and astringent with almond skin and citrus pith. Vino Veritas. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**90 Valdonica 2020 Ballarino Vermentino (Toscana).** The nose opens savory with mustard seed, raw almond and tennis ball, with green apple and white flowers arriving later. More apples and almonds on the palate get a lift from lime peel and

more salty, savory South Asian spice blend on the finish. Wine For The World. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**89 Carpineto 2022 Dogajolo (Toscana).** White peach and pink grapefruit on the nose lead to a palate of more citrus and grapefruit candy, with the astringency of grapefruit pith lending a sophisticated bite to the finish. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**89 Carpineto 2021 Dogajolo (Toscana).** Honeyed, sweet aromas of apples and pears come out on the nose, followed by white flowers and candied lemon slices. The palate is bright with more lemons but with a mouthcoating texture that emphasizes the apple-pear notes again. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**89 Carpineto 2020 Farnito Chardonnay (Toscana).** Sweet, indulgent aromas of vanilla bean, honey and cooked yellow apple on the nose return on the palate, where vanilla and apple receive a lemony burst of acidity and a salty edge from wet slate notes. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**92 Rocca delle Macie 2022 Famiglia Zingarelli Campo Maccione Vermentino (Maremma Toscana).** For full review see page 22. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 I Giusti e Zanza 2022 Villa Uffizi Organic (Costa Toscana).** The nose strikes a sweet-savory balance with a blend of grapefruit pith, toasted almond, apricot and wild oregano, while the palate leans more readily into stone fruit flavors and offers a rich mouthfeel. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89 Valdonica 2021 Mersino Vermentino (Maremma Toscana).** Lemon-lime and green apple are on the nose with some fresh daffodils and tulips that bloom onto the palate, accompanied by more lemon, lime and now also grapefruit, with depth from a hint of stone fruit and a nutty, saline finish. Wine For The World. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

## SPARKLING WINES

**91 Terra Rossa 2014 Le Mie Bollicine (Toscana).** Warm and golden in the glass with a nose of honey, dried apricots and candied orange peel, this sparkling Tuscan has more dried stone fruit and citrus on the palate, against a toasty, chocolatey backdrop, with a quiet, even perlage. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$46



**90 La Regola 2015 L'Eccezione60 Brut Nature (Toscana).** Nutty, savory notes are dominant on the nose, though a bit of honey and white chocolate peek out before announcing themselves more openly on the palate, where they meet orange slices and other citrus, buoyed by significant acidity and an even perlage. Lionstone International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 La Regola NV L' Eccezione Brut (Toscana).** Umami aromas of Parmesan rind and sesame paste mingle with earthy notes of grass, soil and crushed rocks and the metallic tang of coins, with a hint of chocolate already emerging. The palate builds on this with fresh citrus, more chocolate and a lively effervescence. Lionstone International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## DESSERT WINES

**91 Carobbio 2011 Occhio Di Pernice (Vin Santo del Chianti Classico).** Brandy-soaked cherries and dried figs with melted milk chocolate on the nose lead to an intensely chocolaty palate with candied pecans and warming heat on the finish. Quintessential. —D.C.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

**91 Losi 2009 Querciavalle (Vin Santo del Chianti Classico).** Walnuts and thyme jump out from an herbal and honeyed nose that grows warmer, offering rum raisin and chocolate with time. The palate is a deeply sweet medley of honey, nuts and dried fruits with a rich milk chocolate finish. Tricana Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

**91 I Veroni 2011 Riserva (Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina).** An elegant blend of citrus and spices blossom on the nose and expand onto the palate, where heat enlivens everything before final notes of dried figs and dark chocolate appear. Blicher Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

**91 Villa Di Vetrice 2005 (Vin Santo del Chianti Rufina).** Fresh figs, lilies and honey with orange zest roll onto a palate of chocolate-covered orange slices with more figs and raisins, and the still present if subdued edges of chalky tannins. Wine 4 All. —D.C.  
**abv:** 17.5% **Price:** \$45/500 ml

## TUSCANY RED WINES

**95 Petrolo 2020 Bòggina C Riserva (Toscana).** A nose that dances gracefully in the space between earthy and spicy, from soil and underbrush to black pepper and cloves, turns over to a palate that's juicy with cherries and rich with dark chocolate, supported by the embrace of sturdy tannins.

This is a positively acrobatic Sangiovese. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Michele Satta 2020 Cavaliere (Toscana).** Towing the line between flinty and mossy, the nose intrigues with its earth tones and umami depth before opening onto a palate of just barely ripened Rainier cherries outlined by unrelenting tannins and acidity that will make for even better drinking in 2033. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**93 Felsina 2019 Fontalloro (Toscana).** Freshly turned soil, spent coffee grounds and pencil shavings are on the nose with just a hint of dried cherry opening onto a palate bursting with fresh cherries and orange peel, structured by tannins that are welcoming but nonetheless hold their integrity. Polaner Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$72

**93 Tua Rita 2020 Perlato del Bosco (Toscana).** The burst of Bing cherry and wild strawberry with rose petals and tar on the nose announces the equally exuberant palate of more fresh berries with earth tones of crushed rocks and topsoil, held up by sturdy but flexible tannins that promise more elegance with age. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Carobbio 2015 Leone Sangiovese (Toscana).** A nose that's metallic at first with aromas of brick dust and fresh cranberry slowly opens to reveal wild fennel and medicinal herbs. The palate is still herbaceous, but the cranberry is joined by cherry and dark chocolate through a long finish. Quintessential. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**92 Colle S. Mustiola di Fabio Cenni 2012 Poggio ai Chiari (Toscana).** Hibiscus, cranberry and Bing cherry still come through on a nose that otherwise shows the wisdom of age in its herbaceous overtones that remain dominant on the palate, emphasized by chalky tannins that carry through a rich chocolate finish. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$72

**92 Petrolo 2020 Torrione (Toscana).** Savory aromas of balsamic vinegar and mushroom mingle with dark chocolate, black cherry and wild fennel on the nose, with tar and graphite emerging at last before the palate offers more cherries and chocolate against pliable tannins. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Castello Sonnino 2019 Cantinino Sangiovese (Toscana).** Cherries, blood orange and vanilla create a sweetness offset by aromas of topsoil and pencil shavings on the nose. The palate gives more cherry-vanilla notes, with more graphite and orange that now offers balance with the bitterness of pith. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Losi 2015 Querciavalle Armonia (Toscana).** Umami aromas of mushroom and balsamic vinegar blend with cherry, coffee and dark chocolate on the nose. The palate offers more vibrant fruit that sits in balance with undertones of earthiness and chalky but approachable tannins. Tricana Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Podere L'Assunta 2017 Costa del Pievano (Toscana).** Vanilla and cedar at first on the nose give way to herbs and spices with a bit of cherry syrup that leaks through to the palate, where it meets more berries and orange slices and pushes up against very firm, chalky tannins. Buta. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Castelli del Grevepesa 2020 Figli d'Italia Leone d'Oro (Rosso di Toscana).** Milk chocolate and cherries with just a hint of wild mint make for a fun and approachable nose while chalky, angular tannins and bright acidity keep things serious on the palate. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Fattoria Rodano 2021 Poggialupi (Toscana).** Graphite and crushed rocks are first on the nose, followed by leather and book bindings and finally some medicinal cherry and blackberry aromas. The palate offers more berries alongside bitter orange jam, but with sanguine notes that echo the leatheriness of the nose. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 La Spinetta 2019 Il Nero di Casanova (Toscana).** Vibrant wild strawberries and ripe cherry tomatoes give way to savory aromas of grilled meat, mushrooms and balsamic vinegar on the nose before the palate returns to the strawberries and gives them a pop of acidity and firm tannins. Indigenus Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Poggio La Noce 2019 Gigino (Toscana).** This is peppery and spicy on the nose at first, before cherries and strawberries and then the clean, green aromas of freshly turned soil and fennel fronds appear. Medicinal roots and cherry syrup on the palate get a kick of heat and a streak of acidity for balance. Poggio La Noce LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

**89 Indigenous 2017 Rosso (Toscana).** The nose sits in the space between sweet and savory, with aromas of candied cherries and orange peel and then leather, cured meat and soil. It turns to a palate with more cherries and soil, held together with tannins that are still tightly coiled. Indigenus Selections. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Cà del Sarto 2020 Ardente (Toscana).** A nose that's earthy and metallic offers aromas of soil and graphite but also mushrooms and cured meat, opening onto a warm and spicy palate, with notes of black pepper and cherry tomato jam

elevated by fizzy acidity. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## COSTA TOSCANA

**91 La Regola 2020 Beloro (Costa Toscana).** Black cherry and plums on the nose are cut through with aromas of wet slate and topsoil before the palate leans into the cherry and plum flavors, though with a chalky astringency from a note of blood orange pith. Guidi Marcello. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Tenute Lunelli 2017 Solenida (Costa Toscana).** The nose opens with aromas of red apple skin and cherry syrup that then turn to soil and herbs, especially fresh sage, while the palate elaborates the savory earth tones, adding a spicy kick of pepper pointed up by a streak of acidity. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**90 I Giusti e Zanza 2020 Belcore Organic (Costa Toscana).** The nose gives a bit of leather and cured meat, then graphite and crushed rock and finally cherries and raspberries, and the palate stays sweet with berries alongside a bit of vanilla and chocolate, but austere tannins keep things in check. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 I Giusti e Zanza 2020 Villa Uffizi Organic (Costa Toscana).** Umami aromas of balsamic vinegar, underbrush and leather, both old and new, dominate the nose, though a bit of wild fennel manages to sneak through. The palate turns to cherries and orange peel, with more anise flavors on the finish. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 La Regola 2021 Ligustro (Costa Toscana).** Cherries and strawberries but also wild herbs, roots and soil on the nose all return on the palate, joined by savory notes of capsicum and enlivened by a saline, mineral component and searing acidity. Guidi Marcello. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 La Regola 2019 Vallino (Costa Toscana).** An inviting nose of vanilla and blueberries opens onto a very berry palate, with more blueberries and also blackberries and figs, closing with notes of salted dark chocolate and coffee and countered by sturdy tannins. Guidi Marcello. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**90 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2020 Il Ghizzano (Costa Toscana).** Tar and leather are first on the nose and then a bit of soil, followed by mixed berries, chocolate and coffee. Cherries, cranberries and raspberries stand out on the palate before a bitter chocolate finish pointed up by chalky tannins. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## CHIANTI

**90 Badia a Coltibuono 2020 Cultusboni Cetamura (Chianti).** A delightfully fresh and approachable nose gives mostly cherries and pencil shavings and foretells a palate that's solar and warm but never excessively plush thanks to sturdy tannins and lots of acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Pietro Beconcini 2019 Riserva (Chianti).** A luxurious nose dense with strawberry fruit leather, hibiscus, dried fig and orange peel rolls onto a palate that stays dense with bitter orange jam but is lifted by fresh cherries and wild strawberries and approachable tannins. Soilair Selection. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**90 Salcheto 2021 Biskero (Chianti).** Tar and car tire are first on a nose that then turns salty and metallic with pennies, graphite and crushed rocks. The palate brings out cherries, cranberries and spices, but savory notes continue to dominate for an elegant expression from this consistently reliable and laudably sustainable producer. Massanois Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Bonacchi 2018 Riserva (Chianti).** The nose alternates between sweet and spicy with vanilla and cherries and then cracked black pepper and graphite before the palate expands on these notes with more fruit and spice, given contour by sturdy tannins and energy by acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89 La Spinetta 2019 Riserva (Chianti).** Floral, tropical notes of hibiscus and passion fruit leap off the vibrant, aromatic nose and are still present on the palate, where they find notes of contrast in the form of dark chocolate and cured meat and structured if polished tannins. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89 Melini 2021 San Lorenzo (Chianti).** Roasted meat rubbed with spices and car tire hitting pavement on the nose give way to black cherry and blackberry on the palate, with bitter cocoa and some chili pepper heat on the back. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**89 Pietro Beconcini 2022 Antiche Vie (Chianti).** The denser, slightly medicinal notes of cherry syrup and strawberry candy push up against aromas of wild herbs and wet rocks on the nose. Candied red fruit is echoed on the palate and feels especially juicy against relaxed tannins. Soilair Selection. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Tenuta Di Sticciano 2019 Riserva (Chianti).** Savory aromas of cured meat, mushroom

and balsamic vinegar open the nose, followed by Bing cherry and graphite. The palate is chalky with tannins but buoyant with acidity and fresh cherry flavor, turning into a mocha finish. Kindred Spirits, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Bonacchi 2022 Casalino (Chianti).** A nose like biting into a red apple also offers cherries and strawberries with a last note of topsoil. The palate maintains that fresh fruit and earthiness, with polished and flexible, if firm, tannins and bouncy acidity. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Bonacchi 2021 Casalino (Chianti).** A salty and mineral nose has fresh ground pepper, crushed rock, soil and pencil shavings along with aromas of cranberry, raspberry and cherry, while the palate is herbaceous, with more soil and berries but lots of fresh fennel and wild grasses. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$12

**88 Renzo Masi 2021 Cornioleto (Chianti).** Strawberry, cherry and raspberry mingle happily with notes of vanilla and chocolate before herbs and soil bring in a saline, savory component. The palate is more strictly strawberry focused, with tannins and acidity holding things in place. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**88 Renzo Masi 2021 Rufina (Chianti).** Aromas of brick, graphite, cracked black pepper, cranberry and a drizzle of balsamic vinegar come through on the nose before the palate picks up the cranberry and brick notes and holds there through a sun-warmed, tannic finish. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**88 Renzo Masi 2019 Cornioleto Riserva (Chianti).** Tar and roses are on the nose before graphite, cherries, fennel and sage emerge. The palate offers more mature fruit against a chocolate backdrop, but substantial acidity ensures things don't get too velvety. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Villa Puccini 2019 Riserva (Chianti).** Strawberry fruit leather, Bing cherries and vanilla are offset by graphite and crushed rocks. A cherry-vanilla swirl takes over the palate at first before chocolate and coffee join and then finally orange peel jumps out, lifted by acidity. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Badia al Colle 2021 (Chianti).** A nose of cherries, dirt, pencil shavings and soil opens for a palate of more cherries and candied orange slices, with the slight bitterness and metallic tang of freshly brewed coffee on the finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Candoni 2020 (Chianti).** Sweet cherries and wild strawberries meet topsoil, fresh tar and coffee grounds on the nose, and the palate stays bright and light with cherries, metallic notes of flint and soil and angular tannins. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Trambusti 2019 Badiolo Riserva (Chianti).** Dried cherries, cranberries, cocoa and the metallic tang of topsoil on the nose open for a palate vibrant with fresh cherries and more salty, metallic notes, held together with rigid tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Gancia 2020 (Chianti).** Balsamic vinegar, grilled meat and hot tar meet sweet aromas of cherry and vanilla on the nose, but the palate is all juicy cherries and berries, with chalky but supple tannins. Roust. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

## CHIANTI CLASSICO

**94 Rocca delle Macie 2019 Sergio Zingarelli Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Leather, pencil shavings and balsamic vinegar on the nose mingle with wild herbs, especially oregano, with mint, cherry and chocolate arriving later. The palate has more cherries surrounded by blood orange jam before a shot of espresso on the slightly bitter finish that lasts thanks to sturdy tannins. Palm Bay International. —D.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**94 Rocca delle Macie 2018 Sergio Zingarelli Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Notes of dark chocolate, spices and cherry syrup with metallic hints of crushed rocks make for a luxurious nose with a palate to match, nearly spicy with pepper and acidity and structured if opulent tannins. Palm Bay International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**93 Arillo in Terrabianca 2019 Terrabianca Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** A nose deeply perfumed with sweet aromas of cherry blossoms, rose petals and candied orange and then savory notes of wild oregano, balsamic vinegar and leather rolls onto a palate of cherries and strawberries with grainy tannins that emphasize later flavors of coffee grounds and freshly turned soil. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$113

**93 Castello di Bossi 2019 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 9. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**93 Colombaio di Cencio 2019 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** A variety of savory aromas come out on the nose, from herbs and spices to graphite and pencil shavings, to crushed rocks and fresh tar, with quieter notes of wild strawberry

and cherry that sing louder on the palate, amplified by chalky tannins and bright acidity. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Querceto di Castellina 2019 Sei Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Immediate notes of freshly poured tar and soy sauce give way to wild strawberries, oven-roasted tomatoes and herbs on the nose, while the palate offers more strawberries along with cherries and a bite of salty dark chocolate. Sticky tannins and substantial acidity carry through a lengthy finish. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**93 Riecine 2019 Vigna Gittori Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The nose of cloves and citrus is warm and festive, with macerated cherries and spices that also flood the palate, where dark chocolate and polished tannins add yet more richness, balanced with an acidic bite. Soilair Selection. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Rocca delle Macie 2020 Tenuta Fizzano Il Crocino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The nose offers first cherries and cranberries, then pencil shavings and crushed rocks and finally grilled meat and soy sauce, while the palate is bright with fresh, lightly astringent notes of more cranberry, deepening with cherry and strawberry and a last hint of bitter cocoa. Palm Bay International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**92 Brancaia 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 13. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$53

**92 Castelli del Grevepesa 2019 Clemente VII Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Herbal notes dominate the nose that also gives fresh cherries and orange marmalade. The palate offers a cherry medley lifted by more warm citrus and a coppery, flinty edge offset by a dark chocolate finish and chalky but approachable tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92 Castelli del Grevepesa 2019 Lamole Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** A nose that feels restrained but profound offers mature aromas of wild mint and fennel, crushed rocks, topsoil and warm pavement. Cherries and oranges take over the palate, which is plush and approachable with relaxed tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92 Castelli del Grevepesa 2019 Panzano Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Black cherry, with a sanguine note and wild herbs on the nose with a deep balsamic undertone open onto a palate still youthfully exuberant with crunchy red fruit, smooth, solid tannins and vibrant acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92 Colombaio di Cencio 2019 Massi del Colombaio Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Cherries and strawberries lift up an otherwise meaty, mushy nose with a last metallic note that rolls onto a palate that's ripe with more strawberries and cherries before a savory, sanguine finish. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2018 Vigna Dofana Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Fresh tar, topsoil and grilled meat with a cherry-plum jam undertone characterize the nose. An earthy, meaty through line brings cherries, leather and then roots and herbs out on the palate, with tannins still standing at attention through the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**92 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2018 Vigna Montaperto (Chianti Classico).** A rich and brooding nose of tar, dark fruit, camphor and spices leads to a palate that's also rich but sweet, with a grilled meat quality balanced by mixed berries, vanilla and milk chocolate, all held together with firm but flexible tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Fattoria Rodano 2016 Bottesola No. 36 (Chianti Classico).** Wild mint and fennel enliven a nose otherwise thick with spices and mature fruit, from plums to figs to blackberries. The palate maintains a confident balance between the spicy and fruity and the herbal and rich. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Istine 2020 (Chianti Classico).** The nose opens with cherries, raspberries and blackberries but also a substantial earthiness expressed as topsoil, roots and wild herbs. Red fruit is more dominant on the palate, highlighted by a splash of blood orange and a coffee ground finish, with flexible tannins ready for drinking. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Marchesi Antinori 2020 Tenuta Tignanello Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The opulent nose of vanilla, milk chocolate, coconut shavings and Luxardo cherries is echoed and then exalted on a palate with high tones of Bing cherries and raspberries and low notes of dark chocolate and black licorice, and tautly wound tannins promising longevity. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**92 Rocca delle Macie 2019 Sergiovetto Single Vineyard Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The nose layers soil and pencil shavings on top of strawberries and cherries and then chocolate and coffee, before the palate luxuriates in chocolate-cherry notes with a texture that's dense and velvety but maintains its integrity with angular tannins. Palm Bay International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$52



**92 Rocca di Montegrossi 2017 Vigneto San Marcellino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Savory, earthy aromas of balsamic vinegar, topsoil, underbrush and herbs on the nose transition into a palate of cherry cola with a slice of orange, balanced and buoyant with acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$66

**92 San Felice 2021 (Chianti Classico).** Cranberries, strawberries and orange peel with fennel and sage and a mineral edge of just crushed rock are on the nose and then are repeated on the palate, where they come together in an elegant balance against firm but polished tannins and vibrant acidity. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**92 San Felice 2019 Il Grigio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The nose opens with savory notes of tar, topsoil and balsamic vinegar before a bracingly fresh burst of wild fennel and mint. Fresh, crisp red fruit on the palate has a chocolaty undertone with more tar and crushed rock for a mineral edge, emphasized by tightly coiled tannins. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$39

**91 Antinori 2020 Villa Antinori Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Vanilla, coconut and herbs followed by pencil shavings and ground pepper and finally strawberries and cherries arrive in that order on the nose, with the palate mirroring and revealing the same components in reverse order, against taut tannins. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**91 Arillo in Terrabianca 2019 Poggio Croce Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Hibiscus and Bing cherries give way to freshly brewed coffee before some final aromas of mushrooms and soil on the nose. The palate is both meaty and fruity, with final notes of dark chocolate and more coffee grounds balanced by tannins that cling and vibrant acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

**91 Badia a Coltibuono 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Cherry-vanilla notes eventually give way to soil and crushed rocks with herbs poking through on the nose, with the chalky, metallic elements of soil remaining present on the palate to push back against ripe fruit in tandem with tannins that cling to the mouth. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**91 Cafaggio 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Cherries, raspberries and chocolate are contrasted with metallic, earthy notes of pencil shavings and soil on the nose, with the graphite aromas providing a through line to a palate that's almost quartz-like with salty, acidic notes and the snap of fresh cherry skin. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Cafaggio 2018 Basilica San Martino Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** A nose that leans

savory with aromas of cured meat, tanned leather and hot tar moves onto an equally savory palate that slowly gives up just barely ripened Bing and black cherries against tannins that announce there's still time to develop. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Campomaggio 2019 Santa Teresa Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A nose that offers a warm blend of strawberries and cherries macerated with vanilla and spices leads to an equally inviting palate with ripe, sweet fruit, more spices and a sturdiness provided by solid tannins and substantial acidity. Mission Wine Company. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**91 Carpineto 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The stony, metallic nose is all graphite, pencil shavings, pennies and topsoil with subtle fruit aromas of cherry skin and orange peel scorched quickly to release its essential oil. Juicier cherries on the palate are still traced by graphite and crushed soil, held together with tightly wound tannins. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**91 Castell'In Villa 2018 (Chianti Classico).** No. 2 pencil, balsamic vinegar and black sesame open the nose, followed by wild strawberry and cherry tomato. Strawberry and cherry take over the palate before a coffee ground finish pointed up by stiff tannins. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**91 Castellare di Castellina 2020 Il Poggiale Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Fresh and cooked cherries soaked in vibrant aromas of blood orange on the nose recall a cherry tart that is fully realized on the palate, with notes of vanilla and chocolate and a velvety texture that lingers on the palate. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Castelli del Grevepesa 2020 Castello di Bibbione Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A nose of mixed wild herbs and medicinal cherry with high tones of orange blossom rolls into a palate bursting with fresh red berries and given structure by high acidity and solid tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Castelli del Grevepesa 2019 Castello di Bibbione Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Strawberries and cherries and denser fruit flavors of dried figs and raisins appear on the nose with the sharp edge of a crushed rock and then fresh wild herbs. The palate expands on the fruit with chocolate, and austere tannins give more edge to the rocky, herbal nature. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Castello di Bossi 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Black cherries, figs, tar and a final herbaceous element that moves from sage to eucalyptus on the nose develop into a palate of more cherries with the essence of orange peel, with an overall buoyancy

provided by easygoing tannins and a streak of acidity. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**91 Castello di Radda 2017 Vigna Il Corno Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Black and Bing cherries macerated with herbs and spices come out on the nose, echoed on a palate still lush with fruit and spices into the finish but sparkling with acidity. Wooden Ships. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Cigliano di Sopra 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Fresh tar and crushed rocks mingle with dark berries all surrounded by a minty, eucalyptus embrace on the nose before a palate that's sweet with more berries and dark chocolate, with a hint of salt and gravel and rigid tannins pushing back. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Fattoria Poggerino 2020 Nuovo (Chianti Classico).** Mushrooms cooked in soy sauce jump off the nose at first, followed by graphite and tar and fresh cranberry. Pencil shavings stay present on the palate, along with high-toned red fruit and a sophisticated bitterness on the finish. Petit Pois. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**91 Fattoria Rodano 2019 (Chianti Classico).** This is sanguine, earthy and warm on the nose with aromas of cranberry, gunflint, soil and herbs that continue on the palate, where they're given more depth from notes of chocolate and coffee and chalky, tense tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**91 Fattoria Rodano 2016 Vigna Viacosta Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The nose is at first all tar and gunpowder, with wild fennel and crushed rock peeking out before just a final hint of cherry. The palate turns cherry syrup with a brightness from orange peel and an edge delivered by angular tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**91 Frescobaldi 2019 Nipozzano Vecchie Viti Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The skin of a red apple and fresh Bing cherries meet a crack of pepper before some dirt and rocks tumble through on the nose, while the palate is more peppery and red cherry, with substantial heat and acidity keeping things bright through the finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**91 Frescobaldi 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A sweet and lush nose of cedar, vanilla and berries is nonetheless kept in check by savory aromas of pepper, spices and herbs. The palate leans into the spicy side of things alongside cherries and berries, with a saliva-inducing acidity boost. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$33

**91 Le Cinciole 2018 Aluigi Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** All the notes of a rocky, dirt

path through the woods with cedar, wet leaves and mushrooms and the final hint of crushed ripe berries emerge on the nose before the palate gives more room to the berry medley. Chalky tannins create the texture of milk chocolate on the finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$48

**91 Le Masse 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Strawberry and new leather align appealingly with rose petals and fresh tar on the nose before the palate turns to a broader mix of berries and the metallic, salty tang of red meat, alive with acidity. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —D.C.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Losi 2019 Certosa di Pontignano (Chianti Classico).** Notes of hot tar and gunpowder set the tone for a savory, sophisticated nose that opens onto a palate alive with fresh cherries and orange zest, with tannins ready to uncoil and spring out next to powerful acidity. Select Wines Inc. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**91 Losi 2019 Querciavalle (Chianti Classico).** The nose is at first gunpowder and tar and then strawberry and ripe, sweet cherry tomato. Dusty tannins emphasize more notes of tar and crushed rock, with dark chocolate and licorice on the palate. Tricana Imports. —D.C.

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

**91 Losi 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Sweet, ripe cherry and dark chocolate contrasting with pencil shavings and brick dust on the nose roll onto a palate dense with more chocolate and cherry. The palate is still dynamic thanks to taut tannins and vibrant acidity. Tricana Imports. —D.C.

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

**91 Querceto di Castellina 2018 Sei Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Ripe strawberry and cherry meet a spice blend at turns softened with vanilla and then warmed up with pepper on the nose. The palate maintains this back and forth, with tannins and acidity punching up the freshness of the fruit but allowing spicy, savory notes to peek through. Wine Icons. —D.C.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$56

**91 Rocca delle Macie 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** An almost fiery nose has black pepper, grilled meat, hot tar and graphite, with earthy notes of mushroom and wet leaves underneath. Black cherry and plum sit on top of dark chocolate on the palate, where a bite of astringency from orange pith lifts up the finish. Palm Bay International. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

**91 Tolaini 2019 Vigna Montebello Sette Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The nose opens with vanilla and Bing cherry before umami aromas of graphite, leather and balsamic vinegar come through. Cherry-vanilla but also meaty, leathery notes on the palate are integrated well against firm

tannins and perceptible acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$54

**91 Valiano 2019 6.38 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Earthy, umami notes of topsoil, underbrush and soy sauce mix with deeper notes of dried fig and cherry that come out again on the palate, where they find dark chocolate, coffee grounds, bitter herbs and chalky tannins that cling through the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91 Valiano 2019 Poggio Teo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of vanilla, coconut and dill are first on the nose, followed by pencil shavings and a bit of tar and then by black cherry and a hint of bitter orange jam. Cherry, vanilla and now chocolate, plus the note of bitter orange, come through on the palate, with tannins that are still tough as nails. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$37

**91 Valiano 2019 San Lazzaro Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Vanilla, cherry, clove and toasted coconut push back against graphite and leather on the nose. The palate echoes and emphasizes this tension, held up by the addition of polished tannins and substantial acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90 Badia a Coltibuono 2020 Cultusboni RS (Chianti Classico).** A classic nose of cherry, gunflint, orange peel and wild herbs tees up a classic palate, with more cherries, berries, a hint of bitter chocolate and a coffee bean finish. Tannins are still wrought tightly, and acidity bounces off the tongue. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**90 Cafaggio 2021 Basilica Cafaggio Single Estate (Chianti Classico).** A Luxardo cherry and milk chocolate nose with notes of soil, freshly cut grass and herbs is elaborated on a palate that adds strawberry to the cherry and salty, crushed stones to the grassy-herbal soil, with solid but relaxed tannins. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

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

**90 Cafaggio 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Warm aromas of brick and cherry line up against cooler notes of wet rock and wild herbs on the nose, before cherries and blood orange jam take over the palate, with firm but flexible tannins. Ethica Wines. —D.C.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Cafaggio 2018 Basilica Solatio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Notes of balsamic vinegar, soil and rock come through on the nose, before a hint of vanilla, though things stay savory and even meaty until the palate offers sweeter flavors of ripe cherries and bittersweet notes of dark chocolate against firm tannins. Ethica Wines. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90 Campomaggio 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Strawberries, dried cherries, pennies and cured meat on the nose roll onto an equally meaty, juicy palate that hangs on through a long finish thanks to rigid tannins and bouncy acidity. Mission Wine Company. —D.C.

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

**90 Campomaggio 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Fresh bricks, hibiscus and cherries on the nose open onto a palate that stays bright and crunchy with red fruit and the metallic notes of pennies and rocks, emphasized by lively acidity. Mission Wine Company. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Castellare di Castellina 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Hibiscus, cranberry and cherry with cedar chips and pencil shavings on the nose stay in place on the palate, which feels woody and fresh with more tannic, crunchy red fruit and notes of underbrush and bark. Winebow Imports. —D.C.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Castelli del Grevepesa 2021 Castelgreve (Chianti Classico).** Sweet and sour fruit and an umami intensity connect nose to palate, with both offering strawberries, cherries, meat jus and crushed rocks. Tannins maintain their integrity even if they're relaxing. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Castelli del Grevepesa 2021 Castello Di Bibione (Chianti Classico).** On the nose, delicate aromas of vanilla and cherry push back against savory, metallic notes of soil, crushed rocks and burning leaves, and the palate amplifies this tension with dusty tannins and vibrant acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Castelli del Grevepesa 2021 Clemente VII (Chianti Classico).** Raspberry candy and dried cherries meet notes of pennies and warm bricks on the nose, with a palate that stays light and bright with fresh cherries and topsoil held together loosely with flexible tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Castelli del Grevepesa 2021 Coltifredi (Chianti Classico).** An expressive nose gives freshly turned soil, pencil shavings and just barely ripe strawberries and cherries before warmed spices and incense waft through. The palate shows the same depth but exercises restraint, with finely tuned tannins and perceptible acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**90 Castelli del Grevepesa 2020 Castelgreve Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Fresh cherries and orange zest on the nose are contrasted with the metallic, earthy tones of fresh dirt and wild herbs. The palate adds more berries with a bit of chocolate,

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marked by chalky tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Castelli del Grevespa 2020 Clemente VII Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Underbrush and mixed berries on the nose come through again on the palate, given depth and warmth by peppery spices and citrus tones of bitter orange jam. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Castelli del Grevespa 2020 Coltifredi Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Warm spices and red berries lay on top of an earthy foundation of soil and cedar on the nose. The earthiness continues on the palate, underscored by chalky tannins but lifted up by more fresh cherries and lively acidity. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Castello di Radda 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Cherries and mixed berries against a vanilla-chocolate backdrop make for a sweet and inviting nose, with a palate that adds the heat of chili pepper and a touch of bitterness from coffee beans and medicinal herbs to strike a healthy balance. Wooden Ships. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Castello di Radda 2016 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Umami aromas dominate the nose, from seaweed to soy sauce to graphite and tar, with black cherries at the last moment. The palate brings contrast with juicy, ripe cherries, raspberries and blackberries and sticky, angular tannins. Wooden Ships. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Castelvecchi 2020 Capotondo (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 19. Serendipity Wine Imports.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Castelvecchi 2018 Lodolaio Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Fresh strawberries drizzled with balsamic vinegar and topped with toasted fennel seeds on the nose lead to a palate of more strawberries with cherries and sour plums and salty, savory notes of crushed rocks and road paving. Serendipity Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**90 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2020 (Chianti Classico).** A very raspberry nose also shows pomegranate and bricks before the palate offers a wider array of cherries and berries, with notes of red meat, dark chocolate and dried fig slowly emerging, anchored by chalky but approachable tannins. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**90 Fattoria Poggerino 2021 (Chianti Classico).** Ripe and sour cherry and vanilla bean come out on the nose and again on the palate. A decisively salty, mineral streak comes through, with concen-

trated tannins and substantial acidity. Petit Pois. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Frescobaldi 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Mixed berries, vanilla and spices are on the nose along with soil and wild herbs but also a meaty undertone lifted by orange peel. The warmth of that citrus joins the snap of crunchy fruit, punched up by lively acidity and sturdy tannins on the palate. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Le Cinciole 2019 (Chianti Classico).** Fall day aromas of wet leaves, mushrooms and underbrush are first on the nose before ripe strawberries and black cherries. The swirl of meaty, earthy and fruity continues on the palate with a bite of acidity on the finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**90 Lornano 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Crushed rock, wild herbs and Sambuca flowers mingle with cherries and strawberries on a mostly savory nose that transitions into a palate that's richer and juicier but still savory with crushed rocks and tar. A saline through line and sturdy tannins provide integrity. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Lornano 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A nose rich with dark fruit, from black cherries to blackberries, and soil and herbs has a fleeting aroma of cumin seed that makes way for a savory palate of roasted tomatoes, bitter cocoa and coffee grounds, with an astringent finish reinforced by firm tannins. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Monterotondo 2019 Vigna Vaggiolata (Chianti Classico).** Dried cherry and coffee grounds meet up with crushed rocks and a drizzle of balsamic vinegar on the nose, while on the palate, wild strawberries and cherries take over, with a dynamic momentum provided by abundant acidity and a squeeze of orange. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Monterotondo 2018 Seretina Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Underbrush, mushroom, soy sauce and meat jus make for a powerfully savory nose, though a bit of wild strawberry manages to sneak in and then shine through on the palate, lifted by lively acidity and given contour by sturdy tannins. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**90 Poggio Petroso 2017 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Vanilla and coconut mingle with orange slices and maraschino cherries, chocolate and fig for a warm, cake-like nose. The palate is equally confectionary, with notes of fresh and dried berries, orange peel and dark chocolate and gritty, tense tannins. Franco Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**90 Querceto di Castellina 2021 L'Aura (Chianti Classico).** Flinty minerality contrasts with mushrooms and balsamic vinegar on the nose before black cherries and fennel come through. The palate turns all cherries—Bing and black, fresh and dried—with grainy tannins and enough acidity for balance. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Querceto di Castellina 2020 L'Aura (Chianti Classico).** Soy sauce and mushrooms mix with aromas of tar and graphite with notes of dried cherries and cranberries arriving and then following through to the palate, which leans toward sweet, ripe fruit before a very chocolatey finish, underlined by chalky tannins. Wine Icons. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Rocca delle Macie 2021 (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 26. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Rocca di Montegrossi 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Freshly poured tar with metallic notes of graphite and topsoil on the nose strike a point of contrast with the vibrant, juicy orange-cherry palate, with sturdy but approachable tannins and plenty of acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**90 Tolaini 2020 Vallenuova (Chianti Classico).** The savory nose oscillates between woody aromas of tobacco leaf, soil and cedar and then metallic notes of graphite and meat jus, before opening onto a palate of ripe cherries and strawberries with a salty, mineral edge held up by sturdy tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Triacca 2019 La Madonna Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A whiff of fresh gunpowder and graphite offsets black cherry and dark chocolate on the nose before relaxed tannins allow the rich cherry-chocolate blend to soak the palate, though not without an acidic backbone. Wine Emporium. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Valiano 2020 (Chianti Classico).** The nose offers a sophisticated play between sweet notes of cherry blossom and vanilla and earthy, meaty notes of topsoil, brick and grilled meat that the palate echoes, with more cherry and vanilla as well as chocolate and coffee beans. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90 Valiano 2020 Poggio Teo (Chianti Classico).** Powerful, fresh wild fennel leaps off the nose at first, then cherries and soil join and continue onto the palate, which remains poised between crunchy fruit and earthy notes of soil and herbs. Firm but forgiving tannins and sprightly acidity give contour. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26



**90 Villa Cerna 2019 Primocolle (Chianti Classico).** A nose like a perfectly extracted pour-over has the warm, inviting aromas of freshly brewed coffee with fruity, chocolaty notes hidden within. The palate is almost oily, with more dense fruit and chocolate. Polished tannins add to the velvety mouthfeel. Volio Vino. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Villa Cerna 2018 Villa Cerna Riserva (Chianti Classico).** This is salty and savory on the nose, with tar, rocks and algae but also sour cherry and sour plum. The palate adds cocoa and coffee grounds alongside riper fruit notes and astringent, gritty tannins. Volio Vino. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**90 Viticcio 2018 Vendemmia 53 (Chianti Classico).** Chewy dried figs and dried cranberries on the nose are set on a foundation of warm citrus, all echoed on the palate where fig and berry flavors and more bitter orange jam meet dark chocolate and Sambuca flower, with tannins still solid enough to hold things in place. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Bonacchi 2021 Tesoro Della Regina (Chianti Classico).** If the nose offers the sweetness of candied red apple and cherry syrup, the palate gives the fresh, tannic bite of hibiscus and dried cranberry, providing good contrast for a smooth, mocha finish. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Bonacchi 2019 Tesoro Della Regina Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Cherries, sour plums and rocks on the nose gain a bit of intrigue from umami notes of soy sauce and seaweed. Cherries and plums continue on the palate with salted dark chocolate on the finish. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Carpineto 2020 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The nose brings out earthy, gritty notes of soil and coffee grounds but also fresh cherries and herbs that are echoed on the palate, lifted by acidity through a warm, spicy finish. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Castellare di Castellina 2021 (Chianti Classico).** Fresh, floral aromas of hibiscus and rose petal blend with wild cherries and warm bricks on the nose, with cherries and an earthy, metallic undertone carrying over to the palate and chalky tannins clinging through the finish. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**89 Castellinuzza e Piuca 2020 (Chianti Classico).** A very umami, spicy nose offers grilled meat and cracked black pepper alongside new leather and pencil shavings, while the palate brings in fresh cherries and strawberries against

firm, close-grained tannins. Oliver McCrum Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**89 Cecchi 2021 Storia Di Famiglia (Chianti Classico).** A chocolate-cherry nose gets depth from aromas of medicinal root and tar and a mineral edge from just crushed rock. Chalky tannins point up the chocolaty side of things on the palate, which is juicy with cherries and bright with acidity. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Donna Laura 2020 Bramosia (Chianti Classico).** A seemingly all-umami nose of wild mushrooms, balsamic vinegar, cured meat and soil meets a palate that keeps that savory depth but adds red and black cherries and a dark chocolate finish with chalky tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Melini 2020 Terrarossa (Chianti Classico).** A nose of mixed berries with a backbone of crushed stone, graphite and freshly ground pepper transitions onto a palate still berry-forward but with savory undertones of meat and leather to provide contrast and firm tannins to keep things in line. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Bonacchi 2021 Casalino (Chianti Classico).** Aromas of cherries and chocolate are suddenly pushed aside by savory notes of tar and gunpowder on the nose before the palate advances cherries to the front again, supported by bright acidity and firm tannins. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Bonacchi 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** A nose that leans savory with freshly poured tar, graphite, wild fennel and a lingering scent of mixed berries leads to a palate that's juicier with berries, orange zest and dark chocolate. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## CHIANTI COLLI FIORENTINI

**91 Fattoria Torre a Cona 2018 Badia a Corte (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** A subtle but sophisticated nose start earthy and sanguine, with soil, mushrooms and soy sauce, then turns herbaceous with wild fennel and then finally flinty and mineral. Fresh and dried cherries with orange jam on the palate still enjoy the savory undertones from the nose and a lively acidity. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**91 Fattoria Torre a Cona 2018 Terre di Cino Riserva (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** The nose is medicinal and austere, with black cherry, fennel, ivy leaf and rocky, nutrient rich soil, while the palate retains the austerity and sophistication but with

a lift from fresh cherries and vibrant acidity. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**90 Fattoria Torre a Cona 2020 Crociferro (Chianti Colli Fiorentini).** The nose is meaty and peppery at first, then a sweet orange-cherry-vanilla blend emerges slowly. Cherries with a peel of orange and a crack of black pepper remain on the palate, surrounded by tannins that are just beginning to relax. Artisanal Cellars. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

## CHIANTI RUFINA

**94 Selvapiana 2019 Vigneto Bucurchiale Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** Bricks and Bing cherries and an almost ethereal aroma of orange blossom on top of crushed rock and graphite are on the nose, with more savory notes of leather and spice developing on the palate, emphasized by the austerity of chalky tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**93 Selvapiana 2017 Vigneto Erchi Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** Tar, herbs and cracked pepper with dried fig and cranberry peeking through later on the nose reflect a palate that reiterates this luxurious blend, with heat emphasizing the tar notes and acidity lifting up the dried fruit. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Selvapiana 2021 (Chianti Rufina).** Cherries, strawberries and a hint of raspberries are on the nose, with some wild fennel and topsoil bringing in herbaceous, earthy notes. More cherries and berries are on the palate, with a mineral salinity and chalky tannins that emphasize the flavor and texture of freshly turned soil drawn from the nose. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 I Veroni 2021 I Domi (Chianti Rufina).** An umami-rich nose gives underbrush, balsamic vinegar, mushrooms and just sharpened pencil with a hint of dried sage before the palate turns to dried cherries and figs with a chalky, chocolaty undertone and gritty tannins that point up last notes of coffee grounds. Bliker Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 I Veroni 2020 Vigneto Quona Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** New pavement, medicinal herbs and black cherries on the nose lead to a stony palate with more cherries and the piny freshness of a just cleaned floor, tied together with firm tannins and substantial acidity. Bliker Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Marchesi Gondi 2019 Pian Dei Sorbi Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** A mostly savory nose of tar, crushed rocks and underbrush slowly gives up cherries and the flinty, citrus notes of Earl Grey tea.

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The palate brings out more cherries and bergamot, adding salted dark chocolate and sturdy, polished tannins. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

**90 Marchesi Gondi 2018 Poggio Diamante Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** A juicy but still savory nose has cherries and vanilla, then cranberries and hibiscus and finally tobacco leaf and cedar chest. The palate grows rich and dense with chocolate and mature fruit, even as tannins stay tautly wound. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

**90 Villa Di Vetrice 2018 Riserva (Chianti Rufina).** Aromas of pencil shavings and cured meat follow wild strawberry and Bing cherry on the nose, and again on the palate, where more fruit comes through but things stay fresh and light. Wine 4 All. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

**89 Marchesi Gondi 2020 San Guiliano (Chianti Rufina).** Aromas of cherry blossoms, hibiscus and candied orange peel waft over meat jus, fennel seed and pencil shavings on the nose, before the palate offers more hibiscus and cherry and finishes with a deliciously spicy heat. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$12

**89 Villa Di Vetrice 2019 (Chianti Rufina).** Brick dust, gunpowder, cherry, chocolate, orange blossom and rose petal on the nose transition into a palate that is more firmly floral and fresh, bouncy with acidity that highlights the verdant qualities. Wine 4 All. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

## BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

**95 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2018 Pianrosso (Brunello di Montalcino).** Comforting, classic Sangiovese aromas of vanilla, orange peel, cherry and cola on the nose transition into a palate that levels up the sophistication with austere tannins and fiery acidity balanced by violet, cherry and more orange zest onto a coffee finish. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.

abv: NA

Price: \$100

**95 Cotarella 2018 Le Macioche (Brunello di Montalcino).** For full review see page 5. Trincherio Family Estates.

abv: 14%

Price: \$N/A

**95 Le Ragnaie 2018 Casanovina Montosoli (Brunello di Montalcino).** A nose that manages to seem both fruit-forward and earthy has cherries, strawberries and raspberries, then herbs and topsoil and finally a hint of graphite. The palate stays buoyant and sanguine with crunchy red berries and iron-rich soil and gets structure from rigid

tannins and vibrant acidity. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$150

**95 Le Ragnaie 2018 V. V. (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is mineral and metallic, with slate, crushed rock, pencil shavings and graphite, before a final note of cranberries that joins cherries and strawberries on the palate, pushing back against mouthclearing tannins that promise long aging and more elegance to come. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$150

**94 Col d'Orcia 2018 Vigna Nastagio (Brunello di Montalcino).** An indulgent vanilla-chocolate-berry swirl on the nose is balanced by aromas of medicinal herbs and a bit of tanned leather. The palate offers more fruit, but with restraint, with cherries, strawberries, raspberries and figs all represented but held in equilibrium as though by a square of salted dark chocolate and a sip of anise liquor. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$94

**94 Le Macioche 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** A subtle nose offers Rainier cherry, white raspberry and wet slate with a final hint of gunpowder before the palate leans into the savory, with a spicy salinity from gravel, crushed stone and a crack of black pepper. The wine is simultaneously refreshing and substantial. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$95

**93 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** Sweet cherry, vanilla bean and orange zest are on the nose, which slowly opens to reveal quieter aromas of cured meat and graphite. The palate emphasizes the savory with more sanguine notes pointed up by crisp fruit flavors of red apple skin and Bing cherry, emphasized by well-articulated tannins. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

**92 Frescobaldi 2018 Castegiocondo (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose oscillates between sweet, warm aromas of vanilla, chocolate, baking spices and Luxardo cherries and then savory notes of graphite, gunpowder and leather. The palate indulges in the cherries and chocolate, giving a luxurious mouthfeel even as tannins are still wound tightly. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$64

**90 Bonacchi 2018 Molino del Piano (Brunello di Montalcino).** Cranberries and cherries and then No. 2 pencil and a bit of tar on the nose transition onto a palate of cherries and chocolate with licorice and coffee. Tannins and acidity stand by, present but not aggressive. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

## TERRE DI PISA

**93 Tenuta di Ghizzano 2020 Mimesi (Terre di Pisa).** Classic elegance on the nose, with cherries, orange peel and a hint of graphite against an herbal backdrop, is maintained on the palate, where more cherries come out next to orange jam before a salted dark chocolate finish. This is a great ambassador for Pisan Sangiovese. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

**91 Fattoria Fibbiano 2018 Ceppatella (Terre di Pisa).** A warm nose of ripe Bing cherries, orange peel and topsoil with wild mint popping through rolls onto an equally warm and juicy palate, given depth by notes of dark chocolate and anise on the finish. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$67

**91 Pietro Beconcini 2019 Reciso Sangiovese Sangiovese (Terre di Pisa).** Savory notes of coffee grounds and underbrush alongside bitter chocolate, figs and balsamic vinegar on the nose advertise some age and the palate confirms this, with more rich tones of dark chocolate and macerated fruit through the finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

## VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

**94 Salcheto 2019 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Black cherry and raspberry are on the nose, with an herbal, medicinal component expressed in a last aroma of salted black licorice. The palate stays earthy and herbal but brings in dark chocolate and a peppery heat with grippy tannins. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

**94 Salcheto 2019 Vecchie Viti Del Salco (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Cherries and chocolate jump off the nose before earthy aromas take over, from mushrooms to dirt to underbrush and moss. The palate echoes these notes, carrying them through a long mocha-infused finish with rigid, durable tannins. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$100

**92 Carpineto 2015 Vigneto Poggio Sant'Enrico (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** A nose like a just-fired pistol is flinty, metallic and warm. Next comes a palate of crunchy red fruit, from fresh cherries to cranberries and hibiscus, that then introduces bitter chocolate and coffee on the lengthy, tannic finish. Opici Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$65

**92 Salcheto 2018 Salco (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** Figs and Luxardo cherries are contrasted by savory aromas of balsamic vinegar and mushrooms on the nose while the palate stays juicy with fruit but also gets a kick of spicy astringency

from perceptible heat and ferocious tannins. Mas-sanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**91 Triacca 2018 Santavenere (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** A seesaw between flinty minerality and leathery meatiness on the nose comes to stillness with the help of dark fruit as a fulcrum. Black cherries and blackberries and dark chocolate swing across the palate, with dusty tannins drawing a border around the palate. Wine Emporium. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

## MONTECUCCO

**92 Poggio Stenti 2017 Pian di Staffa Riserva (Montecucco).** Dried figs, dark chocolate and spices on the nose reveal some depth and age even if the palate remains delightfully lively with acidity and tannic structure that brings out hibiscus and cranberry notes. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**91 Basile 2017 Ad Agio Sangiovese Riserva (Montecucco).** Metallic, umami aromas of raw cranberry, copper, crushed rock and soy sauce on the nose are repeated on the palate, joined by fresh strawberries and cherries and followed by an indulgent mint chocolate finish. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Peteglia 2019 (Montecucco).** Cake-like notes of chocolate and vanilla with berries are balanced by quieter aromas of leather, cedar and crushed rocks on the nose. The salty, earthy notes come through more powerfully on the palate, backed up by substantial acidity and tannins still tightly wrought. Luisa's Selects. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Basile 2019 Cartacanta Sangiovese (Montecucco).** This Sangiovese is intensely leathery and sanguine on the nose, with aromas of cranberry and pomegranate slowly peeking through, before a palate that stays meaty and astringent but also bouncy with red fruit and plenty of acidity. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Collemassari 2017 Poggio Lombrone Sangiovese Riserva (Montecucco).** For full review see page 20. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**90 Parmoleto 2018 Sangiovese Riserva (Montecucco).** Cherries and figs balance notes of soil, gunpowder and tar on the nose, and the palate echoes this sweet-savory play, with a salted dark chocolate and anise finish carried by firm tannins and substantial acidity. Luisa's Selects. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Peteglia 2018 Riserva (Montecucco).** The savory, sanguine nose feels almost chewy with grilled meat, orange slices, cherry tomatoes

and spices, before notes of cherry, vanilla and baking spices are introduced and continue onto the palate, met by tannins that are beginning to uncoil. Luisa's Selects. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Podere Montale 2017 (Montecucco).** Brick dust and topsoil join red fruit aromas of hibiscus, cranberry and cherry on the nose, while on the palate uncompromising tannins undergird more fresh cherries on top of meaty, sanguine notes. Allied Beverage Group. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER RED WINES

**91 Bonacchi 2019 Molino della Suga (Rosso di Montalcino).** Savory aromas of graphite, crushed stone and hot tar join umami flavors of balsamic vinegar and cured meat on the nose with dried cherries and figs. More cherries on the palate meet a powerful blast of wild mint and fennel, and angular if polished tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Le Cinciole 2018 Petresco (Colli della Toscana Centrale).** Vanilla, cherries and baking spices but also some umami aromas of balsamic vinegar and tanned leather on the nose roll onto a palate of more cherries and vanilla, with dark chocolate and a spicy heat on the finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$54

**90 Campo Maccione 2021 Famiglia Zingarelli (Morellino di Scansano).** The nose opens with mushrooms and soil and woody, umami aromas. Vanilla and cherry eventually join, appearing again on the palate, along with more berries and the metallic tang of more iron-rich soil underlined by abundant acidity and angular tannins. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Castello Sonnino 2021 Sonnino (Chianti Montespertoli).** Aromas of wild strawberry, pomegranate and Bing cherry balance undertones of graphite and soil on the nose, with pepper and spices lurking in the background. The peppery undertone carries through onto the palate, turning spicier and warmer thanks to plenty of acidity. Omniwines Distribution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2020 (Chianti Superiore).** A perfectly classic Sangiovese nose of cherries, soil, fennel and orange peel opens for a palate still rich with cherries and candied orange but also sanguine notes of soil, pennies and grilled meat, with firm but flexible tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Donna Laura 2019 Alteo Riserva (Chianti Montalbano).** Fennel and incense take the front seat against subtler notes of black and red

cherries on the nose while on the palate, cherries shine, given depth by undertones of chocolate and well-balanced tannins and acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Valdonica 2019 Saragio (Maremma Toscana).** A very metallic nose of wet slate, pennies and graphite stays savory as it opens, giving up tar and earthy aromas of mushrooms and soy sauce. The palate is instead rich with fruit, from cherries to raspberries to sour plums, with chalky, angular tannins. Wine For The World. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Tenuta Di Sticciano 2021 Maggiano (Chianti Superiore).** Herbal aromas from wild fennel to eucalyptus blend with medicinal roots and black cherry for a cherry cola effect on the nose that comes through again on the palate, enlivened by acidity and structured by tannins that cling. Kindred Spirits, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2022 (Chianti Colli Senesi).** Black cherry and sour plum with some herbal, medicinal notes come out first on the nose and then again on the palate, where they get a lift from peppery heat and buzzy acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES

### PUGLIA

**90 Tommasi 2021 Masseria Surani Fiano (Puglia).** A classic nose of mixed melons, orange peel, honey, pine box and thyme develops onto a palate that strikes a sophisticated balance with enough acidity to anchor both the savory notes of spices and the honeyed texture. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**90 Tormaresca 2022 Chardonnay (Puglia).** Lemon, lime, yellow apple and Anjou pear on the nose all reappear on the palate, joined by salted almonds and crushed rocks and all given a gleaming sharp edge by searing acidity. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

**89 Coppi 2021 Guiscardo Falanghina (Puglia).** Cantaloupe and dried pineapple on the nose get a sweetness from a hint of vanilla and Meyer lemon followed by a savory kick of sneaker leather. The palate offers more citrus and pineapple, with a slightly bitter nuttiness on the finish. Wine 4 All. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Varvaglione 2021 12 e Mezzo Chardonnay Made with Organic Grapes (Puglia).** Vanilla, coconut and toasted almonds join cooked pineapple



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before umami aromas of aged cheese poke through on the nose. The palate offers more nutty, cheesy notes and a mouthcoating texture, balanced with an acidic spritz of lemon. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## FIANO DI AVELLINO

**90 Feudi di San Gregorio 2022 Fiano Di Avellino (Fiano di Avellino).** Lemons and yellow apples are on the nose with a distinct honey-nut element that evolves into cooked apples and toasted almonds on the palate, complemented by lemon curd and freshly squeezed lemon. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Rocca del Principe 2019 Tognano (Fiano di Avellino).** Notes of herbs, nuts, toasted bread, lemon and orange peel and a blend of flowery grassiness are on the nose before the palate turns fruit-forward with mixed citrus, melon, pear and white peach. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89 Rocca del Principe 2020 (Fiano di Avellino).** A floral nose blooms with lilies and tulips before aromas of nuts and mixed herbs and spices come through. The palate is sweet with ripe honeydew and orange slices, before a slightly bitter finish of almond skins. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

## GRECO DI TUFO

**91 Di Meo 2021 Di Meo Salza Iripina (Greco di Tufo).** A distinctly Mediterranean nose shows aromas of dried apricots, citrus, almonds and saffron all emphasized again on the palate that's luxuriously mouthfilling but nutty and saline as well. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Feudi di San Gregorio 2022 Greco Di Tufo (Greco di Tufo).** A classic combination of green apple and apricots with the telltale aroma of turf comes through on the nose of this Greco di Tufo, while the palate offers more crisp green apple and also savory, nutty notes before a wet slate, mineral finish. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Terredora Di Paolo 2021 Loggia Della Serra (Greco di Tufo).** The honey-nut nose is cut through with an earthy freshness that stays present on the palate, where it meets dried apricots and spices in a rich, sweet and savory balancing act. Vias Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## FALANGHINA DEL SANNIO

**89 Ocone 2021 Diana (Falanghina del Sannio).** Movie popcorn at first on the nose gives

way to lemonade and candied orange peels. The palate is unctuous with more buttery texture and sweet and waxy with honey, with fresh lemon providing contrast. Polaner Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Feudi di San Gregorio 2022 Falanghina (Sannio).** A citrus nose of lemon, lime and grapefruit also offers savory notes of tennis ball and wet gravel, and the palate reiterates the citrus melody and stony, savory undertones with a saline edge. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Feudi di San Gregorio 2021 Falanghina (Sannio).** Lemons, almonds and fresh white flowers open a restrained nose, with citrusy, nutty notes following onto the palate, before a honeyed finish. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**90 Di Majo Norante 2021 (Falanghina del Molise).** For full review see page 25. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Luigi Maffini 2021 Kràtos Fiano (Cilento).** Green melon, pear, mixed citrus and the telltale aromas of hazelnuts on the nose open for a deeply citrusy but also intensely saline palate, with acidity that enlivens and electrifies the lemony, salty notes. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Paternoster 2021 Vulcanico Falanghina (Basilicata).** A nose of fresh peach slices spritzed with lemon gets a salty, savory boost from notes of tire and pavement, while the palate is fruitier and juicier, with a delicate, flowery finish. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Rivera 2021 Preludio N.1 Chardonnay (Castel del Monte).** The pleasantly distinctive nose has apples and pears but also wild fennel, green melon and just a hint of cheese rind, while the palate becomes more luxurious, deepening the fruit flavors that find space in the round texture of the Chardonnay. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 Statti 2021 (Lamezia).** Leathery, earthy aromas stand up against the juicy, honeyed white flower and stone fruit notes on the nose before the palate adds tart green apple and great mineral depth. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Varvaglione 2021 12 e Mezzo Malvasia Bianca (Salento).** Intense aromas of lime and grapefruit, almost in their essential oil form, come out on the nose before a hint of white peach that is echoed on the palate, balanced by the slight bitter-

ness of raw almonds and buoyant acidity. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Villa Serafin 2022 Pinot Grigio (Terre degli Osci).** Anjou pear and yellow apple slices on the nose get a mineral edge from aromas of wet slate and gravel. More pears on the palate are balanced by the slightly bitter note of lemon pith and a squeeze of fresh lemon for an acidic component. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

## SOUTHERN ITALY ROSÉ WINES

**91 Elena Fucci 2020 Titolo Pink Edition (Basilicata).** This is floral and sanguine on the nose, with rose petals and hibiscus and notes of cured meat and sour cherries. The palate is round with cherries, strawberries and rosewater gelée candies, with a citrus acidic finish almost like pink lemonade. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 Rivera 2021 Pungirosa Bombino Nero (Castel del Monte).** Rose petal pink in the glass and wild strawberry candy on the nose, this rosato gains some savory depth on the palate from notes of wet, crushed rocks and a hint of cured meat, though juicy strawberry flavor remains the through line. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**90 Feudi di San Gregorio 2021 Visione (Campagna).** Cooked strawberries, tomato slices and herbs on the nose of this salmon pink rosé lead to a strawberry-raspberry palate with a roundness in texture balanced by a squeeze of Meyer lemon and plenty of acidity. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Tenute Rubino 2022 Oltremé Susumaniello Rosato (Salento).** The rosy pink in the glass matches a nose of wild strawberry and watermelon with floral, grassy undertones that come back on the palate, joined by some citrus notes of blood orange and pink grapefruit and a bit of crushed stone. Colangelo & Partners. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**89 Terredora Di Paolo 2021 Rosaenovae Rosato (Irpinia).** The coppery salmon in the glass foretells the savory nose of warm bricks, coins, hibiscus and blood orange before moving onto a palate that's metallic and citric, with saliva-inducing acidity. Vias Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

## SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

**92 Di Majo Norante 2017 Contado Riserva (Aglianico del Molise).** For full review see page 21.

Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

**92 Terredora di Paolo 2013 Pago dei Fusi Aglianico (Taurasi).** On the nose this is sanguine and earthy, with notes of cured meat, balsamic vinegar and soy sauce but also rocks and soil with wild berries crushed under foot. The berries perk up on the palate, lifted by a little heat and plenty of acidity, and held in place by tannins that are still holding their integrity at this age. Vias Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$56

**91 Terredora di Paolo 2017 Corte di Giso Aglianico (Irpinia).** Ripe wild strawberries, Bing cherries and hibiscus with a hint of vanilla bean on the nose all stay present and ultrafresh on the palate, integrated with taut but flexible tannins and vibrant acidity for an enjoyable and energetic sipper. Vias Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

**91 Terredora Di Paolo 2015 Fatica Contadina Aglianico (Taurasi).** The nose is warm and spicy at first, with coffee grounds and black pepper and even a hint of chili, before wild herbs join, with fennel at the front. Black cherries, figs and raspberries open the palate, and close-grained tannins hold everything in balance. Vias Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$43

**91 Tommasi 2020 Masseria Surani (Primitivo di Manduria).** For full review see page 23. Vin-tus LLC. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

**90 Di Majo Norante 2020 Sangiovese (Terre degli Osci).** Indulgent notes of tanned leather, coffee grounds, vanilla bean and dried fig on the nose lead the way to a berry-rich palate that gains depth and structure from close-grained tannins and a prick of acidity. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

**90 Rivera 2016 Cappellaccio Riserva Aglianico (Castel del Monte).** Grilled meat and leather join bricks and crushed rocks for a mostly savory nose that then surprises with emerging aromas of dark berries and chili peppers. More on the palate bring a sweetness that's offset by bitter orange and tannins that are still relentless even at this age. USA Wine West. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21

## SICILY AND SARDINIA WHITE WINES

### ETNA

**93 Palmento Costanzo 2020 Contrada Cavaliere (Etna).** Salt and lime blend with the scent of new sneakers for a refreshing, summery nose, and the palate feels equally sunny and fresh, with lemon, lime, grapefruit and yellow peach and lots of salt and sea air. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$61

**92 Cottanera 2021 Calderara (Etna).** A nose that's at first grassy and salty opens to reveal pink grapefruit, orange blossom, peach and even jasmine before a palate that's full and ripe with more stone fruit, citrus and flowers but an almost saltwater finish. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

**92 Torre Mora 2022 Scalunera (Etna).** The nose offers pavement and gravel with wild herbs poking through at first before a bit of lime peel and grapefruit, and the palate gives more citrus and crushed rock but maintains a round, almost polished texture. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

**91 Donnafugata 2020 Dolce & Gabbana Isolano (Etna).** A blend of light, bright citrus and sun-warmed stones contrasts the indulgent, floral aromas of almond flowers and marzipan on the nose with the same play among lemon and almond and volcanic soil on the palate. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$53

**91 Donnafugata 2020 Sul Vulcano Bianco (Etna).** Yellow apple, lime and grapefruit and then a fresh burst of saline and eucalyptus on the nose opens for a palate sparkling with the sweet acidity of candied lemon peel and the salty bitterness of quartz. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$40

**91 Duca di Salaparuta 2022 Lavico (Etna).** A nose that's bursting with lime and crushed rock and then white peach and a hint of toasted almond gives way to a palate that's even brighter with citrus and acidity with a slightly bitter, salty finish. Corvo USA. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**91 Graci 2020 Muganazzi (Etna).** A nose that leans savory at first with a bit of petrol, tennis ball and warm pavement slowly gives up some honeyed and nutty aromas that also come out on the palate, alongside ripe peach with salty, crushed rock notes for contrast. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$70

**91 Tascante 2022 Buonora (Etna).** This is peachy and floral on the nose with notes of melon and mixed citrus emerging after a moment,

before more decadent ripe fruit notes come out on a very round and rich palate with a saline edge. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$24

**91 Terra Costantino 2018 Contrada Blandano (Etna).** The nose opens with the aromas of butter and herbs dressed with lemon zest of a fritto misto by the sea before the palate gives a lush, more opulent iteration of these notes, accompanied by the unmistakable salinity of the sea air. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

**90 Tenuta Monte Illice 2019 Etna Bianco (Etna).** Citrus and savory on the nose, like a lemonade iced tea, with orange blossoms and then stone fruit and herbs emerging. The palate is a citrus medley, from lemon to orange to grapefruit, with a lively, saliva-inducing acidity. Wine Icons. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

### SICILIA

**92 Feudo Montoni 2022 Timpa Grillo (Sicilia).** White peaches, apricots and jasmine are on the nose with a spritz of lime that announces the coming citrus-soaked palate, where limes meet lemons and oranges before a salty, sanguine finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

**92 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Nozze d'Oro (Sicilia).** For full review see page 16. Trincherro Family Estates.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$N/A

**91 Tasca d'Almerita 2022 Mozia Grillo (Sicilia).** Grapefruit and thyme with a sweeter note of lemon curd and just a hint of pencil eraser on the nose open up onto a palate of mixed citrus and toasted almonds, with a rich mouthfeel balanced by the salty, acidic finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

**91 Tenuta Regaleali 2022 Cavallo delle Fate Grillo (Sicilia).** For full review see page 23. Trincherro Family Estates. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13%

Price: \$N/A

**90 Baroni di Pianogrillo 2021 Grillo (Sicilia).** Savory, spicy aromas of herbs sautéed in lemon and butter accompanied by bike tire hitting hot pavement on the nose transition onto a citrusy palate, with bergamot, orange, grapefruit and more lemon, emphasized by a mineral edge. Vinotas Selections. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

**90 Caruso & Minini 2022 Grillo Naturalmente Bio (Sicilia).** Stone fruit aromas of white peach and apricot are set against savory notes of petrol and warm pavement on the nose before the palate emphasizes an overall stoniness, both in the presence of still more peach and then soil, crushed

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rock and warm cement. Massanois Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Donnafugata 2022 Anthilia (Sicilia).** Lemon, lime and yellow and green apple aromas meet tennis ball and turf on the nose, and the palate keeps the citrus but points up nutty and saline notes with a bright acidity. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Donnafugata 2022 Sur Sur Grillo (Sicilia).** Grapefruit, lime, tennis balls and crushed rocks on the nose all come together on the palate, where they're joined by still more citrus flavors and a salty minerality. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Feudo Maccari 2021 Olli Grillo (Sicilia).** A sweet and heady nose has aromas of vanilla and coconut, then lilies and jasmine, then dill, thyme and other herbs. The palate is instead bouncy with citrus and saline, with a metallic finish. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Mary Taylor 2021 Grillo (Sicilia).** A delicate, aromatic nose of fresh lime, orange blossom and Meyer lemon turns more savory on the palate, where the notes of citrus meet fresh herbs and then settle into a salty, mineral finish like licking a stone. Great value. Mary Taylor Wine. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Tenuta di Castellaro 2021 Bianco Pomice (Terre Siciliane).** Pine cones, lemons and limes are first on the nose before an elegant blend of spices quietly emerges. The palate is once again woody and lemony, but with a saline, mineral edge revealing its provenance. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**89 Cantine Colosi 2021 Bianco (Terre Siciliane).** On the nose, this is sunny and warm with citrus blossoms and paving stones. The stony, lemon-lime palate is at turns rich and fresh, with spices and herbs and a rising heat at the back. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 Cantine Colosi 2021 Grillo (Sicilia).** Citrus blossoms and almond paste on the nose become the foundation for a palate that's sweet with marzipan and salty with gravel, crushed rock and almond skin, which lends a bitterness to the otherwise lush, round finish. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89 Castellani 2022 Oynos Pinot grigio (Terre Siciliane).** Peach candy, slices of honeydew and tennis balls are on the nose. The palate veers strongly into the notes of melon, with more honeydew and now also cantaloupe, and a quartz-like, rocky, salty finish. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**89 Feudo Arancio 2022 Chardonnay (Sicilia).** Cooked yellow apples and pears lifted by lemon and a hint of star fruit on the nose lead to a similar play between the richness of cooked tree fruit and the sour tang of citrus on the palate, resulting in a polished, velvety mouthfeel. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Feudo Arancio 2022 Grillo (Sicilia).** A nose of lemon and herbs with a metallic-mineral component opens for a palate that stays lemony and herbaceous and benefits from the addition of notes of yellow apple slices and a salty, sea breeze-like quality to the finish. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**89 Gambino 2021 Feu d'O Bianco Grillo (Sicilia).** This is sweet and sour on the nose, with lemon slices and orange blossoms and very fresh sliced apples, all reiterated on a palate that alternates notes of citrus, flowers, nuts and tree fruit. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**89 MandraRossa 2021 Grillo (Sicilia).** The nose starts sweet with lemon-lime soda and candied orange slices and then turns savory with wild herbs and salty, rocky notes of minerality. The palate swings back toward citrus, with intense orange flavor and a coppery, metallic finish. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**89 Stemmari 2022 Grillo (Sicilia).** Lemon-lime soda and wild herbs emerge first on the nose, before more subtle hints of rubber ball and green almonds. The palate becomes rounder and softer, with more citrus curd, but also bouncier with salt and acidity. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**89 Stemmari 2021 Chardonnay (Sicilia).** A restrained nose gives up yellow apple, pear and fresh pineapple with a squeeze of lemon before the palate offers an equally lean and fresh array of fruit with just a hint of Chardonnay's telltale roundness. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 Stemmari 2021 Dalila Riserva (Sicilia).** Aromas of orange blossom waft off the nose and blend with savory notes of crushed rocks that turn salty and metallic on the palate against yet more citrus, from orange slices to Meyer lemon to pink grapefruit to lime. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Caruso & Minini 2021 Naturalmente Bio Grillo (Sicilia).** Notes of orange peel and pink grapefruit mingle with coastal brush on the nose before a very citrus, saline palate takes over,

finishing with a grapefruit pith astringency. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Feudo Arancio 2022 Pinot Grigio (Sicilia).** Restrained and easygoing, the nose is citrus-forward, with aromas of peach and melon emerging slowly. Peach, melon and lemon-lime notes continue on the palate, with a slight bitterness arriving in the form of almond skin on the finish. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88 Le Casematte 2021 Peloro (Sicilia).** Pithy grapefruit slices, warm pavement and mixed herbs—especially thyme—come through on the nose, while the palate gives more breadth and depth to mixed citrus, with a nutty, saline component to offer balance. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Stemmari 2022 Pinot Grigio (Sicilia).** Green apple and lemon peel are on the nose with hints of almond blossom that appear again on the palate, where whole raw almonds and dehydrated lemon slices get a salty, crushed rock edge. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Tenuta Rapitalà 2021 Viviri Grillo (Sicilia).** Lemon, yellow apple and pineapple with just a hint of buttered popcorn on the nose return on the palate, where citrus notes dominate but a rich mouthfeel is still achieved. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**93 Podere Giardino 2021 Metodo Ancestrale (Malvasia delle Lipari).** Baked peach, spiced Bosc pear and dried chamomile waft from the glass of this elegant frizzante made from Malvasia di Candia. The palate is bright, showing fresh apple, candied lemon zest, citrus blossom and white tea, finishing with a vibrant show of acidity and blanched almonds. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**92 Tasca d'Almerita 2022 Tenuta Capofaro Diddy Malvasia Delle Lipari (Salina).** A nose that is at first floral and citrusy, with orange blossom and jasmine, then becomes saline with oyster shells, with the salinity becoming the defining feature of the palate, soaring higher with the help of more citrus and plenty of acidity. This is a beautifully balanced expression of this aromatic grape. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91 Planeta 2020 Cometa Fiano (Menfi).** Roasted hazelnuts, mixed herbs and capers fried in butter with lemon on the nose follow onto a palate that adds more citrus along with honey, sliced



through with saline notes and bright acidity. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**89 Sella & Mosca 2021 Terre Bianche Torbato (Alghero).** This wine is perfumed and floral on the nose, with daffodils, orange blossoms and lilies that all bloom again on the palate, lifted by lots of citrus and intense, persistent bubbles and carrying through a nutty finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**88 Cantine di Dolianova 2021 Prendas Vermentino (Vermentino di Sardegna).** Lemon, lime, green apple and the denser aromas of ripe melon, stone fruit and honeysuckle on the nose move to a palate that's all green apple candy given contour by a bright salinity and citrus finish. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## SICILY AND SARDINIA ROSÉ WINES

**92 Feudo Montoni 2022 Rose di Adele Nerello Mascalese (Terre Siciliane).** Rich metallic and herbal notes on the nose match the opulent copper in the glass and the savory overtones of the palate, where pink grapefruit and blood orange find oregano and crushed volcanic stones but also a certain lushness despite the salty citric acidic backbone. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92 Feudo Montoni 2021 Rose di Adele Nerello Mascalese (Sicilia).** White peaches, freeze-dried strawberries and watermelon candy come through on the nose, lifted with a spritz of lime and given depth by aromas of wild oregano sautéed in butter. Strawberry, watermelon and peach are back together on the palate, with even more powerful wild oregano and the fresh saltiness of a sea breeze. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**91 Benanti 2022 (Etna).** A quiet nose of just barely ripened wild strawberries and cherries also has a bit of the rubber and graphite of a No. 2 pencil, with tropical fruit flavors of guava and even banana emerging slowly, reiterated on the palate with a boost from blood orange. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Cottanera 2021 Rosato (Etna).** Pink grapefruit, white peach and ripe melon start on the nose and follow through onto the palate, where they stretch their legs in a polished, mouthcoating texture with citrus notes perking up the finish. Indigenous Selections. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Graci 2021 Etna Rosato (Etna).** Citrus and apples with salty, savory notes of toasted

spices and herbs on the nose of this barely pink Etna rosato lead to a palate dominated by citrus, from lemon to orange to grapefruit, with substantial acidity and tannic contour. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Tascante 2022 Tefra (Etna).** The pale pink of the glass belies the intense aromatics and rich mouthfeel of this rosé. Wild strawberries and peach candy on the nose give way to more berries and stone fruit on the palate, with a bit of blood orange and lime and a lick of quartz on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**90 Caruso & Minini 2022 Frappo Frappato (Terre Siciliane).** White peach and rosy apricot with a hint of pink grapefruit and sandstone on the nose move to a palate that's more citrus-forward with just a hint of tropical fruit and a lushness despite the sandy, salty edge to each sip. Massanois Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Donnafugata 2022 Dolce & Gabbana Rosa (Sicilia).** Salt air and flinty crushed rock are first on the nose of this pale pink rosato, followed by pink grapefruit and nectarine. The salty citrus blend continues on the palate, with the notes of stone fruit giving emphasis to a roundness that gives length. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**90 Gambino 2021 Tifeo Rosato (Etna).** A restrained and delicate nose offers blood orange, grapefruit and crushed rock before the palate explodes with more citrus, sweet and fuzzy peach skin and a lick of salt. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**90 Planeta 2021 (Sicilia).** A very citrus nose has grapefruit, blood orange and lime with hints of honeydew and peach skin, and the palate keeps up the citrus theme, elevated by salty acidity. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Cantina Santadi 2022 Tre Torri (Carignano del Sulcis).** An aromatic nose gives up peaches—white, yellow, candied, canned—with pink grapefruit and slices of green and yellow apple. Crisp apple slices join peaches and also melon on the palate, with acidity adding to the citrus notes for vibrancy. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## SICILY RED WINES

**92 Feudo Montoni 2021 Terre di Elio Nerello Mascalese (Terre Siciliane).** The nose offers a sweet and savory blend of strawberries and watermelon candy with cinnamon, chili pepper and pickling spices before the palate brings out more straw-

berry and watermelon but with a mineral edge and tannins that cling intensely. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**91 Duca di Salaparuta 2021 Lavico (Etna).** A restrained nose of cigar box, vanilla, dried herbs and old books opens for a palate that's instead very lively, with wild strawberry and wild cherry and warm crushed stones with more herbs poking through, all electrified with acidity. Corvo USA. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Famiglia De Cerchio 2021 Malpelo (Terre Siciliane).** Leather and cured meat on the nose are warmed by aromas of cinnamon stick and then cooled with notes of crushed wet rock. The palate is still meaty but sweetened with chocolate and berries and given contour from dusty tannins. DLY Enterprise LLC. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Terra Costantino 2021 deAetna (Etna).** Brick dust and cranberry are on the nose with an undertone of herb-crusting grilled meat and a deeper umami note of balsamic vinegar. The palate offers more cranberries joined by strawberries and cherries but remains very savory and finishes with dusty, gritty tannins. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

## OTHER ITALIAN WINES

**94 Lini 910 2007 Metodo Classico Rosso (Italy).** The Lini family has been at the forefront of producing Lambrusco via the Champagne method since the 1970s, and this wine shows their expertise. Aged for 14 to 15 years on the lees, this 100% Lambrusco di Salamino is radiant with ripe cherries mixed with savory herbs, sweet spices and blueberry tart aromas. The palate is rich yet light with an acidity that keeps the palate fresh. The wine finishes with complex notes of plums, dried herbs and violets. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**92 Sandy Giovese NV (Italy).** This wine is ready to go from the moment it is poured into the glass—from a box! Boxed wine has come a long way in the past few years, and Sandy Giovese proves it's not the container that matters; it's what's inside. Loaded with classic sour cherry and cranberry notes that are hallmarks of Sangiovese leap out of the glass. Following are more subtle floral and herbal notes that give the wine a bit more soulfulness. The palate is a direct translation of the nose and overdelivers with fine tannins, vibrant acidity and simple deliciousness. This is what we should all expect from our boxed wine from now on. Massanois Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$38/3 L

**90 Tenute Dettori NV Renosu (Italy).** Honeydew, cooked lemon slices and mature lilies

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meet hot pavement and bike tire on the nose of this unfiltered, unfinned and untouched Sardinian white before the palate emphasizes the ripe melon and rich citrus flavors with a dense, almost velvety texture. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26

**89 Cantina Santadi NV Solais Grand Cuvée Metodo Classico Brut (Vino Spumante).** The nose offers lemons, limes, honey and toasted nuts before a slightly metallic edge of crushed rocks emerges. The bouncy fizz of the mousse brings out more coppery, metallic notes contrasted with undertones of milk chocolate on the palate. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

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

**89 Feudo di Santa Tresa NV Il Grillo di Santa Tresa (Vino Spumante).** A savory nose is grassy at first, then turns to pencil shavings and eraser and then finally raw almonds and citrus blossoms. The palate is more citrus focused, but with metallic notes of crushed rock and soil adding contrast. This is a great value from a conscientious producer. Vias Imports. —D.C.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 I Carpini NV Pet-Nat (Italy).** Sour cherry, blood orange zest and dried flowers open the aromas of this interesting take on Barbera. It's savory on the palate with mixed herbs, roasted citrus and natural strawberry fruit leather finishing with fresh acidity. Skin Contact Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26

**89 Sorrentino 2019 Vigna Lapillo Superiore Bianco (Italy).** A first note of petrol is followed by floral and citrus aromas before a final note of tahini comes through. Almond flowers and lemon rind and pith arrive on the palate, which has a warm, oily texture contrasting with the bitter citrus notes. Wine Icons. —D.C.

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

**88 Lungarotti NV Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante).** This unexpected sparkling wine opens with a wide range of flavors that bounce between baked orchard fruits and macerated red berries. Notes of freshly baked bread and a stony minerality add to the wine as it opens. The palate is elegant and refined with more focus on baked apple tart, wild strawberries and pressed white flowers finishing with vibrant acidity and a gentle perlage. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**88 Paladin 2022 Pralis (Italy).** This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay shows the duo working in harmony from the start with bright aromas of grapefruit, green apple and tropical fruits with a touch of wild herbs. The palate highlights flavors of lemon zest, creamy pear and a touch of savory spice. Serendipity Wines TX. —J.P.

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

**87 Cabert NV Ribolla Gialla Brut (Vino Spumante).** Ripe apple and peach drive this fresh and easy sparkling wine made from Ribolla Gialla. The palate is crisp with green apple notes, white flowers and a vibrant finish. Bravo Wine Cellar. —J.P.

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

**87 Fantinel 2020 One & Only Rosé Brut (Italy).** Watermelon, pink citrus and candied fruits pour out of the glass from this vibrantly colored rosé. It's superfruity on the palate with fresh cherries, strawberries and cranberries all enjoying the easiness of this fun wine. Volio Imports. —J.P.

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

**87 Paladin 2021 Drago Bianco Chardonnay (Italy).** Gentle aromas of ripe pear, lemon oil and fresh cream waft from the glass. The palate is round and mouthfilling with a creamy texture followed by sweet and savory spice notes, mixed apples and a hint of candied mango finishing with a touch of acidity. Serendipity Wines TX. —J.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**86 Gooseneck NV Brut Rosé (Italy).** This pale pink sparkler opens with aromas of tart strawberry, white cherry and a hint of a candy shop. The palate is soft with gentle bubbles and loads of ripe red berries finishing almost like a rose-and-cherry-infused marshmallow. Wickford Wine Company. —J.P.

**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

## ALSACE

### RIESLING

**96 Domaines Schlumberger 2019 Kessler Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** Fresh celery and meadow grasses are intense on the nose of this wine, with just a hint of petrol. At first sip, this wine is a bit shy. As it unfolds, fresh apricot meets fennel frond and a bit of hay. Although it's laser focused in its acidity and quite elegant, there's something pastoral about this wine; drinking it feels very much like standing on the slopes of Kessler on a sunny day. Petrol characteristics will likely develop more in the next year or two, but I would drink this now to capture its immediacy. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**94 Hubert Meyer 2021 Winzenberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** The nose opens with a playful peach-gummy quality. But lest you think this wine is all fun and games, mineral aromas sweep in with savory seriousness. The latter builds as the wine opens up and leads straight into a linear palate of slate and lemon curd. It's savory, bright and delightfully intense. The long finish softens a bit with notes of pineapple and peach, to leave an impression of tangy fruit, minus any sourness. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —L.S.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**93 Domaines Schlumberger 2021 Saering Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** Dainty apricot aromas are bolstered by scents of lemon zest and ocean spray. While this wine is defined by lemony acidity, its texture is soft, creating an overall impression that's friendly and welcoming. Minerality leads into a long finish that hints at petrol qualities. This wine could easily spend a few years in the cellar to let those characteristics develop. But those who don't want to wait will find a friendly, sunny wine that perfectly balances racy citrus zest, saline mineral notes and a bit of soft, juicy stone fruit. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —L.S.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**92 Anne de K 2019 Riesling (Alsace).** With scents of ripe apricot, Sicilian lemon skins and ocean rocks, this wine smells like summer. The sip eases you in with a soft, silky feeling before the lemon acidity kicks in. Its savory mineral characteristics don't kick in until the end, when salinity and straw are met with a hint of smoke. From beginning to end, this wine channels long days in the sun. Toss it in a picnic basket or pair it with grilled fish, and you'll find delight for a reasonable price tag. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 André Kientzler 2018 Ribeauvillé Riesling (Alsace).** The nose on this wine is intriguingly floral, lively with apple and pear blossoms, as well as an Alpine cheese quality. It's quite epicurean and refreshing, with both the mild cheese and orchard fruit qualities continuing onto the palate. A bit of alcohol burn adds weight to this otherwise heady sip. Only a few dollars more than the producer's non-grand cru Riesling, this is a worthy upgrade. AP Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Anne de K 2019 Anne de Laweiss Riesling (Alsace).** Lemon-drop candy aromas float out of the glass, followed by faint hints of smoke and petrol. More smoke comes through on the swishy, billowing palate, for an effect similar to a charred lemon half. Some soft fruit lends balance to this sip, which finished long and saline. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.

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

**90 Domaines Schlumberger 2021 Les Princes Abbés Riesling (Alsace).** This wine is all business on the nose, with stony aromas and a spritz of lemon. The palate is similarly focused and driven. Lemon-lime acidity drives taut minerality in this light-bodied sip. The finish is long and saline, with tangy Granny Smith notes giving it some lift. Pair with creamy cheeses for a refreshing palate-cleanser. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —L.S.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Hubert Meyer 2021 Riesling (Alsace).** There's a woody aroma about this wine that speaks of cedar chests and old books. It's unexpected, spicy and draws you in. At first sip, though, this wine is welcome and familiar—zingy grapefruit acidity and wet-stone minerality come together in

a lithe package. It packs a great deal of value for a modest price. The finish is long and savory, with notes of lemon juice highlighting saline qualities. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. **Best Buy.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**89 André Kientzler 2021 Riesling (Alsace).** A Granny Smith apple aroma jumps out of the glass, along with a creamy aroma like gjetost cheese. The nose is true to the palate, which has a slightly creamy feel to it, as well as more Granny Smith and lime zest leading into an almost caramelized finish. This feels like a wine made to be paired with a cheese platter and with a decent amount of body, it can take on rich, creamy, even pungent offerings. AP Wine Imports. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

## PINOT GRIS

**93 Hubert Meyer 2021 Winzenberg Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A heady perfume of lilac, pear and earthy suggestions of vanilla and sandalwood floats out of the glass. This wine is honeyed and delicate on the front palate, with searing acidity and salinity bringing up the rear. The finish is long, tingling, and refreshing, with lemon and Asian pear leaving a bright, clean sensation. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$63

**92 André Kientzler 2020 Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Granny Smith aromas meet with something flinty and vegetal. This wine is lean, racy, muscular and linear with bright acidity. On the back palate and long, savory finish, that flint note takes center stage, with a hint of smoke. Wait long enough, and you'll get a lovely candy-apple note at the very end. While not the orchard-fruit Pinot Gris one might expect from Alsace, this wine is intriguing, thanks to its intensity and savory characteristics. AP Wine Imports. —L.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**92 Domaines Schlumberger 2017 Kessler Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A little bit reserved on the nose, this wine offers aromas of salinity and brown butter. The palate is similarly restrained, with golden sweetness and hazelnut characteristics that belie its light body. The acidity is present and palate cleansing, but so well integrated that you don't really notice it until the long, nutty finish. Give this wine a little time in glass or decanter to open up, and you'll be treated to an unexpected mélange of complementary orchard fruit and toasty notes. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Editors' Choice.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Anne de K 2020 Anne de Laweiss Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Cedar chest and straw lead the nose on this wine, but the palate softens up with silky Honeycrisp apple notes and a bit of dried herb. This wine is restrained and bright, but a tangle of apples, herbs and mild chèvre pulse below the surface. A bit of alcohol burn comes through on the finish, so

consider serving with a creamy pasta or cheese to balance that out. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Domaines Schlumberger 2021 Les Princes Abbés Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Talk about typicity. This wine is exactly what you want from an Alsace Pinot Gris. The nose is juicy apple, slate, steel and white blossoms. On the palate, this wine is lively with acidity, but there's an apple-pie softness and weight to it. Savory notes of *fines herbes* and mild hard cheese provide balance into a lingering saline finish. Full of culinary goodness, this is a wine to pair with just about any vegetable, fish or poultry dish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Editors' Choice.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Domaines Schlumberger 2020 Spiegel Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Classic aromas of Gala apples and sea spray are vibrant on this gold-hued wine, but they have an edge of tobacco. This is weighty and lush on the palate, with a bit of honeyed sweetness balanced by walnut astringency and river rocks. The finish is bright, lemony and clean. Although slightly sweet, this is a wine that would do well with a savory dish like chicken stew or roasted duck. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Hubert Meyer 2021 Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Spicy cedar comes together with wild jasmine and Bartlett pear in an intriguing nose. This wine is loose and free flowing on the palate, with green-apple acidity, a reedy note and just a hint of smoke merging in a savory, food-friendly sip. This can take on something fishy, like smoked trout dip, lox or caviar. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. **Best Buy.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## PINOT BLANC

**91 Anne de K 2021 Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** This wine has an elegant cologne of slate and grape pips. The mouthfeel is loose and rippling, with notes of Seckel pear and river rock. It's savory and zingy, with a finish that's long but very, very subtle. Pair this with a mild fish or an herbaceous vegetable dish, and you'll find that all elements merge into something greater than the sum of their parts. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Domaines Schlumberger 2021 Les Princes Abbés Pinot Blanc (Alsace).** Light bodied and sprightly, this wine is marked by minerality and nervy lemon pith acidity. For a delicate wine, it packs a wallop of palate-cleansing brightness. The long finish offers a softer reprieve of Granny Smith for a sensation that is overall refreshing, bright and ready to whet the palate before a meal. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Best Buy.** —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## GEWÜRZTRAMINER

**93 Pierre Sparr 2018 Mambourg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** Lychee and mead fragrances lift out of the glass. This wine is plush and mouthcoating, packed with floral lychee flavor and a honey texture. Acidity and herbal notes of dill and baby chive cut the sweetness. A long, floral finish adds to the luxurious feel of this wine. Serve it on its own as dessert, and let that finish carry you through the night. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**92 Domaines Schlumberger 2017 Kitterlé Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** Herbacious aromas of parsley, bay and horseradish belie the honey palate of this wine. You'll find hints of anise and wasabi in this dense wine, as well as zippy acidity to cut through the viscosity. The overall impression is decadent without being too sweet. It's a bit of a cliché at this point, but this wine would pair wonderfully with spicy dishes like drunken noodles, where it can balance out the heat and match the mouth-coating feel of the dish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**92 Hubert Meyer 2021 Winzenberg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** A restrained white pepper and bay-leaf aroma and a bit of white blossom lead into a honeyed lychee sip, with a bit of apple tang. This wine is mouth coating without feeling heavy, and lemon acidity adds a beautiful, refreshing component. Subtle and elegant, this could easily pair with rich, savory dishes. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$62

**91 Domaines Schlumberger 2021 Les Princes Abbés Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** Aromas of lychee, fresh-cut grass and mallow flower promise a wine that will be juicy and fun. The sip delivers. This light-bodied wine has a pleasant waxy quality that coats the palate in flavors of lychee, homemade marshmallow and an earthy hint of white mushroom. A savory, vinaigrette-like acidity is a welcome counterpoint to the sweetness. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Gewurztraminer (Alsace).** Lychee is unmistakable but not in your face on the nose of this wine, where you'll also find a bit of Key lime and dill. Off dry, this wine is very light and racy, with more lime zest than lychee. On the finish, dried oregano and thyme make for an exciting and epicurean note. Quintessential. —L.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

## MUSCAT

**94 Domaine Zind-Humbrecht 2019 Goldert Grand Cru Muscat (Alsace).** An aroma of dill and chives is immediate, powerful and mouth-



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watering. Vivid fruit—a mix of tangy nectarine and grapefruit—comes through on the palate, which has a pleasant round weight to it. Schist minerality and pulsating acidity come through to cleanse the palate, and the finish leaves you with a cooling hint of eucalyptus. This can stand up to a dish with a bit of heat; think leche de tigre ceviche. Kobrand. —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**92** **Domaine Zind-Humbrecht 2020 Muscat (Alsace).** You could spend an hour nosing this wine and still find things to discover. Eucalyptus and chamomile flowers are prominent and intense, but you'll also get ripe peach skins, gardenia and a little bit of chervil. The plump, round palate leans into peachy notes, as well as grapefruit and the finish is long and refreshing with a lingering impression of peach gummy and slate. With all of these great aromatics, this wine could pair with a variety of tricky food like garden salad or artichokes, but it's also just a joy to sip on its own. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

## CHASSELAS

**91** **Domaine Schoffit 2019 Vieilles Vignes Chasselas (Alsace).** Forget coffee, this wine will wake you right up. It's saline and bright from sniff to finish, with a dancing sensation across the palate. There are hints of soft pear and nutty wood hiding in this otherwise lively, linear pour. That light-footedness is a little deceptive, though. This wine has some heft to it and would pair well with a variety of starchy dishes such as risotto or creamy pasta, meaty fish like tuna or gamy poultry like duck. Weygandt-Metzler. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**90** **Albert Boxler 2018 Chasselas (Alsace).** This wine is all steel and nerve. The nose is saline and restrained, while the light-bodied palate offers soft Anjou pear characteristics to round out the acidity. The overall impression is taut and focused, but those hints of Anjou as well as a little dill offer interest and culinary possibilities. Serve with lighter fried foods—fish and chips or vegetable tempura—for a palate-cleansing, herbal complement. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

## WHITE BLEND

**90** **André Kientzler 2020 La Soif White Blend (Alsace).** Teriyaki meets white button mushroom meets bright, fragrant Meyer lemon and a hint of coconut on the nose of this blend. Upfront, the sip leans into those fruitier notes and has a nimble, light bodied feel, but the umami notes kick in midpalate. It all flows together seamlessly and builds up to a long, clean, lemony finish. AP Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

## CRÉMANT D'ALSACE

**93** **Anne de K NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** River rocks and ripe orchard fruit aromas lead the way on the nose. While the mousse on this one is quite lively, the palate is soft and tangy with apples and cherries. The mineral notes recede as supporting players. A finish of tart red berries makes this an interesting option to pair with heartier meals. Saranty Imports. —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**93** **Gustave Lorentz NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** For full review see page 10. Quintessential.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Gustave Lorentz NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** For full review see page 10. Quintessential.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Bestheim NV Brut Premium Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** Apple, toffee and saffron are an enticing combination of scents on the nose of this sparkler. On the sip, it's more austere and laser focused. A foamy pearl teases the tongue, while savory mineral notes dominate. Tart green apple leads a lingering fruity finish. This is a very moreish aperitif that will pair beautifully with cheese, charcuterie and nuts, and leave guests hungry for the main course. Z Wine Gallery Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**92** **Hubert Meyer NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** A vibrant tarte tatin aroma greets you before sipping a creamy, mouth-filling mousse. This wine is packed with tangy apple notes, but you'll also find a bit of fennel and copper. The finish is mineral, saline and refreshing. This is a value-driven, food-friendly wine that can match anything from a seafood boil to Thanksgiving dinner. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**91** **Anne de K NV Blanc De Blancs Brut Chardonnay (Crémant d'Alsace).** The nose on this is a bit restrained. Salinity leads the way and dried apple follows. At first sip, though, this wine erupts into a moussey, foamy, salty apple-y extravaganza. It's bracing and cleansing while still impeccably fruity. Serve before or with food to get an appetite going. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**91** **Hubert Meyer NV Rosé Brut Sparkling Blend (Crémant d'Alsace).** This sparkling rosé speaks of all things autumnal. From sniff to sip, it's crisp with apples, pears and fallen leaves. A taut minerality and searing acidity rein in the fruit. That dichotomy of savory and fruity lasts into the long finish. While this wine is a delicious value offering year-round, it will be especially at home with win-

ter squash, mushrooms and leaves falling outdoors. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## CHAMPAGNE VINTAGE

**96** **Henriot 2016 L'Inattendue Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).** A Champagne that came from a selection of wine that was regarded as so exceptional, so unexpected (as the name suggests) that it was bottled separately. It is an impressive wine, rich, now mature with a strong touch of toast. It is ready to drink. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$155

**96** **Taittinger 2012 Comtes de Champagne Grand Crus Blanc de Blancs (Champagne).** Mature and beautifully textured, this magnificent Champagne is just right. The wine's minerality is tempered with acidity and touches of white fruits. This great wine is toasty and balanced, ready to drink. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**95** **Bruno Paillard 2013 Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Champagne).** Properly mature with a fine touch of toastiness, this Champagne is rich and full even though with an extra-dry character. It is beautifully textured and now ready to drink. Mas-sanois Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$125

**95** **Henriot 2008 Cuvée Hemera Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).** Beautifully mature, this Champagne is from grand cru vineyards, giving richness and layers of white fruits. It is textured with spice and softened white fruits celebrating that the wine is just right now. So drink now. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$200

**95** **Taittinger 2009 Comtes de Champagne Grand Crus Rosé (Champagne).** Impressively mature, this Champagne is ripe with a fine texture of spice, toast and well-aged fruits. It is a very fine wine, beautifully ready to drink at the top of its form and richness. Kobrand. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$277

**94** **Henriot 2012 Millésime 2012 Brut (Champagne).** Now well mature, this Champagne has a slight dominance of Chardonnay from the Côte des Blancs. It balances citrus and green-apple flavors against its toast and spice. Drink now. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$100

**94** **Joseph Perrier 2016 La Côte à Bras Parcelle AH83 Brut Nature (Champagne).** In a departure for this producer, this Champagne is from a single parcel. It is rich while bone dry, the fruit still vibrant and full of energy. This is a fine wine that

will benefit from further aging. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$125

**94 Joseph Perrier 2013 Cuvée Royale Brut Vintage (Champagne).** Now beautifully mature, this wine is balanced. Toast and ripe fruits have melded together in a Champagne that is steely with great spice and a final acidity. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$96

**94 Maurice Grumier 2015 Cuvée Amand Brut (Champagne).** The Champagne is full of fruit while also having a fine texture. With tight acidity and a fine mineral edge, the wine's white fruits show a touch of tannin along with a hint of toastiness. Drink this wine now. Nomenclature Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$130

**93 Saint-Réol 2012 Élégance Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).** Showing signs of maturity, this fine Champagne is rich and beautifully textured. With its poised character, flavors of white fruits and textured spice, the wine is well ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$175

**92 André Diligent 2013 Grand Millésime Brut (Champagne).** From this producer in the Seine Valley, this fine Champagne, bottled in 2014, is now mature and rich. Toast and generous fruits have a crisp edge that has now softened and shows ripeness. It is just right, so drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. *Hidden Gem*. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$90

**92 Jean Josselin 2017 Les Blancs Brut (Champagne).** The natural acidity of crisp Chardonnay has been softened by aging and by malolactic fermentation to calm the steely character of the Champagne. It is now mature, with a fine mineral edge, the white and citrus fruits softened. Drink now. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$82

**92 Jean Josselin 2016 Aux Origines Brut (Champagne).** This ripe, full-bodied Champagne from the Seine Valley is lightly structured and deliciously creamy. Made from 100% Pinot Noir, the wine has weight and rich white fruits. With its age, it is now ready to drink. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$82

**92 Maurice Grumier 2015 Les Plâtes Pierres Brut (Champagne).** Blending Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, this producer, based in the Marne Valley, has produced a ripe, full-flavored Champagne. White fruits are shot with acidity and a crisp, tight texture. The wine will benefit from a little more aging. Drink from 2024. Nomenclature Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$85

**92 Philippe Fourrier 2016 Intimiste Grande Cuvée Extra Brut (Champagne).** This mature

Champagne is rich while also having a fine mineral edge. Ripe and tangy, the white fruits are now softened. It is beautifully ready to drink. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$180

**91 Leclerc Briant 2016 Blanc de Meuniers Premier Cru Brut (Champagne).** This producer draws on vineyards in the Marne Valley for this ripe, generously textured Champagne. Its still-fresh acidity contrasts well with the wine's apple flavors and touch of pepper. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$280

**91 Leclerc Briant 2016 Millésime Extra Brut (Champagne).** Still young, this fruity wine is full of white apple and citrus flavors. There are hints of toastiness now, suggesting a fine future. Wait to drink until 2025. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$93

**91 Leclerc Briant 2015 Grand Blanc Brut (Champagne).** This Blanc de Blancs has maturity that gives it richness on top of the wine's minerality and white fruits. It is balanced, poised and ready to drink. Organic. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$315

**91 Liébart-Régnier 2016 Excéla Brut (Champagne).** A blend that is dominated by Pinot Noir gives this Champagne structure and rich white fruits. It is full, with tight acidity and layers of fresh apple flavors. Still young, the wine will be better from 2025. Vine Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$62

**91 Saint-Réol 2012 Millésime Brut (Champagne).** Well matured, this Champagne is ripe and richly endowed. The Pinot Noir gives the wine weight along with the toasty character. It is beautifully ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$150

**90 Baron-Fuenté 2014 Millésime Brut (Champagne).** A ripe, mature wine, with spice and acidity at the service of the vanilla and white-fruit flavors. A fine, balanced wine, this blend of all three main Champagne grapes is ready to drink. DJK Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$45

**90 Marie Copinet 2017 Nos Pas dans la Terre Brut Nature (Champagne).** In a series of bone-dry Champagnes from this producer, this is the closest to being mature and ready to drink. The Meunier in the blend helps give the wine a rounded character to set against the steely fruit character. Drink this wine from 2024. Chloe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$70

**90 Marie Copinet 2016 Nos Pas dans la Craie Brut Nature (Champagne).** Brut Nature is by definition dry and tight. This Champagne is still young and needs further time to soften. It is moving well in that direction with apple and spice flavors

developing. Drink from 2025. Chloe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$70

**90 Philippe Fourrier 2016 Cuvée Millésime Brut (Champagne).** An attractively mature Champagne with aging showing well in its toastiness. The wine is balanced and soft at the end. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$90

**89 Marie Copinet 2018 Argilla Villonissa Brut Nature (Champagne).** Tight and fresh with fine acidity, the wine is mineral and taut. It is a bone-dry Champagne and is still young. Let the bottling age further and drink from 2025. Chloe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$70

**89 Maurice Grumier 2017 Les Rosiers Extra Brut (Champagne).** This is a rosé de saignée, the color coming from the grape skins rather than the (more usual) addition of red wine. That gives the Champagne a darker pink color and a touch of tannin in the structure. Very dry, the wine could age further to soften. Drink from 2025. Nomenclature Imports. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$120

## NONVINTAGE

**94 Bruno Paillard NV Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).** With some maturity giving the wine a soft texture, this is rich and deliciously creamy. It has apples and a touch of toastiness along with a tight edge. Ready to drink. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$105

**94 Maurice Grumier NV Solera sur Bois Brut (Champagne).** A blend of the three top Champagne grapes, this is fermented in wood and kept in a solera system from which bottling takes place. It is an impressive, rich wine, layering toast and ripe white fruits. The wine has a floral character, very perfumed and balancing fruit and minerality. Drink now. Nomenclature Imports. *Hidden Gem*. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$150

**93 Château Miraval NV ER3 Fleur de Miraval Rosé Brut (Champagne).** For full review see page 9. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection*.  
abv: 13% Price: \$350

**93 Maurice Grumier NV Blanc de Venteuil Brut (Champagne).** This limited-production Champagne has a fine taste of toastiness to go with the more mineral character. Its white fruits and taut acidity have gained richness and depth. Drink the wine now. Nomenclature Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$90

**93 Saint-Réol NV Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru (Champagne).** Fresh and steely, this Champagne has a taut texture that gives a crisp edge.

# BUYINGGUIDE

From the Côte des Blancs, the wine balances white fruits and acidity with great poise and elegance. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.

abv: NA Price: \$95

## 92 Bruno Paillard NV Dosage Zéro (Champagne).

As dry as the name implies, the Champagne is also full of fruit. It has a crisp texture, tightly wrought and with both citrus and green-apple flavors. Drink now. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$85

## 92 Henriot NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne).

The Champagne has a fine maturity, the bright citrus fruit softened into a touch of toast. This is the perfect moment to drink this wine. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$70

## 92 Liébart-Régnier NV Confidencia (Champagne).

With a light wood aging during the fermentation of the Chardonnay in the blend, this Champagne is rich, touched by spice and with fine acidity and zingy white fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$65

## 92 Liébart-Régnier NV Horti Extra Brut (Champagne).

This Champagne uses three grapes that are rarely found in the blend: Arbane, Petit Meslier and Pinot Blanc. The result is a fine bonedry Champagne that is softened by the naturally ripe fruits, green apples and a touch of orange citrus. Drink this intriguing wine now. Vinea Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$130

## 92 Liébart-Régnier NV Sur Le Grand Marais Brut Nature (Champagne).

This producer, based in the Marne Valley, features Meunier as an important part of its repertoire. This dry Champagne has a soft edge alongside the bright acidity and citrus flavors. Drink this fine wine now. Vinea Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$63

## 92 Maurice Grumier NV Réserve Perpetuelle Brut (Champagne).

With a high proportion of reserve wines to bring age and richness to the Champagne, this is a full, concentrated wine. Freshness and more mature fruits have been blended into a ripe, balanced wine. Drink now. Nomenclature Imports. *Hidden Gem*. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$65

## 92 Saint-Réol NV Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).

Beautifully textured, this blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is both fruity and youthfully mineral. It is a wine with great potential and this bottling is definitely worth aging. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$105

## 92 Saint-Réol NV Grand Cru Extra Brut (Champagne).

Certainly dry, this Champagne also

has the fruit and the fine texture to withstand the blast of taut white fruits. It is balanced with fruits lifted and well integrated into the wine's minerality. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$85

## 91 André Diligent NV Atticisme Brut (Champagne).

A blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in a smooth, finely textured Champagne. Aged for four years in bottle before release, the wine is bright with acidity and white fruits. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$85

## 91 André Diligent NV Blanc d'Eminence (Champagne).

Mainly Chardonnay with a seasoning of Pinot Blanc, the Champagne is mineral and tautly textured. It has ripe white fruits giving freshness while this young wine is bursting with energy. The bottling will be better from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$95

## 91 Bruno Paillard NV Cuvée 72 Extra Brut (Champagne).

Bright fruit and acidity are combined with a touch of maturity to give a balanced Champagne. White fruits and a taut texture make this just ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$90

## 91 Liébart-Régnier NV Blancs de Blanche Brut (Champagne).

Bright apples and a light spice give this Blanc de Blancs Champagne a mineral, steely character. The bottling is tangy with perfumed acidity coming through at the end. Drink now. Vinea Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$55

## 91 Marie Copinet NV Brut Blanc de Blancs (Champagne).

Situated to the north of the Seine Valley, this producer has access to ripe Chardonnay. So this Champagne is full, with as much fruit as texture, taut by with layers of white fruits as well as citrus. Drink now. Chloe Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$48

## 91 Maurice Grumier NV Instant Nature Zéro Dosage (Champagne).

The Champagne is bone dry, crisp and full of citrus. The fruits are rich and as they soften, the wine will develop a good depth. But this fine bottling needs some time; keep until 2024. Nomenclature Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$90

## 91 Maurice Grumier NV O Ma Vallée Brut (Champagne).

Meunier and Pinot Noir are in a blend from the Marne Valley. The Champagne is beautifully balanced. Its white fruits and mineral texture give a taut, steely character that is just right now and ready to drink. Nomenclature Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$50

## 91 Philippe Fourrier NV Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne).

Made as a white Champagne

from Pinot Noir, this is rich, satisfyingly full with bright fruits. They are softening and beginning to show maturing flavors. Drink now. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$55

## 90 Baron-Fuenté NV Quinconce Grand Cru Brut (Champagne).

This blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from grand cru vineyards is mature after seven years before its release. It is a rich wine with touches of toast to balance the white fruits. The bottling is ready to drink. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$60

## 90 Baron-Fuenté NV Rosé Dolores Brut (Champagne).

On the dry side of Brut, this Champagne has red fruits alongside tight acidity and a forward character. The wine should be aged a little further. Drink the bottling from the end of the year. Chatelaine Inc. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$45

## 90 Bruno Paillard NV Première Cuvée Extra Brut (Champagne).

The nonvintage Champagne from this producer shows its penchant for dry wines. This wine, a blend of the three Champagne grapes, is dry but it makes up for that with the ripe white and citrus fruits. It is ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$72

## 90 Bruno Paillard NV Rosé Première Cuvée Brut (Champagne).

Mainly Pinot Noir with a touch of Chardonnay, the Champagne is balanced and crisp in its texture. It is ready to drink, but this bottling will be ready from later this year. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$90

## 90 Gremillet NV Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne).

Pinot Noir is the dominant grape in the Aube and this Champagne shows the richness it can give. Its apple and lightly structured character is concentrated with bright fruits on top. Drink now. Europvin USA. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$64

## 90 Henriot NV Brut Souverain (Champagne).

The nonvintage Champagne from this producer is beautifully textured, its white fruits lightly touched by a more steely edge. A fine Champagne to drink now. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$65

## 90 Leclerc Briant NV Réserve Brut (Champagne).

For full review see page 20.

Winebow Imports. abv: NA Price: \$85

## 90 Liébart-Régnier NV Instinct L Extra Brut (Champagne).

Bone dry, the Champagne projects through its richness. It is a full blend with Marne Valley Meunier as a major component. Ripe and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 12% Price: \$56



**90 Liébart-Régnier NV Les Sols Bruns Brut (Champagne).** With its ripe Meunier from the Marne Valley, this is a softly textured wine. It has a fine perfumed character, ripe white fruits and a fine finishing line in acidity. Drink now. Vinea Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$49

**90 Liébart-Régnier NV Rubis des Grès (Champagne).** This Champagne comes from a single parcel of Pinot Noir. It is a lightly colored rosé, with a tannic edge from the maceration that gives the wine fine edginess. This bottling will be better from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**90 Maurice Grumier NV Coeur de Rosé Brut (Champagne).** A finely balanced rosé, this Champagne is bright, its dryness softened by the ripe Pinot Noir and full Meunier. A fine wine that is ready to drink. Nomenclature Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**90 Mondaine NV Mondaine Brut (Champagne).** A ripe Blanc de Blancs from the Aube, the Champagne has a full character. Tangy white fruits and a mineral edge are balanced by the warmth of the wine's texture. Drink now. Mr. Wine & Spirits USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

**90 Mondaine NV Mondaine Brut (Champagne).** A ripe Blanc de Blancs from the Aube, the Champagne has a full character. Tangy white fruits and a mineral edge are balanced by the warmth of the wine's texture. Drink now. Mr. Wine & Spirits USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

**90 Philippe Fourrier NV Rosé de Saignée Brut (Champagne).** Lightly structured, this rosé is bone dry with acidity and a fresh, crisp texture. The citrus and red fruits mingle satisfyingly. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**90 Régis Poissinet NV Cuvée Irizée Brut (Champagne).** A soft wine that shows some maturity, this is full of white fruits. There is a fine tang character to the acidity that accompanies the Champagne's toastiness. Drink now. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$124

**90 Roger Barnier NV Rosé Brut (Champagne).** The three main Champagne grapes go into this fashionably pale rosé from Sézanne to the south of Epernay. It is crisp with a touch of softness that balances well. Citrus and fresh fruits come through the light minerality at the end. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

**90 Saint-Réol NV Brut Rosé Grand Cru (Champagne).** The red fruits of this Champagne are blended with structure and citrus flavors. The

wine is packed with fruit and texture. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**90 Yannick Prévoté NV Amandine Brut Blanc de Blancs (Champagne).** A soft style of Chardonnay, this Champagne is rounded with only a touch of minerality. This makes it, even young, very accessible just with a citrus and white-fruit after-taste. Drink now. We Drink Bubbles. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**89 André Diligent NV Saignée d'Altesse Rosé Brut (Champagne).** A deep-colored rosé Champagne with ripe red fruits and a sense of structure. It is rich with some bottle age giving a fine mix of fruit and texture. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**89 Baron-Fuenté NV Quinonce Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne).** This 100% Chardonnay from the southern Aube region shows richness alongside its steely, mineral edge. It has softened, giving the wine's ripe fruits a chance to shine. Drink now. DJK Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**89 Baron-Fuenté NV Quinonce Brut Nature (Champagne).** A dry Champagne with crisp acidity and a fine edge of acidity. It has a touch of maturity along with the mineral texture and bright fruits. Drink now. DJK Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**89 Gremillet NV Brut Selection (Champagne).** This nonvintage cuvée is ripe with a fine balanced character. It has richness with ripe apples and set against the citrus edge. Drink now. Europvin USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$58

**89 Henriot NV Rosé Brut (Champagne).** Pale in color, this is a mature bottling, the fruit softened and with richness. The Champagne is spicy, hinting at red fruits and ready to drink. Maisons and Domaines Henriot. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$75

**89 J. Charpentier NV Prestige Rosé Brut (Champagne).** Lightly structured, this Champagne has a blend of three grapes. It is textured, the bottling still young with citrus and red fruits. The bottling could do with a few more months before drinking, at the end of the year. Vinedos Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

**89 Marie Copinet NV Brut Extra Quality (Champagne).** A forward, finely balanced Champagne, this has fresh citrus and white-fruit flavors with just a hint of minerality. It has a soft texture that makes it very drinkable now. Chloe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$46

**89 Philippe Fourrier NV (Champagne).** A classic blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the Champagne has a fine maturity along with its bright fruits and soft acidity. Drink the wine now. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 23% **Price:** \$65

**89 Régis Poissinet NV Terre d'Irizée Extra Brut (Champagne).** A blend of Chardonnay and Meunier, the Champagne is balanced at a fine level of maturity. It is textured with a touch of toast amidst the minerality and apple flavors. Drink now. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$55

**88 André Diligent NV Véhémence Brut (Champagne).** With just three years in bottle, this Champagne has retained plenty of freshness. It is a ripe blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the Aube region, full of fruit and with a fine ripe citrus character. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

**88 Baron-Fuenté NV Quinonce Brut (Champagne).** One-third each of the three main Champagne grapes gives a finely textured wine that has fresh fruits. It has softened enough to be ready to drink and is now at its peak. DJK Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**88 Baron-Fuenté NV Quinonce Rosé de Saignée Brut (Champagne).** A dark-colored rosé with light tannins and a full-bodied character. The Champagne's structure gives the wine weight and concentration. Drink now. Chatelaine Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**88 Leclerc Briant NV Rosé Extra Brut (Champagne).** This bottling is young with bright citrus and red fruits matching the acidity well. The Champagne is dry, which creates the conditions for further aging. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$95

**88 Liébart-Régnier NV Les Sols Bruns Demi-Sec (Champagne).** This off-dry Champagne is a fine blend bringing in ripe fruits and sweet apple flavors. It has soft acidity that makes this a fine wine for cheeses and fruit desserts. Drink now. Vinea Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$45

**88 Liébart-Régnier NV Rosé Brut (Champagne).** Lightly structured, this Champagne is a ripe wine with hints of spice and red-currant flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$55

**88 Marie Copinet NV Caractère Rosé (Champagne).** A darkly colored rosé, this Champagne is full of red fruits with a light structure. There is a distinctly fruity feel to this freshly textured wine. Drink now. Chloe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Philippe Fourrier NV Cuvée Prestige Brut (Champagne).** The Champagne is softened by maturity while keeping its fine fruitiness. It is softly textured and ready to drink. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**88 Roger Barnier NV Brut Sélection (Champagne).** This is a tangy mineral driven Champagne with a preponderance of Chardonnay. It has a fresh, zesty feel that pushes it forward and brings out citrus as well as orange and white fruits. Drink now. Concurrent Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$50

**88 Saint-Réol NV Brut Blanc de Noirs (Champagne).** The wine has a structure with white fruits and a dry backdrop. This bottling should be aged further. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

## LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES SANCERRE

**92 Domaine Fouassier 2021 Les Chasseignes (Sancerre).** A spicy wine, this Sauvignon Blanc's natural herbal character is muted. It's replaced by white fruits with hints of tropical fruits. The wine needs to age, drink from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. Opici Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Domaine Fouassier 2020 Les Romains (Sancerre).** Finely textured, the wine is rich with ripe citrus and white fruits. It has freshness as well as density with vivid fruit. Drink now. Organic and biodynamic. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Domaine Fouassier 2020 Clos Paradis (Sancerre).** A ripe style, balancing green fruits and a steely character with ripe white fruits. The wine is textured and concentrated, intense with acidity and fruit. Drink now. Organic and biodynamic. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Domaine Fouassier 2020 Les Chasseignes (Sancerre).** The ripe fruit in this wine is still forward and rich. White-fruit flavors are now softened with an extra year in bottle. Drink this fine wine now. Organic and biodynamic. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**89 Domaine Fouassier 2021 Les Grands Champs (Sancerre).** The wine is fruity with acidity and soft textures. It is ripe and full, needing some more age. Drink from 2024. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Jean Reverdy et Fils 2021 La Reine Blanche (Sancerre).** A soft style of Sauvignon Blanc that hints at crisp acidity. The wine is perfumed with white fruits and citrus in equal measure. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

## ANJOU

**89 Château de Suronde 2021 L'Esquisse (Anjou).** A lightly crisp, delicious wine with a mix of fresh citrus acidity and baked-apple flavors. The wine is fruity, ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

**88 Château de Suronde 2018 La Création (Anjou).** Apples and spice give this wine fruitiness and a ripe, honeyed character. It is a fresh wine with a light texture that is just right to drink. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**87 Domaine des Troitières 2022 Chenin Clair de Lune (Anjou).** Soft and finely textured, the wine is dry with a crisp edge. It has fine acidity, a bright texture and is ready to drink. PSP Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Domaine Olivier 2020 (Anjou).** This is a ripe, creamy wine with acidity and a lightly honeyed character. The wine is fruity, ready to drink. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**90 Château Moncontour 2019 Cuvée Prédilection Brut (Vouvray).** Soft and creamy with honey and apple flavors, this is full of fruit. The wine's full, ripe character is spicy and with acidity at the end. Drink now. USA Wine West. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Domaine Brisebarre 2021 Sec (Vouvray).** Ripe with acidity and a hint of honey, the wine is full of fruit. It is textured, fresh with a steely edge. Drink now. Worldwide Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Les Vignerons des Coteaux Romains 2019 La Dilecta (Touraine).** Dusty and full of ripe fruit, this is a soft-textured wine. With richness and now maturity, this is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**89 Vignobles Moreux 2021 Corty Artisan Gailottes (Pouilly-Fumé).** Bright fruit with a tangy texture and fine white fruit and a light touch of wood. It is structured, with acidity and a fresh backdrop. The wine has the potential to age well. Drink from 2024. Lanterna Distributors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$52

**88 Domaine de l'Épineau 2022 L'Instant (Coteaux du Giennois).** A soft Sauvignon Blanc that has muted acidity and some ripe tropical and citrus-fruit flavors. It is gently textured with a touch of spice and bright acidity at the end. Drink now. Webster Barnes LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Domaine de Montbrillais 2020 (Saumur).** This rich wine is full with a nutty character set against acidity and robust spice. The wine is still young with potential. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

## SPARKLING WINES

**90 Château de Minière NV Blanc de Noirs de Minière Brut Nature (Crémant de Loire).** A bright, bone-dry wine, showing texture and a fine concentration of white fruits and citrus. The wine has a lightly toasty edge that shows some maturity. Drink now. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$55

**89 Château de Minière NV Bulles de Minière Rosé Brut (Val de Loire).** A refreshing, crisp rosé sparkling wine, this is bright with citrus and orange-zest flavors alongside fresh red currants. It is vibrant and ready to drink. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**89 Domaine Brisebarre NV Brut (Vouvray).** Mouthwatering acidity and a hint of honey, the wine is full of fruit. It is textured, fresh with a steely edge. Drink the wine now. Worldwide Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Domaine des Troitières NV Le Pierre Couverte Brut (Crémant de Loire).** Mainly Chenin Blanc with a twist of Chardonnay, this sparkling wine is fruity, full of citrus and crisp green apples. It has a fresh character but with some depth and density. Drink now. PSP Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## ROSÉS

**88 Pascal & Alain Lorieux 2022 (Chinon).** Made from Cabernet Franc, this rich wine is full and dense. For a rosé, the wine is concentrated and powerful. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**87 Domaine Olivier 2021 (Bourgueil).** Lightly structured, this spicy blend of Cabernet Franc and a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon is fruity and softly textured. Red-berry flavors go with citrus and plenty of acidity. Drink now. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## DESSERT WINES

**93** **Château de Suronde 2018 Grand Cru (Quarts de Chaume).** A super-sweet wine from the small Quarts de Chaume appellation, this also a fine line of freshness. It is rich, densely sweet with botrytis flavors, but always with a brighter edge. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$80/500 ml

**90** **Château de Suronde 2021 L'Allégorie (Coteaux du Layon).** A gently sweet wine, this has lovely honeyed flavors along with yellow fruits. It is light, poised with reticent sweetness, giving freshness at the end. Drink now. Organic. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$55

## LOIRE VALLEY

### RED WINES

#### BOURGUEIL

**91** **Château de Minière 2017 Vignes Centenaires de Minière (Bourgueil).** Made from very old vines, this is a concentrated wine with black, smoky fruits. Its solid structure is now maturing well, although there is still plenty of life left in it. Drink this fine wine now, but better from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**88** **Château de Minière 2018 (Bourgueil).** A ripe, full wine whose texture is layered with blackberry flavors. It has a spicy, smoky edge with acidity and a lightly tannic aftertaste. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**87** **Château de Minière 2020 Rouge de Minière (Bourgueil).** The wine is soft, ripe with a light smokiness and open red fruits. It is all about fruit, lightly spicy and a fine streak of acidity. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Domaine Olivier 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Bourgueil).** This is a ripe wine with a sense of structure and black fruits and acidity. The balance of the wine is just right with freshness and fruit. Drink from 2024. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

#### SAINT-NICOLAS-DE-BOURGUEIL

**92** **Pascal & Alain Lorieux 2020 Les Maugerets La Contrie (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** The wine is smooth and generously textured. The red fruits and smoky edge complement each other with ripe acidity and a fresh edge at the end. This fine wine is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**89** **Domaine Olivier 2020 Le Mont des Olivier (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** The wine is soft and smooth with ripe tannins and black fruits. The wine will develop well and should be ready from 2025. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Domaine Olivier 2019 Le Mont des Olivier (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** A rich wine with a smoky character and a stalky edge. The wine has acidity, spice and a black fruit character. Drink now. Planet Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Pascal & Alain Lorieux 2020 Expression (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** Ripe and fruity with acidity and an edgy texture, the wine has layers of red fruits. It has a stalky character that shapes the wine. The wine is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Domaine Olivier 2018 Les Clos Lourieux (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil).** The wine is ripe with a smoky character alongside blackberry fruits. The wine has some potential and will be ready from 2024. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

#### OTHER RED WINES

**94** **Pascal & Alain Lorieux 2020 Thélème (Chinon).** An impressive wood-aged wine, this is concentrated and still young. Its ripe tannins and solid texture are an extension of the rich black fruits. The wine, a selection from the harvest, needs to age. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**91** **Domaine Fouassier 2020 (Sancerre).** With some wood aging, this wine is rich with a soft texture and great black fruits. Perfumed and with a light amount of acidity. Drink the wine now. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**90** **Domaine de la Mouche Coche 2021 (Saumur-Champigny).** A really smoky wine with red fruits and a soft texture. Spicy with a tannic edge, the wine's future is good. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Domaine des Ruettes 2018 Renaissance (Saumur-Champigny).** A full, spicy and smoky wine, this has a balance between a lightly stalky texture and black fruits. The wine is fully developed, now ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Pascal & Alain Lorieux 2020 Expression (Chinon).** A smooth, spicy wine with acidity in the background. Red fruits and a light touch

of smokiness give this wine richness and density. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Domaine des Herbauges 2022 Eléon d'Or (Val de Loire).** This producer, based in the Muscadet region, has made a spicy wine with red fruits and density from old vines. Drink the wine now. Lanterna Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

## BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

#### MEURSAULT

**93** **Famille Carabello-Baum 2018 (Meursault).** Brilliant yellow-gold in hue, this Meursault is mouthwatering with notes of crumbly tart shell filled with fresh lemon and baked green pears with a topping of lemon-vanilla yogurt. Round in the mouth, this wine is generous and elegant. Vivant Wines Inc.. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$59

**92** **Château de la Créée 2018 Les Tillets (Meursault).** Brilliant straw in hue, this Meursault offers an elegant profile of green pears, peaches, citrus yellow flowers balanced by oak and a stony finish. Additional cellaring for two to three years will be rewarding. Domaine Serene. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**92** **Maison Roche de Bellene 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Meursault).** Upon first sip, this Meursault's tension and vibrancy make it alluring. It shows great balance even with its rich, sunny fruit profile making it enjoyable now. Additional cellaring of three to five years will help reveal additional layers. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$93

**91** **Ropiteau 2019 Au Murger de Monthélie (Meursault).** Reminiscent of the warm 2019 vintage, this Meursault is approachable and generous in the glass. Rich and full bodied, it boasts a powerful palate of ripe citrus, lemon peel, brioche and vanilla. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$75

#### BOURGOGNE ALIGOTÉ

**92** **Fabien Coche 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Bourgogne Aligoté).** From 60+-year-old vines located in Meursault, this aligoté exudes purity and elegance. The palate offers a mixed basket of crisp green and yellow apples along with fresh yellow citrus. Twelve months of aging in French oak adds a subtle layer of fresh vanilla pod on top of its bright saline finish. Delicious. The Wine Trust. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$39

**90** **Clotilde Davenne 2017 Vieilles Vignes (Bourgogne Aligoté).** Delightful with bottle age,



# BUYINGGUIDE

this aligoté offers complex layers ranging from waxy Golden Delicious apples, honeysuckle, chervil, white pepper, and alluvial stones. A great example of how this varietal performs with time. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

## 89 Lupé-Cholet 2019 (Bourgogne Aligoté).

Crisp and delightful, this wine is a great aperitif option. Enjoy broad notes of ripe Meyer lemons, pomelo, dandelions, with a powdery limestone minerality. Europvin USA. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$17

## OTHER WHITE WINE

## 92 Paul Aegerter 2020 Réserve Personnelle (Vézelay).

Brilliant straw in color, this wine provides a focused nose of yellow citrus, fresh hay and delicate white flowers. Its crisp acidity cuts through the rich-fruited palate and leaves a beautiful streak of vanilla and citrus pith on the finish. Enoclassica Selection. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

## BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

## 90 Le Nardian 2020 (Bordeaux Blanc).

This wood-aged wine is direct with citrus and tropical-fruit flavors. They are underlined by the spice and texture that give this wine a fine shape. Drink the wine from 2024. World's End LLC. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

## 88 Château Haut Peyruguet 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc).

A typical blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, this wine is grassy, full of green fruits with a ripe, herbal edge. The wine is crisply textured and fresh, attractively ready to drink. Aquitaine Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$13

## 88 Château la Freynelle 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc).

Fresh and crisp, the wine is ripe and full. The wine's zingy edge gives it a herbal, citrus character. Drink wine now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$28

## 88 Producta Vignobles 2022 Grain de Lune (Bordeaux Blanc).

Sauvignon Gris gives a perfumed wine with acidity and fine fruitiness. It is a delicious wine that is ready to drink. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

## 87 Château Chaubinet 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc).

A fruity wine with a soft character, this is fresh and bright. Apples and ripe currants give this wine freshness and drinkability. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

## 87 Les Vignerons de Tutiac 2022 Lion and the Lily (Bordeaux Blanc).

Strongly herbal, the wine is crisp and zesty. Its brightness comes from the forward fruit and lively texture. Drink this attractive wine now. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

## 87 Producta Vignobles 2022 Mission St Vincent (Bordeaux Blanc).

Full of herbal fruit, the wine is fresh and light with a crisp character. The wine is ready to drink. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$13

## 85 Château Montet 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc).

A light, bright and fruity wine, this has a crisp, tangy character. The wine is fresh and ready to drink. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$14

## BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

## 88 Château Haut Colombier 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).

A Sauvignon Blanc-dominated wine, this is fresh while also having layers of ripe white fruits and a touch of apricot. Drink this wine now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$32

## 88 Château le Virou 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).

Bright Sauvignon Blanc tempered with spice and ripe apple flavors, this is a fresh wine that has some weight. It has a fine flow of acidity and a citrus finish. Drink now. My Hou-seland. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20

## OTHER WHITE WINES

## 93 Château Couhins-Lurton 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).

Subtly wood aged, this ripe wine is tight with some spice as well as lemon and tropical fruits. The wine has weight and a beautiful texture. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

## 90 Château Vermont 2020 La Grande Cuvée (Entre-deux-Mers Haut-Benauges).

With a blend that includes seriously perfumed Sauvignon Gris, this wine is full of fruit and freshened with acidity. It was aged in wood, which gives the wine a fine toasty edge. Drink the wine now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

## 88 Château Haut Guillebot 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers).

Bright green-apple fruits with a creamy edge, this wine is light and perfumed. It is both fresh and full of fruit. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$15

## 87 Château Langlet 2022 (Graves).

Grassy and herbal, this wine is full of green fruits and acidity. It is textured and zesty with a youthful mien. Drink the wine from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

## ROSÉS

## 89 Les Vignerons de Tutiac 2022 Lion and the Lily (Bordeaux Rosé).

This soft rosé has ripe red-currant fruits that marry with the orange zest character. It is a warm rosé, full of fruitiness, lightly tangy at the end. Drink now. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

## 86 Château la Freynelle 2022 (Bordeaux).

A bright and fruity wine with fresh red fruits. The wine's tangy edge balances with the orange peel crispness. The wine is full of zingy fruit at the end. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$28

## 86 Château Lagarde 2022 Les Hauts de Lagarde (Bordeaux Rosé).

A ripe, fruity rosé with red fruits and a layer of acidity. This is a balanced wine, tangy and ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Winc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

## DESSERT WINE

## 89 Château Laribotte 2020 (Sauternes).

Orange peel and ripe ginger marmalade flavors give this perfumed wine a fresh edge to the sweetness. The wine is very drinkable now, but will age well. To be at its optimum, drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40/375 ml

## BORDEAUX RED WINES

## 89 Château Galochet 2018 (Bordeaux).

This mature wine is rich and generous. Its layers of Merlot give it a rounded, jammy character that shows density. The wine's ripe black fruits have softened with five years aging. Drink now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

## 88 Château Freynelle 2020 (Bordeaux).

This juicy wine is full of red fruits and has a lightly smoky character. It is fresh, still structured and will age. Drink the wine from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

## 88 Château Haut Peyruguet 2020 (Bordeaux).

The wine is fresh, spicy with layers of spice as well as blackberry fruits. The wine is balanced,

fruity and ready to drink. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Château la Freynelle 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Bordeaux).** Pure Cabernet Sauvignon from this estate gives firm tannins and black-currant fruits. The wine is likely to age further and be ready to drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**88** **Château la Hase 2019 (Bordeaux).** Close to Fronsac, this estate has produced a full wine, rich in black fruits. It has already developed well, giving a spicy wine that has density and is ready to drink. Organic and biodynamic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Producta Vignobles 2020 Mission St Vincent (Bordeaux).** A softly textured red-fruited wine, this has gentle tannins alongside the spice and acidity. It is perfumed and ready to drink. Vinamericas, Inc.. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Union de Producteurs de Saint-Émilion 2020 Esprit de Fonrozy (Bordeaux).** The wine is soft, almost mature with ripe tannins and a smoky character. Berry fruits and acidity dominate with a fine structure. Drink the wine from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Château Haut Mirambet 2021 (Bordeaux).** This is a bright, light wine with juicy black fruits and acidity. The wine is poised, fresh and lightly textured. Drink from 2024. Wine Circle Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Maison Delande 2018 (Bordeaux).** This Merlot-dominant wine is softly textured. Full of red fruits and light tannins, the wine is ready to drink. Ventura Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

**91** **Château Vermont 2019 L'Ame (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Parcels of old vines aged in wood gives a dense wine with black fruits and a firm edge of tannins. It is worth aging the wine further, drink from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$120

**90** **Château Lagrave Paran 2019 Coeur de Cuvée (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This estate, in the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers region, has produced a rich, ripe wine. Its black-currant flavors and layers of warm fruits are balanced by tannins that are now softening well. However, wait a bit and drink the wine from 2024. EU. Family Estates. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**90** **Château Montet 2019 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This is soft with a spicy character from wood aging, balanced with red fruits. The wine is stinky, structured with light tannins. Drink the wine now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90** **Maison Raymond 2019 La Joly (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This is a toasty wine with new-wood aging in large barrels. The wine is solid with structured tannins from the majority Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Drink this fine wine now. Winc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**89** **Château de Ribebon 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A perfumed wine that shows ripeness and structure from juicy Merlot and the two Cabernets. The wine is balanced, juicy with black-currant fruits. It is likely to be ready from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Château Haut Gaudin 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A rich Merlot-dominated wine that is full of black fruits and firm tannins. It is a balanced wine, acidity and density in tandem. Drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Château de Beaulieu 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A spicy wine with a toasty edge and layers of black fruits. The wine has softened with age and is ready to drink. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Château de Macard 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Dusty tannins and ripe black fruits give this wine density as well as structure. It is rich, its fruits showing a level of freshness while also offering spicy concentration. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Château les Rambauds 2020 Cuvée Crème de Fûts (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Ripe black currants and spicy fruit come from this wood-aged wine. It is juicy, spicy with a structure that is softening well. Drink the wine now. Frolish Wine Merchants Inc.. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Domaine la Tourbelle 2016 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A super-rich wine packed with dark fruits, it shows weight and layers of black fruits. With no added sulfur, the wine is intensely fruity and very ready to drink. Bridge Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15

## BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**92** **Château le Virou 2019 Sublimus (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** There is nothing modest

about the name of this wine, and its richness and black fruits are firmly up front. It has a fine balanced character, though, with ripe black-currant flavors and judicious wood aging giving the wine a fine future. Drink from 2025. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Château le Virou 2019 Le Secret (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A spicy, full-bodied wine that has ripe berry flavors and still firm tannins. The wine's blend, with 80% Merlot gives a big, jammy character to this structured wine. Age further and drink from 2024. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Château le Virou 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Fruity and structured, this is a rich wine. Its density comes from the conjunction of tannins and blackberry fruits that offer concentration as well as acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. My Houseland. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Château le Virou 2017 Sublimus (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** From a less-reputed vintage, this wine still packs a punch of richness and dark fruit. Black-cocoa flavors and wood spice are prominent, giving the wine its characteristic structure. Drink this wine now. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**88** **Château le Virou 2020 Le Silence (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The blackberry fruits come through this powerful texture giving a massive wine. Dense, chocolate and spice flavored, the alcohol does show in the pepper edge. Drink the wine from 2026 when it may have softened. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

## CÔTES DE BOURG

**90** **Château de Monteberiot 2016 (Côtes de Bourg).** This vineyard, opposite the confluence of the Dordogne and Garonne rivers, has produced a rich wine with plenty of spice that comes from four plots. Black currants and spice come through strongly. Drink the wine now. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Château Martinat 2020 Epicurea (Côtes de Bourg).** Rich dark chocolate and spice are integral to this black-fruit-flavored wine. High alcohol gives a touch of burnt pepper. The wine is still young; wait to drink until 2025. Sussex Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$38

**90** **Château Rousselle 2018 Prestige (Côtes de Bourg).** From a four-acre vineyard, this wood-aged wine is perfumed, dense and smoothly textured. Black fruits, cherries and berries are supported by tannins that have softened to give a sup-

# BUYINGGUIDE

ple wine. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90** **Château Tertre-Samonac 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** A spicy wood-aged wine with a polished character, this is ripe and plenty of red fruits. The wine is perfumed and balanced, just needing some aging. Drink from 2025. EU. Family Estates. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**89** **Château Martinat 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** A solid wine that is still young. Its structured tannins are embedded in the ripe black-currant fruits, giving a wine that is dense and will be ready to drink from 2025. Sussex Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Rousselle 2019 (Côtes de Bourg).** This is a rich, smooth wine, its black fruits dense and full. Mainly Merlot, it is full and ripe, lightly wood aged to add spice. Drink the wine from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château Rousselle 2018 Emotion (Côtes de Bourg).** With a blend that includes Malbec, this wine is a reminder that this grape retains a presence in Bordeaux. It is a structured wine with some firm tannins and dense black fruits. Some oak aging has polished the texture. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

## SAINT-ÉMILION

**98** **Le Dôme 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This iconic wine comes from a single vineyard on the slopes of the Saint-Émilion plateau. Mainly Cabernet Franc, the wine is beautifully perfumed with structure and tannins in harmony alongside black fruits. Still young, the wine is sure to age. Drink from 2026. World's End LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$250

**97** **Château Figeac 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Newly promoted to Premier Grand Cru Classé A, the very highest rung of Saint-Émilion's hierarchy, this estate is at peak performance. This new release, rich in Cabernet Sauvignon, has an impressive structure as well as modulated, velvet tannins. It is a serious, concentrated wine, still just starting out. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$260

**94** **Vieux Château Mazerat 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** From a small single vineyard, this wine is rich, dense and with a great balance between tannins and blackberry fruits. With the potential for a smooth, velvet character as it matures, the wine is likely to be ready from 2026. World's End LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$180

**92** **Château Abelyce 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** For full review see page 13. Serge Doré Selections.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**92** **Château Ascension 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** For full review see page 13. Serge Doré Selections.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**92** **Château la Grâce Dieu 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This powerful wine, situated on the Saint-Émilion plateau, is full of black fruits and firm tannins. With wood aging, the wine is worth more time. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$34

**92** **Château Lalande de Gravet 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** For full review see page 13. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**92** **Château le Loup 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A fine, spicy blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the wine is ripe and dense. Its tannins are cushioned by the black fruits and freshened by acidity at the end. Drink this solid, structured wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**92** **Château Mazouet 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** With equal quantities of Merlot and Cabernet Franc with less Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine has richness and structure. It is dense while also having acidity and fresh black-currant fruits that balance structure and freshness. The wine will be ready from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Château Valade 2020 L'Étendard (Saint-Émilion).** A big, bold wine, full of black fruits with a touch of spice and balanced acidity. The wine is impressive with its ripe black-plum flavors, finishing with an aging potential. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Editor's Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Union de Producteurs de Saint-Émilion 2020 Galius (Saint-Émilion).** This fine wood-aged wine has a powerful density and concentration. It is an ageworthy wine, its blackberry flavors layered with firm tannins. At the end, the wine's acidity adds to its potential. Drink the wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**91** **Château Austerlitz 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Juicy with fine black fruits, the wine is spicy with acidity and a good balance. It is a dense wine, the 80% Merlot giving fine richness. Drink the wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Château Benitey 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Aged for 10 months in wood, this spicy, smooth-textured wine has ripe black fruits. Blending Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it is has both richness and structure. It will be worth aging and keep until 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**91** **Château Cantin 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This massive wine is big, although it does wear its weight well. The tannins and structure are ageworthy, showing richness but are also juicy. The wine is going to be ready from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$54

**91** **Château Capet Duverger 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This ripe wine is rich with tannins and black fruits that are still young. Its blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc is wood aged and has a fine density. The wine is still developing, drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**91** **Château d'Arcie 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine was aged in wood for 12 months and is full of pepper and juicy black fruits. It is a powerful wine, dense with firm tannins and ready to age further. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Château Laforge 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Named after the vines owned by the local blacksmith, this balanced wine is rich, spicy and packed with black-currant fruits. It is dense, full of spice with hints of the wood aging. This fine wine will be ready to drink from 2025. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**91** **Château Paran Justice 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend, this is a finely textured wine. Wood aged, it is dense while dwelling on the black fruits and acidity. The wine is ripe and will be ready to drink from 2026. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Château Yon-Figeac 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** The dense structure of this wine gives power and massive richness. It is powered by Merlot giving a concentrated wine. The wine needs to calm down and a wait will be appropriate. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$54

**90** **Château du Basque 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A spicy, wood-aged wine with layers of Merlot and a touch of Cabernet Franc. The wine is rich, still young with firm tannins and smoky acidity. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Château Haut Gravet 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This dense and rich wine has fine tannins



layered with black fruits. It is structured while having balance and dominant Merlot jammy fruits. The wine is still maturing; drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**90** **Château Pagnac 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine comes from a five-acre vineyard giving a wine with ripe tannins and a smoky, balanced character. It has plenty of black-currant fruits with acidity at the end. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Château Piney 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A wood-aged wine with rich tannins and spice. The Merlot gives it density and youthful black fruits. The wine is likely to age well. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Château Teyssier 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This large vineyard has produced a fine, rich, accessible wine. Its tannins, now softening, give a structure to the juicy ripe black fruits. It will age well and be ready from 2025. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Château Trianon 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Bold and spicy with layers of black fruits and young tannins. The wine is concentrated and has a fine future. Drink the wine from 2025. The Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**90** **Château Viramière 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Almost entirely Merlot, this is a ripe, jammy wine. Its firm tannins are the basis of berry flavors and acidity. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château Barrail de Brisson 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine is ripe, velvet textured with blackberry fruits and fine acidity to balance. The wine has a smoky edge that adds complexity. Drink the wine from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château Boutisse 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A dark coffee-flavored wine with a dense structure, this has black fruits and solid tannins. The wine is still young, offering a powerful texture. Drink the wine from 2026. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château Haut Montil 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This is a smooth, ripe wine with succulent black fruits and wood aging. The 85% Merlot in the blend is the backbone of this dense wine. Drink the wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château la Croix Ferrandat 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Highlighting its fruitiness, the

wine's black-currant flavors are fresh and full of ripeness. The wine is balanced, still young and should age. Drink the wine from 2025. Organic. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Rastoulet Lescure 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Vibrant black fruits bring out the fresh character of this open wine. It has a fine tannic edge that highlights the fruitiness. Drink the wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Château Billerond 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A smoothly textured wine with soft tannins and black-currant fruits. It has a bright character with acidity as well as berry flavors. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Château Cadet Bon 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine has a massive density and power, from the ripe Merlot in the blend. It is perhaps too big, showing pepper flavors from the high alcohol. Drink the wine, once it softens somewhat, from 2025. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$70

**88** **Château Tour de Yon 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** The balanced and fruity wine displays ripe black fruits and gentle tannins. The wine is lightly spiced with a dense texture. Drink the wine from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85

**88** **Château Tourbadon 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** The jammy black fruits and sophisticated tannins of this pure Merlot wine give it generosity and a light texture. The wine is developing quickly and should be ready to drink from 2025. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

## MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

**91** **Château Indépendance 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This is an impressive, dense wine, rich in firm tannins as well as blackberry fruits. With its fine acidity as a counterweight, the wine is poised and balanced. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91** **Château Tour Bayard 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This is a powerful wine with ripe tannins and spice from wood aging. It has a generous character, rich and full of black fruits. It needs to age further, drink from 2025. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Teyssier 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This is a juicy wine, dominated by its ripe Merlot. Acidity and fresh black currants

come through strongly. The wine will age well, drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**90** **Vieux Château Palon 2016 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This is a firm wine, full of blackberry Merlot fruits with 25% Cabernet Franc. It has bold tannins and ripe spice from wood aging in new wood. The wine is still structured, but now ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Lys de Maisonneuve 2019 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** A Merlot and Cabernet Franc blend, the wine is rich and full of black fruits that are maturing well. It is still young, though, with potential for aging further. The structure is firm and will soften. Drink from 2025. EU Family Estates. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Marchand 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** The wine has no wood aging, highlighting the ripe black fruits and a fresh edge of acidity. There is a bite of pepper that comes from the alcohol. The wine should soften further and be ready from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château Tuilerie Plaisance 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** The wine has a light touch despite its dense structure. This comes from the acidity and aging in tanks rather than wood. The black fruit of the wine is likely to be ready from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$30

## SAINT-ESTÈPHE

**91** **Château Haut Coteau 2020 (Saint-Estèphe).** Still with plenty of tannins, this young wine needs time. It has structure, wood-aging polish and rich black fruits that are still full and vivid. Wait to drink this fine wine from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**91** **Château Léo de Prades 2020 (Saint-Estèphe).** The ripe, spicy wine is full and structured. It is young, still with tannins that will soften into the wine's ripe black fruits. Drink this fine wine from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Château Léo de Prades 2019 (Saint-Estèphe).** A dense and structured wine, this is full of black fruits. It has richness and aging potential. The wine is powerful and full of dark tannins. Drink from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

## HAUT-MÉDOC

**92 Château Arnauld 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** A full, ripe and juicy wine with fine black fruits. The tannins and structure of the wine are very present, keeping the wine shapely. The wine will age well and smoothly. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92 Château d'Agassac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This impressive crus bourgeois wine is dense and rich, while always balanced. Its black-plum density is layered with acidity and firm tannins. The wine has a fine future; drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**91 Château Doyac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This structured, ripe wine comes from the northern part of the Haut-Médoc appellation. It has fine black fruits and rich tannins, both of which are sure to soften as the wine matures further. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**91 Vignobles de Larose 2020 L'Expérience (Haut-Médoc).** Bottled without added sulfur, this wine from the vineyards of Larose Trintaudon is a fine cuvée with rich tannins and a solid texture. The wine has weight, layered black fruits and a firm future. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**90 Château du Moulin 2020 (Haut-Médoc).** This wood-aged wine is toasty with fine black fruits. It has a balance of acidity and fruit that is laced with spice and tannins that could soften. Drink the wine from 2025. EU. Family Estates. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$47

**89 Château Cambon la Pelouse 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** A spicy, toasty wine with generous tannins. The 50% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend brings structure along with juicy black-currant fruit flavors to this wine that is developing well. Drink from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$51

**88 Château d'Aurillac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** Mainly Merlot, but with black-currant fruits from Cabernet Sauvignon, this is worth aging. The wine is tannic with a fine structure that will mature. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château d'Eyssan 2018 (Haut-Médoc).** With almost equal proportions of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this ripe, structured wine is dense and with red fruits and spice. It has acidity

and a perfumed, fruity aftertaste. Drink the wine now. EU. Family Estates. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

## GRAVES DE VAYRES

**91 Château Barre Gentillot 2019 Révélation (Graves de Vayres).** This is a smooth, wood-aged wine with a polished feel. Spice and a touch of mint go with the bold black fruits and balanced acidity. The wine has begun to mature and it shows, despite its weight, plenty of richness and structure. Drink from 2025. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**91 Château Goudichaud 2019 (Graves de Vayres).** For full review see page 23. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Château Barre Gentillot 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Graves de Vayres).** Generous old vines deliver a fruity wine. Its tannins and spice edge contrast with the blackberry Merlot and its ripeness. This fine wine will be ready from 2025. My Houseland. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90 Château Goudichaud 2016 Héritage (Graves de Vayres).** This mature wine is rich, wood-aged and polished. It has weight from black fruits and ripe tannins that give this fine wine structure. Drink the wine now. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Château Barre Gentillot 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Graves de Vayres).** A delicious, balanced wine with some concentration from old vines. Tannins and fine black-currant fruits give both richness and a fresh final streak. The wine is almost ready; wait until 2024. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château Barre Gentillot 2020 Inspiration (Graves de Vayres).** Made from 90% Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc, the wine is full of black-currant fruits and generous tannins. Still young and with a fine structure, the wine is developing. Drink from 2025. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Château la Louvière 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** This new release from La Louvière, the Lurton family showpiece estate in Pessac-Léognan, is velvet textured, rich with smooth tannins and a dense juicy black-fruit character. It has structure that will allow it to age well. Drink this memorable wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93 Château Lécuyer 2020 (Pomerol).** Always a finely textured wine, this latest release is concentrated with smoky tannins and ripe berry flavors. It has density along with a solid structure. The wine, made of mainly Merlot, will age further. Drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$110

**92 Château Haut Selve 2020 (Graves).** This is a balanced, full wine. It has a smoky character from wood aging. Black-currant flavors and a layer of acidity bring freshness. The wine will certainly age. Drink from 2026. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**92 Château Thibeaud-Maillet 2020 (Pomerol).** Made from mainly Merlot grapes from vines 100 yards from Pétrus, this wine is dense and spicy with fine tannins and black-plum flavors. Its structure is still young showing the wine has potential. Drink from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

**91 Château Apogée 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol).** This is a dense, Merlot-dominated wine, rich in black fruits and ripe tannins. Its concentration and acidity complement each other with poise and fruitiness. The wine is very fine, drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Château Beauséjour 2020 Cuvée Spéciale (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** The Dupuy family's estate has produced a fine, structured wine with ripe tannins and spice from wood aging. It is full-bodied, dense and worth aging. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**91 Château Canon Saint-Michel 2019 (Canon-Fronsac).** Almost mature, this wine with its black fruits and ripe balance between Merlot and Cabernet Franc, is juicy with a fine blackberry aftertaste. The wine will be ready from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Château du Grand Soussans 2021 (Margaux).** From the village of Soussans in the northern part of the Margaux appellation, the wine is spicy, juicy with touches of toast as well as ripe black fruits. That makes it a little young, needing to soften and integrate the wood. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85

**91 Château le Bonnat 2020 (Graves).** This is a ripe, juicy wine from the Lesgourgues family. Its black-currant flavors give the wine a fine perfumed character and a balanced finish. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**91 Château Pitray 2020 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** A ripe, dense wine from a fine estate in the western end of Castillon. It is a spicy, polished wine that has fine black-currant fruits and tannins that will soften. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Château La Grange Clinet 2020 (Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a rich wine with layers of black fruits and dense tannins. The wine is powerful, driven by black-currant flavors, acidity and wood aging flavors. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Luneau USA Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Château Magondeau 2019 (Fronsac).** The wine from this family estate is full and dense, structured and with layers of tannins. The 100% Merlot character of the wine gives power and a touch of pepper from alcohol. Drink the wine from 2024. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Château Richebon 2020 Cuvée les Grands Montels (Pauillac).** Owned by the Quié family that also owns Château Croizet Bages, this wine is soft and smooth. The wood is fully integrated with the balanced ripe black-currant fruits, giving a rich, structured wine and likely to age further. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Château Rouzerol 2020 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** From the vineyards on the same ridge east of Saint-Émilion, the wine is balanced. Black-currant fruits and generous tannins give a wine that has a fine presence and a fruity aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89 Château Bonnin Pichon 2020 Grande Réserve (Lussac Saint-Émilion).** Wood aged for at least six months, the wine has spice from the wood aging alongside the black fruits and ripe Merlot flavors. The wine needs a little more aging and will be ready from 2025. Wine Circle. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Producta Vignobles 2019 Merrain Rouge (Médoc).** This toasty wood-aged wine is full of black fruits. It has a smooth texture with ripe Merlot dominating, giving a ripe wine that is ready to drink. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Château Sainte-Catherine 2020 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** The fruit of this wine has fresh black-currant flavors as well as balanced acidity. It has a fine future, drink from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**88 Château Troussas 2017 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** A balanced, just-mature wine with red fruits and generous tannins. It is struc-

ured with a fine potential. Drink the wine from 2024. Ventura Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Producta Vignobles 2020 Esprit de Puisseguin (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** A spicy red fruit wine with balanced acidity and lightly toasty flavors. The wine has weight as well as juicy Merlot that dominates the blend. Drink from 2024. T. Elen-teny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

## RHÔNE VALLEY ROSÉ WINES

### CÔTES DU RHÔNE

**92 M. Chapoutier 2022 Belleruche (Côtes du Rhône).** Brilliant pink in hue, this rosé has a beautiful nose of Melba peaches, wild strawberries, cherry tomato, pink flowers and wet river rocks. This has delicious depth and mouthfeel that leaves you craving another glass. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**91 Cellier des Chartreux 2022 Chevalier d (Côtes du Rhône).** This rosé is simply delicious and initially opens with a nostalgic nose and palate of peach gummy bears sprinkled with a touch of salt. With time in the glass, it softens with a subdued profile of orchard fruits. Gran Fondo Wine. **Hidden Gem.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**91 Domaine de la Mordorée 2022 (Côtes du Rhône).** This rosé appears so pretty in the glass with its watermelon hue and presents a refreshing summery nose. Find notes of watermelon slices and yellow peaches sprinkled with sea salt. Think of pairings similar to prosciutto-wrapped melon. This is a solid rosé to enjoy all summer long. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**90 Château La Nerthe 2022 Les Cassagnes (Côtes du Rhône).** Pale peach in color, this fruit-forward rosé is a solid summer selection. Find juicy notes of fresh yellow citrus, pink grapefruit, and nectarines wrapped in a pink floral bouquet. It offers great texture with a round mouth-watering saline finish. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Gabriel Meffre 2022 Saint-Vincent (Côtes du Rhône).** Deep pink in hue, this rosé presents intense aromatics of ripe stone fruit and rose petals. It is dry and delicate on the palate, but offers good weight and additional notes of fresh green pears, white peaches and grapefruit. Easily pair this with light protein dishes, especially those with a herb butter element. Terroir Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**90 Louis Bernard 2022 Louis (Côtes du Rhône).** Medium salmon in hue, the nose of this rosé offers rhubarb, rose water and a savory edge. It is round on the palate with a midpalate of sweet spices. Its pithy and saline finish will leave you craving another glass to be enjoyed either ocean side or by the pool till sunset. Boisset Collection. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Caves des Papes 2022 Héritages (Côtes du Rhône).** Refreshing notes of white flowers, white grapefruit and strawberries sprinkled with flaky salt fill the glass and surprisingly intensify on the palate. Thirst quenching and delicious. Cannon Wines Limited. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89 Domaine de L'Odylée 2022 Rose D'Automne (Côtes du Rhône).** Made from 100% Syrah, this light ruby rosé has an initial nose of savory herbs, wet grass and leads to ripe red berries and watermelon. The palate builds in savory and peppery intensity. Properly aerate before serving. My Houseland. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Domaine des Gravennes 2022 Les Frangins (Côtes du Rhône).** Light peach in hue, this light-bodied rosé is an easy win for a hot summer pool-side day. Find subtle notes of ripe apricot, white peach, grapefruit pith and white flowers in this crisp and lively wine. Domaines et Saveurs. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Domaine de Mourchon 2022 Loubié (Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret).** Deep pink in color, this blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah offers a fruity palate of white strawberries, raspberries, citrus and a touch of ocean breeze. Refreshing for the warm summer weather. Ventoux Fine Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**88 Domaine de Mourchon 2022 Soubois (Côtes du Rhône Villages Séguret).** Bright salmon pink in hue, this rosé has nice mouthfeel and presents notes of peach, Gala apples, white and yellow flowers and ends with a refreshing stony finish. Ventoux Fine Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**89 Gabriel Meffre 2022 Saint-François (Côtes du Rhône).** An abundance of freshness makes this wine delicious. Aromatics of fresh peach, cherry blossom, white flowers draw you into the glass, while the palate adds layers of pebbles, rose petals and grapefruit pith. Its fleshy texture should make this a wonderful pairing with various summer seafood dishes. Boisset Collection. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**88 Alain Jaume et Fils 2022 Bellissime (Côtes du Rhône).** Pretty pale pink in hue, this rosé is straight forward and refreshing. Find notes of



# BUYINGGUIDE

pink flowers, fresh pears and white peaches. Drink immediately. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**88** **Château Beauchêne 2022 Le Pavillon (Côtes du Rhône).** Deep peach in hue, this rosé is composed of 35% Cinsault, 35% Grenache, with the remaining split between Mourvèdre and Syrah. The palate is delicate with pithy citrus and ripe grapefruit tones and finishes with pulverized stones. A simple rosé to enjoy now. Ruby Wines Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Louis Bernard 2022 (Côtes du Rhône).** A lovely medium rose color in the glass, this rosé has a lively nose of wild strawberries and pink flowers topped with a pillow of cotton candy. The palate offers additional layers of lemon verbena, pink grapefruit and soft pebbles, which are accentuated by its bright acidity. Boisset Collection. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Marquis de Sade 2021 (Côtes du Rhône).** Deep peach with hints of orange, this wine is fresh with notes of hard orange candies and freshly cut Bosc pear. The palate is complex with clementine intertwined with a mild fino sherry note that makes it a no brainer pairing with spice-layered dishes. Ventura Selections LLC. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Père Anselme 2022 La Fiole (Côtes du Rhône).** Pretty peach-rose in hue, this rosé bursts with aromas of fresh orange slices and pink and white grapefruits. These are carried through to the pithy midpalate and finish with crushed river stones. Fresh and juicy, enjoy this summer sipper now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87** **RhonéA 2022 Légende des Toques (Côtes du Rhône).** Offering texture, but with a subtle palate, this summertime rosé coats the palate with fresh Bing cherries and wild strawberries. Pair with dishes with a salty element to highlight the wine's fruit profile. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Domaine La Florane 2022 À Fleur (Côtes du Rhône).** A simple drinking rosé with notes of tart pink grapefruit, lemon pith, orange oil and lilies. Drink now. Wines of France Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$5

## COSTIÈRES DE NIMES

**91** **Gabriel Meffre 2022 Château Grand Escalion Amoureuse (Costières de Nîmes).** Although delicate in color, this light pink rosé will surprise you with its gastronomic versatility. It offers a fleshy palate of wild strawberries, pink grapefruit,

Gala apple, violets with a lingering fine stone minerality. Enjoy as an aperitif, but it can easily be paired alongside complex dishes. Terroir Selections. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Mourgues du Grès 2022 Galets Rosés (Costières de Nîmes).** Stunning with a ruby-orange hue, this Grenache-dominant rosé leaps right out of the glass with notes of juicy ruby red grapefruit and tangerines. Its texture and weight are balanced by its lively acidity and freshness. A fun pairing with tacos or grilled tender proteins. D.B. Wine Selection. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Gabriel Meffre 2022 Château Grand Escalion (Costières de Nîmes).** Blush peach in color, this rosé opens with plump ripe peaches, nectarine and white strawberry—all underpinned with mint, white flowers, violets and river rocks. It is dry and weightless on the palate with ripe pink grapefruit sprinkled with Maldon salt. Easy and versatile for various summer gatherings. Terroir Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Château Guiot 2022 (Costières de Nîmes).** Light rose in color, this wine offers aromas of watermelon, pink grapefruit, white flowers and wild berries. On the palate these notes can be found along with a sweet spice note and grapefruit pith, making it a fun pairing against layered savory dishes. Try it with a chilled quinoa salad with roasted vegetables or seafood paella. Misa Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Château Mourgues du Grès 2022 Fleur d'Eglantine (Costières de Nîmes).** With its pretty deep pink robe, this rosé will surely please any crowd. It is easy to enjoy with straight-forward notes of fresh raspberries, citrus skin, Bosc pear and a refreshing saline finish. D.B. Wine Selection. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89** **Château Mourgues du Grès 2020 Capitelte (Costières de Nîmes).** Light tangerine in color, this rosé is perplexing with captivating honeysuckle, orange oil and pomelo. Its mineral- and saline-laden finish will win the hearts of those who enjoy Savennières or Chablis. This is a great pairing for fresh clams or casino style. D.B. Wine Selection. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

## VENTOUX

**92** **Château Pesquié 2022 Terrasses (Ventoux).** Pale rose gold in hue, this wine is inviting with aromas of fresh florals, cherries, nectarines and wet stone. The palate adds layers of light violets, pink flowers, which lie long on the palate with a saline finish. European Cellars. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Domaine de Fondrèche 2022 (Ventoux).** Brilliant peach in color with flexes of copper, this wine explodes with fruit in the glass. Find intense notes of ripe melon, tangerine, lemon skin, peaches and pears. The palate has a beautiful textural presentation of soft fruit with grapefruit oil on the midpalate and a saline mineral finish. French Libation. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**91** **RhonéA 2022 Big (Ventoux).** Brilliant salmon in color, this Grenache-based rosé exudes energetic notes of freshly sliced peaches and pink lady apples sprinkled with salt. Weighty on the palate, find additional layers of grapefruit pith and wet stone in this crowd-pleasing wine. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$9

**89** **RhonéA 2022 Passe Colline (Ventoux).** Fresh and balanced, this fleshy rosé delivers notes of pressed cherries, peach, citrus pith, white tea and fresh herbs. Drink now. La Ville Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **RhonéA 2022 Terroir Daronton (Ventoux).** Candied red fruit, Bosc pear, apple slices and salty notes fill the glass. This rosé is tart and bright on the palate making it easy to pair with roasted summer vegetables over chilled grains. La Ville Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Château Pesquié 2021 Quintessence (Ventoux).** Deep peach in color with a savory nose, this rosé is surprisingly light and vibrant on the palate. Its crisp acidity lengthens subtle notes of red-apple skin, yellow citrus and rose petal. European Cellars. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## TAVEL

**93** **Château d'Aqueria 2022 (Tavel).** Enjoy a beautiful dance on the palate between summer fruits and savory flavors with this Tavel. Wild strawberries, fresh watermelon and freshly picked cherries beautifully intertwine with pink peppercorn, wild herbs and pulverized stone. Enjoy now with grilled vegetables or chicken kabobs. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**93** **Domaine Corne-Loup 2022 (Tavel).** This wine bursts in the glass with juicy watermelon, ripe black cherries, melon, fresh mint and white peppercorn. Additional layers of fresh cherry flavors and crushed stone dance back and forth on the palate and washes away with a long saline finish. Aerate for optimal enjoyment. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**93** **Domaine Maby 2022 Prima Donna (Tavel).** Beautiful pale cherry in color, this powerful rosé is rich enough to sink your teeth into. Mixed

juicy red fruits first coat the palate and are washed away with its brisk acidity, leaving a light ston finish. Enjoyable now, but further cellaring should reveal additional layers of complexity. So much beauty in this wine to unfold. DB Wine Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

### 93 **Domaine Maby 2021 Libiamo (Tavel).**

Focused and energetic, the nose offers blackberry, dehydrated strawberry, rose, sweet spices and savory herbs. Initially shy on the palate, with proper aeration it bursts with a juicier red fruit profile with enough tannin structure making it a versatile pairing against textured dishes. DB Wine Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

### 93 **Prieuré de Montézargues 2022 (Tavel).**

Rose gold in color, this rosé is refreshing with a nose and palate of fresh ripe summer fruits. Find mouth-watering notes of ripe peaches, watermelon, crushed stones and a saline finish. An elegant selection to enjoy now. Kobrand. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

### 92 **Château de Manissy 2022 Langoustière (Tavel).**

Intense and textured with a core of blackberries, fresh cherries, rose, savory herbs and clove, this Tavel is serious. Its structure suggests it has plenty of energy and layers to reveal with additional bottle age or a lengthy decant. Revisit 2024+ Weygandt-Metzler. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

### 92 **Château de Manissy 2022 Trinité (Tavel).**

This mouthwatering wine has fresh notes of citrus, ripe pear, clove followed by a wave of concentrated fresh strawberries, blood orange and white peppercorn. If enjoyed in its youth, aerate well in advance. This is certain to please guests during summer evening get-togethers. Meanwhile, cellar another bottle and revisit its beautiful complex layers later. Weygandt-Metzler. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

### 92 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2022 La Dame Rousse (Tavel).**

Pale watermelon in color, this wine is composed of 60% Grenache, 15% Cinsault, 15% Syrah and 10% Clairette. It has a focused nose of ripe watermelon, cherry skin, blueberry, violets and wild herbs. While the wine has plenty of structure for additional cellaring, enjoy it now with a creamy goat cheese. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$36

### 91 **Château de Trinquedel 2022 (Tavel).**

Pale watermelon in color, wild strawberry, cherries, black peppercorn are abundant in this rosé. It has a nice fleshy texture on the palate, which crescendos in fruit intensity and minerality with enough aeration. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

### 91 **Domaine Maby 2022 La Forcadière (Tavel).**

Orange hued with ruby undertones, the texture and freshness of this Tavel is quite enjoyable. Notes of fresh cherries and ripe Gala apple are balanced with fine herbs, pink peppercorn and a stone finish. Beautiful to enjoy now or during the fall, try pairing it with tomato-based stews. DB Wine Selection. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

### 90 **Domaine la Rocalière 2022 (Tavel).**

Blood orange in color with flexes of copper, this rosé presents a high-toned bouquet of ripe tangerines, ripe peach, fresh tomatoes, violets, fresh thyme and crushed stone. A rosé that can easily pair with braised and roasted proteins. Elite Wines Import. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

### 90 **Gabriel Meffre 2022 Saint-Ferréol (Tavel).**

This rosé grows in the glass with ripe peaches, dried apricots, orange peel with a touch of mint and white peppercorn. It is delightful and its structure suggests additional time in bottle will be even more rewarding. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$29

### 89 **Château de Manissy 2022 Cuvée Des Lys (Tavel).**

Enjoy notes of freshly picked cherries, blueberries, rose water, melon, black pepper and savory herbs in this energetic Tavel. Quite enjoyable in its youth, especially paired with dishes such as beef braciola or beef negimaki. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

## OTHER ROSÉ WINES

### 90 **Domaine la Cavale 2022 Petite Cavale (Luberon).**

This is sure to please palates that enjoy savory rosés. Juicy candied watermelon and red fruits appear on the nose, but it is completely dry on the palate with white peppercorn and herbaceous notes. Planet Aura. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$14

### 88 **Château Val Joanis 2022 Tradition (Luberon).**

A lovely summer aperitif option offering tart fruits on the nose including pink and white grapefruit, apricot and finishes with a fine wet-stone minerality. Foley Family Wines. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

### 87 **Domaine Maby 2022 La Fermade (Lirac).**

This rosé is lightweight with crisp acidity on the palate delivering notes of white strawberries and Bosc pear. Drink now. DB Wine Selection. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

## RHÔNE VALLEY RED WINES

### CÔTES DU RHÔNE

### 92 **Domaine Rouge Garance 2020 Feuille de Garance (Côtes du Rhône).**

This medium-bodied wine has an overarching dark and jammy fruit profile framed with herbal touches and a fine stony minerality. Its thirst-quenching acidity with plush tannins makes it so easy to take another sip. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19

### 90 **Alain Jaume et Fils 2020 Domaine Grand Veneur Les Champavins (Côtes du Rhône).**

Deep hazy ruby in hue, this blend offers good concentration of ripe red-toned fruit on the nose. Notes of cranberry, eucalyptus and plums coat the palate and leave behind fine tannins, making it easy to drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$26

### 90 **M. Chapoutier 2020 Belleruche (Côtes du Rhône).**

Lush enough to sink your teeth into, this delicious everyday go-to wine is loaded with mulled raspberry, strawberry and blackberry topped with a handful of wild thyme. Balanced with a refreshing midpalate lift with white peppercorn is followed by a warm stony finish. Terlatto Wines International. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$18

### 89 **Château de Ségrès 2020 (Côtes du Rhône).**

Deep hazy ruby, this medium-bodied blend exudes a fresh core of blackberries, cranberries, tart cranberries, thyme and violets. Its balance between refreshing acidity and fine tannins make it so easy to drink. Enjoy now. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$22

### 89 **Les Vignobles Foncalieu 2020 La Légende Du Beauvert (Côtes du Rhône).**

Juicy cherry and strawberry aromas are framed by light cocoa dusting, wild mint and fresh peppercorns in this bottling. The palate is warming with a stony and saline midpalate and finishes with gobs of plum and blackberry. Enjoy now. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$12

### 88 **Château Saint-Nabor 2020 Tradition (Côtes du Rhône).**

This blend delivers a straightforward profile with a concentration of plums wrapped in mint balanced by warm earthy tones. Enjoy now. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$16

### 88 **Vignobles de Marjolet 2021 Petite Parcelle (Rhône).**

An overlay of smoke and stony notes sit on top of tart red fruits and fresh mint in the glass. This wine is balanced with refreshing acidity. Enjoy now. Lanterna Distributors. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

# BUYINGGUIDE

**87** **Domaine de la Renjarde 2021 (Côtes du Rhône).** Dark ruby in hue, this blend is straightforward with initial notes of smoke, rose water, dark plums and pulverized green peppercorn. Enjoy now with spicy roasted vegetable dishes. Pasternak Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Pont du Rhône 2021 Passion Terroirs (Côtes du Rhône).** Hazy ruby in hue, this medium-bodied blend gives notes of cranberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and wild thyme. Its gritty tannic finish is washed away by its fresh acidity. An easy pairing to highlight spicy dishes. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**85** **Vignerons de L'Enclave 2021 Clefs Des Légats (Côtes du Rhône).** This wine offers the traditional aromas of red and black fruits with violets. However, the lean characteristics from the frost of 2021 vintage are presently showing. Allow for additional time in bottle for its structure to harmonize. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## GIGONDAS

**90** **Rhonéa 2020 Les Pierres Du Vallat (Gigondas).** A deep and richly perfumed blend that immediately greets the nose with plenty of dark plums wrapped in garrigue, tobacco leaf, rose, violets, fresh mint and sandalwood. Enjoyable now. La Ville Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Domaine la Ligière 2020 Les Bergines (Gigondas).** A bit shy upon opening, the palate begins with bitter orange oil, dark cherries, black pepper, clove, herbs and fresh earth. With enough aeration, red fruit emerges, but additional bottle aging for one to three years will be beneficial. AP Wine Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$41

**89** **Rhonéa 2020 Terroir Daranton (Gigondas).** This juicy wine exudes fresh blackberries, red licorice, black pepper, coriander and oak spice. The finish adds another layer of eucalyptus, rose hip and stones. Enjoyable now. La Ville Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$29

**89** **Vignobles et Compagnie 2020 Bois De Menge (Gigondas).** A reliable everyday option from the appellation. Find an immediate beautiful floral profile followed by an energetic core of red and black berries, tomato flesh, ground cinnamon, violets and dried herbs. It has firm, grippy tannins to match well against grilled or roasted proteins. Vignobles & Compagnie. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

## RASTEAU

**93** **Domaine de Beurenard 2020 Les Argiles Bleues (Rasteau).** This is an enticing bottling boasting dark fruit notes of cassis, black plums with a kiss of smoke and warm stones. It is fresh and grows in the glass, offering enough structure to make it a seamless pairing with steak *au poivre* or grilled meat dishes. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$54

**92** **RhonéA 2020 Domaine de la Colline Bleue (Rasteau).** Find notes of charcuterie and roasted meats over black olives, plums, rose water and wild thyme in the nose of this full-bodied blend. Despite its intense nose, it is surprisingly more agile and approachable to enjoy now. Fine Terroir Selections. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$21

**91** **Rhonéa 2020 Tradition (Rasteau).** Youthful and energetic, this full-bodied wine presents a concentrated core of raspberries, plum and blackberry framed by smoke and wet stone. On the palate these notes quickly harmonize, leaving you craving another sip. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Domaine les Evigneaux 2020 (Rasteau).** Rich and layered, this wine boasts notes of rhubarb, cassis, blackberries, mint and green peppercorn. Enjoy now or cellar for an additional three+ years to allow further tannin integration. Kinson The Future of Wine. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

## VENTOUX

**91** **Château Pesquié 2020 Terrasses (Ventoux).** This is a solid regional example that boasts heady notes of ripe pomegranate and wild strawberries, framed by sweet spices and a firm stony minerality. Certified organic. European Cellars. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Ogier 2020 Les Berceaux (Ventoux).** Deep ruby red in color, this wine presents a deep concentration of cherries, blackberries, licorice, spice and dried herbs. Medium bodied with supple tannins and rolling acidity, this wine is enjoyable now. Advini USA. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Château Juvenal 2020 Les Ribes du Vallat (Ventoux).** This wine is spicy with a concentrated core of fresh licorice, plums and fresh raspberries. The midpalate adds clove and black peppercorn, which persist on its long mouth-watering finish. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Château Pesquié 2020 Edition 1912M (Ventoux).** Refreshing and dark in profile, this blend of Grenache and Syrah has notes of wild

strawberries, apple skin, violets, rhubarb and mulled blackberries. Its rustic tannins and mouth-watering acidity make this an easy match against various styles of barbecue. European Cellars. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Château Juvenal 2020 Les Garrigues (Ventoux).** Composed of 90% Grenache and 10% Syrah, this wine presents juicy red fruits, blackberries, dried apples framed by Five Spice, mint and warm dusty earth. An easy-going medium-bodied blend to enjoy with a burger. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

## CAIRANNE

**91** **Domaine Fond Croze 2020 (Cairanne).** A lively expression with ripe black figs, blackberries, cassis, thyme, black licorice and a firm mineral finish. Its dusty tannins and crisp acidity makes this enjoyable to drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Emma M. Louise 2020 Les Terrasses de Cailloutis (Cairanne).** This traditional medium- to full-bodied blend is quite the crowd pleaser with its silky texture. Its dark-fruited core of plum, blackberries and pomegranate is balanced with savory aromas of bacon and dried herbs. W. Direct. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Cellier des Dauphins 2020 Cru des Côtes du Rhône (Cairanne).** This blend opens with a smoky, dried bay leaf note that sits on top of a layer of crushed rose and tarragon. It is round in the mouth with bright acidity and finishes with savory peppercorn and stone finish. Drink now. Plume Ridge. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## DESSERT WINE

**91** **Rhonéa NV Origine 1348 (Beaumes-de-Venise).** Despite its sweetness, this dessert wine coats the palate delicately with notes of over-ripe pink grapefruit, ripe apricot, fresh honey and sweet spice that lingers at the tip of the tongue. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15

## PROVENCE WHITE WINES

### CÔTES DE PROVENCE

**90** **Château du Carrubier 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** Crisp green apple with a touch of peach flavors give a wine that is light and fresh. It



is tangy with hints of orange zest at the end. Drink now. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Channé 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** This blend of Sémillon and Ugni Blanc is ripe with citrus and touches of tropical fruits. It is crisp, textured and has a bright aftertaste. Drink now. PG Fine Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**89 Clos de Caille 2021 (Côtes de Provence).** A fine, lightly herbal wine with rich apple and pear flavors. It is a full wine with a southern sweep of the sun. After an extra year, it is ready to drink now. JAE Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Château du Carrubier 2022 Cuvée de Zélie (Côtes de Provence).** Three grapes comes together in this ripe blend, while still expressing a fresh and fruity wine. Apples and a touch of kiwi bring richness to this full wine. Drink now. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88 Château Saint-Esprit 2022 Saint-Esprit (Côtes de Provence).** With citrus and kiwi freshness, the wine has a bright character. It is crisp, lively and has a tangy aftertaste. Drink now. Drinkable Arts Importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Domaine Tropez 2022 Tropez (Côtes de Provence).** Rolle (Vermentino) gives freshness and lively green-apple acidity. Perfumed with a Mediterranean herbal character, the wine is crisp and ready to drink. Buta. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Famille Ravoire 2022 Manon (Côtes de Provence).** A blend of Rolle and Ugni Blanc gives a wine that totally fresh, crisp with apple and layers of lemon flavors. Drink this wine now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2022 Cuvée G (Côtes de Provence).** The perfumed Vermentino dominates this attractive white wine. Its acidity and apple flavors are fruity, adding freshness and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Domaine des Féraud 2022 Blanc de Rolle (Côtes de Provence).** Vermentino is the go-to white grape in Provence. Its apple and kiwi flavors have a touch of Mediterranean spice. The wine is crisp and ready to drink. Organic. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## COTEAUX D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

**90 Château Calissanne 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** The Sémillon in this blend

gives an edge to the wine's structure and touches of tropical and apple fruits. The wine has a tangy, taut after taste. Drink now. Solstars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Commanderie de la Bargemone 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Fresh apple and citrus flavors with brightness and lively tangy after taste. This is a fruity wine that is ready to drink. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88 Château Calissanne 2022 Clos Victoire (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Mainly from Rolle (Vermentino), the wine is bright, with a spicy edge that brings out a ginger touch. The wine's apple freshness is very drinkable. Drink now. Solstars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**90 Domaine de la Ferme Blanche 2022 (Cassis).** This blend of five grapes comes from spectacular vineyards facing the sea and completely within the Calanques National Park. The wine is bright with acidity and a touch of spice. Lightly saline, it is just right for summer-time fish dishes. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Domaine Tropez 2022 Sublime (Var).** A fresh, apple and pear-flavored wine, this is full of ripe fruit. A hint of apricots as well as citrus at the end gives an attractive, bright wine. Drink now. Buta. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

## PROVENCE ROSÉ WINES

### CÔTES DE PROVENCE

**93 Château d'Esclans 2021 Garrus (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 9. Moët Hennessy USA.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**92 Château d'Esclans 2021 Les Clans (Côtes de Provence).** A ripe, lightly toasty wine that is rich and full bodied. It is an impressive and powerful wine with red fruits and ripe berry flavors. Intense and concentrated, it is spicy and now ready to drink. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**92 Château de Bregançon 2022 Isaura (Côtes de Provence).** This beautiful estate close to the sea has produced a pair of fine wines. This cuvée is rich while still balanced. Its red fruits are concentrated and dense, with acidity and orange zest adding freshness. Drink now. Organic. Rising Wine Domains. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**92 Château Roubine 2022 Premium (Côtes de Provence).** This ripe wine, with its full red fruits, is already delicious. It has a rich, generous character that comes from the full berry flavorfin-ished with acidity. Drink the wine now. Organic. Royal Wine Corporation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Château Saint-Maur 2022 L'Excellence (Côtes de Provence).** Lightly saline with a tangy character, this is a forward fruity wine. Its blend of seven grapes melds well together in a satisfying ripeness. Drink the wine now. Azure Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**92 Domaines Ott 2022 Château de Selle (Côtes de Provence).** Smoothly textured, this wine with its classic dominance of Grenache and Cinsault is rich. It has a lively backdrop to the ripe red berry fruits that are freshened with orange zest. Drink the wine now. Organic. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$68

**91 Château d'Esclans 2022 Rock Angel (Côtes de Provence).** A rich, dense style of rosé, this has super-ripe fruits. Its combination of red fruits and rich citrus is full bodied. The wine has a tangy aftertaste, adding to the concentration of the wine. Drink now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Château des Demoiselles 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** The top wine from this estate is ripe and dense. It has layers of red fruits balanced with kiwi and citrus acidity. The wine is full bodied and ready to drink. Organic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**91 Château Léoube 2022 Secret de Léoube (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 17. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Château Roubine 2022 La Vie en Rose (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is full and packed with red fruits. Acidity and ripe orange-peel flavors give freshness and an attractive perfume to this blend dominated by Grenache and Cinsault. Drink now. Royal Wine Corporation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**91 Château Roubine 2021 Inspire (Côtes de Provence).** Aged in a mix of oak and concrete eggs, the wine has richness and depth. The concentration highlights the wine's ripe fruits. Drink this fine full wine from later this year. Organic. Royal Wine Corporation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**91 Château Saint-Esprit 2021 Quintessence (Côtes de Provence).** With 60% Mourvèdre in the blend, this is a rich, structured wine. That depth of flavor brings out minerality as well as

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perfumed fresh yellow and red fruits. Drink now. Drinkable Arts Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Château Sainte Marguerite 2022 Fantastique (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 17. Pernod Ricard.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Domaine Tropez 2022 White Tropez (Côtes de Provence).** Don't be fooled by the word "white" in the name. This rosé in a fetching white bottle is soft, with peppery Grenache and a seasoning of white Rolle. It is a fine wine that is ready to drink. Buta. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$18

**91** **Domaines Ott 2022 Clos Mireille (Côtes de Provence).** From an estate close to the sea, the wine always has a slightly saline character that gives a fragrance. It is rich, dense and full of red and tropical fruits. Drink the wine now. Organic. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$68

**90** **Château d'Esclans 2021 (Côtes de Provence).** Named after the Esclans estate, this wine is beautifully textured with acidity, tangy orange and red berry fruits and a ripe, intense character. The wine is packed with fruit and finished with a light acidity that is full integrated. Drink now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**90** **Château d'Astros 2022 Astros Absolu (Côtes de Provence).** This is a full, intense wine, rich in generous red fruits. Its smoothness and light touch of acidity bring out the ripeness of this fine wine. Drink now. Organic. Colorado Beverage Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Château de Saint-Martin 2022 Eternelle Favorite (Côtes de Provence).** The freshness of this wine gives it a crisp texture. It is full of fruit with a dry edge and a fine bite of acidity. Drink now. Organic. Fine Terroir Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Château de Saint-Martin 2022 Grande Réserve (Côtes de Provence).** Matured for a few months in caves, the wine is fresh with a crisp edge. It is bright, lightly textured with a fine depth of flavor. Drink the wine now. Fine Terroir Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Château du Carrubier 2022 Cuvée Ingénue (Côtes de Provence).** Full of bright fruit, this dry rosé brings out acidity and crisp citrus. Red-currant freshness gives the wine an impressive brightness and tightness at the end. Drink later this year. DB Wine Selection. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Château Ferry Lacombe 2022 Evidence (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 19. Quintessential.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Gigery 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** This estate has produced a ripe wine, hints of red fruits set against citrus and orange-peel flavors. This attractive wine is ready to drink. Advantage International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Château la Mascaronne 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** Ripe with red-berry flavors alongside the wine's intense acidity, this is young, full of fruit. The fruit flavors are textured with a tangy aftertaste. Drink now. SGWS. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$33

**90** **Château Léoube 2022 Love by Léoube (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 19. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Château Maïme 2022 Heritage (Côtes de Provence).** This is a satisfying ripe wine with layers of fruit and acidity along with a spicy character. The wine is rich, dense for its alcohol and will be ready to drink from later this year. Novovino Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Minuty 2020 Prestige (Côtes de Provence).** The wine's freshness contrasts with the ripe raspberry fruits and light structure. It is a fruity wine, the acidity and round aftertaste blending well. Drink now. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Château Miraval 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 19. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Château Saint-Béatrice 2022 Cuvée B (Côtes de Provence).** Ripe and fruity, this perfumed wine has a rich texture that is balanced by its lightness and poise. Ready to drink. Royal Wine Corporation. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Clos de Caille 2022 Anomis (Côtes de Provence).** The blend of Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah gives a satisfying ripeness to this wine. It has both fresh lemon acidity and full red-currant flavors complementing each other well. Drink now. JAE Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Domaine de Marchandise 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A blend of five grapes, including white, the wine is beautifully textured with fresh red fruits and a light touch of acidity. It is a lively wine, tangy with orange zest. Drink now. La Cave Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Domaine des Tournels 2022 Cuvée Spéciale (Côtes de Provence).** In a fancy elongated bottle, the wine is an attractive blend with 20% Rolle. That gives the wine freshness and crisp acidity to go with the wine's other white fruits. Drink now. GP Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Domaine la Grande Bauquière 2022 Moment Inattendu (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is soft, its red-berry fruits giving a comfortable feel to this attractive wine. It has acidity that gives it a fine lift. Drink now. The Winery Gang. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Domaine la Grande Bauquière 2022 Moment Suspendu (Côtes de Provence).** A bright wine with acidity and some white fruit in the blend. There is an attractive spicy character to this wine that gives it complexity and interest. Drink now. The Winery Gang. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **La Fête du Rosé 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is ripe, full of red fruits. The smooth texture gives the wine its rich, full character. Drink this satisfying wine now. La Fête Wine Co.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **La Sanglière 2022 Signature (Côtes de Provence).** Full and fruity, the wine has layers of fresh red fruits that are bright with acidity. It's an attractive blend of Cinsault and Grenache, ready to drink. Obvious Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Les Vins Bréban 2022 Château Arnaude (Côtes de Provence).** Full of red fruits that are freshened with citrus, the wine is bright and lively. Its acidity and vibrant fruits are up front and buoyant. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Maison Sainte Marguerite 2022 Symphonie (Côtes de Provence).** For full review see page 20. Pernod Ricard.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château d'Esclans 2022 Whispering Angel (Côtes de Provence).** This popular wine has attractive fruits with red-berry flavors and citrus while also hinting at tropical fruits. The wine is tangy, zesty with bright acidity at the end. Drink now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château de Bregançon 2022 La Réserve (Côtes de Provence).** A rich, full style of wine, spoiled by a pepper edge from the alcohol. The wine's fruit, though brings out attractive red currants and red berries. Drink now. Organic. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Château du Carrubier 2022 Cuvée l'Aurore (Côtes de Provence).** Bright, peppery Gre-

nache shines with acidity, and citrus and red fruits. The wine's freshness is balanced by ripeness and an aftertaste that is full bodied. Drink now. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Château Léoube 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is lightly textured, the citrus fruit flavors give a tanginess and spice. The wine is full, ripe and ready to drink. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**89 Château les Valentines 2022 Le Caprice de Clémentine (Côtes de Provence).** Perfumed, full of ripe fruit, this is an attractive wine. A full blend of Cinsault and Grenache, the wine is rounded and ready to drink. Evaton, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89 Château Saint-Esprit 2022 Signature (Côtes de Provence).** A balanced, fruity wine, light and poised, this is both fresh and concentrated. Drink this ripe wine now. Drinkable Arts Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Château Sainte Roseline 2022 Cuvée la Chapelle de Sainte Roseline (Côtes de Provence).** A balanced wine with delicate ripe red fruits and fresh citrus bursts on the palate. Juicy and structured, this is ready to drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Domaine de la Navicelle 2022 La Navicelle (Côtes de Provence).** Grenache, Cinsault and white Tibouren give this wine lightness and poise. It has citrus and red-currant fruits; freshness exemplified. Drink the wine now. Organic. Chamber's Bay. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Domaine de la Rouvière 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** This blend of Cinsault, Grenache and Syrah is lightly structured with ripe berry flavors balanced by concentration from the lees aging. Drink now. Advantage International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89 Domaine Houchart 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** This long-established estate has produced a fresh, fragrant wine. It is crisp as well as full bodied, the wine's acidity giving a final lift at the end. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Régine Sumeire 2022 La Source Gabriel (Côtes de Provence).** Raspberry and red currants mingle with citrus and acidity to give a rounded, ripe wine. It is tangy, a hint of pepper from the Grenache in the blend and a fresh aftertaste. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88 Channé 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A fruity wine with a soft texture that gives an open character. It is lightly perfumed with a pepper edge from the Grenache that dominates the blend. Drink now. PG Fine Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88 Château Coussin 2022 La Bastide de Maupague (Côtes de Provence).** Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah come together with acidity and red-currant fruits. It's a fresh, fruity wine, lightly tangy and ready to go. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château de Saint-Martin 2022 Génération 11 (Côtes de Provence).** This is a classic blend with Grenache and Cinsault. They give a fresh, red currant and mandarin flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Fine Terroir Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Château de Saint-Martin 2022 No. 2 (Côtes de Provence).** A fine, juicy and fruity wine, this is open with bright acidity and a crisp texture. The wine is forward and fresh, ready to drink. Fine Terroir Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Château du Carrubier 2022 Cuvée de Clara (Côtes de Provence).** Almost entirely Grenache, this is a fruity, lightly peppery wine. Acidity, fresh citrus and apples are balanced by red fruits. Drink the wine now. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**88 Château la Gordonne 2022 La Chapelle Gordonne (Côtes de Provence).** Citrus and orange zest give this wine a crisp freshness. They back up the red-berry fruits and give the wine freshness. Drink now. Vranken Pommery America. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Château la Gordonne 2022 Verité du Terroir (Côtes de Provence).** This fruity wine with its spicy citrus character is layered with acidity and a touch of green apples. Drink now. Organic. Vranken Pommery America. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Château la Martinette 2022 Rollier (Côtes de Provence).** This is a bright wine with hints of yellow fruits as well as acidity. The wine is soft and full of ripe flavors. Drink now. Francki Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88 Château Maïme 2022 Promise (Côtes de Provence).** Structured Syrah adds an important element to this rich wine. Its red-currant and red-apple flavors give it density along with the spice. Drink now. Novovino Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Château Minuty 2022 M Minuty (Côtes de Provence).** A classic blend bringing Grenache and Cinsault together in a fresh, rounded

wine. The texture is softening with acidity fully integrated. Drink now. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88 Château Saint-Esprit 2022 Saint-Esprit (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is soft, its red fruits lightly freshened by citrus acidity. It has a rounded character that is perfumed and elegant. Drink now. Drinkable Arts Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Château Terrebonne 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** In its dimple glass bottle, this is a real summer wine. It has a ripe, full-bodied character, tangy with orange zest and filled with red berry and citrus. Drink now. Advantage International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Clos de Caille 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A touch of Rolle gives this wine extra freshness. It has a rounded character, full in the mouth and a light herbal touch at the end. Drink now. JAE Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88 Domaine de l'Amaurigue 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A fresh wine that is full of bright fruits. Acidity brings in orange zest and lemon flavors to lift the red-currant acidity. Drink the wine now. Golden Vines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 Domaine de l'Amaurigue 2022 Fleur (Côtes de Provence).** Fresh with red-berry fruits and acidity, this is an attractive, floral wine. It is bright, light and ready to drink. Golden Vines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Domaine de la Croix 2022 Irresistible (Côtes de Provence).** This fruity wine is fresh and crisp. Its red fruit flavors balance with acidity and a zesty texture. The wine, from the Saint-Tropez peninsula, is full of brightness and is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88 Domaine des Diables 2022 MIP Made in Provence (Côtes de Provence).** The wine has warmth with a rounded character. Its ripe fruits, and red berries are touched by spice and a smooth aftertaste. Drink the wine now. Summit Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Domaine des Féraud 2021 Arôme des Maures (Côtes de Provence).** With crisp raspberry flavors, the wine is light and lively. Acidity and red fruit acidity comes through at the end. Drink now. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Domaine des Tournels 2022 Cuvée Rayne Rosé (Côtes de Provence).** Rounded fruit with soft texture, this is a blend of Grenache, Cinsault and Tibouren. The wine has citrus and red-



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currant fruits in equal measure. Drink now. GP Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Domaine du Dragon 2022 Grande Cuvée (Côtes de Provence).** This estate in Draguignan in the center of the Côtes de Provence vineyards has given us this full, while still, light wine. Bright orange and kiwi flavors are lifted by the tangy texture. The wine is ready to drink. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Domaine la Maïonnette 2022 Instant (Côtes de Provence).** Ripe, fruity with fine red fruits, this is a forward, fresh wine. It has plenty of fruitiness with a touch of spice and pepper. Drink the wine now. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Domaine Tropez 2022 Sublime (Côtes de Provence).** Lightly perfumed with a pepper and spice character, this is full of fruit. Red-berry flavors are shot with acidity and citrus. Drink the wine now. Buta. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Domaine Tropez 2022 Tropez (Côtes de Provence).** A soft, fruity wine, this comes from a domaine in the peninsula of Saint-Tropez. Its orange and spice flavors are balanced by raspberry fruits. Drink now. Buta. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Les Vignobles Gueissard 2022 Les Papilles (Côtes de Provence).** With 30% Mourvèdre in the blend, the wine is rounded while also fresh. Its red-berry flavors give the wine fruitiness while acidity lifts the aftertaste. Drink now. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Les Vins Bréban 2022 Mimi en Provence Grande Réserve (Côtes de Provence).** Crisp red-currant fruits and bright acidity give this wine a light structure. Tangy and full of freshness at the end. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Maison Angevin 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A bright, fresh and fruity wine, this has plenty of red fruits, lifted and further freshened by lime and kiwi flavors. Drink now. Final Port Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Maison Mirabeau 2022 Pure (Côtes de Provence).** An eclectic blend of five grapes, this is ripe with a soft texture and plenty of perfumed fruit. The wine's acidity and freshness are dominant. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**88** **Mathilde Chapoutier 2022 Orsuro (Côtes de Provence).** This is a bright, fruity wine made by Mathilde of the Chapoutier Rhône family.

It is elegant and fresh. Drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Régine Sumeire 2022 Pétales de Rose (Côtes de Provence).** Cinsault and Grenache in equal quantities give a wine that is full of fruit. Fragrant and light in texture, the wine is ready to drink. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Cap Wine 2022 Domaine Cantarelle Madam (Côtes de Provence).** A bright, fruity wine with acidity, and fresh citrus and red fruits. The wine is open, crisp and ready to drink. Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Château Coussin 2022 Château la Joulane (Côtes de Provence).** Blending Syrah with a touch of Rolle, this wine is soft, smoothly textured. Acidity and red-currant fruits are at the fore, fresh and bright. Drink the wine now. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Château d'Astros 2022 Astros Amour (Côtes de Provence).** This is a ripe wine, the red berries lightly touched by acidity. Its fruit and fresh side are balanced with the wine's richness. Drink now. Organic. Colorado Beverage Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**87** **Château Font du Broc 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is soft, its ripe red fruits having a round character. Acidity is developing as the wine ages a few more months. Drink from later this year. Allen Walker Collection LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Château la Gordonne 2022 La Cirque des Grèves (Côtes de Provence).** Crisp and full of red fruit, the wine is balanced with a lively vibrant edge. It has freshness, the acidity coming through strongly at the end. Drink now. Organic. Vranken Pommery America. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Château la Martinette 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** The wine's red fruits and balanced kiwi and citrus flavors give this wine its freshness. The texture adds a structure to a wine that is ready to drink. Francki Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Domaine de la Navicelle 2022 A Flot (Côtes de Provence).** A fruity wine, open and fresh with citrus acidity. The wine is crisp and fresh. Drink now. Organic. Chamber's Bay. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

**87** **Domaine des Diabes 2022 Les Petits Diabes (Côtes de Provence).** Crisp with a tangy character, the wine has red-currant fruits and layers of acidity. It's a fresh wine, light and ready to drink. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Domaine des Féraud 2022 Cuvée Prestige (Côtes de Provence).** The wine has an almost velvet texture with its ripe fruits fully integrated with acidity. It is a rounded wine, ready to drink now. Vins & Vignobles. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Domaine le Cengle 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A herbal Cinsault-dominated wine with floral acidity and a balance of green fruits and tangy lemon zest. Drink now. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Estandon 2022 Héritage (Côtes de Provence).** An attractive, open wine with fresh fruits and a light texture. It is a fruity wine, ready to drink. Lieber Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**87** **Fabre en Provence 2022 Château de l'Aumérade (Côtes de Provence).** This fine estate has produced a ripe wine, rich with crushed strawberries and lifted by acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Winedom LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**87** **Famille Sumeire 2022 Domaine Coussin La Croix du Prieur (Côtes de Provence).** A fresh and fruity wine that is light and full of citrus crispness. The wine is ready to drink. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Kirkland 2022 (Côtes de Provence).** A bright, lively wine, lifted with fresh acidity. Oranges and a raspberry flavor finishes with crispness. Drink now. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$8

**87** **La Sanglière 2022 Loud & Clear (Côtes de Provence).** A bright and breezy wine, primed with citrus and red-currant fruits. Drink now. Obvious Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$15

**87** **Les Vins Bréban 2022 Domaine de Paris (Côtes de Provence).** The Syrah in the blend gives the wine a structure that adds weight to the fruit. Red berries shine against the acidity and wine's freshness. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Régine Sumeire 2022 Château Tour l'Evêque (Côtes de Provence).** Fresh, bright and spicy, this is a delicious wine that is ready to drink. The wine's crispness and acidity are well balanced with the tangy citrus fruits. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Château la Gordonne 2022 Gordonne Springs (Côtes de Provence).** A light fruity wine with bright acidity and touches of citrus and

red fruits. The wine is fresh and ready to drink. Vranken Pommery America. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

**86** Les Vignobles Gueissard 2022 Cuvée G (Côtes de Provence). As fresh as possible, this wine pulses with red-currant fruits and bright acidity. It is tangy, orange flavors coming through to add further crispness. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

**85** Famille Ravoire 2022 Manon (Côtes de Provence). A classic blend of Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah, the wine is soft, just off dry with a gentle texture that gives light acidity and a perfumed aftertaste. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$17

## CÔTES DE PROVENCE SAINTE-VICTOIRE

**91** Domaine des Diabes 2022 Rosé Bon Bon (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). There is a strongly herbal character to this wine, suggesting the southern French *garrigue* countryside. The wine has bright acidity to balance its herbaceous flavor profile. Drink the wine from later this year. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$38

**90** Château Henri Bonnaud 2022 (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). An attractive balanced wine from the slopes of Mount Saint-Victoire, the wine is crisp, full of red fruits with a crisp edge of acidity. It is ready to drink. Organic. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**90** Domaine Houchart 2022 (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). This rich wine from the slopes of Mount Saint-Victoire is full of bold berry fruits. Tropical flavors go along with a dense mouth-coating texture. Drink the wine now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**90** Famille Sumeire 2022 Château Cousin (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). A ripe, structured wine from the slopes of the volcanic Mount Sainte-Victoire, this is a full-bodied wine. Acidity and citrus come with red-currant flavors. Drink now. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**90** Mathilde Chapoutier 2022 Aurisso (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). Produced by a scion of the Rhône Chapoutier family, the wine is packed with ripe fruit. It is full, the freshness balanced by the wine's richness. Drink now. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$29

**89** Château Grand Boise 2022 (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). A crisp wine

with a definite dryness and freshness. The wine is fruity, but with a strong tang of acidity. Drink now. Organic. Soilair Selection. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$27

**87** Château de la Galinière 2022 (Côtes de Provence Sainte-Victoire). This is a herbal rosé with 20% Vermentino in the blend. It is full of fruits with a strong citrus element. Drink now. Advantage International. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

## COTEaux D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

**93** Château Vignelaure 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). The estate wine of this property to the northeast of Aix en Provence, this is rich and structured with a fine balance between acidity and ripe red-berry flavors. It will be at its best from later this year. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**91** Château Barbelle 2022 Cuvée Héritage (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon give this wine a concentration and dense texture. It is a ripe wine, its red berry flavors chiming with the acidity and lime flavors. Drink now. Amlière Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

**91** Château Calissanne 2022 Clos Victoire (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). An unusual blend for the Aix en Provence region of Grenache and Mourvèdre, the wine is soft, rounded and rich. It has a touch of pepper that contrasts with the red-fruit flavors. Drink now. Solstars. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**91** Château Paradis 2022 Terre des Anges (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). With its citrus and tropical fruit flavors, this is a ripe wine. Full of fruit that is freshened with acidity, this tangy wine has a taut, mineral aftertaste. Drink from later this year. Bridge Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$29

**90** Château Calissanne 2022 Calisson de Calissanne (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A perfumed wine, this is ripe with red-berry flavors and freshened by grapefruit flavors. The wine is delicious, a full wine, packed with fruit. Drink now. Solstars. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

**90** Château du Seuil Provence 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A ripe, rich blend of six grapes, this wine has density and layers of fruit. Red-berry fruits mingle with spice, acidity and orange flavors in a textured, mineral wine. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**90** Domaine d'Eole 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). This attractive fruity wine shows a balance of ripe red fruits and orange zest flavors. It has a fine tang with a touch of minerality

that gives texture. Drink now. CSL Select Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

**89** Château Vignelaure 2022 Source de Vignelaure (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). The second wine from this fine estate, this is full of fruit and is lightly structured. It is bright with acidity, citrus and spice. Drink now. Organic. MacArthur Beverages. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$17

**89** Domaine Fredavelle 2022 Aromance (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). Full of bright acidity, this has red fruits and a bright citrus streak. With total freshness and a crisp texture, the wine is attractively ready to drink. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$21

**89** Les Vins Bréban 2022 Domaine de la Chapelle Victor (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). This is a crisply, delicious wine, full of red-currant fruits. Citrus and a tangy texture give this wine a bite at the end. Drink now. Organic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

**89** Moncigale 2022 Cécida la Légende (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A blend of four grapes including a dash of Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is ripe with red fruits, orange peel flavors and taut acidity. The wine is smooth and rich, ready to drink. Boisset Collection. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**88** Château Barbelle 2022 Cuvée Rosé Fleuri (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A perfumed, fresh wine, this has a fine blend of citrus and bright red-fruit acidity. The wine is lightly structured from the addition of Syrah to the blend. Drink now. Amlière Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**88** Château d'Esclans 2022 The Beach by Whispering Angel (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A new release from the Château d'Esclans in Provence, this is full of ripe fruits and red-currant flavors. The wine's richness gives it some intensity that brings a tang. It is ready to drink. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$19

**88** Château du Seuil Provence 2022 La Chapelle du Seuil (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). Full of bright fruit, this strawberry and grapefruit flavored wine is crisp and textured. The wine is perfumed, light and ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

**88** Château Paradis 2022 Claire-Voie (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A soft, rounded wine, this has red-berry fruits and a bright acidity. It is a fresh wine, fruity and lifted at the end. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

**88** **Château Paradis 2022 Essentiel (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. A good predominance of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon gives this wine structure. It is ripe while still with a light core. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château Paradis 2022 Feu Follet Clair-voie (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. A soft, rounded wine, this has red-berry fruits and a bright acidity. It is a fresh wine, fruity and lifted at the end. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château Paradis 2022 Grande Terre (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. The wine has a fine structure with some Cabernet Sauvignon. Easy to find texture that goes with the wine's freshness. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Château Paradis 2022 La Danse du Paradis (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. The wine is soft with fresh fruit, touches of acidity and a bright, tangy texture. It is vibrant and ready to drink. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Commanderie de la Bargemone 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. This rounded wine is soft and full of crushed strawberry fruit. Drink this generous wine now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Domaine Fredavelle 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. This is a lively rosé with plenty of fresh citrus and spice to give it its lift. The wine is ready to drink. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Famille Ravoire 2022 Costeval (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. The wine has an attractive softness with a touch of pepper from Grenache in the blend. The wine is fruity, immediately drinkable. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Maison Mirabeau 2022 Cuvée X (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. A full-bodied wine, its fresh fruits are textured and taut. A steely edge gives this wine its shape and freshness. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**87** **Château Barbe Belle 2022 Cuvée Madeleine (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. Bright and fruity, this apple- and red-currant-flavored wine is lively, crisp and ready to drink. Amlière Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Château de Fonscolombe 2022 Esquisse (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. A light and fruity wine, this is dry with acidity and a lively, crisp texture. Citrus dominates with touches of

riper yellow fruits. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87** **Château Paradis 2022 Cuvée 508 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. This is a rounded wine with acidity and a fine fresh crispness. The wine is attractive, brightly fruity and ready to drink. Bridge Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Château Pigoudet 2022 Classic (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. Citrus and fresh fruits come from the wine's aromas into the palate. Elegant and with a crisp aftertaste, the wine is ready to drink. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Les Vins Bréban 2022 Villa Aix (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. Bright, ripe red fruits and with acidity that comes lightly through the red-currant fruit flavors. Drink the wine now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Château Calissanne 2022 (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence)**. The chateau wine from this prolific estate is full, structured and with a heavy feel. It misses freshness. Solstars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## COTEAUX VARIOIS EN PROVENCE

**91** **Château d'Ollières 2022 Haut de l'Autin (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. Produced from selected parcels on the estate, this wine is full and rounded in texture. Its ripe fruits, apples and spice flavors are balanced with a streak of fresh acidity at the end. Drink now. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$36

**91** **Château de l'Escarelle 2022 Les Deux Angés (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. A bright wine with a soft edge, this is rounded and generous. The wine has an open texture and a full richness. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Château des Annibals 2022 Suivez-moi Jeune Homme (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. This is a rich wine with fine red fruits that bring out its minerality as well as full red-berry flavors. The wine is ripe and will be ready to drink from later this year. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Château d'Ollières 2022 Prestige (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. Light and fruity, this is a balanced, fresh wine. It has a fine crisp texture to go with the wine's poise. Drink now. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Château de l'Escarelle 2022 Croix d'Engardin (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. The wine is ripe, full bodied with rich red fruits that fill out its density. This is a concentrated wine that is ready to drink. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$46

**90** **Domaine de Cala 2022 (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. For full review see page 25. Wine Warehouse Imports. *Best Buy*.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Domaine de Cala 2022 Prestige (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. Full of fruit with a fine concentration, the wine is both fresh and full. It has potential, ready to drink now but also apt to age. Organic. Wine Warehouse Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château d'Ollières 2022 (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. A bright, fruity wine that has fresh citrus and a crisp texture. The wine is lively and ready to drink. Rising Wine Domains. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**88** **Château de l'Escarelle 2022 (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. Fresh, fruity with brightness and a lively texture, this blend of Syrah, Grenache and Cinsault is an attractive wine. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château de l'Escarelle 2022 Le Pacha (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. Fresh with acidity and a crisp texture. That balances with the wine's ripe character that softens the wine's tangy texture. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**88** **Château Routas 2022 Routas (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. A balanced, fruity wine, this is lightly textured. Its acidity and bright, dry crispness are refreshingly forward. Drink now. USA Wine West. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Domaine la Gayolle 2022 Cuvée la Chapelle (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault give a tangy wine that is full of spice. It has a herbal edge that gives it a southern feel. Drink the wine now. Tamalpais Wine Agency. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Estandon 2022 (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. The wine's ripe citrus and kiwi fruit flavors are balanced by the hints of crushed raspberries and fuller flavors. Drink the wine now. Lieber Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Château Margillière 2022 Bastide (Coteaux Varois en Provence)**. From vineyards in the heart of Provence, the wine is full of fruit with full red-fruit flavors. It is balanced, and full of tangy fruit. Drink now. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA



**87 Les Vins Bréban 2022 Domaine la Colombe (Coteaux Varois en Provence).** A light, bright wine with acidity and a blend of citrus flavors. It has freshness with a crisp texture and a tangy aftertaste. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## CÔTES DE PROVENCE LA LONDE

**91 Château les Valentines 2022 (Côtes de Provence La Londe).** This is a full-bodied wine that is packed with ripe wines. It is dense, textured and rich. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Baron Francois Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Château les Valentines 2022 Le Grand Huit (Côtes de Provence La Londe).** The wine is fruity with bright flavors and a fine mix of citrus and red fruits. Tropical fruits put in their appearance to fill out the wine's ripeness. Drink now. Organic. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**88 Fabre en Provence 2022 Château Saint-Honoré (Côtes de Provence La Londe).** The wine has a smooth character that lifts the Grenache and Cinsault red-currant fruits. Acidity is fully integrated adding a bright freshness at the end. Drink now. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## BANDOL

**92 Domaines Ott 2022 Château Romassan (Bandol).** This is a rich wine, its Mourvèdre giving concentration and a fine structure. From one of the Ott domaines, it has spice as well as layers of red fruits. Drink from later this year. Organic. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$68

**92 Moulin de la Roque 2022 Les Hauts de Val-lon (Bandol).** This Bandol, with its ripe Mourvèdre, is full of red-berry fruits and spice and pepper. The wine is rich and complex; drink it from later this year. Marchetti Co.. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**91 Château Croix d'Allons 2022 Sur les Terres de Cathédra (Bandol).** The wine is rich with its structured Mourvèdre. It is densely textured and full of red fruit and orange flavors. Drink this full-bodied wine now. Chameleon Distributors. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Château Val d'Arenc 2022 (Bandol).** A ripe, structured rosé that is worth aging, its fruits full of ripe berries. It is a rich wine with a core of tannins that will shortly soften, giving a generous wine. Drink from 2024. Alaine Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2022 Marcel (Bandol).** Full of bright fruits, this textured wine has spice and freshness and ripe red-berry fruits. This is a smooth, rich wine that is ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**91 Moulin de la Roque 2022 Les Galets (Bandol).** The galets are the rocks that fill the vineyard and give the wine its strong character. It is a rich wine, the red fruits giving fine spice and structure. Drink the wine from later this year. Marchetti Co.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**90 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2022 (Bandol).** The structured wine has a proper dominance of Mourvèdre from its origin in Bandol. This small hilly region close to the coast gives a ripe, rich wine that is smooth, rounded and will be better to drink from later this year. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Mas Redonne 2022 Cuvée la Lyre (Bandol).** Mourvèdre, Cinsault and Grenache are comfortably blended in this rounded wine. The wine is ripe, balanced and ready to drink. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**89 Domaine de l'Olivette 2022 Cuvée Tradition (Bandol).** Spicy and fruity with acidity, this textured wine is full of ripe berry flavors as well as a strong citrus element. The wine has a peppery edge that gives a fine bite at the end. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Famille Ravoire 2022 Le Pont (Bandol).** The wine is ripe, lightly structured with a hint of tannins. The fruit, with 40% Mourvèdre giving structure, is rich, red-fruit flavors and red apples coming together. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88 Château Val d'Arenc 2022 Hip (Bandol).** Ripe and rounded, this wine from the coast of Provence, is full and fruity. It has red fruits and a vibrant brightness at the end. Drink now. Alaine Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Moulin de la Roque 2022 Les Figuiers (Bandol).** The wine is ripe, full of red fruits. It is dense, the wine's crisp edge softened by a touch of apricot. The wine finishes with a fresh aftertaste. Marchetti Co.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**87 Domaine de la Font des Pères 2020 (Bandol).** A surprisingly light, bright wine that has high acidity and really crisp texture, tasting younger than its age. It will be probably be softer in a few months. So drink now or wait until later this year. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87 Moulin de la Roque 2022 Les Adrets (Bandol).** A typical blend with Grenache and Cinsault at the fore has given a wine that has light spice and a tangy texture against the crisp grapefruit freshness. Drink the wine now. Marchetti Co.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## ALPES-DE-HAUTES- PROVENCE

**87 Famille Ravoire 2022 Jas des Vignes (Alpes-de-Hautes-Provence).** Grown in sandy soil, this light wine is brightly fruity. Red-currant flavors and kiwi freshness come together in a wine that is crisp and dry. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Famille Ravoire 2022 Perle de Fruit (Alpes-de-Hautes-Provence).** Full of rounded fruit, this wine from the hinterland of Provence is soft and perfumed from the Muscat in the blend. The wine has a bright, intensely fruity aftertaste. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Famille Ravoire 2022 Soleil des Alpes (Alpes-de-Hautes-Provence).** Soft, fruity, rounded and open, this is a lightly textured wine. It has a touch of spice, along with pepper and red-currant fruits. Drink now. LNJ Brands. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**85 Les Vins Bréban 2022 Lavendette (Alpes-de-Hautes-Provence).** Soft fruit with sweet shop flavors, this is a lightly sweet wine. It is fruity, crushed strawberries with a light acidity at the end. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$15

## VAR

**89 Château des Annibals 2022 Domaine des Annibals Cuvée des Annibals (Var).** The wine has intense red fruits and a fine depth of flavor. It's a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Cinsault that gives spice freshened with acidity. Drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88 Château Saint-Esprit 2022 Var West (Var).** Grenache and Syrah give the wine a ripe peppery and structured character. Tangy orange zest and red-currant freshness come together in this attractive wine. Drinkable Arts Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Château d'Esclans 2022 The Pale (Var).** Ripe fruits, stroked with citrus and fresh fruits, this is light and bright. The wine is lively, with a hint of pepper at the end. Drink this wine now. Shaw-Ross International Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

# BUYINGGUIDE

**87 Château d'Astros 2022 Astros Aventure (Var).** A pale rosé, this is fuller than its color suggests. It is layered with berry fruits and a soft red-cherry flavor. Drink the wine now. Organic. Colorado Beverage Co.. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 Château des Annibals 2022 Domaine des Annibals Cicada's Song (Var).** A light wine with refreshing acidity and red-berry fruits. An enjoyable summer refresher. Drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

## OTHER ROSÉ WINE

**87 Domaine de Valdition 2022 (Alpilles).** The wine comes from the small range of jagged mountains south of Saint-Rémy de Provence. It is a fruity wine touched by white grapes to brighten the rosé. Drink now. Organic. Ruff Mix Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

## PROVENCE RED WINES

### CÔTES DE PROVENCE

**92 Château Saint-Esprit 2021 Quintessence (Côtes de Provence).** Aged for 12 months in wood, the wine's smooth character emphasizes its richness. The wine is dense, concentrated and will be ready from 2025. Drinkable Arts Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**91 Château Grand Boise 2020 Cuvée 1610 (Côtes de Provence).** This ripe blend of Syrah and Grenache, partly wood aged, is structured, although the black fruits are already juicy. The wine is young and should be drunk from 2025. Organic. Soilair Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$43

**91 Château Saint-Esprit 2021 Signature (Côtes de Provence).** Aged in wood, this wine is dominated by black fruit. Tannins and a solid texture suggest further aging. It is rich, dense and should be ready from 2025. Drinkable Arts Importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**91 Château Saint-Esprit 2019 Mémoires (Côtes de Provence).** Spicy with black fruits and a perfumed character, this is a ripe, wood-aged wine. It also has a concentrated potential. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Drinkable Arts Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Domaine des Féraud 2018 Grande Cuvée (Côtes de Provence).** This ripe mature wine is richly structured. Its tannins still have a place against the black-currant fruits and spice. The wine

is solid, concentrated and will be ready to drink from 2024. Vins & Vignobles. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Château du Carrubier 2020 (Côtes de Provence).** A bold red, full of black fruits, this has tannins and structure. It is certainly rich, with a patina of southern warmth. Drink the wine now. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**88 Château Grand Boise 2021 Auro (Côtes de Provence).** This natural wine without added sulfur is dense, young and fruit driven. It has a spicy touch supported by black fruits. Drink from 2025. Organic. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Domaine de la Navicelle 2021 (Côtes de Provence).** Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah all lend their structure and tannins to this wine. Aged in wood, the wine has a touch of toastiness against the black fruits. Age the wine and drink from 2025. Chamber's Bay. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**88 Domaine Tropez 2019 Sublime (Côtes de Provence).** Full of spice with black fruits and with a tannic structure this is a concentrated wine. It has a firm texture that needs to soften further as the stalky black fruits open up. Drink from 2024. Buta. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2020 Cuvée G (Côtes de Provence).** The wine has a tight, tannic character. The stalky black fruits will surely soften, although the wine is likely to have a tough side. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**87 Château Saint-Esprit 2021 Origin (Côtes de Provence).** Spicy with red-berry fruits and light tannins, this is full and rich. Its southern ripeness is right up front, lightly herbal with soft tannins and acidity. Drink now. Drinkable Arts Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**87 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2021 Les Papilles (Côtes de Provence).** The wine is stalky, tight and full of light red-berry fruits. Tannins still show firmly and need to soften. Drink the wine from 2024. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## BANDOL

**94 Mas Redonne 2020 Cuvée Luisa Jeanne (Bandol).** This is a powerful, full-blown wine. Its black fruits and dense structure are impressive. The wine has weight and rich concentration. Drink from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$64

**93 Moulin de la Roque 2019 Les Adrets (Bandol).** Almost entirely Mourvèdre, the wine is dense in color and in the dark texture of plum and berry fruits. Tannins still control this spicy, wood-aged wine. Wait to drink until 2025. Marchetti Co.. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**91 Bastide de la Ciselette 2020 (Bandol).** Spicy and with black fruits and a dense texture, the wine is full bodied. The wood aging shows still but will integrate as it matures further. A fine wine, it will be ready from 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$48

**91 Les Vignobles Gueissard 2019 (Bandol).** This full, ripe wine is impressive and concentrated. It has spice, layers of black fruits and density from wood aging. Age further and drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**90 Domaine de l'Olivette 2019 Cuvée Tradition (Bandol).** Smooth, spicy and full-bodied, this wine is dense and full of ripe black fruits. It has concentration, while tannins are still in the background to give the wine shape. Drink the wine now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**86 Domaine de la Font des Pères 2019 (Bandol).** This light, open wine emphasizes its red fruits. Soft tannins and balanced acidity give a wine that is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

## OTHER RED WINES

**90 Château Calissanne 2021 Clos Victoire (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** A dense red wine, it still has a stalky edge alongside spice and firm tannins. The wine is rich and should soften. Drink from 2025. Solstars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 25% **Price:** \$35

**89 Château Calissanne 2021 Rocher Rouge (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence).** Fruity with a light texture of black fruits, this red wine also has a youthful stalky character. It should soften and be ready from 2024. Solstars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$59

**85 Château Saint-Esprit 2021 Var West (Var).** Grenache and Syrah are a satisfying blend of ripeness. The wine is soft, the black fruits are open and full of fruitiness. Drink the wine now. Drinkable Arts Importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

## OTHER FRENCH WINES

**88 Perfectus 2022 (Méditerranée).** This rosé is composed of equal parts Grenache, Cinsault, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon. Enjoy a soft melon layer resting on top of ripe peaches, fresh

rhubarb and dandelions. Its crisp acidity nicely balances its round texture. Artisans and Vines LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

## SPAIN WHITE WINES

### COSTERS DEL SEGRE

**91 Bodegas Costers Del Sió 2021 Petit Comitè (Costers del Segre).** This light-straw-colored wine offers aromas of cantaloupe, mango and honeysuckle. There is a soft hint of baking spice on the palate, underlying Seckel pear, bergamot, dried apricot and butterscotch flavors that culminate in an orange-zest finish. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

**90 Bodegas Costers Del Sió 2021 Celestia (Costers del Segre).** This medium-straw-colored wine offers a bouquet of lemon, peach and jasmine. A light floral note continues on the taste buds, joined by flavors of Seckel pear, clementine, and a hint of dried lemon thyme. Bottle Diplomacy. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$17

**90 Raimat 2021 Albariño Made With Organic Grapes (Costers del Segre).** Light yellow in the glass, this wine offers a nose of cantaloupe, pineapple and Stargazer lily. It is fresh in the mouth, with medium body and flavors of nectarine, honeydew melon, freesia and a closing touch of oyster shell. Raventos Codorniu. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 12%

Price: \$11

### PENEDÈS

**94 Torres 2019 Varietat Recuperada No. 23 (Penedès).** This is a single-varietal Forcada: a grape facing extinction that was discovered and repropagated by the Torres family. The wine has aromas of honeydew melon, fresh lemon thyme and a hint of rosemary. It is full in the mouth, with moderate acidity and a nice mélange of fruit and herbal flavors such as Seckel pear, mango, crumbled sage leaf, dried thyme and lavender flower. A soft floral note travels into the post-palate. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.

abv: 13%

Price: \$77

**92 Torres 2021 Fransola Sauvignon Blanc (Penedès).** Pale yellow to the eye, this wine has aromas of passion fruit, pineapple and freshly chopped green herbs. Bright on the palate, it has flavors of grapefruit, lemon-lime sorbet, mango and a touch of dried oregano and thyme. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**89 Cellers Domenys 2021 Nat 1917 Chardonnay Muscat d'Alexandria (Penedès).** Fresh aro-

mas of lemon, Granny Smith apple and white flowers lead the way for flavors of peach, apricot, Bosc pear, honeysuckle and rose water. This wine is lively on the palate from first sip through the floral-strewn finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 12%

Price: \$63

### TERRA ALTA

**93 Edetària 2021 Via Edetana (Terra Alta).** Medium straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of apricot, dried Mediterranean herbs and rose petal. It has a beautiful texture, offering flavors of nectarine, Valencia orange, butterscotch and a touch of lemon thyme riding beside bold acidity. United Cellars, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$23

**92 Celler Piñol 2021 L'Avi Arrufi Blanc (Terra Alta).** For full review see age 13. Olé & Obrigado. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$58

**88 Celler Piñol 2021 Raig De Raim Blanc (Terra Alta).** A bouquet of Bosc pear and honeysuckle prepares the taste buds for mango, lemon, fennel-pollen and rose-petal flavors. There is a soft note of thyme on the gentle finish. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$17

### RÍAS BAIXAS

**93 Paco & Lola 2019 Prime Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Light yellow in the glass, this wine has aromas of peach, honeydew melon and butterscotch. It offers a sense of fullness on the palate, alongside full-on acidity and mango, pineapple, passion fruit, dried Mediterranean herb and toasted almond flavors. There is a refreshing splash of grapefruit on the finish. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.D.

abv: 13%

Price: \$33

**92 Bodegas La Caña 2022 La Caña Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This pale-yellow wine has aromas of pink grapefruit and pineapple. It is bright on entry, offering flavors of lemon-lime, white peach, passion fruit and a hint of honeysuckle that lingers into the vivid finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

**92 Paco & Lola 2021 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** For full review see page 15. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$21

**91 Gomez Y Rial 2021 Alargo (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of pineapple, lemon zest and mango emanate from the glass. This wine is bright from start to finish, offering flavors of pink grapefruit, lemon lime, pineapple and a hint of orange blossom. Bottle Diplomacy. —M.D.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

**90 Bodegas Lagar de Pintos 2021 Lagar de Pintos Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of ripe nectarine, clementine and nutmeg prepare the palate for flavors of peach, Seckel pear, vanilla bean and a soft hint of ginger. It is full on the palate with a nice, bright finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

### RIOJA

**95 Nivarius 2017 Finca La Nevera Maturana Blanca (Rioja).** This wine is made with one of the oldest known but most obscure varieties in Rioja, Maturana Blanca. It offers aromas of green pear, pineapple, white chocolate and a touch of aniseed. It is full on the palate and features clementine, lemon-zest, green-apple and vanilla flavors awash in bold acidity and a palpable sense of stoniness. Notes of fennel pollen and seawater appear on the pleasing finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

**92 Nivarius 2018 Edición Limitada (Rioja).** For full review see page 15. Mesk/Wine Nation.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$28

**86 Altanza 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Rioja).** A bouquet of lemongrass, orange zest and tomato leaf paves the way for refreshing flavors of Valencia orange, pink grapefruit, yuzu and a hint of honeysuckle. This wine is bright from first sip through the vivid finish. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

**85 Pata Negra 2021 Viura (Rioja).** Aromas of honeydew melon and jasmine set the scene for flavors of Seckel pear, lemon and slivered almond with a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs. This is an easy-drinking, refreshing wine. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$9

**84 J. Garcia Carrion 2021 Antaño Blanco (Rioja).** This wine has aromas of pineapple and green apple. It is bright on the palate from entry to the refreshing finish, offering flavors of Granny Smith apple, lemon zest and a touch of rose petal. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$7

### RUEDA

**94 Campo Eliseo 2020 Verdejo (Rueda).** For full review see page 7. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$59

**93 Viñas Murillo 2021 Chapirote Prefiloxerico Verdejo (Rueda).** Light-yellow in the glass, this wine has a nose of nectarine and Granny Smith apple with soft notes of herbes de Provence. It is richly textured, with flavors of Anjou pear, apricot, orange blossom and hints of lavender and oyster



shell mingling with gorgeous acidity. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**92 Cuatro Rayas 2021 Longverdejo (Rueda).** For full review see page 14. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Finca Montepedroso 2019 Enoteca Verdejo (Rueda).** Medium-yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of lemon, peach and geranium leaf. It is creamy on the palate, with flavors of Valencia orange, lemon zest, nectarine, jasmine and pleasant notes of salinity and petrol on the vivid finish. SAWM Imports, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Hermanos del Villar 2021 Oro de Castilla Verdejo (Rueda).** For full review see page 22. Olé & Obligado. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**91 Viñas Murillo 2022 Chapirote Selección Sobre Lias Verdejo (Rueda).** This wine has a bouquet of peach, Bartlett pear and a touch of rose petal. Bright on entry, it offers flavors of pineapple, grapefruit, passion fruit and hints of chopped green herbs. It remains equally bright through the lemon-grass-laced finish. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Bodegas Pandora 2020 Pandra (Rueda).** Pale-yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of Bartlett pear, pineapple and white flowers. It is bright on the palate, with passion fruit and grapefruit flavors joined by notes of honeysuckle and a touch of dried thyme. Marquee Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Bodegas Pandora 2021 Ariabal (Rueda).** Fragrances of pineapple, passion fruit and crumbled sage waft from the glass. Honeydew melon, nectarine, cocoa-butter and orange-blossom flavors skate into a refreshing finish. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Cuatro Rayas 2022 Vendimia Nocturna Verdejo (Rueda).** This light-straw-colored wine has a nose of pink grapefruit, jasmine and fresh parsley. Bright on entry, it has nectarine, lemon and Valencia orange flavors with a hint of rose petal that lingers into the bright finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89 Viñas Murillo 2022 Valduhete Verdejo (Rueda).** This light-yellow wine has a nose of nectarine, Granny Smith apple and herbes de Provence. It offers a nice combination of minerality and acidity joined by flavors of cantaloupe, Bartlett pear, jasmine and marjoram. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**88 Finca Montepedroso 2021 Verdejo (Rueda).** A bouquet of pineapple and grapefruit sets the stage for lemon-lime, pineapple, and yuzu flavors with soft hints of vanilla and dried thyme that sail into a zippy, grapefruit-splashed finish. SAWM Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

**87 Cantarranas 2022 Cantarranas Verdejo (Rueda).** Light-straw in color (with green highlights), this wine has a nose of white peach, apricot and orange blossom. Summer stone-fruit flavors transition to the palate accompanied by soft floral notes that linger into the bright finish. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Viñas Murillo 2022 Animoso Verdejo (Rueda).** Light straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Valencia orange, passion fruit and oyster shell. There is a sense of stoniness on the palate along with clementine, pineapple and honeydew-melon flavors punched up by bright acidity and a touch of white flowers on the finish. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Palacio de Vivero 2022 Verdejo (Rueda).** Aromas of lemon-lime, pineapple and crumbled sage leaf pave the way for citrus- and tropical-fruit flavors joined by touches of honeysuckle and dried mountainside herbs. This is bright on the palate from first sip through the vibrant finish. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

## LA MANCHA

**94 El Vinculo 2019 Alejairén Crianza Airen (La Mancha).** Made from Spain's most widely grown white grape, Airén, which is often made into brandy, this wine has a nose of pineapple, lemon, vanilla and clove. It has beautiful viscosity that backs flavors of green apple, tangerine, butterscotch and a hint of rose petal that lingers into a long-lasting finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**86 Finca Antigua 2021 Sobe Lias Viura (La Mancha).** Light-yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of nectarine and hazelnut. It is medium bodied, with pineapple, lemongrass, green-apple and thyme flavors. There is a splash of Valencia orange on the finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$7

**86 Toro Bravo 2021 Verdejo Sauvignon Blanc (La Mancha).** Aromas of white peach, passion fruit and lemon thyme waft from the glass. A zippy mélange of nectarine, lemon-lime, mango, orange-blossom and dried marjoram flavors washes across the palate and sails into a lively, citrus-zest finish. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**97 Torres 2019 Milmanda Chardonnay (Conca de Barberà).** Medium-gold to the eye, this wine has a nose of Bosc pear, lemon zest and flint. It is full in the mouth, with a slight feeling of creaminess and flavors of Golden Delicious apple, Mirabelle plum, river rocks and a touch of vanilla. Vibrant acidity and strong minerality linger on the palate into the satisfying finish. Drink through 2034. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$76

**94 Alberto Orte 2020 Atlántida Blanco (Jerez).** For full review see page 6. Olé & Obligado. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$47

**94 Clos Mogador 2019 Nelin (Priorat).** Aromas of white peach, Granny Smith apple and almond blossom pave the way for a nicely textured wine with flavors of Anjou pear, peach, marzipan, nutmeg and vanilla. Notes of slivered almond, butterscotch and jasmine linger into the enduring finish. Drink through 2033. Europvin USA. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**92 Bodegas Julián Chivite 2019 Colección 125 Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Navarra).** Aromas of lemon, Granny Smith apple, vanilla and slivered almond emanate from the glass. Creamy in the mouth, this wine offers Golden Delicious apple, caramelized pineapple and marzipan flavors that sail into a smooth finish. Kobrand. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Bodegas Piqueras 2021 Piqueras Wild Fermented Verdejo (Almansa).** For full review see page 21. Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**92 Chivite 2020 Colección 125 Chardonnay (Spain).** Deep-straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of honeydew melon, pineapple and almond paste. It is full in the mouth, with flavors of Valencia orange, Anjou pear, butterscotch and a soft hint of eucalyptus that lingers into a smooth finish. Crescent Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**92 Finca Casa Lo Alto 2021 Trena Tardana (Spain).** This unique white wine from Valencia is made with a variety previously known far more as a table grape than wine grape. It offers a bouquet of apricot, slivered almond and dried thyme. It is full on the palate, with flavors of Bosc pear, Golden Delicious apple, passion fruit, honeysuckle and dried Mediterranean herbs. Pleasing savory notes sail into the soft finish. Schenk Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**92 Inurrieta 2020 Orchidea Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc (Navarra).** Aromas of Bartlett pear, white peach, vanilla bean and almond blossom set

the scene for flavors of Gala apple, lemon preserves, white chocolate and rose petal. This full-textured wine lingers on the post palate, with soft floral and dried herb notes. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$85

**91 Ilyia 2020 Macabeo-Moscato (Alicante).** This golden-hued wine offers a bouquet of lemon zest, bergamot flower and tangerine. There is a gorgeous floral note underlying citrus and tropical-fruit flavors that wash over the palate. The bright finish is marked with a note of passion fruit. Park Street Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**91 Organic Wine Tribe 2021 Wild Est. Macabeo & Chardonnay (Spain).** Aromas of white peach, green apple and a hint of honeysuckle prepare the palate for Bartlett pear, nectarine, vanilla bean and dried thyme flavors with a touch of rose petal. There is a nice note of white chocolate across the side palate and a final wash of brightness. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$31

**90 Cellers Domenys 2021 Capvespre Sunset Xarel-lo Macabeo Garnacha (Catalunya).** This straw-colored wine has aromas of honeydew melon, apricot and pineapple. There is a slight floral undertone, with flavors of Anjou pear, lemon-lime, honeysuckle and light spice. Well-integrated acidity creates a refreshing splash on the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$47

**89 Elias Mora 2021 Contracorriente Verdejo (Toro).** Aromas of lemon, peach and a whiff of smoke set the scene for flavors of lemon-lime sorbet, nectarine, juniper berry and a touch of mint. This wine is creamy in the mouth and offers bright, citrus-filled finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Sierra Norte 2021 Paraje Fuentesecca Macabeo-Sauvignon Blanc Made With Organic Grapes (Utiel-Requena).** This light-straw-colored wine has aromas of Bartlett pear, grapefruit and orange blossom. It is soft on the palate, offering flavors of Gala apple, lemon-lime sorbet, Valencia orange and a soft touch of white flowers that persists on the palate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Melea 2021 Verdejo & Sauvignon Blanc (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** This light-straw-colored wine has aromas of lemon, grapefruit and chopped green herbs. It offers shimmering acidity and flavors of pineapple, grapefruit and jasmine that evaporate into a floral-infused finish. Well-Oiled Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

**85 Bodegas Luzón 2022 Finca Luzón Blanco Sauvignon Blanc Macabeo (Jumilla).** Pale-straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of grapefruit, mango and crumbled Mediterranean herbs. It is

bright at first sip, offering flavors of lemon, passion fruit, chopped parsley and orange zest that wrap up with a refreshing finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**84 Bodegas Luzón 2022 Luzón Colección Blanco Sauvignon Blanc Macabeo (Jumilla).** This light-straw-colored wine has aromas of grapefruit, dried sage and lemon zest. It is lively on the tongue, with zesty tropical-fruit and citrus flavors that linger on the palate. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

## CAVA

**92 Naveran 2020 Perles Roses Cuvée Antonia Brut (Cava).** The color of a summer sunset, this vintage Cava has a nose of candied orange, milk chocolate and fennel pollen. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of tangerine, pomegranate, passion fruit and rose water that evaporate into a floral-scented finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$37

**91 Vins El Cep 2019 Gelida Brut Reserva (Cava).** A pale-apricot-colored Blanc de Noirs, this Pinot Noir-based Cava has a bouquet of Mission Fig, white chocolate and orange zest. It explodes on the palate with zesty acidity and refreshing flavors of grapefruit, clementine, strawberry, cocoa butter and rose petal. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**90 Perelada 2020 Stars Touch of Rosé Brut (Cava).** For full review see page 25. Vinovia Wine Group. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Bodegas Murviedro NV Los Monteros Brut (Cava).** With a steady stream of tiny bubbles, this Cava has a nose of yellow plum, apricot and marzipan. It tickles the palate with flavors of honeydew melon, passion fruit, pie crust and a hint of rose petal that dissolve into a soft, floral finish. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER SPARKLING WINES

**92 Carlos Serres 2019 Método Tradicional Brut (Rioja).** This sparkler from Rioja has a steady mousse and aromas of Fuji apple, lemon zest and slivered almonds. It opens on the palate with Bartlett pear and white-peach flavors and notes of hazelnut, baking bread and honeysuckle that culminate in a bright, lemon-splashed finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**92 Paco & Lola NV Lola Brut (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of lemon-lime, pineapple and jasmine emanate from the glass of this sparkling Albariño. It is softly effervescent, offering bold acidity and nectarine, grapefruit and orange blossom

flavors, with a soft hint of brioche on the closing note. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**85 Dominio de Punctum NV Lanzado Pet Nat Cloudy Organic (Spain).** Light-apricot in color and just barely effervescent, this wine has a bouquet of cantaloupe, mango and rising pizza dough. Granny Smith apple, slightly underripe peach, toasted hazelnut and honeysuckle flavors coalesce in a slightly tart finish. Sandalo Organic Estates. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**85 Dominio de Punctum NV Lanzado Pet' Nat Cloudy (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** This moderately bubbly, slightly opaque wine has a nose of grapefruit, lemon thyme and freesia. It is tart at first sip, offering a tingling sensation in the mouth and lemon-lime, pink-grapefruit, orange-blossom and apple-cider flavors. Sandalo Organic Estates. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

## SPAIN ROSÉ WINES

**92 Ameztoi 2021 Rubentis (Getariako Txakolina).** Aromas of Bosc pear, pineapple and freshly grated ginger set the stage for a full-textured wine with nectarine, apricot, vanilla and rose-petal flavors. Touches of rose and nutmeg linger on the finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$24

**91 Txakoli Primo 2022 Zarautz Rose (Spain).** This apricot-colored wine has aromas of summer orchard fruit and pineapple. It makes the mouth tingle with flavors of Granny Smith apple, apricot, grapefruit and a touch of fennel bulb. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$26

**90 Txomin Etzaniz 2022 Txomin Etzaniz Rosé (Getariako Txakolina).** The color of a summer sunset, this has a bouquet of nectarine and raspberry. It feels almost effervescent on the palate, offering flavors of Valencia orange, ripe summer peach, lemongrass, lemon thyme and a hint of roasted yellow pepper. The finish is marked with a burst of brightness. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$25

**89 Hiruzta 2022 Txakoli Rosé Hondarrabi Beltza-Hondarribi Zuri (Getariako Txakolina).** Pale-pink in the glass, this wine has aromas of lemongrass, yuzu and dried thyme. It is bright on the palate, with flavors of white peach, tangerine, honeysuckle and rose petal. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

**89 Iraberrri 2022 (Spain).** Aromas of green apple, peach and honeysuckle waft from the glass. This wine is bright on entry, with flavors of pineapple, passion fruit, lemon zest and rose petal that sail into a bright, fruit-filled finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$22

## SPAIN RED WINES PRIORAT

**94 Ferrer Bobet 2018 (Priorat).** Deep violet to the eye, this wine has a nose of black cherry, blackberry, clove and a hint of black pepper. It is slightly spicy on entry, with clove, anise, black-currant, cherry and dark-chocolate flavors. Opulent tannins coat the palate and drift off into a floral-infused finish. Vintus LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$52

**93 Mas Igneus 2020 M (Priorat).** Inky violet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of black currant, baking spice and violet. Flavors of black cherry, blackberry, clove, lavender and caramel are woven into a sheath of velvety tannins that recede into an enduring finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$85

**93 Vall Llach 2019 Embruix (Priorat).** Deep-violet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, raspberry and a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. It is soft on entry, with polished tannins and flavors of blackberry, cassis, milk chocolate, violet and a touch of thyme that carries into the smooth finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$27

**92 Casa Gran del Siurana 2021 GR-174 (Priorat).** For full review see page 13. Vinovia Wine Group.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**92 Cellers Grifoll Declara 2019 Predicat (Priorat).** This dark-ruby-colored wine has a nose of black currant, dark plums and dried Mediterranean herbs. It is juicy at first sip, with full on cherry-pie and blackberry-preserve flavors accompanied by notes of fennel bulb, dried thyme, coffee bean and freshly ground black pepper. Bold tannins slowly fill the palate and then recede into a soft, spicy finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92 Merum Priorati 2019 Inici (Priorat).** This deep-garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of black cherry, vanilla and mocha. Dark-berry flavors and notes of sage leaf, clove and licorice are wrapped in a sheath of rigid tannins. Strong acidity keeps tannins in check and a splash of Valencia orange refreshes the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**92 Trossos del Priorat 2018 Volats (Priorat).** Aromas of brambly fruits of the wood and licorice pave the way for flavors of black and red currant, dark chocolate, anisette and a touch of olive tapenade that are set into glossy tannins. A soft floral note works its way into the enduring finish. Bottle Diplomacy. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**86 Broken Slates 2021 (Priorat).** Aromas of cherry, cassis and violet prepare the palate for bright flavors of ripe summer cherry, red currant, white chocolate, lavender and a touch of baking spice wrapped in soft tannins. This wine is easy drinking from start to finish. State Wines Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

## CALATAYUD

**92 Breca 2019 Brega (Calatayud).** This dark-violet-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, purple plum, clove and vanilla. Silky smooth on the palate, it offers Mission fig, black-cherry, clove, eucalyptus and milk-chocolate flavors wrapped in a web of plush tannins that glide into an enduring finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**90 Breca 2020 Breca Garnacha (Calatayud).** Deep-ruby in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, raspberry and anise seed. It is slightly spicy at first sip, with clove and menthol notes joined by cherry, black-currant, vanilla and rose-petal flavors. Velvety tannins and cooling spice notes make for a smooth finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$22

**89 Raices 2021 Sin Duda Carlos Ruben (Calatayud).** Deep-cherry-red to the eye, this wine has aromas of black currant, mocha and violet. Solid tannins and bright acidity support blackberry, purple-plum, dark-chocolate and baking-spice flavors that sail into a satisfying finish. Crescent Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$16

## CAMPO DE BORJA

**95 Alto Moncayo 2017 Aquilon Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** This garnet-colored wine offers aromas of black currant, black raspberry and black licorice, with just a touch of charcuterie. The fruit flavors shine through with subtle notes of crushed violet. It has soft tannic structure, with a pleasant bit of grippiness in the post palate as it leads up to the long, long, finish. Winebow Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$200

**94 Alto Moncayo 2020 Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** For full review see page 6. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$145

**91 Borsao 2019 Zarihs Shiraz (Campo de Borja).** The color of blueberry pie, this wine has aromas of cassis, black-olive paste and clove. It is soft on entry with flavors of raspberry, pomegranate, aniseed, clove and mint cloaked in a layer of glossy tannins that glide into a finish marked with notes of butterscotch and fennel. Winebow Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$23

**90 Borsao 2020 Tres Picos Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** For full review see page 24. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

## CARIÑENA

**91 Esteban Martín 2019 Garnacha-Syrah-Tempranillo 6M (Cariñena).** For full review see page 23. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Luis Marín 2020 Essentia Old Vine Garnacha (Cariñena).** This deeply hued wine has aromas of black currant, violet and aniseed. It is bright on the palate, with downy tannins wrapped around black-cherry, baking-spice, rose-petal and dark-chocolate flavors. Soft notes of cocoa powder and spice linger on the tongue. W. Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89 Luis Marín 2021 El Gordo Garnacha (Cariñena).** Dark-garnet to the eye, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, Mission fig, butterscotch and dried sage. It is bright on entry, with flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, milk chocolate, violet and dried Mediterranean herbs. Plush tannins dissolve into a finish marked with a hint of orange zest. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Marqués de Cáceres 2020 (Cariñena).** Dark red-violet to the eye, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, vanilla and nutmeg. It is soft at first sip, with flavors of black and red berries, milk chocolate, anise seed and rose petal that are wrapped in a lightweight sheath of downy tannins. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Esteban Martín 2021 (Cariñena).** Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of black cherry, dried sage leaf and black pepper. It is bright on entry, with soft tannins and wild-berry, aniseed, gingerbread-spice and violet flavors. A splash of cranberry makes for a pleasing finish. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## NAVARRA

**93 Bodegas Julián Chivite 2017 Coleccion 125 Single Vineyard (Navarra).** This wine is garnet colored with aromas of cedar, tobacco leaf and ripe black fruits. There is a pleasantly firm tannic



structure with flavors of cassis, red raspberry and black plum and a splash of bright acidity before the long finish. Kobrand. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Inurrieta 2021 Mimaò Garnacha (Navarra).** Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of black cherry, violet candy and cigar box. A framework of muscular tannins plays host to blackberry, cassis, menthol and chocolate-covered-espresso-bean flavors. The finish is marked with a bright splash of pomegranate and rose petal. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$85

**93 Inurrieta 2021 Norte Roble (Navarra).** Ruby-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of dark cherries and red plums. A sheath of gossamer tannins is wrapped around flavors of red and black fruits, with crushed violets that peel away to reveal pronounced minerality in the long finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$76

**93 Inurrieta 2020 Puro Vicio (Navarra).** This deep-ruby-colored wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, purple plum, violet and a touch of smoke. It is round on the palate, with black-cherry, cassis, dark-chocolate, coffee-bean and soft dried herb flavors wrapped in silky tannins that dissolve into a minty finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$162

**93 Marco Real 2019 Finca La Pared Cuvée Especial Red Blend (Navarra).** This enticing wine has aromas of ripe black and red plums with brown baking spices. In the mouth, it is medium to full bodied, with satiny tannins, ripe flavors of raspberry, cassis and dark cherry and a touch of powdered chocolate in the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**92 Manzanos 2020 Castillo de Olite (Navarra).** This blend of 80% Tempranillo and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon is garnet-colored in the glass. It has aromas of pencil shavings, dark plum, black raspberry and cranberry, with flavors of pomegranate, cassis and blackberry. It has a firm tannic structure and a nice long finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Compañia Vitivinícola Tandem S.A. 2021 Inmune Garnacha (Navarra).** Aromas of black currant, raspberry, clove and violet prep the taste buds for black-cherry, blackberry, eucalyptus, dark-chocolate and lavender flavors, with a soft note of cedar. Rigid tannins coat the palate and then peel away to reveal a floral-infused finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**91 Manzanos 2020 1864 Castillo de Olite Crianza (Navarra).** Aromas of dried herbs, cassis and red plum draw you in to this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of black plum, cassis, ripe cherry and dried herbs with a touch of lifted mint. There is a

sturdy tannic backbone with a pleasant note of salinity in the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Proyecto Unsi 2019 Unsi Garnacha de Montaña (Navarra).** This inky black-cherry-colored wine features a bouquet of raspberry, strawberry, thyme and violet. It is juicy at first sip, offering generous yet polished tannins and flavors of pomegranate, blackberry preserves, fennel pollen and orange zest that evaporate into a soft finish. Anecwines Corp.. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Bodegas Gran Feudo 2018 Crianza (Navarra).** This wine is garnet in color, with aromas of red cherry, dried herbs and dried cranberry. It is soft on entry, with flavors of brown baking spices, red and black plums and dark cocoa powder. It is medium bodied, with velvety tannins and notes of savory herbs in the long finish. Vinaio Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Bodegas Nekeas 2020 El Chaparral de Vega Sindoa Old Vines Garnacha (Navarra).** Dark ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas of raspberry, cassis and black-olive tapenade. Black and red fruit takes hold of the palate at first sip, joined shortly by dark chocolate, dried Mediterranean herb and eucalyptus flavors. As fruit flavors peel away, velvety tannins coat the palate and linger there. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$19

**90 Bodegas Piedemonte 2019 Cuatro Tierras (Navarra).** This ruby-colored wine has aromas of dried cranberry, red cherry and savory herbs. It is soft on entry, with flavors of black and red plums, cinnamon and nutmeg. It has good heft on the palate with velvety tannins and a touch of dried herbs in the long finish. Juan Bonilla Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90 Manzanos 2021 Primi 40 Winemaker's Selection (Navarra).** Dark-garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, mocha and a touch of summer farm stand. A wall of rugged tannins supports black currant, raspberry, cocoa powder, coffee bean and olive-tapenade flavors that fade into a lasting, orange-zest finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**89 Bodegas Nekeas 2021 Cepa por Cepa (Navarra).** This deep-ruby-colored wine has a nose of cassis, black cherry, clove and black pepper. Silky tannins play backup to black-currant, Mission fig, dark-chocolate and baking-spice flavors, with a hint of mint that lingers into the bright finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Señorío de Sarria 2019 Viñedo Uno Garnacha de Viñas Viejas Crianza (Navarra).** This dark-garnet-colored wine has a nose of black cherry and

caramel. It is bright on entry, with pomegranate, blackberry, butterscotch, violet and coffee-bean flavors. Feathery tannins fade into a fruit and floral finish. Beviamo International. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

## RIOJA

**96 Casa Primicia 2017 Pensante Special Selection (Rioja).** Deep-ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of black cherry, baking spices and caramel. It fills the mouth with intense flavors of black currant, black cherry, espresso and a hint of rose petal. Opulent tannins meander into a long, satisfying finish. Drink through 2042 cellar selection W. Direct. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$200

**95 Gómez de Segura 2021 Mitxarro (Rioja).** Inky violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of raspberry liqueur, Luxardo cherry, anisette and rose petal. Tannins slowly build in volume while flavors of blackberry, black-cherry, clove, violet and chocolate-covered-caramel fill the mouth. Touches of orange zest and coffee bean make their way to the smooth finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**93 Luis Cañas 2018 Crianza (Rioja).** This deeply hued wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, raspberry, espresso bean and clove. There is a soft savory note of dried Mediterranean herbs alongside Chambord, cherry, baking-spice and ground-coffee flavors. Vigorous tannins coat the tongue and gums and drift away into a spicy finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Sierra Cantabria 2018 Único Reserva (Rioja).** This deeply hued wine has a bouquet of black-cherry, cassis and lavender. It offers flavors of purple plum, blackberry, clove and mint backed by rigorous tannins that slowly melt away to reveal a finish marked with notes of anise and eucalyptus. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**93 Tobelos 2017 Salinillas (Rioja).** This garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of slightly brambly fruits of the wood and dark chocolate. It is bright on entry, offering cherry and pomegranate flavors mingling with notes of mocha, dried thyme and violet. Silky tannins softly coat the mouth and linger into a bright finish. The Spanish Acquisition. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$57

**93 Valdelacierva 2018 Alfar Reserva (Rioja).** A nose of blackberry, raspberry and milk chocolate sets the stage for Mission fig, black-plum, espresso-bean, cocoa-powder and lavender flavors, with a hint of crumbled sage. Slightly muscular tannins stand their ground and then fade on the palate, replaced with a wash of pleasing acidity. USA Wine West. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**92 Bodegas Olarra 2020 Sagasta Crianza (Rioja).** This dark-ruby-colored wine has aromas of black currant, violet and dried Mediterranean herbs. It is full on the palate, with cherry, raspberry, orange-zest, dark-chocolate and dried sage flavors wrapped in a sheath of downy tannins that slowly dissolves into a soft finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**92 Marqués del Silvo 2017 Reserva (Rioja).** This dark-violet-colored wine has aromas of black cherry, mocha and dried thyme. Flavors of blackberry, raspberry, licorice, dark chocolate and a touch of eucalyptus are set into velvety tannins that slowly drop off into a pomegranate and cocoa-butter finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**92 Rioja Vega 2017 Reserva Estate Bottled (-Rioja).** Deep-garnet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of pomegranate and butterscotch. It is soft on entry, with silky tannins and blackberry, cherry, caramel and roasted fennel-bulb flavors that carry into a satisfying finish. First Growth Brands. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Ukan 2019 Senderos De Ukan (Rioja).** This deep-cherry-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, cassis, butterscotch and a touch of smoke. A framework of powerful tannins supports flavors of black currant, purple plums, toffee, violet and graphite that wind down to a soft, satisfying finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Bodegas Bilbainas 2018 Viña Pomal Crianza (Rioja).** This dark-violet-colored wine has aromas of dark berries, fennel bulb and dried thyme and oregano. Flavors of Luxardo cherry, raspberry preserves, dark chocolate, anise and black-olive tapenade are encased in a sheath of silky tannins that evaporate into a soft finish. Raventos Codorniu. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**91 Bodegas Franco-Españolas 2017 Excelso Reserva (Rioja).** Deep-ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of black currant, purple plums and chocolate-covered espresso bean. A framework of sturdy tannins supports flavors of blackberry, pomegranate, truffle paste and cherry pipe tobacco. The finish is marked with notes of orange zest and milk chocolate. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**91 Familia Fernández de Manzanos 2018 Siglo Reserva (Rioja).** This dark-violet-colored wine has aromas of black currant, raspberry and a touch of dried thyme. Glossy tannins support flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, mocha and dried Mediterranean herbs that sail into a fruit-filled finish. Terroir Connections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**91 Marqués de Cáceres 2018 Excellens Cuvée Especial (Rioja).** For full review see page 23. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Medieval 2017 Reserva (Rioja).** Dark-garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of black currant, purple plums, clove and coffee bean. Tannins come on a bit strong but then drop off to reveal well-integrated acidity and flavors of black cherry, cassis, violet, mocha, and a closing note of eucalyptus. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Viña Olabbarri 2018 Reserva (Rioja).** Inky garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, black currant and a hint of dried thyme and oregano. Velvety tannins and a good level of acidity support red berry, butterscotch, espresso and black-olive tapenade flavors that melt into a satisfying finish. Communal Brands. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**90 Bodegas Franco-Españolas 2019 Royal Crianza (Rioja).** Bright cherry-red in the glass, this wine proffers a bouquet of blackberry, cassis, and mocha. It is bright on entry, with flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, milk chocolate, butterscotch and a hint of crumbled sage leaf. Downy tannins settle on the palate and stay for a while. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Manzanos 2021 III (Rioja).** This deep-hued wine has a nose of raspberry, black plum, anisette and dried thyme. A framework of sleek tannins supports black-cherry, pomegranate, caramel, roasted fennel-bulb and dried sage flavors that sail into a slightly savory finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Anciano 2018 No.5 Crianza (Rioja).** A nose of cherry, black plum and roasted fennel bulb sets the scene for blackberry, pomegranate, anisette, butterscotch and milk-chocolate flavors, with a touch of eucalyptus. Tannins come on a little strong but then back off to reveal a parting note of orange zest. Well-Oiled Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88 Bodegas y Viñedos Don Sancho de Londoño 2019 Real de a 8 (Rioja).** Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of black currant, dark plum and black-olive paste. There is a soft floral note on the first sip, followed by flavors of cherry, raspberry, milk chocolate, dried hillside herbs and violet that evaporate into a soft finish. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Viña Arnáiz 2018 Crianza (Rioja).** Bright cherry-red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of slightly brambly fruits of the wood and licorice. It is bright on entry, with flavors of ripe summer cherry and pomegranate that are joined by featherweight tannins and notes of dark choco-

late, violet and a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. CIV USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 J. Garcia Carrion 2017 Antaño Crianza (Rioja).** This wine has a nose of cherry preserves and fennel. Rugged tannins ply the palate bearing flavors of pomegranate, cherry, anisette, dried thyme and a touch of milk chocolate that holds on into the finish. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**87 Marqués de Carrión 2018 Crianza (Rioja).** This deep violet-red-colored wine has a nose of cherry, purple plum and fennel pollen. A pleasant soft minty note underlies velour-like tannins and flavors of pomegranate, cassis, mocha, anise and orange zest. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Medieval 2019 Crianza (Rioja).** This ruby colored wine has a bouquet of black and red berries, dried Mediterranean herbs and coffee bean. It is soft at first sip, offering downy tannins and cherry, raspberry, mocha, lavender and dried oregano flavors. A nice splash of brightness appears on the closing note. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 J. Garcia Carrion 2019 Vendimia Seleccionada (Rioja).** A nose of raspberry, red currant and milk chocolate sets the scene for flavors of ripe red cherry, pomegranate, white chocolate, violet and a soft touch of dried thyme. This easy-drinking red has soft tannins and a bright finish. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

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## RIBERA DEL DUERO

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**96 Arzuaga 2017 Reserva Especial (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 3. United Cellars, Inc. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**96 Bodegas Milvus 2020 Edición Especial (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 3. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$159

**96 Milsetentayseis 2019 Tinto (Ribera del Duero).** This delightful inky-purple-colored wine has aromas of red and black fruits, cedar, and a touch of new car leather. It is soft on entry with elegant mouthfeel and flavors of cassis, red plum and blackberry. The tannins are a pleasantly grippy right now but will mellow out with time. USA Wine West. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**95 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2018 Gran Tábula (Ribera del Duero).** Brilliant ruby-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, black raspberry and black licorice, with a touch of charcuterie. In the mouth, the fruit flavors shine through with

subtle floral tastes of violet and lavender. It has rounded tannic structure with some pleasant grip-piness in the post palate as it leads up to the per-sistent finish. Drink through 2043. Misa Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**94 Arzuaga 2019 Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** This delicious reserva is garnet-ruby in the glass, with a violet-colored rim. It has enticing aro-mas of ripe cherry, red plum and saddle leather. In the mouth, there are flavors of ripe red and black fruits, dried sage and thyme, pencil lead and cedar shavings. The tannins are velvety, the mouthfeel is voluptuous, and the finish goes on for days. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**94 Bodegas Briego 2016 Adalid Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Deep ruby-colored in the glass, this intriguing wine has aromas of red plum and blueberry. In the mouth bright fruit flavors dance across your tongue and are accented by dried sage and rosemary and freshly ground white pepper wrapped in a cloak of slowly dissolving velvety tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Bodegas Castillejo De Robledo 2016 Altos de Valdoso Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Deep-garnet-colored in the glass, this delightful wine has aromas of violet, cassis, purple flowers and dried Mediterranean herbs. It has flavors of black fruits, gingerbread spice and vanilla. It is full bodied, with a velvety tannic structure and persistent finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**94 Cuenta Viñas 2020 (Ribera del Duero).** Ruby-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of purple flowers, especially violet, cassis, and dried Mediterranean herbs. It has flavors of ripe red and black fruits, brown baking spices and vanilla. It is full bodied in the mouth, with a silky tannic struc-ture and a finish that goes on and on. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 Dominio de Atauta 2019 La Celestina Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This wine has full-on aromas of blackberry, plum, black cherry and cassis, with a whiff of eucalyptus. It has flavors of ripe black and red fruits and a touch of black-olive paste and saddle leather. The tannins are bold but silky and the finish is persistent. Aviva Vino. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**93 Bodega Virgen de la Asunción 2018 El Secreto de Maria (Ribera del Duero).** Notes of warm vanilla and brown baking spice draw you in to the complex bouquet of this enticing wine, where you will also find red-currant, cassis, black-raspberry and purple-plum aromas. In the mouth, there are ripe fruit flavors with hints of cigar box and anise in the post palate. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**93 Bodega Virgen de la Asunción 2016 El Corazón De La Tierra Tinto Fino (Ribera del Duero).** This elegant wine is ruby-colored in the glass, with a pale violet-colored rim. In the nose, there are aromas of red plum, saddle leather and black cherry, with flavors of dried Mediterranean herbs, tobacco leaf, and ripe red and black fruits. The tannins are soft and the mouthfeel is round and generous. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**93 Emilio Moro 2019 Malleolus (Ribera del Duero).** This dark-garnet-colored wine offers aromas of black cherry, cassis, dark chocolate and coffee bean. Fruits of the wood, mocha, violet, orange zest and crumbled kitchen-herb flavors are set into a network of muscular tannins that evapo-rate into a lasting finish marked with a note of choc-olate-covered cherry. Moro Brothers. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Finca Rodma 2019 Avizor (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of black cherry, red plum and dried Mediterranean herbs draw you into this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of ripe cherry, black cur-rant and a touch of lifted mint. There is a sturdy tan-nic backbone with a touch of salinity in the finish. Toros & Vinos LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**93 Trus 2020 Punto Geodésico (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 11. Mesk/Wine Nation.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80

**93 Virtus 2019 El Succo (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of dried sage, black currant and red plum introduce you to this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of cassis, ripe cherry, wet river rocks and black plum, with a touch of lifted eucalyptus. There is a sturdy tannic backbone with a touch of salinity in the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$63

**93 Vizcarra 2020 JC (Ribera del Duero).** This wine is inky purple in the glass, with a violet rim. It has aromas of black plum, red cherries and a lifted note of dried rosemary. It is medium bodied on the palate, with grippy tannins and flavors of ripe red raspberry, red plum, and cassis followed by a touch of cocoa powder in the finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 12 Linajes 2019 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** With a nose of blackberry, black currant, violet and mocha, this deep-garnet-colored wine offers flavors of cassis, dark plums, violet, dark chocolate and a touch of orange zest. Powerful tan-nins come on strong and then relax their grip and skate into a lengthy finish with pleasant notes of coffee bean and cocoa butter. USA Wine West. —M.D.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$30

**92 Alvides 2019 Tercera Generación (Ribera del Duero).** This ruby-colored wine draws you in with enticing aromas of black currant, black

raspberry and red plum. In the mouth there are fla-vors of black cherries, tobacco leaf and dried sage wrapped in silky-soft tannins, with a bright splash of acidity in the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**92 Arzuaga 2021 La Planta (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 21. United Cellars, Inc. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**92 Bodegas Valreinas 2017 Tempranillo Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Inky purple-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of ripe black fruits, cedar shavings and a whiff of saddle leather. It is soft on entry and then opens up with a full mouth-feel and flavors of blackberry, cassis and red plum. The tannins are soft and velvety right now but will continue to mellow get even softer with time. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$41

**92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 Disco Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 12. W. Direct.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

**92 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2019 Sentido Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 12. W. Direct.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**92 Dominio Basconillos 2019 Viña Magna Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Deep-ruby in color, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, Mission fig and anisette. It is smooth at first sip, offering pol-ished tannins, pleasing acidity and black-currant, cherry, coffee-bean, dark-chocolate and clove flavors that linger on the palate. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 López Cristóbal 2021 La Linde (Ribera del Duero).** This garnet-colored wine has a nose of dark berries, butterscotch and a touch of crumbled sage. It fills the palate with cherry, Mis-sion fig, mocha, clove and thyme flavors wrapped in a web of silky tannins that sail into a smooth finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 López Cristóbal 2020 Bagus (Ribera del Duero).** Ruby-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, crushed violet and dried savory spices. It has flavors of dried sage and brown baking spices, black fruits, and a touch of cocoa powder. It is full bodied in the mouth, with a soft tannic structure and an enduring finish. Key Wines. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**92 Monteabellón 2021 5 Meses en Barrica (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of blackberry, vanilla and baking spice pave the way for cherry, pomegranate, butterscotch, aniseed and violet fla-vors. Mellow tannins and well-integrated acidity endure on the palate. Europvin USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21



**92 Sierra Iberica 2021 (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of cherry pie, raspberry preserves and baking spices give way to black-cherry, blackberry, cinnamon-stick, coffee-bean and marjoram flavors. There is a nice balance between integrated acidity and midweight tannins that endure on the palate after the last sip. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**92 Terraesteban 2017 Author Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** This elegant wine is brilliant garnet-colored, with aromas of charcuterie, black raspberry, tobacco, and cedar wood. It is simultaneously full bodied yet soft on the palate, with velvety tannins and flavors of black cherry, black raspberry and cassis. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**92 Trus 2017 Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Garnet, almost inky purple-colored in the glass, this wine draws you in with aromas of red plum, cassis, and blackberry. It is soft on entry into the mouth and has flavors of black plum, cigar box, and dried sage wrapped in velvety tannins with an unexpected bright splash of acidity in the finish. Mesk/Wine Nation. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Alvides 2021 Roble Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, mocha and black-olive paste. It is juicy at first sip, with flavors of blackberry, cherry, milk chocolate, aniseed, and a hint of violet wrapped in soft tannins that wind down to a smooth finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**91 Bodegas y Viñedos Neo 2021 El Arte de Vivir Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 17. W. Direct.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91 Dominio de Atauta 2019 Parada de Atauta (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of black cherry, clove, vanilla and thyme waft from the glass. This wine is powerful on impact, but it softens up quickly thanks to well-balanced acidity and a nice mix of black fruit, baking spice and dried mountain-side herb flavors that lead to a vanilla-custard and orange-zest finish. Aviva Vino. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**91 Legaris 2019 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of red and black berries, cocoa powder and clove prep the palate for blackberry, raspberry, milk-chocolate, espresso and anisette flavors. Well-balanced acidity and downy tannins skate hand in hand into a long-lasting finish. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$26

**90 Alvides 2019 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of blackberry pie, black-olive tapenade and crumbled sage set the stage for flavors of black plum, cassis, caramel, and dried thyme and marjoram. Bold tannins coat the tongue and

gums and then recede into a smooth, savory finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Terraesteban 2018 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Deep-garnet colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, purple flowers and dried savory spices. It has flavors of Christmas baking spices, black fruits, and a touch of dried sage. It is full bodied in the mouth, with a soft tannic structure and long, long finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**90 Viña Arnáiz 2021 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** For full review see page 26. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**89 Alvides 2021 Finca las Juanillas La Colmena Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Deep-garnet-red to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of cassis, clove and a touch of pine needle. Sturdy tannins provide a backdrop to black currant, caramel, violet and dried mountainside herb flavors. There is a touch of orange zest in the lingering finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**87 Pata Negra 2021 Tempranillo Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of cherry, raspberry and mocha set the stage for pomegranate, Mission fig, dried sage, cocoa-powder and lavender flavors. Tannins are slightly stiff at first but are washed away by soft acidity. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

**94 Fernández Rivera 2018 20 Aldeas (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** For full review see page 7. Folio Fine Wine Partners.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Clunia 2019 Tesela (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This red blend has aromas of saddle leather, graphite, red raspberry, and cassis. It has flavors of ripe fruits especially black currant, red plum and black raspberry, with grippy tannins and a persistent finish. Quigley Fine Wines. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Fernández Rivera 2018 Dehesa La Granja (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** For full review see page 22. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**92 Marqués de Toro 2021 Single Vineyard Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Aromas of crumbled thyme and marjoram, wild berries and mocha pave the way for flavors of cherry preserves, blackberry pie, black-olive paste, aniseed and dark chocolate. Tannins feel grippy at first sip but drop

away to reveal a slightly savory finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**92 Quinta Sardonía 2017 Q (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** For full review see page 15. Trinchero Family Estates.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

**92 Vinos de Arganza 2021 Lagar de Robla (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Dark-violet to the eye, this wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood mingling with honeysuckle and sage. It fills the palate with opulent tannins and flavors of purple plum, black currant, dark chocolate, coffee bean and a touch of wild lavender that lingers on the palate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91 Palacio de Arganza 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Aromas of dark plums, Mission fig and crumbled hillside herbs pave the way for black cherry, pomegranate, cocoa powder, dried thyme and violet flavors. Satiny tannins coat the mouth and wind down to a soft finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**91 Señorío de la Antigua 2021 Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Aromas of blackberries, raspberries and a touch of saddle leather emanate from the glass. A sheath of velvety tannins comes wrapped around dark-berry flavors joined by notes of crumbled sage, butterscotch and violet. The satisfying finish is marked with a note of cranberry. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**91 Vinos de Arganza 2021 Encanto Selección Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This dark-garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of black cherry, Mission fig and a hint of dried thyme and oregano. It is soft at first sip, and then plush tannins coat the palate, wrapped around flavors of cassis, pomegranate, mocha and lavender that power on to a bright finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91 Vinos de Arganza 2021 Flavium Premium Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This deep-ruby-colored wine has aromas of purple plum, ripe summer cherry and a soft whiff of green bell pepper. Flavors of pomegranate, blackberry, milk chocolate, fennel pollen and black-olive paste are wrapped in a layer of silky tannins that linger on the palate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**90 Finca la Rinconada 2017 Barcolobo Victoria (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This wine is inky purple in the glass, with aromas of dark cherries, black plum, and a touch of dried sage. It is medium bodied on the palate, with firm tannins and flavors of ripe red and black fruits followed by a touch of cocoa powder in the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**90 Marqués de Montejos 2021 Selección Single Vineyard Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** Dried Mediterranean herb notes win out over red fruit in this wine's bouquet. It is bright on entry, with feathery tannins pomegranate and raspberry flavors accompanied by mocha, dried oregano, aniseed and milk chocolate flavors that evaporate into a burst of cranberry. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

## BIERZO

**93 Vinos de Arganza 2021 Flavium Selección Mencía (Bierzo).** Dark-black-cherry in color, this wine has aromas of Chambord, cherry cola and tarragon. It opens with bright notes of pomegranate and cranberry that are joined by thyme, dark-chocolate and fennel-pollen flavors. Slightly stiff tannins melt into a lasting finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**89 Luna Beberide 2021 (Bierzo).** This deeply colored wine has aromas of black cherry, black currant and a touch of green bell pepper. Heavy tannins fill the palate joined by flavors of blackberry, cranberry, licorice, cocoa powder and dried sage leaf. The finish is marked by a bright splash of pomegranate. Grapes of Spain. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**86 Ribas del Cúa 2021 Joven (Bierzo).** Aromas of red currant, blackberry pie and olive tapenade set the scene for flavors of blackberry, raspberry, crumbled oregano and sage, salted popcorn and milk chocolate. Rugged tannins and Mediterranean herb notes linger on the palate. American Northwest Distributors Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

## VALENCIA

**93 Viveros Cambra 2020 Parcelas De Familia Barrel Aged (Valencia).** Aromas of blackberry, cassis, dried thyme and a touch of bramble prepare the palate for flavors of black plum, red currant, black-olive paste, sage and a bit of graphite. Tannins come on strong at first and then recede into a vivacious finish. Cuvée International. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$23

**92 Bodegas Neleman 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Bobal (Valencia).** Dark-violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of slightly brambly fruits of the wood, clove and dried sage. It is smooth on the palate, with polished tannins and flavors of cherry, pomegranate, anise, milk chocolate and a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs. The lengthy finish is marked with a note of orange zest. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$37

**90 Finca Casa Lo Alto 2020 Manzán (Valencia).** Deep-cherry-red to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of purple plum, sage and fennel pollen.

There is a nice savory character underlying flavors of blackberry, cassis, milk chocolate, anisette and dried thyme wrapped in a layer of plush, long-lasting tannins. Schenk Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Manuel Manzanque Suárez 2018 Paloma Mínguez (Valencia).** This ruby-colored wine has aromas of cherry pie, tomato leaf and fennel pollen. It is soft on entry, offering lightweight tannins and flavors of pomegranate, raspberry, roasted fennel bulb, dried thyme and milk chocolate. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87 Toro Bravo 2020 Tempranillo Merlot (Valencia).** A bouquet of cherry, blueberry and aniseed sets the scene for ripe summer cherry, raspberry, baking-spice and dried thyme flavors. This is a nice easy-drinking red, with soft tannins and bright acidity. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

## ALICANTE

**93 Volver 2018 Triga (Alicante).** For full review see page 12. Winesellers, Ltd. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$54

**91 Volver 2020 Tarima Hill Old Vines (Alicante).** For full review see page 24. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**86 Volver 2021 Tarima Organic (Alicante).** This deep-ruby-colored wine has aromas of black currant, mocha and dried thyme. Feathery tannins provide a backdrop for blackberry, Mission fig, herbes de Provence and black-olive paste flavors that hold on to a dark-berry finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

## UTIEL-REQUENA

**93 Bodegas Murviedro 2020 La Casa de la Seda Bobal (Utiel-Requena).** For full review see page 9. Schenk Wines USA.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92 Bodegas Hispano Suizas 2020 Bobal Finca Casa la Borracha (Utiel-Requena).** This dark-violet wine has a nose of dark fruits of the wood, crumbled sage and coffee bean. A framework of sturdy tannins backs flavors of black cherry, pomegranate, black-olive paste, mocha and a touch of smoke that lingers on the palate. Puerto Rico Supplies Group. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**92 Bodegas Murviedro 2018 Sericis Cepas Viejas Bobal (Utiel-Requena).** For full review see page 12. Schenk Wines USA. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91 Vegalfaro 2020 Rebel.lia Made with Organic Grapes (Utiel-Requena).** Deep-garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of black currant, black cherry and dried sage. Bold tannins are wrapped around flavors of cassis, blackberry, mocha, and baking spices that sail into a lengthy finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

## JUMILLA

**93 Bodegas Luzón 2019 Alma de Luzón (Jumilla).** This deeply hued wine has a bouquet of black plum, red cherry, clove and mace. Silky tannins provide a backdrop for flavors of black and red berries, anisette, and eucalyptus that fade into a soft, minty finish. Aviva Vino. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$65

**91 Ego Bodegas 2020 Fuerza (Jumilla).** This dark-garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of black currant, strawberry and butterscotch. A web of downy tannins plays host to blackberry, cherry, anisette and eucalyptus flavors that persist on the palate. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**90 Bodegas Bleda 2021 Pinodonce Black (Jumilla).** Dark-garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of black cherry, dried thyme and honeysuckle. It is bright at first sip, with lightweight tannins and pomegranate, Mission fig, cocoa-butter and rose-petal flavors. A closing note of clementine splashes across the palate. Jansen International. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**90 Bodegas Bleda 2018 Divus Monastrell (Jumilla).** This dark-garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of purple plums, black-olive paste and flint. A sheath of soft tannins is wrapped around cassis, black-cherry, eucalyptus, mocha and truffle flavors that linger into a bright finish. Jansen International. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Bodegas Luzón 2021 Finca Luzón (Jumilla).** This deep-red-violet-colored wine has a nose of black currant, raspberry and clove. Black-cherry, Mission fig, aniseed and mint flavors are wrapped in velvety tannins that fade into a fruit-filled finish. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**90 Juan Gil 2020 Silver Label Monastrell (Jumilla).** Dark-ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas of cassis, blackberry and anisette. Velvety tannins play backup to cherry, blackberry, toffee and mocha flavors that close out on a note of lavender. Gil Family Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

**89 Bodegas Bleda 2020 Pinodonce 12 meses Monastrell-Syrah (Jumilla).** Dark-garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of cherry preserves, tobacco leaf and green bell pepper. Blackberry,

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dark-plum, eucalyptus, milk-chocolate and licorice flavors are encased in feathery tannins that slowly drift away. Jansen International. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**86** **Juan Gil 2021 Comoloco Monastrell (Jumilla).** A bouquet of cherry, vanilla and clove paves the way for black-currant, raspberry, milk-chocolate, anise and nutmeg flavors. Tannins are a little strong at first sip but a nice touch of acidity washes them off the palate. Gil Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$9

**86** **Juan Gil 2021 Honoro Vera Monastrell (Jumilla).** Deep-ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, white chocolate and licorice. Tannins seem heavy at first but then melt away to expose black-cherry, raspberry, clove, and cinnamon flavors. A note of lavender lingers into the finish. Gil Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$9

**85** **J. Garcia Carrion NV Castillo San Simón Monastrell 12 Meses En Barrica (Jumilla).** This bright cherry-colored wine has a nose of purple plum, milk chocolate and crumbled marjoram. It is bright at first sip, offering featherweight tannins and pomegranate, red-currant, white-chocolate and black-olive flavors. Soft tannins barely interfere with bright fruit. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$7

**85** **J. Garcia Carrion NV Castillo San Simón Monastrell 18 Meses En Barrica (Jumilla).** Aromas of black cherry, raspberry, vanilla and dried sage set the stage for flavors of pomegranate, ripe summer cherry, butterscotch and a touch of green bell pepper. This easy sipper is bright from entry to slightly savory finish. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

## OTHER RED WINES

**96** **Torres 2020 Varietat Recuperada No. 32 (Catalonia).** This literal one-of-a-kind wine from Catalunya has aromas of cassis, smoke, jasmine and a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs. It is full textured in the mouth, with plush tannins and flavors of Luxardo cherry, three-berry pie, lavender, pencil lead and crumbled sage. A soft smoky note carries into the enduring finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$82

**94** **Heretat Oller del Mas 2018 Ròmia (Spain).** Inky garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry, purple plums, anise seed and dried marjoram. A framework of opulent tannins slowly builds, supporting flavors of dark fruits of the wood, butterscotch, baking spices, orange zest and a light floral note that remains on the palate. Drink through 2033. De Maison Selections, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$90

**94** **Viños Aurelio García 2019 La Infanta by Mikaela Bobal (Ribera del Júcar).** A heady bouquet of Chambord, cherry preserves, clove and orange zest prepares the palate for flavors of maraschino cherry, blackberry, baking spices, crumbled sage and violet. Sturdy tannins ply the palate and then slowly drift away to reveal a floral-infused finish. Drink through 2033. Fine Estates From Spain. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$115

**93** **Avancia 2021 Nobleza (Valdeorras).** Aromas of cassis, dark plums and dried Mediterranean herbs pave the way for cherry, raspberry, milk-chocolate, black-olive paste and violet flavors. Tannins come on a little strong at first and then slowly dissolve into a smooth finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Torres 2020 Purgatori (Costers del Segre).** This bright-red-colored wine offers a bouquet of dark and red berries, anise seed and milk chocolate. It is juicy on entry, with bold cherry and blackberry flavors accompanied by glossy tannins and notes of mocha, caramel and clove. The finish is marked with a bright splash of acidity. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Uribes Madero 2010 Gran Calzadilla (Pago Calzadilla).** Deep-garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of brambly dark berries and bitter-sweet chocolate. Flavors of blackberry, black cherry, cocoa powder, violet and clove are set into chewy tannins that hang on into a lengthy finish. Table 31 Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**91** **Herència Altés 2018 L'Estel (Terra Alta).** An interesting blend that uses two different types of Garnacha, Negra and Peluda, along with Cariñena and Syrah, this deeply hued wine has a nose of cherry, raspberry, baking spices and black pepper. It is bright at first sip, with gentle tannins pomegranate, raspberry, milk-chocolate, clove and dried sage flavors. A touch of spice remains on the palate alongside bright acidity. European Cellars. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$23

**91** **Luxus One 2018 Crianza (Terra Alta).** The color of blueberry pie, this wine has aromas of blackberry, cassis and violet. It is smooth on the palate, with silky tannins, well-balanced acidity and flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, lavender, milk chocolate and a hint of dried thyme that lingers on the taste buds. State Wines Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Organic Wine Tribe 2020 Tempranillo & Bobal (Spain).** Deep-garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of brambly dark berries and saddle leather. Dark-berry flavors continue on the palate alongside rigid tannins and notes of mocha, fennel

pollen and black-olive paste. A soft savory note lingers in the mouth. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**90** **Alvear 2020 Palacio Quemado La Zarcita Single Estate Vineyard (Extremadura).** This dark-ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of black cherry, purple plum and aniseed. A sheath of smooth tannins supports flavors of blackberry, raspberry, eucalyptus and a hint of clove that lingers into a soft finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90** **Barahonda 2021 Carro (Yecla).** Aromas of black cherry, raspberry and aniseed set the stage for black-plum, cassis, fennel-bulb and lavender flavors wrapped in a layer of silky tannins. Notes of cranberry and marjoram appear on the satisfying finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**90** **Otazu 2019 (Pago de Otazu).** Deep-violet-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, black currant and a touch of green bell pepper. A framework of robust tannins supports flavors of ripe summer cherry, pomegranate, mocha and black-olive tapenade. The smooth finish is noted for a burst of menthol. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**89** **Rectoral de Amandi 2021 Matilda Nieves (Ribeira Sacra).** Inky garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of raspberry and mocha. A sheath of glossy tannins plays host to ripe summer cherry, butterscotch and dried Mediterranean herb flavors that culminate in a bright finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Pago del Vicario 2020 6 Meses (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** There is a soft note of violet on the nose, mingling with aromas of black cherry and raspberry. That florality continues on the palate, underlying feathery tannins and cassis, dark-plum, milk-chocolate and baking-spice flavors that continue into a smooth finish. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Hammeken Cellars 2020 Condesa Patricia (Tierra de Castilla).** This dark-garnet wine has aromas of raspberry, dark chocolate and sage. Feathery tannins back maraschino cherry, blackberry preserve, white-chocolate and herbes de Provence flavors that culminate in a bright, cranberry-splashed finish. Arcadia Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**86** **Hammeken Cellars 2020 Capa Estate Bottled (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Dark-ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of cherry, mocha, and marjoram. It is soft on the palate, with lightweight tannins and black-currant, raspberry, caramel and citrus-zest flavors. The finish is marked with a soft note of lavender. Arcadia Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15



**83 Pata Negra 2019 Tempranillo Crianza (Valdepeñas).** Deep-cherry-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of red raspberry, crumbled sage and a touch of green bell pepper. It is bright at first sip, with feathery tannins and slightly tart flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, eucalyptus and a touch of spicy green olive that lingers on the palate. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$7

**83 Pata Negra 2019 Tempranillo Roble (Valdepeñas).** This wine has aromas of Mission fig, dark plum and dried marjoram. It hits the palate with fresh, bright-red-berry flavors backed by soft tannins and notes of slightly burnt caramel, dried Mediterranean herbs and citrus zest. CIV/USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$7

## PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

### MINHO

**90 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2018 Reserva de Sócios (Minho).** A rare style of wine from the Vinho Verde region, this has been wood aged and aged in bottle before release. It is a ripe wine, toasty but balanced with the wine's soft white fruits. It was released to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the co-op. Drink now. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Quinta de Paços 2022 Morgado do Perdigoão (Minho).** A blend of Alvarinho and Loureiro, this wine is ripe and smoothly textured. It is a fine wine, ripe with a creamy aftertaste. Drink now. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88 Quinta de Paços 2021 Arinto Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Minho).** This rich wine is full of citrus and white fruits. Made from Arinto and packed with ripe fruits, it is more full bodied than a normal Minho. It is ready to drink. Amphorium LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**87 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2022 Estrela Sauvignon Blanc (Minho).** It is somewhat strange to find Sauvignon Blanc in the Lima Valley, but this wine brings out some of the freshness and minerality to be found in a Vinho Verde. It is crisp, light and cool. Drink now. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

### VINHO VERDE

**91 Provam 2022 Portal do Fidalgo (Vinho Verde).** Pure Alvarinho from the Minho river valley gives a rich Vinho Verde. Its full character and red-apple and kiwi flavors are delicious now, although

the wine will be better from early 2024. Dionysos Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**91 Quinta de Paços 2021 Casa do Capitão-Mor Reserva (Vinho Verde).** A touch of wood gives this wine extra richness. It is spicy as well as full of white fruits, full bodied and worth aging further. Drink from later this year. Amphorium LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**90 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2022 Loureiro Premium (Vinho Verde).** The added Loureiro gives a satisfyingly rich wine. Apples predominate, with a lacing of citrus to give a tang. The wine is ready to drink. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Falua 2022 Barão do Hospital (Vinho Verde).** From the northern Minho Valley, this wine is ripe, with creamed apple and light spice. It is a fine, full-bodied wine that has a smart balance of acidity. Drink now. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Quinta da Raza 2022 Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 25. OZ Wine Company. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2022 Loureiro-Alvarinho Premium (Vinho Verde).** A crisp style with a creamy edge from the Alvarinho makes this is an attractive zesty wine. It has a vibrant freshness along with lively acidity at the end. Drink now. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Casa de Vila Verde 2022 Tiroliro (Vinho Verde).** This is a smooth, creamy style of Alvarinho with ripe baked apple flavors. This is a rounded wine, with a fine touch of minerality at the end. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Howard's Folly 2019 Alvarinho Nem por Sombras (Vinho Verde).** Ripe and full, this lemon and spice flavored wine is mature and well aged. The wine is in a perfect condition for drinking now. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2022 Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde).** The wine is crisp with green- and citrus-fruit flavors. It is a bright wine with a tangy, dense character. It is ready to drink. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Bico Amarelo (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 28. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Provam 2022 Varanda do Conde (Vinho Verde).** This blend of Alvarinho and Tra-

jadura comes from the northern Monção and Melgaço region. The wine has weight, with ripe white fruits and a creamy character. The wine is ready to drink. Dionysos Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**88 Quinta da Raza 2022 Alvarinho-Trajadura Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 28. Free Run Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Quinta de Paços 2021 Casa de Paços Loureiro Reserva (Vinho Verde).** The wine is full and lightly toasted with ripe white-berry flavors, citrus and fine acidity. The wine is delicious and ready to drink. Amphorium LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26

**88 Quinta de Paços 2021 Casa do Capitão-Mor (Vinho Verde).** The wine is fruity but those white-fruit flavors are rich with acidity in the background. It is ready to drink. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$16

**88 Wines & Winemakers 2022 Maria Bonita Lua Cheia (Vinho Verde).** Fruity and fresh, this is a crisp, tangy wine. Its citrus character dominates—zesty and perfumed. Drink now. Costa Nova. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**88 Wines & Winemakers 2022 Maria Papoila (Vinho Verde).** A blend of Loureiro and Alvarinho, this is a ripe wine. It is full of rich fruit, with acidity and a tangy citrus edge. Drink the wine now. Costa Nova. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**87 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2022 Estrela Branco (Vinho Verde).** A blend dominated by Loureiro—the major grape of the Lima Valley—this wine is soft and full of white fruits. It is fresh and fruity at the end. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Casa de Vila Nova 2022 Vila Nova (Vinho Verde).** A blend of Loureiro and Fernão Pires, the wine is fruity and fresh with bright acidity. This is an attractive wine that is ready to drink. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$12

**87 Quinta da Raza 2022 Dom Diogo Arinto Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 29. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

**87 Quinta de Paços 2022 Casa de Paços Loureiro & Arinto (Vinho Verde).** Crisp and fruity, the wine is bright and full of citrus. It has a zingy character, is textured and is ready to drink. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

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**86** **Quinta de Paços 2022 Casa de Paços Loureiro (Vinho Verde).** Softly textured, this ripe wine is tangy and bright with acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Summit Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**85** **Quinta da Raza 2022 Dom Diogo Azal Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** A really crisp wine with tangy acidity and lemon freshness, this is lively and bright. It is ready to drink now. The Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**85** **Quinta de S. Sebastião NV Forte do Ciego (Vinho Verde).** An off-dry wine, with sweet apple and crisp acidity, this is as light as a feather. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$10

**84** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 QSS Rare (Vinho Verde).** Lightly sweet, with acidity and a prickly edge, the wine is bright. It is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$12

## DOURO

**91** **Ivin 2019 Bota Velha (Douro).** Lightly wood aged, the wine is full of white fruits. It has a toasty edge giving the addition of spice to the wine. Drink this field-blend wine now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Quanta Terra 2021 Grand Reserva (Douro).** Lightly toasty, this wine has a fine line of acidity, refreshing citrus flavors and a mineral edge. A blend of Gouveio, Viosinho and Rabigato, the wine is fresh and ready to drink. Grape2Glass. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Quinta da Côte 2021 Côte (Douro).** Aged in wood, the wine shows spice and toast as well as ripe fruits. It has been aged in bottle, increasing maturity and the wine's ripeness. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Wines & Winemakers 2022 Lua Cheia (Douro).** Made from old vines giving the wine density, this is a fine wine. White fruits show strongly, balanced with acidity and a fresh, crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Costa Nova. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Herédias (Douro).** Lightly aged in wood, this wine is ripe and full of apple flavors. A mineral edge, typical of a Douro white, gives the wine its structure. Drink now. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Quinta do Vale Meão 2021 Meandro (Douro).** A bright and fruity wine, this is crisp and textured. It has some depth from lees aging, giving ripeness to the white fruits with the touches of

peaches. Drink the wine now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Wines & Winemakers 2021 Andreza Reserva (Douro).** A smooth wine, with some toast and spice, this has a smoky character. The wine's richness and full fruit are edged with a burst of citrus. Drink the wine now. Costa Nova. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Casca Wines 2020 Monte Cascas Reserva (Douro).** Maturing nicely, the wine is full of textured fruit. With a layer of apples and spice, the wine is lightly structured and wood aged. Drink from 2024. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Quevedo 2022 Quevedo (Douro).** From vineyards that are high up from the Douro river, this is crisp while also having ripe white-berry flavors. It is full, fruity, lightly textured and ready to drink. P.R. Grisley Company. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Casca Wines 2022 Monte Cascas Colheita (-Douro).** This is crisp, with a touch of minerality and plenty of acidity. The wine is fresh while also ripe. Drink now. Cellar Wines Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

## DÃO

**91** **Global Wines 2020 Casa de Santar Branco de Curtimenta (Dão).** Solidly textured, this wine is ripe with lemon and a dense texture from the aging on skins. The fine wine is both fruity and toasty. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**91** **Global Wines 2020 Casa de Santar Reserva (Dão).** This ripe wood-aged wine from a single estate is dense and impressive. It has a rich layer of baked apple flavors, and is generous and ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Automático (Dão).** Low-yielding vines from an old vineyard mean this wine is rich, creamy and packed with fruit. The wine's apple and peach flavors are balanced. Drink the wine now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90** **Seacampo 2020 Casa Américo Reserva (Dão).** Lightly wood aged, the wine has spice, toast and mature apple and citrus flavors. It is a ripe wine, with the creamy Encruzado in the blend. Drink the wine now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Vinha de Santa Maria (Dão).** This perfumed wine has

some creamy Encruzado giving apple and spice flavors. The wine is textured and ready to drink. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Seacampo 2022 Casa Américo (Dão).** Soft and fruity, this wine has lime and apple flavors, enhanced by light tropical-fruit flavors. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## LISBOA

**90** **Casa Santos Lima 2019 Reserva (Lisboa).** This wood-aged wine is rich and now mature. Its toasty edge has softened with acidity balanced by ripe tropical-fruit flavors. The wine is full and dense, ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90** **DFJ Vinhos 2022 Grand'Arte (Lisboa).** For full review see page 24. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Miradouro da Vinha (Lisboa).** Rounded and smoothly textured, this is an apple-flavored wine. It has a fine tang of acidity and a fresh squeeze of lemon. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**86** **Casca Wines 2022 Cascas (Lisboa).** With Chardonnay, Fernão Pires and the local Vital, the wine is crisp, bright with green fruits and plenty of citrus. Drink this fresh wine now. Cellar Wines Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Portão 9 (Lisboa).** A soft and fruity wine, with light acidity and a perfumed character, the label is a homage to the trams that climb the hills of Lisbon. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2020 Dona Flor (Lisboa).** A soft wine, with easy, mature white fruits, this has a citrus edge. The wine is light and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

## TEJO

**90** **Encosta do Sobral 2020 Vinhas Velhas Grande Reserva (Tejo).** This wood-aged wine is finely balanced. Toasty flavors contrast comfortably with the wine's rich apple and green-plum flavors. The wine is now ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Falua 2020 Conde Vimioso Reserva (Tejo).** Touched by toast, this wine is rounded and full, although with a crisp streak of citrus acidity. It is now just ready to drink. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Falua 2021 Sommelier Edition (Tejo).** A bright burst of fresh citrus and lively acidity gives this wine a light and fruity character. It is ready to drink. Grape2Glass. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## ALENTEJANO

**91 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Private Selection (Alentejano).** For full review see page 17. Now Wine Imports.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**89 Howard's Folly 2020 Sonhador (Alentejano).** Delicious apples with a touch of spice and a layer of acidity give this wine its ripeness and immediate attraction. With a fine balance, the wine is ready to drink. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Esporão Colheita (Alentejano).** This rich wine, with full white fruits, is generous and spicy. It has a peppery character along with the fruits and citrus finish. It is ready to drink. Organic. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87 Ivin 2021 Cinco Forais (Alentejano).** Fresh and open, this balanced wine is full of fruit. Its spicy edge adds a touch of complexity to a wine that is ready to drink. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Vila Santa Loios (Alentejano).** This fresh wine has bright acidity and a lively citrus character. It's packed with fruitiness and is ready to drink. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**86 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Monte Velho (Alentejano).** This fresh white wine has a delicious tangy character that is both crisp and bright. The wine, with its citrus edge, is very ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Global Wines 2015 Encontro 1 (Bairrada).** This is a wood-aged wine, now definitely mature. Spice and toast mix with the more citrus flavors in a balanced wine that is deliciously ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$46

**90 Abegoaria 2019 Eruptio (Pico).** Grown on the slopes of a volcano in the Azores island

of Pico, the wine is ripe and now finely mature. Its fruits have been given an extra dimension of concentration and ripeness with age. Drink now. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**89 Abegoaria 2022 Vidigueira Antão Vaz (Alentejo).** Featuring bright, shiny fruit (with apple and lemon flavors), the wine has depth and attractive fruitiness. Drink the wine, that comes from this cru region of Alentejo, now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**87 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Vila Santa Loios (Alentejo).** Bright and fruity, this has green-apple and citrus flavors. It has a fresh character enlivened with a lemon tang at the end. Drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## SPARKLING WINES

**91 Caves Transmontanas 2015 (Douro).** A blend of Chardonnay and Gouveio, the sparkling wine is ripe, generous with rich white fruits and a depth from 65 months on its lees. It is a fine wine, ready to drink. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88 Caves Transmontanas NV Vertice Branco Bruto (Douro).** From grapes grown at a high altitude above the Douro Valley, this is a fresh wine. It is crisp with a fine citrus character and bright acidity at the end. Grape2Glass. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

## PORTUGAL ROSÉ WINES

**88 Nelson Neves 2022 (Bairrada).** Produced from Merlot, this wine is vibrant. Red fruits and a light perfume give this wine both freshness and fruit. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Miradouro da Vinha (Lisboa).** A seriously pale rosé—almost white—the wine is fruity and lightly textured. It is fresh with acidity and touches of red fruits. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$10

**88 Quinta Monteiro de Matos 2022 Reserva do Paul (Tejo).** Produced from Touriga Nacional, the wine is soft, fragrant and attractively bright. It has a light touch of strawberry fruits and citrus acidity. Drink now. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Wines & Winemakers 2022 Lua Cheia (Douro).** A fresh rosé made from old mixed vines, the wine has bright acidity and a fine concentrated char-

acter. Drink the wine now. Costa Nova. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Global Wines 2021 Casa de Santar (Dão).** This 100% Touriga Nacional wine is now mature. It has some fully integrated toastiness along with the red fruits. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87 Quevedo 2022 Oscar's Rosé (Douro).** A softly textured wine, this is ripe with perfumes from the Touriga Nacional in the blend. It has a light tannic edge that gives it shape. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**86 Casca Wines 2022 Cascas (Lisboa).** Pale in color, this fresh, red-berry-flavored rosé is lightly textured. Its fruitiness is refreshing and the wine is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Quinta de Paços 2022 Casa de Paços (Vinho Verde).** Light and fruity, this soft rosé has a fresh character. Hints of red fruits underline the brightness of this bottling. Drink now. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**86 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Forte do Cego (Lisboa).** A pale rosé, this is crisp with citrus and red-currant flavors. It is lightly textured with bright acidity at the end. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**85 DF Vinhos 2022 Portada Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa).** Light fruit and a raspberry flavors give this wine a soft touch. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$9

**84 Adega Cooperativa Ponte de Barca 2022 Estreia Rosé (Vinho Verde).** This is an off-dry rosé, with strawberry fruits and light acidity. The wine is fresh, candied, ready to drink. Veloso Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**84 Quinta da Raza 2022 Raza Escolha (Vinho Verde).** Bright kiwi and citrus flavors are filled out with touches of tangy red fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Free Run Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14



## PORTUGAL RED WINES

### DOURO

**100** **Quinta do Vale Meão 2020 (Douro).** For full review see page 3. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$128

**95** **Quinta do Vale Meão 2019 Vinha dos Novos (Douro).** From a single vineyard of Touriga Nacional, the wine has great structure as well as perfume. It is beautifully balanced, the tannins allowing the shine of the black fruits to come through. Drink the wine from 2025. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**93** **Quinta do Portal 2020 Reserva (Douro).** Aged in wood for nine months, this black-fruited wine has a smooth texture, just hinting at the structure. It is a rich, full wine, ready to drink from 2024. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Quinta da Côte 2018 Grande Reserva (Douro).** Approaching maturity, this rich wine still shows density, with a layer of firm tannins. It is a complex, dense wine that has a fine future—its black fruits beginning to soften into the wine's texture. Drink from 2025. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$69

**92** **Quinta da Côte 2017 Grande Reserva (Douro).** Now mature, this smooth, rich wine is impressive. The tannins and concentration of the wine with its perfumed Touriga Nacional along with Touriga Franca give ripeness and fine touches of spice. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$69

**92** **Quinta do Pessegueiro 2019 (Douro).** Grapes foot trodden in open stone fermenters give this wine its dense and concentrated character. It is a rich wine with dark fruits, still young. The wine needs to age further, drink from 2026. Cognac One, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**91** **Quinta da Côte 2020 Princesa (Douro).** Partly from old vines in a field blend, this concentrated, dense and young wine has considerable power. Its tannins are still very present, showing the wine's great structure. Drink from 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$46

**91** **Quinta do Portal 2020 Tinta Roriz (Douro).** This is a ripe, wood-aged smoky wine made from 100% Tinta Roriz, known as Tempranillo in neighboring Spain. Its tannins come through the black fruits in a cascade of structure and richness.

The wine will be ready from 2025. M Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**91** **Quinta do Vale Meão 2020 Meandro (Douro).** For full review see page 18. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90** **Ivin 2019 Bota Velha (Douro).** This field blend of old vines is richly textured and dense. Its concentrated spice and black-fruit flavors are refined with a touch of minerality in the texture. Drink the wine now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Wines & Winemakers 2020 Andreza Reserva (Douro).** Structured with tannins, young black fruits and a mineral texture, this fine wine has plenty of potential. Its richness is just showing through the wine's texture. Drink from 2025. Costa Nova. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**89** **Casca Wines 2022 Monte Cascas Colheita (Douro).** A rich blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz, this wine is dense and solidly structured. It has spice along with black-currant fruits and aging potential. Suitable for vegans. Drink from 2024. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Casca Wines 2019 Monte Cascas Reserva (-Douro).** Ripe and bold, this wine is ready to drink. Its spice and black-currant flavors are solidly textured. The wine is rich and ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Quinta do Pessegueiro 2019 Origins (Douro).** This is a ripe, fruity wine showing some toast from wood aging and with dense black-currant fruits. A blend of Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca, the wine could age further. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Casca Wines 2021 Monte Cascas Colheita (-Douro).** With six months in wood, the wine has spice along with the black fruits. It is full, rich and solidly textured. It is worth aging further, drink from 2025. Cellar Wines Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2020 Lilas (-Douro).** Perfumed with ripe tannins and blackberry fruits, this is also structured. The 50% Touriga Nacional in the blend gives a firm edge to the wine, promising some aging. Drink from 2024. Iberian Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Quanta Terra 2020 Terra a Terra Reserva (-Douro).** This wine has a fine structure with black fruits and a touch of spice. It is a ripe wine,

full and still young. It has a fine structure to soften and be ready from 2024. Grape2Glass. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Quinta do Portal 2020 Colheita (Douro).** This lightly wood-aged wine is full of black-currant fruits as well as ripe tannins and a spicy touch over the acidity. Drink the wine now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**87** **Santos & Seixo 2019 Perspectiva Grande Reserva (Douro).** The wine's wood aging has left spice and toast on the palate. The fruit hints at blackberry flavors and ripe acidity. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

### DÃO

**92** **Adega de Penalva 2017 Reserva (Dão).** This rich wine is now mature. Full bodied, it has dense concentration, with ripe tannins and black fruits. This is a fine wine, solid and powerful. Drink now. MAF Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Global Wines 2016 Casa de Santar Reserva (Dão).** A fine, mature wine, this has rich black fruits that are showing spice and touches of mushrooms even though the wine's fruitiness is still in place. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**91** **Seacampo 2018 Casa Américo Reserva (Dão).** With a touch of Alfocheiro in the blend, this wine is rich and spicy, with a structured backdrop. The wine was aged for a year in wood, giving it a polish and density. Drink from 2024. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Adega de Penalva 2020 Tinta Pinheira (Dão).** Made from the Tinta Pinheira grape (a.k.a. Rufete), this wine is structured with a fine spicy character. Its black-plum flavors are packed with still-young tannins as well as vibrant fruit flavors. Drink the wine from 2025. MAF Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Seacampo 2016 Casa Américo Touriga Nacional (Dão).** It is sometimes overlooked that Touriga Nacional is originally from the Dão and moved to the Douro. Wood aged, this dense wine is balanced with tannins and black fruits. It is a fine wine, ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Seacampo 2020 Casa Américo (Dão).** Ripe black fruits and a fine layer of smooth tannins give this wine a gentle texture just hinting at

minerality. It is ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## LISBOA

**90 Casa Santos Lima 2018 Touriz (Lisboa).** This blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz, all Douro grapes in origin, shows a softer dimension in the ocean influence of Lisboa. It is a ripe, dense and perfumed wine, rich in softened tannins and solid black fruits. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**90 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Syrah-Touriga Nacional (Lisboa).** A blend of Syrah and Touriga Nacional, the wine is dense and ripe. Juicy black fruits shine through the wine's full structure. This is going to be a fine wine; drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**89 Casa Santos Lima 2020 Colossal Reserva (Lisboa).** This generous, ripe wine is full of black fruits. It is dense, with a background of soft tannins and a rich character. The wine is likely to be at its best from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Red Blend Portugal (Lisboa).** Boasting ripe red-fruit flavors with soft tannins, the wine is just lightly structured. It is a blend of a range of Portuguese varieties, giving a spicy, ripe character. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2020 OMG (Lisboa).** This wine has both an exclamation in its name (Oh My God) and a fine burst of black fruits and rich tannins. It is a dense wine that needs time to mature. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Confidencial Reserva (Lisboa).** The wine is soft, with ripe black-berry fruits and a touch of spice. It is a forthcoming wine that is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Palha Canas Reserva (Lisboa).** This finely textured wine is full of generous black fruits. It has layers of softening tannins that fill out the wine's texture. It will be ready from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Reserva (Lisboa).** This is a firm, structured wine, with dense tannins and fine concentration. The wine's black-currant flavors are still developing through the dry edge, so wait to drink this wine until 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**88 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Paxis Reserva (Lisboa).** For full review see page 28. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Vale de Rosas (Lisboa).** A smooth wine, with red fruits and soft tannins, this is fruity. Its easy texture means that this wine is now ready to drink. Lionstone International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Forte de S. Sebastião Reserva (Lisboa).** Lightly perfumed, the wine is touched by wood aging. It has black fruits and spice, with layers of tannins that are softening. The wine will be ready from 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Premium (Lisboa).** A wood-aged wine, with a polished texture and light spice, this is rich and full of red fruits. It has concentration without being too dense. Drink the wine from later this year. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Sy Syrah (Lisboa).** A part of this wine was aged in wood. That has given the finished wine a ripe, fruity and smoothly textured character. A little spice in the wine's richness is a finishing touch. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Touriga Nacional (Lisboa).** Surprisingly soft for such a young wine, this has black-currant fruits and ripe tannins. It will develop quickly, so drink from 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2020 Sy Tr (Lisboa).** A blend of Syrah and Tinta Roriz, the wine is lightly textured, emphasizing red fruits and a light spice. It is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Quinta do Conde 2020 2a Duas Uvas Reserva (Lisboa).** The wine has red fruits and light tannins. It is full, rich and generous. Berry flavors and spice shine through the light structure. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Van Zeller 2020 Reserva d'Amizade Friendship Fado Reserva (Lisboa).** A ripe, soft Tinta Roriz with Alicante Bouschet and Syrah gives rich berry flavors, generous spice and light acidity. The wine is full and spicy. It's ready to drink while listening to fado. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 Abegoaria 2020 Encostas de Lisboa Reserva (Lisboa).** Ripe berries and a soft, generous texture give a smoky, ready-to-drink wine. It is soft, rounded and forward. Drink now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Lab (Lisboa).** Spicy, with red fruits and soft tannins, the wine is rich and warm. It is a comforting wine with is gentle fruits and ripe aftertaste. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Casca Wines 2022 Cascas (Lisboa).** A fruity blend of Syrah, Castelão and Aragonez, this is lightly textured with ripe berry flavors. It is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**87 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Forte de S. Sebastião Signature (Lisboa).** A light touch of wood gives this wine spice and a toasty edge. The wine is soft and ripe with black fruits. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2020 Ponte das Setas (Lisboa).** Gently textured, this ripe wine is full of red fruits. It is a soft wine that is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2019 Sy Syrah (Lisboa).** The wine is now mature, with soft tannins and forward fruit. It shows ripeness and is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**87 Van Zeller 2021 Passos de Lisboa (Lisboa).** This Porto-based firm has moved south to Lisbon to harvest Tinta Roriz, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet for a rich and spicy wine. The red fruits are soft and the wine is ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**86 Abegoaria 2021 Portão 6 (Lisboa).** Juicy and lightly textured, the wine is a gentle meander through the Lisboa vineyards. It is spicy and with red fruits and a light structure. Drink now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**86 Abegoaria 2020 Julia Florista (Lisboa).** Named after a Lisbon singer of fado, the tragic songs of separation at sea, the wine is soft, gently fruity with light tannins. It is easily ready to drink. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20

**86 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Que Vida (Lisboa).** A toasty wine with something of an overload of wood flavors, this has spice as much as fruit. The texture is soft so it may integrate better. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

# BUYINGGUIDE

**86** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Reserva (Lisboa).** This is a wood-aged wine, with ripe black fruits and a soft, spicy character. The wine is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86** **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2020 Janela Branca (Lisboa).** Celebrating the city of Lisbon, the wine is soft, generous and now maturing well. It is an easygoing wine, ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

## TEJO

**90** **Encosta do Sobral 2019 Reserva (Tejo).** From a vineyard in the hills in the north of the Tejo region, this wine is full of dark fruits and ripe tannins. Now mature, with its soft texture and full-bodied flavors, the wine is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Encosta do Sobral 2019 Vinhas Velhas (Tejo).** This dense wine is aging well. Its black fruits and balanced acidity are full of concentration, with solid tannins. The wine is likely to be ready from 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Santos & Seixo 2019 Encosta do Sobral (Tejo).** The wine is balanced and softly textured with smooth tannins. The wine's black fruits are rounded and generous. Drink the wine now. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## ALENTEJO

**93** **Herdade do Sobroso 2019 Arché (Alentejo).** This powerful wine is rich with sweet black fruits. Layers of toast go under the dense texture of this fine wine. Eighteen months have polished this wine so that it is aging well. Drink from 2026. Brands of Portugal. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$135

**91** **Herdade do Sobroso 2020 Cellar Selection (Alentejo).** The wine is smoky and full of black fruits. It is solid with some wood-aging flavor. The black-currant fruits are developing well. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$41

**91** **Herdade do Sobroso 2020 Grande Reserva (Alentejo).** A half-and-half blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Alicante Bouschet has produced a dense, concentrated wine as powerful as its heavy bottle. Its tannins and 18 months wood aging have tended to subdue the fruits that need time to take their proper place. The wine will need age; drink from 2026. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$69

**91** **Howard's Folly 2019 Cristina (Alentejo).** Full, spicy and with layers of wood aging flavors, this is a dense wine. It has solid black fruits, and is rich and balanced. A touch of freshness comes through at the end. Drink the wine from 2024. Tuscan Wine Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**91** **Howard's Folly 2018 Reserva (Alentejo).** Full of ripe black fruits, this wine is still maturing. It has a layer of ripe tannins with spice from wood aging and shining black-currant flavors. Drink from 2024. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**90** **Herdade do Esporão 2017 Aragonez (Alentejo).** The wine is smooth and rich with tannins that are beautifully integrated. It has great black fruits that bring spice and showcase a powerful structure. Drink this fine wine now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Herdade do Sobroso 2021 Reserva (Alentejo).** Still young, with its ripe black fruit, the wine is balanced. It has spice and a toasty character from wood aging. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$26

**90** **Herdade do Sobroso 2019 Reserva (Alentejo).** Aged in old wood barrels that smooth out the wine's black fruits and tannins, this is rich, packed with smoky flavors and ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Herdade do Sobroso 2021 Sobroso (Alentejo).** Without any wood aging, the wine is forward, with blackberry fruits and a smooth texture. The wine is likely to be ready from 2024. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**91** **Herdade do Esporão 2017 Touriga Nacional (Alentejo).** For full review see page 17. Now Wine Imports.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

## ALENTEJANO

**92** **Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade da Pimenta Grande Escolha (Alentejano).** For full review see page 13. Quintessential. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Ivin 2019 Cinco Forais Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano).** This wood-aged superripe and structured wine is impressive. It brings out the richness and dense texture of the Alicante Bouschet, giving a wine that has weight. It even wears its high alcohol easily. Drink this fine wine now. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Casa Santos Lima 2021 Quid Pro Quo (Alentejano).** Big, bold with generous black fruits, this is full, with a rounded texture. It is a fine wine—its fruit flavors fully integrated into the structure. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Ivin 2018 Cinco Forais Reserva (Alentejano).** This structured wine—a blending of firm Baga with more typical Alentejo grapes. It is sturdy, while also showing maturity and ripe tannins. Drink the wine now. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Casa Santos Lima 2021 Fortissimo (Alentejano).** A full-bodied wine, this is full of black fruits. A touch of spice and plenty of concentration give this wine its density. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Herdade do Esporão 2022 Esporão Colheita (Alentejano).** The wine is structured and still young enough to age. Black fruits and acidity combine with a texture that gives the wine its density. It will be ready to drink from later this year. Organic. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Howard's Folly 2021 Freshco? (Alentejano).** From the mountainous north of Alentejo, this wine is structured, young and packed with red fruits. It is juicy, balanced and ready to drink from 2024. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88** **José Maria da Fonseca 2021 Artisanal Reserva (Alentejano).** This is immediately attractive and softly textured with ripe tannins. Black fruits are generous, full of berry flavors with a fine burst of spice at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87** **Abegoaria 2021 Abelharuco (Alentejano).** Packed with fruit and soft tannins, this is a balanced red-fruited bottling. Drink this warm wine now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Abegoaria 2021 São Braz Colheita Especial (Alentejano).** The wine is smooth: a blend of Moreto, Trincadeira and Alfrocheiro. It is lightly structured and soft, with red fruits and touches of spice. Drink now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Herdade do Esporão 2022 Monte Velho (Alentejano).** For full review see page 29. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Howard's Folly 2021 Aldeia (Alentejano).** Fresh and juicy, with a light red-fruit flavor,



the wine is balanced and easygoing. It is ready to drink. Tuscan Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**85 Casa Relvas 2022 São Miguel do Sul (Alentejano).** Big and spicy with some wood aging, the wine is an open, easy drink. It is balanced and ready now Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Global Wines 2014 Encontro 1 (Bairrada).** Touriga Nacional and Baga give a structured wine that is now impressively mature. It is ripe with a soft texture of black fruits and polish from wood aging. Drink this fine wine now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Casa Santos Lima 2020 Quinta das Setencostas (Alenquer).** Alenquer is a small region within the greater Lisboa appellation north of the city of Lisbon. This red, a blend of four grapes, was aged partially in wood to give a warm, smooth wine, ripely perfumed and ready to drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**89 José Maria da Fonseca 2021 Duque de Palmela Reserva (Península de Setúbal).** This wine is soft and spicy, with some attractive berry fruits and a light toastiness. The wine is balanced with a fine layer of freshness to contrast with the tannins. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Talabira de Algarve Premium (Algarve).** Big and fruity this delivers solid tannins and black-currant flavors. The wine, a blend of Touriga Nacional and Syrah, has spice with light acidity. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Nelson Neves 2017 Superior (Bairrada).** The specialty of this producer is Merlot-based wine. This new vintage shows richness inside a restrained package. Black fruits and tannins are fully integrated and the wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87 Abegoaria 2021 Convento de Marialva Colheita Seleccionada (Beira Interior).** A soft, lightly toasty wine, this is full of red fruits. It comes from the mountainous interior of central Portugal. It is a berry-laden wine that is ready to drink now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Al-Ria (Algarve).** A wine from the southern region of Algarve, this is young, with a rustic, tannic character that will hopefully soften. Blackberry flavors march with the

wine's current dryness. Drink starting from 2024. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**87 Global Wines 2020 Berço do Infante (Beira Interior).** All bright fruit, the wine is buoyant. Ripe red-berry flavors and soft tannins give an open wine that is ready to drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**87 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Anticiclone (Península de Setúbal).** An anticyclone, or a high pressure area, signifies fine weather—an optimistic name for this wine. It is fruity with light tannins and juicy acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

## PORT

**93 Quinta da Côrte 2020 Vintage (Port).** Initially ripe and full of black fruits, this slowly reveals its great structure and potential. It's a fine Port, with its dryness promising plenty of aging. Drink starting from 2030. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$137

**92 Quinta do Vale Meão 2001 Vintage Aged at the Quinta (Port).** Distinct from the release of this vintage back in 2003 which was aged in Vila Nova de Gaia at the mouth of the Douro, this new release was aged at the quinta in the Douro. The Port has a distinct concentration and depth, ripe tannins and spice and a full, rich character. This bottling is ready to drink but will be even better from 2026. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$99

**91 Quevedo 2008 Colheita (Port).** This Port, while young, has a great touch of wood aging that gives it a spicy character. The wine has some tannins along with some sweetness and dried fruits. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. **Hidden Gem.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$57

**90 Quinta da Côrte 2018 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** This is a ripe Port, with soft tannins and a fine, dried fruit character. It is young and because it is unfiltered before bottling, it could age further. Drink ideally from 2025. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$53

**90 Quinta do Pessegueiro 2018 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** This is a smoothly textured Port, rich with sweet dried fruits and light tannins. The wood aging has rounded out the wine, giving it a generous character. Drink the wine now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$31

**89 Cockburn's NV Tawny Eyes (Port).** While it may be an odd indulgence, the producer

suggests combining this Tawny Port with ginger beer or ale with a splash of Angostura bitters. Solo, the Port has a hint of wood along with spice and light tannins. Drink now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$32

**88 Cockburn's NV Ruby Soho (Port).** Taking its name from the bar and restaurant district in London, this Port is a classic soft ruby. Sweet but with an underlying structure, the wine's black fruits are ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$32

**88 Quinta da Côrte 2014 Colheita (Port).** Young for a bottled, wood-aged Port, this Colheita shows light touches of wood while retaining layers of red fruits. It's a shame it wasn't aged in barrel for longer because the elements are there. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$45

**87 Cockburn's NV White Heights (Port).** A white Port this delivers sweetness but also a fragrant character that lends itself perfectly to a cocktail Port and tonic. The texture is soft and the wine is ready to drink. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$32

## GREECE

### ASSYRTIKO

**92 Anhydrous 2021 Icon Assyrtiko (Santorini).** From 60-year-old vines on the volcanic shores of Santorini comes this beautifully structured Assyrtiko. The nose has lemon-zest aromas alongside mineral notes, both of which continue onto the bright, bracing palate that's also accented with salinity. Made via spontaneous fermentation with indigenous yeasts, the wine sits on its lees for nine months in a cement egg, gathering complexity and nuanced flavors. Drink now or age up to five years. Dionysus Imports Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**91 Anhydrous 2021 Afoura Assyrtiko (Santorini).** This 100% Assyrtiko is named after the traditional, 1,000-liter oak barrels used in Santorini. This wine spends 10 years in those barrels before it's released, resulting in inviting citrus and bready aromas reminiscent of lemon pound cake, plus an elegantly round palate with a long, citrus-forward finish. Dionysus Imports Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**91 Anhydrous 2021 Santorini Assyrtiko (Santorini).** For full review see page 16. Dionysus Imports Inc.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Douloufakis 2021 Ala'rgo Assyrtiko Assyrtiko (Crete).** This golden-colored wine hails from a 1930 winery in Crete, Greece's largest island situated in the Aegean Sea. It has an inviting nose with notes of lemon, lime and faint honeysuckle, plus a

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round, medium-bodied palate whose bright fruit flavors are balanced by a pleasantly bitter, grape-fruit-pith finish. Fermented in stainless steel, and aged for a year in bottles prior to release, it's ready to drink now but will continue to evolve for at least five years. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

## CHARDONNAY

**89 Skouras 2022 Almyra Chardonnay (Peloponnese).** Expect faint salinity alongside the citrus and tropical fruit notes on the palate of this dry, green-tinted Chardonnay. Made from grapes cultivated on the chalky limestone soils of coastal Peloponnese, it's vinified primarily in stainless steel, with 25% in French oak. The six months it spends resting on its lees gives the wine subtle baking spice aromas and medium-bodied viscosity offset by a long, acidic finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**89 Skouras 2021 Almyra Chardonnay (Peloponnese).** This dry Peloponnese Chardonnay has clove, white pepper and sage aromas alongside ripe citrus on the nose. The round palate has lemon and green-apple notes, with an almost buttery finish hinting at malolactic fermentation. The medium-bodied pour ends with a long, tart finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**84 Zacharias 2020 Chardonnay (Peloponnese).** The subtle pear and lemon aromas on the nose of this Chardonnay might not fully prepare you for the fruit-forward palate. Oak aging gives this wine an almost syrupy texture, and its ripe tropical and stone-fruit flavors end in a short finish. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

## RED WINES

**90 Domaine Sigalas 2018 Mm Red Blend (Cyclades).** A blend of two indigenous red wine grapes, Mavrotragano and Mandilaria, this burgundy-hued pour has a tart nose with cranberry and tangerine aromas. There's pleasant acidity on the palate, and the bold tannins that can overpower some warm-climate reds have been softened by careful winemaking that includes stainless-steel vinification followed by several months in French oak. The resulting wine is bold but balanced, and would be an excellent partner for lamb, beef or roasted root vegetables. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**88 Kalliston 2018 Forevermore Mavrotragano (Cyclades).** From Santorini's volcanic soil comes this aromatic red wine made from the indigenous Mavrotragano grape. Its plum and black licorice aromas are enlivened by a subtle kick of orange zest, and the structured palate is underscored by

integrated tannins. Santorini Wines & Food LLC. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$57

**86 Anhydrous 2021 St. Nikolas Red Blend (Cyclades).** Raspberries, blackberries and cassis are offset by vegetal notes on the nose of this dry red wine made from indigenous grapes Mandilaria and Mavrotragano. Grippy tannins outpace the fruit and acidity on the palate and fairly short finish. Dionysus Imports Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

## GERMANY

### RIESLING

**96 Dr. Loosen 2017 Erdener Prälater Alte Réserve Reben GG Riesling (Mosel).** This is a testament to the theory that dry German Riesling needs more aging before release. Unreal balance and integration of acidity, while still keeping this bright, refreshing and focused, is the real genius of this wine. Kaleidoscopic profile, with multiple layers revealing itself with each sip, this goes from floral and spicy, with elderflower and cardamom, to fruity with Asian pear, lime and kumquat, to mineral with salty, slaty notes. Long, persistent and complex. Drink now through 2035. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$190/375 ml

**96 Zilliken 2021 Saarburg Rausch Auslese Riesling (Mosel).** So expressive and luscious, yet so graceful and airy, with a laser beam of fruit and mineral. The core shows vivid aromas and flavors of peach, mandarin orange, cardamom and elderflowers that are sculpted into an incisive structure. High-toned, this wine has a suave texture, a nervy backbone and a fine, tangy finish that leaves a mouthwatering impression. This will become even better with time, but it is already pretty impressive. Best after 2030. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$55/375 ml

**95 Dr. Loosen 2017 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Im Laychen Réserve Alte Reben GG Riesling (Mosel).** Very expressive and complex, this has open flavors of baked apple, ripe citrus, nectarine and dried pear, flecked with hints of tarragon and allspice. It is all supported by powerful acidity that builds a vivid structure for all the elements. A lush midpalate is followed by unctuous spice notes on the long, persistent finish. It combines power and poise of the vintage. Drinkable now through 2038. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$105

**95 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Auslese Riesling (Mosel).** This shows amazing complexity, and bursts with flavor, but with great purity and delineation. Dense and mouthcoating, but never heavy, it exudes violet, baked pineapple, vanilla spice and mineral aromas and flavors. It is all sewn into a succulent texture that adds to the intrigue. The finish is kaleidoscopic and almost

ethereal. You can drink it now, but better to wait at least 10 years. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$56

**95 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** Silky and suave, it features gorgeous notes of acacia honey, violet and mineral that frame the juicy core of nectarine, mango and passion fruit. It is pretty concentrated, yet graceful and shows great definition, partly because of its acidity, that flows almost unnoticeably before its emergence towards the finish where it leaves your mouth watering after a wave of spice and floral notes. Drink through 2045. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$42

**95 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Sonnenuhr Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel).** This is dry, but generous, displaying spiced flavors of grapefruit sorbet, dragonfruit, honeysuckle and blood orange. Prominent, yet beautifully integrated acidity gives this firmly planted legs, as this dances on the palate, luring you in with its nimble mix of fruit and mineral. It is almost seamless, you don't even notice the intensity at first. Delicious, mineral-tinged finish. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$72

**95 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2021 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** A fabulous example of the category, combining richness with poise, this exciting mix of lemon curd, apricot pastry, grapefruit and slate minerality is somewhat lean and nimble, but with air reveals its brilliance. All flavors are intensely displayed on the finish where bracing acidity also emerges, leaving a mouthwatering impression. You can enjoy this now, especially with spicy food, but better to wait. Best after 2030. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$67

**95 Wittmann 2021 Westhofen Kirchspiel Trocken GG Riesling (Rheinhessen).** This silky-textured Riesling is a delightful representation of the vintage, showing piercing acidity that is buffered by a lot of substance. It is aromatic, filled with chamomile and chrysanthemum on the nose, while the palate exhibits an impressive showing of guava, dragon fruit and lime. Hints of spice and savory elements lurk on the finish. Although it is quite inviting right now, if you're patient, this will sweep you off your feet in seven to 10 years. Loosen Bros. USA. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$110

**95 Wittmann 2021 Westhofen Morstein Trocken GG Riesling (Rheinhessen).** This is quite closed still, but it does allow for a sneak peak to what it is going to become with some cellaring. Lemon verbena on the nose opens it up to the flavors of Meyer lemon, quince, Bosc pear and white raspberry. The acidity is firm and makes a heavy imprint at the moment, but when coupled with the texture, it leaves a harmonious impression. The finish is very persistent. There is a lot of wine here,

you just need to peel off the layers. Best after 2028. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$125

**94 Dr. Loosen 2021 Ürziger Würzgarten Alte Reben GG Dry Riesling (Mosel).** Power and poise clash in this stunning dry Riesling, which sports ripe notes of persimmon, passion fruit and lemon oil. Hints of vanilla spice and cardamom glide along, with a savory note emerging towards the finish. There is amazing purity to all the flavors and the acidity keeps everything intact, but never takes over, giving this a very smooth feel. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

**94 Dr. Loosen 2017 Ürziger Würzgarten Réserve Unterst Pichter Alte Reben GG Riesling (Mosel).** Spice and mineral aromas rise gently from this dry Riesling, that pretty obviously shows development, but its electric acidity still keeps it fueled and vibrant. The palate is filled with durian, tangerine and pickled ginger. The acidity plays the key role here, very understated at first, but it keeps the entire wine together. Harmonious, with great depth. Drink now through 2035. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$105/375 ml

**94 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Auslese Riesling (Mosel).** There are lots of vanilla spice and brioche notes in this languid style, which is marked by intermingled notes of saffron and tarragon, but also by its generous flavors of melon, yellow apple and quince paste. The richly spice finish shows notes of coconut meat, with honeyed edges on the long, inviting finish. Drink now through 2043. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 7.5% Price: \$45

**94 Robert Weil 2021 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Trocken GG Riesling (Rheingau).** This white offers an enticing and beautifully balanced mix of nectarine, quince, elderflower and wild hops, backed by a vivid structure. The acidity is electric, fueling the elements and providing a great environment for long-term aging. It lingers with a persistent finish that is filled with mineral and spice that invite you for another sip. Delicious now, but best to save at least for five years. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$90

**93 Carl Loewen 2021 Maximin Herrenberg GG Riesling (Mosel).** This is compact and tightly knit, with a herbaceous frame of sage and spearmint framing the core of nectarine, succulent quince and wild orange oil. It is juicy and crunchy on the palate with powerful acidity flowing through connecting the elements, leading this to a mouthwatering finish. It shows potential, but needs a bit more time. Best after 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% Price: \$61

**93 Dr. Loosen 2021 Erdener Treppchen Alte Reben GG Dry Riesling (Mosel).** Bright and floral, and although very graceful, this has a lot of substance, featuring notes of wet stone and allspice that frame the core of apricot, Korean pear and yellow

apple. Bracing acidity links it all together, providing a firm backbone that will keep this youthful for years. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

**93 Dr. Loosen 2021 Erdener Treppchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** The ample and rich offering of cinnamon, cardamom and pistachio paste mingles with the vibrant flavors of apple and Key lime. It is sturdy, yet pretty light on its feet, like a classic Mosel wine. The finish is very fine and filled with slate minerality and tarragon. Best after 2030. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 8% Price: \$34

**93 Dr. Loosen 2021 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Alte Reben GG Dry Riesling (Mosel).** There's a light-touch feel to this elegant white, but the palate is quite expressive and nuanced. This is very floral with chamomile, dandelion and hints of lemongrass. There is a tickling sensation on the palate, which makes this vibrant, especially when coupled with the mouthwatering acidity. Beautifully integrated and balanced already, it should be even better in several years. Best after 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$54

**93 Dr. Loosen 2021 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** There is a beautiful harmony in this white, between the well-defined flavors of apricot, cantaloupe, baked pear and allspice, and its prominent acidity that lends it a vivid structure. The texture is sleek and the finish is long, luscious and filled with marzipan paste. It is so delicious now, but with 5-10 years, this will be a real beauty. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 8% Price: \$34

**93 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel).** Cardamom and tamarind flavors glide along the edges of the sleek and graceful frame of this dry Riesling, lacing the core of ripe apple, pastry, candied orange peel and pineapple flavors. This is well defined, with underlying muscle and intense backbone of acidity. Salty and stoney notes mark the finish. Best after 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$52

**93 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2021 Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** An aromatic version, showing acacia flower, lilac and coriander notes, followed by baked pear, orange blossom honey and wet stone. It is elegant, yet still tight, with a racy structure matching the intensity. The finish is appealing and features notes of candied orange peel and vanilla spice. Best from 2030 to 2045. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
abv: 7% Price: \$56

**93 Kruger-Rumpf 2021 Im Pitterberg GG Riesling (Nahe).** This distinctive white combines grace with electric acidity, featuring notes of dried thyme, honeysuckle and hints of smoke and sea salt, before the juicy core of succulent apricot and Bosc pear takes over. It offers a silky texture with a polished

profile that adds to the charm. It is well crafted and will develop more. Best after 2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$51

**93 Maximin Grünhäuser 2021 Herrenberg GG Riesling (Mosel).** This is ripe, yet with prominent acidity, displaying peach, melon and wax aromas, followed by pear and slate flavors. There's ample acidity, but the flesh matches, creating a balanced profile. It is actually, very light on its feet, with great poise, but also firm grip. It glides to a long aftertaste. Best after 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% Price: \$85

**93 Robert Weil 2021 Kiedrich Turmberg Trocken Riesling (Rheingau).** Very nicely crafted, this dry Riesling offers gentle acidity that rolls over the palate, supporting the core with plenty of apple, quince, white raspberry and nectarine, that come in waves, while hints of ginger spice and cardamom echo in the background. It features a well-defined finish that invites you for another sip. Best after 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$55

**93 Schlossgut Diel 2020 Goldloch Riesling GG Riesling (Nahe).** This brings an elevated experience, with great elegance, but also intense acidity which matches the expressive notes of apple, lemon oil and slivered almond. There is an edgy buttermilk note that emerges midpalate, adding character, but it is swiftly scooped by enticing spice and mineral features that mark the mouthwatering finish. Best after 2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$73

**93 Wittmann 2021 Westhofen Brunnenhäuschen GG Riesling (Rheinhessen).** Delicious aromas of elderflower lure you into this dry Riesling, while the palate features flavors of candied apple, vanilla spice and sage. The acidity, although powerful, is beautifully integrated, giving this the vigor of a youthful wine, but without being too distracting. Savory mineral tinged lemon peel closes in on the finish. Best after 2025. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$125

**92 Dr. Loosen 2021 Ürziger Würzgarten Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** This is very graceful, but shows good concentration of flavors, featuring nectarine, mango and lime notes that are electrified by the acidity. It picks up on richness midpalate, and its flavors are intensified by a finish that lingers and leaves a mineral note. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 8% Price: \$34

**92 Fitz-Ritter 2020 Ungsteiner Herrenberg GG Riesling (Germany).** This has opened up beautifully, showing prominent notes of gooseberry and apple, with hints of orchard blossom and quince paste, as well. Acidity is well-integrated and drives impressive tension from start to finish. There



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is nice depth and the silky texture is alluring. Best after 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Feinherb Riesling (Mosel).** This is beautifully balanced with a bright profile and bracing acidity. It features well-meshed flavors of Asian pear, lime, and tangerine. It is super approachable, but with lots of substance, revealing layer after layer. It offers a lingering finish of mineral and spice. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**92 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberger Juffer Spätlese Riesling (Mosel).** Intense aromas and flavors of pineapple, lemon preserve, apricot and wet stone are exuberant in this beautifully integrated version. The silky texture and vibrant profile add to the intrigue, while its nicely delineated finish smells like the morning dew in the slate-rich vineyards. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$33

**92 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2021 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).** This shows very little sweetness, but is harmonious and well integrated despite the firm acidity that fuels it. Stone- and orchard-fruit notes are flecked by chrysanthemum and cardamom to create the full-spectrum. The finish is long and persistent. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$62

**92 Karthäuserhof 2019 Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Trocken GG Riesling (Mosel).** This shows slightly oxidative notes, with subtle nuttiness that contributes to the flavor offering. Although not on the fresh side, this is charming, as its fruit and spice notes are developed and generous, while its acidity is remarkably integrated. It concludes with an inviting finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$96

**92 Maximin Grünhäuser 2021 Abtsberg Superior Riesling (Mosel).** This is bright and juicy, featuring a lovely harmony between flavors of spiced apple, quince and cantaloupe, all flecked with sage and orchard blossom. A streak of minerality pushes through midpalate, leading to a cream-infused finish. Delicious, complex and ready for enjoyment, but with some age, it will get even better. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$65

**92 Piri Naturel 2020 Riesling (Germany).** This shows a light matchstick note, that combined with tropical and citrus flavors of this white, creates an alluring start. The midpalate is marked by verbena, orange blossom and apple, all linked by powerful acidity that flows through and gives this firm structure. It delivers a mouthwatering finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$38

**92 Schloss Lieser 2021 Juffer Sonnenuhr GG Riesling (Mosel).** This shows substance with a very light frame, featuring beautiful notes of Korean pear, lime and rhubarb. It is a little bit intense with the acidity at the moment, signaling that it should be cellared so it can display all of its features. It is a very vertical version, so give it time to loosen up a bit. Best after 2028. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$68

**92 Selbach-Oster 2020 Zeltinger Schlossberg GG Riesling (Mosel).** This shows a beautiful, elegant profile, with typical Mosel Riesling flavors of apple, quince and wet stone, while well-integrated, yet firm acidity forms the structure, keeping this intact. Baking-spice and honeysuckle notes emerge on the well-knit finish. Best after 2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$69

**92 Wittmann 2021 Westhofen Aulerde GG Riesling (Rheinhessen).** This Riesling is a zesty and savory version of the grape, sporting plenty of spice, salty minerality and citrus notes. Nuances of orchard and stone fruit emerge with some air, giving this an extra dimension. The acidity is still powerful and needs time to integrate fully, so patience will be rewarded. Best after 2027. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$90

**92 Wittmann 2021 Westhofener 1G Riesling (Rheinhessen).** This is lusciously fruity and inviting, with touches of sweetness to the ripe melon, pear and currant flavors, accented by notes of cardamom. The silky finish exudes hints of mango, spice and honey. It is seductive, but be aware of its firm acidity that will provide for a great food pairing. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Dönnhoff 2021 Höllempfad im Mühlenberg GG Riesling (Nahe).** This feels light and graceful, with nuanced notes of quince, white peach and kiwi. It is quite polished and nicely knit, with acidity, minerality and fruit and floral elements all standing their ground. Steely acidity drives an intense power through the finish. Best after 2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**91 Dr. Loosen 2021 Graacher Himmelreich Alte Reben GG Dry Riesling (Mosel).** A tiny bit restrained at the moment, it does open up with a little bit of air to reveal its savory side. Notes of durian, grapefruit and sea salt mingle at the core, while herbal notes glide along. It is firm, but persistent, so best to wait to enjoy this. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$54

**91 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2021 Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).** Apricot, nectarine and elderflower aromas and flavors mark this feathery white, which does show a lot of substance that is backed by firm acidity. The mineral backbone doesn't reveal itself until the lingering, stoney finish.

This needs a few more years to fully shine. Best from 2025–2035. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$55

**91 Müller-Catoir 2021 Bürgergarten Riesling (Pfalz).** This is quite subtle at the moment, with an intense acidity forming the backbone for the notes of green apple and pear. Acidity forms the structure and gives this focus, but also keeps this away from showing its full flavor spectrum. Give it time. Best after 2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$74

**91 Pfeffingen 2021 Terra Rossa Ungstein Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** This fragrant and flavorful, with allspice notes, dried mango and kiwi flavors that mingle at the core, while its well-integrated acidity glides along, linking all the elements, building a firm structure around it. It is long and precise. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Carl Ehrhard 2021 Old School Feinherb Riesling (Rheingau).** Aromatic, featuring notes of candied orange peel and white raspberry. This is light to medium bodied, with a subtle smoky and flinty element that lurks from the background. It's a great sipper Riesling. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberg J Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** An underpinning of lanolin supports flavors of pineapple and guava, with an elderflower note and a hint of candied orange peel that gives this brightness. It has firm acidity, yet it is elegant and approachable now with a mouthwatering finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$32

**90 Karthäuserhof 2020 Schieferkristall Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** Broad, yet light on its feet, this dry Riesling offers fresh peach, lemon and savory mineral notes. Its structure is firm, almost austere, but the mouthcoating texture brings back the allure. The wine features a long, mouthwatering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$39

**90 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2021 Birkweiler Vom Rotliegenden Dry Riesling (Pfalz).** Light on its feet, but with great tension and built like a gymnast, this white moves swiftly, but with an impactful impression on the palate, leaving flavors of kumquat, yellow apple and kiwi fruit linger. The finish turns a bit savory, with a salty aftertaste. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2021 Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** Light profile of this wine come with and elegant frame, but also piercing acidity, that is only buffered midpalate, by the juicy notes of apricot and nectarine. It's a style that requires at least a snack, but perfect for a sunny day on the terrace. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$32

**90 Pflüger 2021 Bunstandstein Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** This shows a bit of austerity, but in a tasty way, through its notes of grapefruit and quince, but then durian and mango come in to balance out this tension. Tickling minerality marks the vigorous finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Von Winning 2021 Leinhöhle Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** This is rather light, with a graceful profile decorated with notes of yellow plum, quinine and lemongrass. The midpalate is supple and balanced, while the finish is juicy, inviting you to grab a bite of cheese. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$37

**89 Alfred Merkelbach 2021 Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** This is a polished wine, with plenty of yellow-apple, green-fig and coriander notes. It shows nice harmony and smoothness, with an invigorating impression on the mineral-infused finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

**89 Dr. Loosen 2021 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).** Though the aromas and flavors are a bit subdued right now, this white has a tangy quality that gives it a sense of freshness, especially once the citrus-oil note emerges. It is compact and floral on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$28

**89 Fritz Haag 2021 Brauneberg Tradition Feinherb Riesling (Mosel).** This is very pretty, with aromas and flavors of saffron, oolong tea, citrus and orchard fruit. It is elegant, with nice tension. It remains focused and light, with a floral finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$29

**89 Helmut Hexamer 2021 Quarzit Riesling (Nahe).** This shows a slight sweetness that is offset by a mouthwatering acidity which features lime and quince flavors. Vibrant and balanced, it gives a hint of cardamom on the tangy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

**89 Melsheimer 2020 Handwerk Riesling (Mosel).** There are signs of development in this Riesling—a very faint petrol note that is overtaken by a nutty feel, followed by some fresh citrus and orchard fruit. It shows harmony and depth. MS Walker. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$24

**88 Braunewell 2021 Hands Off Low Intervention Limited Edition Riesling (Landwein Rhein).** Aromas of citrus and orchard blossom yield to pear and nectarine in this dry white. This firms up towards the finish, leaving an aftertaste of grapefruit and fennel. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$7/250 ml

**88 Dr. Loosen 2021 Bernkasteler Lay Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).** Pretty aromas and flavors of pear, dried honey and ginger spice predominate in this subtle showing. It shows nice sweetness though that is balanced with acidity. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$28

**88 Karthäuserhof 2020 Bruno Slate Dry Riesling (Mosel).** This is spicy, with ripe apricot, stone and lemon flavors. It is friendly and balanced, with a chalky texture and a crisp finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$22

**88 Louis Guntrum 2019 Oppenheim Sackträger Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen).** Redolent of yellow plum, white currant and prominent orange-like acidity. Lively and fresh, this is both a good sipping wine and a good introduction to dry German Riesling. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**88 Müller-Catoir 2021 Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** Linear white, this wine comes with a generous amount of acidity giving tension to the notes of lemongrass, lime zest and grapefruit. Savory mineral elements emerge on the moderate finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**87 Louis Guntrum 2021 Dry Riesling (Rheinhessen).** This is light and pretty easy to drink, with notes of orchard fruit, citrus and lemongrass. It shows spice on the moderate finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Lucashof 2021 Forster Dry Riesling (Pfalz).** This shows some austerity, but then the fruity streak takes over, revealing peach, apple and Key lime. It's vivid, with a piquant finish. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**87 S.A. Prüm 2021 Blue Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** This shows nice tension between acidity and fruit, with the floral notes gliding along the edges of the ripe peach and candied-orange-peel touches. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**87 S.A. Prüm 2018 Wehlen Dry Riesling (Mosel).** A bit oxidative today, but this still shows some vibrancy, with orange-zest, macadamia-nut and orchard-blossom notes. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**87 Von Schleinitz 2020 Koberner Weissenberg Riesling (Mosel).** Off-dry, this white features a bit of lanolin, plenty of spice and yellow-plum fruit. It's an easy introduction to the category. The Marchetti Co. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$23

**86 Reverchon 2020 Mineral Feinherb Riesling (Saar).** The lemon-rind and apple-skin flavors are crisp and vibrant in this mouthwatering white. There are hints of white chocolate that echo on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$16

**85 Clear Night 2021 Riesling (Pfalz).** This shows slight sweetness that is nicely balanced by the acidity. Notes of tangerine-flavored candy and apple mark the flavor profile. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$13

**85 Karl Erbes 2021 Ürziger Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).** A soft, easy kabinett, with a silky texture and apple-tart note. It finishes with a little more structure. Artisans & Vines. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$24

**85 Leonard Kreuzsch 2019 Estate Label Riesling (Mosel).** Light white, this shows subtle notes of apple and quince, but nevertheless has persistence. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**85 Trullo 2021 Riesling (Rheinhessen).** This is light and uncomplicated, but is very pleasant, with its charming aromas of candied apple and citrus oil. Marchetti Co. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$13

**84 Nebel 2021 Riesling (Rheinhessen).** A light dry Riesling, this shows some substance, but it battles with austerity, even as the mix of orchard and stone fruit emerges. Marchetti Co. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$13

**84 Raimund Prüm 2021 Essence Riesling (Mosel).** This is very light and subtle in flavor, with faint aromas of elderflower and lemongrass. Notes of apple become prominent on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$15

**83 Karl Kaspar 2021 Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).** This is a lime-lemon mix, with direct spice and candy notes. It's refreshing and light. Marchetti Co. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$15

**83 Leonard Kreuzsch 2021 Riesling (Mosel).** This uncomplicated and easy white has light notes of lanolin and green mango. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$14

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## SAUVIGNON BLANC

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**90 Schnaitmann 2021 Steinwiege Dry Sauvignon Blanc (Württemberg).** A mineral-driven white, this features notes of wheatgrass and macadamia framing the core of kumquat and nectarine. Moderately high acidity imparts focus and

# BUYINGGUIDE

brightness, fueling it for a lasting, refreshing finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$34

**88 Pflüger 2021 Quarzit Sauvignon Blanc (Pfalz).** This delivers classic notes of Sauvignon Blanc, with gooseberry, grapefruit and lemon-grass up front, while light yellow plum echoes in the background. It has a moderate length. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$23

**86 Villa Wolf 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Pfalz).** This is light and moderate, with citrus oil and green plum decorating the airy profile. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$12

## WHITE BLENDS

**90 2Naturkinder 2020 Drei Freunde White Blend (Germany).** Bright and vibrant, this comes with peach blossom aromas that extend to the palate, followed by hints of white tea, grapefruit and shaved ginger. Mineral and spice accents emerge midpalate and mark the mouthwatering finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$34

**89 Andi Weigand 2020 White White Blend (Germany).** This is very zesty, but with the leesy, almost pastry-like quality, it finds its equilibrium. Lemon and oolong-tea notes take the front seat, while spice and mineral sit in the back. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.45% **Price:** \$20

**89 Pflüger 2020 Biodynamite White Blend (Pfalz).** Hoppy and leesy notes open up this white to the aromatic profile featuring light rose water, with clementine and ginger. Refreshing and easy to enjoy, it has a focused acidity that is good for food pairing. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**84 Leonard Kreuzsch 2021 Kabinett White Blend (Rheinhessen).** This is not very generous on the fruit, but it does show nice floral and spice details and a modest finish. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$14

**83 Karl Josef 2020 Piesporter Michelsberg White Blend (Mosel).** This is light and a little bit nutty, with notes of clear, sweet apple juice and spice. Marchetti Co.. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$12

**85 Braunewell 2021 Hands Off Low Intervention Limited Edition Perlwein White Blend (Germany).** This is light on the bubbles, which tickle your palate and just give a slight sparkling feel to this perlwein. It has notes of melon and pear linger. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$7/250 ml

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**89 Müller-Catoir 2021 Trocken Scheurebe (Pfalz).** This shows subtle aromas of lilac and elderflower and juicy flavors of tangerine and white raspberry. It features an intense acidity, which leaves a mouthwatering impression. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**83 Louis Guntrum 2021 Guntrum Ribona (Germany).** This is light and easy and features direct flavors of peach and apricot and a modest finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$13

## ROSÉ

**87 Von Buhl 2021 Bone Dry Rosé (Pfalz).** Crisp and light, with a racy profile featuring notes of red cherry and crushed mulberry. This is a nice summer sipper, but would go well with crudo, too. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

## PINOT NOIR

**92 Carl Ehrhard 2020 Berg Roseneck Trocken Spätburgunder (Rheingau).** Bright and vibrant, with primary fruit flavors of cherry and wild berry, while loamy and chalky notes echo in the background for an added dimension. Medium-bodied and sleek, it has a long, saturated finish. It is drinking beautifully today, but it will be good with short-term cellaring, too. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Maximin Grünhäuser 2020 Pinot Noir (Mosel).** A core of pure dark cherry marks this red, showing depth and precision. This is enhanced by notes of allspice, rooibos tea and mineral accents, all integrated with the supple texture and dense structure. There is good length on the inviting, spice-infused finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**89 Dr. Heyden 2020 Oppenheimer Unfiltered Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen).** Hints of smoke and loam frame the core of damson plum and mulberry in this enticing red. There is a nice focus and length to it, with a mineral undertow, which echoes in the background. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89 Fritz Allendorf 2019 Assmannshäuser Trocken Spätburgunder (Rheingau).** This features an elegant profile, with an earthy edge, surrounding subtle berry and violet notes, with an herbal quality on the finish. It is nuanced and easy to enjoy. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Fritz Allendorf 2020 Spätburgunder (Rheingau).** Medium bodied and polished red, this

features notes of blueberry, currant and rooibos, with nice underlying acidity giving it freshness and focus. It also comes with a moderately long finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88 Schäfer 2021 Mettenheimer Made with Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen).** This shows freshness on the nose and opens to a similar palate which features notes of raspberry, wild strawberry, with hints of violet. It stays vibrant on the moderately long finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Leonard Kreuzsch 2021 Estate Label Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen).** Elegant, with oak influence and bright cherry fruit. It delivers pleasure with ripe fruit and spice. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

## LEMBERGER

**92 Schnaitmann 2019 Simonroth Lemberger (Württemberg).** This is round and supple, sporting concentrated flavors of blackberry, currant and hints of bitter cocoa, which take on depth and complexity as they unravel. The well-integrated tannins create a corduroy texture, upping the allure of this medium-bodied red with a focused finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$54

**90 Schnaitmann 2019 Steinwiege Dry Lemberger (Württemberg).** A light- to medium-bodied red, this comes with loads of ripe plum, blueberry and violet all backed up by crisp acidity and melting tannins. Spice and coffee notes ooze on the well-defined and focused finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Grafen Neipperg 2019 Trocken Lemberger (Württemberg).** This bottling is floral and herbal—turning to blackberry and cassis in flavor—while married to a supple, silky texture. The tannins are ripe and acidity firm, creating tight profile on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Schnaitmann 2020 Alte Reben Dry Trollinger (Württemberg).** Here's a beautiful, vibrant red, with a bright, lively profile, thanks to its racy, blood-orange acidity, which supports flavors of red cherry, pomegranate and currant. The silky texture and minerality bring up the complexity, as this goes to a long finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$34

**88 Pflüger 2020 Friedelsheimer Pinot St. Laurent (Pfalz).** An earthy aroma gives way to pure cherry and black-currant flavors, sprinkled



with spice and floral hints. The wine is vibrant and well balanced, with moderate length. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**82 Leonard Kreuzsch 2021 Estate Label Dornfelder (Rheinhessen).** This wine is medium-sweet, with a direct Concord grape note and a quick finish. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$14

## DESSERT WINE

**95 Dr. Loosen 2020 Riesling Eiswein Riesling (Mosel).** This is extremely rich, yet the acidity keeps it on its toes. The palate is rich, sporting rhubarb and apricot flavors that are laced by hints of earth, coriander seed and honeyed oolong tea. It has an appealing sweet-tart character that takes over and is matched by the super suave texture. It shows incredible persistence through a long finish. Drink now through 2050. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$60/187 ml

## AUSTRIA

### GRÜNER VELTLINER

**94 Jurtschitsch 2020 Ried Käferberg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** This is incredibly elegant, yet very expressive, with firm, bracing acidity that keeps it intact, but also gives it energy, creating a mouthwatering impression. There is an intense mix of ginger, tangerine and persimmon up front, while notes of jasmine and strawberry mint emerge towards the finish. It lingers on the palate, inviting you for more. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Ebner-Ebenauer 2021 Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** There is a flinty note that mixes with white raspberry up front, then the fruit becomes a bit more subtle, and savory minerality takes over together with hints of elderflower and chamomile. Beautifully integrated acidity serves as the backbone but also gives an uplifting impression overall. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$51

**93 FJ Gritsch 2021 Ried Singerriedel Spitz Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** This is pretty powerful and almost full-bodied, yet its focused acidity cuts through the fat, bringing a fresh side. It is pure, with concentrated flavors of green peach, Fuji apple and ripe citrus that are long and vibrant. Hints of honeysuckle lead to a long finish that echoes with sea-salt accents. Best after 2025. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$57

**93 Jurtschitsch 2020 Ried Loiserberg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** There is a nice reductive character at the beginning here, with white raspberry peaking through, followed by a wave of flavors, including peach, cardamom, coriander

and even uni. It is a very interesting expression of the grape, as it seems the origin is more important than variety here. The wine can be enjoyed now, but it will only get better with a few years of aging. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**93 Jurtschitsch 2020 Ried Schenkenbichl Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** The racy and lithe profile of this white lures you in, while prominent flavors of Fuji apple and Korean pear make your mouth water. There is silkiness to it, but quite a crunch in texture. Spice and savory mineral notes emerge midpalate and lead this to a focused, bone-dry finish. Best after 2025. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Markus Huber 2021 Ried Berg Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Traisental).** This shows power and poise, with intense apricot, honeysuckle, peach and Indian spice. The acidity is the key here, as it cuts through the meaty midpalate. The wine is quite velvety as well and the finish is loaded with a quince-blossom note that goes on and on. It is approachable now, but will best after 2025. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Ebner-Ebenauer 2021 Ried Sauberg Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** This is very nuanced, with different layers emerging one after another. There's an impressive elegance to it, with notes of quince, green fig and peach. It features a long finish of smoke and mineral spice. It is well balanced and fresh tasting now, but with time it will open up more. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$46

**92 FJ Gritsch 2021 Ried Hochrain Wösendorf Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** This is suave and polished, caressing the palate, with a medium- to full-bodied profile. It sports delicious notes of white chocolate flecked with sea salt and lentil. Mouthwatering acidity runs through, bringing out freshness and balance. It is a classic crowd-pleasing Smaragd style. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Forstreiter 2020 Ried Tabor Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** A whiff of sage honey on the nose gives you the wrong impression, as the palate introduces freshness with kumquat and lemon oil which mingle with ripe notes of apple and pear. It is silky in texture with a slight crunch towards the mouthwatering finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 J&P Brundlmayer 2021 Ried Moosburgerin Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** This is honeyed and viscous, but bone dry and quite intense. Inviting notes of white chocolate match the suave texture, as the chamomile and oolong tea emerge before the lemon oil takes over the finish. It is complex and

balanced and elegant despite the weight. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Ebner-Ebenauer 2019 Black Edition Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** A polished version of the variety this features an alluring, flinty, floral and refreshing profile, filled with notes of Korean pear and yellow plum that turn rich on the palate. It packs a spicy and herbal thread that runs through the medium-bodied palate, underscored by nice acidity. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$82

**91 Markus Huber 2021 Ried Alte Setzen Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Traisental).** A typical version for the variety, this offers rich citrus and white pepper flavors that are joined by intense spicy and creamy notes. It shows length on a plush finish that is backed by vibrant acidity and hints of spice and mineral. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43

**91 Setzer 2021 Ried Kirchengarten Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel).** A ripe white in a medium- to full-bodied style, this wine features lots of melon, peach and lentil aromas and flavors up front. Ruby grapefruit and vanilla spice emerge midpalate, while the savory mineral notes follow and mark the mouthwatering finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49

**90 Jurtschitsch 2021 Stein Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** There is forthright spice and a bit of herbaceousness in this white, along with a lithe profile. The acidity gives it focus and precision, simultaneously creating a fresh impression on the palate. Notes of spearmint and sea salt mark the mouthwatering finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**90 Leth 2021 Ried Brunthal Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Wagram).** Very classic in style, with a clean and polished profile, this bottling features a richly spiced core with apple and citrus as well. It is medium bodied, but with good acidity that gives it verve and focus. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 Malat 2020 Ried Gottschelle Erste Lage Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** Classic Grüner, this wine delivers a nice balance between peach and apple fruit and the herb and grassy flavors. It is harmonious and mouthwatering, leaving a vibrant impression on the firm finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**89 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Achleiten Smaragd Grüner Veltliner Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** This full-bodied white is a bit closed at the moment, but there's potential underneath. It shows subtle notes of orchard and citrus fruit, combined with white pepper and cardamom notes. Best to wait a few years. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$51

# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 Ebner-Ebenauer 2021 Ried Bürsting Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** A stylish white, this features crushed pepper, Bosc pear and elderflower notes that are both vivid and glossy. Solid and clean, it has a lentil note marking the moderately long finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**89 Forstreiter 2022 Kalk & Stein Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** This is lithe, with lively acidity that frames apple, grapefruit, celery and mineral flavors. It is focused and nervy on the back-palate, with hint of strawberry mint marking the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Forstreiter 2022 Ried Kremser Kogl Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** This leans towards the herbal side, with hints of chive and coriander, even a bit of smoke, but there is a good amount of citrus fruit as well. Hints of Indian spice and sea salt mark the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 J&P Brundlmayer 2021 Kaiserstiege Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** Here is a graceful, floral white, with aromas of dandelion and saffron that also extend on the palate, where they meet crisp pear and nectarine. Savory minerals emerge on the finish. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —A.Z.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**89 R&A Pfaffl 2022 Hund Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel).** This is floral and aromatic, with honeysuckle and oolong-tea notes gliding around the core of orchard and stone fruit. It shows a bit of viscosity, but the acidity keeps it away from being flabby and fat. It offers moderate length. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**89 Sohm & Kracher 2021 Lion Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** A juicy white, this comes with flavors of apricot, peach, thyme and white pepper. It is vibrant and in harmony, which makes it quite approachable now. The wine has a moderate length. Schatzi Wines. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Wutzl 2020 Ried Geppling Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** Here is a crisp version, with a bright and mineral-driven profile. Very fresh and nicely spiced, this wine gives notes of lime and kumquat mingling with white pepper on the finish. Consortium & Spirits LLC. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Domäne Wachau 2022 Federspiel Terrassen Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** The light and elegant profile of this white is decorated with notes of dandelion, lemon zest and cardamom. There's a nice verve, which brings this to a savory finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

**88 Malat 2022 Crazy Creatures Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** This open-knit wine has a firm and acidic spine supporting flavors of lemon-grass, lime and white pepper. It shows good length and drive with a charming finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88 Sohm & Kracher 2018 Single Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** This is leaning towards full bodied, showing a round profile and with a smoky frame surrounding notes of peach and white pepper. Savory note marks the finish. Schatzi Wines. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Zull 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel).** This shows a nice balance between its young profile (with powerful acidity) and its spice and mineral elements. Hints of lemon oil glide along, while the midpalate features notes of peach, wet stone and mint. Alexander Vineyards. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**87 Thiery-Weber 2021 Kaiserstiege Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** Subtle aromas and flavors of orchard blossom and stone fruit mark this graceful white. It is a nice sipper for a warm spring day. Singular Selections. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Hugl-Wimmer 2021 HuglWeine Grüner Veltliner Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** This shows some weight and power, with just enough acidity to keep it focused. Notes of dandelion prevail, with citrus emerging on modest finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA/1 L

**86 Sohm & Kracher 2018 St. Georg Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland).** A medium-bodied version of the grape, this bottling is losing its freshness, showing oxidative flavors and notes of melon that carry through the moderately long finish. Schatzi Wines. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**86 Sonnhof Social Club NV Grüner Veltliner (Weinland Österreich).** This is crisp and light, with sea-salt and white-pepper notes surrounding the citrusy center. The finish is moderately long and savory. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18/1 L

**86 Vorspannhof Mayr 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Austria).** Juicy and fruity white, this delivers pear and pepper notes that are modulated by plenty of herbal elements. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16/1 L

## RIESLING

**93 Jurtschitsch 2020 Ried Heiligenstein Erste Lage Riesling (Kamptal).** There is a beautiful salinity to this Riesling, but without interrupting the expression of fruit. Notes of durian and

kumquat linger, but the earthy and herbal influence give this an edge and freshness. It is incredibly light and elegant for the substance that it offers and will find a lot of fans. Still, with some age, it will get better. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**93 Jutta Ambrositsch 2021 Utopie Riesling (Vienna).** There is some weight here, yet it has the typical tension of Austrian wines, that combines powerful acidity with concentration. Flavors of quince, honeysuckle and sweet corn make up an enticing mix on the palate, with ripe acidity serving as the backbone. There is a salty character that emerges on the finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$41

**91 Malat 2020 Ried Silberbichl Erste Lage Riesling (Kremstal).** Bright and elegant, the wine's mix of citrus and tropical-fruit flavors includes kiwi, kumquat, tangerine and pineapple. The acidity keeps it lifted and focused all the way through, while mineral backbone gives it an extra dimension. It has a mouthwatering finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**90 FJ Gritsch 2021 Ried 1000-Eimerberg Spitz Smaragd Riesling (Wachau).** An expressive white, this comes with nicely integrated acidity and a lovely crunch to the texture, but there is also some weight here. The palate features lots of spice, with coriander seed, apple and crisp peach which give it vibrancy. It is focused, but still a bit young and still a mouthful. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**89 Buchegger 2021 Ried Tiefenthal Riesling (Kremstal).** A taut white, the flavors offer flinty accents to the notes of chamomile and elderflower, followed by apple and quince. Bracing acidity emerges on the finish, leaving a bone-dry impression. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**89 Ingrid Groiss 2022 Braitenpuechtorff Riesling (Niederösterreich).** Elegant and easy to drink, this wine features flavors of ripe peach, baked apple and hints of smoke with savory mineral notes. A clean and pure-tasting finish is accented with mint notes. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Leth 2021 Felser Klassik Riesling (Wagram).** This white delivers juicy acidity in the mid-palate and a firm structure. It's elegant, offering a floral, chamomile aroma and plenty of minerality on the palate. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Markus Huber 2022 Terrasen Riesling (Niederösterreich).** An elegant version of the grape, this white has a nice floral and tropical-fruit frame, while citrus and orchard fruit mingle at its core. It is well spiced and focused on the mouth-

watering finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

**89 Zull 2021 Ried Innere Bergen Riesling (Niederösterreich).** This light and elegant version of Riesling displays a bright profile, shining with notes of lemongrass, pineapple and peach. It is sleek and picks up a lot of energy midpalate before it tails slightly off on the mouthwatering finish. Alexander Vineyards. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$35

**88 Domäne Wachau 2022 Federspiel Riesling (Wachau).** There is a nice tension here between austerity and floral elements as this is still breaking away from its shell. Notes of apple and peach are inviting and promising. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% Price: \$21

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## ROSÉS

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**89 Schlosskellerei Gobelsburg 2022 Cisterciens Rosé (Niederösterreich).** This nicely made rosé shows great freshness, but doesn't lack in substance, featuring flavors of crushed strawberries, cherry and violet. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
abv: 12% Price: \$17

**87 Müller 2022 Zweigelt Rosé (Austria).** There is blood-orange-like acidity to this rosé, which keeps it quite energetic, while raspberry and hibiscus flavors mark the palate. It features a moderate length. Jeff Welburn Selections. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

**85 Buchegger 2021 Terrassen Rosé (Niederösterreich).** This is straightforward but pleasant, with light cherry and violet notes that are quite subtle. It delivers a refreshing finish. Bowler Wine. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$8

**85 Malat 2022 Crazy Creatures Rosé (Niederösterreich).** Here is a modest version of a rosé, with notes of crushed strawberry and floral hints, for easy sipping. Circo Vino. —A.Z.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$25

**87 Petra Unger 2022 Rosé vom Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** This rosé offers enticing notes of leather to complement the cherry and cranberry fruit profile, while a juicy acidity keeps it all intact. It features a moderate finish. Authentic Wine Selections. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

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## BLAUFRÄNKISCH

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**96 Markus Altenburger 2019 Gritschenberg Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).** Smoldering charcoal note opens up this velvety red, followed by notes of ganache and cassis. Its core is pretty mus-

cular, as this firms up with the ripe tannins, begging for a bit more time and patience, but nevertheless, it is still quite impressive at this stage. The wine shows a slight perky mineral on the distinctive finish. It will benefit from cellaring, yet with the right meal, it would be a great companion. Best after 2025. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

**95 Wachter Wiesler 2018 Ried Ratschen Reserve Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg).** This is very fresh still, with a rustic quality to it, which adds character to the blackberry, black cherry and damson plum, which are liberally flecked with notes of clove and violet. The tannins are ripe and melt over the palate, adding to the already inviting texture, while the acidity keeps it grounded and focused. It is invigorating and made to impress. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
abv: NA Price: \$51

**94 Markus Altenburger 2021 Helden Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).** Beautifully crafted Blaufränkisch, this features tannins that melt over the palate, creating a velvety impression, while notes of roibos tea and truffle frame the core of effusive raspberry and kirsch. It is juicy and slim, yet structured with fine harmony and length. The finish echoes the ripe fruit and is infused with warm spices. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

**94 Wachter Wiesler 2018 Ried Weinberg Reserve Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg).** A floral and silky version of the grape, this wine comes with an impressive tension of concentration and grace. It features lots of warm mulled spice, with Earl Grey tea notes that frame the core of macerated cherry and mulberry. There is a tobacco detail that together with hints of iron impart a lasting impression on the finish. Long and inviting. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$50

**93 Markus Altenburger 2021 CRIC Blaufränkisch (Weinland Österreich).** This red is executed with great precision, combining elegance, depth, complexity and length. It is open knit and on the lighter side, with ripe tannins that are present, but not overpowering and that serve as the backbone to the notes of strawberry, violet and hibiscus. A mineral element marks the long finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% Price: \$40

**93 Wachter Wiesler 2019 Eisenberg Reserve Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg).** A pure, elegant style, this wine comes with vibrant violet, plum and cassis notes laced with loamy earth and bay leaf hints, which stretch from start to finish. There is a lovely mix of well-integrated tannins and ripe acidity which keep this balanced and fresh and give it persistence. There is an inviting spice note that echoes on the finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**91 Markus Altenburger 2021 vom Kalk Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).** This is expressive and bursting with cherry, red licorice, spice and hints

of graphite. It is juicy, with ripe, dusty tannins that provide a pleasing balance to the fruit. It has unfolded beautifully already with fine length. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

**90 Birgit Braunstein 2018 Ried Thenau Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This is a dense and sanguine red, which is probably the result of a hot vintage. It sports cooked damson plum and lavender-tea flavors, backed by tannins that have integrated nicely. The extraction echoes on the finish, for the fans of the style. —A.Z.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$47

**90 Wachter Wiesler 2020 Béla-Jóska Blaufränkisch (Eisenberg).** There is a gamy quality to this red, which adds character, underscoring the flavors of blueberry, rhubarb and spice. Minerality emerges midpalate, combining with the silky texture. This drinks beautifully now, so grab it for your summer barbecue. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

**87 Winzerkeller Neckenmarkt 2019 Reunion Klassik Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This sports direct flavors of black currant and mulberry, with slight hints of baking spice echoing on the moderate finish. Yountville Wine Imports. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**87 Winzerkeller Neckenmarkt 2018 Reunion Vision Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This shows lots of extraction, with dense plum and blackberry flavors framed by vanilla and cocoa notes. The finish stays focused, but monotone. Yountville Wine Imports. —A.Z.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**85 Domaine Andau 2021 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Polished and a tad too extracted, it gives prominent notes of dark chocolate, black currant and vanilla. This will find its fans. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$9

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## PINOT NOIR

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**89 Heinrich Hartl 2021 Pinot Noir (Thermenregion).** Featuring a juicy style, vibrant structure and fine depth, this red combines cherry, blackberry, mineral and a slight note of oak spice with a firm, bright structure. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**89 Zull 2019 Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich).** This Pinot is marked by oak influence, showing notes of baking spice up front, while the backpalate features ripe cherry and currant flavors. This is a style which will undoubtedly find its fans, but will need a bit more time to integrate fully. Alexander Vineyards. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

**86 Hafner 2020 Queen Esther Reserve Pinot Noir (Austria).** This shows extraction and



# BUYINGGUIDE

features notes of dark chocolate, damson plum and blackberry. It is full bodied and maybe a tad over-ripe for the variety. Kosher. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —A.Z.

abv: 14% Price: \$19

## ZWEIGELT

**88 Josef Ehmoser 2021 Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** This features an elegant profile, with notes of crushed cherry and mulberry. It is quite crushable on its own, but would complement meat off the grill. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.

abv: 13% Price: \$19

**88 R&A Pfaffl 2022 Vom Haus Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** This wine is floral, with rose and violet notes decorating the gentle, silky palate. It shows nice concentration of fruit midpalate, with damson plum and black cherry at the forefront. Taub Family Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

**87 Domaine Andau 2021 Entensee Zweigelt (Burgenland).** Damson plum and stomped strawberry are fresh and rich in this Zweigelt. The tannic structure is a bit firm, yet this remains friendly, but it will be best with some meat. Winemonger. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

**85 Hugl-Wimmer 2021 HuglWeine Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).** Dried cranberry and raspberry flavors are dusted with tannins in this Zweigelt. It shows earthy notes at the edges and a firm finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.Z.

abv: 13% Price: \$16

## RED BLENDS

**89 Judith Beck 2020 Beck Ink Austrian Red Blend (Burgenland).** This is light on its feet, yet expressive, displaying notes of black currant and plum that are underscored by bracing acidity, which is the backbone here. It features a nice, velvety texture. ZRS Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12% Price: \$17

**89 Wachter Wiesler 2019 Rotes Handgemenge Red Blend (Eisenberg).** This is opens up with a note of loamy earth, followed by graceful blackberry flavors which decorate the silky texture. It is lighter in body, but never lacking substance. Bowler Wine. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

**88 Gernot and Heike Heinrich 2019 Naked Red Austrian Red Blend (Weinland Österreich).** This is a subtle, juicy red, with red-berry fruit, hibiscus tea and spice packed into a vibrant profile. Nicely structured, it has a moderately long finish. ZRS Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12% Price: \$17

**88 Hafner 2018 Kashmir Red Blend (Burgenland).** This is fruity and direct, with ripe notes of black currant, black mulberry and damson plum. It is well extracted and charming, it just lacks a bit of acidity for balance. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —A.Z.

abv: 14% Price: \$35

**87 Domaine Andau 2021 Cuvée Exklusiv Red Blend (Burgenland).** A plush red, this wine has heavy extraction and sports notes of cocoa and vanilla that frame the black-currant core. The tannins are nicely integrated. Winemonger. —A.Z.

abv: 14% Price: \$21

## OTHER RED WINE

**87 Heinrich Hartl 2021 Classic St. Laurent (Thermenregion).** This is dark and brooding, with notes of black cherry, cacao and black currant. It is rich, but it does have nice acidity to keep it balanced. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

## DESSERT WINES

**95 Kracher 2019 Nouvelle Vague Grande Cuvée Trockenbeerenauslese Nummer 5 White Blend (Burgenland).** There is a terrific complexity of flavors here, featuring apricot jam, passion-fruit butter and elderflower syrup, with mouthwatering acidity lurking in the background, keeping it all intact and in focus. It sports a creamy texture, but remains elegant thanks to its lively structure. It is impressive now, but with some age it will only get better. Best from 2025–2045. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.

abv: 10% Price: \$70/375 ml

**94 Kracher 2019 Nouvelle Vague Trockenbeerenauslese Nummer 4 Zweigelt (Burgenland).** This is impressive and perfumy, with rich flavors of hibiscus pastry, guava jam, sweet cherry and plum dumpling, while notes of cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg only add to the charm. It is luscious, but fresh and focused with a long, spice-filled finish that invites you for another sip. It's a very unique dessert wine. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.

abv: 9% Price: \$70/375 ml

**93 Hafner 2002 Barrique Sweet Trockenbeerenauslese Chardonnay (Burgenland).** This is a tad oxidative, but that adds to the character, lending this wine a nutty profile which complements the seductive aromas and flavors of dried mango, peach cobbler and lavender honey. Thick and glycerin-like in texture, it has a mouthwatering acidity that gives it firm feet. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% Price: \$65/375 ml

**92 Kracher 2020 Beerenauslese Zweigelt (Burgenland).** There is a delicious and inviting mix of rose-flavored Turkish delight, marzipan and strawberry shortcake. It features a silky texture that adds charm to the already impressive

flavor profile. It keeps coming at you in waves, with persistence and complexity. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.

abv: 9.5% Price: \$30/375 ml

**92 Hafner 2015 Essencia Trockenbeerenauslese Scheurebe (Burgenland).** Stunning aromas and flavors of pear jam, apple pie and marzipan mingle in this delicious and effusive dessert wine. It is ripe and super expressive, but supported by a firm structure and lively acidity. An elderflower-syrup note marks the finish. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% Price: \$45/375 ml

**91 Kracher 2019 Cuvée Beerenauslese White Blend (Burgenland).** Very thick and expressive, this shows golden raisin and molasses notes, followed by peach-jam, mineral and spice flavors. There is beautiful acidity keeping it all together, giving this a promising future. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.

abv: 11% Price: \$30/375 ml

## CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

**96 La Pelle 2020 Block I Bien Nacido Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** There's a fine line of crushed rock minerality to the nose of this fascinating bottling, which captures the attention with an intriguing mix of Asian pear, lemon verbena and spearmint aromas. The palate is energized with a gleefully buzzing citrus peel acidity and wrapped in a polished yet firm texture that recalls crushed seashells and sea breeze. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

**95 Far Niente 2021 Chardonnay (Coombsville).** All fresh apples and pastry spices in the nose, this opulent but not obvious wine brings on layers of cream, toast, ginger and poached pears with each sip. The complexity and concentration are impressive, and the finish lingers nicely. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$250

**95 La Pelle 2019 Block I Bien Nacido Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Rounded aromas of stonefruit, meringue, orange peel, white flowers and pastry crust make for a very compelling nose on this bottling from vines planted in 1973. The palate lands with a bright and engaging energy, pushing nectarine and crisp pear flavors into a mineral-driven pulverized rock finish. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

**95 Lewis 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

**95 Lucia by Pisoni 2021 Estate Cuvée Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$50

**95 Stags' Leap Wine Cellars 2021 Arcadia Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Subtlety and reserve are the hallmarks of this sleek and well-balanced wine. It draws on bracing acidity and fresh, vibrant fruit flavors to deliver an appetizing, mouthwatering expression. A great candidate for further aging, the wine will develop more complexity and range from 2027–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

**95 Trippers & Askers 2021 Root of the Wind Donnachadh Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 11.7% Price: \$54

**94 La Pelle 2021 Block I Bien Nacido Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Focused and rich but never overblown aromas of hazelnut, sweet butter and white peach draw the nose deeply into this bottling. There is an intense tension to the palate, where a chalky minerality and penetrating acidity enliven the prominent stonefruit flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

**94 Lewis 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Incredibly rich and luxuriously oaky, this blockbuster-style wine basks in delicious excess, bathed in melted butter, vanilla bean, poached pears and caramel that swell in the aroma and echo through a rich, butterscotch finish. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

**94 Lucia by Pisoni 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

**94 Merryvale 2020 Silhouette Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Toast and oak spices give this full-bodied wine a big entrance in the aromas, before poached pears, butterscotch and vanilla come forward in the flavors. A full body and luxurious texture make it a pleasure to sip. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

**94 Rancho Vinedo 2020 Dona Martina Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Tightly wound aromas of brisk yellow lemon pith open toward nectarine and toasted almond flake on the nose of this bottling. The palate is energized with grapefruit peel acidity, leading through lemon blossom flavors into a somewhat spicy finish. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$55

**93 Foxen 2021 5 Rows Tinaquaic Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** This very focused bottling of the five original vineyard rows opens with wet rocks, yellow apple, citrus spray and honey on the nose. Lemon glaze and apple flesh flavors show on the sip, but it takes time for the wood-spice and oyster shell aspects to arise. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

**93 Foxen 2021 Block UU Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$36

**93 Foxen 2021 Tinaquaic Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Lemon zest, pomelo rind and yellow apple aromas are cut by a streak of crushed stone on the nose of this bottling. The palate is incredibly taut, with white stone, lemon peel and orange zest flavors that evolve in the mouth and as the wine sits open. Drink over two days for an eye-opening experience. —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$44

**93 Hendry 2020 Hendry Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

**93 Merryvale 2019 Silhouette Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Packed with ripe fruits and generously accented with toasted oak notes of ginger and nutmeg, this full-bodied wine boasts winning concentration and a creamy texture. It is oaky in a good way, and not overwrought. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

**93 Newton 2021 Unfiltered Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Subtle oak spices mingle with lots of golden apple, yellow peach and pineapple flavors in this lightly oaked, medium-bodied wine that was barrel-fermented with indigenous yeast. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$61

**93 Optik 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** There's a great deal of restraint on the nose of this bottling, which shows crushed rocks, apple flesh and a hint of lime. The palate continues a similar track, as apple skins cut through the Asian pear core, with a firm tension throughout. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$40

**93 Roar 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** There's a tightly woven combination of wet stone, shiso leaf and peppery spice to the unique nose of this bottling. The palate takes some time to open up, starting with tart cream and sharp citrus before the riper waves of honeysuckle and pineapple flesh arise. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$65

**93 Stags' Leap Wine Cellars 2021 Karia Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**93 Stags' Leap Winery 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Fresh pear and lemon zest aromas lead to a silky texture laced with Bartlett pears, white peaches and hint of lemon. A medium body and rather light mouthfeel keep the wine charming and refreshing. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$35

**93 William Hill Estate 2021 Winemaker's Series Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**92 Grgich Hills 2020 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This fruity, fresh and well-balanced wine offers an appetizing mixture of lemony crispness along with baked apple richness. A relatively light body and smooth texture bring out more ripeness and butter on the palate and finish. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

**92 Merryvale 2020 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Vivid toast and butter aromas lead to equally toasty, baking spice flavors that are cut through with lemons and green apples for good counterbalance. The wine is bold and assertive, a great choice for fans of an oaky style. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

**92 Mira 2018 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This rich, full-bodied wine leads with a butterscotch aroma before poached pear and butter flavors coat the palate. Fermented and aged for 24 months in French oak, the wine has a tangy, almost tannic texture that nicely balances the richness. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$95

**92 Paradise Springs 2021 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Chiseled stone, lemon peel and melon flesh show on the subtle nose of this single-vineyard expression. The mineral-driven palate uses cut stone to frame the stonefruit flavors that are washed in a constant acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$59

**92 Precision Wine 2020 Gabrielle Ashley Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Tempting richness comes with a tangy backbone in this well-balanced, elegant wine. Subtle layers of Bosc pears, lemon, cream and butter blend easily on a silky texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**92 Roar 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Lemon glaze, wet stone and hints of underripe pineapple converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a chalky grip to the palate, where a citrusy acidity and chalky texture uphold the clean and crisp Asian pear and pomelo pith flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

**92 Schweiger 2021 Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**92 Talbott 2021 Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$45

**91 Heitz 2020 Quartz Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** Tangy green apple and mineral intensity is tempered by richer golden apple and baking spice flavors in this nervy, well-

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balanced, light-bodied wine. Tastes refreshing and mouthwatering. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

**91 McBride Sisters Collection 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A lighter hue in this glass, this takes a high-toned angle on the appellation, offering subtle Asian pear, lemon blossom and honeysuckle on the nose. The palate is very tight and citrus-driven, holding tight to tangerine peel and brisk white-fleshed fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50

**91 Sanford 2020 La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Soft lemon, white flower and white peach aromas deserve some time to open on the nose of this bottling. The palate presents an array of flavors, from peach to nuts to rocks, culminating in a slight vanilla finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$62

**91 Sanguis 2019 Loner The Golden Hour Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Subdued aromas of honey, white flower and citrus blossom are quite restrained on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers a texture that starts softly before adding some grip as flavors of baked almond and lemon glaze grow more tart by the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$75

**91 Seavey 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Saturated with spicy oak from the first whiff to the lingering finish, this barrel-fermented wine boasts vivid toast, butter, ginger and biscuit flavors over baked apples and vanilla. Fans of this approach will love it. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**91 Testarossa 2021 La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** A crisp and bright lemon aroma slices through the nectarine, white flower and coconut on the nose of this bottling. There is immense tension to the palate, framing the ripe pineapple and coconut flavors as a viscosity rises into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**91 Testarossa 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Jubilant aromas of lemon, pear and pleasantly light marshmallow converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is bold with rich baked lemon, toasted nut and warmed butter flavors, yet there is a sharp acidity that enlivens the sip into a salty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$55

**90 Darioush 2021 Signature Series Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Butterscotch, butter and caramel notes dominate this oaky, rich, almost candied wine. A full body and creamy, buttery texture add to a sweet expression enhanced by aging 11 months in 50% new French barrels. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**90 Gelson's 2019 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Rich aromas of baked lemon, scorched

cashews and salted popcorn show on the nose of this bottling. Toasted nut and buttered popcorn flavors come through on the palate, cut by a lime candy kick. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Grgich Hills 2020 Miljenko's Selection Estate Grown Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Vivid peach and apricot aromas and flavors backed by lively acidity give this medium-bodied wine a bit of a Riesling spin. That's to say that it is delicate, silky and charming to sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**90 Lumen 2022 Hey Ginger Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** This bottling is rooted in winemaker Lane Tanner's home kitchen experiment, which revealed that ginger can serve as a preservative instead of sulfur without adding an overwhelming flavor. The ginger notes are indeed apparent, but show more of a floral tone than a sharp spicy one. Expect more jasmine than pickled ginger. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**90 Santa Barbara Winery 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Rounded apricot, toasted oak and sea salt aromas present a familiar nose on this bottling. The palate is rich, loaded with marzipan, lemon cream and buttery oak flavors uniting in an oaky finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$32

**89 Grgich Hills 2020 Paris Tasting Commemorative Estate Grown Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Fruity, floral and candied apple flavors give this medium-bodied wine an easy, welcoming, almost-sweet expression that is nicely braced by tangy acidity to keep it feeling fresh. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

**89 Nine North Wine Company 2020 Chasing Lions Chardonnay (California).** A lovely integration of fruit, floral and subtle use of oak, this Chard offers notes of chamomile blossom, poached pear, cinnamon, nutmeg, blond caramel, vanilla and a gently toasted wood. On the palate, there's a solid dose of tangy acidity and just a slight phenolic grip that adds texture and a balanced bitterness. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Roar 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** The typical breadth and richness of this bottling is held tighter in this vintage, showing earthy aromas of dried lemon and apple flesh on the nose. There's a touch of warmer browned apple on the palate, which is cut by grapefruit and orange zest flavors. This may grow more engaging with cellar age. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

**88 Brendel 2020 Noble One Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Pleasantly fruity in flavor and soft and smooth in texture, this straightforward wine made from organic grapes is appealing and uncom-

plicated. A touch of fruit acidity keeps it well-balanced. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Butternut 2021 Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$15

**88 Charles Krug 2021 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Well-concentrated and ripe-tasting, this full-bodied wine feels soft and smooth in texture while delivering poached pear and peach syrup flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$26

**88 Lava Cap 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (El Dorado).** This dry, but very juicy, Chardonnay oozes flavors of lemon, lime, green apple and Bartlett pear that are accentuated by the acidity. In the background, find subtle notes of flint, wet stone and apple blossom. Elevated alcohol (14.7%) gives the wine a richness and glycerin-like texture, leading to a warm finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$24

**88 Matthew Fritz 2022 Matthew Fritz Chardonnay (Monterey County).** An overall balanced expression of Chardonnay with a smooth, soft texture and rounded body, offering aromas and flavors of green apple, white grapefruit, white blossoms and just-ripe white peach and banana. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Round Pond 2021 Kith & Kin Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This is a good, straightforward, medium-bodied wine that pairs some crisp green apple flavors with hints of butter and vanilla. It takes the middle of the road in style and will be good for a crowd. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 William Hill Estate 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Buttery overtones in the aroma lead to lavish vanilla, butter and butterscotch flavors for an indulgent, creamy expression. A full body, viscous texture and dominating oak character give the wine a sweet impression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 ALDI 2020 Exquisite Collection Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 29. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$9

**87 ebb+flow 2021 Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 29. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay (California).** For lovers of ripe, rich Chardonnay—this pour is for you. Yellow apple, Bosc pear, yellow peach, mango skins and banana peel fruit notes intertwine with candied almonds, vanilla, nutmeg and buttery popcorn. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17



**87 Matchbook 2020 Arsonist Chardonnay (Dunigan Hills).** For lovers of full-bodied, ripe Chardonnays—this pour is for you. Baked apple, poached pear, nutmeg, clove, butter, ripe mango, pineapple and banana fill the aromas and flavors of this wine that's been 100% barrel fermented and aged and seen 100% malolactic conversion. With modest acidity, the texture is just as soft, plush and warm as all those notes imply. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$22

**87 Raymond 2021 R Collection Lot No. 3 Chardonnay (California).** An overripe and fuller-bodied expression of Chardonnay with notes of apple sauce, poached pear, pineapple, banana, alongside oak-influenced spices of clove, cinnamon, nutmeg, peanut and almond. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Starmont 2020 Chardonnay (Mendocino County-Monterey County).** A simple Chard that mixes ripe fruit flavors with toasty-oaky notes: green apple and Bartlett pear, yellow peach, banana peel, matchstick flint, toasted bread, vanilla and nutmeg. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**87 The Introvert 2021 Chardonnay (California).** A simple Chardonnay with straightforward notes of lemon, lime, green apple, white blossom, yellow peach and peach fuzz. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Three Girls 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** A simple, fruit-driven Chardonnay with ripe expressions of lemon, lime, peach and pineapple among complementary tones of vanilla, toast and biscuit. There's a juicy quality that gives the wine the perception of sweetness as well as a slight effervescence that adds a needed refreshing quality. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Calculated 2021 Chardonnay (California).** A simple Chardonnay with notes of salted caramel, cream, clove, nutmeg, biscuit and hay overlying subtle fruits of green apple and Meyer lemon. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

**86 Cycles Gladiator 2021 Chardonnay (California).** This Chardonnay is super spice-forward with assertive notes of cumin, coriander, clove and nutmeg overlaying the notes of poached apple and pear. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**86 Smoking Loon 2021 Steelbird Chardonnay (California).** This California-appellated Chardonnay includes 13% Colombard in the mix. Find overripe aromas and flavors of yellow apple, peach, apricot and banana with a spice blend of clove, nutmeg, cinnamon and salted butter. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8

**85 Avalon 2021 Chardonnay (California).** A full-bodied Chard with notes of overripe yellow apple and Bosc pear, yellow peach, banana, banana peel, vanilla, nutmeg and butter extract. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Bogle 2021 Chardonnay (California).** Extremely overripe fruits mix with lots of new oak notes in this full-bodied Chard: green apple and pear, yellow peach, banana, pineapple, cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**85 Replica 2021 Chardonnay (California).** This is a fuller-bodied, riper expression of Chardonnay with heavy aromas of matchstick flint and hay that overlay fruitier tones of overripe yellow apple, green pear and pineapple. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$18

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**93 Charles Krug 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Vivid citrus aromas practically leap out of the glass before this lively wine lets lemon zest and grapefruit juice flavors dazzle the palate. Mouthwatering acidity and those bright fruit flavors are appetizing and compelling. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$23

**93 Darioush 2021 Signature Series Sage Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Deft oak spices and tangy, pure citrus flavors come together beautifully in this lively, concentrated and well-structured wine. Reminiscent of a classified white Bordeaux, the wine gains texture and grip from oak aging without overcoming the juicy vitality of the varietal signature. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$65

**93 Grgich Hills 2020 Fumé Blanc Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This outstanding medium-bodied and well-balanced wine was made from organic grapes. It offers a vivid milky, flinty aroma followed by tangy, mouthwatering lemons, limes and white raspberries. The bright acidity wipes the palate clean with each sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**93 Grieve 2020 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Nicely framed by subtle oak nuances, this full-bodied wine focuses on ripe and rounded green apple and fennel bulb flavors on a very silky, smooth texture. It has a delicacy that will pair well with fish like sole and trout. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$95

**92 Beckmen 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's an exciting wash of rainy concrete minerality to the nose of this bottling that pairs well with the kick of riper peach. The palate is quite taut in texture, surrounding lime peel, grass, honeysuckle and crisp nectarine flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$30

**92 Daou 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$17

**92 Ehlers Estate 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (St. Helena).** This wine practically sizzles with herbaceous flavors and vivid acidity, from the grassy, dried thyme aromas to the lemon and grapefruit flavors, to the tangy finish. It is super refreshing and crisp, perfect for raw oysters and virtually any other seafood. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$38

**92 Jax 2022 Y3 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Fresh aromas of green apples lead to equally fresh, crisp flavors of sliced Pippin apples and lemon zest, with bass notes of cantaloupe. This exciting wine is well-balanced and mouthwatering. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$20

**92 Lail 2021 Blueprint Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Snappy acidity and subtle flavors make you want to keep diving into this barrel-fermented, vibrant, lightly oaked and full-bodied wine. Minerals, fresh herbs and grapefruit fill the aroma, while tangy lemon, lime and tangerine liven up the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$60

**92 ONX 2022 Field Day Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** This bottling, which includes 3% Viognier, offers sharp aromas of lime peel and damp grass alongside a stony kick of concrete and rainy cement on the nose. The palate is firmly gripped in a crushed concrete minerality, giving an edge to the grapefruit and honeysuckle flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$32

**91 Gainey 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Light in the glass but exuberant on the nose, this bottling leaps out with aromas of passionfruit, lime sorbet and cut grass, blending tropical notes with a classical profile. The palate is more grassy and lime-driven, with a wet stone minerality adding depth. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$18

**91 Wilson Creek 2022 Winemaker's Select Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** This is a strong white wine from the region, starting with classic aroma of lime skin and grass. There's ample grip to the sip, where lime wedge and mango flavors are bright while dried grass brings an earthy element. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$27

**90 Hungry Hawk 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (San Diego County).** Riper aromas of pear flesh and guava peel pair well on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm touch to the beginning of the palate, where an ashy minerality fades into pineapple and more guava flavors, proving ripe but structurally sound. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Lava Cap 2022 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (El Dorado).** Along with its cheek-tingling acidity, a slight spritz gives this Sauvignon Blanc an extra lively lift on the palate. Find layered notes of lemon, lime, green apple, just-ripe white peach, grapefruit juice, white blossoms and wet stone. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$24

**90 Michael David 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Round Pond 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).** This ripe tasting and round-textured wine blends soft peaches and melons with tangy lemon notes for a mouthfilling yet well-balanced and lively expression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Cliff Lede 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Rather weighty and definitely rich, this medium-bodied wine is laden with ripe pears, yellow peach syrup and toast, oaky accents on a soft, thick texture. A healthy addition of 22% Sémillon accounts for the extra smoothness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$34

**89 Clos du Bois 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**89 Dancing Crow 2022 Farmer's Cuvée Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** A vibrant, juicy Sauvignon Blanc that packs loads of flavors—lemon, lime, Granny Smith apple, white grapefruit, just-ripe passionfruit, cut grass and capsicum. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**89 Heron 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A very floral SB, leading with jasmine blossom, water lily and rose water, followed then by life leaf, white peach, nectarine, quince and lychee. This medium-bodied white has a smooth, glycerin texture, giving it a bit more weight than other expressions. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89 Noble Vines 2022 242 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**89 Picayune 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Citrusy and herbaceous, this lively wine sprouts snap peas, grapefruit and jicama aromas on a juicy, crisp texture that's rounded just slightly by a touch of richness in the body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Starmont 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County-Sonoma County).** A very well-balanced and vivacious Sauvignon Blanc with expressive notes of lime zest and lime leaf, white grapefruit, cut grass and green capsicum. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$21

**89 Thal Vineyards 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Lamorinda).** An interesting, layered expression of Sauvignon Blanc that incorporates fresh and dried fruits and florals along with baking spices and nuttiness, giving the wine a fuller, riper and rounder expression. Find notes of poached apple and pear, nutmeg, clove, peach skin, dried white floral pot-pourri, marmalade, orange peel, ginger and pecan. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$25

**88 Ancient Peaks 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles).** Pink Lady apple and pineapple candy aromas are fresh on the nose of this bottling. The palate's steely minerality adds balance to the apple blossom flavors on a soft frame. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Dreaming Tree 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Racy acidity and a bit of spritz gives this high-toned Sauvignon Blanc an extra dose of excitement. Notes of lime, lime leaf, cut grass, just-ripe white peach and passionfruit and a fresh sea-air salinity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88 Fresh Vine 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Solano County).** With moderate acidity, this expression doesn't have the verve of a typical Sauvignon Blanc, but what it does offer is a fun, diverse flavor profile with notes of lemon, lime, baby's breath, lanolin, beeswax and cut grass. A light-bodied white perfect for warm-weather sipping. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Havens 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** Light, bright and refreshing, enjoy delicate aromas and flavors of white floral perfume, ripe yellow peach, nectarine and apricot and hints of just-ripe pineapple and a bit of wet stone and mineral. A pleasant little fizz tickles the tongue adding vivacity and texture. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Kenefick Ranch 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Calistoga).** Vivid sea breeze aromas and a salty touch in the flavors give this wine a unique, savory expression that dominates its light fruit flavors and full body. Decant before drinking to air it out. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 Lewis 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Buttery, oaky aromas and flavors dominate this rich, very full-bodied and creamy-textured wine, so that it could almost be a Chardonnay. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**88 Nella Terra 2022 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley).** A fuller, riper, rounder expression of Sauvignon Blanc with a glycerin-like texture and assertive notes of lemon, lime, green apple and pear, hints of capsicum, green grass and white blossom. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$32

**88 Open Skies 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

**88 Plata Wine Partners 2022 True Oak Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** A remarkably light color and subtle aromas of lemon pith and white pepper give way to crisp, steely, almost neutral flavors and a tangy, appetizing texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Reciprocity 2022 French Camp Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles Highlands District).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Stags' Leap Winery 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Flinty, petrol aromas lead to floral, earthy, grapefruity flavors in this oaky, stylized and full-bodied wine. Its powerful herb and spice character is very distinctive. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**87 Brendel 2020 Everbloom Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Herb and veggie flavors take the lead in this tangy, fruity and pungent wine made from organic grapes. Strong chive and parsley flavors lend an aggressive expression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**87 ebb+flow 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 29. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Lorenzi Estate 2022 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** The nose on this bottling is very earthy, with dried grass and dust aromas. The palate is soft in texture, with more grassy and some vinous flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$35

**87 Peltier 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Clements Hills).** A very subtle, but quite well-balanced, expression of Sauvignon Blanc with delicate expressions of green apple, hint white grapefruit, lemon zest, cherry blossom and white peaches. A perfect spring and summer sipper. —S.B.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Séance 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A dose of effervescence along with the racy acidity gives this Sauvignon Blanc a really zesty palate, leaving the tongue tingling for sure. Aromas and flavors are just as vivacious—find notes of capsicum, cut grass, cantaloupe, green melon, baby's breath and white grape fruit zest. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Matthew Fritz 2022 Matthew Fritz Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A simple Sauvignon Blanc with basic aromas and flavors of garden hose, green apple skins, lime pith and a palate filled with searing acidity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Nine North Wine Company 2021 Chasing Lions Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Surpris-

ingly subtle for a Sauvignon Blanc, this expression offers very simple, light-intensity notes of lemon, lime, white grapefruit and cut grass. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86** **Plata Wine Partners 2022 Smith & Elliott Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Floral and veggie aromas lead to simple, fruit cocktail flavors in this medium-bodied, soft, generic style of wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Prize 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** A very simple, straightforward Sauv Blanc with notes of lemon, lime, green apple and white blossoms. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$13

**85** **Grgich Hills 2020 Essence Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** A heavy “reduced,” earthy aroma and dry, crisp flavors give this medium-bodied wine a lean expression that won’t appeal to everyone. Fans of acidity and bare bones fruit can enjoy it. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$55

## GRENAACHE BLANC

**88** **E16 2022 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Fair Play).** An easy quaffer with cheerful notes of lemon, lime, green apple, just-ripe white nectarine, cut grass, wet stone. Perfect for a spring picnic or summertime BBQ. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Sequence 2022 Opacity Grenache Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Slightly effervescent in the glass, this golden-hued bottling offers ripe apricot jam, apple juice and concentrated white flowers on the nose. The palate is hefty in body, with baked apple, melon, orange cake and toasted nut flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

**87** **Bokisch 2022 Clay Station Vineyard Garnacha Blanca (Borden Ranch).** An overall balanced white offering notes of white blossom, white peach, lemon and lime. Made from 93% Garnacha Blanca (aka Grenache Blanc) with 7% Picpoul in the mix. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$27

**87** **Midnight 2022 Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles).** This is a very ripe version of Grenache Blanc, showing tuberoso, guava and banana on the nose. The palate is softer in texture, picking up jasmine atop the other tropical flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$39

## VIIGNIER

**90** **Darioush 2021 Signature Series Viognier (Napa Valley).** This rich, almost-sweet wine relaxes in ripe honeydew melon, white peach and floral flavors on a smooth, soft texture and full

body. Generous enough for an after-dinner cheese course or a cookie plate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$55

**89** **Derby 2021 Derby Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles).** Aromas of peach and lime peel are dusted in an earthy veil on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh, vibrant and crisp, showing nectarine, citrusy acidity and more of that earthy vibe. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Summerland 2022 Estelle Vineyard Viognier (Santa Ynez Valley).** Aromas of peach, oak, wet clay and white flowers show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is much tighter, offering brisk flavors of apple flesh and pear peel with a tart finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$35

**88** **CRU 2021 French Camp Vineyard Viognier (Paso Robles).** Ripe aromas of peach and jasmine are unmistakable on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean while rich with candied mango and canned fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Nella Terra 2022 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Viognier (Livermore Valley).** A fresh and vibrant expression of Viognier that maintains a solid dose of acidity that rides right through the center of the palate and uplifts the variety’s token fruit and florals. Find vivacious notes of lemon, lime, white blossom, white peach and nectarine, mandarin orange zest, apricot and apricot skins. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$32

**88** **Starfield 2022 Viognier (El Dorado).** Fruits are overripe in nature in this broad-palate, rich white wine—squashy yellow apple, pineapple juice, banana and banana skin. Delicate floral aromas of baby’s breath and chamomile whisper in the background. The finish leaves a warmth on the lips. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$34

**87** **Miraflores 2021 Estate Viognier (El Dorado).** A very full-bodied white with ripe aromas and flavors of Golden Delicious apple, orange peel and banana alongside spice tones of coriander, cumin, nutmeg and an overlaying pine-resin note. The palate offers a glycerin-like texture, alongside a touch of phenolic grip. Finish is fairly short. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$29

**87** **Wilson Creek 2022 Chloe Vineyard Viognier (Temecula Valley).** This is a very tropical Viognier, offering coconut, plumeria and jasmine on the nose. The palate is viscous and somewhat sweet, with peach marmalade flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$35

**85** **Peirano 2021 Heritage Collection Viognier (Lodi).** Must love butter. This Vio emits nothing but the smell of buttered popcorn—which some may find utterly appetizing. The palate follows

through on that promise with just subtle fruit notes of some ripe mango, pineapple and banana skin. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$15

## ALBARIÑO

**90** **Hungry Hawk 2022 Estate Reserve Albariño (San Diego County).** Though deep in Southern California, the coastal proximity allows Albariño to shine on this estate. Aromas of sharp finger lime, pear peel, citrus blossom and wet stone show on the nose, while the palate picks up a sansho pepper spice atop the pear rinds. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**90** **Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Albariño (Santa Maria Valley).** Coconut, plumeria and apple blossom aromas align into a pleasant nose on this bottling. The palate tightens up a bit, focusing on tangerine pith and apple peel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**88** **Bokisch 2022 Terra Alta Vineyard Albariño (Clements Hills).** A bit of effervescence tingles the tongue while sipping this Albariño hailing from Lodi. The effect gives a fun spark of activity, enlivening the fresh fruit and florals throughout the length. Find notes of lime leaf, chamomile, jasmine, honeysuckle, Meyer lemon, mandarin orange zest and just-ripe white nectarine. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

## PINOT GRIGIO

**88** **Bota Box NV Pinot Grigio (California).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23/3L

**88** **Clos du Bois 2022 Pinot Grigio (California).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Tessier Winery 2022 Filigreen Farm Vineyard Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley).** With five days of skin contact, this Pinot Gris has a pale orange hue in the glass with aromas and flavors to match—orange juice, pith and skin take center stage followed by peach and apricot skins as well as earthier tones of white florals, wet stone and a sea-air salinity. The phenolic grip is subtle, but present, adding a pleasant bitter edge. —S.B.  
**abv:** 11.6% **Price:** \$35

**87** **Francis Ford Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Pinot Grigio (California).** A very simple, light-bodied and modestly aromatic Pinot Grigio with aromas and flavors of green apple, lemon and lime. A slight spritz adds a fizzy textural experience—that, along with a high level of acidity, results in an overall crisp, refreshing, easy drinking experience. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14



# BUYINGGUIDE

**87 Peltier 2022 Teresa Marengo-Estate Grown Comprami Pinot Grigio (Mokelumne River).** A bit shy on the nose, this wine truly wakes up on the palate—thanks most certainly to the searing acid that drives right down the center of the palate, uplifting notes of lemon, lime, white strawberry, baby's breath, potpourri and grapefruit zest. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**86 Open Skies NV Pinot Grigio (California).** A light-bodied, light-intensity white with delicate and simple notes of lemon, lime and white blossoms. Best enjoyed on its own. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

**85 Maggio 2022 Pinot Grigio (Lodi).** A very low-intensity, light-bodied Pinot Grigio with a searing acidity that drives the palate filled with lemon, lime, sour apple and a white floral perfume. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

## VERMENTINO

**89 Peltier 2022 Estate Vermentino (Lodi).** Very subtle in aromatic and flavor intensity, with subtle notes of lemon, lime, white grapefruit, cherry blossom, cut grass and just-ripe white peach—what brings the wine to life is a very subtle fizz that just tickles the tongue, adding a refreshing quality and a bit of fun. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Sequence 2022 Element Vermentino (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's a lot of clay and muddy earth aromas on the nose of this bottling, alongside citrus peel and blossom aromas. Macadamia nut and orange peel flavors meet with the earthy tones of the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**88 Starfield 2022 Vermentino (El Dorado).** A very delicately aromatic white, Starfield's Vermentino offers notes of lemon, lime, green apple, white blossom and hints of white nectarine. Subtle, simple, well-balanced—an easy wine to enjoy on its own. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$32

## WHITE BLENDS

**94 Sanguis 2019 Lady, Birds & Boy White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's endless fascination to be found in this blend of Roussanne, Marsanne and Malvasia Bianca, beginning with aromas of lemon peel, pine nut, wet rocks and forest floor, which is unique for a white. Citrus, stone and pine needle elements arise on the complex palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$65

**93 Carol Shelton 2021 Coquille Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles).** This blend of Grenache Blanc, Marsanne, Roussanne and Viognier, handled by veteran vintner Carol Shelton, mixes a steely minerality with opulent stonefruit,

coconut and white flower aromas on the nose. The palate is ripe with peach and more coconut, but the texture is stony, driving into an earthy finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**93 Folded Hills 2021 Estate White Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$70

**92 Folded Hills 2021 August White Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Andrew Murray 2021 Enchanté Curtis Vineyard Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's an earthy richness to the nose of this blend of 55% Roussanne and 45% Grenache Blanc, with hot sandstone aromas melding into the apple and apricot elements. The palate is very textural, with a leathery mouthfeel wrapping around preserved lemon and seared apple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**91 McBride Sisters Collection 2021 Reserve Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles).** Warm aromas of cashew and peach meet with white flowers on the properly restrained nose of this bottling. The palate lands with an ample grip, framing spritzly lemon, apricot cream and sea salt flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**88 Midnight 2022 Aurora Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles).** Light in the glass, this blend of 40% Viognier, 30% Grenache Blanc, 20% Picpoul and 10% Roussanne is very generous and tropical while staying crisp and clean. Aromas of banana bubblegum and poached pear lead from the nose to a very peachy palate with a brisk texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$39

**87 Terra d'Oro 2022 Chenin Blanc-Viognier (Clarksburg).** The juiciness of this Chenin-Vio blend gives it the perception of a bit of sweetness on the palate, offset by a good dose of acidity and a little spritz as well. Aromas and flavors include white grapefruit zest, white raspberries, lemonade and white pepper. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94 Paix Sur Terre 2022 Maison Mason Vineyard Ugni Blanc (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Always one of the most exciting white wines of each year across the Central Coast, this vintage begins with clean and direct aromas of pear flesh, apple blossom and melon rind. It's the fascinating texture that takes this to another level, as the wine dances across the palate leaving hints of grip as it

goes, while white-flesh fruit and flower flavors stay fresh and vibrant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**92 Rococo 2021 Jurassic Park Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Clean and crisp aromas of white flower and restrained peach are very delicate and inviting on the nose of this bottling from vines planted on their own roots in sandy soils back in 1978. The palate offers peach and gardenia flavors, leading into a compelling grip on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**92 Rococo 2021 Shell Creek Chenin Blanc (Paso Robles Highlands District).** Aromas of lanolin, honey and marcona almonds draw the nose into this bottling from an old vineyard planted in clay and loam soils in the middle of nowhere southeast of Paso Robles. There's a stony texture to the palate, where Asian pear and honey dust flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**91 Cellars 33 2019 Terra Alta Vineyard Picpoul Blanc (Clements Hills).** Light and crisp, this varietal Picpoul lives up to its lip-smacking reputation, yet offers additional layers of both organic and inorganic minerality among the fruit and florals. Find lively notes of cherry and apple blossom, white peach, lanolin, flint, wet wool and just a kiss of petrol. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$25

**89 Starfield 2022 Roussanne (El Dorado).** A well-balanced Roussanne, which includes 6% each of Marsanne and Viognier, offering aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, white peach and nectarine, cherry blossom and wet stone. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$32

**88 Starfield 2022 Marsanne (El Dorado).** An overall well-rounded, well-balanced and fun white with moderate intensity aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, green apple, baby's breath, white pepper and banana. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$34

**87 Bokisch 2022 Clay Station Vineyard Verdejo (Borden Ranch).** There's a juiciness and a plushy texture that give the perception of a bit of sweetness and to this medium-bodied Verdejo. Find notes of lemon, lime, Granny Smith apple, pineapple rind, lime leaf, jasmine blossom and agave nectar. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$27

**87 Rodrigue Molyneaux 2022 Pinot Blanc (Livermore Valley).** A very delicate Pinot Blanc with subtle aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, green apple and white blossoms. The palate offers a solid dose of piercing acidity, medium body and a simple finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$36

**87 Vezer Family Vineyard 2021 Franci-Estate Verdelho (Suisun Valley).** This Sauv Blanc

has an interesting “aged” characteristic to it, emitting initial aromas of butterscotch and peanut brittle, alongside spicy tones of coriander and cumin. Fruits shortly follow—ripe yellow apple, peach, poached pear—interwoven with fresh, earthy notes as well, like cut grass, lime leaf and lawn daisy. It’s altogether an interesting and unique expression. —S.B.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$35

## SPARKLING WINES

**94 Mumm Napa 2015 DVX Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 8.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$75

**92 Brendel 2020 Young Leon Frizzante Rosé Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).** A light amber-pink color leads to an appetizing, bone-dry palate

laced with apricot, almond and tangy cherry flavors. Made from Grignolino grapes, the wine is crisp, light, mouthwatering and built for pairing with food—anything from caviar to potato chips to tuna tartare. *Editors’ Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 11%

Price: \$38

**92 Loubud 2019 Blanc de Noirs Cebada Vineyards Reserve Sparkling Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** A light golden color in the glass, this bottling offers Rainier cherry, nectarine and citrus peel

around on the nose, which nearly shows a tinge of red fruit. The big-bubbled mousse carries flavors of Meyer lemon and apple flesh, culminating in a tart finish. —M.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$65

**91 Lava Cap NV Sparkling Sparkling Blend (El Dorado).** Lava Cap’s “Mountain Sparkling”

is a blend of 50-50 Cab Franc and Chardonnay. A shimmering straw hue in the glass, initial aromas are layered with toasted bread, baked apple and poached pear, nutmeg, coriander and cinnamon spice. High acid and a fine, persistent mousse structure keep the wine light and bright throughout the length. Additional notes of ripe apricot and mandarin orange zest come through in the tasting—and all these aromas and flavors intertwine in a fairly lengthy finish. —S.B.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

**91 Loubud 2019 Blanc de Blancs Sanford & Benedict Reserve Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills).**

Crisp apple and white flower aromas are delicate on the nose of this 45-case bottling, which spent 35 months en tirage. The palate is very taut and grippy, giving a firm edge to the tart citrus and pome fruit flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$65

**91 Mumm Napa 2018 Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 17.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$50

**90 Domaine Chandon 2017 Terroir Sparkling Blend (Yountville).** This easygoing, mouth-

filling and nicely rounded wine offers plentiful fruit flavors and a smooth mousse of bubbles. —J.G.

abv: 12%

Price: \$60

**90 Folded Hills 2020 Sparkling Lilly Rosé Sparkling Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Darker aromas of raspberry and cherry soda are generous on

the nose of this bottling. The mousse is aggressive on the palate, foaming persistently to present sour cherry and tart lime peel flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$75

**90 Folded Hills 2020 Sparkling Clairette Blanche (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is a promising take on a new grape for bubbles. Aromas

of melon, baked apple, pastry and almond are nutty and round on the nose. The palate’s mousse is quick to fade, as flavors of apple cream rise in the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 12%

Price: \$65

**89 Donkey & Goat 2022 Fizzy Izzy Pét-Nat Sparkling Grenache Gris (Mendocino).** Don’t

be deterred by the cloudiness of this sparkler; the slight tannic grip offers just a light texture up against the vibrant, fruity tones of fresh strawberry and strawberry bush, watermelon flesh and rind, grapefruit, honeysuckle and citrus blossom. The fizz is subtle, delicate, adding just enough bubble-friction to tingle the tongue. A unique expression and one well worth trying. *Hidden Gem.* —S.B.

abv: 12.1%

Price: \$45

**89 Pech Merle NV Brut-Rosé of Syrah (Mendocino County).** Vivacious, fun, friendly—

different. This sparkling brut rosé of 100% Syrah from Mendocino County emits vivacious aromas and flavors of orange pith and orange zest, citrus blossom, pink grapefruit, mango and a waft of salty sea breeze. A soft mousse structure lends toward a persistent, delicate fizz; the finish is fairly lengthy. *Hidden Gem.* —S.B.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$59

**88 Chandon NV Brut Sparkling Blend (California).** A classic, Champagne-inspired blend

of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Meunier, this California sparkling offers lively aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, flint, biscuit and hay. —S.B.

abv: 12%

Price: \$26

**88 McManis NV Brut-Sparkling Wine Sparkling Blend (California).** For full review see page 21.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

**87 Longevity NV Blanc de Blanc, Méthode Champenoise Chardonnay (California).** A

Champagne-inspired California sparkling made from 100% Chardonnay grapes, this is a simple, straightforward expression with notes of lemon, lime, petrol, cut grass, white blossom, rubber and flinty smoke. —S.B.

abv: 11%

Price: \$20

**87 Peltier NV Zante Zinfandel (Lodi).** A simple, light and crispy California sparkling, emit-

ting very subtle aromas and flavors of red cherry, raspberry and fresh strawberry. —S.B.

abv: 10%

Price: \$18

**87 Ramos Torres Winery 2021 Colinas Rhône-style White Blend (Madera).** This pét-nat

sparkler, made from 50-50 Picpoul and Grenache Blanc, emits an immediate potpourri-like perfume. Beneath, find juicy fruit notes of lemon, lime, white grapefruit, quince, green pear, Granny Smith apple and apple blossom. The fine mousse structure is fairly aggressive and short-lived. It’s an interesting expression and one worth trying. —S.B.

abv: 11.4%

Price: \$26

**86 ebb+flow NV Brut Sparkling Blend (California).** A simple sparkler with notes of lemon,

lime, rose petal, strawberry lemonade and white grape. The palate has just a kiss of sweetness alongside a bodacious bubble structure. —S.B.

abv: 12%

Price: \$19

**86 Mind & Body NV Bubbly Brut Pinot Grigio (California).** A clear, watery hue in the

glass, this sparkling blend of several different white varieties has a large bubbly structure, even visually. The palate brings forth simple flavors of lemon, lime, green apple, citrus blossom and white peach. *Best Buy.* —S.B.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$16

**86 Mind & Body NV Bubbly Rosé (California).**

Extremely pale pink in the glass, this anonymous blend has equally subtle aromas of rose petal, water lily, lychee and white grape. The palate has a touch of sweetness, big, bodacious, frothy mousse structure and a generous acidity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.

abv: 8.5%

Price: \$16

**86 Trentadue NV OPR CA Champagne Colombard (California).** This California sparkling

is made from Colombard grapes using the Charmat (aka “tank”) method of production. A slightly off-dry palate offers notes of lemon, lime and white blossoms up against big, bodacious bubbles. —S.B.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$18

## ROSÉS

**93 Alma Rosa 2022 Vin Gris of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a rosé that shows terroir,

starting with a rocky tone that checks the Pink Lady apple, soft strawberry and citrus pith aromas. The palate balances pink rose petals, soft melon and orange cream flavors, with a lightly minty sensation. —M.K.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$38

**93 Andrew Murray 2022 Esperance Curtis Vineyard Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley).** A very pale

pink in the glass, this rosé entices the nose with riverstone and strawberry cream aromas. There’s a firm, stony grip to the palate, where mellow flavors of melon rely on a vibrant acidity and persistent tension to flow deep into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

# BUYINGGUIDE

**92 Alma Rosa 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Crushed granite and struck match aromas pair well with the pink lemonade scents on the nose of this bottling. The earthy tones of riverstone play against the zippy, pink-fleshed fruit flavors of the palate, with rosewater and melon rind serving as backup. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$35

**92 Koehler 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Sanguis 2020 Insouciance (No. 10) Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is an utterly unique and continually fascinating rosé, beginning with earthy aromas of wet rocks and smashed plums. There's a leathery texture to the palate, where muddled orange peel, yellow apple and warm melon flavors align. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92 Trippers & Askers 2021 Lenient Therapist Donnachadh Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A lightly orange-tinged shade of pink, this rosé of Pinot Noir is very delicate and restrained on the nose, offering light melon alongside damp earth and rock aromas. That rocky element sings more loudly on the palate, providing a mineral edge to the subtle and fresh raspberry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$44

**91 Folded Hills 2022 Lilly Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley).** A beautiful shade of pale pink in the glass, this bottling offers stony aromas of chiseled rock and ash that play against black raspberry, lime peel and white flower on the complex nose. There's a bright acidity to the palate, which cuts through the cherry and banana flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35

**91 Fritz 2022 Estate Rosé (Dry Creek Valley).** A pretty coral-pink in color and nicely flinty, toasty in aroma, this medium-bodied wine blends red cherries and tangy peaches with touches of cinnamon and vanilla. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**91 Le Vigne 2022 Rosé of Sangiovese (Paso Robles).** For a darkly hued rosé, this delivers detailed satisfaction, showing plum, rose petal and strawberry on the nose. The palate offers ample tension, as tangerine pith clings to the juicy berry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$24

**91 Loubud 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This bottling offers a vivid nose of orange cream, banana and pink fruit. There is a focused grip to the palate, where earthy elements give edge to the strawberry and mandarin flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91 Michael David 2022 Rosé (Lodi).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Ridge 2022 Lytton Estate Rosé (Dry Creek Valley).** This subtle, dry, almost steely wine made from mostly Grenache and Zinfandel is pale salmon in color and tastes crisp, clean and palate-cleansing. Flavors like white raspberries and wild strawberries are backed by refreshing acidity for great balance. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Cline 2022 Mourvèdre-Rosé (Contra Costa County).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**89 Hogwash 2022 Rosé (California).** A super pale pink in the glass, this rosé, which consists of 60% Grenache and 40% Verdelho, has light-intensity aromas and flavors of white strawberries, chamomile flowers, lime zest and lime leaf, white nectarine and water lilies. Delicate, but certainly not boring and versatile enough to enjoy on its own or a variety of lighter fare. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

**89 ONX 2022 Indie Rosé (Paso Robles).** A yellowish pink in the glass, this bottling is quite exuberant on the nose with watermelon candy and bubblegum aromas. The palate shows cantaloupe and orange rind flavors woven through a slightly viscous texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$22

**89 Peltier 2022 Rosé of Lewis Vineyard Pinot Noir (Lodi).** This is a really fun rosé that simultaneously provides a plush mouthfeel with elevated citrusy fruits that add a vivacious acidity from start to finish. Enjoy notes of lime zest and juice, strawberry, pink grapefruit, rose water, watermelon and just-ripe red cherry. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Picayune 2022 Hay Penny-Rosé of Syrah (Sierra Foothills).** The pure juicy-fruitiness of this wine gives the illusion of some sweetness. Passionfruit, orange, guava, peach purée, apricot skins, just-ripe pineapple and a touch of mango entice the nose and make the mouth water. Made from 100% Syrah grapes, this rosé is interesting, engaging and just pure fun. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Rabble 2022 Rosé (Paso Robles).** A dark hue in the glass, this bottling with an augmented reality label offers clean aromas of maraschino cherry and pomegranate juice. The palate's chalky, pithy frame gives depth to the dark and rounded cherry flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Seagrape 2022 Hibbits Ranch Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Gris (Sta. Rita Hills).** A beautiful shade of nearly fuchsia pink, this is a rich rosé, showing intense aroma of cherry syrup and straw-

berry candy on the nose. The palate takes a more mellow approach, offering red apple and mellow berry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$30

**89 Terratorium 2022 Starfield Vineyard-Rosé of Grenache (El Dorado).** A genuine, honest pink in the glass, this fully dry rosé is a bit shy on the nose, but opens up to a palate with a beautiful array of flavors: mandarin orange zest and pith, white grapefruit, peach skin, chamomile flowers and baby's breath and white pepper floral and spice notes. High acid provides continuous energy; a slight phenolic grip adds structural intrigue. Enjoy on its own or play around with a variety of different food pairings. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$26

**88 Arrowsmith 2022 Ballerina Rosé (Santa Maria Valley).** A pale, yellowish hue in the glass, this rosé of Pinot Noir from Rancho Real offers fresh and crisp peach blossom, lime peel and melon flesh aromas. The palate lands with a chalky tension that flattens out quickly, showing citrus and melon flavors, with a tart finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$30

**88 Bokisch 2022 Terra Alta Vineyard Rosado (Clements Hills).** This blend of 68% Garnacha, 32% Graciano and 10% Tempranillo has a fuller, rounder body and mouthfeel than many modern rosés, which will appeal to those who enjoy a rosé wine pairing with heartier fare (think burgers, BBQ wings, short ribs). Aromas and flavors of white chocolate, perfectly ripe red strawberries, Bing cherry, red apple, dewy grass, nasturtium leaf, citrus blossom and orange zest. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Carol Shelton 2022 Wild Thing Rendezvous Rosé (Mendocino).** Two days on the skins give this rosé a deep fuchsia hue in the glass. Initial aromas are of fresh raspberry, strawberry and watermelon with flavors opening further to mandarin orange zest and wildflower. The palate, with its stingy acidity, has a slight effervescence that adds an additional lift and liveliness. With a medium body, this wine will pair well with a plethora of dishes. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$19

**88 Castello di Amorosa 2022 Rosato Cresta D'Oro Vineyard Rosé (Green Valley).** A straightforward, light-bodied wine, this pale pink pour exudes strawberries and red cherries backed by a nice tang of acidity, so it's refreshing and quaffable. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**88 E16 2022 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard-Rosé of Barbera (Fair Play).** A vibrant fuchsia in the glass, initial aromas are of strawberries, damp, dewy grass, rhubarb and dried rose petals. The palate confirms, with additional notes of white chocolate and red apple. There's a good dose of acidity,



lending to vivacity; a hint of phenolic grip adds a balanced bitterness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$32

**88 ebb+flow 2022 Rosé (California).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$16

**88 Ehlers Estate 2022 Sylviane Rosé (St. Helena).** This fragrant, fruity and light-bodied wine made from red Bordeaux grape varieties conjures up watermelon slices and sweet cherries on a slightly tangy texture that feels sweet on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$38

**88 Grounded Wine Co. 2022 Space Age Rosé (California).** Fun, fruity aromas greet the nose—orange peel, just-ripe white strawberry, watermelon juice, pink grapefruit. The palate opens further to notes of just-ripe apricot and a hint of floral perfume. This pale-pink rosé is a light, easy sipper. A well-balanced simple pleasure. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**88 Hungry Hawk 2022 Rosé (San Diego County).** A dark, nearly fuchsia hue in the glass, this Sangiovese-based rosé offers earthy aromas of dried rose, sumac, raspberry and dust on the nose. Tart raspberry flavors complement the earthy core of the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$36

**88 Lava Cap 2022 Estate Bottled, Rosé of Dolcetto (El Dorado).** Initial aromas are quite perfumey with floral notes with flavors opening up to more fruity tones of strawberry, raspberry, watermelon, pink grapefruit as well as lime leaf. A little effervescence gives a nice spritz of life to the palate, along with its elevated acidity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$24

**88 Open Skies 2021 Rosé (California).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

**88 Parrish Family 2022 Rosé (Paso Robles Estrella District).** This is a very ripe style of rosé, packed on the nose with peach and candied banana aromas. The palate is also very generous with tropical and rich stonefruit flavors, balanced by a stony grip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.95% **Price:** \$30

**88 Peltier 2022 Rosé of Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Clements Hills).** A medium-bodied rosé that hits all the classic marks with notes of red and white strawberries and cherries, watermelon, water lily, cut grass, pink grapefruit zest and a hint of white chocolate. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Blue Victorian Winery 2021 Rosé (Suisun Valley).** A very light-intensity rosé offering aromas and flavors of strawberry, fresh and dried

cranberries and potpourri. Best enjoyed on its own. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$42

**87 BonAnno 2022 Matthew Fritz Rosé (Sonoma Coast).** A noticeable flinty aroma take this wine out of the fruity category and into a mineral and earth zone in terms of flavor. It's dry, restrained and appropriately crisp. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Clif Family 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Mendocino County).** This super pale pink rosé of Grenache offers quiet aromas of potpourri, strawberry, cranberry, watermelon, grass and white peach. A fizzy effervescence gives the palate some vivacity and certainly a refreshing quality. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$30

**87 Dreaming Tree 2021 Rosé (California).** Pale salmon in the glass, this moderately aromatic rosé offers notes of orange pith and zest, yellow peach and peach fuzz, apricot and strawberry. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87 Lorenzi Estate 2022 M Rosé of Malbec (Temecula Valley).** A dark, plummy color in the glass, this bottling smells of damp earth, dried fruits and hibiscus tea on the nose. The palate is also quite earthy and also herbal, with thyme, oregano and licorice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**86 Fresh Vine 2021 Rosé (California).** A cute ballet slipper pink in the glass, this fully dry rosé has subtle notes of white raspberries and strawberries; chamomile flower, underripe peach and crispy biscuit. High acid gives the wine a much needed energy; a slight phenolic grip adds just a hint of bitterness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86 Starfield 2022 Rosé of Syrah (El Dorado).** Though light in body, this wine has extremely ripe notes of strawberry, raspberry and red apple filling out the aromatic and flavor profile. With a modest level of acidity, it's a fairly linear ride toward the solid finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$32

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**97 Cathiard Vineyard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Extraordinary and opulent, this densely concentrated, luxuriously textured flagship Napa wine by Florence and Daniel Cathiard of Bordeaux is their first vintage from the former Flora Springs property. The wine is softly saturated with black currants, blueberries, spearmint and black olives for a comforting, mouthfilling expression that is at once powerful and gentle. It feels layered, deep and creamy. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$395

**97 Hess Collection 2019 The Lion Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** This beautiful, deep and layered wine grown on the Hess-Persson family's mountaintop property is creamy but structured, bold but nuanced and ready to either drink now or hold for quite a while. Ripe, spicy intricate aromas of blueberries, mocha, cinnamon and cream lead to a velvety mouthful of dark fruits, mint and cafe au lait as silky tannins carry it through a lingering finish. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$225

**97 Newton 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$210

**96 Burgess 2016 Sorenson's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Generous, spicy and warm, this wine begs to be consumed now but has the stuffing for midterm aging as well. Enticing mint, cedar and potpourri aromas lead to rich, inviting dark plums and black currants on the palate, where ample soft tannins lend a velvety texture. Best through 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$175

**96 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Beatty Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$175

**96 Louis M. Martini 2019 Lot No. 1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$250

**96 Majuscule 2019 Barrel Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Savory notes of black olives and bay leaves lend a nice complexity to the ripe, indulgent black fruits, mint and cedar in this full-bodied but smooth wine. With time in the glass, intricate oak spices emerge. Generous and resolved tannins add a welcome grip to the texture. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$150

**95 Anderson Conn Valley 2018 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Plenty of toasted oak dresses this full-bodied wine in style, meeting extremely concentrated black-fruit flavors and firm, fine-grained tannins on the palate. While spicy, chocolaty and tempting, this unfiltered and unfiltered wine was meant for further aging. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$100

**95 Black Stallion 2020 Gaspare Vineyard Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District).** For full review see page 4.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

**95 Black Stallion 2020 Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**95 Burgess 2017 Contadina Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This classically styled Napa Cabernet is big but balanced, offering savory black olive and bay leaf aromas that lead to potent, tasty black currant, mint and blueberry flavors. Silky, bracing tannins support the complex flavors, lending elegance and age-worthiness. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$70

**95 Darioush 2019 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$125

**95 Duckhorn 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** This beautifully polished and subtly spicy wine is irresistible from the first whiff of cocoa and spiced blueberries to the luxurious palate of dark chocolate and dusky black plums on fine-grained tannins. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$105

**95 Duckhorn 2019 Rector Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Deep, relaxed and gentle, this nevertheless powerful wine is saturated in superripe blueberries, black currants and black cherries accented by subtle oak spices. Abundant soft tannins comfort the palate while generous fruit fills the mouth and echoes on the finish. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$105

**95 Lewis 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$120

**95 Majuscule 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**95 Newton 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$210

**95 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 V Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$115

**94 Calla Lily 2019 Ultimate Red Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This rich but silky wine offers nicely integrated flavors of red and black cherries, cinnamon, cloves and espresso crema on fine-grained tannins that lift the flavors without drying them. It is flavorful, mouthfilling and nicely polished. Best from 2026–2036. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**94 Far Niente 2021 Post & Beam Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**94 Fiadh Ruadh 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags' Leap District).** This deep and potent wine is infused with an almost surreal intensity of black fruits, dark chocolate, graphite and black figs, while fine-grained tannins weave a gentle blanket to soften the palate impression. Aged in all-new Taransaud barrels, it needs time to reach full drinkability and complexity. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$225

**94 Gelson's 2020 Single Vineyard Epicure Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$80

**94 Gelson's 2019 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**94 Grgich Hills 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Black cherries, black olives, currants and a touch of black pepper come with firm tannins and a hearty, grippy mouthfeel in this full-bodied, classically styled wine. The wine has a heritage aura, like a great Cabernet from the 1980s, and will no doubt age well through at least 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**94 Heitz 2017 Martha's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** This is an agile, muscular wine built on nervy acidity and braced with tannins that enliven red cherries, raspberries, smoky tea and hints of sage and cedar. Not too full in body, the wine maintains an elegant, lively texture. Best from 2026–2040. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$325

**94 Louis M. Martini 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50

**94 Pride Mountain 2020 Vintner Select Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Firmly structured and nicely saturated with black fruit flavors, this wine shows a quiet strength in its firm tannins, deep black cherry and black currant flavors and layered integration of mint, chocolate and cedar nuances. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$102

**94 Ramey 2017 Annum Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This elegant, textbook Cabernet Sauvignon is blended with 10% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. It does not overpower with ripeness but satisfies with a great blend of fruity, herbal and oaky influences on a medium body with velvety, bracing tannins. Aromas of black cherries, black olives and grilled herbs lead to complex savory-fruity flavors. Best through 2033. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**94 Stags' Leap Winery 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A deep, brawny character in this full-bodied wine is nicely tempered

by polished tannins and complex flavors. Aromas of toasted oak, blackberries and grilled sage lead to blackberry, blueberry and black olive flavors that are shaded by cocoa, espresso and sage notes. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**94 Stags' Leap Winery 2019 Audentia Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Nicely concentrated, deep and dark, this full-bodied and richly tannic wine coats the palate with blackberries, cocoa and blueberry syrup flavors. The mouthfeel is broad and thick, the tannins are many but soft and the finish is lingering. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$200

**94 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Las Flores Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$85

**93 Addendum 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags' Leap District).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$135

**93 Addendum 2019 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$135

**93 Addendum 2019 The Hills Block 6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Brawny and powerful, this full-bodied wine aged in 83% new French oak barrels wraps firm tannins around red and black cherries, black currants and oak spices like cinnamon, wood char and cedar. It is big, mouthfilling and in no hurry to be consumed. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$120

**93 Broken Earth 2019 CV Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dense strawberry compote, roasted meat and herbal licorice aromas made for a heady nose on this reserve bottling. The palate is lush and dark with baked berry sauce flavors that are enhanced by peppery spices and dark chocolate, with a plummy element that lingers long. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**93 Burtech Family 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This luxurious wine offers luscious fruit flavors on a velvety texture, as fine-grained tannins integrate with well-ripened black fruits and oak accents of vanilla, mint and cream. The mouthfeel is smooth and broad yet balanced by the subtle tannins. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$105

**93 Charles Krug 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Mouthfilling, soft and deep, this full-bodied wine has a very smooth touch that guides dried cherry and plum flavors, espresso and dark chocolate. It feels creamy, tastes fruit-

saturated and is laced with gentle tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$41

**93 Charles Krug 2019 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** From an inky-dark color to intense black-fruit aromas to mouthcoating blueberry and dark chocolate flavors, this concentrated and polished wine is a showstopper. Layers of soft, fine-grained tannins support the deep, dried-fruit flavors and generous, cocoa-laced oak accents. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$160

**93 Duckhorn 2019 Three Palms Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A peppery, earthy accent leads to deep, concentrated black cherries, black olives and road tar impressions in this full-bodied, and appropriately tannic wine. It has good stuffing for midterm aging. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$105

**93 Girard 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Well-built and deep in flavor, this full-bodied wine is a great value for a Napa Cab. Blended with 5% each of Petit Verdot and Malbec, plus 2% each of Cabernet Franc and Merlot, it shows a calm strength and emerging complexity. The wine blankets deep, dark violet and black currant flavors in fine-grained tannins that could use time to soften a bit. Best from 2026–2036. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$35

**93 Heitz 2018 Lot C-91 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This robust, well-structured wine hugs tasty black cherries, black olives and charcoal flavors in firm tannins and will certainly improve and expand with time. Meaty, black peppery accents join with the herbs and black fruits for a complex, concentrated expression. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$120

**93 Ink Grade 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** This powerful yet velvety wine overflows with black cherries, blueberries, clove and mint flavors on a bed of superfine tannins that keep it soft on the palate yet provide good structure for more aging. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$195

**93 Louis M. Martini 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$150

**93 Louis M. Martini 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$150

**93 Merryvale 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Deep, dark fruit flavors, milk chocolate and mint join in to give this rich and full-bodied wine a mouthfilling presence. Velvety tannins coat the palate and support the delicious, almost-sweet fruit and spice flavors. It contains 17% Cabernet

Franc and small amounts of Petit Verdot and Malbec. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

**93 Newton 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** This tightly wound and firmly tannic mountain-grown wine needs lots of time to mellow for good drinking. The sandy tannins and rather tart, tight blackberry and cranberry flavors give it plenty of grip on the palate and will preserve it while aging further. Best from 2029. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$210

**93 Neyers 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$65

**93 Neyers 2019 Neyers Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$85

**93 Postmark 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**93 Sandiha 2019 Platinum Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** This rich, seamless and saturated wine pours out dark chocolate, blueberries, cocoa and blackberries on a velvety texture of massive but soft tannins. Kept in a cool storage location, it will certainly open up to reveal even more complexity. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$125

**93 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$80

**92 Anderson Conn Valley 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Cocoa, espresso and wood char aromas lead to similar dark and toasted flavors as the firm tannins of this full-bodied wine hold it tightly in terms of texture. Solidly built, the wine doesn't let much fruit flavor show through the oak and tannins at this stage of its aging. Best from 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$69

**92 Barton 2020 The Dance Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Inky and dense in the glass, this six-barrel bottling begins with aromas of dark red fruit, cocoa and dried beef on the nose. The palate's flavors of blackberry sauce, grilled beef and cracked pepper are polished and ride a lingering acidity into the savory finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

**92 Clay Shannon 2020 The Barkley Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** For full review see page 13.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**92 Clif Family 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District).** This figgy, funky wine is so concentrated that it needs time to breathe. Decant

it first and then enjoy the massive black fig, black olive flavors and shaping tannins that go deep and focused on the palate. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$100

**92 Gelson's 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 15.3% Price: \$35

**92 Gelson's 2019 Single Vineyard Epicure Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

**92 Goldschmidt 2021 Yardstick Ruth's Reach Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

**92 Grgich Hills 2019 Old Vine Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** Dark, ripe, almost thick, this plush and chocolaty wine coats the palate with dried figs, charred oak, cocoa, dark plums and mint, as a thick layer of soft tannins wraps around them all. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$225

**92 Grounded Wine Co. 2021 Steady State Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Great balance, nervy acidity and firm tannins bode well for lots of enjoyment after this wine has matured. Classic Cabernet flavors of black cherries, black olives and dried herbs are delicious on a lively, grippy texture. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**92 Heitz 2017 Linda Falls Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Rich black fruits, mint, velvety tannins and a seamless texture add up to great polish and balance in this full-bodied but sleek and elegant wine. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$175

**92 Method 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**92 MJA Vineyards 2019 Serene Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).** Pure fruit flavors light up this bold wine, from red and black cherries to plump blueberries that emerge in the aroma and last all the way through the lingering finish. Mild tannins and high ripeness make it smooth and broad in texture. —J.G.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$135

**92 Neyers 2020 AME Neyers Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$135

**92 Peltier 2016 Schatz Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Clements Hills).** A decadently appetizing Cabernet Sauvignon with notes of caramelized Mission fig, roasted pecans, fresh blackberries and plums, violet, lavender and an earthy forest floor. Tannins are soft, plush and well-met by



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the elevated acidity that also works to elevate those fresh fruit flavors. The finish invites another sip. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Precision Wine 2020 Navigator Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Round Pond 2021 Kith & Kin Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Big and rich, this deeply saturated and mouthfilling wine overflows with ripe, plump blueberries, black currants and black cherries accented with mint and dark chocolate. It's delicious enough to drink young. Best from 2027. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**92 The Vice 2020 Batch #95 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Potent black fruits, a big structure and full body make this wine imposing and concentrated. Firm tannins lift the black cherries, black currants and cedar flavors, giving it good aging potential. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$79

**92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Alexander Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This fruity, creamy, almost-sweet wine overflows with late-picked plums, dried blueberries and cappuccino flavors while rather mild tannins and soft acidity lend a melted mouthfeel. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$135

**92 William Hill Estate 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 16.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

**91 Addendum 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Opulent, late-picked blackberry flavors drive this full-bodied and warmly tannic wine while it adds in spiced plum and dark chocolate on a creamy texture of melted tannins. Soft and smooth in mouthfeel, it's a pleasure to drink now–2033. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$90

**91 Davies Vineyard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Bright red cherry and cranberry aromas belie the super rich, chocolaty flavors to follow in this full-bodied, soft and plush wine. So rich it could be a Port, the wine will be best after dinner. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$70

**91 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Estrella District).** Black cherry, savory meat and strong woodsmoke aromas of hickory pull the nose into this bottling. The palate is very oak-driven but quite comforting, combining bold, rich red fruits with a firm texture that stays out of the way. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$58

**91 Emery 2020 Culver Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).**

Smoked meat and dark red berry aromas meet with pepper and oregano on the herb-scented nose of this bottling. Firm tannins frame a ripe palate of baked strawberry and more herb, served atop a viscous mouthfeel. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$55

**91 Grey Wolf Cellars 2020 Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dense and dark roasted fruit aromas are spiced by pepper and marjoram on the lush nose of this bottling. Likable flavors of strawberry and cherry compote make for an accessible palate, with light spicecake and peppercorn elements adding depth. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$55

**91 Heath Vineyards 2020 Liberation Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Pleasantly subtle aromas of red fruit, roasted meat and wood oil entertain the nose on this bottling. The palate mixes floral and fruit flavors with ample baking spice, pushing into a leathery grip on the finish. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$105

**91 Heitz 2017 Trailside Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Hearty and full-bodied, this black cherry and blackberry-scented wine is braced by moderate tannins and good acidity for a sense of freshness despite its big size. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$175

**91 Miraflores 2019 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (El Dorado).** This is a fun, friendly Cab that's easy to enjoy any day of the week. Find notes of black currant, black cherry, plum and berry, capsicum, fennel, clove, tarragon and nutmeg complemented by a palate filled with plushy tannins. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**91 Octopoda 2021 Octopoda Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 18.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Peltier 2017 Schatz Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Clements Hills).** Initial aromas are of caramelized pecans, blackberry and boysenberry jam. The palate opens up further to flavors of tarragon, fennel, black currant, currant leaf and lightly toasted wood. Oak integration is spot-on, allowing the fruit to take center stage and simply uplifting and complementing those characteristics. Firm tannins are well-met by elevated acidity and the concentration of flavors. —S.B.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**91 Precision Wine 2021 Classified Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 18.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Precision Wine 2021 Timeline Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This wine shows tight and concentrated black cherry, blueberry and cocoa flavors wrapped in firm, grippy tannins on a full body. With its good concentration, the wine should

develop complexity with time. Best from 2026. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 1906 Vintners 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Chalky tannins coat the mouth of this Cabernet Sauvignon that includes 12% Petite Sirah in the mix. Yet, there's a driving line of acidity that keeps those tannins in check, elevating the aromas and flavors. Find notes of crushed violets, black cherry, black currant, bramble, currant leaf, cedar and leather. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Burtech Family 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Toasty, flinty aromas and bold black-fruit flavors give this wine a vivid, robust expression as firm tannins back up the black cherries, blackberries and oak char notes. Best from 2026. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$68

**90 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Baked blackberry and black pepper aromas are dusted with a pinch of cocoa on the nose of this bottling. Bittersweet chocolate and ripe blackberry sauce flavors are framed by tannins that grow sticky on the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**90 Héroe 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This bottling honors the vineyard workers, and is made in a lighter style that would certainly pair better with Mexican cuisine than most California Cabs. Aromas of zesty red fruit, cracked pepper and sandalwood lead from the nose to a chalky palate of cherry candy and cinnamon. The tannins linger long. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$28

**90 High Valley Vineyard 2020 High Valley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** An approachable Cab Sauv that's easy to enjoy any day of the week with vibrant fruit notes of black currant, plum and cherry alongside complementary spices of cacao, nutmeg and anise. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Lava Cap 2020 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (El Dorado).** There's an approachable complexity to this Cabernet Sauvignon that layers rich, ripe black fruits with earthy and herbaceous notes as well. Tannins are firm, grippy, adding a balanced structural integrity while the linear acidity leads to a clean finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 Meadow View 2019 Isabelle's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Lamorinda).** There's an overarching green, herbal quality to this wine that some will find quite appetizing. Surrounding that are additional notes of black plum, prune, raisin, roasted coffee, licorice and farmyard. The coarse tannic structure adds heft and weight, balanced by a bright acidity. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Peltier 2017 Schatz Family Reserve-Coyote Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Clemons Hills).** This is a well-balanced, engaging and fun Cabernet Sauvignon. Bright fruits of red and black plum, cherry and currant are uplifted by well-integrated alcohol and complemented by deft use of oak. Additional notes include star anise, fennel, menthol, with a finish that lingers with floral black pepper and potpourri. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**90 Sanguis 2018 Songs Without Words Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is a lighter take on Cab, starting with lighter aromas of strawberry and toasted herb on the nose. The baked red fruit flavors of the palate are spiced up by salt and cracked pepper elements, as marjoram and rising tannins add to the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$125

**90 The Vice 2021 Batch #110 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Rich, warm flavors and a generous texture make this wine easy to enjoy, starting with subtle balsam, leather and dark plum aromas, then showing cooked black cherries and raspberries on the palate along with subtle earthy, oaky spices. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Z. Alexander Brown 2021 Uncaged Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 26. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Amulet 2021 75 Feliz Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino).** This Cab Sauv out of Mendocino County has great depth of flavor, without being too hoity-toity about it. Fresh fruits of black currant, blackberry, black plum and plum skins are balanced by subtle oak tones and herbaceous fennel and capsicum. Added bonus: The price tag is just as friendly and approachable as the wine itself. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**89 Backstage Winery 2019 Vibrato Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Baking spices and chocolate in the aromas and flavors give this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine an after-dinner flair, as black cherries and blackberries have an almost jammy effect. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$145

**89 Concrete 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** An overall balanced and enjoyable Cab Sauv with initial aromas of black cherry and chocolate, boysenberry, violets and deep red rose petals and cedar plank. The palate opens further to notes of black plum, fig and a bit of sweet tobacco. It's a full-bodied wine with generous alcohol, so pair with something just as robust and hearty. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$23

**89 Cuda Ridge 2020 Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** A fruity Cab Sauv with a soft tannic texture and gentle spices—yes, please. The Cuda Ridge Black Label emits beau-

tiful aromas and flavors of black plum, blueberry, chocolate, licorice and boysenberry jam with subtle notes of clove, nutmeg and cedar wood. Altogether, it's well-balanced and an easy wine to enjoy. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$42

**89 Flanagan 2020 Beauty of Three Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** A well-balanced, ripe expression of Cabernet Sauvignon with voluptuous fruit notes of blackberry, blueberry, black currant and plum that are almost jammy in nature. That ripeness is well-met by the plushy tannic texture and integrated alcohol. This is a food-friendly wine that could easily pair with any weeknight dish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**89 Lorimar 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This is what I like to call a “Tuesday Cab”—a medium- to full-bodied red that's all-around friendly, approachable and easy to sip. Notes of black plum, black currant, capsicum, cacao and tobacco are supported by a firm tannic structure and a balanced level of acidity. Pair this wine with any casual cuisine any day of the week. (Like Tuesday.) —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$62

**89 No Name Road 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** Initial aromas are quite spicity, conjuring up thoughts of brandy caramel. But the palate moves on with notes of black cherry and plum, plum skins, toasted wood, anise, tobacco and just a hint of appetizing smokiness. Structurally the wine offers a full mouth of dusty tannins, moderate acidity and a solid finish. Lovers of bigger, bolder Zins will quite enjoy. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Peltier 2018 Estate-Coyote Creek Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Oak leads the conversation of this Petite Sirah, which incorporates small percentages of Petite Sirah, Teroldego and Zinfandel in the mix. Notes of cut wood, cedar and baking spice overlay the fresh fruit elements of stewed black plum, blackberry compote and black currant. Firm, grippy tannins coat the mouth; a moderate acidity adds just enough lift. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Plata Wine Partners 2020 True Oak Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District).** Generous, ripe, almost-sweet fruit flavors and a lively, somewhat tannic texture make this wine a good choice for parties, even slightly chilled for warm-weather events. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$45

**89 Precision Wine 2021 Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Nicely fruity and handsomely oaked, this smooth and well-balanced wine is pleasant to sip, offering medium concentration, rather soft tannins and good black fruit flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Precision Wine 2020 Method Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** An easy Cabernet Sauvignon to enjoy, with notes of black currant and currant leaf, bramble, black plum, blackberry, tree bark, dried eucalyptus, chocolate, vanilla, violets, licorice and cinnamon. Includes 10% Petit Verdot. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Summerland 2020 Small Lot Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark, slightly reductive aromas of charcoal, woodspice and compact flowers show on the nose of this bottling. There is ample woodsmoke and pepper on the palate, where a rich berry flavor forms the core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$49

**89 Windstorm 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A well-balanced Cab that integrates 15% Petite Sirah in the mix. Find aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, cacao, coffee and capsicum. Firm tannins offer a solid foundation and framework, while the acidity adds a balanced freshness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Addendum 2019 Skellenger Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** This well-structured, straightforward wine offers good dark plum and black cherry flavors on a grippy, moderately tannic texture. It is full-bodied and ready to pair with grills and roasts. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$120

**88 ALDI 2021 Bear Bros. Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 27. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**88 Backstage Winery 2019 Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Smoky, grilled veggies and black pepper aromas lead to heavily toasted, roasted flavors of black olives, dried plums and star anise in this full-bodied, oaky and fully tannic wine. It's a rustic adolescent that may or may not mellow with time. Best from 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$125

**88 Barrel Burner 2021 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Loamy earth, peppery herb and dark cherry aromas meet on the nose of this bottling. The bourbon barrel aging impact is apparent but moderated on the palate, where blackberry and toasted oak flavors align. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$15

**88 Calculated 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A bargain California Cab that incorporates 15% Petite Sirah. A bit shy on the nose, the palate offers more vivacity with notes of black plum, cherry, currant, raisin, prune and charred wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**88 Dancing Crow 2021 Old Stake 1901 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County).** This Cab Sauv is

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a bit “green,” with an overarching capsicum flavor that some (myself included) will find quite appetizing. There’s a robustness to the palate with its high level of mouthcoating tannins and modest acidity. A bit of dusty earth and wood flavors add a bit of intrigue while fruit tones remain subtly present. —S.B.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88 Defiance 2019 Estate Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Tart blackberry aromas are dusted in wild thyme and fennel on the nose of this bottling. The anise character meets with sour red fruits on the herbal palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

**88 Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Ezio Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling offers dried strawberry, smoke and leather aromas on the nose. Smoked meat and tart, dried red fruit flavors show on the palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$40

**88 Four Vines 2021 The Kinker Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** A strong scent of leather meets with dark fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate is framed by fine tannins that contain the black plum flavors, which grow toward sweetness in the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Lava Cap 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills).** Though not as outgoing as the 2020, Lava Cap’s 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon is still approachable and tasty. A bit shy on the nose, the palate opens up to blackberry, blueberry, prune, raisin and just a hint of toasted wood. Coarse tannins grip the palate while a moderate level of acidity does just enough to keep some vibrancy. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

**88 Clockwise 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).** A strong cedar and menthol character takes over the aromas and flavors of this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. The texture is bracing and grippy, holding fruit flavors in check. Time may mellow it, so best from 2026. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$78

**88 Precision Wine 2020 District Series Edition No.1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Generous, rich and rounded, this wine fills the mouth with late-picked cherries, strawberries and milk chocolate for an almost sweet effect, as a high ABV and soft tannins add to its lavish impression. —J.G.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**88 Precision Wine 2020 Stipulation Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** This smooth and soft wine is layered in blueberries, milk chocolate and blackberry jam on an easy texture. Medium tannins are softened by a sweetness from the ripe fruit and cocoa impressions. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**88 Prototype 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** An overall balanced California Cab offering coarse, grippy tannins alongside a balanced dose of acidity. Aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, coffee, cacao, violet and bramble are fairly simple, making it an easy-sipper. Includes 15% Petite Sirah. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

**87 Backstage Winery 2019 Encore Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Mineral and iron notes dominate this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine from the aroma through the flavor and finish. Black pepper, charcoal and black olive give it a rustic palate. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$135

**87 Bianchi 2019 Signature Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Candied boysenberry, purple flower and earthy herb flavors show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe and approaching sweet, with blackberry and warm baking spice flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$37

**87 Francis Ford Coppola 2020 Claret-Diamond Collection-Black Label Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A simple red with straightforward notes of black plum, black cherry, chocolate, licorice and vanilla. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Gearbox 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A simple Cab with notes of violet, black plum, prune, tarragon, cumin, coriander and a smoky-bacon aura that coats it all. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Gearbox 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This Cab Sauv includes 15% Petite Sirah in the mix. Aromas of black cherry, chocolate, coffee, black plum, plum skin, black pepper, bramble, raisin and prune follow through into the flavor profile alongside cottony tannins and lead to a short finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Nella Terra 2021 Casa De Viñas Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** A simple Cabernet Sauvignon with straightforward aromas and flavors. There’s some fresh and dried raspberry, red and black plum, toasted wood and desert floor. Aged in new French oak for 10 months. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$52

**87 Nine North Wine Company 2021 Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Bursting with overripe black currant, black cherry and plum with big hits of vanilla and oaky notes, this is a simple, drink-me-now Cab Sauv. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Replica 2020 Just Right Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This Cab Sauv incorporates 14% Petit Sirah and 10% Carignan into the mix, and there’s a bit of a confectionary tone that over-

rides both the aromatic and flavor profile. Notes of violets, roses, red and black plum, red and black cherry, vanilla and black pepper. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25

**87 Rise + Fall 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dried berry, dusty herb, smoldering peat and smashed graphite aromas make for a layered nose on the bottling. The palate is rustic in style, offering more berry and herb flavors as well as dark cocoa. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**87 Séance 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A balanced, simple, easy-to-drink red with notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, rose, violet and milk chocolate. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Stave & Steel 2020 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Wine aged in Bourbon Barrel will always have an assertive overlying flavor and aroma. Here, it’s a woody cologne creating that aura—some will love it and some may find it a bit intense as it takes the center stage away from the varietal character. For those who love it, pair with good old-fashioned pub fare. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Wellsley Farms 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dried blackberry, oregano and earthy dried meat aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There’s a sharp and tart kick to the palate, where slightly bitter fruits are leveled by woodspice flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$10

**86 Avalon 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** 50% Cab Sauv with 25% Petite Sirah and 25% Petit Verdot in the mix makes for an approachable, casual red. Balanced flavors of blackberry jam, black cherry compote, black currant, capsicum and dried rose petal. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Nine North Wine Company 2021 Chasing Lions Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Oak tones dominate the aromas and flavors of this Cab Sauv that has just subtle hints of black fruits in the background. The palate offers scratchy tannins, modest acidity and short finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Plata Wine Partners 2020 Smith & Elliott Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This is a good, basic Cabernet with modest fruit flavors, rather heavy oak spices and medium tannins. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**86 Sandiha 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** The pruney, jammy flavors of this mouthfilling, moderately tannic wine give it a soft and mature impression. Ready to drink. —J.G.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$150



**86 Slow Press 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** A simple Cab Sauv with an overarching aroma and flavor of capsicum and oak, with just subtle black and blue fruit notes. The palate brings on a full mouth of aggressive tannins and moderate acidity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**86 The Introvert 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This Cab Sauv includes 15% Petite Sirah in the mix and is, indeed, a bit introverted with very light intensity of aromas and flavors: black plum, cherry, currant and pepper and just a touch of cut wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$12

**86 Thievery 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A semisweet Cab Sauv with notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, blueberry, licorice, fennel and an aura of smoky bacon. —S.B.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$35

**85 Backstage Winery 2019 Soprano Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Very toasty, cedary aromas lead to dried fruit and roasted nut flavors. Raspberry vinegar and sweet balsamic notes highlight the flavors. —J.G.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$135

**85 Heron 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A simple Cab Sauv with notes of red cherry, raspberry, wild strawberry, black pepper, red hot cinnamon candy and an overriding smokiness. —S.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**84 Avensole 2019 Lytton Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley).** A light shade in the glass, this bottling is very tart on the nose with sour cherry and roasted tomato aromas as well as some damp herbs. The palate is tart and tangy, with the sharp edges rounded slightly by a licorice spice. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

**84 Frey 2021 Organic Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** An extremely simple and light-intensity Cab Sauv with straightforward notes of red cherry, red currant, blueberry, licorice and cinnamon—all with a kind of confectionary quality to it. —S.B.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$19

## PINOT NOIR

**97 Roar 2021 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 3.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$80

**95 Roar 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Juicy black cherry and boysenberry aromas are generous on the nose of this single vineyard expression, with waves of wet soil and crushed slate adding a mineral nuance. The lush palate of Luxardo cherry and a spice rack of fla-

vors is wrapped in grippy tannins that elevate this wine to the upper echelon. —M.K.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$75

**95 Wrath 2021 KW Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 6.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$49

**94 Casa Martinez 2018 Camila Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This big, generously spiced wine shades its powerful core of black cherries and black currants with cedar, cloves and cinnamon from oak aging. A full body, fine-grained tannins and a dash of acidity give it great structure. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

**94 Folktales 2021 Whole Cluster Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A beautiful hue in the glass, this bottling uses whole-cluster fermentation to lock in color, provide texture and add ample sensory layers. That starts on the nose, where boysenberry, bay leaf, and thyme aromas flow into a palate that's joyous in raspberry, lavender and rose petal flavors yet wrapped in a chalky grip. —M.K.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$75

**94 Lumen 2019 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A beautiful hue in the glass, this bottling from a historic property is lush and open on the nose, offering baked plum, strawberry and cinnamon aromas. Lovely layers of cherry sorbet and mace are cut by a citrus peel edge and just enough tannic structure on the palate. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$75

**94 Native 9 2018 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** A dark, plummy color in the glass, this wine sings with seaweed iodine, muddled olive and bay leaf aromas on the unique nose. Leathery tannins wrap around the palate, where a core of red fruit is layered in kalamata olive and za'atar spice flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$75

**94 Roar 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This appellation blend is just as hedonistically delicious as many of the Franscioni family's single-vineyard bottlings. Round aromas of black cherry, French toast spice and loamy earth lead from the nose into a boldly ripe palate of berry pie flavors. A shale-like minerality forms a rocky tension that keeps it all in balance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

**94 Roar 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** If seeking out a flavorful, attention-commanding Pinot Noir, this is a satisfying choice, starting with baked black cherry and a spice rack of aromas on the nose. There's a chalky texture that wraps around the undeniably ripe flavors of black cherry, black plum and rich spices on the unctuous palate. —M.K.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$75

**94 Trippers & Askers 2021 Though Stars Walk Backward Donnachadh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 12.6% Price: \$56

**94 Trippers & Askers 2020 Bibulous of the Sea of Light Donnachadh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Beautifully precise aromas of raspberry, fennel pollen, scarlet rose petals and light dust entertain the nose on this bottling. The palate is very tense, firm and needs some time to open up. But once it does, there are waves of raspberry compote, hibiscus tea and carnation flavors. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 12.4% Price: \$56

**94 Walt 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Powerful aromas of dark cherry, strawberry jam and crushed star anise make for a hedonistic nose on this bottling. The palate ranges from black cherry to baked berry, with cardamom and more star anise as well as a firm tannic frame standing in the background. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$44

**94 Wrath 2021 Tondré Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$49

**93 Alma Rosa 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Muddled mulberry and rich purple flower aromas are spiced by mace and nutmeg on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate is crowd-pleasingly bold, offering baked blackberry and raspberry alongside chai flavors, with plenty of acidity to keep the wine engaging far into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

**93 Bellante 2020 La Encantada Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Rich aromas of stewed plum fruit, vanilla and caramel are lifted by thyme and sage on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tannic edge on the sip, where a creamy mouthfeel offers dense flavors of gingerbread, game and plum sauce. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$74

**93 Emery 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Fresh, lush and dark strawberry and lavender aromas are lifted by vanilla, mace and more baking spices on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. That lavender tone carries through the palate, picking up elderberry and rosemary nuances as well. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

**93 Furthermore 2019 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Freshly plucked strawberry and plump red flower aromas are kissed by rocky soils and baking spices on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a clean and rich expression, offering pleasantly punchy flavors of cherry, pomegranate, mace and sumac-speckled pastry. —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$60

**93 Furthermore 2019 Starbridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This light-bodied and tangy-textured wine holds back on ripeness to bring out sour cherries, cranberries, black tea and red-wood duff nuances that are fascinating to ponder. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$75

**93 La Barge 2019 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's a compellingly subtle nose to this bottling, where raspberry, hibiscus and star anise aromas show. The texture is quite firm on the palate, where the tannic line presents vibrant raspberry jam, thyme and pepper. Drink now—2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$85

**93 M + M 2020 Clone 667 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** The nose on this bottling by the husband-and-wife team of photographer Macduff Everton and artist Mary Heebner is as complex as their adventurous lives, blending aromas of muddled plum with toasted sagebrush and, confirming one regional pioneer's own assessment, two-day-old horse manure, in a good way. The earthy line holds strong through the palate, where dried mushroom and turned earth flavors give nuance to the core of dark strawberry fruit. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Optik 2021 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Pomegranate, strawberry, red apple and cinnamon converge on the nose of this bottling, in which winemaker Joey Tensley takes on the Miller family's coolest-climate vineyard. The palate is punchy with ripe strawberry flavors that are enhanced by dried herbs and just-cracked spices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$50

**93 Paradise Springs 2021 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Rich aromas of boysenberry, caramel, red flowers and an undercurrent of soil show on the nose of this bottling. It's ripe on the palate with bold cherry flavors that are enhanced by cinnamon and pie crust elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65

**93 Roar 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Hibiscus, crisp red fruit, fennel pollen and lemon peel aromas make for a fresh and lively nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate lands in broad fashion, with lush flavors of strawberry, more citrus and a pinch of pepper dust. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$80

**93 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$66

**92 Furthermore 2019 Sierra Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Clean lines of baked raspberry and boysenberry are warmed up by baking spice and pepper meat aromas on the nose of

this bottling. The palate is bold with ripe and baked pomegranate and raspberry flavors, as a savory element rises atop the firmly textured finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$55

**92 Joseph Jewell 2021 Eel River Valley Pinot Noir (Humboldt County).** A Pinot Noir that's light and fresh, yet deep with layers of complexity—yes, please. On the palate there's a vibrant red cherry pop that immediately engages, followed by vibrant, juicy raspberry, rose and violet potpourri, forest floor and a salty sea-air minerality that truly gives a sense of place. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**92 Native 9 2019 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** The earthy nose of this bottling combines aromas of rust, hickory and sagebrush with smashed cranberry. The palate offers more cranberry as well as bay laurel and tea leaf, bringing the regional chaparral spices to the fore. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Optik 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Lovely aromas of cherry compote, warm pastry and star anise make for a lush and inviting nose on this bottling. Joyously ripe flavors of strawberry and pomegranate juice fire up the palate, where a light mint aspect adds intrigue. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Roar 2021 Clos Pepe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Bold aromas of black cherry, cola and caramel make for a ripe and rich nose on this bottling. The palate is quite viscous, showing black cherry sorbet and vanilla ice cream flavors. It's ready to drink now, and may not last as long as the winery's other bottlings. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$80

**92 Roar 2021 Pisoni Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Very ripe and rich black cherry are extremely fruit-driven on the nose and spiced by cardamom dust in this bottling from an iconic vineyard. The palate is hefty in weight and texture, where long-lingering tannins frame cherry paste and baked strawberry flavors. This one is for enjoying now. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$80

**92 Rooted Vine 2021 Ocean & Earth Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85

**92 Sanford 2020 Block 6 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** The hal-  
 lowed grounds of this vineyard show strongly on this bottling, starting with turned loam, wild mint and dark cherry on the nose. There's a textural density to the palate, where the soil and fruit flavors work in harmony. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$95

**92 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Rancho La Viña Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$52

**92 Summer Somewhere 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A light color in the glass, this bottling blends aromas of wet earth, red berry, fennel pollen and graham cracker on the nose. There's a pastry flake touch to the palate, where cherry pie filling, hibiscus and cinnamon flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**92 Summer Somewhere 2020 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Restrained aromas of black raspberry, wet riverstone and hibiscus make for an earthy nose on this bottling from a brand that operates a tasting room in Malibu. The palate follows a similarly subtle approach, offering raspberry, herb and red flower flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$80

**92 Wrath 2021 Boekenooen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49

**91 Foxen 2020 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Candied raspberry and cinnamon aromas are fresh and pliable on the nose of this bottling. Bay and eucalyptus leaf flavors arise on the thinly textured palate alongside cranberry and orange rind. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$65

**91 Foxen 2020 Pommard Clone Block 8 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Thyme, bay leaf and cranberry aromas evolve over time into a richer tapestry on the nose of this clonal expression. The palate lands with bright raspberry flavors, enhanced by mint, tar, dried herb and gamy meats. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$70

**91 Joseph Jewell 2020 Phelps Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County).** This is an engaging and easy-to-enjoy Pinot Noir with fresh, lively notes of red currant, rhubarb and wild strawberry, alongside earthier notes of basil, black tea, forest floor and cremini mushrooms. On the palate, a vibrant acidity keeps those fruits front and center throughout the length, while the sandy tannins add a welcoming texture. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$45

**91 Lumen 2019 Presqu'île Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** A lighter hue and slightly cloudy in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with really fascinating red currant, sagebrush and potpourri aromas. Muddled mulberry takes more prominence on the palate, with peppercorns adding spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**91 Lumen 2019 Sierra Madre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Light in the glass, this single-vineyard expression is quite quaffable, start-

ing with fresh aromas of raspberry, cinnamon and rose. The palate, spry in texture, shows flavors of muddled plum, wild berry and fennel pollen. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$62

**91 Marco Lucchesi 2019 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Muddled cherry paste, slate and thyme aromas invite the nose into this bottling. There's a decent heft to the palate, where rich plum and strawberry flavors are lifted by minty herb and a persistent acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**90 McBride Sisters Collection 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A tight, stony aroma greets the nose at first whiff of this wine, and then richer blackberry and fennel scents begin to take hold. The palate is rounded and plump with plummy fruit flavors and a rusty minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**90 Nine North Wine Company 2019 Chasing Lions Pinot Noir (California).** A solid bang-for-the-buck Pinot Noir with notes of fresh red and black cherry, red and black plum, rhubarb, forest floor, violet and rose. Fine-grained tannins and an active acidity make this a fun and food-friendly wine. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**90 Starmont 2020 Pinot Noir (Monterey County-Santa Barbara County-Napa County).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$27

**90 Testarossa 2021 La Rinconada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a very soil-driven bottling, offering mud, clay and loam on the nose against the blackberry and bay leaf backdrop. The palate shows a chaparral and muddled red fruit combination, which will grow more intriguing with time. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$76

**89 Bogle 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** Dusty tannins paired with voluptuously ripe fruit notes of red plum, boysenberry and mixed-berry bramble make this robust expression of Pinot Noir the perfect companion to heartier fare. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**89 Cebada 2017 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley).** Bay leaf and sagebrush give earthy depth to the tart cherry and plum skin aromas on the nose of this bottling. There's ample texture to the palate, where a sharp acidity creates very tangy cranberry and orange peel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**89 Walt 2021 Blue Jay Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This expression of extremely ripe Pinot Noir is for lovers of the fuller-bodied expression of the grape. The palate is rich with soft, plush tannins and slightly elevated (14.4%) alcohol. Notes of

bursting blackberry, boysenberry jam and prunes, alongside earthier tones of fresh fennel, forest floor and chocolate. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50

**89 Wrath 2021 McIntyre Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This is a very ripe Pinot Noir that starts high-toned on the nose before showing aromas of grenadine, berry jam and a touch of sagebrush. The palate is packed with fruity flavors of hibiscus and strawberry, with a black tea note cutting back on the sweet-seeming core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$49

**88 Avalon 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** An overall well-balanced, though simple, Pinot Noir with notes of ripe black plum, boysenberry, potpourri and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Casa Martinez 2019 Camila Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Concentrated and well-structured, this wine is rather tight and tannic at this stage of its development and will need time to gain some suppleness and complexity. Vivid red and black cherry notes are gripped firmly by tannins and charged with good acidity. Best from 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

**88 Gelson's 2019 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark, extracted berry aromas and a leathery spice show on the nose of this bottling. Tart cranberry and pepper meat flavors show on the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**88 Lumen 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Tart black plum aromas meet with mace and richer black cherry on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate packs in more sagebrush and herbal tones against that brisk, tangy fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$40

**88 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Tondre Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Dark cherry aromas are rich on the nose with sandalwood elements giving some depth. The palate is quite ripe with juicy red fruit flavors, framed by just enough tannins to carry through the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$54

**88 Sipwell 2021 High Point Pinot Noir (Paso Robles).** This is a satisfyingly familiar take on Pinot Noir, especially coming from a can. Aromas of red fruit and turned earth on the nose lead into a fruit punch-like palate that's layered in lemon peel and peppery spices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$6/250 ml

**88 Terratorium 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Fresh, vibrant, with a pleasantly plush tannic structure, this Pinot Noir offers classic notes of red currant, raspberry, wild strawberry, fresh basil, cacao and damp forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$38

**87 Blazon 2020 Pinot Noir (Lodi).** This Pinot Noir coming out of Lodi includes 10% Petite Sirah and 5% Rubired in the mix. The result is a ripe red- and black-fruit-driven expression with moderate acidity, a chalky tannic texture and an overall medium body. Find notes of boysenberry, Marionberry, red and black cherry, chocolate, cinnamon and licorice. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**87 ebb+flow 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 29. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Hendry 2020 Hendry Vineyard Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Full-bodied and tannic in texture, this wine is restrained in fruit flavors, offering a bit of cooked plums and smoky, woody accents. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**87 Kirkland Signature 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** For full review see page 29. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

**87 Nella Terra 2021 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley).** A simple and straightforward Pinot Noir with a medium body and aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, prune, raisin, toasted wood, cinnamon and licorice. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$48

**87 Replica 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** An overall well-balanced and simple Pinot Noir. The nose opens with notes of rose and violet, ripe cranberry, pomegranate and rhubarb, tree bark and a hint of damp forest floor. The palate offers just a bit more: black cherry, prune and cacao. Moderate linear acidity and coarse grippy tannins lead toward a solid finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$18

**86 Bellante 2020 Hilliard Bruce Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a very sour and tart wine, with tangy black plum skin on the nose. The palate is very sharp with balsamic flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$74

**86 Cooper & Thief 2019 Brandy Barrel Aged Pinot Noir (California).** This extremely ripe Pinot Noir was aged in brandy barrels. These two factors, alongside the elevated (16%) alcohol, contribute to the perception of saccharine sweetness. Fruit notes of black cherry, blackberry and plum are enveloped by chocolate, vanilla and smoked wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$30

**86 Hidden Vines 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** A simple, balanced Pinot Noir with notes of red cherry, raspberry, red plum and raisins. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**85 Bellante 2020 Bentrack Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is very tart



# BUYINGGUIDE

on the nose with balsamic berry aromas. The palate is very tart as well, with hints of crushed stone and light herb. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$74

**85 Séance 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** A simple, easy-drinking Pinot Noir with fresh red cherry, raspberry, strawberry—and the candy iterations thereof. A very light tannic texture, medium body and modest acidity keep the drinking experience all very low-key. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$15

**84 Clos du Bois 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** This Pinot Noir is filled with fresh and dried cranberries and black cherries and a strong dose of raisins. This is overlaid by strong oak tones of licorice, chocolate, vanilla and nutmeg. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

## CABERNET FRANC

**97 Mira 2018 Hyde Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley).** Pretty floral and oak spice aromas lead quickly to powerful flavors of black cherries, black currants and graphite in this concentrated, full-bodied and ageworthy wine. A sense of finesse is pervasive, with layers of flavor and fine-grained tannins, despite the wine's density and tension. Best from 2028–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.

**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$95

**95 Anderson Conn Valley 2019 Gustaf Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley).** This full-bodied but charming wine offers floral and dark plum aromas followed by inviting cherries, plums and a hint of basil for a fruity yet complex expression. The tannins are relatively light and the potential pairings are many, considering the wine's excellent balance. Best through 2033. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$195

**93 Kenefick Ranch 2019 Caitlin's Select Estate Grown Cabernet Franc (Calistoga).** This well-polished, complex and layered wine wraps superfine tannins around late-picked plums and dried cherries for a lavish, luxurious expression. Dashes of cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg and maple give it plenty to appreciate. Best through 2030. —J.G.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**92 Broken Earth 2019 CV Reserve Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** Dried cranberry and cherry aromas are lifted by violet and a savory touch of game on the nose of this bottling. The palate concentrates the ripe, flavorful blackberry and cassis flavors atop creamy tannins, offering ample nuance to offset the ripeness. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$60

**91 Hungry Hawk 2020 Cabernet Franc (San Diego County).** Light in the glass, this is a classically peppery take on this grape, offering white pepper, dried herb and smashed cranberry aromas on the nose. The pepper and herbs take center stage

on the sip, giving excitement to the juicy raspberry core. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90 Lava Cap 2019 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (El Dorado).** This Cab Franc will wake the palate right up with its juicy concentration, firm tannic structure and slightly elevated alcohol—all which work to highlight notes of boysenberry, black currant, plum and cherry and herbaceous fennel, mint and capsicum. Well-integrated oak offers subtle hints of star anise; the finish is a perfect compilation of it all. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**90 Rodrigue Molyneux 2019 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley).** The nose opens with aromas of roses and violets, bramble, boysenberry, Marionberry, fresh cut wood. The palate welcomes additional notes of adding red and black plum, star anise and black pepper. The mature, plush tannins accentuate the ripeness and concentration of the fruit and give the wine a full-bodied feeling that caresses and comforts the palate. —S.B.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$48

**90 Sculpterra 2020 Estate Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** Freshly smashed red fruit aromas meet with white pepper and leathery meats on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines dark raspberry, dried meat and peppery acidity into an intriguing finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$46

**89 Lava Cap 2020 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (El Dorado).** This Cab Franc has an overtone of capsicum that is quite appetizing. Beyond that, find notes of black currant, plum, dried leaf litter and forest floor. Sandy tannins are gentle on the palate; the elevated (15.5%) alcohol leads to a fiery finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Meadow View 2020 Isabelle's Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Lamorinda).** There's an animalistic edge to this Cabernet Franc, incorporating a bit of game meat and barnyard funk—in the most pleasant way. These are well integrated with additional notes of jammy blackberry and boysenberry, chocolate, black pepper, rose, violet, cumin and coriander. Firm tannins add a tidy structure to the palate to the full-bodied red, balanced by a solid dose of acidity. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Hendry 2019 Blocks 9D & 26 Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley).** Here is a boisterous, moderately tannic, smoky-tasting wine that's overflowing with meaty, roasted, black olive flavors over grilled plums. Thoroughly enjoyable. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$48

**88 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Franc (Howell Mountain).** Potent and ripe, Port-like, this full-bodied wine offers superripe, dried fruit flavors on firm tannins with a warm-

ing alcohol effect. The wine is powerful, bold and straightforward. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$140

**87 Octopoda 2021 Cabernet Franc (California).** An overall well-balanced and enjoyable Cabernet Franc that incorporates 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot in the mix. Find notes of blackberry, blueberry, licorice, cinnamon and a bit of smoke and tar. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## SYRAH

**96 La Pelle 2021 Block X Bien Nacido Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** Fresh, bright and clean aromas of purple fruit and flower are layered in a wet clay minerality on the nose of this bottling from an iconic vineyard. The palate is very firm, loaded with acidity and quite spicy, offering white pepper, restrained açai and a hint of violet. Expect the savory elements to arise over time. Drink now–2041. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**95 Caelesta 2019 Bien Nacido Estate Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** Pristine aromas of elderberry, lavender, lilac and picture-perfect Concord grape make for an attention-grabbing yet elegant nose on this bottling. A tannic tension and creamy mouthfeel make for a compelling combination on the palate, where rich and bold flavors of blackberry and cassis are spiced in black pepper. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$72

**95 La Pelle 2020 Block X Bien Nacido Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** The nose of this bottling manages a tremendous balancing act between dark fruits of elderberry and boysenberry, the lifting spice of cracked pepper and the comforting touch of violet. The structure is tight on the palate, framing those same elements into a cohesive package that will age well. Drink now–2045. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**95 Trippers & Askers 2020 Stucco'd with Quadrapeds Donnachadh Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 6. **Cellar Selection.**

**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$52

**94 Andrew Murray 2020 Estate Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Lively aromas of lilac, açai, blueberry sorbet and peppered beef on the dynamic nose of this estate bottling. Meaty flavors of raw lamb and seared beef are layered in bouquet garni and stewed black fruits on the palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

**93 Arkenstone 2019 Estate Syrah (Howell Mountain).** Earth and gunpowder aromas lead to robust, ripe blackberries and black cherries on the palate that are generously accented by dark chocolate and coffee bean flavors. This moun-

tain-grown wine is tannic and full bodied, yet rich enough to feel balanced. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection*. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$175

**93 Cuvaison 2019 Diablo Small Lot Estate Grown Syrah (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Big and rich, this ripe-tasting, full-bodied wine offers blackberry jam and chocolate-raspberry flavors on a firm structure of tannins and elevated alcohol. Black pepper and woodsmoke notes come out with more sipping and stick around on the finish. Best from 2025–2032. *Editors' Choice*. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**93 Frequency 2021 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Mesquite-smoked meat aromas meet with roasted boysenberry, nori, cracked pepper and lilacs on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate hits with intense flavors of salt, pepper, soy sauce, sandalwood and sansho pepper, making for a very savory expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 J. Lohr 2021 South Ridge Syrah (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy*.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**93 Morgan 2021 Double L Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection*.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50

**93 Optik 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** This is a bold Syrah, loaded with baked black plum, blackberry, star anise and a wave of barrel spices on the nose. Firm tannins frame the intensely ripe palate, where baked blueberry and baking spices float atop persistent acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$50

**93 Roar 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Dark and focused aromas of tightly wound purple flowers stay fresh and elegant on the nose of this bottling. Lilacs and violets pop on the sip as well, with açai and blueberry flavors arising over light touches of savory meat. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**93 Sanguis 2019 1/1 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Winemaker Matthias Pippig ditches his love for blending to make this 1/1 series of wines, and this Syrah shows the grape's inherent ageability, offering aromas of smashed berry and marjoram on the nose that will only grow more simpatico with time. Fresh plum, lavender and peppercorn flavors converge on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$125

**92 Blue Victorian Winery 2019 Sammy Bacsi Syrah (Suisun Valley).** This Syrah, fermented with 40% whole cluster, leads with herbal-floral tones of fresh and dried roses, violets and lavender. Following is voluptuous blackberry jam and macer-

ated black plum notes, complemented by notes of black pepper, vanilla, fennel, mushroom and forest floor. The firm tannins add an excellent structural framing; acidity is modest, but does the job of creating the center through-line of freshness. The finish is a continuation of those integrated aromas and flavors. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$42

**92 Roar 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Lush layers of boysenberry, pepper and wet soil show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is generous in violet and blueberry flavors, but stays quite dry and firm, with hints of violet and lilac on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$55

**92 Robert Renzoni 2020 Syrah (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$36

**91 Folded Hills 2020 Polo Estate Reserve Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Roasted fruits, crumpled hibiscus and purple flower aromas pick up a chaparral spice on the nose of this reserve bottling. The palate is rather lighter in weight, offering plum, herb and pepper flavors that will continue to coalesce over time. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$150

**91 Lorenzi Estate 2018 Dos Cojones Block Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Violet, lavender and açai aromas make for a lively nose on this block-designated bottling. Cracked pepper coats the charred blueberry and violet flavors of the palate, where green herb adds complexity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$65

**91 Trippers & Askers 2021 Catching Tigers in Red Weather Donnachadh Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Crisp aromas of plum and purple flowers are quite tight on the nose of this bottling, which benefits from ample breathing time. The palate starts tart and firm, slowly opening toward floral flavors and cracked pepper. The acidity pumps deep into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$52

**91 Vista Del Mirador 2018 Noriega Estate Vineyards Syrah (Fair Play).** This is an appetizing Syrah that will pair well with any of your favorite carnivorous dishes. Notes of red and black cherry and plum are complemented by cumin and coriander spices along with a smoked game meat quality that rides through the entirety of the tasting. Firm tannins grip the palate; the finish is like dessert, ending with notes of caramelized Mission fig, coffee bean and cacao. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$36

**90 Andrew Murray 2020 Tous Les Jours Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice*.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Lorimar 2019 Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Dark and concentrated aromas of purple fruit, violet and fennel pollen greet the nose on this bottling. The palate offers more savory lines of smoked meat, iodine and roasted plums, with vanilla popping out on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$54

**89 Lava Cap 2019 Estate Syrah (El Dorado).** A full-bodied Syrah complete with grippy tannins that overlay a glycerin-like texture brought on by the elevated (15.9%) alcohol and ripe fruit structure. Find notes of blackberry, black cherry, bramble, bitter chocolate, fresh cut wood and damp forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$28

**88 E16 2020 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard Syrah (Fair Play).** A full-bodied Syrah with notes of blackberry compote, black cherry liquor, cut wood, fresh paint and cruciferous veg. The palate brings with it a coarse tannic structure; the finish is a solid medium in length. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$42

## GRENACHE

**93 Beckmen 2021 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice*.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$38

**93 Peloton 2020 Gravel Bike Red label Grenache (Paso Robles).** Smoked meat, black plum, dark spices and charcoal aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Leathery tannins frame the sip, where boysenberry and tar flavors make for a cohesive experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$46

**93 Sanguis 2019 1/1 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** This bottling is showing some browning in the glass, but pulls the nose back in repeatedly to enjoy aromas of strawberry, chai and toasted almond. There's a graham cracker-like pastry kick to the palate, warming up the tomato, cranberry and currant flavors, with intriguing lines of bay leaf and eucalyptus lingering in the background. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$125

**91 Bokisch 2020 Terra Alta Vineyard Garnacha (Clements Hills).** Aromas open with notes of boysenberry, Marionberry, forest floor funk, rose petal potpourri and a floral white pepper. The palate confirms, adding just a whisper of wood hinting at new oak integration. Modest tannins add structure without intrusion; elevated acidity ensures vivacity from start to lengthy finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$31

**91 E16 2020 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard Grenache (Fair Play).** Pale garnet in the glass, this Grenache offers layered aromas and flavors of wild strawberry and strawberry preserve, black pepper, chocolate, brandy, rose and violet potpourri—all gently sprinkled with baking spices. The

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palate brings with it firm, grippy tannins that add structural integrity, and there's just enough acidity to ensure freshness from start to finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$42

**91** **Folded Hills 2021 Grant Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Very light in the glass, this bottling combines delicate strawberry aromas with hints of turned earth. The palate is brisk in red fruit flavors that glide across the palate, leaving hints of soil and powdered pepper as well as a streak of tight tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$52

**90** **Miraflores 2019 Estate Grenache (El Dorado).** Good concentration of fruit is evident straightaway with initial aromas of voluptuous blackberry, black cherry and plum notes. The palate adds to the mix integrated spice tones—*anise*, black pepper, toasted wood. Tannins are a bit coarse, relaxing through the length of the tasting. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Peloton 2020 Mountain Bike Brown Label Grenache (Paso Robles).** Lively black cherry, smoked meat and sumac aromas pop on the nose of this bottling. It lands smoothly on the palate with plum and strawberry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**88** **La Mesa Vineyards 2020 Estate Reserve Grenache Noir (Amador County).** A straightforward, linear Grenache with notes of strawberry, raspberry and rhubarb. The palate brings with it dusty tannins, well-integrated elevated acidity and a solid finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**88** **Lava Cap 2020 Estate Bottled Grenache (El Dorado).** An overall balanced and easy-to-enjoy Grenache with notes of strawberry preserves, black pepper, boysenberry and forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$32

## MALBEC

**96** **Hess Collection 2019 Small Block Series Estate Malbec (Mount Veeder).** This deep, rich and velvety wine lifts tempting black fruits and oak spices on a soft bed of ultrafine tannins for a mouthfilling, soothing expression that is quite extraordinary. Black figs, black plums and *crème de cassis* mingle with subtle vanilla, blueberry and cocoa accents in an almost irresistible way. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$70

**91** **Defiance 2019 Estate Collection Malbec (Paso Robles).** There's a meaty, unctuous angle to the nose of this bottling, where oak-smoked berry aromas meet with pencil shavings. Chiseled tannins frame the sip, which is packed with *cassis* and milk chocolate leading into a grippy finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

**89** **Frey 2022 Organic Malbec (Mendocino).** An overall well-rounded red with boisterous fruit notes of black plum juice, black grapes and macerated black cherries alongside complementary tones of licorice, chocolate, basil and tarragon. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**87** **Tizona by Bokisch 2020 Bruella Vineyard Malbec (Lodi).** An overall nicely balanced and friendly expression of Malbec, offering approachable fine-grained tannins and just enough acidity to add vivacity to the tasting. Enjoy aromas and flavors of fresh and dried strawberries, raspberry jam, fresh and dried red cherries, raisin and prune. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

## MOURVÈDRE

**92** **Bokisch 2020 Sheldon Hills Vineyard Monastrell (Sloughhouse).** The shade of royalty—a deep, elegant purple in the glass—this varietal Monastrell (aka Mourvèdre) emits unctuous aromas of black plum, blackberry, chocolate, vanilla, fennel, black pepper and crushed dried violets. The palate carries through, bringing with it a firm tannic grip, a full body and a lengthy finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Prima Materia 2020 Mourvèdre (Red Hills).** This varietal Mourvèdre expresses itself elegantly with its fine-grained tannic texture, lovely acidic backbone and lengthy finish. Find aromas of red and black cherry, red and black plum, roses, basil and tarragon. The palate confirms the nose and adds to it well-integrated oak notes of nutmeg, clove and toast. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**91** **E16 2020 Baby Rattlesnake Vineyard Mourvèdre (Fair Play).** Robust, intense aromas soar out of the glass—bursting plump black cherry and red and black plum, chocolate, vanilla, fennel, basil, forest floor and fresh, dewy roses and violets. The palate brings on a friendly, chalky tannin that neither overwhelms nor dries out the palate; flavors follow through with that engaging intensity and lead toward a lengthy finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$42

**91** **Lava Cap NV Mourvèdre (El Dorado).** A garnet hue in the glass, initial aromas are spirit-forward, calling to mind chocolate-covered brandy beans. Beyond that, notes of fresh cut cedar, plump black cherry and blackberry and red and black plum jam evolve. The palate is indeed warm, with appropriately soft tannins. Flavors confirm the nose and are altogether appetizing. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

## MERLOT

**94** **Darioush 2020 Signature Series Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$74

**94** **Gelson's 2020 Single Vineyard Reserve Merlot (Coombsville).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$35

**93** **Duckhorn 2019 Stout Vineyard Merlot (Napa Valley).** Richness backed by a good structure gives this wine breadth on the palate and nice length on the finish. Tempting dark plum and black cherry flavors are accented by subtle vanilla, dark chocolate and mint nuances while big but soft tannins give a smooth texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$105

**92** **Merryvale 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley).** This deep and structured wine is worth keeping while it develops more complexity over time. Well-concentrated black cherry and blueberry flavors are shaded by subtle dark chocolate and mint accents, and fine-grained tannins give an appetizing grip to the texture. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$52

**92** **Oberon 2021 Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$28

**92** **Stags' Leap Winery 2020 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Beautiful red and black fruits meld with dark chocolate and cinnamon accents in this well-oaked, nicely concentrated wine. A full body is backed by moderate tannins, giving it more structure and mouthfeel than a typical Merlot. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Havens 2021 Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dense blackberry, crushed slate, anise and coriander aromas make for a complex nose on this bottling. The palate lands with fresh blackberry flavors dusted in oregano, thyme, fennel pollen and pepper. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**91** **Louis M. Martini 2020 No. 254 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Lush, almost sweet blackberries and black cherries infuse this full-bodied wine with ripe fruit, while light tannins and a full body give it a relaxed, mouthfilling texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$95

**90** **Cuda Ridge 2020 Merlot (Livermore Valley).** This Merlot offers layered flavors of fruit, earth and oak, giving it a sense of depth and complexity. Enjoy notes of dried roses and violet, red and black cherry, red and black plum, fennel, star anise, tarragon and cacao. Elevated acidity keeps fresh fruit components forward, giving them a bit of a tartness; medium, chalky tannins add just enough texture and structural integrity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$42

**90** **Duckhorn 2020 Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**89** **Lava Cap 2020 Estate Bottled Merlot (El Dorado).** A well-balanced and engaging



Merlot with aromas and flavors of red and black cherry and plum, fresh fennel, bitter cacao, dried forest floor and rose and violet potpourri. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$28

**86 Bonterra 2021 Merlot (California).** A simple Merlot that combines fresh and dried fruits of prune, raisin, blackberry and blueberry along with assertive oak. In the mix is 2% Petite Sirah, 3% Rubired and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$16

**86 Nine North Wine Company 2021 Parcel 41 Merlot (North Coast).** A very simple Merlot with straightforward notes of black plum, currant, bitter cacao, roasted coffee, tree bark and dried leaves. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

## BARBERA

**93 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2021 Barbera (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**91 Miraflores 2019 Estate Barbera (El Dorado).** This is a full-bodied and voluptuous expression of Barbera, filled with aromas and flavors of black plum, black cherry, black currant, chocolate, menthol, fresh cut cedar wood, black pepper, violets, fennel and star anise. Mouthcoating tannins grip the palate, well met by the sheer concentration of those dark, black fruit notes whose brooding continues to linger for quite some time. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$30

**89 Rodrigue Molyneaux 2019 Barbera (Livermore Valley).** A nicely balanced expression of Barbera offering aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, red and black plum, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, basil, tarragon, licorice and toast. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$44

**88 Lorimar 2019 Barbera (Temecula Valley).** Tart red fruit aromas are cut by smoked meat elements on the nose of this bottling. Tart black plum flavors are lifted by fennel spice and dried meats on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$52

**87 La Mesa Vineyards 2020 Estate Reserve Barbera (Amador County).** Appetizing aromas greet the nose—red and black cherry, plum, Mission fig, prune, chocolate, tarragon and cedar. The palate offers fine-grained tannins and carries through on those decadent notes. Warming from alcohol (15.9%) increases through the length and leads toward a hot finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$39

## SANGIOVESE

**90 Castello di Amorosa 2019 Sangiovese (Napa Valley).** A sweet-smelling oak aroma meets good, generous cherry and black plum flavors in this full-bodied, softly tannic and well-modulated wine. It tastes bright and clean and spiced with cinnamon. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$39

**90 Lorimar 2019 Sangiovese (Temecula Valley).** A lighter hue in the glass, this Sangiovese, which includes some Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, presents aromas of cranberry, earthy clay and cinnamon on the cohesive nose. Tart raspberry flavors meet with anise and baking spices on the palate, where a light gamy element also shows. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48

**87 Rodrigue Molyneaux 2019 Sangiovese (Livermore Valley).** Sangiovese hailing from Livermore Valley with notes of macerated black cherries, boysenberry jam, stewed black plums, chocolate, basil and tarragon. Fine-grained tannins coat the palate; the finish is fairly short. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$46

## PRIMITIVO

**92 Sculpterra 2021 Primitivo (Paso Robles).** Snappy strawberry and raspberry fruit aromas meet with soft lilac on the juicy and fresh nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe with black cherry and chai spice flavors, seeming more like a spicy Grenache or Pinot Noir than a Zinfandel relative. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$42

**89 La Mesa Vineyards 2020 Estate Reserve Primitivo (Amador County).** An all-around easy-drinking Zinfandel with a mixture of fresh and dried fruits (black cherry, cranberry, strawberry) alongside earth and herbal notes (fennel, crushed violets, lavender). Fine-grained tannins gently tickle the tongue and there's a vivacity of electric acidity that runs right through the center. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$34

**88 La Mesa Vineyards 2019 Estate Reserve Primitivo (Amador County).** A balanced, straightforward Primitivo (aka Zinfandel) hailing from the Sierra Foothills. Enjoy notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, prune, violet, coffee, wild strawberry and black pepper. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

## TEMPRANILLO

**91 Bokisch 2019 Liberty Oaks Vineyard Tempranillo (Jahant).** There's a rusticity to this wine that some will find intriguing and enjoyable (this critic included). A full mouth of coarse tan-

nins are well met by voluptuous blueberry, blackberry and black plum fruits alongside a decadently glycerin alcohol. There's an earthy damp forest floor and animalistic essence that just floats in the background adding an engaging savageness. Open 30 to 40 minutes prior to enjoyment and pair with something equally as bold. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

**88 Thal Vineyards 2019 Tempranillo (Contra Costa County).** A varietal Tempranillo hailing from Contra Costa. Enjoy notes of blueberry, blackberry, damp forest floor, cacao, anise and cut wood. Tannins are quite firm, but there's just enough acidity to provide a balancing freshness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**87 Avensole 2018 Solea Tempranillo (Temecula Valley).** Tart cranberry, sour plum, fennel and peppered meat aromas converge on the nose of this bottling, which includes 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Merlot. The palate combines leathery game with tart fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$52

## PETITE SIRAH

**93 Optik 2021 French Camp Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles Highlands District).** A dark, creamy nose loaded with black cherry, cassia, caramel and vanilla cream introduces the nose to this rich expression. It's a mouthcoating, comforting style of Petite Sirah on the palate, where rich and saucy flavors of vanilla pudding, caramel and fruit syrup swirl into a satisfying sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**91 J. Lohr 2020 Tower Road Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**91 Lava Cap 2020 Reserve Petite Sirah (El Dorado).** A bit shy on the nose, this full-bodied red opens up on the palate with notes of blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, red and black plum, chocolate, vanilla and licorice. Elevated (16.2%) alcohol is balanced by the ripeness and voluptuousness of the fruits and the firm tannic texture. —S.B.  
**abv:** 16.2% **Price:** \$32

**91 Vista Del Mirador 2018 Flat Creek Vineyards-Long Leaf Block-Indigo Petite Sirah (Fair Play).** Oak leads this Petite Sirah, with notes of cedar wood, sweet tobacco, saw dust and vanilla and chocolate. But fruits are not slow to follow: blackberry, black cherry, boysenberry and plum. Firm tannins grip the palate; the finish lingers just a bit. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 E16 2022 Sierra Moon Vineyard Petite Sirah (Fair Play).** Deep ruby-purple in the glass puts one in the mindset of a dark and brooding red wine. Not so here, with vibrant aromas of

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blackberry, blueberry, mixed-berry bramble, intertwined with damp forest floor and the florality of black pepper. The palate is friendly with its soft, corduroy-like tannins and opens to further notes of fennel and vanilla. Engaging, fun and food-friendly. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$32

**90 Nella Terra 2021 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** The color of this wine is as black as midnight—with just the faintest magenta hue navigating the perimeter. Initial aromas are of blackberry jam, black cherry, compote, stewed black plums, violets, vanilla and a black pepper spice. The palate opens further with notes of fresh black grape, milk chocolate and star anise. The finish is the perfect integration of it all. —S.B.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$46

**90 Peltier 2019 Lot 20-Lewis Vineyard Petite Sirah (Lodi).** Soft plushy tannins coat the mouth with this Petite Sirah that includes a bit of Viognier and Cab Sauv in the mix. This is well-met by the decadent blueberry pie filling, jammy black plum and perfectly ripe Mission fig fruits. Well-integrated oak tones of vanilla, nutmeg and a charry smoke add more flavor. And a zesty acidity keeps everything lively from start to finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90 Robert Renzoni 2020 Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley).** Leather, salted meat and charred beef aromas are coated with dark elderberry and wild herb on the nose of this rugged bottling. There's a rocky tone to the palate, where licorice, baked fruit and more dried meat flavors converge. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$36

**90 Sculpterra 2020 Estate Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Dense aromas of cassis and blackberry sauce meet with baking spice on the pleasantly restrained nose of this bottling. There's a chalky texture to the palate, where blackberry and violet ride dense tannins through sporadically tart flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$74

**89 Defiance 2018 BLK VI Estate Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Rich and thick aromas of cassis and black plum meet with dried basil and licorice on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich with baling spice, caramel and a thick fruit base, encased in mouthcoating tannins. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**89 Vezer Family Vineyard 2019 Marco-Estate Petite Sirah (Suisun Valley).** This Petite Sirah from Suisun Valley includes 3% Zinfandel and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon in the mix. Find notes of boysenberry and blackberry jam, black pepper spice, violets, licorice and vanilla. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$79

**88 Hungry Hawk 2019 Petite Sirah (San Diego County).** There's a maple bacon and graham

cracker aroma on the nose of this bottling, which also offers rich cassis. A similar flavor profile lands on the palate, bouncing from ripe blueberry cream to savory roasted meats. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**86 Lorimar 2019 Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley).** Charred meat, burned fudge, lilac and dark berry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a sweet, sugary presence, with hints of herb adding to the dessert wine-like berry sauce flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$64

**85 Oak Grove 2021 Family Reserve Petite Sirah (California).** A simple red with notes of coffee, chocolate, blackberry pie, boysenberry jam, black cherry compote and raisin. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## ZINFANDEL

**95 Grgich Hills 2019 Miljenko's Selection Crljenak Kaštelanski Estate Grown Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** Red cherries so ripe they seem sweet waft from the glass before equally ripe and rich flavors of cherries, strawberries, mint and cinnamon fill the mouth, lightly braced by silky tannins. The wine, made from organic grapes, can pair well with roast duck or pheasant and is ready to drink through 2029. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**94 Grgich Hills 2018 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** Bold and berrylike, this full-bodied but not very tannic wine is saturated with jammy blackberries and raspberries that coat the palate and give a luscious ripeness that won't quit. Hints of black pepper and grilled herbs add interesting complexity as you keep sipping. Made with organic grapes. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$37

**93 Clif Family 2021 Gary's Improv Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** This substantial, full-bodied wine goes big with everything from the deep color to the intense berries and dark chocolate flavors to the firm tannins. Decant and drink now paired with big proteins or, better, lay it down for a few years. Best from 2027. —J.G.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$50

**92 Carol Shelton 2020 Oakley Zin-Old Vine Zinfandel (Contra Costa County).** Another beautifully executed Zin from Carol Shelton, here made from grapes harvested from the 130-year-old Planchon Vineyard. Its full body incorporates a firm, mature tannic structure that's balanced well by the concentrated juicy black and blue fruits that hold center stage from start to finish. There's an herbaceousness as well as oak-infused sprinkles of spices that add additional layers. Would pair well with a wood-fired wild mushroom pizza. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$32

**92 Meyye 2015 Palachchak Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley).** Sourced from 120-year-old vines in Shenandoah Valley, this 2015 vintage of Old Vine Zinfandel still exudes a youthful vivacity. Initial aromas are reminiscent of a warm summer day with notes of fresh, ripe red currant, rhubarb, wild strawberries and sun-drenched rose petals. Spices from oak are gently integrated. The tannins are still quite firm, structural, but slowly dissipate through the length of the tasting, resulting in a smooth finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$70

**91 Clay Shannon 2020 Junior Zinfandel (Lake County).** For full review see page 17.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Pianetta 2020 Zinfandel (Paso Robles Geneseo District).** Clean aromas of red plum and crushed slate make for a mineral-driven nose on this bottling. The palate is tightly wound and bright with red fruit, lilac and violet flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**91 Ridge 2021 Benito Dusi Ranch Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Freshly smashed berry aromas are layered in light clay and coffee bean on the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard by an iconic producer. Juicy berry, toasty oak and dark flower flavors show on the palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**90 Bogle 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (California).** For full review see page 24. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**90 Carol Shelton 2021 Pizazz Zin-Piazza Vineyard-Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** Plushy tannins give the palate a friendly welcome and are well met by the ripe, juicy blackberry and blueberry fruit notes. There are subtle floral tones that just whisper in the background. Well-integrated oak adds star anise and clove spices. An overall well-balanced and fun Zinfandel to sip and savor. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$23

**90 Carol Shelton 2020 Cox Reserve-Cox Vineyard-Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino).** On the nose, rich, concentrated black plum and black cherry fruits and elegant rose petal and violet pot-pourri are complemented by a dusty earthiness reminiscent of a forest floor scattered with dried leaves. The palate doesn't disappoint, bringing with it a firm tannic structure and just enough acid to add the all-important midpalate lift. Pair with an equally robust meal. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30

**90 Opolo 2021 Mountain Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Black raspberry, crumpled purple flowers, turned earth and smoked meat aromas make for an attention-grabbing nose on this bottling. A firm frame upholds the oaky flavors of the palate, which pair boysenberry and violet with dry tannins. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$32

**89 7 Deadly 2019 7 Deadly Zins Zinfandel (Lodi).** A Zin classic that never goes out of style. Rich, jammy black fruits are backed by the elevated (15%) alcohol and plushy tannic structure and complemented by oaky vanilla and nutmeg. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

**89 Lava Cap 2020 Reserve Zinfandel (El Dorado).** Fine-grained tannins make this full-bodied Zin approachable and an easy pairing with any dish. Aromas and flavors intertwine ripe black cherry and blackberry with rose and violet florals. Herbaceous bramble, fennel and a dusty earthiness add an extra layer. The elevated (15.4%) alcohol means there's a warmth that runs throughout the length of the tasting, leading to a fiery finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28

**89 Peltier 2020 Estate Zinfandel (Lodi).** Though certainly oak-forward, this actually helps accentuate the robustness of the black cherry and blackberry fruits with the spice tones of clove, anise and nutmeg. Firm tannins coat the mouth, and there's just enough acidity to create a through-line of freshness. Includes 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**89 Plungerhead 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** This old vine Zin, with 21% Petite Sirah in the mix, is easy to enjoy. Aromas and flavors are filled with both fresh and dried fruits: blackberry, black cherry, fig and prune—accented with oaky notes. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Carol Shelton 2020 Wild Thing-Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino).** A classic that every Zin lover should keep in their stash. Notes of black and blue fruits intertwine with oak-infused spices. Palate offers a mouthful of tannins and modest acidity. Incorporates Carignane, Petite Sirah and a few other reds into the mix. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Cellars 33 2019 Vista Luna Vineyard Zinfandel (Borden Ranch).** An all-around well-balanced Zin with aromas and flavors of fresh roses, wild strawberries, black cherry, black and red currant, prune, raisin, dried violets and a dusty-desert earthiness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$35

**88 Concrete 2019 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A fun, easy-drinking Zinfandel that offers modest tannins and a nice backbone of refreshing acid. Find aromas and flavors of red and black cherry and plum, raspberry, cedar, dried eucalyptus and fennel. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Navigator 2020 Zinfandel (Lodi).** An altogether well-balanced Zin with a casual atti-

tude. Enjoy notes of black and red cherry, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, anise and damp forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**88 Omen 2021 Omen Origins Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills).** An overall balanced Zin with notes of blackberry, black cherry, bramble and mixed-fruit leather. Includes 10% Petite Sirah in the mix. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$16

**87 Four Vines 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A very straightforward, simple Zinfandel with all the classic notes—black plum, black currant, dried black cherry and oak. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Four Vines 2020 The Biker Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Intensely stewed aromas of black plum, herb and toasted spices show on the nose of this ripe bottling. Thick tannins frame extracted black cherry and blackberry flavors, leading into a grapey finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Lorimar 2019 Zinfandel (California).** This California-appellated Zin incorporates 20% Petite Sirah in the mix, resulting in a full-bodied red with big chunky tannins. The acidity is modest, flavors subtle with notes of black plum, plum skins, black currant, black pepper and dried violets. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$56

**87 OZV 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** There's a gamy-meaty quality to this wine that some may find quite appetizing. Surrounding that are additional notes of blackberry, black cherry, bramble and black pepper spice. Fruits are jammy in nature, giving the wine further richness. Includes a bit of Rubired, Petite Sirah and Malbec in the mix. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$14

**87 Windstorm 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A simple, straightforward Zinfandel—though it does include 20% Petite Sirah in the mix. Find notes of red and black cherry and plum, raspberry, licorice, mocha, raisin, prune and dried fig. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**86 Prototype 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi).** A simple Zin with simple notes: blackberry, blueberry, licorice and cinnamon. Includes 10% Petite Sirah and 10% Petit Verdot. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$10

## RED BLENDS

**97 Stags' Leap Winery 2020 The Investor Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Red blends of this type rarely shine as brightly. This ultra concentrated and smooth-textured blend including Merlot, Petite Sirah and Malbec is inky dark in color, luxurious, aromatic of blueberries, black currants and mint followed by oak spices and dark chocolate on the

palate. Creamy in texture, it is laden in massive but melted tannins. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$70

**96 Cathiard Vineyard 2020 Founding Brothers Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This massively built wine wraps potent black fruit flavors and sophisticated spices in substantial tannins that will surely guide it to greater complexity and smoothness with time. Minerals, graphite, cloves, cedar and blackberries are layered inside a mouthfilling texture. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$225

**96 Merryvale 2019 Profile Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$225

**96 Newton 2019 The Puzzle Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$135

**95 Emery 2020 Beyond the Veil Fulldraw Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 Andrew Murray 2020 Espérance Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Andrew Murray was a pioneering Rhône Ranger back when he was barely old enough to drink, and his experience continues to impress. This blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre and 15% Syrah begins with intense yet not overly ripe aromas of berry, cocoa nibs and gamy meats. The palate's polished, elegant tannins offer lush flavors of candied strawberry, French toast and sandalwood. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$40

**94 Cathiard Vineyard 2020 Hora Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This inviting, chocolatey wine is supersoft in mouthfeel at first, due to a full body and resolved tannins. But the tannins firm up on the finish to reveal a structure that can help it age well. Milk chocolate, blueberries and mint bring a lot of flavor. Blended from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Malbec. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$125

**94 Ink Grade 2018 Andosol Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Bright raspberries and red cherries in the nose mingle with riper black cherries, dark chocolate and blueberries in this abundantly fruity, but also well-oaked and well-structured wine made from mostly Zinfandel. Velvety tannins, succulent fruit and spicy oak nuances all balance nicely. Best from 2025–2033. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75



**94 Linne Calodo 2020 Rising Tides Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Winemaker Matt Trevisan is one of Paso's Rhône pioneers, and he uses his quarter-century of experience to deliver bold but balanced wines like this blend of 69% Grenache and 31% Syrah. Polished aromas of dark berry, hibiscus and violet lead into an ageworthy palate, where baked fruit and violet flavors culminate in a peppery, tense finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$95

**93 Bootleg 2018 Red Blend (Napa County).** Deep, dark and chocolaty, this silky yet concentrated wine feels light on the palate while delivering delicious, intense black fruits, baking spices, cedar and cloves. Made from mostly Petite Sirah and Merlot grapes, the wine offers complexity and a polished, fine-grained texture that's a treat to experience. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$30

**93 Caelesta 2020 Voyager Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Black plum, elderberry and purple flower aromas meet with a dark and focused espresso note on the nose of this blend of 42% Tempranillo, 30% Syrah, 22% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Petite Sirah. The mouthfeel is thick and creamy but with tannins holding up firm boundaries, as flavors of baked fruit, cardamom and caramel converge on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$72

**93 Emercy 2020 Enshroud Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Unctuous aromas of stewed fruits and creamy chai spices kick off the nose on this blend of 60% Carignan and 40% Syrah. There's a damp woodspice to the thickly textured palate, where heavy fruit and spice flavors are held together by a firm tannic tension. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$75

**93 Emercy 2020 Enter The Void Fulldraw Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Plummy aromas are layered in citrus peel, oregano, marjoram and smoke on the nose of this blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah. A firm texture upholds rich flavors of smoked plum and rustic herbs. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$75

**93 J. Lohr 2018 Cuvée St. E Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 10.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

**93 Lewis 2020 Alec's Blend Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Ultrarich aromas of blueberry jam, chocolate cherries and espresso crema crowd the nose of this supersaturated, superripe wine before dark chocolate, spearmint and café au lait join the berries on the palate. Made from mostly Syrah, plus Merlot and Petite Sirah, the wine is viscous, concentrated and laced with lots of soft tannins. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**93 Linne Calodo 2020 Overthinker Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Intense, dark and rich on the nose, this blend of 52% Syrah, 40% Grenache and 8% Mourvèdre shows pure aromas of blueberry, açai, crumpled flowers and baking spice on the nose. The palate is taut with fine-grained tannins, presenting muddled black plum and peppery spice flavors. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$98

**93 Lobo 2019 Howl Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Rich and welcoming, this broad-textured wine goes deep in black fruits, dark chocolate and toasted oak nuances, while plenty of fine-grained tannins add a velvety mouthfeel. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$70

**93 Lorimar 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon-Mourvèdre (California).** A rich, concentrated blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Mourvèdre, Lorimar proves that California-appellated wines can show great depth and complexity. Grippy, mature tannins create a firm tannic structure while the acidity keeps fruit flavors lively from start to finish. Find aromas and flavors of capsicum, black plum, cherry and currant, floral black pepper and star anise. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$58

**93 Sanguis 2019 The Modern Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** This Syrah-led blend, which also includes Viognier and Grenache, offers delicate damp herb and dewy chaparral aromas alongside dark red currant on the nose. The palate carries the herbal tone into bay leaf, marjoram and thyme, giving nuance to the roasted red fruit backdrop. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$80

**92 Barton 2020 My Way Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Elderberry jam, charred wood, iodine and concentrated violet aromas make for an intense but not boisterous nose on this blend of 35% Cabernet Franc, 25% Malbec, 20% Merlot and 20% Petit Verdot. The palate shows an herbal side, offering thyme, oregano, marjoram and pepper against a boysenberry core. Toasty chocolate pops on the finish. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Beckmen 2021 Cuvée Le Bec Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$30

**92 Emercy 2020 Laird Ranch Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This atypical blend of 77% Syrah, 20% Malbec and 3% Roussanne works, delivering aromas of hickory-smoked meats, cracked pepper and rich fruit in a pleasing way. There's a wide array of herbs on the palate, from bay and eucalyptus to cracked pepper, with hints of game and iodine adding complexity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$60

**92 Emercy 2020 Paying No Mind Jada Vineyard Tannat-Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Dense aromas of darkly roasted fruit, beef tips and graphite make for an imposing nose on this blend of Tannat and Cab. Firm tension and a persistent acidity frame the ripe strawberry and cracked pepper flavors. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$75

**92 Grey Wolf Cellars 2020 Lineage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Crushed stone and wet slate aromas give a mineral backbone to the fresh berry aromas on the nose of this blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Cabernet Franc and 19% Merlot. The palate is fresh, lively and run with juicy flavors of boysenberry, açai and elderberry that are buoyed by acidity and a woodspice-kissed finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**92 Hestan 2017 Stephanie Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Velvety tannins wrap around tempting dark chocolate, raspberry syrup and oak spice notes in this full-bodied, generous wine. Good concentration and ripeness on the palate lead to a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$75

**92 J. Davies 2019 Jamie Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Diamond Mountain District).** So smooth, lush and chocolaty that you'll want it for dessert, this lightly sweet wine is soft in terms of tannin, mouthfilling in texture and spreads indulgent chocolate-cherry and raspberry cream flavors across the palate. Blended from Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$250

**92 J. Lohr 2018 Cuvée POM Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$50

**92 Lorimar 2019 Meritage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (California).** The mature tannins create a solid backbone to this full-bodied blend, complemented by the firm acidic structure and voluptuous fruits combined with elegantly integrated notes from oak. Aromas and flavors of black plum, cherry and currant, toasted wood, fennel, capsicum, bitter cacao and star anise. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$62

**92 Parrish Family 2019 Silken Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Rich and layered aromas of dark fruit, woodspice and caramel make for a potent nose on this blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Syrah and 18% Petite Sirah. Well-rounded flavors of blueberry, blackberry, purple flower and wood are wrapped in fine tannins on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Peloton 2018 Criterium Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Dark boysenberry, expressive violet and lavender aromas make for a clean nose on this blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon

gnon and 25% Merlot. There's a brisk bite of acidity and a firm texture on the palate, where snappy and tart red fruit, lively floral and slightly beefy flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$70

**92 Sanguis 2019 The Highlands Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's an ethereal sense to Sanguis wines that ensures an everchanging profile as each bottle breathes. In this blend of Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Grenache, the lighter hued wine offers cranberry, graham cracker, sour cherry and dusty herb on the nose. The palate's unique combination of pastry, cherry and peppery spices will grow more intriguing with time. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$90

**92 Thacher 2020 Serious Play Homestead Hill Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Baked plum, caramel, roasted fig and woodsmoke aromas show on the nose of this blend of 26% Grenache, 26% Cinsaut, 24% Syrah and 24% Mourvèdre. The palate is tense in texture, holding up the roasted berry, caramel and nutmeg flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$55

**92 Thacher 2019 New Routine Homestead Hill Vineyard Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Fresh and yet very ripe aromas of boysenberry, blueberry and violet are very purple on the lively nose of this blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Blueberry jam dominates the palate, as pepper and meat flavors arise on the back end. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$60

**92 The Vice 2020 Super Tuscan Batch #80 Red Blend (Stags' Leap District).** This full-bodied blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Sangiovese and Malbec sports nicely ripe black fruits and an almost jammy texture that coats the mouth and leaves a touch of sweetness on the finish. Mild tannins are submerged in the blackberries and dried plum flavors. —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$129

**92 V. Sattui 2020 Entanglement G-S-M (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$46

**92 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2019 Terzetto Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$85

**91 En Garde 2019 Grand Vin Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Diamond Mountain District).** Rich in black fruits and oak spices, this full-bodied wine based on Merlot wraps moderate tannins around grilled plums, blackberries and cinnamon. It is dry, well-balanced and has an appetizing grip on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$115

**91 Heath Vineyards 2020 Absolution Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** There's a suave integration of dark red fruit, graphite, woodspice and leather on the nose of this bottling. The tannins are firm on the palate, wrapping up the mahogany, baked red fruit and light soy flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$105

**91 Lorimar 2019 Tempranillo-Barbera (California).** Who would think Tempranillo and Barbera would be such great partners? But Lorimar's 50-50 blend proves just that. It's certainly a heartier wine, with medium-plus dusty tannins and concentrated fruit notes of boysenberry and Marionberry. Yet there's a nice herbaceousness with hints of mint—that, along with an elevated acidity, creates a through-line of freshness. —S.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$56

**91 Pahlmeyer 2019 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Charred oak aromas and flavors come with dried plums and cooked cherries in this deep, dark and intense wine. Woodsmoke, espresso and seared beef flavors give it a meaty center while firm, grippy tannins hold it tightly together. Best from 2028. —J.G.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$250

**91 Palumbo Family Vineyards 2017 Due Rossi Sangiovese-Merlot (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 18.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$58

**91 Sanguis 2019 Bossman Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's a tart line to the nose of this bottling, which shows plum, elderflower, lavender and charred meat aromas. There's a charcoal tone to the black plum and savory herb flavors of the palate, where the Syrah, Viognier, Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon blend presents a very unique profile. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$90

**91 Sanguis 2019 Optimist Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Very dry aromas of elderberry meet with charred chaparral sticks on the nose of this blend of Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Roussanne and Viognier. The palate's dark fruit beginning evolves into red flowers and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

**91 Sequum 2020 MIXT Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 18.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$50

**90 Anderson Conn Valley 2018 Jyantor Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** A powerful, spicy-oak vein reaches the nose immediately and extends forcefully across the palate in this full-bodied, mouthfilling wine made with 60% Petit Verdot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. The toast, salt and pepper, mint, cloves and cedar from oak barrels are all tempting, and laid on heav-

ily, along with a firm, tannic grip. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$395

**90 Clockwise 2020 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Good, fruit acidity and medium tannins give plenty of energy to this medium-bodied, tangy-textured blend of Bordeaux varieties. Its raspberries, red cherries and subtle oak spices are delicious and direct. —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$78

**90 Merryvale 2018 Profile Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Boisterous in roasted fruits, char and black pepper, this full-bodied wine aged in 80% new French oak barrels boasts firm tannins and a full body. Time should slowly soften its rough edges. Best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$230

**90 Peltier 2018 Triomphe Red Blend (Lodi).** Allow this bold red to open for at least 30 minutes, and be rewarded with voluptuous notes of black cherry, plum and currant layered with decadent tones of chocolate, fennel, star anise and a gentle fragrance of violet. Pair with slow roasted lamb shank, root vegetables or your favorite stews. —S.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

**90 Robert Renzoni 2019 Sonata Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and the Brunello clone of Sangiovese is light in the glass, offering baked cranberry, rose petal and meaty leather aromas. The palate picks up that leathery line as well, offering cranberry, hibiscus and tea leaf flavors against a very firm structure. —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$40

**90 Sanguis 2019 Verve Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Old World-like aromas of leather and dried meat are paired with dried fruit on the nose of this blend of Grenache, Syrah and Roussanne. Wild thyme and sour plum flavors show on the palate, which offers a savory game element as well. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$90

**90 Summer Somewhere 2020 Solstice Red Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Toasted wood, baked red and black plums and a touch of singed boar hair show on the nose of this blend of 60% Syrah and 40% Grenache. A softer texture frames flavors of muddled plum, cinnamon and dried meats. —M.K.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$60

**90 Thacher 2019 Controlled Chaos Red Blend (Paso Robles).** There's an array of herbs cascading across the nose of this blend of 46% Mourvèdre, 19% Zinfandel, 18% Counoise and 17% Grenache, including thyme, oregano and marjoram, as well as cranberry and game aromas. Peppery spices enliven the leather, dried cranberry flavors of the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$52

# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 Avalon 2021 Red Blend (California).** This California appellation red blend, incorporating 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petite Sirah and 25% Petit Verdot offers a mouthful of flavor—blackberry, boysenberry and black plum, and blueberry, hint cacao and cut wood, clove and cinnamon stick along with some herbaceousness in the background. Chunky tannins coat the mouth and there's just enough acidity to add balance. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
abv: 14% **Price: \$12**

**89 Derby 2020 Implico Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Strong aromas of wood wrap around the roasted dark fruits on the nose of this blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Malbec, 13% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc. It's tightly wound and a bit austere on the palate before juicy blackberry jam elements veer quite ripe by the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$34**

**89 Hook or Crook 2020 Heritage Field Blend Red Blend (Lodi).** Mature, plushy tannins accentuate the intense fruit concentration of this eclectic mix of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel and Petit Verdot. The red blend offers integrated aromas and flavors of black plum, black cherry, blackberry, fig, prune, cacao and star anise. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$15**

**89 Lorimar 2019 Mourvèdre-Petit Verdot (California).** An overall balanced blend of 77% Mourvèdre, 18% Petit Verdot and 5% Petite Sirah, this red offers notes of red and black plum, dried wood, crunchy forest leaves, anise and a hint of cacao. —S.B.  
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$56**

**89 Rodrigue Molyneux 2019 Paris Cuvée Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** A blend of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Initial aromas are of black currant, blackberry, boysenberry, dried eucalyptus and cedar wood; the palate adds subtle hints of clove and allspice alongside coarse, grippy tannins and a full body. Overall a well-rounded red. —S.B.  
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$42**

**88 Hook or Crook 2020 Heritage Select Field Blend Red Blend (Lodi).** An overall well-balanced red blend with a mix of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel and Petit Verdot offering notes of black currant, currant leaf, black plum, bramble, sanguine, charred meat, barnyard, cacao and saw dust. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$17**

**88 La Mesa Vineyards 2020 Tierra-Estate Reserve G-S-M (Amador County).** An overall well-balanced Rhône-style blend with notes of blackberry, black plum, vanilla, earth and anise. Blend consists of 35% Grenache, 50% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre. —S.B.  
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$45**

**88 Lorimar 2019 G-S-M (California).** A classic Rhône-style red with 40% Grenache, 30%

Syrah and 30% Mourvèdre, this concentrated red offers notes of cedar wood, vanilla, black plum, star anise and black pepper. —S.B.  
abv: 15.1% **Price: \$50**

**88 Meyye 2018 Sokootok Red Blend (Sierra Foothills).** A very ripe red blend offering concentrated notes of boysenberry jam, prune choice, black cherry liqueur, chocolate and brandy. Assertive, coarse tannins coat the palate leading to a solid finish. —S.B.  
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$60**

**88 Miraflores 2019 Estate Clone Rhône-style Red Blend (El Dorado).** This Rhône-inspired red blend offers aromas and flavors of black cherry and plum, prune, dried fig, clove, nutmeg and charred wood. Moderate acidity results in a fairly broad palate complete with a coarse tannic texture that hugs the cheeks and tongue. —S.B.  
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$32**

**88 Rodrigue Molyneux 2019 Il Segreto Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Barbera, Sangiovese and just a splash of Merlot, this red blend offers aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, plum, red currant and cedar wood. Moderate chalky tannins gently coat the palate, and there's just enough acidity to add the needed freshness. —S.B.  
abv: 14.7% **Price: \$42**

**87 ArrowSmith 2020 La Flechette Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** This bottling from a backyard vineyard blends 75% Cabernet Sauvignon with 25% Merlot to make a slightly tart nose of blackberry and balsamic vinegar aromas. The palate is also quite tangy, with hints of leather and a tight tannic frame. —M.K.  
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$50**

**87 Dancing Crow 2021 Corbeau Rusé Rhône-style Red Blend (Lake County).** An overall balanced red blend with notes of raisin, prune, blueberry, blackberry jam and a faint aura of smokiness. Chalky tannins gently coat the palate; there's just enough acidity to add the needed balance. —S.B.  
abv: 14% **Price: \$35**

**87 La Mesa Vineyards 2020 Seta-Estate Reserve Rhône-style Red Blend (Amador County).** Shy on the nose, the palate offers a bit more on this 70-30 blend of Primitivo and Petite Sirah. Find moderately notes of red plum, red cherry, red currant, licorice, cinnamon and tree bark. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
abv: 14.6% **Price: \$15**

**87 Locations NV CA Red Blend (California).** A simple, but very ripe, red blend with notes of black cherry, black plum, prune, raisin, clove, star anise, cacao and charred wood. With 15.5% abv, it's a robust wine, leading toward quite a warm finish. —S.B.  
abv: 15.5% **Price: \$23**

**87 Nella Terra 2021 Rubertino Red Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** This blend of 50% Zinfandel and 50% Petite Sirah is an overall well-balanced red with enjoyable black-fruited notes of blackberry, black cherry and black plum complemented by well-integrated oak spices of cacao, nutmeg and cinnamon. —S.B.  
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$46**

**86 Hook or Crook 2020 Heritage Reserve Field Blend Red Blend (Lodi).** This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel and Petit Verdot offers aromas and flavors of black cherry liqueur, chocolate, macerated black plums, blackberry jam and charred wood. Tannins are assertive; the finish, short. —S.B.  
abv: 13.9% **Price: \$19**

**86 Thal Vineyards 2019 Tinta Red Red Blend (Contra Costa County).** A blend of 44% Tinta Roriz, 38% Tinto Cao and 18% Souzao, this wine is fairly simple and straightforward, with a solid medium body and moderate acidic structure. Notes of blackberry, blueberry, raisin, prune and fig along with oak-infused spices. —S.B.  
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$30**

**85 Meadow View 2019 Super T Super Tuscan (Lamorinda).** An overall balanced red with simple notes of black cherry, plum and currant, licorice, cinnamon and just a hint of a smoky aura. —S.B.  
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$30**

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Petit Verdot (Howell Mountain).** For full review see page 8.  
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$100**

**93 Emercy 2020 Fulldraw Vineyard Graciano (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Dark and creamy in the glass, this rich exploration of Graciano offers black cherry, cassis, caramelized berries and smoky peat on the nose. The richness is balanced by chalky tannins on the palate, where a lingering acidity slices through the intense black currant, cracked pepper and roast beef flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.5% **Price: \$85**

**93 Lucy 2022 Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 11. **Editors' Choice.**  
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$30**

**92 Miraflores 2020 1853 Misión Mission (Amador County).** Just a really nice, well-rounded red that's easy to enjoy and pair with any meal—or even sip on its own. Red cherry, red plum, raspberry, strawberry, fennel, basil, cacao, vanilla and nutmeg are all interwoven elegantly through the length of the tasting. Fine-grained tannins grip the palate, refreshed by a countering acidity; the finish lingers. —S.B.  
abv: 14.1% **Price: \$34**



**91 Bokisch 2020 Terra Alta Vineyard Graciano (Clements Hills).** The structure of the palate is where this Graciano really sings. The higher (15% abv) alcohol is so well-balanced alongside the concentrated fruits (wild strawberry, rhubarb, red plum, kirsch), and the elevated acidity adds a nervy tension and keeps life and vivacity through the length. Well-integrated oak adds complementary tones of cedar, vanilla and chocolate. The finish is a solid medium in length—and the wine so delicious, it begs another sip. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$31

**91 Lorimar 2019 Montepulciano (Temecula Valley).** Dried plum and fig aromas invite the nose into this bottling of a grape that seems to do well in Southern California climates. Peppery spices, dried potpourri and plum fruit flavors make for an engaging palate that finishes on toasted wood tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$66

**91 Rodrigue Molyneux 2019 Nebbiolo (Livermore Valley).** The nose is vibrant with ripe wild strawberry, black cherry and plum, rhubarb, plump raisins and prunes. The palate adds nuanced oak integration with complementary notes of anise, nutmeg and a gently toasted wood. Tannins coat the mouth, but are soft, mature and well balanced by an elevated acidity that cuts right through the center. Enjoy with your favorite saucy dish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$48

**91 Thacher 2022 Nouveau Shell Creek Vineyard Valdiguié (Paso Robles Highlands District).** This “nouveau” take on Valdiguié offers floral aromas of hibiscus, carnation and rose as well as a core of raspberry jam. The perfect-for-the-pool palate is zippy with white pepper and candied red fruit flavors. Chill before swill. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$36

**90 Optik 2021 French Camp Vineyard Valdiguié (Paso Robles Highlands District).** This is a superripe and bold take on this grape, which is often treated in much lighter ways. Dark in the glass, the nose offers tart blackberry aromas while the palate is loaded with star anise, licorice and chocolate spices that coat the elderberry jam flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**90 Peltier 2016 Schatz Family Reserve Teroldego (Clements Hills).** This is a deeply layered and flavorsome wine that highlights the ripeness and plushness of the fruit: black grape, blackberry, Marionberry, boysenberry and black plum. These are complemented by well-integrated oak tones of cedar, roasted coffee and star anise. At seven years old, it's no surprise that the wine is beginning to show some complexity from age with developing notes of date, prune and fig. Enjoy now. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**90 Rodrigue Molyneux 2018 Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley).** Tightly wound at the

moment, with a fine-grained but grippy tannic texture, what lies beneath are beautiful black fruits—black cherry, plum, currant, complemented by herbaceous rosemary and all cloaked in cedar. Indeed, oak tones lead, but the wine shows potential for relaxation and integration over time. Approachable now with improvement through 2028. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$48

**89 Hungry Hawk 2020 Rock Ridge Carménère (San Diego County).** This intriguing, nearly lost grape presents a unique profile, and this bottling captures that well. The nose is very herbal with crushed thyme and jalapeno slice aromas as well as peppercorn and dark elderberry. The palate combines plum with cracked pepper and green pepper notes. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**88 Vega Vineyard and Farm 2019 Nebbiolo (Santa Ynez Valley).** This bottling is showing a touch of browning in the glass, and offers muddled plum and tart berry aromas on the nose. There's a chalky landing to the palate, where black plum and licorice lead into a tangy finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$72

**87 La Mesa Vineyards 2021 Estate Reserve Gamay Noir (Amador County).** There's a juiciness to this red wine bursting with red cherry and strawberry that gives the illusion of a bit of sweetness. The background of herbal spice adds an extra layer of flavor. It's a fairly light-bodied red that can cross over into the chillable category, making it a suitable, casual option year-round. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

## DESSERT WINES

**91 Villa Creek 2016 Neo-Noir Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** A brownish brick color and cloudy hue in the glass, this is a very port-like bottling, offering wet wood, caramel and raisin aromas. The palate is viscous and boozy, with caramelized marshmallow and lush fig flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$69/500 ml

**89 Miraflores NV Gabriel Mission (Sierra Foothills).** An overall well-balanced sweet wine that's fun, engaging and offers layers of flavors without being overly complex. Find notes of blanched almond, bruised apple, blonde caramel, candied orange peel, walnut skins and cinnamon spice. —S.B.  
**abv:** 18% **Price:** \$60

**89 Thal Vineyards 2016 Ruby Red Forté Red Blend (Contra Costa County).** Lovers of dessert wines will appreciate this nod to Porto that incorporates 40% Touriga Nacional, 30% Tinta Roriz, 15% Tinto Cao and 15% Souzao. Find a mouthful of plush, soft tannins that accentuate the ripeness of the fruit structure, elevating the decadent notes of blackberry, boysenberry, Marion-

berry, black plum, Mission fig, chocolate, maple and brown sugar. —S.B.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$40

**88 Miraflores 2021 Viognier (El Dorado).** Made in an ice-wine style, this 100% Viognier dessert wine offers overt floral aromas of orange blossom, jasmine, lilies, alongside white grape and orange peel fruit tones. A solid dose of acidity creates a lively backbone against the luscious mouthfeel. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**88 Miraflores 2006 Tawny Dessert Wine Touriga Nacional Blend (Sierra Foothills).** Paying nod to the Port-style influence, this tawny dessert wine includes equal parts traditional Portuguese grapes Touriga Nacional, Tinta Cao and Souzao. Find layered flavors of toffee, caramel, walnut, pecan, almond, dried black cherry, dried fig and a hint chocolate inside this full-bodied sweet wine. —S.B.  
**abv:** 18.5% **Price:** \$60

## OREGON

### CHARDONNAY

**98 Walter Scott 2021 X-Novo Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** If perfection exists, this wine has to be in the ballpark. It's young, enthusiastic and brisk, with soaring acidity and an electric mouthfeel. Peach and nectarine aromas dance with traces of gun flint, bay leaves and Stargazer lilies. Flavors of lemon sorbet, salted cashews and fresh avocado are deeply satisfying. Enjoy 2024–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$100

**96 Evening Land 2021 La Source Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$75

**95 Division 2021 Johan Vineyard Trois Chardonnay (Van Duzer Corridor).** The wine's aromas of orange-flavored olive oil cake take you straight to a Mediterranean villa. Additional aromas of white sage and fresh-shucked oyster shells get you to the beach. Lemon, butter and toasted filbert flavors go on and on. This is an exquisite Chardonnay with depth and playful acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$45

**95 Evening Land 2021 Summum Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$100

**94 Boedecker Cellars 2019 Finnigan Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** This Chardonnay rested in neutral oak barrels for two years, followed by another 16 months of bottle conditioning. The result is a gorgeous Chardonnay with aromas of nectarines, lemon verbena and

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poached pears with cinnamon. Medium bodied, with enough acidity to handle rich apricot jam, toasted almond and coriander flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$32

**94 Lange 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Lemon, honeysuckle and melting beeswax aromas are joined by an enticing gun-flint note that's always close by. This medium-bodied beauty's chamomile, lemon-curd flavors fill the mouth, accented by traces of peach and toasty oak spice. This is one to sip slowly with intention. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$65

**94 Project M 2021 Anicca Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** It'd hard to beat an Eola-Hills Chardonnay in a vintage like 2021. The wine's aromas of peach, lemon, clarified butter and a trace of toffee are mesmerizing. The crisp texture and brilliant acidity showcase lemon peel, green tea and pear flavors. This elegant, restrained wine saw time in 20% new oak. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$40

**94 Walter Scott 2021 Freedom Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Mount Pisgah).** Roasted pear and toasted filbert aromas match nicely with wee notes of butter and piney juniper berries. Vibrant acidity and a crisp texture underscore tangy quince, lemon, fennel and sage-tea flavors. This is a lithe and lively Chardonnay with an enduring finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**94 Walter Scott 2021 Hyland Vineyard Chardonnay (McMinnville).** Orange blossoms and melting beeswax form a tight circle around a meaty core aroma of melon wrapped with thinly sliced guanciale. Thrilling acidity shines a spotlight on lemon verbena and macadamia-nut flavors with a trace of tart kiwi. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**93 Anacréon 2021 As You Are Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** It's hard to beat lemon shortbread and toasted filbert aromas. The medium-bodied wine's brisk acidity is a highlight, with flavors of lemon, spicy Ligurian olive oil and sage tea. This is a great Chardonnay from a strong vintage. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$65

**93 Archery Summit 2021 Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** This elegant Chardonnay's European butter, lemon pound cake and toasted-hazelnut aromas are guaranteed to trigger hunger pangs. The wine's lemon-custard flavor and texture are equally creamy, with additional flavors of lemon verbena and salty Marcona almonds. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Division 2016 Eola Springs Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Where has this wine been hiding? It's a current release with Savagnin-like nuttiness on the nose, joined by aro-

mas of yellow apples, sage butter, lemon and honeysuckle. The wine's viscous texture makes flavors like apple tarts and thyme feel like they are gliding across the palate. Glorious stuff. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**93 Domaine Serene 2019 Etoile Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** A ripe peach aroma plays off of a smoky citrus note similar to grilled lemons. Lemon verbena and lime-zest aromas hover in the background. The wine's slightly creamy texture belies crisp acidity and flavors of lemon gelato, German chamomile tea and spicy Thai basil. Elegance personified. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$95

**93 GC 2021 Vivid Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This is a Chardonnay for lovers of restrained alcohol, zippy acidity and a lithe, lean texture. Lemon sorbet and toasted coconut aromas are graced by traces of gun flint and lemon basil. The wine's flavors range from lemon tart and rosemary to a cup of chamomile tea. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**93 Iris Vineyards 2020 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** The scent of Golden Delicious apple peels is the beginning of an aromatic adventure that includes almonds, bay leaves and sweet jasmine flowers. The rich palate and creamy texture float sumptuous flavors of nectarine cake, lemon and a potpourri of cardamom, basil and nutmeg. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$30

**93 Iterum 2020 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** A sweet tea with lemon aroma is joined by toasted filberts and rich cocoa-butter notes. The brain now thinks a creamy Chardonnay experience is on the agenda. Then the palate turns out to be dry and crisp, with nice acidity and loads of lemon zest and Granny Smith apple flavors. Love the yin and yang. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**93 Shea 2019 Shea Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton).** This lighter-bodied Chardonnay does not skimp on flavor. While smoky grilled peaches are a nice aromatic start, the real fun begins with an orange and olive-oil cake note that hangs out in the background. The wine's fresh mouthfeel is a perfect match for flavors of lemon butter, chamomile and toasted filberts. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$40

**93 Walter Scott 2021 Cuvée Anne Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This Chardonnay is a "must own." Steely aromas of wet slate, sweet lemon and fresh-cut grass are invigorating and summer-like. Brisk acidity and a crisp texture brace flavors like lemon drop hard candies, toasted filberts and a trace of grapefruit. It is made with fruit from Justice, Koosah, Sojeau and Witness Tree vineyards. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**93 Walter Scott 2021 Justice Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The initial lemon zest aroma makes the word "fresh" appear in a thought bubble above your head, while notes of porcini sea salt and crushed rosemary induce hunger pangs. Flavors such as grilled lemons, ginger and pine needles set the table for a crisp texture with bright acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**93 Walter Scott 2021 Koosah Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This lighter-bodied Chardonnay displays soft, floral chamomile, lemon balm, tangerine and ginger aromas. Its restrained acidity has no difficulty keeping pace with intense lime and lemon-fruit flavors. Additional flavors of fresh basil and warm brioche hover in the background. This is like sipping an icy granita on a hot afternoon. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**92 Bellinger 2020 Warrior's Rest Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Fresh aromas of sea breeze salinity, lemon zest and seared scallops drizzled with butter take you to your favorite beach. The wine's lithe, lean texture and zippy acidity pair with flavors of lemon gelato and grassy green tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Broadley 2021 Sunny Mountain Chardonnay (Lower Long Tom).** German chamomile, lemon verbena and lime peel are made for one another, especially when they are joined by the fresh salinity of an ocean breeze. The wine's apricot tart, pineapple and mild acacia honey flavors float along a creamy texture. This is soft and gentle Chardonnay pleasure. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$35

**92 Evening Land 2021 Seven Springs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This lithe and lively tiny dancer of a Chardonnay offers an aromatic introduction of muskmelon, baked apples spiked with cinnamon and a touch of coconut butter. The wine's light, crisp texture is a match for brisk acidity and flavors of sage, lemon sorbet and chamomile. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92 GC 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** The wine's pronounced nuttiness, white tea and Golden Delicious apple aromas remind me more than a little of some of my favorite Jura white wines. The lemon sorbet, white peach and butter flavors bring me home. This is a well-made wine with beautiful acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92 Lange 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Toasted almonds and fried plantains do an aromatic dance with notes of lemon gelato and orange peels. The wine's brisk acidity accompanies a crisp mouthfeel and flavors like peach melba and lemon juice squeezed on grilled

scallops. This refreshing Chardonnay makes it easy to pour a second glass. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$35

**92 Tendril 2019 Enchanter Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This supple Chardonnay offers comice pear, lemon and butter aromas, with bits of rosemary and filberts in the background. The wine's creamy texture, bright acidity and velvety tannins go with flavors like guava, basil and a lemon tart with a graham-cracker crust. Enchanting, indeed. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Anacréon 2021 The Epicure Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** An epicure's dream for sure. Rich lemon, papaya, peach and butterscotch aromas are pleasure personified. The brisk acidity took me by surprise, as I was also expecting hedonism on the palate. Instead, I got a crisp texture with cantaloupe, lime and thyme flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$65

**91 Carabella 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** An elegant mix of Dijon 95 and 96 clones makes its introduction with aromas of tangerines, wet slate and toasted filberts. The wine's bright and lively acidity lights up flavors like kiwi, lemonade and a mildly bitter almond note. Now, bring on the fresh goat cheese. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$35

**91 Durant 2021 Lark Durant Vineyards Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Light a lemon-scented soy candle, make a tortilla and eat a peach. That is the Lark's aromatic set in a nutshell. Icy lemon granita, guava juice and clarified butter flavors fit perfectly with the wine's elevated acidity and crisp, clean texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$45

**91 Karta 2020 Elton Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Grilled lemons drizzled in olive oil duke it out with butter and toast for aromatic supremacy. The citrus fruit plays second fiddle on the palate to flavors like salty Serrano ham and an herbal bouquet of thyme, rosemary and sage. Lip-smacking acidity ties it all together. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$40

**91 Pray Tell 2020 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** It's hard to beat this aromatic combination of German chamomile tea, honeysuckle, assorted meadow flowers and butter melting on a warm knife. This is a crisp and lively Chardonnay that shows off lemon, kiwi, saline and beeswax flavors. It is a lean, clean, food friendly machine. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$55

**90 Durant 2021 Raven Durant Vineyards Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Lemons grilling on the backyard BBQ awaiting their salmon destiny start the aromatic show. They are joined by fresh thyme, butter and the saline of a fresh-shucked oyster-shell lining. White peach, olive oil and walnut

flavors are rich, but this is a fuller-bodied Chardonnay in need of a touch more acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$45

**90 Lange 2021 Classique Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This smooth-textured Chardonnay smells like a honeydew melon drizzled with sea salt. As the wine warms to the touch, a distinct mineral note surfaces. Tangy white grapefruit and ginger flavors mix with lemon butter and basil notes. I see a lobster roll in this wine's future. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$25

**90 Stoller 2022 Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** The tropics meet the orchard here, with ripe aromas of lime, lemon and peach, along with a minty mineral note similar to the white powder found on a stick of Wrigley's Spearmint gum. While lemon gelato and pink grapefruit flavors fill the mouth, a bit more acidity would be nice. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Suzor 2020 The Sunflower Chardonnay (Van Duzer Corridor).** This medium-bodied Chardonnay offers candied coconut and floral aromas that include spicy white lilies and lemon-scented geraniums. Flavors of lemon curd, chamomile, shredded coconut and wet rocks drift lazily on a creamy texture. A great pour with popcorn. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**90 The Great Oregon Wine Company 2021 Crawford Beck Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The grilled pineapple, roasted pork and green-pepper aromas suggest it may be time to break out the shish kabob skewers. This lighter-bodied wine's flavors of Golden Delicious apples, lemon curd and beeswax are backed by crisp acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90 Winter's Hill 2021 Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** A lighter-bodied treat with aromas of yellow apples, toasted almonds, nutmeg and clarified butter. Soft acidity and a creamy texture go along with flavors like olive-oil cake topped with a scoop of lemon gelato. Sip it all by itself. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$44

**90 Yamhill Valley 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (McMinnville).** This is one lush and creamy Chardonnay from its quince paste and cornmeal aromas to flavors of lemon and olive oil cake and a touch of earthy oregano. The wine is medium bodied with restrained acidity and a plush mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Anam Cara 2021 Nicholas Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains).** Aged in a combination of neutral and new French oak, this Dijon clone Chardonnay has a clean, fresh nose with aromas of lemon basil, walnuts and wet slate. It is lighter bodied, with modest acidity and flavors of

warm brioche and yellow apples. Try it with Dungeness crab dipped in melted butter. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$35

**89 Duck Pond 2021 Natural Path Chardonnay (Oregon).** The wine's lemon-lime fruit introduction suggests a soda pop is coming, then you get hit with aromas of pansies, cherry blossoms and toasted filberts. A grapefruit drizzled with a touch of sugar flavor dominates the palate, accompanied by notes of fennel and almonds. The wine feels a bit thin in the mouth, but its acidity is bright. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$15

**89 Wine by Joe 2022 Chardonnay (Oregon).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88 A to Z 2022 Oregon Chardonnay (Oregon).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88 Rascal 2021 Chardonnay (Oregon).** Light-bodied and armed with lip-numbing acidity, this Rascal will hunt. Lemon, saline and buttered English muffin aromas are joined by flavors of juicy tangerines and iced tonic water with a lemon wedge. Simple and refreshing. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Sweet Cheeks 2020 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Aged in a combination of stainless and French oak, this Chardonnay completed malolactic fermentation. The wine's peach, butterscotch, balsa wood and coconut aromas set the stage for a buttery palate packed with Meyer lemon, toasted filbert and chamomile flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

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## SAUVIGNON BLANC

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**93 Top Source 2022 Columbia Valley Sauvignon Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Yet another beautiful wine from Top Source. This Sauvignon Blanc packs plenty of acidity yet maintains a smooth, creamy texture. A fresh pine-needle note joins aromas of lychee, guava and prickly pear. Lemon butter and honeycomb flavors are complemented by a trace of sage. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Division-Villages 2022 La Frontière Sauvignon Blanc (Oregon).** This grassy-nosed Sauvignon Blanc is a tangy tropical paradise with its aromas of kiwis, the ubiquitous gooseberry and guava. The wine's acidity is nice, but there's some body here as well, with a buttery mouthfeel and flavors of lemon gelato and Macadamia nuts. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**92 Padigan 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Rogue Valley).** Each sniff of this wine is a trip to the ice-cream truck. First there's pineapple push ups.



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Then a mango popsicle. Those aromas are followed by a hint of lemon-basil shaved ice. Lemon verbena and chamomile flavors join with blazing acidity for one crisp treat. Fish tacos, just saying. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$26

**91 Durant 2021 Lark Sauvignon Blanc (Dundee Hills).** Aged in a combination of concrete and oak vessels, this medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc's aromas include Golden Delicious apples, guava, honeycomb and wet slate. The wine's peach, white tea and grilled scallop flavors accompany a creamy texture and surprisingly crisp acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**91 Valcan 2021 Barakel Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley).** White peaches and pine needles set the aromatic table, with a wee tangy trace of "odeur de chat." Flavors of ripe melon, green apple and ginger tea with a slice of lemon are crisp and long-lasting. Pair this wine with a warm, languid summer evening. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

## RIESLING

**92 Anam Cara 2022 Nicholas Estate Dry Riesling (Chehalem Mountains).** The wine's white peach, lemon and musk-melon aromas in no way prepare you for the next act. The first sip lights up the palate with electrifying, knee-weakening acidity. A brutally crisp texture hosts flavors of a lemon granita garnished with sprigs of mint and lemon verbena. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.8% **Price:** \$30

**91 A to Z 2022 Riesling (Oregon).** For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**89 Foris 2022 Riesling (Rogue Valley).** The wine's Golden Delicious apple aroma is a nice match for additional notes of vanilla wafers and a tangy lemon-ginger kombucha. Herbal flavors of thyme and lemongrass dominate the soft-textured palate, without a lot of fruit showing at the moment. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## PINOT GRIS

**95 The Eyrie Vineyards 2021 The Eyrie Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills).** When aromas of a tangy lemon glaze on an orange olive-oil cake rise from the glass, I'm all in. This is not your typical Pinot Gris: It has body and searing acidity to accompany flavors of apricots, cardamom and candied orange peels that are positively Condrieu-like. So beautiful. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Durant 2021 Coyote Durant Vineyards Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills).** The grapes were foot tread before 100% barrel fermentation and aging

without malolactic fermentation. The resulting wine is medium bodied with a mildly creamy texture and lemon shortbread, basil and salted cashew aromas. Peach dominates the flavor profile with traces of mint. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$35

**92 King Estate 2022 Artisan Series Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**92 Van Duzer 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This lighter-bodied wine has goose-bump inducing acidity. Its aromas are a wall of lemon supported by wet grass and toasted marshmallow notes. The brisk mouthfeel is right at home with lemon tart and chrysanthemum-tea flavors. Delightfully refreshing stuff. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$25

**91 Foris 2022 Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley).** This lively Pinot Gris is light on body but long on flavor and acidity. Its blood-orange juice, crushed chalk and peach-flavored gummy-bear aromas are fun and frisky. The wine's texture is clean and crisp, with more peach flavor and burst of ginger and lemon basil. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$17

**91 Lange 2022 Classique Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This lighter-bodied, ethereal take on Pinot Gris has highly floral aromas of gardenias and lemon-scented Sweet Bay magnolia flowers, followed by notes of cantaloupe and lime zest. Honeydew melon, orange sorbet and pistachio flavors abound. A clean, crisp texture with nice acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**91 Ponzi 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** With enough acidity to give a small town goosebumps, the Ponzi Pinot Gris first offers aromas of ripe Bosc pear and chalk. The Granny Smith apple, lemon and fresh basil flavors are fresh and invigorating. This wine is a fantastic complement for fresh goat cheese smeared on bruschetta. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 R. Stuart & Co. 2022 Big Fire Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This is the best Big Fire Pinot Gris I've ever had. The wine's honeydew melon and lime-sherbet aromas are as clean and fresh as they are tempting. Wild strawberry and shredded coconut flavors glide along a creamy texture and just enough acidity to keep things sprightly. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$22

**91 Wine by Joe 2022 Pinot Gris (Oregon).** For full review see page 24. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$14

**91 Winter's Hill 2022 Watershed Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills).** The acidity of this wine, if actual electricity, would light up a tiny house. Golden Delicious apple and sandalwood-spice aro-

mas with flavors of lemon, Honeycrisp apple and walnuts. If you are averse to crisp textures and refreshing acidity, steer clear. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$21

**90 A to Z 2022 Oregon Pinot Gris (Oregon).** For full review see page 24. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Chehalem 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Lime zest and fresh-cut grass aromas are light and summery. There's also a bit of earth on the nose similar to petunias. The acidity here is a bit on the soft side, with guava and lime sorbet flavors running rampant. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20

**90 King Estate 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Lange 2022 Reserve Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Peach and toasted-filbert aromas are joined by traces of earth and white flowers. Medium bodied with a creamy texture and ripe peach, lime and guava flavors. Aged and fermented in a combination of neutral French oak and concrete. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$32

**90 Torii Mor 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Lively acidity marks the way for this crisp Pinot Gris. The wine's pineapple, honeycomb and toasted-filbert aromas are graced by the kind of fresh salinity you get with an ocean breeze. Look for flavors of lemongrass, tangerine and wet slate to brighten your day. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$24

**89 Chemistry 2022 Oregon Pinot Gris (Oregon).** Nothing complex here, with soft acidity and flavors of peach, lemon and butter leading the way. The smooth, soft-textured palate is dominated by lemon-lime flavors with a tiny bit of wet slate. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Coelho 2022 Bunny Cuvée Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Rich pineapple and butter-scotch aromas are flanked by a wee note of melting beeswax. If you enjoy less acidity and a creamier texture, this Pinot Gris fits the bill. Grapefruit and ripe honeydew melon flavors abound. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Iris Vineyards 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** There's lots of stone fruit here and aromas of pear and peach to match, with wet slate and lemon zest. A surprisingly creamy textural feel is complemented by nervy acidity and flavors of cantaloupe, lemon drops, limeade and cinnamon spice. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 The Great Oregon Wine Company 2021 La Chouette Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Not-quite-ripe white peaches, spearmint and lemon

peel make for a tart aromatic set. Grapefruit, melon and Macadamia-nut flavors float on a creamy texture, where a bit more acidity would have been a big plus. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$35

**88 Cedar + Salmon 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Rich lemon gelato and peach-pie aromas are joined on the nose by a bouquet of pine needles, thyme and freesia. The wine's acid is on the modest side, yet the texture is still crisp, with flavors of pear, beeswax and cedar. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

**88 Duck Pond 2022 Natural Path Pinot Gris (Oregon).** Lemon drop hard candies, jicama and orange aromas are a nice warm up for flavors of peach sorbet and lime zest. The wine's moderate acidity matches its soft mouthfeel. This is uncomplicated refreshment. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$16

**88 Primarius 2022 Pinot Gris (Oregon).** It's a nice start with Damson plum and Bosc pear aromas, but then comes a nutty Gouda cheese-like note that seem out of place. The wine has some nice acidity and a crisp texture to accompany thick pistachio ice cream and tangy lime-soda flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

**88 Yamhill Valley 2021 Estate Pinot Gris (McMinnville).** Lemon and basil aromas complement a vegetable note similar to roasted squash. Mild peach and pear flavors are joined by saline and gun flint notes, with acidity as soft as a pillow. —M.A.

abv: NA

Price: \$24

**87 Possessed 2017 Possessed Goddess Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This is a curious cat, indeed. The wine's sweet aromas are similar to a scoop of butterscotch ice cream in a waffle cone. But behind the sweet, there's a splash of petrol. Acidity is mild with a creamy texture befitting a flavor reminiscent of spicy Snickerdoodle cookie dough. —M.A.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$22

## PINOT BLANC

**93 Willful 2022 Pinot Blanc (Yamhill-Carlton).** This excellent Pinot Blanc is made with fruit plucked from Winkler Vineyard's 40-year-old vines. Its creamy mouthfeel and elevated acidity make it a refreshing treat with aromas of starfruit and marzipan leading into flavors of Meyer lemon, fresh basil and almonds. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.33%

Price: \$24

**92 Brooks 2022 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** Always a great wine, the 2022 Pinot Blanc vintage from Brooks does not disappoint. It has lemon, saline, pineapple and beeswax-candle aromas that grab your attention. Then, flavors of

lemon verbena, lemon tarts and ripe peaches seal the deal. Exuberant acidity is the lemon icing on the cake. —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$28

**92 Foris 2022 Pinot Blanc (Rogue Valley).** What I love about his Pinot Blanc is its ability to combine a bit of body with blazing acidity. Mandarin orange, grilled peach and hyacinth aromas win you over before the first sip. The wine's icy, crisp texture showcases flavors of kiwi, rosemary and the banana esters that I love in my favorite hefeweizens. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$17

**89 Wine by Joe 2022 Pinot Blanc (Oregon).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$14

**89 Winter's Hill 2021 Reserve Pinot Blanc (Dundee Hills).** Ripe pineapple, beeswax, lemon and French tarragon aromas are followed by a faint anise note and more tarragon. Lime sorbet, candied grapefruit and rosemary flavors fill the mouth in creamy style. Medium bodied with soft acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$29

**89 Yamhill Valley 2022 Estate Grown Pinot Blanc (McMinnville).** Lighter bodied and brimming with acidity, this Pinot Blanc offers up aromas of white peach and lemon, with a hint of buttered corn on the cob. Toasted filberts and Golden Delicious apple flavors blend nicely with a mild green-tea note, followed by a short finish. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

## VIOGNIER

**94 Cayuse 2021 Cailloux Vineyard Viognier (Walla Walla Valley).** Floral tops fruit on the wine's nose, with sweet gardenia and spicy dianthus aromas trumping notes of kiwi, orange sorbet and wet slate. Passion fruit, lemon tart and toasted filbert flavors with lively acidity and a complex mid-palate. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$77

**93 Et Fille 2022 Deux Vert Vineyard Viognier (Yamhill-Carlton).** This is a love note to a Viognier with perfumed lilacs, orange blossoms, poached pears and a touch of gun flint on the nose. I was expecting a thick mouthful of wine, instead I discovered a clean, fresh texture with frisky acidity supporting peach and lemon flavors. There's also a streak of salinity running through the fruit. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: NA

Price: \$34

**93 Padigan 2020 Estate Reserve Viognier (Rogue Valley).** This Condrieu-like floor show begins with creamy butter and toasted filberts aromas taking the olfactory system by storm. Little touches of lemon basil and apricot flutter in the

background. The wine's texture is just as creamy, with flavors of peach, apricot jam and cardamom, with just enough acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$46

## WHITE BLENDS

**94 Brooks 2022 Amycas White Blend (Willamette Valley).** This homage to Alsatian field blends is made with Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Muscat, Pinot Gris and Gewürztraminer. It is spectacular, with invigorating acidity and all the peach, guava, ginger tea and macadamia-nut butter aromas and flavors you can handle. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

**93 Franchere 2022 For Heaven's Sake, Don't Move Here White Blend (Willamette Valley).**

This Pinot Gris-Grüner Veltliner blend saw 10 days on the skins and four months in neutral oak. Ironically, the wine's aromatic combination of persimmon, lanolin and leather will make people want to move here. A not-quite-ripe apricot flavor is surrounded by lemon peel and olive oil, all backed by grippy tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$24

**90 Battle Creek 2022 Limited Edition White Blend (Oregon).** This smooth white is a "proprietary field blend and Riesling." I do know that whatever is in this wine spent three months in 100% stainless steel. It is packed with aromas and flavors of lemon curd, ginger shortbread, cinnamon spice and toasted filberts. It possesses a soft texture with modest acidity. —M.A.

abv: NA

Price: \$28

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**93 Abacela 2022 Albariño (Umpqua Valley).** Oregon's Albariño pioneers deliver once again. The wine's lemon zest, pineapple and spearmint aromas are refreshing, while lemon butter, rosemary and peach flavors are satisfying. The Albariño's brilliant acidity is the show stopper here. Pair it with Padrón peppers and a fish taco. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$22

**93 Tendril 2019 Pretender Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This producer put white Pinot Noir on the map, and this is the best Pretender I've tasted. Aged for 16 months in mostly neutral French oak, none of which were new, it has a creamy/dreamy texture with aromas and flavors of golden raspberries, white pear, lemon basil and orange peel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$68

**92 Beacon Hill 2022 Beacon Hill Vineyard Albariño (Yamhill-Carlton).** Albariño is scarce in the Willamette Valley, but based on this wine, there should be more. Aged in stainless steel and neutral French oak. Lemon, grapefruit and

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daisies set the aromatic tone, with yellow apples, lemon iced tea and basil flavors. Crisp texture and zippy acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 11% Price: \$32

**91** **Chehalem 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Laurelwood District).** This wine has the kind of acidity that lights up your palate and the room. Fermented and aged in a combination of neutral French oak and stainless steel, it is all about the citrus with aromas and flavors of lemon curd, lemon basil and lemon butter. Oh yeah, thyme and almonds as well. —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

**90** **Foris 2022 Dry Gewürztraminer (Rogue Valley).** Lime, lemon verbena and Mandarin-orange aromas are accompanied by an interesting yeasty baked-good note. The other surprise is the wine's body and fuller mouthfeel. Tangerine sorbet and lemon-basil flavors surround a savory note that is close to seared scallops. Lively acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 13% Price: \$15

**90** **Lumos 2021 Temperance Hill Vineyard Aligoté (Eola-Amity Hills).** Very little Aligoté is planted in Oregon, but one of those acres is hidden away in the iconic Temperance Hill Vineyard. The wine's lemon butter and concrete aromas are flanked by an herbal wave of lavender, rosemary and thyme. Lemon zest and smoked-peach flavors surf a bomb wave of acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

**90** **Winter's Hill 2021 Blanc Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** An interesting aromatic set includes a hunger-inducing combination of Basque cheese-cake, Golden Delicious applesauce and peaches. It is a lighter-bodied white Pinot Noir, where the flavors run from apple cider to red raspberries. A little more acidity would have pushed the score of this tasty wine even higher. —M.A.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$44

## SPARKLING WINES

**97** **Corollary 2018 Winter's Hill Sparkling Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** With its lemon butter, saline, hazelnut and gardenia aromas, this is one of the best domestic sparkling wines I've encountered. Lemon verbena tea, grapefruit and buttered corn tortilla flavors hold your attention. This 100% Pinot Blanc is a tangy treat with frisky bubbles and electric acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

**96** **Corollary 2019 Cuvée One Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** Mostly Chardonnay, with Pinot Noir and Pinot Blanc, this sparkling wine is 100% brilliant. Lemon poppy seed cake and fragrant white mock orange blossom aromas are a strong start. Flavors of lemon curd on toast points and salty Marcona almonds seal the deal. Tight bubbles with a brisk mouthfeel. Yowza! *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

**95** **Corollary 2019 Cuvée One Rosé Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This producer gets better with every vintage. This Pinot Noir-Pinot Gris-Chardonnay blend offers aromas of raspberries, guava, sage and chalk dust. It has eye-opening acidity to go with peach, lime and white pepper flavors. Crisp and tart with a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$55

**94** **Durant 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills).** Peach, apricot and sweet hay aromas are punctuated by a burst of talc. The wine's acidity is soft, with a creamy texture and a tight column of bubbles. Lemon drop hard candy and lavender flavors are unique and flavorful. A traditional method Pinot Noir-Chardonnay blend disgorged 9-20-2022. Elegance personified. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: NA Price: \$60

**93** **Corollary 2019 Momtazi Carbonic Rosé Sparkling Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** Rose hip tea with lemon, cranberry, Mandarin orange and cardamom spice aromas are as complex as they are tangy. Tart red cherry and orange-zest flavors are joined by a wee bit of salted cashews. Elevated acidity with a smooth texture. —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

**92** **R. Stuart & Co. NV Bubbly Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This traditional method blend of equal parts Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc, with 4% Pinot Noir, offers fresh aromas of red cherries, peach skins and wet stones. Apricot and tangerine flavors grace a winning combination of creamy texture and a jolt of tangy acidity. —M.A.  
abv: 12% Price: \$40

**92** **Valcan 2021 Pét Nat Red Malbec (Rogue Valley).** This pétillant naturel Malbec is medium bodied, with firm tannins and a chewy texture. Its aromas of black cherries, sweet fresh-cut hay and lemon icing burst from the glass. Papaya, cherry and peach flavors are accented by a bit of saline. —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

**92** **Valcan 2021 Pét Nat White Malbec Malbec (Rogue Valley).** A Malbec made like a white wine, but as a pétillant naturel—who does this? Valcan Cellars, the maestros of domestic Malbec, that's who. Aromas of quince, peach and orange essential oil are like sniffing summer. This lightly frizzante wine is tart and tangy with flavors of orange zest, tangerine and persimmon. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

**91** **Valcan 2021 Doris Sparkling Malbec (Rogue Valley).** A méthode traditionnelle red Malbec doesn't pop up every day. Aromas of pomegranate, hibiscus tea and leather are delivered by energetic bubbles. Grape popsicle and black-cherry flavors are underscored by a pronounced saline note similar to a fresh sea breeze. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

**90** **Jolee NV Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley).** A semi-sparkling Pinot Gris that tiptoes up to the edge of off dry is not an everyday encounter. Jolee's aromatics include lemon drop hard candies and sweet, juicy donut peaches. The fizz is mild, but so is the acidity. Those little bubbles deliver plenty of lemonade and lychee flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 10.5% Price: \$14

**90** **Valcan 2021 Piquette Malbec (Rogue Valley).** This red-hued piquette is light-bodied, low in alcohol and full of fun. Aromas of black cherries, pomegranate and a trace of black olive lead into black cherry, peach and saline flavors. There is a firm tannic structure here, making for a chewy texture. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 5% Price: \$20

**89** **Valcan 2021 Carmin Sparkling Malbec (Rogue Valley).** A forced carbonation wine that had seven days of skin contact prior to pressing. Black cherry and grape-popsicle aromas delivered by lazy bubbles blend with smaller notes of beeswax, saline and soy butter. Black-cherry snow cone and raspberry seltzer water flavors are juicy. —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

**88** **Lachini 2018 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This traditional method sparkling wine was disgorged September 2022. Its lychee, white chocolate and brioche aromas are joined by a note I can only describe as "cold steel." Flavors of peach and pear butter are an orchard walk. The palate is chalky, with the mouthfeel of a protein powder drink. —M.A.  
abv: 12.9% Price: \$65

## ROSÉS

**94** **Cayuse 2021 Edith Grenache Rosé Rosé (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine's acidity will bring the most jaded palate back to life. Raspberry and sweet-pea flower aromas are counterpointed by mild saline and pork-fat notes. This is an enjoyable situation where zippy acidity is matched by weight and a texture that coats the palate. Flavors of pink grapefruit, peach pastilles and white tea seal the deal. —M.A.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$52

**94** **Dowsett Family 2022 Georgia Rose Becklin Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$17

**93** **Del Rio 2022 Grenache Rosé (Rogue Valley).** I'm a sucker for a light-bodied, high-acid rosé made with Grenache and this is one of them. It is one giant, juicy peach, joined by aromas and flavors of lemon peel, rose petals and red raspberries. Each icy sip conjures memories of summer evenings past. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

**93** **Montinore 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Yamhill-Carlton).** This rosé will light up the faces of



acid lovers everywhere. We're talking acidity levels that will give you goose bumps and joy. Fresh-baked bread and apricot aromas mingle with fresh, lemony notes of clean laundry on a clothesline. Strawberry lemonade and wet-rock flavors fill the mouth. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$25

**93 Sokol Blosser 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** The wine's aromatic yin and yang of tart persimmon and sweet peach with graham-cracker cookie dust is just ridiculously good. Nectarines and melon wrapped in prosciutto, along with brisk acidity, are just the icing on the cake. Pair this wine with toes dipped in icy stream water. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Abacela 2022 Grenache Rosé (Umpqua Valley).** This wine's breathtaking acidity left me weak in the knees. The aromas of pink grapefruit, Anjou pear, rose water and chalk dust finished me off. I was then powerless to resist blood orange, grapefruit, coconut and rosemary flavors that seemed to last forever. Now I need a nap. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$20

**92 Long Walk 2022 Long Walk Vineyard Cinsault Rosé (Rogue Valley).** Oregon Cinsault is rare enough, but in rosé form, it is as rare as a Kansas City Royals trip to the World Series. This rare treat features aromas of dried strawberries, kumquats and lemon-drop hard candies. Flavors of persimmon, white tea and Meyer lemons are accompanied by lively acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$23

**92 Padigan 2022 Grenache Rosé (Rogue Valley).** I would like to spend the summer with this wine. It smells like tangerines, strawberries and lemon surf wax. The flavors are a fantastic mix of rhubarb pie, raspberry-flavored Kool-Aid powder—before adding sugar—and a touch of roasted pork shoulder and thyme. Cowabunga. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$18

**92 Quady North 2022 GSM Rosé (Rogue Valley).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**91 Abbey Road Farm 2022 Estate Trousseau Rosé (Yamhill-Carlton).** Almost equal parts of Trousseau and Trousseau Gris were blended after a combination of tank and stainless-steel fermentation. Peach and Golden Delicious apple aromas are punctuated by bursts of saline and grapefruit. Red raspberry and clove flavors join with brisk acidity and sturdy tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$28

**91 Five Fourteen Vineyards 2022 Pinot Noir Estate Rosé (Willamette Valley).** These estate grapes were direct pressed then fermented/aged in stainless steel. The resulting wine has a tart strawberry lemonade aroma, with a wee earthy note of

wet garden stones. Bright acidity lifts flavors of Golden Delicious apple slices and orange cake. Lighter bodied, with a chalky texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$28

**91 King Estate 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20

**91 Lange 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Dundee Hills).** Fermented and aged in new and neutral French oak barrels, this Dundee Hills rosé exudes aromas of cherry blossoms and sliced peaches drizzled with honey. Apricot and pink-grapefruit flavors are joined by a dollop of salinity. The wine's elevated acidity makes the tongue tingle. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$29

**91 Wine by Joe 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$14

**91 Winter's Hill 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Dundee Hills).** The wine's cantaloupe and chamomile-tea aromas were nothing new, but the mild background scent of pasta with olive oil and salt was mesmerizing. I've never encountered anything quite like this, but I liked it. The flavors revolve around citrus, rosemary and peach jam on toast. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**91 Yamhill Valley 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (McMinnville).** What fun aromas! First up is a puff of apricots and lime zest, followed by a lanolin-like scent that had me thinking about Chenin Blanc. The medium-bodied rosé's Mirabelle plum and cranberry flavors are flanked by excellent acidity and a bit of cinnamon spice in the finish. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 A to Z 2022 Rosé (Oregon).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 Brooks 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** This is lip-smacking fun—from grilled peach and strawberry tart aromas to the rosé's elevated acidity and flavors of raspberry pastilles, chilled orange slices, fresh basil and mint. There's some weight here with a texture bordering on creamy. An "enjoy the sunset" wine, for sure. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**90 Coelho 2022 Bunny Cuvée Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** One does not expect aromas of grilled mortadella, strawberries and mango chunks from a rosé with a cute bunny rabbit on the label. The wine is medium bodied, with a creamy texture and flavors of grilled peaches, plums and lemon basil. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Foris 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Rogue Valley).** This rosé is a tale of two pinks. Tropical-

themed aromas of guava, coconut and lychee bubble tea lead off. Then comes the orchard-fruit flavors such as Bosc pear and peach. The wine's brisk acidity and lemon-verbena tea note on the finish are a perfect match. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**90 Possessed NV Goddess Pinot Rosé (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 20. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$23

**89 Erath 2022 Oregon Rosé of Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This rosé's fresh cantaloupe and lemon zest aromas will have you looking for your sunscreen, beach towel and flip-flops. The wine almost crunches in the mouth, thanks to its exhilarating acidity, as strawberry and citrus flavors swirl about. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$14

**89 Quady North 2022 Cabernet Franc Rosé (Rogue Valley).** Heavy cream and ripe strawberry aromas put one in the mood for watching tennis at Wimbledon's Centre Court. The flavors are a role reversal, with not-quite-ripe red raspberries blending with a pronounced white grapefruit flavor. Other than tennis, I'd like to try this wine with cassoulet. —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.8% **Price:** \$20

**89 Rock Point 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Oregon).** There's nothing complicated here, but who needs it to be? This is just a humble, medium-bodied and refreshing pink Pinot that offers aromas of grilled peaches while teasing with a hint of something meaty. Saline cuts through flavors of tart red cherries and blood-orange juice. Quaff and repeat. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$15

## PINOT NOIR

**97 Anderson Family Vineyard 2014 Anderson Family Vineyard - Select Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$125

**97 The Eyrie Vineyards 2019 Daphne Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Medium bodied, with silky tannins and 4th of July fireworks-like acidity, Daphne has a long life ahead of her. Cranberry and hibiscus tea aromas are accented by lighter touches of grilled meat and figs. Dark raspberry, rosemary and black tea with lemon flavors soar. Enjoy now until 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**96 The Eyrie Vineyards 2019 Outcrop Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Boysenberries and violets create a beautifully aromatic perfume, aided by touches of saline, earthy oregano and leather. The wine's bright acidity matches its firm tannins in support of flavors of black cherry, chicory coffee

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and blood orange. This wine is almost too pretty to drink. Almost. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$70

**95 Cho 2021 Dreamer's Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This beautiful expression of Willamette Valley Pinot Noir combines pulsing acidity, fine-grained tannins and an elegant texture that makes sipping easy. Its aromas are black and blueberry mixed with a little vanilla candle wax. Black tea and allspice flavors play second fiddle to a marionberry scone flavor that is to die for. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$55

**95 Division 2021 Cinq Armstrong Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** The aromas of dusty, briary roadside berries, lilacs, the saline of a fresh-shucked oyster-shell lining and earthy post-rain petrichor are glorious. Blackberries and lavender pastille flavors are joined by a bit of something meaty. Plus balance and modest alcohol—what more could one ask? *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$50

**95 Iterum 2020 Old Friends Arlyn Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Iterum turns the dry and biodynamically farmed Arlyn Vineyard fruit into a wine that dazzles with aromas of blackberries, grilled brats and espresso. The wine's smooth and slippery texture accompanies flavors of blackberry pie and a mocha latte. Beautifully balanced with a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**95 Ken Wright 2021 Eola-Amity Hills AVA Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This is a Goldilocks special, because the fruit, alcohol, acidity and tannins are just right. Rainier cherry and lavender aromas are joined by smaller notes of leather and a new cedar chest drawer. The wine's cassis, orange pith and smoky Lapsang souchong tea flavors float on a soft, smooth texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$38

**95 Shea 2019 Shea Vineyard Homer Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This medium-bodied "best barrel" selection was aged in new and used French oak for 15 months. Its blueberry and vanilla aromas are light and easy, while darker black cherry, almond and dark-chocolate flavors are mouthfilling. Fine-grained tannins and a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$105

**95 The Eyrie Vineyards 2019 Roland Green Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Red-cherry aromas are joined by notes of lemon peel, loam and the clean saline of a fresh-shucked East Coast oyster lining. Bing cherry, sweet Cavendish pipe tobacco, sage and blood-orange tea flavors coat the mouth. Bright acidity and fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$70

**95 Walter Scott 2021 X Novo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Tart cranberries greet the nose, followed by aromas of chalk dust, pine needles and the floral-anise combination of a Tahitian vanilla bean. Medium bodied, with crisp acidity and fine-grained tannins, the X Novo's complex flavors range from raspberries and dark chocolate to aged balsamic and a rhubarb tart. Enjoy now until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**94 Anacréon 2020 Mine Yours Ours Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Aged 17 months in neutral French oak, this wine has lovely aromas of Bristol black raspberries and violets, with a trace of wet modeling clay. A ripe black-cherry flavor runs the show, while black tea and Thai basil notes provide support. A crisp mouthfeel with lemony acidity and firm tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$80

**94 Archery Summit 2021 Archer's Edge Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The wine's black cherry and dark-plum fruit aromas are joined by a complex sweet-saline note that reminds me of a mild hoisin sauce. The dark fruit-umami combination is fantastic. Dark cherry and cedar flavors are wrapped up in bright acidity and muscular tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

**94 Dobbes Family Estate 2021 Patricia's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.77% **Price:** \$60

**94 Evening Land 2021 La Source Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This stately Pinot Noir captures your attention with its aromas of blackberry compote, earth, leather and sweet-pea flowers. Flavor-wise, it's black cherries and a cup of black tea with lemon. Fine-grained tannins, elevated acidity and restrained alcohol suggest you may enjoy this wine from now until 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**94 Evening Land 2021 Summum Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Aromatically, this is a happy marriage of earth and fruit, with blackberries flanked by forest-floor loam and meaty iron notes. The mouthfeel is gentle, with velvety tannins. Raspberry sorbet, juniper berry and corn tortilla flavors seemingly last forever. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$100

**94 Stoller 2021 Winemaker's Series Classic Clones Pinot Noir 777 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This 100% clone 777 Pinot Noir saw 10 months in French oak, 30% new. Red raspberries lead an aromatic parade that includes lilacs, saline, earth and a bit of ginger. It drinks like eating a marionberry pie, along with flavors of orange and crunchy cacao nibs. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Torii Mor 2021 Dundee Hills Select Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The leather scent of a well-worked pair of gloves makes a nice backdrop for this wine's aromas of raspberry pie and fresh-cut grass. A massive tannic structure supports black cherry, cocoa nib and coriander flavors, while a lively bit of acidity adds a lemon tinge. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$49

**94 Walter Scott 2021 Sequitur Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** What a spectacular example of Pinot Noir from this notable vineyard. Dark-fruit aromas that include blackberries and black cherries are joined by violets and a meaty, bacon-fat-like note. Sprightly acidity and sturdy tannins frame flavors of blackcap raspberries, caramel apples and roasted walnuts. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**93 Anacréon 2021 Deep End Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** A cherry scone straight out of the oven triggers an aromatic wave that includes notes of clove and lemon peel. This medium-bodied Pinot Noir has a smooth mouthfeel to accompany rich flavors of Chelan cherries, chocolate cake and an earthy note similar to grilled portobello mushrooms. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$65

**93 Archery Summit 2021 Renegade Ridge Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Earth and saline aromas join together to surround an aromatic core of red raspberries and lemon citrus. The wine's boysenberry sorbet and black-tea flavor combination is a winning one, flanked by a touch of lemon basil. The wine's crisp texture and pronounced acidity is refreshing. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**93 Boedecker Cellars 2018 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine is in a beautiful place, with fully integrated tannins, a nice bit of acidity and a lot of dark-cherry goodness. A cherry Tootsie Pop aroma is joined by touches of lavender and leather. Black cherry, rose water and dark chocolate-covered espresso bean flavors, with a smooth, rich texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$28

**93 Brooks 2021 Sunny Mountain Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** I don't where Sunny Mountain is, but based on this wine, I want to climb it ASAP. First there are the delightful aromas of bright red cherries and Tootsie Pop-like chocolate. Then the wine's strawberry and black tea with milk flavors ride a creamy-dreamy texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**93 Coelho 2021 Zeitoun Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine's acidity is tangy, invigorating and thoroughly enjoyable if you are an acid freak. The aromas of raspberries and violets mix with a compelling combination of olive oil and crushed sea shells. It tastes like you are eat-

ing a boysenberry-almond scone with a cup of coffee. Chef's kiss. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$49

**93** **Domaine Serene 2019 Fleur de Lis Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This wine's pretty aromas of Hood strawberries, violets and butterscotch are a joy to encounter. Flavor-wise, it is a juxtaposition of ripe red cherries and tangy cornichons, with a bit of clove for good measure. The wine's mouthfeel is crisp, with elevated acidity and fine-grained tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$125

**93** **Et Fille 2021 Heredity Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aged in French oak barrels, none of which were new, for 11 months, the Heredity combines chewy tannins with brisk acidity. Earthy/brambly black-fruit aromas meld beautifully with notes of beeswax and lavender-filled *garrigue*. The rich palate shows flavors of blackberry pie, tangerine and mint. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$48

**93** **GC 2021 Carlton Hill Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Elegance personified, this Pinot Noir's aromas of dried rose petals, tart red cherries and a touch of pipe tobacco are mesmerizing. The wine's dark raspberry, lemon peel and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors are joined by brisk acidity and silky tannins. Satiny texture awaits. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Iris Vineyards 2021 C Block Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's grilled turkey burgers and dark raspberry-pie aromas are a picnic waiting to bust out. There's also a silk glove-titanium fist thing happening, as the wine's boysenberry gelato, orange zest and almond flavors are flanked by electric acidity and fine-grained tannins. Enjoy now until 2033. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Iterum 2020 Clone 114 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The wine's meaty/savory nose is quite appealing, with aromas of tart cranberries, ripe red raspberries and roasted pork shoulder. Black cherries, dark chocolate and clove spice flavors are ably supported by fine-grained tannins and lively acidity. There's a nice harmony here among all the parts. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$75

**93** **Iterum 2020 Old Friend Symonette Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Blueberries and lilacs swirl from the glass, followed by aromas of graphite and balsa. The wine feels smooth and nimble in the mouth with flavors of raspberry scones, lime and sage. The wine's bright acidity is equally refreshing. Symonette is the old friend all Pinot lovers need. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**93** **Karta 2020 Nicholas Reserve Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** The Willamette Valley produced some great Pinots in 2020—this is one of them. Its

aromatic set is earthy and meaty, with grilled brisquet and saline joined by a bowl of ripe blueberries. The wine's smooth texture borders on creaminess, with ripe boysenberry and earthy oregano flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65

**93** **Lachini 2021 Cuvée Giselle Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** This is my favorite Giselle since the ballet. Its woody aromas of cedar and crunchy dried maple leaves provide a nice backdrop for bursts of violets and an assortment of black fruits. Velvety tannins and a creamy texture complement flavors of raspberries and vanilla bean. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**93** **Lange 2021 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Blackcap raspberries are joined by powerful floral aromas of phlox and jasmine. Rich blueberry and dark-plum flavors coat the palate, followed by bursts of black tea and orange zest. Bright acidity matches up with silky tannins. I think I have a new pork chop pairing. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**93** **Project M 2021 Kairos "Shadow" Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine's label features an ominous shadow figure that looks like something Rob Zombie would dream up. That aside, the wine is delicious. Fresh raspberry, butterscotch and espresso aromas tempt you, while the wine's red cherry and grilled-pork flavors, supported by firm tannins, render you powerless to resist. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$72

**93** **Shea 2019 Shea Vineyard Block 23 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** A refreshing aromatic combination of raspberry iced tea and boysenberry gelato hits right out of the gate. The Block 23's crisp texture is matched by bright acidity and sturdy tannins with flavors of cherry, unsweetened cocoa and lemon pastilles. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$75

**93** **Shea 2019 Shea Vineyard Block 7 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The Block 7 puts off a fruit and earth aroma that's like ripe blackberries and the damp soil that gives their vines life. It's a simple, yet powerful thing. Blackcap raspberry, saline, thyme and crushed walnut flavors are supported by silky tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$75

**93** **Styring 2018 Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** This wine has matured nicely, hitting its stride with integrated tannins, while maintaining a nice bit of acidity. Its aromas of raspberries, gardenias and candle wax are downright pretty. Red cherry fruit, leather, thyme and lemon flavors are joined by a light touch of balsa wood. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**93** **Styring 2018 Wit Reserve Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** This full-bodied Pinot Noir

hits first with aromas of blackberries, fresh loam and the vanilla scent of white heliotrope flowers. Cherry pie, saline and thyme flavors are joined by a meaty pork note. Then there are those tannins—we're talking vise-like grip. Decant and enjoy now or hold until 2033. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$75

**93** **Tendril 2019 Extrovert Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Like any good extrovert, this medium-bodied wine gets right in your face with briary blackcap raspberry, lavender, vanilla bean and cedar aromas. Cranberry and red-raspberry flavors are joined by black tea and citrus. A creamy texture with plush tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$58

**93** **Tendril 2018 TightRope Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The TightRope's aromas of black cherries, blueberry kefir, violets and pine needles are invigorating. Blackcap raspberry and lemon flavors are punctuated by bits of rosemary, black tea and balsa. Thanks to muscular tannins, the wine's texture is chewy still, so enjoy 2024 until 2033. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$75

**93** **Walter Scott 2021 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mount Pisgah).** The nose of this wine is a backyard BBQ waiting to happen. Raspberry shortcake and sweet hyacinth aromas join forces with sage and the scent of pepperwood bacon fat dripping onto red-hot coals. Tart blackberries meld with honeycomb on the balanced palate with traces of balsa wood and tea. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**93** **Walter Scott 2021 Justice Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Justice will not be denied in this vintage. Blackberry, violets, melting candle wax and corn masa aromas make a great first impression. Tart black cherry and black tea with lemon flavors cruise a smooth mouthfeel, supported by elegant acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**92** **Anam Cara 2021 Heather's Reserve Nichols Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Dark raspberry and blueberry aromas are framed by cedar and fresh-cut grass notes. This is a smooth-textured, medium-bodied and elegant Pinot Noir where blackberry and citrus flavors, with a hint of maple, coat the palate. Pair this with a Nina Simone LP on a lazy Sunday afternoon. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Anderson Family Vineyard 2017 Anderson Family Vineyard - Select Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** What a treat to have access to a wine with some bottle age that has been properly stored for you over the years by the winery. The wine's blueberry and fried plantain aromas actually work well together. The lighter-bodied wine possesses a



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smooth, soft texture and flavors like dark chocolate with black and blueberries. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$125

**92 Beacon Hill 2021 La Sierra Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** There's a lot going on here. Let's start with raspberry, lemon zest and saline aromas performing a tango with nasturtium and iodine notes. Next, modest acidity and velvety tannins with a soft texture. Boysenberry, thyme and maple flavors seal the deal. A very pleasurable pinot. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$55

**92 Brooks 2021 Crannell Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** There is a lot of fruit here, but a lightening bolt's worth of acidity is up to the task. It starts with blueberry, blackberry and pear aromas with a trace of oyster shell lining salinity. Then toast slathered with raspberry jam and black coffee flavors takes over. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Brooks 2021 Janus Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Oh, Janus, you two-faced god. First, you hit with red raspberry and cherry aromas, then you slip in some wet slate and allspice to mix it up. Cherry, orange peel and black-pekoe tea flavors accompany firm tannins and lip-smacking tannins. I'm going to kiss you on both cheeks. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Brooks 2021 Muska Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Raspberry jam and salted caramel butter aromas will have you looking for the nearest biscuit. Ripe raspberries and Bing cherry flavors float on a creamy texture, joined by green tea and oregano notes. Nicely balanced, with elevated acidity and fine-grained tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Brooks 2021 Wadenswil Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This is the second 100% Wadenswil clone wine Brooks has made with fruit from Muska Vineyard—and what a sophomore effort! A powerful blackberry jam on toast aroma is spiced up by fresh basil and orange peel. Muscular tannins and zippy acidity support black cherry and lavender lemonade flavors. Enjoy 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Coelho 2021 Coelho Vineyard Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** This wine is the iron fist-velvet glove cliché come to life. Elevated acidity meets brawny tannins, with restrained alcohol adding to the mix. Blueberry fruit leather, lilac and white sage aromas lead into an explosion of blueberry sorbet and espresso flavors. Really well done. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$49

**92 Coelho 2021 Delfina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Such a fresh aromatic display, with Meyer lemons and lavender surrounded by red raspberries and cedar. The wine feels light and crisp in the mouth, with flavors of

raspberry tea, candied violets and thyme dancing about. Serve with crab cakes to be revered by friends and family. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$49

**92 Division 2016 Eola Springs Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** It's a picnic at the beach, with aromas of blackcap raspberries, fresh lemon goat cheese and the saline one gets from the lining of a fresh-shucked oyster. The wine's creamy/dreamy texture floats flavors of black cherry gelato and dark chocolate ganache. Hedonistic, with velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Division-Villages 2022 Méthode Carbonique Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Winemaker Kate Norris describes this carbonic maceration wine as "cold boiling Pinot." It fits. This is a refreshing, lighter-bodied wine that is packed with aromas and flavors of macerated strawberries, raspberry lemonade and fresh-cracked pepper. Its brilliant acidity will put some pep in your step. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**92 Durant 2019 Olivia Grace Durant Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** I don't know Olivia Grace, but her elegant, balanced namesake wine is pretty nice. Light, fresh aromas of raspberry, lavender and lavender spring from the glass. Dried cherry, sweet cara cara naval orange and black-tea flavors coat the palate. The tannins are nice and velvety. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$65

**92 Durant 2019 Southside Durant Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Fans of lighter-bodied Pinot Noir with balance and modest alcohol should flock to this graceful wine. Tangy raspberries make a nice aromatic partner for the fresh saline note of a fresh-shucked oyster. Bright red cherry, tangerine and lemon basil flavors match the wine's crisp acidity and texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$65

**92 Evening Land 2021 Seven Springs Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Dusty, brambly red fruit, like the wild berries you pick by the side of a country road, mix with aromas of cinnamon spice, white pepper and sweet hyacinths. Crisp, lemony acidity escorts flavors like Bing cherries and black coffee. Silky tannins are a mere bonus. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$45

**92 Five Fourteen Vineyards 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** There's nothing reserved about this bold, fuller-bodied Pinot Noir. There's a savory meatiness to the nose that triggers burger cravings, while the blackberry tea and lemon aromas stand by. Mildly sweet black cherries are the primary flavor, with bits of sandalwood and balsa. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

**92 Iterum 2020 Clone 115 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).**

Blueberries, violets and seared tri-tip aromas are joined by a vanillin-graphite combination that's oddly compelling. The wine's raspberry fruit flavor is Pop-Tarts sweet, which works perfectly with its coffee flavor. A smooth, rich mouthfeel is matched by plush tannins and mild acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Iterum 2020 Old Friend Quailhurst Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** There's a meaty aroma here that will make you eager to fire up the backyard grill. The sizzle hits the sass when tangy boysenberry and mildly sweet white sage aromas show up to play. Flavors of black cherry compote and mole chocolate spices are supported by elevated acidity and black tea-like tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**92 Ken Wright 2021 Yamhill-Carlton AVA Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Tangy boysenberries and raspberries mingle on the nose with aromas of cinnamon spice and orange zest. The medium-bodied wine's strawberry pie, fresh basil and balsa flavors are supported by silky tannins and lemony acidity. Balanced refreshment. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$38

**92 Montinore 2019 Vineyard Verses Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Vineyard Verses is a blend of select barrels from three of the estate's oldest blocks. The song begins with Chelan cherry, orange-pekoe tea and vanilla wafer aromas. Rich apricot, date and dark-chocolate flavors are backed by brawny tannins. Enjoy now until 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$75

**92 Project M 2021 Bednarik Vineyard Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills).** Made with grapes picked from 40+-year-old, own-rooted vines, this Pinot offers an aromatic combination of wildflowers and loam with blackberry tea and lemon aromas hovering nearby. Nice acidity dovetails with a tart raspberry flavor, with additional notes of shitake mushrooms and almonds. The tannins provide some leather for the texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$60

**92 Project M 2021 Momtazi Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** Only two barrels of this wine were made with biodynamically farmed fruit from Momtazi Vineyard. The wine's aromas are savory roasted cherries coated with bittersweet dark chocolate. Sturdy tannins rough up the texture while riding herd over copious amounts of Bing cherries and orange segments. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$60

**92 Walter Scott 2021 Koosah Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The Koosah's aromatics suggest wild raspberries plucked from vines growing near a field of sweet and funky clover. There's just enough acidity here to balance ripe boysenberry and raspberry flavors, with a dollop of

maple. The wine's texture is creamy, with plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Walter Scott 2021 Sojeau Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Wonderfully rustic aromas of foraged cherries, forest floor and bacon fat are wrapped in a bouquet of oregano, thyme and rosemary. Blackcap raspberry and cranberry flavors play nicely with the wine's crisp texture. The wine's Easter egg is the dark-chocolate ice cream flavor hiding in the background. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Walter Scott 2021 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine does the iconic Temperance Hill Vineyard justice. Aromas of boysenberries, dark raspberries and dried rose petals lead into more tangy fruit flavors, such as cranberry and lemon. There's trace of honeycomb here, with brisk acidity and fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Willful 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** I loved the wine's aromas of red cherries, red "licorice" and *garrigue* packed with lavender. There's even a little meatiness to the nose. Flavors of candied red apple slices, hibiscus tea and cranberries fill the mouth. Prepare to decant as the wine's tannins are as grippy as a cup of Irish breakfast tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91 Adelsheim 2019 Laurel Leaf Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Beautiful blackberry and violet aromas mingle with a savory note similar to a butter-basted seared steak. Red cherry and lemon verbena tea flavors grace the wine's light, lithe texture with a bit of verve. There's also a Nocino-like nutty quality on the finish. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**91 Anam Cara 2021 Nicholas Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Smoked blackberry cobbler and a hint of mint make for a nice aromatic introduction to this blend of Pommard, Wädenswil and Dijon clone 113 fruit. Nicely balanced with tart red currant, thyme, Marcona almond and black-cherry anise hyssop jam flavors. It is wonderful with mushroom ragù over polenta. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$59

**91 Beacon Hill 2021 Beacon Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Brambly mixed berries battle a garland of violets and bay leaves and a bit of orange peel for aromatic supremacy. Dark cherry and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors are joined by traces of coconut and a texture that is as soft and velvety as the wine's tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$55

**91 Bellingar 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Fresh-cut pine wood, fresh-cut grass make and not-quite-ripe red raspberries make for a

fresh aromatic introduction. Flavors of tangy persimmon fruit and a touch of olive oil are joined by crisp acidity and fine-grained tannins. Try it with turkey burgers and a sunset. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$35

**91 Brooks 2021 Cahiers Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** I could fill a notebook with descriptions of this wine's aromas. The list is longer, but those include marionberries, black currants, beeswax, the saline of a fresh-shucked oyster and warm masala chai spices. The wine's smooth texture, modest acidity and silky tannins match up with rose petal and raspberry flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Carabella 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** This fuller-bodied Pinot Noir packs a lot of rich, ripe blackcap raspberry aromas and flavors. The fruit is joined by lemon peel, earth and rose petal aromas and flavors of bitter-sweet dark chocolate and cedar. Plush tannins and a smooth, round mouthfeel await. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$45

**91 Chehalem 2021 Chehalem Mountains Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Earth and violets join forces with an aroma of tar, not-quite-ripe blackberries. The flavors are equally tangy, with rose hip tea and lemon ruling the palate. The Irish breakfast tea-like tannins are massive, giving the wine a distinctly chewy texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Chehalem 2021 Corral Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** A nicely balanced, medium-bodied Pinot Noir with bright acidity and silky tannins. The wine's aromas of grape popsicle and hyacinth are sweet and fresh. The fruit is darker on the palate with blackberries melding with a cup of black tea and a wedge of lemon. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Durant 2019 Ava Roan Durant Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This is one of the most floral Pinot Noirs I've encountered. The first sniff from the glass is like inhaling a bouquet of hyacinth, lavender and freesia. Additional aromas of blackcap raspberry and tangerine follow. Red cherry, red licorice and coffee flavors are backed by muscular tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$65

**91 Durant 2019 Coyote Durant Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This wily Pinot is no ACME blend. Its aromas of earthy-sweet hyacinth, dusty roadside blackberries and white pepper make the heart go "beep, beep." Tangy blackberry bbq sauce, cranberry and orange flavors go the distance. Bright acidity with plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$65

**91 Five Fourteen Vineyards 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The sweet, spicy aroma of a fresh-peeled Cornish Aromatic apple is joined by notes of red raspberry and seared steak.

The medium-bodied wine has plush tannins, a viscous texture and flavors of dark raspberries, green tea and Marcona almonds. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Foris 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** If you are in need of a well-priced Pinot packed with acidity, this southern Oregon treat is for you. A rich blackberry aroma is matched with notes of pine needles and periwinkle flowers. The crisp palate hosts pears, raspberries and green-tea flavors, all driven by juicy, lemony acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$22

**91 Franchere 2021 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine is not for the creamy texture-minded. Its ripe blueberry and tangy orange aromas are graced by fresh basil and chalk dust. The wine's intense acidity is matched by grippy tannins, with boysenberry, lemon, black tea and walnut flavors. This is more exciting than any roller coaster ride. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$30

**91 Iterum 2020 Eola Bench Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Each sniff of this wine is like a spoonful of raspberry Greek yogurt served with a cup of orange-peko tea. It is a nice preparation for the medium-bodied plate with flavors of cranberries, dark chocolate and a trace of saline. Tannins are velvety, with acidity to the gentler side. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**91 Lachini 2021 Family Estate Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Red currants, sandalwood, a talc-like mineral note and a wisp of wild prairie roses place you right in a meadow. After the aromatic show, flavors of black cherries, shredded coconut, dark chocolate and balsa fill the mouth. Silky tannins with restrained acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$75

**91 Ponzi 2021 Tavola Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Year-in, year-out, the Tavola is one of the Willamette Valley's best values. The current vintage entices with aromas of ripe dark plums, raspberries, talc and cedar. The sweet red raspberry, lime and angel food cake flavors glide on a smooth, slippery texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$29

**91 Possessed 2015 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Project M 2021 Filament Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This field blend of Dijon and Pommard clones is beautifully balanced with aromas of red raspberries, fresh-cut grass and a bit of earthiness. This is a nimble, lighter-bodied Pinot Noir, where flavors like raspberry pastilles and Earl Grey tea feel like they are floating across the palate. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60

**91 Project M 2021 Personify Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A nice beef-bouillon aroma sets a meaty tone, accompanied by more genteel aromas of dried rose petals and blackcap raspberries. There's a nice balance between the restrained black cherry, black tea and lemon flavors, and the wine's modest acidity and tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Ransom 2021 Organic Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This Pinot Noir has a vanilla cupcake with raspberry filling aroma that makes you think you are about to sip something sweet. Then you are hit with flavors of tart red cherries, lime zest and a touch of lemon basil. The wine's silky mouthfeel and tangy acidity are a nice bonus. Opposites attract. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**91 Shea 2019 Shea Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Black currant, fresh-turned earth, sage and roast-pork aromas are a heady mix, with boysenberry, cocoa powder and crushed walnut flavors filling every nook and cranny of one's olfactory system. The wine's chewy tannins are matched by elevated acidity. Enjoy now until 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$50

**91 Stoller 2021 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Fresh aromas of blackberry tea, sweet grape tomatoes and just-picked basil are joined by a trace of chalk and saline. A ripe, juicy blackcap raspberry flavor matches nicely with black tea and Demerara sugar notes. The wine's acidity will put chills on the back of your neck. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 The Great Oregon Wine Company 2021 Cattrall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Fruit from a great vineyard that flies beneath too many radars produced this wine. Sweet and tangy pomegranate and blood-orange aromas mix with violets and fresh-turned soil. Blackberry, toast and basil flavors are backed by ample tannins with elevated, citrus-driven acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**91 Valcan 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For me, this is what Crayola's red-violet crayon should smell like. There's beeswax and red apples and violets and red cherries. In other words, it's aromatically awesome. I could use more acidity to go with all the cherry and raspberry flavors but come on, it's the red-violet crayon wine. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**91 Willful 2021 Winemaker Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine is made with the five best barrels in the cellar. Fruit meets meat on the wine's nose, with aromas of boysenberries, blackcap raspberries and pan-seared steak. Blackberries and dark-chocolate flavors are accented by sprigs of rosemary. The wine's lively acidity is breathtaking. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**91 Winter's Hill 2021 Watershed Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The Watershed represents great value within a strong 2021 Willamette Valley vintage. Strawberry and watermelon aromas are flanked by nutmeg and lightly buttered rye bread toast. Juicy red cherries join forces with flavors of ginger and black tea. Sturdy tannins with just-right acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$29

**90 Anacrón 2020 Deep End Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** The Deep End's aromatic blackberry and straw combination is graced by a touch of sweet and musky cantaloupe. The fruit flavors are dark as night with blackberries and black cherries wrapped up in a ball of bittersweet dark chocolate. For now, the wine's tannins and texture are on the chewy side. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.75% **Price:** \$65

**90 Anam Cara 2021 Nicholas Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** The wine's dark raspberry and blueberry aromas are big and rich with complementary walnut and lemon basil notes. Medium bodied with tart pie cherries mingling with cardamom and cashew-butter flavors. The wine feels full in the mouth with restrained acidity, firm tannins and a touch of heat. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.15% **Price:** \$44

**90 Archery Summit 2021 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The wine's aromas of sweet blackberries and lemon tarts are contrasted by traces of earth and thyme. Blackberry jam dominates the creamy palate with wee bits of cedar and caffè macchiato. Soft acidity, with plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**90 Archery Summit 2021 Archer's Crest Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's aromas of blackberries and sweet sandalwood are surrounded by a thicket of *garrigue* filled with thyme and lavender. A soft, smooth texture delivers boysenberry, dark plum and espresso flavors backed by plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**90 Archery Summit 2021 Vireton Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Vireton is lush, plush and possesses the smoothest texture this side of 800 thread-count bed sheets. Black cherry and dried-strawberry aromas are joined by a bouquet of sweet-scented phlox. Concentrated cherry cola and dark-chocolate flavors are counterpointed by a trace of lemon. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Bellingar 2021 Warrior's Rest Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's ripe boysenberry, violet and orange-peel aromas are fresh and frisky. There's even a scent of old leather hovering in the background. Black cherry and nectarine fruit flavors glide along a smooth texture, with plush tannins and modest acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$50

**90 Boedecker Cellars 2018 Stewart Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A dark raspberry aroma eventually gives way to delicate rose water and cedar scents. The wine's grippy tannins provide a nice frame for concentrated, sweet Black Ruby plum and cherry flavors. The mildly bitter orange pith note offers a nice contrast. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$45

**90 Brooks 2021 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** A nicely balanced lighter-bodied affair with lemony acidity and silky tannins. Aromas of almost-ripe watermelon, strawberries and fresh hay are positively summer-like. Strawberry and red-raspberry flavors blend effortlessly with the wine's smooth texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 Chehalem 2021 Stoller Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Aromatically, this Pinot Noir is blackberry jam on a croissant. The creamy palate is a nice foil for ripe Bing cherry and blackcap raspberry fruit flavors. Tiny flavor flecks of clove spice and orange peel add interest. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**90 Coelho 2021 Atração Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** What this wine lacks in body it more than makes up for with some downright energetic acidity. Aromas of black cherries and poppies are flanked by a bit of fresh-turned earth. Lime zest and red Swedish Fish flavors work well together when lit up by the wine's "electric boogaloo" acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Franchere 2019 Havlin Vineyard Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** The wine's blackberry, clove and nutmeg aromas are like smelling a pie fresh from the oven. There's a nice balance between medium levels of acidity and tannins, making for a pleasurable slick mouthfeel. The flavors are a salad of tart red raspberries, basil and mint. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$35

**90 GC 2021 Björnson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The aromatic combination of sweet petunias, blackberry jam and hoisin sauce is a winning one. Muscular tannins support bowls of blackberry and cherry flavors, along with wee bits of black tea, caramel and spearmint. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 Iris Vineyards 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is for Pinot fans looking for a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir with restrained alcohol and plush tannins. There's lots of bright red-cherry fruit and mint chocolate on the nose, followed by ripe dark raspberry, boysenberry and cedar flavors. The wine aged in French oak, 10% new. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

**90 Iris Vineyards 2021 Areté Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Areté's blackberry jam and vanilla bean aromas are punctuated by floral and mineral notes of violets, saline and wet stones. Medium bodied, with silky tannins and soft acidity,



the wine's flavors of dark plums and cocoa powder are joined by a herbal note similar to tomato sauce and basil. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Jezebel 2021 Oregon Pinot Noir (Oregon).** The salinity of a fresh-shucked oyster lining matches up with aromas of raspberries and marshmallows toasting over a beach campfire. The wine's viscous texture and brawny tannins pair with flavors of black-cherry compote and roasted pork. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Lange 2021 Yamhill-Carlton Assemblage Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The acidity of this tangy critter might be a bit much for those who like things on the soft side. The wine is medium bodied, with sturdy tannins and a crispy/crunchy mouthfeel. Aromas and flavors include raspberries, cranberries, lemon balm and bittersweet dark chocolate. Juicy stuff. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**90** **Omen 2021 Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** The wine's aromatics are a powerful, earthy combination of cranberries, crushed marigold flowers and oregano. Pronounced acidity, a crisp texture and lighter body are the wine's selling points, along with bowls of bright red cherry and raspberry flavors, and traces of coffee and bacon. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Pray Tell 2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This fuller-bodied wine aged for a year in French oak, 20% new. Aromatically, the wine is a big ol' raspberry coated with bittersweet dark chocolate. The palate is more complex, with black cherry, cedar, iodine and black-tea flavors combining with brisk acidity and muscular tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.52% **Price:** \$46

**90** **Ransom 2021 Jigsaw Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** There's balance here between all the bright red-cherry fruit, silky tannins and crisp acidity. Other aromas include pine needles, cedar bark and any number of earthy forest-floor items. The wine's sweet cherry flavor is complemented by tangy citrus and ginger notes. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Ransom 2021 Selection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A very straightforward Willamette Valley Pinot Noir with a creamy texture and velvety tannins. Tart red cherry and stargazer lily aromas are powerful. Flavors of red raspberries, lemon gelato and cedar coat the mouth. A bit more acidity would have been nice. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Shea 2019 Shea Vineyard Breakaway Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This is a creamy-textured Pinot Noir with plush tannins and subdued acidity. Its blackcap raspberry and sweet red

clover blossom will put you in a summertime mood. Dark plum, black coffee and salted-caramel flavors build slowly on the midpalate. Ready to enjoy right now. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$75

**90** **Styring 2018 Signature Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** A blackberry aroma that is so powerful that you will wipe imaginary juice from your chin is joined by floral notes of sweet trumpet lilies and honeysuckle. The thick-textured palate features equally rich black cherries, dark chocolate, mint and walnut flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Suzor 2019 The Tower Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Blackberries, dark chocolate, fresh-ground coffee and aged balsamic collide in an aromatic orgy. The opulence continues on the palate as smoked blackberries, black tea and a trace of hoisin sauce. Fortunately, there's enough bright acidity and fine-grained tannins on patrol to maintain balance. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Wine by Joe 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** For full review see page 26. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Yamhill Valley 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** Blueberries, earth, hay and violets make for a pastoral aromatic experience. Fruit flavors of red cherry and cranberry are joined by a clove-spiced cured-meat note. Lemony acidity, with fine-grained tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Anacréon 2020 Center of Gravity Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** A fruit perfume of ripe blackberries and sweet-tart olallieberries. Blueberry pancake and intense, astringent Irish breakfast tea flavors are flanked by grippy tannins. Aged 17 months in Hungarian oak, 50% new. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$90

**89** **Boedecker Cellars 2018 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Aromatically, this wine is a heady combination of melting beeswax, blueberries, tulips and Grape Nehi soda. Tart fruit on the palate, with red cherries and cranberries ruling the roost. Medium bodied, with restrained acidity and leathery tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$60

**89** **Coelho 2019 Synergy Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Black cherry, marzipan and vanilla aromas suggested it was time for the dessert course. The palate was a reverse course, with tart red cherry and citrus flavors that were obscured by a still sturdy wall of grippy tannins. Decanting is advised. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**89** **Duck Pond 2021 Natural Path Pinot Noir (Oregon).** Strawberry jam and sweet floral

notes of gardenia and hyacinth fill the air with each swirl of the glass. Black tea and blackberry flavors are joined a curious earthy note similar to stinging nettle. Smooth and creamy, with equally soft tannins and acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Durant 2019 Dove Durant Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Earthy forest floor and matsutake-mushroom aromas almost overwhelm lesser notes of dark plum and leather. The cranberry and orange flavors are counterpointed by clove spice and burnt-sugar notes. While the tannins are sturdy, a bit more acidity would have been welcome. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**89** **Karta 2020 Looney Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** A most interesting set of aromas, with strawberry and lavender soap joined by a sweet and meaty Sugar Bomb grape tomato note. This is a medium-bodied Pinot Noir with muscular tannins and flavors of blackcap raspberries, thyme and lemon. Enjoy it with a bowl of pasta covered in a ragù sauce. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Lachini 2021 Sorellini Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This fruit-forward Pinot Noir begins with rich blueberry jelly, lemon curd and fir-needle aromas. Then black-cherry compote with chunks of candied ginger flavors kick the wine's richness into a higher gear. It's opulence personified, but could use more tannic structure and acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**89** **Maison L'Envoyé 2021 Two Messengers Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A funky/earthy nose with aromas of blueberries, roasted bone marrow, violets, loam and orange peel. The wine's acidity is brisk with soft tannins and flavors of black cherry, dark chocolate and spearmint. The finish is a bit abrupt. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$32

**89** **R. Stuart & Co. 2021 Big Fire Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Big Fire beckons with aromas of ripe nectarines mixed with tart cranberries, fresh-cut grass and a glass of sweet tea. It's medium bodied, with limited acidity, velvety tannins and flavors ranging from cherry pie and cinnamon to white tea and Tahitian vanilla. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Ransom 2022 Jigsaw Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A fresh and lively nose filled with blackberries and aromas typically associated with a temperate forest floor—shed leaves, duff, bluebell flowers and mushrooms. Dried plum, thyme, caramel and balsa flavors join a nice bit of acidity and modest tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89** **The Great Oregon Wine Company 2021 Crawford Beck Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity**

# BUYINGGUIDE

**Hills).** Medium bodied with soft acidity and velvety tannins. A pronounced blackberry aroma is accompanied by an unusual note similar to roasted pumpkin squash. The wine's blackcap raspberry, orange peel, fried sage and salted-almond flavors are quite satisfying. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**89 Torii Mor 2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aged for 10 months in a combination of French and Hungarian oak, this Pinot Noir boasts muscular tannins to accompany flavors of rich cherry jam, juniper berries and sage. A powerful cedar bark scent joins the aromas of boysenberries and blackcap raspberries. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Van Duzer 2021 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The wine's black cherry and earth aromas are almost outdone by a spicy note of crushed French terragon. This lighter bodied wine with a slippery mouthfeel offers bright red cherry and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$40

**88 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** An unusual aromatic set of red apple slices, jasmine and earthy roasted carrots kind of works. The wine's flavors are a bit more traditional with red cherry and strawberries, and not much else. Tannins are firm, but more acidity would be welcomed. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Erath 2021 Oregon Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This is mostly Pinot Noir with a tiny amount of Syrah added for good measure. The wine's brambleberry, lavender and earthy jute aromas lead to an amalgam of really ripe berry flavors. There's a lot of fruit flavor here, from blueberries to marionberries, with soft acidity and minimal tannic structure. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Portlandia 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** With its soft acidity and plush tannins, this wine is like placing your head on a puffy pillow. It's also a wall of red, with aromas and flavors of bright red cherry, red rooibos tea and cherry blossoms. This will make a pleasant backyard BBQ pour to go with burgers and ribs. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Rascal 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** The wine's ripe raspberry aroma is equaled by an earthiness suggesting a newly planted garden. Raspberry pastille and vanilla crème brûlée flavors are decadent. This is a light-bodied Pinot, with soft acidity, plush tannins and a creamy texture. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Kirkland Signature 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Sweet aromas of honeysuckle and macerated strawberries are joined by a trace of cinnamon spice. Cherry pie, complete with a butter crust, and coffee flavors are faint, but that seems to

fit with the wine's modest tannins, easy texture and soft acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Melrose 2022 Parker's Pinot Noir Pinot Noir (Umpqua Valley).** Sweet, grapey Texas mountain laurel flowers dominate an aromatic set that includes graphite and old leather-bound books. The light-bodied wine has overly ripe red cherry and raspberry flavors, with modest acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

## GAMAY NOIR

**95 Division-Villages 2022 Les Petits Fers Gamay Noir (Oregon).** Carbonic and semi-carbonic maceration and a wine this good make me yell "Hey, hey, gamay!" Blackcap raspberry and lilac aromas combine with an earthy black-tea kombucha note. Banging acidity elevates eclectic flavors like cherry popsicles, lemon, coffee and snickerdoodles. I loved this wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**93 Pray Tell 2021 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley).** Willamette Valley Gamay Noir can reach great heights and this wine is exhibit No. 1. Cherry blossom, coriander and ginger aromas are just the beginning. The second aromatic wave brings orange slices, cranberries and balsa. The wine's cherry pie and coffee flavors conjure memories of "Twin Peaks" and agent Dale Cooper. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.76% **Price:** \$35

**92 Evening Land 2021 Seven Springs Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This 100% whole-cluster Gamay Noir, with semi-carbonic maceration in stainless steel and six-months in neutral French oak, has surprisingly muscular tannins. It is packed with aromas and flavors of dark plums, red cherries, beeswax, pencil shavings and cinnamon spice. Acidity is nice, with a tiny spritz on the tongue. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Suzor 2021 Par Contre Gamay Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** If the Par Contre's savory roasted pork and fresh-baked sourdough aromas suggest a sandwich, the blueberry mustard and sage aromas are the condiments. The black cherry, raspberry tart and black pepper flavors are fabulous fun. Fortunately, the wine's fine-grained tannins provide ample structure. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

## SYRAH

**99 Hors Categorie 2020 Hors Catégorie Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This Syrah flirts with perfection in rarefied air. Black-and-blueberry aromas waltz gracefully with notes of thyme, a fresh-mowed hay field and bacon just hitting the griddle. This is a perfectly balanced wine with medium weight, lemony acidity and flavors of

ripe blackberries, aged balsamic and black tea. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$280

**98 Horsepower 2020 The Tribe Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This Tribe called best Syrah is positively hunger-inducing. The wine's medium-rare steak with herb butter aroma is joined by notes of blackberry compote and fresh-mowed hay. Pie cherry, smoky lapsang souchang tea and bacon-fat flavors continue the theme. Surprisingly electric acidity is the equal of all that fruit, along with fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$133

**97 Horsepower 2020 High Contrast Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This is one of those delightful wines where elevated acidity matches the brawniness of the tannins. Black- and blueberry fruit on the nose is joined by hints of fresh straw, fresh-cracked white pepper and peanut brittle. Sweet black cherry, quince paste, black tea and lardo flavors just keep building on the midpalate. Joy and happiness. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$133

**97 No Girls 2020 La Paciencia Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine is a poem to Syrah, with its earthy and savory aromatics juxtaposed with notes of sweet pea flowers, buttermilk and fresh-baked blackberry scones. Raspberry, black cherry and cocoa nib flavors glide on a smooth, slick texture with a trace of chestnut mushroom in the background. Spectacular. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$89

**96 Cayuse 2020 Bionic Frog Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** The iconic frog, with its aromas and flavors of blackberries, black tea, beeswax, grilled meat and leather, once again hops into one's heart. Its thick and pleasing texture coats the palate, while citrus-like acidity lights the path. Cue Iggy Pop's "Lust for Life" on the turntable and dig in. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$125

**96 Cayuse 2020 En Cerise Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** The wine's blackberry and tangerine aromas blend with equally compelling notes of espresso, saline and leather. Joining dark raspberries on the palate are flavors of tart red apples, bergamot tea and peppered bacon. Lemony acidity with tannins on the plush side. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$94

**96 Cayuse 2020 Sur Echalas Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Blackberry pie, fresh ginger and grilled ribeye aromas come first, followed by an earthy note similar to muddy boots that have just come in from the garden. The wine's blackberry jam, apricot, oregano and sage flavors are as earthy as they are fruity. Take a walk on the wild side. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$133

**96 Top Source 2020 Walla Walla Valley Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Blackberries and violets are only a part of this aromatic circus. Damp cedar bark, wet slate and meaty seared-steak aromas are showstoppers. Lighter bodied, the wine's viscous texture allows flavors of black cherries, black olives, grilled portobello mushroom and clove to slide across the palate. Savory bliss. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50

**95 Cayuse 2020 Armada Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** The Armada sails on an ocean of blackcap raspberry and smoked brisket flavors, with additional support provided by notes of Earl Grey tea, shortbread and spearmint. Aromatic tradewinds are filled with black cherries and lavender. Soft acidity and velvety tannins make for a smooth voyage. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$107

**95 Cayuse 2020 Cailloux Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** It's funk and flowers time, with fresh-turned soil mixing it up with cherry blossom, blackcap raspberry, amaretto cookie and leather aromas. The medium-bodied wine possesses bright acidity, fine-grained tannins and flavors of cassis, lemon, pork fat and a *doppio* espresso. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$94

**95 Cayuse 2020 En Chamberlin Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This full-bodied Syrah punches with bold blackberry and pancetta aromas, then soothes with notes of lemongrass tea and violets. Firm tannins support ripe black-fruit flavors that are laced with saline and the lemony acidity of a cup of Kenyan black coffee. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$94

**94 Cayuse 2020 Wallah Wallah Special #14 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Cassis, white pepper and espresso aromas are backed by sweet notes of gardenia and honeysuckle. Cherry fruit leather and blood-orange flavors are almost overpowered by a meaty quality similar to a skillet-seared tri tip. Lighter bodied, with a crisp mouthfeel and fine-grain tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$195/1.5 L

**93 Abacela 2018 South Face Block Reserve Syrah (Umpqua Valley).** This is full-bodied, full-throttle Syrah action where the acidity is brisk and the tannins firm. Black cherry, pine needle and lavender-filled *garrigue* aromas lead the way. Then concentrated blackberry and juicy sliced-orange flavors take over, cheered on by a touch of cinnamon. Quite a hedonistic treat. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$48

**93 Saviah 2020 The Stones Speak Estate Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** This Syrah from The Rocks wins you over right out of the gate with aromas of sweet blackberries, bacon fat, loam and black olives. The wine's flavors are

pure hedonism as black-cherry jam, dark chocolate, thyme and cedar coat the palate. The wine's acidity and tannic structure maintain harmony. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$60

**92 Abacela 2019 Syrah (Umpqua Valley).** The wine's aromas of dark raspberries, violets and sizzling maple-cured bacon strips are difficult to resist. Its black cherry and orange-slice flavors fill the mouth, along with notes of ginger and clove. While the tannins are muscular, the wine's acidity isn't afraid to flex. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**92 Pray Tell 2021 Rocks District Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** Aged in a combination of amphora and neutral French oak, nothing gets between you and the wine's ripe blackberry flavor. The blackberries are joined by aromas and flavors of aged balsamic, white pepper and espresso. Brisk acidity and a crisp texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.96% **Price:** \$40

**92 Saviah 2019 Reserve Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** Aromas of blackberries and violets swirl up from the glass, followed by notes of bacon fat, sweet red peppers and balsa. Aged for 16 months in French oak, 40% new. The wine's mouthfeel is plush, with gentle acidity and black cherry, paprika, cumin and black-olive flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$50

**90 Long Walk 2020 Long Walk Vineyard Syrah (Rogue Valley).** Orange blossoms bring their citrus, jasmine and honey notes to the aromatic table, where they are joined by dark raspberry and cinnamon-spice notes. Tart cherry and lemon flavors tango with black tea and clove notes. Powerful, leathery tannins suggest decanting for now. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**90 Saviah 2020 Waterstone Estate Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** The wine's aromas of blackcap raspberries and dark chocolate are joined by a meaty note that will trigger BBQ brisket cravings. Rich flavors include cherries, coconut and cedar. Medium bodied, with restrained acidity and mildly chewy tannins, the wine spent 17 months in neutral French oak puncheons. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$60

**90 Valcan 2018 Syrah (Rogue Valley).** Really ripe blackberry aromas are complemented by saline, iodine and the nuttiness of shea butter. The wine's blackberry and bone-marrow flavors are a deeply satisfying combination, with plenty of acidity and velvety tannins to support them. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Bellingar 2018 South Pass Syrah (Oregon).** This Syrah's integrated tannins and soft acidity make for a smooth drinking experience. The fruit and baked-good aromas are like a strawberry scone drizzled with clotted cream, with a tiny juni-

per needles note in the background. Cassis, leather and tobacco-leaf flavors coat the palate. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$50

## GRENACHE

**98 Horsepower 2020 Sur Echelas Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** Picture Al Green singing "Take me to the Rhône River." Dazzling aromas of lavender-packed *garrigue*, the fresh saline of a sea breeze, bacon fat and blackberries make one weak in the knees. Dark raspberry and blood-orange fruit flavors are joined by espresso and a trace of olive oil and grilled eggplant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$133

**97 Cayuse NV 6,042 Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** This Grenache from the 2013-2015 vintages is available only in magnums. Grilled cha-teaubriand steak and ripe black-cherry aromas fill the room, joined by rosemary, thyme and lavender bursts. A sweet dark-plum flavor contrasts with tart persimmon, bacon fat and wet rocks—a slippery smooth texture with gentle acidity and silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$185/1.5 L

**96 No Girls 2020 La Paciencia Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** A beautifully balanced, medium-bodied wine, with nervy acidity, fine-grained tannins and a midpalate that builds slowly and gracefully. Boysenberry, roasted meat and dried rose-petal aromas are a nice start. The wine's dark plum, blackcap raspberry, orange cake and pork-fat flavors are intense. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$89

**94 Horsepower 2020 Fiddleneck Vineyard Grenache (Walla Walla Valley).** This beautifully floral Grenache hits you right out of the chute with aromas of sweet lavender, ripe blackberries and orange slices. The second aromatic wave is meaty, like a Cubano sandwich. Elevated acidity and silky tannins back flavors of raspberry, red grapefruit and espresso. Enjoy now-2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$133

**89 Long Walk 2020 Long Walk Vineyard Grenache (Rogue Valley).** This Grenache spent 10 months in French oak, none of it new. It has fresh aromas of boysenberries, spearmint, lemon verbena and a puff of white sage incense. The wine's flavors are tangy, with cherry cider, lemon olive oil and balsa holding court. Fine-grained tannins with restrained acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$35

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**93 Cayuse 2020 The Widowmaker Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** The fresh-



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cut grass, earth and wildflower aromas are like a walk in a meadow—if the meadow was filled with blueberries and Mirabelle plums. Medium bodied with chewy tannins, The Widomaker hits with dark raspberry and tart persimmon flavors, along with orange-pekoe tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$104

**92 Willful 2020 Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Blueberries and fresh-baked bread are difficult aromas to resist. There's also a hint of daphne flowers hovering in the background. Black cherry and cranberry flavors are joined by notes of saline and black tea with a slice of lemon. I loved the wine's lively acidity and crisp texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**90 Ransom 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** With a smooth texture and a nice balance between modest acidity and velvety tannins, this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon is ready to enjoy now. It is packed with aromas and flavors of blackberries, cedar, dark chocolate and a trace of not-quite-fully-ripe apricot. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

## TEMPRANILLO

**94 Abacela 2018 South East Block Reserve Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley).** Blackberries, leather, oak spice and a note similar to Basque cheesecake emerge from the glass with every swirl. The wine's blackberry, black olive, plum, fennel and toasted walnut flavors, along with nice acidity and firm tannins, make it a perfect match for lamb sausage pizza. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$58

**94 Cayuse 2020 Impulsivo Tempranillo (Walla Walla Valley).** Aromas of dark raspberries, pine needles, fresh-turned soil and a wet pumice stone fill the air with each glass swirl. Black cherry and pipe-tobacco flavors dominate the smooth-textured palate, with additional notes of spearmint and orange zest. A meaty note on the finish suggests turkey burgers with a cranberry sauce. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$104

**94 No Girls 2020 Tempranillo (Walla Walla Valley).** These aromatics are more about lilac, lemon verbena and orange pipe tobacco than they are about the black fruit. The fruit makes a comeback on the palate, with boysenberry jam on buttered toast point and black coffee flavors. Just-right acidity with silky tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$89

**91 Padigan 2020 Tempranillo (Rogue Valley).** This Tempranillo has the kind of zippy acidity that gives you thrills and goosebumps. It fuels a crisp texture and illuminates red cherry, lime zest and green-tea flavors. The wine's nose is earthy, with blackberries and oregano mixing with loam and pipe tobacco aromas. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Abacela 2020 Fiesta Tempranillo (Umpqua Valley).** Dusty roadside red raspberry and lilac aromas make for an enticing perfume. The wine's velvety tannins and sleek mouthfeel are complemented by blueberry compote, tobacco leaf and cedar favors. If you ever encounter grilled octopus seasoned with Spanish paprika, it's fiesta time. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$27

**90 Ricochet 2021 Coventina Vineyards Tempranillo (Rogue Valley).** This full-bodied wine hits you straight out of the gate with potent aromas of macerated strawberries, black pepper, tobacco and seared steak. Black cherries and dark chocolate fill the mouth with grippy tannins and a surprising bit of acidity. Enjoy this bodacious juice now—2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**90 Valcan 2018 El Torero Tempranillo (Rogue Valley).** Tangy blackberry tea, fresh-turned soil and leather aromas lead to flavors of blackberry pie with a trace of Madagacar vanilla and pipe tobacco. This *torero* wields muscular tannins instead of a cape, but the mouthfeel is appropriately lithe. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

## RED BLENDS

**97 Cayuse 2020 God Only Knows Grenache Blend Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** Orange-cranberry and black-cherry aromas are joined by a heady combination of worn saddle leather, wet cobblestones and tobacco. (Can a wine smell "rugged?") Flavors of blueberries, orange zest cocoa nibs glide across a silky texture lit by electrifying acidity and plush tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$107

**96 Cayuse 2020 Flying Pig Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This blend of Cabernet, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon explodes out of the glass with blackberry and mint aromas, followed by thyme and a comforting meatiness similar to ham and cheese on a croissant. Concentrated sweet cherry, dark chocolate and lemon flavors hydroplane on a smooth, slippery texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$104

**95 Cayuse 2020 Camaspelo Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend is a perfume of lavender water and hyacinth, backed by black cherry, black coffee and fresh pine-needle aromas. Blackcap raspberry, rosemary, cedar and black-tea flavors accompany soft acidity, velvety tannins and a sick and slippery mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$94

**95 La Rata 2020 Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This Grenache-Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah blend brings the kind of righteous funk that would make George Clinton and Parliament proud.

Aromas of blackberries and the earth they grow in meld with violets and orange-pekoe tea. Elevated acidity and firm tannins complement flavors of rosemary, black currants, saline and pancetta. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$80

**95 The Eyrle Vineyards 2020 Trifolium Red Blend (Dundee Hills).** This blend of Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Trousseau is the poster child for balance. The show starts with blackberry and thyme aromas, along with notes of earth and citrus. The Trifolium's zingy acidity and optimal tannic structure support flavors of black cherry, cocoa nibs and a nice pot roast. Best trio since Rush. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**95 Top Source 2020 Columbia Valley Red Wine Syrah-Grenache (Columbia Valley).** Distinctly floral with earthy violets and oregano joining forces with boysenberries, basil, fresh-turned earth, aged balsamic vinegar and sweet gardenias. The mouthfeel is slick and slippery with red currant, dried cherry, orange peel and sausage-roll flavors caressing the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**94 Cayuse 2020 The Lovers Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This 85% Cabernet Sauvignon-15% Syrah blend sees 21 months in oak, 30% new. Black currant and fresh basil aromas are joined by a trace of grape leaves stuffed with lamb. Dried Bing cherry and raw-filbert flavors with subtle acidity, plush tannins and a soft, caressing texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$107

**94 No Girls 2020 Double Lucky #8 Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This super-double secret probation proprietary blend tells you only its name, aromas—sweet floral notes of jasmine and gardenia, with oodles of blackcap raspberries—and flavors—black cherries, smoked paprika, tobacco and espresso. The acidity is borderline tingly and the tannins are plush. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$55

**93 Saviah 2020 Hunt & Gather Red Blend (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** Dark, tangy raspberry and not-quite-ripe blackberry aromas flanked by notes of espresso shots and lilacs make a solid initial impression. Boysenberry, orange peel and bittersweet dark-chocolate flavors hang on a massive wall of grippy tannins. This wine has aging potential. Enjoy 2024–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**93 Saviah 2020 The Funk Estate Syrah-Viognier (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** Surging aromas of dark raspberries, figs and violets are challenged by roasted padrón peppers. You don't have time to catch your breath before blackberry chiffon, orange and dark-chocolate flavors coat the palate. 96% Syrah with 4% Viognier. Pork belly sliders, here I come. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$70

**92 Long Walk 2021 Field Notes Long Walk Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Rogue Valley).** It's hard to beat aromas like brambly red cherries drizzled over vanilla gelato. The palate shifts gears to raspberry fruit leather, smoked cherries, orange-pekoe tea and cinnamon-spice flavors. The medium-bodied Grenache-driven blend's texture is chewy and its tannins are brawny. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Pray Tell 2021 Red Blend Pinot Noir-Gamay (Willamette Valley).** This Oregon take on Bourgogne Passetoutgrain is a 60-40 blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay Noir. It is fresh and invigorating, with aromas of blackberries, roasted pork shoulder and a touch of chalkboard dust. Silky tannins support black cherry, orange pith, saline and cedar flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.49% **Price:** \$30

**91 Willful 2021 Walla Walla Red Blend Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This medium-bodied homage to the Left Bank is a perfect pour when meat is grilling in the backyard. Dark raspberry, pipe tobacco, beeswax and forest-floor aromas pave the way for flavors of grilled steak, black cherry compote and a touch of lemon-lime citrus. Velvety tannins and modest acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90 Abacela NV Vintner's Blend 24 Red Blend (Southern Oregon).** This Mediterranean-inspired blend includes 11 varieties ranging from Tempranillo and Malbec to Listán Prieto and Tinta Amarela. Blueberry and vanilla aromas are joined by graphite and sweet gardenia notes. Black cherries, beef barbacoa and cinnamon flavors are at home with the wine's velvety tannins and smooth texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$22

**90 Willful 2020 Oregon Red Blend (Oregon).** This unplanned 50-50 blend of Tempranillo and Merlot is a happy accident indeed. Blackberry and pipe-tobacco aromas are joined by a potpourri of dried lavender and rose petals. The wine's tart cherry, olive oil and dark-chocolate flavors are backed by sturdy tannins, making it highly qualified to accompany a slice of Italian sausage pizza. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**89 Bellingar 2018 Traveling Stones Red Blend (Oregon).** There's everything from Pinot Noir to Tempranillo in this eclectic blend. While there's just a tiny bit of red fruit on the nose, the aromas of chalk dust and the smell of a new LP being pulled from its record sleeve are intriguing. The texture is crisp, with tart cherry and orange-pekoe tea flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Ransom 2020 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blend dazzles with its tart cranberry and melting

beeswax aromas. The wine's rich, sweet flavors, however, are like eating a bowl of ripe blackberries that have been drizzled with powdered sugar. Acidity is a bit too shy and the tannins are soft. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Valcan 2019 Mélange de Vin Red Blend (Rogue Valley).** Dark plum, dark raspberry and fresh straw aromas are spiced up by a note that reminds me of Mama Lil's pickled peppers. This Syrah-Petite Sirah-Tempranillo-Garnacha-Malbec blend is a bit short on acidity, but full of macerated strawberry and dark-chocolate flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## OTHER RED WINES

**97 Cayuse 2014 Wallah Wallah Special #7 Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley).** With tannins fully integrated, this is a beautiful, silky-textured treat ready to quaff at will. Blueberries abound on the nose with notes of violets and wet slate swirling in the background. Rich boysenberry, caffè latte spiked with vanilla, clove and dark chocolate flavors seem to last forever. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$190/1.5 L

**95 Cayuse 2015 Wallah Wallah Special #9 Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley).** The post-rain scent of wet patio slate unites with sweet-tart loganberry, iodine and cedar-needles aromas. Strawberry, orange zest, vanilla cake and black tea flavors fill the mouth. There's a nice balance between the fruit and the wine's bright acidity and firm tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$190/1.5 L

**93 Abacela 2020 Malbec (Umpqua Valley).** This Malbec's sleek, nimble mouthfeel is like a tango on the palate. Its aromas of mulberries, lavender water and warmed beeswax are unique and impossible to resist. It has juicy acidity and sturdy tannins to accompany flavors of sweet black cherries and black tea served with a slice of fresh ginger. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$32

**93 Valcan 2018 Petite Sirah (Rogue Valley).** Here's a Petite Sirah that brings electric acidity and soul-crunching tannins to accompany blackberry and bergamot tea flavors. The wine's texture is chewy at first but softens with time. While swirling the glass, enjoy the blackcap raspberry, lavender and bacon-fat aromas. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Long Walk 2021 Long Walk Vineyard Carignane (Rogue Valley).** Satsuma plum, lavender, chalkboard dust and red velvet cake aromas are head turners. Then we get blueberry sorbet, rhubarb pie and cedar flavors. I'm also smitten by the wine's combination of muscular tannins and sear-

ing acidity. The Carignane grape appears to love the Rogue Valley. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$40

**90 Padigan 2020 Estate Reserve Malbec (Rogue Valley).** Dark raspberry and ripe black cherry aromas are joined by notes of tobacco leaf and pulled pork carnitas. The wine has some body to it, feeling full and round in the mouth. Fine-grained tannins support mouthfilling flavors of cranberries and lemon citrus. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$49

**90 Valcan 2017 Petite Sirah (Rogue Valley).** Black currant and sweet dark raspberry aromas are a nice warmup for rich flavors like blueberry jam on English muffins and earthy pu-erh tea. The wine's tannins are fully integrated and soft acidity befits the wine's smooth, creamy texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$40

## DESSERT WINES

**94 The Eyrie Vineyards 2021 Estate Trousseau (Dundee Hills).** This ethereal wine is made with fruit from the Willamette Valley's first Trousseau vines. Aromas of boysenberry, white sage, saline and black pepper are graced by a tiny note of something grilled and meaty. Sweet, juicy red plum flavors join with briary raspberries, hay and black tea. Great acidity and velvety tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**93 Anam Cara 2021 Nicholas Estate Vineyard Riesling (Chehalem Mountains).** This is a stunning half-bottle sticky Riesling debut for Anama Cara. Ripe yellow apple and candied lemon peel aromas are only the warmup act. The pear, orange marmalade, buckwheat honey and orange zest flavors are sweet, but not cloying. The wine's crisp acidity is a delight. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$32/375 ml

## WASHINGTON

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**93 Avennia 2021 Oliane Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** This sophisticated and medium-bodied Sauvignon Blanc (with juicy acidity) has a flinty quality taking me straight to the Loire Valley. The wine smells like the sweet grassy resin of sunflowers. Other aromas include earth, mineral and lemon, and flavors of lemon scones and nutmeg fill the mouth. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Airfield Estates 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$17

**90 Chemistry 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Yowza. After a hot day working in the garden, a glass of this high-acid white will revive you. Tart guava, tangy Hawaiian huckleberry and freshly cut grass aromas are like a luau that's about to break out. Flavors of dried mango and blood orange sorbet surf that crisp acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Revelation by Goose Ridge 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Goose Gap).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$18

**89 Intrinsic 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** Powerful aromas of freshly cut grass, pineapple, guava and lime zest burst from the glass with each swirl. The acidity is brisk, making the perfect accompaniment to tangy flavors like guava, Key lime pie and shredded coconut. Time for a pool party. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 14 Hands 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** This Sauvignon Blanc with 7% Sémillon is light bodied, with acidity that almost hits an 11 on my 10/10 “absolute torch and twang” scale. Freshly cut grass, star fruit and guava-paste aromas make for a tart introduction. There are nice lemon, peach and coconut flavors, but be warned if you are averse to blazing acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**88 H3 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills).** A tea made with nettles and lemon verbena would smell exactly like this 100% Sauvignon Blanc. There is also a nice bit of walnuts, guava and a mild asparagus note. Lemon-icing on angel-food-cake flavors are joined by traces of orange and spearmint, with bright acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## CHARDONNAY

**91 Waterbrook 2021 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** This Chardonnay offers a lot of quality for value. It begins with spiced pear and pine-tree aromas, followed by flavors of Golden Delicious apples, walnuts, and a spicy tandem of nutmeg and clove. There's even a warm caramel note on the finish. Look for a creamy texture with just enough acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Airfield Estates 2021 Founders Donald D. Miller Chardonnay (Yakima Valley).** Pineapple and basil aromas are not unexpected—the fruity aroma that comes close to cactus fruit crossed with ginger ale surprised me. Rich flavors of grilled peaches, guava and passion fruit play off of the wine's crisp acidity. The tiny white-tea note on the finish is another welcome surprise. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$40

**90 Chehalem 2022 INOX Unoaked Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** The old guard stain-

less steel Chardonnay of the Willamette Valley has shifted its fruit sources north to Washington state. Its Golden Delicious apple and Bosc pear aromas are joined by a trace of wet modeling clay. The same orchard fruit appears on the palate, along with flavors of lemon basil and pine-like sage. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$25

**89 Among the Giants 2021 Chardonnay (Goose Gap).** This medium-bodied barrel-fermented Chardonnay has a surprising amount of acidity to accompany flavors of apricots and caramel-covered macadamia nuts. Aromas of sage butter, white pepper and lemon curd are the show-stoppers here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 CharlesSmith 2021 Eve Chardonnay (Washington).** A hunger-pang-inducing, pineapple-scone aroma blends with a herbal potpourri of thyme, rosemary and oregano. The wine's zippy acidity complements tart and tangy flavors like white grapefruit, lime and tonic water. Break out the goat cheese. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 City Limits 2021 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** Aged 15 months in a combination of stainless steel and neutral French oak, this high-acid Chardonnay shows off aromas of ripe peaches, tart guava and a trace of gun flint. Tart quince fruit joins forces on the crisp-textured palate with flavors of salted cashews and Bosc pear. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Covington 2021 Boushey Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley).** A sweet and earthy hyacinth aroma battles it out with a ripe musk melon and toasted filberts for aromatic supremacy. The Chardonnay's creamy texture and orange creamsicle flavor seems more Viognier-like, but it plays well, providing a strawberry lemonade quality. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**89 Skyfall 2021 Chardonnay (Washington).** This creamy Chardonnay is all about the fruit, beginning with a powerful ripe cantaloupe aroma and milder notes of pine needles and butter-scotch. Rich flavors like lemon gelato and butter are joined by a trace of rosemary. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$14

**88 Drink Washington State 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (White Bluffs).** There's an oxidized quality here that reminded me of a salty, nutty fino Sherry. The medium-bodied wine's flavor profile is distinctly herbal, with lemon verbena, spearmint, chamomile and a trace of clarified butter. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$29

**87 Browne Family Vineyards 2021 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** Aged for nine months in French oak, 24% new, this wine is for everyone out there looking for a creamy Chardonnay experience. There's a bit of lemon citrus on the nose, but coconut is the main aroma. The wine's smooth mouth-

feel allows flavors like coconut cream pie and a hint of guava to glide along. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$25

## RIESLING

**92 Dowsett Family 2021 Aunt Diane's Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Gorge).** What's not love about a bone-dry, stainless-steel-ferment Riesling made with grapes plucked from vines that are 43-years old? Mild petrol and talc notes play off of a lemon-drop hard-candy aroma from childhood. Apricot and chamomile-tea flavors seal the deal. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$18

**92 Lone Birch 2022 Riesling (Yakima Valley).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$12

**91 Charles Smith 2021 Kung Fu Girl Riesling (Columbia Valley).** Lemonade and lilacs should be a album title—instead it's Kung Fu Girl's perfume, along with a touch of spearmint. Lemon-drop hard-candy and ripe apricot flavors Shaolin kick their way through a wall of electric acidity. Dry and crisp, grasshopper. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**91 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Indian Wells Riesling (Yakima Valley).** The best cake in the world does not smell as good as this wine's lemon-zest, honeysuckle and peach-tart aromas. There's also a hint of sweetness on the palate, with lemon-drop hard candies mixing with peach soda and the tangy botanicals of a gin and tonic. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

## WHITE BLENDS

**93 Dineen Vineyards 2022 Condriesque Rhône-style White Blend (Yakima Valley).** This Rhône-style Roussanne-Viognier blend combines tangy acidity with ample body and a thick texture. Mediterranean aromas of grilled lemons, honeysuckle, seared scallops and almonds fill the air. The wine's flavors of lemon gelato, peach and corn tortillas are equally compelling. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$27

**92 Avennia 2021 La Perle Roussanne-Marsanne (Columbia Valley).** A complex aromatic set begins with lemon butter, basil and coconut and ends with Marcona almonds and a croissant slathered with marmalade. Medium bodied, it delivers modest acidity and rich coconut-cream-pie, pear-tart and lemon-granita flavors. Break out the prawns and melted butter. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$40

**91 Two Vintners 2022 Grenache Blanc Grenache Blanc-Roussanne (Columbia Valley).** This 90-10 blend of Grenache Blanc and Roussanne was fermented and aged in French oak, 15% new, for four months. It is a fresh and invigorating white



wine, with aromas of cantaloupe, chamomile tea, freshly cut grass and chalkboard dust. Flavors like lemon sorbet and Tahitian vanilla bean glide across the palate. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$28

**90 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Willow White Rhône-style White Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Viognier, Marsanne and Picpoul unite to form a white-wine Justice League. Kiwi and lemon show on the nose, with lime and the coconut flavors bringing it home. The Willow's superpower is acidity, and be warned, she throws lightning bolts. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$31

**90 Eternal 2019 Eternal Evolution Skin Contact White White Blend (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 20. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 12%

Price: \$39

**89 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Forest Project White Blend (Columbia Valley).** This crisp, light-bodied blend of 60% Pinot Gris, 30% Chardonnay and 10% Riesling will hit the spot on a summer evening. Its grassy nose also feature aromas of kiwi, juniper berries and Anjou pear. The flavors profile is dominated by green apples, with a trace of pineapple and white tea. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$26

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**95 Dossier 2021 Flagship Viognier (Columbia Valley).** This aromatic tour de force pits lemon and toasted filberts against honey, clarified butter and the peach-jasmine-orange peel combination of plumeria flowers. Lemon curd dominates the palate, with traces of guava and coconut macaroons. The wine's texture is creamy without being overly viscous. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$58

**93 Gramercy 2022 Picpoul (Walla Walla Valley).** This Picpoul may not sting your lips like some French versions, but it has enough acidity to shake you by the collar. Lemon zest and pears battle earthy oregano for aromatic supremacy, while a wave of lemon, tonic water and toasted hazelnut flavors crashes over the palate. Pure white wine bliss. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22

**92 Division-Villages 2022 L'Isle Verte Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley).** A distinctly mineral nose, with aromas of saline, fresh pine needles and lemon basil. The mouthfeel is crisp and tangy, fueled by boisterous acidity and flavors like lemon-verbena tea served with a trace of honey. Try this dry gem with your next batch of mac and cheese. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

**92 Itä 2022 Sémillon - 1 of 2 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley).** Whole cluster Sémillon fruit

was gently pressed then fermented in stainless steel. The wine has a nice aromatic combination of tart peaches, earthy daisies and something powdery, like talc. Cantaloupe shares the flavor profile with lemon, cardamom and tonic water. It's all about crisp acidity, with a clean texture. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$28

**91 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Aromatic Viognier (Columbia Valley).** This wine is 95% Viognier, with the other 5% comprised of Riesling, Syrah, Merlot and Gewürztraminer that spent 16 weeks in neutral oak. It offers a tropical perfume filled with aromas of gardenias, coconut, plumeria and pineapple. Pineapple, cara cara oranges and fresh ginger flavors float on a creamy texture. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

**91 Dowsett Family 2019 Celilo Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Columbia Gorge).** Such complexity. The wine's fresh rose-petal and beeswax aromas encircle lemon-flavored Skittles, iced tea and a vinous note similar to an ice wine. The flavors lean to the tropical, with kiwi and pink grapefruit joining up with pistachios. This lighter-bodied wine packs some acid. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$28

**91 Eternal 2020 Eternal Insight Marsanne (Yakima Valley).** Medium bodied and packing some boisterous acidity, this Marsanne was aged six months in a 50-50 mix of neutral French oak and stainless steel. Its lanolin and honeydew melon aromas are perfect. The wine's rich texture combines with flavors of ripe apricots and a lemon granita with a sprig of mint. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$39

**91 Itä 2022 Sémillon - 2 of 2 Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley).** This is similar to its counterpart—Sémillon 1 of 1—except this juice was fermented and aged in neutral French oak. The lemon and wet slate aromas combine to give the impression of a gin and tonic, with maybe a touch of peach. The mouthfeel is svelte and smooth, with flavors like lemon basil, apple and a hint of lanolin. —M.A.

abv: 11.4%

Price: \$28

**89 Dowsett Family 2019 Gewürztraminer (Columbia Gorge).** This dry Gewürztraminer made with Oak Ridge and Celilo Vineyards fruit is dry and lighter-bodied, with lychee and lime aromas. It possesses a soft texture, with modest acidity and the lightly sweet flavor of kumquats and a peach tart. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$16

**88 Nine Hats 2022 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley).** I liked the wine's aromatic duo of lemon basil and fresh sea-breeze salinity. The wine's texture feels smooth and round in the mouth. The lemon-lime Life Savers and vanilla flavors, however, need more acidity to provide some backbone. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$15

**87 14 Hands 2022 Pinot Grigio Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley).** Aromatically, the fruit is muted, with only hints of citrus and perhaps pineapple. The wine is close to medium bodied, with a creamy texture, restrained acidity and flavors like lemon sorbet and a sprig of spearmint. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$12

## SPARKLING WINES

**92 Division 2019 Crémant de Portland Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley).** Bright acidity and a texture that goes "crunch" are the trademarks of this sparkling Chenin Blanc and Gamay Noir. Its strawberry and white-grapefruit aromas pair beautifully with notes of talc and a warm croissant. The grapefruit turns pink on the palate, where it is joined by peach and maple flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

**90 Balboa 2022 Sparkling Rosé (Columbia Valley).** From its aromas of strawberries, nectarines, lime zest and chalk, to its creamy texture and frisky bubbles, the Balboa sparkling pink hits all the right buttons. Flavors like cherry lollipops and pink grapefruit drizzled with sugar fill the mouth. This is for the fans of plush over crisp. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

**90 Domaine Ste. Michelle NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley).** This sparkling wine will make acidity fans drool with delight. Aromas of lemon zest, blood orange-flavored drinking vinegar, olive oil and talc are just the start. The wine's razor sharp texture is the perfect foil for its lemon-bar and salted almond flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$13

**90 Domaine Ste. Michelle NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley).** This pinkish-hued blend of Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir strikes with aggressive bubbles attacking your tickle zone. Nectarine and lemon-zest aromas are matched by a touch of strawberry mochi ice cream. Raspberry pastilles and candied orange-peel flavors backed by modest acidity close out the show. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 11%

Price: \$13

**89 Domaine Ste. Michelle NV Luxe Brut Sparkling Wine Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** Brioche and lemon curd combine in fine fashion on the nose, along with a tangy mineral note reminiscent of tonic water on the rocks with a lime twist. Languid bubbles deliver a simple mix of ginger and blood orange juice flavors, with modest acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

**88 Domaine Ste. Michelle NV Extra Dry Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley).** This sparkling blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier has floral aromas that include hyacinth and gardenias, followed by notes of peach and the white powder from a stick of Wrigley's chewing gum. Lemon-

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lime soda and vanilla flavors are matched with acidity that's soft as a pillow. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

## ROSÉS

**94 Dossier 2022 Syrah Rosé (Columbia Valley).** This rosé will inspire love letters and whispered promises. Bright raspberry, olive-oil and lemon-zest aromas are enveloped in a bouquet of English roses. Brisk acidity offers crispness of texture while blood orange, lavender, rosemary and ginger flavors dance about. Prepare to write that letter. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$28

**93 Eternal 2022 Eternal Beauty Gingko Forest Vineyard Rosé (Wahluke Slope).** For full review see page 10. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$29

**93 Gramercy 2022 Olsen Vineyard Rosé (Columbia Valley).** The 50% Cinsault and 25% each of Grenache and Syrah deliver a lot of pleasure for \$25. This perky pink's aromas of pink lemonade and white-peach jam are counterpointed by tart orange-peel and chalk-dust notes. Red-cherry, persimmon and lime flavors are matched with crisp acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Le Rose Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Tart red cherries dominate the wine's aromatics, complemented by a bouquet of fresh rosemary and dried rose petals. While the acidity is bright and the wine's texture crisp, there's weight here to accompany raspberry popsicle, thyme and lemon flavors. The blend is predominantly Grenache and it is well-executed. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**92 Itä 2022 Primitivo Rosé (Walla Walla Valley).** This tangy and transparent wine is a contender for the title of world's palest rosé. Stainless-steel fermented, this rosé has tart strawberry and ripe cantaloupe aromas that are joined by a touch of talc. The wine's face-melting acidity lights up lemon, bread-dough and Marcona almond flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.4% **Price:** \$28

**92 Pursued by Bear 2022 Blushing Bear Rosé (Columbia Valley).** This stainless-steel fermented and aged rosé is the perfect accompaniment to a Saint-Tropez tan. Lemon, wild-strawberry and rosemary aromas are fresh and inviting. Tangy tangerine and sweet Fuji apple flavors nimbly pirouette on a crisp texture driven by brisk acidity. This bear is just right. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**92 Tahija 2022 Kiona Estate Sangiovese Rosé (Red Mountain).** This creamy textured pink Sangiovese is filled to the brim with flavors and aromas of pink grapefruit, sea salt, tangerines, grilled

lemons, peaches and freshly cut grass. It has more than enough acidity and the restrained alcohol is appreciated. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Airfield Estates 2022 Sangiovese Rosé (Yakima Valley).** Aromatically, this wine is a one-trick pony—but what a trick. This waxy orange-citrus note took me back to hoarding the orange Starburst candies at Halloween. The rosé's cherry-snow-cone syrup and spicy ginger flavors slide across a creamy texture, supported by just enough acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$18

**91 Brian Carter 2022 Abracadabra Rosé (Columbia Valley).** With apologies to the late Steve Miller, the Abracadabra reaches out and grabs you with acidity that hit nine out of 10 on my patented zippy scale. Apricots and rose petals provide an aromatic perfume, followed by flavors of tangy nectarines, tart red cherries, anise and lemon. It's clean, fresh and fun. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**91 City Limits 2022 Pink Street Rosé (Columbia Valley).** A rosé made with Zinfandel, Primitivo and Petite Sirah? Yes, and it has a nice bit of acidity to match its weight and tannins. Yes, tannins. Floral notes of honeysuckle and hyacinth mix with buttery caramel on the nose. Nectarine and red Swedish Fish flavors make for a nice combination. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**91 Revelation by Goose Ridge 2022 Rosé (Goose Gap).** For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$18

**90 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Bitner Estate Grenache Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Medium bodied, with lively acidity, this pink is for the raspberry fans. An aroma of raspberry Italian soda is joined by notes of spearmint and grilled apricots. Raspberries reappear on the creamy palate in the form of pastille candies to accompany a pronounced Thai basil note. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.35% **Price:** \$20

**90 Charles Smith 2020 Band of Roses Rosé (Washington).** The grape (or grapes) involved in this wine is a mystery, but the aromas and flavors of pear, cherry, guava, sage and dried cheatgrass, are not. This pink wine is for folks looking for soft acidity and a creamy texture without a tannin in sight. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Indian Wells Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Lovely acidity provides this pink wine with a healthy amount of tart and twang. White-peach and guava aromas blend seamlessly on the nose, along with an herbaceous white-sage note. Tart pink-grapefruit and sweet raspberry-soda flavors fill the mouth. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Lone Birch 2022 Syrah Rosé (Yakima Valley).** Peach-sorbet and blood orange aromas mix with a spicy floral blast of freshly cut carnations. The tangy texture of the wine underscores brisk guava and lemon flavors joined by traces of toasted filberts and brioche. Nice, crisp acidity makes for a refreshing pink drink. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$12

**90 Waterbrook 2022 Icon Rosé (Columbia Valley).** The wine's nice, bright acidity makes for a refreshing rosé experience. This 50-50 Grenache and Sangiovese blend shows aromas of peaches, strawberries, sweet pea flowers and wet slate right out of the gate. Tart red-raspberry and lemon-zest flavors are befitting the wine's crisp, clean mouthfeel. Serve with a picnic blanket. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26

**89 Browne Family Vineyards 2022 Aromatic Cabernet Franc Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Fans of lighter-bodied pinks will enjoy this wine's plush mouthfeel and restrained acidity. Lemon-zest and bright red-cherry aromas abound, with a tiny bit of earthy sage. It's a wall of tangerine and kiwi when it comes to flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 H3 2022 Rosé (Horse Heaven Hills).** Aromas of cantaloupe, lemon peel and butterscotch lead into peach and strawberry flavors. There is also this interesting mineral note in the background that tastes like tonic water on the rocks with a lime twist. The acidity is of the lip-smacking variety. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 14 Hands 2022 Rosé (Columbia Valley).** This pink wine's aromas run the spectrum from sweet iced animal crackers and ripe cantaloupe to tangy orange zest. It's the same range on the palate, where brisk acidity joins lemon juice and pink Lucky Charms marshmallow hearts. Yin, meet yang. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**88 Ocelli 2022 French Creek Vineyard Grenache Rosé (Columbia Valley).** This lighter bodied rosé, with plenty of juicy acidity, offers cantaloupe, pink-grapefruit and baked goat-cheese aromas to accompany pronounced earth and forest-floor notes. Beyond tart guava, picking out flavors other than thyme and a touch of saline is challenging. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**83 Waterbrook 2022 Sangiovese Rosé (Columbia Valley).** Fruit and acidity are missing in action here. The aromatics are fresh basil and saline, with only a memory of a squeezed lime floating in the background. A thin texture and wisps of red fruit might be refreshing when served ice cold, but there's not much else here. —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.4% **Price:** \$17

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**94 Abeja 2019 Heather Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Dark cherries and caramel nougat join a savory aromatic tandem of seared steak and chalk dust. The wine's elevated acidity and firm tannins are a perfect backdrop for flavors of dried cherries, cedar and a trace of toffee. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$90

**94 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Spymaster Series Lot 4 - Liberation of Paris Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This full-bodied 100% Cabernet Sauvignon spent nearly two years in French oak, 60% new. Its aromas of cassis and cigar box are equaled by a powerful bouquet of violets. Complex layers of mulberries, black cherries, thyme and dark chocolate are supported by muscular tannins. I stopped timing the finish at 60 seconds. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$80

**94 Gramercy 2018 Lower East Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and a tiny bit of Petit Verdot unite in this youthful wine. Its raspberry and black-cherry aromas are complemented by the scent of freshly roasted coffee beans. Flavors of dark chocolate, orange zest and seared steak go on seemingly forever. It's full of great acidity and grippy tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**94 Saviah 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Blackcap raspberries wrapped in bacon—this is my aromatic dream scenario. Other aromas include pipe tobacco, cedar and a touch of earth. The wine's marionberry-pie, toasted filberts and dark-chocolate flavors glide on a smooth texture, with lively acidity and silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**93 Auclair 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** The wine's initial blackberry and honeysuckle aromas trick you. With a few glass swirls, a wave of seared steak and cedar planks hit the olfactory beach. There's black-cherry fruit on the sticky-textured palate, with traces of espresso and brown sugar. Great acidity and muscular tannins. Enjoy 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50

**93 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Spymaster Series Lot 1 - The Farm Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** The Spymaster's acidity is sharper than Daniel Craig in a tight spot. There are dark raspberry or blackberry aromas here, but the spearmint and leather notes are equally strong. Thanks to the acidity, the mouth waters as the brain processes flavors like orange-cranberry and tangy dandelion tea. This wine has a license to thrill. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$71

**93 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2019 Ethos Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Dark and powerful, the Ethos hits straight out of the gate with dense blackcap-raspberry, sweet gardenia and earthy pine-needle aromas. Blueberries, brown-sugar and Macadamia nut flavors soar with crisp acidity and firm tannins. This is the intersection of elegance and power. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**93 m100 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Holy moly, what a great value. There's a rich, ripe aroma of a blackberry tart waltzing with notes of crunchy forest floor leaves, beeswax and a touch of cola. Beautifully balanced, this features compelling cranberry, black tea, bacon fat and herbes de Provence—classic cab for a nice price. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$25

**93 Pamplin 2019 Discovery Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** This wine manages the rare feat of offering electric acidity and brawny tannins. It is the color of a black marble, with blueberry and cinnamon aromas. The wine's flavors are juicy and expansive, ranging from black cherry and bittersweet dark chocolate to cara cara oranges and wet slate. Enjoy now until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$70

**93 Tendril 2017 Octave Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** The wine's aromatic combination of sweet blackberries, violets, vanilla make for a perfume I'd like to dab on my pulse points. The smooth texture with fine-grained tannins and ample acidity back flavors like blackberries in a proper English custard, black coffee and cedar. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75

**92 Auclair 2019 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Blackberries galore on the nose, with tiny bits of graphite and lavender-scented baby powder. This lithe and lovely wine's smooth texture is perfect for the raspberry Pop Rocks and caffè latte flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48

**92 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Spymaster Series Lot 5 - Homecoming Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a full-bodied, full-throttled Cabernet Sauvignon that sings, so I nicknamed it "big and rich." Blackberries, red apples, rose petals, orange-pekoe tea and cedar describe the wine's aromas and flavors. There's a firm tannic structure and elevated acidity to match all that fruit. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$51

**92 Covale Cellars 2020 Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** This is a big and rich Cabernet Sauvignon—with 3% Cabernet Franc—that also packs enough acidity to wet your whistle. The fresh aromas of a clean sea breeze

and talc quickly make way for blueberry pie and cedar. The thick-textured wine, with plush tannins, shows huckleberry, cocoa-nib and Irish breakfast tea flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$65

**91 Chasing Rain 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Dark raspberries, lavender, dry straw and cedar frolic on the nose, while black-cherry, earthy oregano and brown-sugar flavors do the heavy lifting. This is a medium-bodied affair where the wine's soft acidity and creamy texture makes a second glass easy to pour. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Covington 2020 May's Discovery Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** The wine's fruit-forward aromas put one in the mood for a bowl of blackberries and dark raspberries dusted with powdered sugar and lemon juice. The wine's velvety tannins provide adequate support for blackberry, pistachio, vanilla and beeswax flavors. Silky smooth texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$85

**91 Saviah 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Boysenberry and blackberry aromas fill the air, joined by bursts of cinnamon and wet slate. The balanced wine's smooth texture is complemented by rich flavors of black cherries, cedar and dark-chocolate-coated espresso beans. Grill steaks and pour freely. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Waterbrook 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** A charming aromatic combination of pipe tobacco and grape popsicle mixes with notes of dark chocolate and almonds. This is a nicely balanced wine, with lively acidity and silky tannins, with flavors like blackberries, walnuts and mocha powder. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

**90 Airfield Estates 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley).** A tiny bit of black fruit on the nose is overwhelmed by aromas of leather, cedar and the reddish-brown crema on a nicely pulled espresso shot. The fruit rallies on the palate, with gobs of black cherries and a hint of dark chocolate. The tannins are as brawny as circa 1975 Arnold Schwarzenegger. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**90 Balboa 2019 Artist Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** It's like going to the circus when cotton candy infiltrates aromas of black cherries and rose petals. The tannins are brawny and texture leathery as flavors like Bing cherries, dates and orange-pekoe tea arrive. This wine either needs more rest or a decanter. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Beckstone 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25



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**90 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Spymaster Series Lot 3 - Continent Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This Spymaster's wonderful aromatic collection of cedar, sandalwood, red apples, strawberries and dark plums is hardly covert. Cranberry, lemon-zest, fresh basil and black-tea flavors are matched by brisk acidity and tannins as rugged as Jason Bourne. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$51

**90 City Limits 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** There's a bit of earthy funk on the nose, along with aromas of dried rose petals and dark raspberries. The smooth, creamy textured palate is where things get interesting. Tart, twangy cranberries and lemon join with dried hibiscus flowers to create a Red Zinger tea experience. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**90 Nine Hats 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$20

**90 Page Cellars 2018 Preface Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** The wine's aromatic set is an unusual combination of earthy forest floor and a sweet topical floral note reminiscent of plumeria. Raspberry-sorbet and coconut flavors guide on a creamy texture. The winery ages their reds in 100% American oak for approximately two years, with a year of bottle conditioning. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**89 14 Hands 2019 The Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** A delectable aroma of vanilla ice cream topped with blackberries melds with notes of wood spice and graham cracker dust. Black cherries dominate the other flavors, which included sarsaparilla soda, coffee and clove. A smooth, slippery texture accompanies soft acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Balboa 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Aromas of a blackberry and honey rub on barbecue short ribs is joined by a touch of lavender and blackened toast. Full bodied, it offers bittersweet-chocolate-covered blueberries fighting against grippy tannins. The wine spent 30 months in French oak, 100% new. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$65

**89 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This solid Cabernet Sauvignon—with 5% Merlot—offers aromas of sweet blackberries, white chocolate, almonds and leather. The wine's rich flavors coat the mouth with black cherries, coconut and vanilla. The tannins are silky, the acidity mild. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**89 Columbia Crest 2020 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Full bodied with brawny tannins, this Cabernet Sauvignon—with a little Merlot—offers

blackcap-raspberry, cocoa-nib and bacon-fat aromas that fill the air. Blackberry and sweet tea flavors coalesce around a ball of leather and cedar. This is a powerful Cab that likes to flex. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**89 Pamplin 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon spent 20 months in French oak, 15% new. It still shows a lot of oak spice on the nose, along with lilacs, vanilla and leather. Red-cherry, coconut and fig flavors are joined by a touch of marjoram. Acidity is restrained and the tannins are chewy. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**89 Sagelands 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This is a powerful Cabernet Sauvignon—with 20% Merlot—that did time in American oak, 20% new. Red raspberries and Bing cherries set the aromatic pace, followed closely by notes of talc and wet pavement. Dried cherry and blackcap-raspberry flavors rumble on a chewy texture, supported by grippy tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Sidereus 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Nectarines and plums join fermenting sour dough starter and dill for a most unusual aromatic combination. The boysenberry and black-cherry fruit flavors are not-quite-ripe and tangy, while notes of balsamic and saltine crackers hover in the background. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$50

**88 Open Range Wines 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** Boysenberry and cigar-box aromas are accented by wee bits of violets, mint and saline. The wine's tannins are chewy, and its black-cherry and lemon-zest flavors hide behind a wall of balsa wood. Decanting is highly recommended. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**87 14 Hands 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Aromatically, this Cabernet Sauvignon, which includes small amounts of Merlot and Malbec, is one big black cherry, with traces of earth and tomato leaf. Dark-plum and saline flavors are joined by a touch of roast pork and a lot of wood spice. Might work nicely with a bánh mì packed with Vietnamese ham. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Charles Smith 2021 Chateau Smith Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington).** The Chateau Smith Cabernet Sauvignon's predominant aroma and flavor is a giant, less than fully ripe Bing cherry. There are additional aromas and flavors like roasted red bell peppers and sturgeon smoked on cedar planks. The wine's tannins are grippy to the point of distraction. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Kirkland Signature 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 29. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$9

**86 H3 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** Blackberries and vanilla are a fine aromatic start, but the wine falls short on the palate. Overly ripe blueberry and dark-chocolate flavors are almost too sweet and the mouthfeel is to the thin side, with soft tannins and minimal acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Portlandia 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The wine's aromas feature blackberries, roasted red peppers and a sweet-spicy note similar to old fashioned cane cola. The wine's texture is viscous, with flavors of dark-chocolate-covered cherries, espresso and a lot of vanilla. Try it with braised beef mole tacos. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

## CABERNET FRANC

**94 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Premier Collection Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** Balance and restrained alcohol are this elegant wine's calling cards. Its fresh and lively aromas include a bouquet of lilacs and blackberries to accompany a pronounced mineral note of powdery dry gravel. Each sip produces a blackberry-green tea tandem that matched the wine's bright acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$41

**94 Open Range Wines 2021 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** This fantastic Washington wine is made by a producer in Colorado that we all need to get to know better. Earthy soil, iodine and oregano notes accompany ripe blackberry and lemon-zest aromas. This wine possesses lively acidity to go along with silky tannins and a creamy texture. Cherry and espresso flavors are spiced by cardamom. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**91 Covington 2019 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Horse Heaven Hills).** This full-bodied 100% Cabernet Franc erupts with dense blackberry, dark-chocolate and sage aromas. Flavors of black cherries, freshly brewed Indonesian black coffee and thyme are supported by burly tannins that dictate decanting. Chewy, but good. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60

## MALBEC

**92 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Malbec (Columbia Valley).** Potent black-cherry and wet stone aromas are punctuated by the best dill cameo since *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Tart blackberries reign supreme on the palate, surrounded by citrus, black-tea, black-walnut and cardamom-spice flavors. The restrained alcohol, smooth tannins and bright acidity are perfect. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$46

**92 Open Range Wines 2021 Malbec (Horse Heaven Hills).** Aromatically, this Malbec

is a cedar-tree forest, with lesser notes of violets, cranberry-orange scone and boysenberries. The acid-driven wine has a juicy, slick texture to accompany flavors like blackberry sorbet, watermelon and coconut. I look forward to matching this with beef empanadas. —M.A.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**90 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Premier Malbec (Columbia Valley).** Tooth-coating tannins and puckering acidity stand out on this rough-and-tumble Malbec. Ripe blackcap-raspberry and blueberry-pie aromas are tempered by notes of cedar, pine needles and lavender. Blackberries, thyme and matcha-tea flavors fight through a leathery texture. Decanting is recommended. —M.A.

**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$30

**90 Waterbrook 2021 Malbec (Columbia Valley).** Sweet dark-raspberry and toasted marshmallow aromas are counterpointed by notes of earth, saline and balsam wood. This Malbec is packing some seriously chewy tannins and just enough acidity to handle tart pie-cherry, cranberry and orange-pipe-tobacco flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

## GRENACHE

**94 Gramercy 2020 The Third Man Grenache (Columbia Valley).** Tart boysenberry and sweet strawberry aromas are backed by spicy Daphne flowers and raw almonds. The wine's crisp texture is matched by a lively amount of acidity, with comforting flavors of dried red cherries, green tea and Scottish oatcakes. Enjoy now until 2032. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$44

**92 Ocelli 2020 Columbia Valley Grenache (Columbia Valley).** There's a harmony here between fruit, bright acidity and silky tannins. The aromatic set has a bit of earth and wet rocks to accompany dark wild strawberries and Nutella smeared on a warm pretzel. Peach and cherry flavors glide on a smooth texture, accented by a touch of garrigue. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**91 Ocelli 2020 French Creek Vineyard Grenache (Columbia Valley).** This wine sees 50% whole cluster fermentation, with 18 months in neutral French oak. The tannins are integrated and everything about this wine invokes the word "nimble." Aromas of dark plum, orange peel and saline are a nice set-up for bright apricot, blackberry and thyme flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$38

**90 Ocelli 2020 Upland Vineyard Grenache (Columbia Valley).** This is a graceful expression of Grenache, with a lighter body, restrained alcohol, vivid acidity and crisp texture. Aromas include tart red raspberry, balsam wood and thyme. Strawberry and chocolate flavors are

accented by bits of cranberry and citrus. It was aged for 18 months in neutral French oak. —M.A.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$38

**90 Two Vintners 2021 Claire Grenache (Yakima Valley).** I enjoyed the wine's blueberry and graphite aromas, but the chocolate note was on the strong side. A sweet black-cherry flavor is complemented by notes of black tea, lemon and spicy black garlic. The wine is medium bodied, with a slippery mouthfeel and modest acidity. The heat from the alcohol is noticeable, but not distracting. —M.A.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$45

## SYRAH

**96 Dossier 2021 Flagship Syrah (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 3.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**95 Gramercy 2019 Forgotten Hills Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** I love this balanced Syrah that is nimble and dialed in at an ethereal 12.5% abv—no new oak, either. Huckleberry pie and earth aromas mix it up with a touch of rare roast beef. Brilliant acidity lights up flavors of blackberries, pepper, melting beeswax and well-worn leather gloves. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**94 Balboa 2018 Reserve Stoney Vine Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.**

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$65

**94 Saviah 2020 Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Ripe blackberry and raspberry aromas are joined by notes of grilled salmon, sweet paprika, crunchy fallen leaves and earthy loam. Powerful, chewy tannins ably support black-cherry, oregano, pork-loin and cedar flavors. Bonus—the wine's elevated acidity is like a laser beam of lemon. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**94 Two Vintners 2020 Some Days are Stones Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Stone in love is more like it. This balanced, restrained 75% whole-cluster Syrah has a beautiful lavender-thyme-oregano garrigue-like combination to pit against blueberry and grilled meat aromas. Black-and-blue berries and Assam tea flavors fill the mouth. Nice acidity, modest tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$50

**93 Gramercy 2019 Lagniappe Red Willow Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley).** Rich boysenberry and raspberry aromas are joined by traces of bacon fat and sweet, freshly cut hay. A blueberry-scone flavor pairs nicely with lemon and wet slate flavors, all backed by muscular tannins and bright acidity. —M.A.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**93 Open Range Wines 2021 Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This forest walk of a nose includes aromas of dried pine needles, fresh earth, blackcap raspberries and a cup of blueberries topped with vanilla-infused whipped cream. A pronounced blueberry-scone flavor is joined by black coffee and cedar. The medium-bodied wine's tannins are a soft caress. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**93 Two Vintners 2020 Some Days are Diamonds Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** This Diamond is a Syrah lover's best friend. It has really fresh aromas of pine bark, violets and blackberries freshly plucked from the vine. This medium-bodied wine's black-cherry and orange-peel flavors are supported by muscular tannins. —M.A.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

**93 Two Vintners 2020 The Waiting List Syrah (Yakima Valley).** You need to get on this Waiting List, stat. Sweet, ripe black cherries dominate an aromatic set that includes iodine and orange peel. Grilled plum, blackberry jam and citrusy black-walnut flavors are matched with a smooth, supple mouthfeel and silky tannins. —M.A.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Lone Birch 2021 Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This is juicy fun for one heck of a nice price. Aromas of ripe boysenberries, mint and freshly polished leather shoes are a nice segue way to blackcap-raspberry and peach flavors. It offers great acidity with a texture as crisp as biting into a cold apple. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**90 10,000 Hours 2020 Syrah (Red Mountain).** This is a full-bodied bruiser, with aromas of ripe blackberries, leather and a creamy macchiato. Grippy tannins back flavors of blueberry gelato, dark chocolate and balsam. Food is a must with this one, so grill whatever tipped the Flintstones' car over at the drive-in. —M.A.

**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Two Vintners 2020 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** There's a tiny bit of Roussanne and Viognier in here, but it's not noticeable in the aromatics, which feature blackberries, cedar and pipe tobacco. There's a nice bit of acidity to accompany simple flavors like black cherry and dark chocolate. The tannins are silky and the texture smooth. —M.A.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

## MERLOT

**92 Two Vintners 2020 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This is a full-bodied 90-5-5 blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc aged for 21 months in 50% new French and American oak. Blackcap-raspberry, violet and cedar aromas fill the air, while chocolate-covered-blueberry and

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grilled meat flavors fill the mouth. The tannins are muscular, the acidity impressive. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Waterbrook 2020 Reserve Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This Merlot's blackberries drizzled with lemon-juice, cedar-plank and roasted pork-shoulder aromas will unleash hunger pangs. Fine-grained tannins, with a dry texture, are accompanied by and flavors like black cherries and cocoa nibs. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$26

**91 Airfield Estates 2020 Reserve Merlot (Yakima Valley).** A powerful blackberry aroma is joined by interesting notes of earthy peat and a smoky-saline combination that made me crave grilled oysters. The palate's slightly chewy texture does not distract from flavors of dark raspberries and black tea with a lemon wedge. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$35

**91 Among the Giants 2020 Merlot (Goose Gap).** The wine's aromas are fresh and floral, with dark raspberries and strawberries uniting with wildflowers in a grassy meadow. Tangy acidity backs black-cherry and cocoa flavors, with a citrus note and a touch of grilled rib eye steaks bringing up the rear. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$20

**91 Chasing Rain 2020 Merlot (Red Mountain).** The wine's 7% Petit Verdot provides a nice structural backbone to support its copious amounts of fruit. Cranberry, blueberry and lilac aromas lead the way, followed by substantial bits of cigar box and graphite. Cassis, black-coffee and oatcake flavors glide along the wine's smooth texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Page Cellars 2019 Lick My Lips Merlot (Red Mountain).** Blackberry and mint aromas are flanked by fresh notes of citrus-scented laundry powder and saline. The wine's texture and acidity are crisp, with blackberry, clove and dark-chocolate flavors. The winery ages its reds in 100% American oak for approximately two years, with a year of bottle conditioning. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$47

**90 14 Hands 2019 The Reserve Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills).** This is a balanced Merlot where pretty blueberry and cardamom aromas are punctuated by graphite and cedar. Those exact same aromas show up as flavors, although the fruit is darker, like really ripe black cherries. Crisp acidity, firm tannins and a finish marked by dark chocolate. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Airfield Estates 2021 Merlot (Yakima Valley).** A little bit of earth and saline mixes with aromas of boysenberry jam slathered on a warm waffle. The creaminess of the wine's texture befits plush tannins and mild acidity. Dried cherry, nougat

and walnut flavors would be a great energy bar. It's fun stuff. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$20

**90 Chouette 2020 Chouette Vineyards Merlot (Lake Chelan).** This is estate wine aged for almost two years in a combination of new, once-used and neutral French and Hungarian oak. Cassis, vanilla and mocha-caramel aromas lead into flavors like black cherry, balsa and coconut. It shows surprisingly brisk acidity, with a crisp mouthfeel and silky tannins. Barbecue ribs are called for here. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$38

**90 Dineen Vineyards 2020 Merlot (Yakima Valley).** Aromas of black and blue berries mix with notes of lavender, coconut and grilled plums. Fine-grained tannins and brisk acidity support mouthfilling cranberry, cedar and nutmeg flavors. Try this seamless Merlot with your next turkey burger. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**90 Waterbrook 2021 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This juicy 100% Merlot with restrained alcohol, electric acidity, a silky texture and lush tannins is a joy to behold—and a great value. Its raspberry-pie and vanilla-ice-cream aromas, with traces of mint and saline, are picnic-worthy. Dried cherry, cumin and black-tea flavors seal the deal. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$11

**89 Charles Smith 2021 The Velvet Devil Merlot (Washington).** As advertised, this is one velvety smooth Merlot. There may not be a lot of tannic structure and the acidity is restrained, but lovers of satiny textures and walls of blackberry fruit will rejoice. The blackberry tsunami is joined by aromas and flavors of sweet Cavendish pipe tobacco, balsa wood and an espresso doppio with a lemon peel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 High Heaven 2020 Sea of Tranquility Merlot (Columbia Valley).** The key component of this wine is its acidity, which hits like the icy slap of a winter's rain. While its combination of dark raspberry and blueberry aromas and flavors isn't surprising, the wine's side notes of black olives, rosemary, rye bread and spicy olive oil baffle in a good way. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**89 Skyfall 2019 Merlot (Washington).** This 100% Merlot packs a big fruit punch. Massive amounts of blackberries and black currants are surrounded by aromas and flavors of anise, saddle leather, clove and creamy dark-chocolate mousse. Fortunately, the wine's muscular tannins are up to the task. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 14 Hands 2020 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** How about this for an appetizing set of aromas—boysenberry pie, cinnamon, Tahitian vanilla

bean and wet stones? There's a lot of black cherry, blueberry, and white chocolate on the palate, but the wine's fine-grained tannins are up to the task. Nothing sideways about this wine. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 H3 2019 Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills).** Black-cherry and lilac aromas are about the extent of the wine's aromatic set. Medium bodied, with silky tannins, the wine's flavors include blueberries, strawberries, chocolate, seared steak and tobacco. The wine needs more acidity to put a little snap into its texture. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

## RED BLENDS

**94 Airfield Estates 2020 H. Lloyd Miller Founders Series Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** This is a balanced blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot. The wine's aromas of sweet blackberries and violets play against earthy oregano, worn leather and tobacco notes. Blueberries coated with dark chocolate are joined by vanilla and pine nuts on the palate. The oak and tannins are integrating nicely. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Pamplin 2019 J[R]G Cabernet Sauvignon-Petit Verdot (Columbia Valley).** This is balanced wine aged for 20 months in French oak, 15% new, 32% single-use and 53% neutral. It's as good a wine as many I've had for twice this price, with aromas of boysenberries, spearmint, wet rocks and fresh laundry hanging on the line. It has a clean, crisp texture, silky tannins and raspberry, black-tea and saline flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**93 Caprio Cellars 2020 Sanitella Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** The Sanitella begins with a refreshing wintergreen aroma that mingles with boysenberries and a small amount of vanilla. The mouthfeel is elegant and smooth, with concentrated flavors of black cherry, cranberry, wood spice, black tea and ginger. It is balanced, with silky tannins and elevated acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$88

**93 Open Range Wines 2021 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend is a fantastic value. A pretty perfume of lilacs and honeysuckle gives way to aromas of blueberries, vanilla and a new cedar chest. Blackberries and oak spice rule the palate, with traces of shortbread and smoky lapsang souchong tea. It's got nice acidity and silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**93 Saviah 2020 Une Vallée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** Blueberry and tiramisu aromas, along with leather and cedar, are a great way for this Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend



to kick things off. Rich blackberry-jam, clove-spice and balsa-wood flavors are backed by silky tannins and just enough acidity to keep the texture snappy. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$45

**92 Brian Carter 2019 Tutturosso Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** Aged in French oak, 20% new, for 22 months, this Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah union is graced by a clean texture and energetic acidity. Its tangy raspberry-scone aroma is matched by earthy oregano notes. Black-cherry and cinnamon flavors waltz gracefully with a tannic tandem of black tea with a lemon wedge. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$40

**92 Brian Carter 2018 Solesce Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This medium-bodied Left Bank Bordeaux tribute features silky tannins an elegant texture and dazzling aromas of blueberries, graphite, saline and vanilla crème brûlée. A really ripe black-cherry flavor is tempered by lime zest and the mild bitterness of raw almonds. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$60

**92 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Forest Project Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** If you buy this wine, a tree gets planted. If you drink this medium-bodied Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon-driven wine, you will be doubly happy. Its fresh and floral aromas include freshly mowed hay, strawberries and sweet pea flowers. It has a round mouthfeel, with acidity trumping tannins. The flavors include boysenberry sorbet and black coffee. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$21

**92 Pendulum 2021 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The Pendulum swings towards a full body, big fruit and the muscular tannins to back it all up. Aromas of black currant, bacon fat, bay leaf and violets lead to rich, thick flavors of blueberries, black tea and beignets drizzled with powdered sugar. Barbecue ribs will thank you for this wine. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

**92 Pepper Bridge 2020 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a beautifully balanced, Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend, with crisp acidity and fine-grained tannins. It begins with aromas of black cherries, macerated strawberries wet rocks, cigar box and a touch of shredded coconut. Rich, thick flavors like blackberries, dates, ginger and blueberry yogurt coat the palate. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70

**91 Airfield Estates 2021 Dauntless Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** A spicy sandalwood scent hangs over cherry blossom and ripe blueberry aromas. Sturdy tannins support concentrated flavors of black cherries and cocoa nibs, with a hint of balsa wood. This Merlot-driven blend is a fun plush toy of a wine. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$20

**91 Airfield Estates 2020 Founders Michael L. Miller Rhône-style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** Blueberry yogurt and cassis aromas back up against a wall of balsa wood. The flavors of this Syrah-driven blend include blackberries, black pepper and bacon fat combining in a satisfying way. The wine's acidity is mouthwatering, while the tannins are on the softer side. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$50

**91 Brian Carter 2019 Le Coursier Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Bombastic blackberries and pretty violets fill the air as the glass swirls, along with burst of cigar box and grilled wild boar. Tangy cranberry and orange flavors play off of earthy roasted walnuts. The wine's tannins are silky, its acidity surprisingly energetic. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$40

**91 Brian Carter 2018 Trentenaire Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The Trentenaire's 57% Petit Verdot shows on the nose, with blueberries, lavender and dark-plum aromas dominating cigar-box and black-olive notes. The acidity is surprisingly brisk, with silky tannins backing cranberry, dark-chocolate, saline and lemon-zest flavors. The texture is clean and lean. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$50

**91 City Limits 2021 Detour Red Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This is Detour, rock city. Blackberry and graphite aromas rub up against a pronounced roasted pork-shoulder note. The wine's rich, round mouthfeel is at home with flavors like cassis, blackberry scones and a trace of iodine. Creamy and dreamy when it comes to texture. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$18

**91 Dineen Vineyards 2020 Heritage Blend Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** Fuller bodied and packing some serious tannic structure, this Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend brings aromas of black cherries, leather, saline and graphite. The wine's thick texture delivers flavors like red apples, dark raspberries, cocoa powder and a wee bit of clove. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

**91 Saviah 2019 Big Sky Cuvée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** A blueberry scone drizzled with vanilla cream starts it off for this Merlot-driven blend. The wine feels full and round in the mouth, with ample tannins and soft acidity. Flavors like black cherry, dark chocolate and cedar last for a good long while. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$45

**90 Auclair 2020 96 Cedars Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Red Mountain).** This 82-18% blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec hits the nose with rich black-cherry, dark-chocolate and balsa-wood aromas. The flavors are equally concentrated, with black cherries, earth and wet rocks backed by sturdy tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27

**90 Lachini 2020 La Contrada Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain).** Quintessence and Boushey vineyards provide the fruit for this Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Malbec blend. It was aged for nearly two years in French and American oak, 60% new. It has sweet blackberry, violets and earthy forest-floor aromas, with flavors of Bing cherries, quince and an oaky vanilla-bourbon note. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$72

**90 Mercer 2019 Edge of Heaven Red Blend (Horse Heaven Hills).** For full review see page 20.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$21

**90 Page Cellars 2018 Tryst Red Blend (Red Mountain).** This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend shows tart raspberries, leather and hyacinth aromas. Blackberry jam on toast and coffee flavors are backed by brawny tannins. The winery's philosophy is to age its reds in 100% American oak for approximately two years, with a year of bottle conditioning. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$49

**89 10,000 Hours 2020 Red Blend Red Blend (Red Mountain).** This brawny six-variety blend (including 51% Cabernet Sauvignon) leads with aromas of blueberries, cherry blossom, cedar and cinnamon spice. Muscular tannins support blueberry-jam, marshmallow, coconut and black-tea flavors, with a mildly distracting touch of heat. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$35

**89 Brian Carter 2020 Byzance Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The black-cherry and aged balsamic aromas displayed by this predominantly Grenache blend are a nice way to make an introduction. The tannins are still coiled tight, roughing up the texture a bit for now. Blackberry and sage flavors emerge slowly, followed by healthy dollops of cedar plank and Assam black tea. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

**89 Brian Carter 2020 Corrida Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This homage to Spain is made with mostly Tempranillo and Graciano, and lesser amounts of Garnacha, Cabernet Sauvignon and Monastrell. The Bing cherry, hyacinth and ginger aromas are dominated by the vanilla one associates with American oak. Flavors of dark plum, dates and cedar are backed by gritty tannins and bright acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$34

**89 Browne Family Vineyards 2020 Bitner Estate Tribute Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Sweet boysenberry, vanilla-extract and cherry-blossom aromas create the impression that you are about to eat a cupcake. The wine's dominant tangy plum flavor dissuades of you that notion altogether. You can expect crisp, lemony acidity and brawny tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$20

# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 King Estate 2019 North by Northwest Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14% Price: \$14

**89 Lachini 2020 La Bestia Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain).** This Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc-Malbec blend offers an aromatic perfume of black cherries, violets, cola and balsa wood. The tannins are grippy, slightly obscuring flavors like blackberry, mocha latte and a pronounced burst of Tahitian vanilla bean. —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$72

**89 Page Cellars 2019 Rival Red Blend (Red Mountain).** This Merlot-driven blend offers a blueberry-gelato aroma backed by notes of thyme and violets. Lighter bodied with elevated acidity, it delivers flavors of black-cherry cola and iodine. The winery ages its reds in 100% American oak for approximately two years, with a year of bottle conditioning. —M.A.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$49

**89 Waterbrook 2021 Mélange Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This Waterbrook Syrah-driven blend spent 10 months in American oak, 22% new. Boysenberries, lilacs and cigar box make a beautifully aromatic perfume. The wine's texture is silky smooth, with blueberry, thyme, ginger and cedar flavors. It's perfect with turkey burgers and all the trimmings. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$15

**88 14 Hands 2020 Stampede Bold Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The wine's best feature is a sweet, flora nose with aromas of ripe boysenberries, sweet pea flowers, dark chocolate and chalk dust. The palate shows some weight, with firm tannins and flavors like black cherries and chocolate gelato. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$12

**88 Balboa R018 GSM Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Blackberry and coconut aromas form a sweet pact with hyacinth figs. The wine's thick texture, soft acidity and plush tannins are in harmony with ripe black-cherry and vanilla-ice-cream flavors. —M.A.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

**88 Portlandia 2020 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This light-bodied blend of Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Syrah has a smooth, plush texture, with modest acidity and velvety tannins. The aromas suggest boysenberries, graphite and cheat-grass, with Bing cherry, raisin scone and walnut flavors. It offers pleasant, easy sipping. —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

**87 14 Hands 2020 Hot to Trot Smooth Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Raspberry-pie, Kansas City-style barbecue-sauce and hickory-smoke aromas put one in the mood for a backwoods feast. Blackberry-scone, sage and bacon-fat flavors do

nothing to dispel that inclination. Plush tannins make for some smooth sipping. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$12

**87 Nine Hats 2021 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The medium-bodied blend's blackberry, aged-balsamic-vinegar and dark-chocolate aromas are almost eclipsed by a massive balsa-wood scent. The balsa reappears on the grippy palate, this time encircling flavors like boysenberry and orange-peko tea. —M.A.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$20

**84 14 Hands 2021 Run Wild Juicy Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This Syrah-and-Merlot-driven blend is filled to the brim with aromas and flavors of marionberry pie, raspberry popsicles and iced mocha latte. It is lacking in tannic structure and its acidity is as soft as bear-skin rug. Plush and pendulous. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Open Range Wines 2021 Barbera (Horse Heaven Hills).** This Colorado producer making Washington wines hit a home run with this Barbera. Sweet red cherries and a bowl of blueberries are joined on the nose by traces of cedar and wintergreen. Macerated raspberries drizzled with lemon juice and black-pepper flavors are refreshing. Brisk acidity drives it all, with firm tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 14% Price: \$21

**93 Itâ 2022 Nouveau of Zinfandel Zinfandel (Walla Walla Valley).** Zinfandel grapes from Les Collines Vineyard are given the carbonic maceration treatment to create this wondrous wine. It's light bodied, almost piquette-like, with zippy acidity, a chalky texture and aromas of cranberries, brick dust and muddled mint. Raspberry and basil flavors vibrate—big-time fun. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 10.5% Price: \$30

**92 Two Vintners 2021 Make Haste Cinsault (Yakima Valley).** I don't come across a 100% Cinsault that often, especially one this good. It has a beautifully floral gardenia note to go along with aromas like dark raspberries, chalk dust and freshly cut grass. Dark-chocolate and cranberry flavors float on a smooth palate, supported by velvety tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

**91 Nightshade 2020 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Nebbiolo (Red Mountain).** Homeopathic amounts of this wine were made, which is shame as it's quite nice. Blackcap-raspberry and bittersweet-dark-chocolate aromas make a pact with tiny notes of dried rose petals and blackened catfish. Grippy tannins loom over flavors like cherry turnovers, orange and coffee. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 14% Price: \$45

**90 Drink Washington State 2020 Enjoy the Wahluke Slope Carmenere (Wahluke Slope).** The Wahluke Slope is particularly enjoyable while sipping a balanced 100% Carmenère. The wine's aromas are dominated by forest-floor dwellers like pine needles, loam and cedar bark, with boysenberries and lavender joining in. A smooth texture escorts flavors of black cherry, dark chocolate and grilled meat. —M.A.  
abv: 14% Price: \$34

**90 Two Vintners 2020 Zinfandel (Columbia Valley).** The Zinfandel, Petite Sirah (10%) and Primitivo (7%) were cofermented and aged for 18 months in 30% new French and American oak. Aromas of dark raspberry jam, barbecue ribs, watermelon and chalk dust lead into blackberry, grape Nehi and lemon-verbena flavors. It has plush tannins, soft acidity and, surprisingly, no heat. —M.A.  
abv: 16.5% Price: \$28

**88 Covington 2019 Ode Sangiovese (Columbia Valley).** The wine's aromas of wet modeling clay and leather threaten to overwhelm the faint trace of red cherries and dried rose petals. The wine's texture is soft, like its acidity, and its velvety tannins support flavors like pie cherries and pipe tobacco. Brisker acidity would have pushed this score higher. —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

## DESSERT WINES

**90 Eternal 2019 Eternal Bliss Fortified Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This homage to Tootsie Rolls and Banyuls is not cloying—it actually sports a nice bit of acidity. Even more surprising, it throws very little heat from that 21% abv. It is packed with aromas and flavors of cassis, black-cherry tarts, butterscotch tarts and a touch of clove. Break out the chocolate ganache. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
abv: 21% Price: \$54

**87 Frost Bitten 2021 Ice Riesling (Yakima Valley).** These Riesling grapes were submitted to a process called "cryo-extraction." The result is a desert wine with aromas of smoked pears and lemon-glazed sugar cookies. Marmalade and baked apple-pudding flavors are cloyingly sweet. More acidity would have been a great help. —M.A.  
abv: 10.8% Price: \$NA/375 ml

## NEW YORK

### RIESLING

**90 Boundary Breaks 2021 Ovid Line North Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Heady yet delicate aromas of lemon pastilles, lime sorbet and spring-time blossoms to start. There's a touch of sweetness on the slippery-textured palate, but it's hardly noticeable against the bright, tangy acidity and lingering citrusy finish. Drink chilled with spicy food at hand. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$19

**90 Six Eighty Cellars 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A rich nose of honeyed lemon, white peach and pineapple is succeeded by a slippery palate that offers a tickle of sweetness to balance out the citrusy, laser-like acidity. Drink well chilled with spicy Latin or southeast Asian fare. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.6% **Price:** \$18

**89 Robinia Hill 2020 Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Fragrant citrus, tropical and floral aromas are matched on the dry palate, which is crisp and juicy with a lingering limey finish. A tasty tippie with fish tacos or Pad Thai. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Sheldrake Point 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** Try not to drink this too cold. At nearly room temp, the citrus aromas really show off. Think lime, orange and grapefruit with a honeycorn bass note. This leads to a dry, zingy palate. The citrusy acidity is mouth puckering on its own, but paired with buttery seafood or a creamy curry, it should balance out. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 8.9% **Price:** \$18

**88 Robinia Hill 2020 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes).** From a top vintage and vines grown on Skaneateles Lake in the Finger Lakes, this is initially quite sulfuric and tight knit, with trapped CO<sub>2</sub> when first poured. With time in glass, however, it opens to reveal characters of lime granita, tropical fruit and honeyed aromas. There's a razor's edge of stony acidity on the mostly dry palate, a flicker of honeyed sweetness and citrus juiciness. Drink now—2028. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Inspire Moore 2021 Joy Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A heady nose of candied lemon and pineapple leads to a palate that's mostly dry, with just a flicker of sweetness that adds a creamy textural component to the otherwise fresh, easy-drinking palate. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**86 Wagner 2020 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** A bombastically fruity nose of mandarin, peach and lemon is followed by a dry, crisp palate with racy acidity and a citrus finish. Drink now—2028. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$16

**85 Toast Winery 2021 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes).** This is intensely aromatic with notes of honeyed peach, lemon popsicle and melted butter. The palate is dry with juicy acidity and a synthetic tinge to the finish. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

## GEWÜRZTRAMINER

**90 Sheldrake Point 2021 Estate Bottled Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes).** A delicate perfume of rose water, lychee, orange blossom and

honeysuckle makes it easy to take a sip of this classically styled Gewurtz. The palate shows a little sweetness and creamy mouthfeel, but is lifted by mouth-watering acidity. Orange citrus and floral flavors ride a wave to the finish line. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$18

**88 Living Roots 2020 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes).** Delicate, highly appealing fragrances of citrus blossoms, candied peach, pineapple and lychee lead to a gently sweet palate that's unctuous but not overly syrupy, thanks to a lift of acidity. Drink cold with extra spicy southeast Asian cuisine. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$22

**87 Keuka Spring 2021 Winemaker Select Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes).** There's a honeyed richness to the nose here, but it doesn't feel heavy due to a lift of fresh citrus, lychee and orchard-blossom notes. The palate is sweet, with low acidity, meaning this would benefit from a good chill before drinking, and could pair with zippy, citrusy dishes. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**85 Red Newt Cellars 2019 Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes).** There's a somewhat off-putting note on the nose, like rancid butter, that overpowers the natural citrus, tropical and floral notes typical to the variety. The palate shows a bit of sweetness and a creamy, quite heavy-set palate. Acidity brightens things up a bit but it finishes abruptly. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**85 Wagner 2021 Dry Gewürztraminer (Finger Lakes).** There's a slightly synthetic, sour grape and yeast note atop this wine that distracts from the variety's more pleasant floral and fruit aromas. The palate is bone dry with searing acidity, a slippery texture and subtle citrus and tropical fruits and blossom notes to the finish. Lots of winemaking here. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$16

## ROSÉS

**92 Sheldrake Point 2022 Beta Series Rosé of Merlot (Finger Lakes).** Highly perfumed, with aromas of watermelon and strawberry Jolly Ranchers, and florals, the palate is crisp and mostly dry, with tingly acidity and lovely tart red fruit that flows to the finish. A poolside sipper if there ever was one. This is what Finger Lakes Merlot should be used for. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$24

**91 Fox Run 2022 Dry Rosé (Seneca Lake).** From one of Seneca Lake's best-known producers, this coral-colored rosé opens with appealing aromas of strawberries, cream and watermelon Jolly Ranchers. There's oodles of red fruit on the palate. They

flow to the long, tangy finish. Drink well chilled on a hot summer's day. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$20

**91 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Rosé Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes).** Like others in this producer's range, this isn't a conventional rosé, but in this case, the wildness is what gives it character. It's like raspberries freshly picked and pressed, the smell of the thicket lingering, with cherry cordial, green herbs and a touch of cream. The palate is slippery with textural interest, crunchy acidity and a raw concrete vibe alongside tart red-berry fruit. It's reminiscent of the table wines of the Southern Rhône. —C.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$21

**90 Point of the Bluff 2021 Rose of Blaufränkisch (Finger Lakes).** Blaufränkisch (aka Lemburger) makes for fruity, spicy and generally delicious rosé. This is no exception. The color of ballerina slippers, it's a fragrant wine, billowing stemmy red berry, floral and spice notes that lead to a lightweight, silky palate. It finishes a tad quickly, but there's a gentle tang of berry flavor on the mid-palate and a crisp acidity that makes this a crowd-pleasing wine to get behind. —C.P.  
**abv:** 25% **Price:** \$25

**88 Billsboro 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir-Syrah (Finger Lakes).** This sunset-hued rosé opens with intriguing aromas of orange peel, strawberry (with stem), vanilla, spice and copper-penny aromas. There's a slippery texture to the palate, and the tangy fruit is present. The acidity is a little shrill—still not quite integrated into the wine—but this is nevertheless a characterful drop. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$22

**88 Boundary Breaks 2022 Dry Rosé (Seneca Lake).** Fresh and fruity, this medium pink-hued rosé is on the riper end of the spectrum with plump strawberries, cherries, cream and a lovely white blossom note. It's crisp, easy drinking on a hot summer's day. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

**88 Sheldrake Point 2022 Beta Series Rosé of Pinot Noir (Finger Lakes).** Pale pink, this is a delicate rosé. Whispers of red berries, spice and florals lead to a palate that's just a touch sweet but with enough acidity to keep things fresh. It finishes short, but is nevertheless a harmonious bottling. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$24

**88 Sheldrake Point 2022 Estate Bottled Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes).** A radiant lipstick pink, there's a slight mustiness at first still, but there's also lots of ripe strawberry, cherry and cream. The palate is on the rich, full-bodied side. There's just enough acidity to buoy the creamy texture and slight sweetness, but it falls a bit flat at the finish. Straight forward and pleasing. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18



# BUYINGGUIDE

**86 Inspire Moore 2021 Grace Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes).** Pleasant cherry and watermelon aromas, backed by gentle cream and florals, lead to a slippery palate that shows a touch of residual sugar and falls a little flat, saved at the last moment by a tang of red-berry acidity. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**85 Lamoreaux Landing 2022 Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes).** This is quite pungent and sulfuric at first sniff and may need time in bottle for this to be absorbed. With plenty of aeration in glass, you can just get past the oniony notes to see the tart red-berry fruit and spice. The palate shows a little sweetness, but plenty of fresh acidity too. There's a lot of winemaking here. This reviewer would prefer a more hands-off approach. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$20

**85 Three Brothers 2022 Stony Lonesome Cabernet Franc Rosé (Finger Lakes).** This flamingo pink-colored rosé smells of watermelon candy and cherry juice. It's still very young, and the shrill acidity is a little hard to take. The fruit squeaks through, but it lacks balance, making another sip a tough endeavor. —C.P.  
**abv:** 10.1% **Price:** \$18

**84 Toast Winery 2022 Cabernet Franc Dry Rosé (Finger Lakes).** Confectured red berry, watermelon and mealy, yeasty aromas are followed by a rounded palate that's sliced through with crisp, somewhat shrill, acidity. The finish is short and a bit synthetic. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

## CABERNET FRANC

**91 Living Roots 2020 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** This is both sappy and juicy fruited with plump red berries, black pepper and a dried herbal underbelly. It's light weight with crunchy acidity and a savory tannin structure. Drink slightly chilled with cured meats and hard cheeses. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$32

**87 Boundary Breaks 2021 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** Plump raspberry and cherry fruit is backed by subtle spice and herb aromas. The straightforward palate is light weight with freshness and a gentle line of leathery tannins. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87 Milea 2020 Milea Estate Cabernet Franc (Hudson River Region).** Intense aromas of tobacco, herbs and toast sit above fresh cherry fruit. There's tangy red berry lift to the light to mid-weight palate, and frame of spicy tannins. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$38

**87 Six Eighty Cellars 2021 Carbonic Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** The nose on this aromatic, strawberry-juice-colored carbonic red is, frankly, odd. It's a mashup of red berries still on their stems, potpourri, cherry bubblegum and damp leaves. The palate is lightweight, fresh and more

cohesive. Here it's about refreshment, the stalky red fruit smudged by skins tannins. A divisive style that puts winemaking over place, but that has its own sort of charm. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$32

**86 Fox Run 2021 Ikehū Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake).** This translucent cherry-colored Cab Franc is quiet on the nose, with very subtle red fruit and herbs. The palate is equally muffled, offering freshness and a thin frame of spice-flecked tannins, but little in the way of flavor. This may need a bit more time in bottle. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**85 Damiani 2020 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes).** This premium Cab Franc is a rich, oak-laden bottling at the moment. Berry and herbal notes perch beside chocolatey, menthol-like barrel aromas. The palate is mid weight with a frame of quite powerful, chalky tannins. The oak dries out the the finish. It's hard to tell its cellaring ability or whether this muscular style works in as cool a climate as the Finger Lakes, even in a year as good as 2020. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

## ARGENTINA

### CHARDONNAY

**90 Vaglio 2021 Blanco Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** This is a 90% Chardonnay with 10% Sémillon. The latter adds weight and structure to this vibrant wine from high-altitude vineyards in El Peral. Lovely aromas of white flowers and lime lead to a palate with mineral texture. Oak spices are well balanced. It has good acidity extending citrus and stone-fruit flavors into the finish. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 @CDB@cc3\$ 2021 Reserva Chardonnay (Mendoza).** A chalky texture and fresh character are the stars of the show in this Chardonnay. The nose is austere, showing hints of wet stone aromas. Light citrus and peach flavors join notes of smoke and salt on the midpalate. Moët Hennessy USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Finca Flichman 2021 Dedicado Tupungato Vineyard Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** The nose is aromatic with oak spice and hints of candied citrus peel. Flavors of oak spices are prominent but blend well with citrus and stone fruits. Nice acidity refreshes the palate. Evaton, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**88 ZaHa 2022 Chardonnay (Mendoza).** Lively acidity and a good structure frame this Chardonnay from Paraje Altamira. Mild flavors of lime, peach and grass extend into a fresh aftertaste. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Manos Negras 2021 Chardonnay (Mendoza).** The aromas and flavors on this white lean toward tropical fruits. Notes of honeydew and mango join lime on the palate and are backed by moderate acidity. It has a citric aftertaste. Uva Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Sur de los Andes 2022 Reserva Chardonnay (Mendoza).** Coming from vineyards in Uco Valley, this wine shows light citrus aromas. Guava and ripe citrus flavors are enjoyable. Moderate acidity makes this wine a perfect match for pasta salads. W. Direct. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

## MALBEC

**91 Casa Natal 2020 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza).** Lovely black-fruit and floral notes meet hints of spices on the nose. The grapes for this wine come from Chacayes and Agrelo, two prestigious regions in Mendoza. The palate is savory and fresh. Black-fruit flavors mixed with a touch of cumin and bay leaf are backed by vibrant acidity and soft tannins. Pleasant herbaceous notes linger in the finish. W. Direct. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**91 Lagarde 2019 Primeras Vinas Malbec (Mendoza).** This Malbec is made with fruit from the Uco Valley. Violets, plums, raspberries and a touch of vanilla bean perfume the nose. The wine was aged in 4,000-liter oak vats that helped shape its elegant structure. Flavors of plum, blackberry and a light note of peppercorn mingle on the fresh palate. Drink now through 2028. Askari O.H. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Vinyes Ocults 2019 Gran Malbec Malbec (Mendoza).** Timid berry and flinty aromas reveal in the glass. While on the palate, it delivers plenty of juicy black- and red-fruit flavors supported by soft but firm tannins. This is a flavorful wine that finishes with a touch of smoke. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$45

**90 Argento 2020 Single Vineyard Agrelo Organic Malbec (Mendoza).** For full review see page 19. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Finca Flichman 2020 Dedicado Gran Malbec Malbec (Uco Valley).** Coming from vineyards in Tupungato, this wine has tobacco and plum aromas. Light notes of oak spice complete the bouquet. It's well structured and delivers plenty of fresh fruit, along with cassis and hints of dried fruit. Cherry flavors extend into the aftertaste. It's a tasty Malbec with firm tannins. Evaton, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Rubus 2019 Icono Malbec Malbec (Mendoza).** This is a ripe and full-bodied red that offers plenty of fruit and oak spice flavors. Aged 12 months in French oak barrels, the wine shows round tan-

nins. A light note of herbs and moderate acidity adds freshness. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Vaglio 2020 Miperal Malbec (Uco Valley).** Coming from a family of winemakers, Jose Lovaglio Balbo makes wines from Lujan de Cuyo and Uco Valley. This Malbec is from El Peral in Uco at 3,600 feet. It opens with a spicy nose. On the mineral-textured palate, berries mix with a touch of menthol. Nice acidity leads intense fruit flavors into a lingering finish. Misa Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Vinyes Ocults 2020 Malbec (Uco Valley).** Enticing aromas of cedar and violets lead to a full-bodied and smooth palate. There is a good amount of black fruit and herbs in this wine. It's juicy and has a solid structure holding it all together. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Achaval-Ferrer 2020 Malbec (Uco Valley).** Grapes for this wine were sourced from three main regions in Mendoza. Aromas of Jarilla and other herbs meet with notes of toasted oak in the nose of this concentrated Malbec. Moderate acidity and medium tannins frame a palate with intense smoky flavors. Stoli Group USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Las Estelas 2020 Alto de las Piedras Malbec (Uco Valley).** Mild berry aromas arise from the glass of this medium-bodied red. It has ripe berries and smoke on the palate. Moderate acidity and thin tannins frame this fruit-forward wine. Seaview Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**86** **Viña Amalia 2020 Dos Fincas Malbec (Uco Valley).** The nose is austere. While on the palate this light-bodied red is more expressive, showcasing black-fruit flavors alongside gentle acidity. Elixir Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**86** **Trivento 2022 Reserve Malbec (Mendoza).** A floral and sweet nose leads the way to flavors of guava and strawberry on the palate. This is one of the very few white wines made of Malbec grapes in Argentina. It has lively acidity and is light-bodied. Drink chilled. Viña Concha y Toro USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$10

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**92** **4 Gatos Locos 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Gualtallary).** Gualtallary is one of the most prestigious regions in the Uco Valley. The grapes for this wine come from a vineyard planted at 4,460 feet over limestone soils. It has a fruity nose that leans towards ripe berries and herbs. Hints of cassia are included in the bouquet. This Cabernet might benefit from more aging in the bottle to soften the

tannins. However, it already shows good structure with a linear acidity lifting flavors of plum, cherries, licorice, rosemary and peppercorn. Drink now through 2028. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92** **Casa Natal 2020 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** The bouquet is made of a blend of spices, cherry and red plum. Bright cranberry and cherry flavors mix with bay leaf and a hint of salt. This wine has good acidity, a full body and silky tannins. Red fruits and hints of tobacco appear in the aftertaste. W. Direct. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**91** **Chakana 2020 Estate Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** Notes of eucalyptus open the nose and then give way to sweet cherry aromas. A savory palate offers ripe berry flavors joining notes of licorice and menthol that extend into a medium-long finish. This wine was matured for 12 months in oak barrels—just enough time to soften the tannins and preserve good acidity. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91** **Pascual Toso 2020 Alta Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** For full review see page 18. Quint-essential.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Scott Peterson 2020 ROX of the Andes Cabernet Sauvignon (Argentina).** Aromas of strawberry jam and oak spices form the nose of this full-bodied red. It's fruit-driven and has notes of cinnamon accenting strawberry, cherry and blackberry flavors. This is a big Cabernet Sauvignon that needs time to breathe to show a wide range of flavors. Chalky tannins and moderate acidity support the palate. Naked Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$33

## RED BLENDS

**92** **El Enemigo 2018 Gran Enemigo Blend Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Gualtallary).** Noted winemaker Alejandro Vigil blends 50% Malbec, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot with a drop of Petit Verdot to make this full-bodied red. Peppercorn and oak spices are followed by blackberries and plums on the ripe palate. This is a flavorful wine with a good structure and slightly mineral texture. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**91** **Tikal 2018 Jubilo Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Uco Valley).** Fourth-generation winemaker Ernesto Catena built a winery in the heart of the Uco Valley where vines grow at 3,280 feet. This juicy blend of 60% Malbec and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon has a nose of berry jam and hints of mint. It has a good concentration of fruit flavors mixed with rosemary. Light notes of smoke add to its complexity. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Alandes NV Paradoux Blend 7ème Édition Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza).** This is a blend of equal parts of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot from different vintages. The nose reveals subtle ripe fruit aromas. It has chalky tannins framing tobacco flavors. Ripe berries and hints of dried fruit form a lasting finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **DiamAndes 2018 Grande Reserve Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** Cranberry and raspberry aromas are followed by notes of vanilla bean on the nose of this Malbec-based blend. Bright raspberry and strawberry flavors are supported by gentle tannins and nice acidity. Drink now. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Finca Flichman 2018 Dedicado Gran Corte Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Uco Valley).** Coming from the Uco Valley, this blend has a floral nose. Aromas of red berries and baking spices are included in the bouquet. It's fruit-forward and has balancing acidity that (along with gripping tannins) provides a well-structured palate. Hints of mint result in a fresh finish. Evaton, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

## CHILE

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**89** **Undurraga 2022 T.H. Terroir Hunter Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley).** Herbaceous notes and citrus fruit reflect Leyda Valley's cool climate. This wine is medium bodied and has moderate acidity and mineral texture holding flavors of white grapefruit, lime, kiwi and grass. The finish is pleasant and well balanced. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Haras de Pirque 2022 Albalara Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley).** A herbaceous character defines this Sauvignon Blanc. It has a medium body and flavors of mango, followed by grass. Crisp acidity keeps it fresh through the clean finish. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88** **John's Bay 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley).** This wine has a beautiful nose of subtle aromas of lime and honeysuckle. There are lime and hints of dried fruit on the palate. Good acidity adds freshness to the slightly bitter finish. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Los Vascos 2022 Chagual Sauvignon Blanc (San Antonio).** Citrus fruit and guava mingle with notes of celery on the nose. This wine is for hot summer days where its elevated acidity will be welcomed. Green pea, celery and lime fruit show on

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the palate and disappear into a short finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Besoain Wines 2022 Los Morros Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley).** Subtle grassy and citrus aromas introduce a lightweight palate. This is a Sauvignon Blanc to enjoy on the patio on warm days. Its flavors of lime and peach feel ripe and lead to a herbaceous finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Motu Nui 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Aconcagua).** This medium-weight white has enjoyable sweet notes. The nose opens with grassy and tropical-fruit aromas. A mix of grass, peach and lime is supported by moderate acidity. Drink now. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Undurraga 2022 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley).** This is an everyday dry Sauvignon Blanc that offers subtle aromas of citrus fruit on the nose. Gentle acidity and mild tropical fruits are featured on the palate. Freedom Beverage Co. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$5

**86 Viña Leyda 2022 Coastal Vineyards- Garuma Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley).** The nose offers subtle mango, lime and herbaceous aromas. This is an easygoing Sauvignon Blanc from Leyda Valley. The palate is light, presenting mild citrus and tropical fruits backed by moderate acidity for a crisp and clean finish. Park Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**85 Mayu 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Elqui Valley).** Candied lime notes emerge from the glass of this ripe white. There is a mix of linden tea and lemon on the lightweight palate. It has gentle acidity and a brief finish. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Siegel 2021 Handpicked Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Curicó Valley).** Flinty aromas are followed by hints of citrus fruit. It's an easy-drinking Sauvignon Blanc. Ripe lemon marks the midpalate, while grassy notes invade the aftertaste. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## CHARDONNAY

**89 Rubus 2022 Chardonnay (Colchagua Valley).** The nose is austere with only subtle notes of citrus fruit showing after aeration. The palate is more expressive, delivering intense oak flavors alongside moderate acidity. It finishes with notes of herbs and lime. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**87 Misiones de Rengo 2022 Reserva Chardonnay (Central Valley).** This is a ripe and medium-bodied Chardonnay, with aromas of stone fruit. Fla-

vors of peach, smoke and herbs blend and linger in the medium finish. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Santa Ema 2021 Reserva Chardonnay (Leyda Valley).** There are subtle notes of pineapple, quince paste and citrus fruit on the glass. It has jammy stone-fruit flavors joining honeysuckle and lime on the creamy palate. Its moderate acidity makes it a good wine to pair with pasta salads. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Santa Ema 2022 Select Terroir Reserva Chardonnay (Maipo Valley).** There are tropical- and stone-fruit aromas in the glass of this light-bodied and everyday Chardonnay. It features flavors of pineapple, apples and enough acidity to enjoy the wine throughout its short finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**84 San Pedro 2022 Gato Negro Chardonnay (Central Valley).** Ripe limes and green apples shape the nose. Bitter citrus fruit on the palate is backed by gentle acidity that carries the flavors through the finish, along with sweet notes of stone fruit. VSPT USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$5

## PINOT NOIR

**89 De Martino 2020 Legado Reserva Pinot Noir (Limarí Valley).** Aromas of flint, raspberries and black pepper are included in the bouquet. This wine comes from an emerging region called Limarí where winemakers are making interesting wines of cool-climate varieties. This is a smooth and well-structured Pinot Noir. There are cherry and oak flavors that blend well with bright red fruit on the palate. Hints of herbs linger in the finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Veramonte 2020 Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** For full review see page 27. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Morandé 2020 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** This is a Pinot Noir from Chile's cool-climate coastal region. It offers fruit and herbaceous notes that are not fully integrated, but its vibrant acidity makes it so easy to drink. There is a herbaceous character to the finish. International Wine And Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**85 Emiliana 2020 Natura Made With Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Chile).** The nose shows slightly reduced aromas followed by strawberries. The fruit-driven palate shows similar flavors, joining spices that disappear in the short finish. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**93 Siegel 2019 Single Vineyard Los Lingues Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** The region of Los Lingues in Colchagua is influenced by cool breezes from the Andes Mountains. As a result, this wine opens with notes of cranberry and plum. Additional aromas include eucalyptus and smoke. It's full bodied and has a solid structure thanks to firm tannins that provide support to the red-fruit flavors and mint. Elevated acidity gives it depth. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**92 Viña Aquitania 2019 Lazuli Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Peñalolén is at the foothill of the Andes Mountains in Maipo Valley. Wines from this region gravitate towards a minty profile, with spicy notes. This Cabernet offers a nose of red-fruit aromas and hints of oak spices and herbs. It's full bodied and has a mineral texture. The juicy and savory palate reveals cherry, eucalyptus and a touch of cumin, all supported by balancing acidity and solid tannins. Drink now through 2030. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Concha y Toro 2021 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** The grapes were sourced from vines that grow in the Tinguiririca River banks in Marchigüe, Colchagua Valley. This wine shows tension and a good amount of fruit flavors. Additional notes of cigar box complement the palate. It's a well-structured and approachable Cabernet Sauvignon. Viña Concha y Toro USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**90 Peñalolen 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** Wines from Peñalolén in Maipo Valley have a distinctive spicy and herbaceous character that makes them unique. This one isn't the exception. It opens with aromas of eucalyptus, licorice and black pepper. The palate is full bodied, with prominent toasted oak flavors followed by fig, herbs and light notes of paprika wrapping up the slightly warm finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$22

**89 Siegel 2019 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** This is a juicy Cabernet that has an aromatic nose of fresh raspberries and blackberries. The palate shows a good amount of fruit mixed with mint and spices, while a lively acidity keeps it fresh. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88 Los Vascos 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** There is eucalyptus and black pepper on the nose of this everyday Cabernet. Flavors of cherries meet with herbs on the medium-bodied and slightly rough palate. Lifted acidity leads fruit and spices into a medium finish. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15



**86 Los Vascos 2021 Chagual Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley).** Earthy red fruit opens the nose. The palate is light with unripe tannins and prominent acidity lifting black- and red-fruit flavors. Leafy notes appear in the short finish. Drink now. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Santa Ema 2021 Estate Bottled Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** This widely-available everyday wine has an austere character. Light notes of berries show on the nose and palate. It features harsh tannins and sharp acidity that lead to a short finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Santa Ema 2021 Select Terroir Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** A nose of red plum gives away a fruit-forward palate. This easy-drinking Cabernet Sauvignon has a light structure and short finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

## MERLOT

**87 Concha y Toro 2020 Marques de Casa Concha Merlot (Maule Valley).** This full-bodied Merlot shows candied cherries on the nose. It's fruit-driven and has bright acidity. The palate delivers ripe red-fruit flavors alongside slightly drying tannins. Drink now. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87 Santa Ema 2021 Estate Bottled Reserva Merlot (Maipo Valley).** Grapes for this wine come from Maipo Valley, the home of Bordeaux varieties in Chile. Aromas of ripe raspberries and blackberries lead to a lightweight palate, with mild notes of peppercorn and plums. This is a wine for a weekday dinner. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Emiliana 2021 Natura Made With Organic Grapes Merlot (Chile).** This Merlot has nice acidity and a spicy nose that includes hints of berries. Chewy tannins frame a palate with mild blackberry flavors that fade into a brief finish. Banfi Vintners. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**85 Santa Ema 2021 Select Terroir Reserva Merlot (Cachapoal Valley).** This is a fruit-focused wine that features moderate acidity and a short finish. Light tannins frame flavors of tart berry on the palate. It's an everyday red, with little varietal expression. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**84 San Pedro 2022 Gato Negro Merlot (Central Valley).** There are ripe berries on the nose,

while the palate is austere. It has thin tannins and lacks acidity. VSPT USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$5

## RED BLENDS

**94 Undurraga 2018 Altazor Red Blend (Maipo Valley).** For full review see page 8. Freedom Beverage Co. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Anakena 2017 Alwa Limited Edition Red Blend (Chile).** The wine is elegant and full bodied. Fine tannins have enough grip, while good acidity backs all the flavors. It's juicy with notes of berry jam filling the mouth. Thyme and cinnamon add to its moderate complexity. Drink now. Accolade Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Aresti 2015 Codigo 380 Red Blend (Curicó Valley).** Aged for 24 months, this bold blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (that includes Cabernet Franc and Malbec) bursts with aromatic notes of oak spice, cumin and red berries. Gripping tannins and good acidity provide a good structure. Oak flavors are prominent on the palate, while raspberry and strawberry mixed with tobacco in the long finish. Drink now through 2028. Vinamericas, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**92 Siegel 2018 Unique Selection Los Lingues Red Blend (Colchagua Valley).** This blend includes 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Carmenère and 20% Syrah coming from Colchagua Valley. Aromas of blackberry, raspberry and a touch of coffee bean emerge from the glass. A solid structure supports vanilla and other baking spices mixed with blackberries and blueberries. Lively acidity leads the flavors into a fruity aftertaste. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$47

**92 Viña Tabalí 2018 Payen Syrah-Cabernet Franc (Limarí Valley).** Limarí is a small region known for its vibrant wines. Reds from this place have a tasty complexity, too. This is a Syrah-based blend that includes a drop of Cabernet Franc. The nose shows aromas of berries introducing a palate with multiple layers and mineral texture. Plum and blueberry join dried herbs, spices and a pleasant light note of balsamic. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**92 Vik 2018 Millahue Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley).** The winery is located in Millahue and the beautiful vineyard is on top of hills near the Andes Mountains. In this vintage, cherry aromas dominate the nose, followed by cinnamon and chocolate. It has good acidity and firm tannins supporting a full-bodied palate. Chocolate-covered berries

fill the mouth and linger in the rich finish. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 San Pedro 2019 Altair Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley).** A well-balanced and flavorful palate is the main characteristic of this red from Cachapoal Andes Valley. On the nose, it displays bright fruit aromas. Good acidity and fine tannins back fresh blackberry and cherry flavors. It has a soft mouthfeel and a medium finish. VSPT USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**90 Undurraga 2019 Red Field Blend Red Blend (Maipo Valley).** The grapes that give birth to this fruit-driven wine were sourced from old dry-farmed vineyards in Maule Valley. Blackberry and cranberry flavors are intense on the soft palate. This is a medium-weight red with a herbaceous finish. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Santa Isle 2020 Grand Reserve Red Blend Red Blend (Maule Valley).** Made of 85% Carmenère mixed with Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, this is a ripe expression coming from Maule Valley. The nose opens with strawberry, cherry and vanilla. It's medium weight and has moderate acidity holding red fruits, aniseed and vanilla flavors. Drink now. Jandell Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**88 Viña Tarapacá 2020 Gran Reserva Organic Wine Red Blend (Maipo Valley).** This wine is 71% Carmenère, 19% Syrah and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon from Isla de Maipo in Maipo Valley. The palate shows a herbaceous and ripe character. Notes of berries, bell pepper, grass and smoke mingle over a soft texture. Brotherhood Winery. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Morandé 2019 Terroir Wines Carmenère-Malbec (Maule Valley).** This is a light-bodied blend of Carmenère and Malbec that offer intense notes of red fruit on the nose. It's easy-drinking, with earthy berries on the palate and a brief finish. A slight chill will benefit this wine. International Wine And Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Odfjell 2020 Capitulo Flying Fish Red Blend (Maipo Valley).** Fruity and easy-drinking, this Carignan, Cabernet and Malbec blend offers a ripe cherry and blackberry character. Moderate acidity and light tannins frame a soft palate with berry flavors and light notes of grass. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Secret Mistress 2019 Bourbon Barrel Aged Red Blend (Central Valley).** This easy-sipping blend was aged in bourbon barrels for three months. The nose is shaped by hints of aniseed that lead to a palate of red and black fruits accented by spices. Moderate acidity is enough to provide freshness to

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this lightbodied wine. Puerto Viejo Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Viña San Esteban 2020 In Situ Signature Wines Rhône-style Red Blend (Aconcagua Valley).** Aromas of bubble gum are subtle on the nose. This is a fruit-driven blend of 55% Syrah, 40% Mourvèdre and 5% Viognier. It has fine tannins and light acidity supporting flavors of berries that fade quickly in a short finish. Joseph Victori Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**84 Carmen 2020 Frida Kahlo Single Vineyard Red Blend (Colchagua Valley).** The fruit aromas on this red seem slightly overripe. This is an everyday wine that has a concentrated palate featuring ripe plums. Harsh tannins and gentle acidity lead to a brief ending. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**84 Tricky Rabbit 2019 Reserva Cabernet Franc-Carmenère (Maule Valley).** The nose of this easy-drinking red opens with mint and ripe berry aromas. The palate is lightweight, with gentle acidity backing herbs mixed with overripe fruit. Drink now. Invina. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## AUSTRALIA CHARDONNAY

**97 Xanadu 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Margaret River).** This is an outstanding wine from one of the world's great Chardonnay regions. It utilizes wild yeast and no malolactic fermentation, giving it precision, power and complexity, without the overt richness. Concentrated aromas of toasted cashew, flint, seashell and melon lead to a slinky, laser-focused palate. There is a pronounced tang of vibrant, citrusy acidity and a beautiful texture that's both creamy and chalky, with a toasty, leesy underbelly. This is an elegant, classy, black, cocktail dress of a wine for drinking now, but it could also age for well over a decade more. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$120

**96 Robert Oatley 2020 The Pennant Chardonnay (Margaret River).** A blend of fruit from Margaret River's far south (Karridale), and from the acclaimed Wilyabrup subregion, this limited-release Chardy is beautifully lucid and harmonious, with layers of aromas: citrus, roasted nut, flint, seashell and brioche. There's a tangy lemon core to the palate and a crystalline line of acidity that lifts the creamy texture. A saline edge lends interest to the toasty, nuttiness. Poised and long, it's drinking deliciously now, but could cellar another decade. The best part? It's a bargain for this level of quality. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**95 Leeuwin Estate 2019 Art Series Chardonnay (Margaret River).** There's a heady, floral perfume to this Chard, from one of Margaret River's best known estates. Orchard blossom mingles with melon, pear and citrus fruit, along with sprinklings of toast, salt and a smoky nuance. The palate is light-to-mid weight, with bright, bouncy acidity. It deftly balances the toasty oak and lees characters with the juicy citrus flavors. Less opulent than some of its counterparts, it makes for delicious drinking now but could age for several years more. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$109

**95 Tolpuddle 2021 Chardonnay (Tasmania).** In what has become an unmistakably Tolpuddle (and heavily Burgundy-influenced) style, this is a rich, intensively reductive Chardonnay that's set for the long haul. For now, there's a sulfuric potency, like a just-struck match combined with roasted cashews and buttered toast. Somewhere in the mix, a fruity note like pineapple rind or peach skin, emerges. The palate offers a similarly toast-driven effect, but it wears it well, adding textural weight, lifted acidity and depth of flavor to its inherent power. You could drink it now but it'd be a shame. Best to cellar straight through the 2030s. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$87

**95 Vasse Felix 2021 Heytesbury Chardonnay (Margaret River).** This is an opulent yet poised and powerful vintage of Vasse's top Chardy. Smoky, flinty, grilled nut-and-buttered toast aromas dominate at first pour. They're quickly followed by melon and stone fruit, which gain prominence with time in glass. Delicate floral and mineral nuances also shine with aeration. The mouthfeel is round and rich, but sliced by a laser beam of acidity. A long, saline and toast finish lingers. Approachable now, it has the ability to age for eight to 10 years. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$93

**94 Dr. Edge 2021 Chardonnay (Tasmania).** This is the small-batch label of Peter Dredge, who sources the fruit from both the north and the south of Tasmania, Australia's coolest climate wine growing region. It manages to feel both stripped back and polished, opening with fresh citrus, melon and pineapple-rind aromas that weave seamlessly with marzipan, lightly grilled nuts and toasty, salt-flecked, sea-spray notes. There's a roundness to the textural palate, but it's drawn into center by a whip crack of acidity. A smoky, nutty vibe carries through to the long finish. Drink now through 2030. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Vasse Felix 2021 Chardonnay (Margaret River).** Vasse's middle-tier wines once again shine in terms of value for money. Classic Margaret River, this is a fruit-forward Chard that leads with notes of peach cobbler and melon rind. It's underpinned by subtle but present toast and lees notes like cream, brioche, flint and oyster shell. A zing of acidity first hits the mouth. It's rounded by a creamy

texture. While there is enough structure, length and pose for this to cellar until 2030 or so, it's also pretty darn delicious now. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**94 Woodlands 2020 Wilyabrup Valley Chardonnay (Margaret River).** There's a lovely harmony between fruit and toast on this classic Margaret River Chard: bright orange peel and melon rind with flint, warm stone, sea salt and toasted brioche. There's fruit weight and flavor depth on the palate, lifted by a vibrant crunch of acidity. The toasty, leesy notes are subtle but ever present, lending gravitas, texture and complexity. It's a top example of West Aussie Chard at an excellent price. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**93 Robert Oatley 2020 Finisterre Chardonnay (Margaret River).** From one of the world's finest Chardonnay regions, this is a rich and toasty, yet elegant, wine that overlays struck match, cream and flint atop peach custard and citrus fruit. A lovely lift of bright acidity slices through the textural weight. There's lovely length and a power to this Chard that makes it food friendly and ageworthy. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**93 Vasse Felix 2022 Filius Chardonnay (Margaret River).** A doorway to the renowned Vasse Felix style (but a delicious wine in its own right), this opens with vibrant, tangy fruit, like freshly pressed pineapples, woven with lemon verbena and white blossoms. There's just a hint of toasty saline character underneath. The palate follows a similar through line, with lovely texture and a subtle barrel-and-lees influence that's well integrated with the tingly, crunchy acidity. Drink now and over the next few years. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Robert Oatley 2022 Signature Series Chardonnay (Margaret River).** Peach, pineapple and buttered toast are at the fore here, with a salted cream underbelly. At first sip, a big lift of tangy acidity slices through the textural richness. While it is less about the fruit and more about the toasty, leesy characters, this is a fairly rich Chard that's for drinking now but could gain more complexity over the next several years. It's a bargain to boot. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Forester Estate 2021 Lifestyle Chardonnay (Margaret River).** There's a lovely, layered lift of aromas from peach and melon fruit to toast and sea salt. It's a ripe, fruity style while retaining brightness and freshness. The palate is more subdued with a creamy texture and plenty of acidity. It falls a bit flat on the finish and feels more commercial in style than many regional counterparts, but it showcases typicality nonetheless. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$19

## RIESLING

**91 Dr. Edge 2021 Riesling (Tasmania).** This gold-hued Riesling from a small-batch Tassie producer opens gently, with quiet aromas of waxy lemon, wild lavender and flecks of honey and spice. Bone dry, it's slippery in texture with a lovely lift of citrusy acidity, florals and a lemony finish. It could age gracefully for the next five to seven years. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Penfolds 2022 Bin 51 Riesling (Eden Valley).** The wine's delicate appeal arrives at first sniff in the form of lemon-lime and white florals, with a touch of honey and beeswax. The palate is dry and crisp with piercing acidity and a limey finish. A few more years in bottle should round things out—consider cellaring until 2030 or beyond. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Wakefield 2022 Estate Label Riesling (South Australia).** There's a gentle initiation of florals like hibiscus and rose, with orange water and lychee. The palate's cheek-sucking acidity is a little jarring after that, even shrill. But there's a touch of sweetness, some textural weight and a lovely, lingering floral note. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

## SEMILLON

**97 Tyrrell's 2016 Vat 1 Semillon (Hunter Valley).** 2016 wasn't hailed as a particularly great vintage, but, seven years in, this wine, from the historic winery's best old blocks, is singing. A heady, layered perfume of citrus pith, dried herb, beeswax, wool, flint and orchard blossom leads to a palate that's uniquely textured, like chalk dust swirled into melted wax and lifted by mouthwatering acidity. Bright, prickly lemon peel lingers on the long, slippery finish. Both delicate and powerful, it drinks beautifully now, but also has a long life ahead. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$70

**95 Tyrrell's 2017 Vat 1 Semillon (Hunter Valley).** 2017 was hailed as a great vintage in the Hunter Valley, but it was also hot and dry, so this is a richer, more advanced bottling than the previous vintage. Lucid and concentrated, it's unmistakably Hunter Sem, with its woolly, beeswax, lemon-pith and lamp-oil appeal. A mineral, flinty note adds interest. There's a laser-like line of acidity on the slippery palate and a flavor richness that flows to the long finish. Drink now through 2030. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$73

**92 Tyrrell's 2022 Semillon (Hunter Valley).** In a region with as pronounced climactic variation as the Hunter Valley's, vintage matters. 2022

saw plentiful rain and a late harvest. It's resulted in a bright, aromatic Semillon that proves an excellent, affordable intro to this unique style. There are notes of preserved lemon, beeswax, lamp oil, white spice and dried herbs. The mouthfeel is round and textural, with zingy acidity. Floral, citrus and spice flow to the finish. This is a summer sipper to pair with seafood or crumbly cheeses. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$20

**92 Tyrrell's 2017 HVD Vineyard Semillon (Hunter Valley).** 2017 was a hot and dry year in the Hunter Valley and the ripeness—and bottle age—shows here via plump, heady aromatics like honeyed pear, pineapple, lemon verbena and buttercups. They flow to a palate that manages to be both weighty and light on its feet, thanks to a pithy texture and refreshing acidity. The wine is in a great place now, but could cellar nicely until around 2028. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$47

**92 Woodlands 2018 Wilyabrup Valley Cabernet Franc-Merlot (Margaret River).** This Cab Franc and Merlot blend from a top Margaret River producer opens with a heady perfume of cherry, cranberry and mocha, underscored by cracked pepper, eucalyptus and dried herbs. Raspy yet still-gentle tannins creep in amidst the plump berry fruit. Still young, and quite concentrated, this could age for several more years, but it drinks well now, too, with protein. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**91 Brokenwood 2022 Semillon (Hunter Valley).** For full review see page 17. Old Bridge Cellars.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$21

## SHIRAZ

**92 Greenock Creek 2019 Seven Acre Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Ripe, concentrated and oh-so-Barossa aromas of plum, black cherry and blackberry preserves overlay bay leaf and cedar and chocolate-vanilla oak. There's a welcome lift of acidity amidst the rich, ripe fruit, and a well-placed frame of toasty, fine tannins. The oak is showing more than this reviewer would like, but this is a vintage that could last the ages. Southern Starz, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Two Hands 2019 Bella's Garden Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Densely packed aromas of black currant cordial, violets, mint, cedar, bay leaf and ground baking spice carry through to a full-figured palate that oozes jammy fruit. It's balanced by savory spiced tannins, a touch of toasty oak and a good lick of acidity. Drink now with a decanter at hand and throughout the next decade. Terlatto Wines International. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$80

**91 Langmeil 2020 Valley Floor Shiraz (Barossa).** Plush, classic Barossa aromas of plum preserves, licorice, ground black pepper, chocolate and cedar flow to a round, almost glycerin-like palate. Textural, savory tannins knit together oodles of plump tangy plum fruit. Drink now and over the next few years. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Thistledown 2021 Cunning Plan Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Rich yet still-fresh aromas of plum and black currant is underpinned with mocha, dried violets and earthy spice. A concentrated, silky palate of plump fruit is framed by a soft line of tannins. This is a modern, gentler expression of McLaren Vale Shiraz than many of its more robust counterparts. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 D'Arenberg 2020 The Stump Jump Shiraz (South Australia).** Lifted, lucid aromas of beetroot, blood plum, chocolate, cedar and savory spice lead to a linear yet succulent palate framed in granular, dusty tannins. A sturdy wine for protein that's showing well now, with a few years under its belt this will be even better. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Greenock Creek 2020 Apricot Block Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** A heady, concentrated nose of raspberry, cherry and plum fruit is laced with licorice and toasty oak spice. Tannins are powerful, chunky, and drying, but the plush berry fruit peeps through the cracks. This is a high-octane wine for drinking over the next eight to 10 years. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$55

**88 Angove 2019 Family Crest Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Tangy, up-front blueberry, plum and black currant open, underpinned by savory spice and cola. The palate is full bodied, round and plump, with oodles of ripe fruit and powerful tannins. Drink now with protein. Trincherro Family Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 D'Arenberg 2019 The Love Grass Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Plump cherry and plum aromas are backed by sappy, savory spice notes and a bit of charred oak influence. Savory tannins are chalky and powerful, cinching the tongue. The tangy fruit squeaks through the cracks. Drink now with plenty of protein. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Greenock Creek 2020 Alices Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** This is a full-throttle Shiraz that currently shows quite a bit of chocolatey oak influence. In amongst the thickets of red and black berries lurk notes of sap, wood chips and spice. The palate is jammy with more prominent sweet oak (although it's dry overall), aggressive, drying tannins and alcohol heat (unsurprising at 16% abv). There's plenty



# BUYINGGUIDE

of ripe fruit which fights to find its way through the hulk. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.  
abv: 16% Price: \$55

**88 Mr. Riggs 2020 The Gaffer Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Ripe, fruity aromas of mixed berry jam, vanilla and spice lead to a plush, rounded palate, tugged by granular tannins. The fruit sits a bit heavily, but this is nevertheless a varietally expressive, winter weeknight sipper. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

**88 Penfolds 2020 Bin 28 Shiraz (South Australia).** Penfolds's oldest bin wine is an austere, dense bottling. With time in decanter it squeaks out aromas of plum and currant fruit mingled with licorice, menthol and cedar. There's a prominent vanillin coating of American oak. The palate is equally reticent and oak driven, with pointy-elbowed acidity and massive, raspy tannins. This should unwind with time, but for now, it's a tough nut to crack. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

**88 The Islander 2021 The Red Shiraz (South Australia).** The plummy fruit and peppery spice aromas feel fresh and vibrant. There's a lick of chocolatey oak influence beneath. It's medium weight with a balance of plump juicy fruit and spice, framed by chalky tannins. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$19

**87 Elderton 2021 E Series Shiraz (South Australia).** Black-currant, plum and some funky barnyard aromas are followed by black pepper and earthy spice. The palate is rich and plump, centered on blackberry-jam flavors that welcome the lifted acidity and spicy tug of tannins. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$17

**87 First Drop 2021 Mother's Milk Shiraz (Barossa).** This is a rich, earthy, approachable red, with notes of blackberry, mocha, beet and vanilla bean. The palate is rounded, with plump fruit and savory, chewy tannins. There's a hint of alcohol heat. It's a steak-eater's red. Merchant Vintner Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**87 Mitolo 2020 Angela Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** A tangy, fruit-forward nose of plum, rhu-barb, licorice and earthy spice is followed by a mid-to-full weight palate, with ripe fruit, a little alcohol heat and chunky tannins. Drink now and over the next few years. Vintus LLC. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**87 Yalumba 2019 Samuel's Collection Shiraz (Barossa).** Plump, savory and lucid, this Shiraz opens with notes of plum jelly, bay leaf, ground black pepper and a hint of chocolatey oak influence. The palate is full-figured, but with a lift of acidity and a soft line of spicy tannins that tug gently on the plummy fruit. There's some heat from the alcohol and it's a bit pointy elbowed, but makes

for straightforward weeknight drinking. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**86 Dandelion 2021 Lionheart of the Barossa Shiraz (Barossa).** A mealy, mushroomy note mingles with plush dark fruit, chocolate and campfire embers. The palate is equally rich with oodles of jammy fruit and somewhat drying tannins that never quite integrate. This is nevertheless an easy-going weeknight red. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

**86 Fox in the Hen House 2021 Fox Hunt Shiraz (South Australia).** This mid-weight Shiraz opens with mushroomy reductive notes overlaying the plump plum fruit. There's a peppery spiced underbelly. The palate is dry but with quite sweet, jammy fruit and earthy spice. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$13

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**96 Stella Bella 2020 Suckfizzle Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River).** Savory herbs, ground tobacco, wet concrete and tree-sap notes mingle with fresh currants and blueberries on this lucid, evocative nose. There's a tangy freshness to the palate, like just-pressed currant juice, that's framed in savory, fine, highly textural tannins. With poise, length and harmony, this is an elegant yet powerful wine that speaks of its place at the cool, southern end of Margaret River. Drink now with protein or over the next decade at least. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$55

**95 Vasse Felix 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River).** Vasse Felix's self-titled middle range often represents the best value for money, in this reviewer's opinion. This is both an excellent example of the range's quality as well as of Margaret River's distinctive Cab style. Layered aromas of tangy red currant, raspberry and cranberry are woven with pencil lead, new pavement and tobacco leaf. There's a wonderful lift of crunchy currant fruit on the palate, which counterbalances the big smudgy, savory tannins. Drink now through 2030. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**95 Wynns Coonawarra Estate 2018 John Riddoch Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** This is a classic Coonawarra vintage from the region's most historic producer. Rich aromas of blackberry and currant jam, menthol, tobacco and florals lead to a powerful palate laced with chiseled, powdery tannins and lifted acidity. It's hefty, but it's also balanced—the corners neatly tucked in. An old-school Aussie Cab, this has a long life ahead. Drink 2025–2040. Southcorp Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$96

**95 Yalumba 2016 The Menzies Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** From

vines planted in 1975 on Coonawarra's distinctive *terra rossa* soil, this vintage of Menzies is aromatic and spicy, showing a touch of bottle age. There are layers of aromas, from plum preserves and cherry cordial to menthol, bay leaf, vanilla bean and mushroom. The palate is evolving beautifully: the silky fruit knitted with raspy and taut but fine tannins. Drink now with fatty cured meat or until 2030. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$68

**94 Henschke 2018 Cyril Henschke Cabernet Sauvignon (Eden Valley).** Oh-so-Henschke in style, this distinctive Cab is rich and lucid, with a heady nose of stewed plums and black-currant cordial, and an underbelly of iodine and beetroot that leads to a silky, succulent palate that's laced with ripe, chalky, tannins, and a blackberry finish. A few years of bottle age puts this in a sexy spot now, but it can go another decade at least. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$195

**93 Yalumba 2018 The Cigar Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** This little brother bottling to "Menzies"—and from the same vineyard—is a comparative bargain. Still quite primary, the fruit is in the driver's seat: cherry cordial and plum, backed heady spice, vanilla and dried violets. It's slippery and succulent, tugged by chiseled, textural, herb-flecked tannins. It's structured enough to suggest a few more years in bottle won't hurt. For now, pair with protein. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$38

**92 Robert Oatley 2017 The Pennant Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River).** This is a plush, richly styled Cab that's still quite primary for its age. Chocolate, mint, beetroot, graphite and savory spice notes mingle with tart cherry, raspberry and blueberry fruit. Chalky tannins creep in on the mid-palate, enveloping and drying out the tongue on the finish. It's missing some of the elegance and poise seen from other top Margaret River Cabs, but there's oodles of juicy fruit and a structure that could take it a decade into the future. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$60

**92 Tyrrell's 2020 Rufus Stone Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River).** From a historic producer based in the Hunter Valley, this expresses its origins in the west with a touch of east-coast personality. Heady herb-and-spice aromas of green peppercorn, bay leaf, tobacco and eucalyptus are bookended by seaweed and graphite notes. Somewhere in between lurks plump plum and currant fruit. There's a silky succulence and cranberry tang to the mid-weight palate. The fruit flows to the finish where granular tannins creep up slowly. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**90 Bec Hardy 2019 Pertaringa Topsy Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale).** Oodles of luscious blackberries are backed by toasty, earthy spices, herbs and some well-tucked chocolatey oak

influence. The palate is equally plush and dense, the tangy fruit framed by somewhat drying, muscular tannins. Despite the hulk, it's a balanced—if still young—drop that would benefit from another few years in bottle. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$100

**90 Forester Estate 2020 Lifestyle Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River).** This is an intensely herbal Cab, with prominent aromas of tobacco, bay leaf, green peppercorn and eucalyptus atop currant and dark-cherry fruit. The palate is less powerful than the nose suggests—more of the tangy, crunchy fruit can be seen. Sinewy, herb-flecked tannins are slow to start, then envelop the tongue towards the finish. This offers an affordable intro to Margaret River's distinctive Cabernet style. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Wakefield 2021 Estate Label Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** Fresh black currant, tobacco and spice lead this lucid little number. There's a note of campfire embers underneath. The palate is fresh and juicy fruited, with gently supporting tannins. It is a modern, drink-now Cab. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Art+Farm Wine 2019 The Messenger Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaide Hills).** Concentrated plump blackberry fruit is at the fore, with tobacco, dried mint, dark chocolate and toasted oak characters flanking. Rich and tannic, there's some alcohol warmth in the mouth, and a frame of powerful, spicy tannins. This high octane wine requires protein. Art+Farm Wine. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**89 Bec Hardy 2021 Pertaringa Lakeside Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** Menthol and tobacco weave between plump red and black berries. The palate is juicy and fresh, with a tug of savory tannins. This drink-now style is perfect for a weeknight barbecue. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Leogate Estate Wines 2017 Miracle on the Wire Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Ranges).** Mixed berry preserves with some vanilla, mint, spice and floral notes star on this fruity, open-knit Cab. The palate is lightweight, varietally speaking, showing its cool-climate colors. There's a lifted tang of acidity and crunchy berry fruit. Talc-like tannins are a touch drying and the finish a little flat, but it's an affordable weeknight Cab for sipping with fatty meat and char-grilled veg. Epicurean Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Bec Hardy 2021 Garden Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** Heady herb-and-spice characters, like cocktail bitters and potpourri, lead this aromatic Coonawarra Cab. Ripe blackcurrants and blackberries quickly follow. The palate lends power and richness but remains juicy fruited,

with a tug of spicy tannins. Drink now and over the next few years. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Bec Hardy 2021 Time Flies When You're Having Fun Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** Aromas of earthy spice, tobacco, graphite and dark chocolate sit beside plump blackberry fruit. The palate is mid-weight with rich, succulent fruit framed by a soft line of slightly drying tannins: an easy-going, modern Cab. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Bec Hardy 2021 Koala Life Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** Up-front aromas like black-currant cordial or blackberry jam are framed in mint, graphite and cola oak. The palate is light in comparison, with somewhat forced acidity and a gentle line of drying tannins. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**86 First Drop 2018 Mother's Ruin Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale).** Dense aromas of tobacco, pencil lead and berry fruit are underscored by dusty, damp earth nuances. Muscular tannins are somewhat drying, and the fruit shows a sweetness that never quite jives. Merchant Vintner Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## GRENACHE

**97 Thistledown 2020 Sands Of Time Old Vine Grenache (McLaren Vale).** From a single, sandy site of 75-year-old bush vines, and aged partly in concrete, partly in oak, this is McLaren Vale Grenache at its finest. Elegant and lucid, it offers a cherry-fruit purity laced with white-pepper spice, dried herbs and florals, cedar and vanilla bean. Fine, chalky tannins are well placed, supporting the supple, tangy fruit. Long and concentrated with the power to cellar for a decade, it's gorgeously drinkable now. Southern Starz, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**95 Thistledown 2021 She's Electric Old Vine Grenache (McLaren Vale).** Hugely aromatic and unmistakably Aussie, this may rank high on the crowd-appeal meter, but don't mistake that for simplicity. There's complexity and ageworthiness here, too. It opens with a billowy perfume of strawberry and raspberry Jolly Ranchers, rose petals and a medicinal herbal note. This flows to an elegant, mid-weight palate that's ensconced in textural, fine tannins. It's juicy fruited, with a touch of savory spice. Drink now through 2030. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**95 Thistledown 2020 Charming Man Grenache (McLaren Vale).** From a cool site in McLaren Vale's Clarendon subregion, and with some vines at over a century old, this showcases both Grenache's fruity approachability and its ability to age. Plump,

juicy red and blue fruit is underpinned by notes of cedar, toasty spice, chocolate and florals. As it opens, there's a cocktail-bitters-like nuance and a mineral streak. The almost surprising (considering the variety) lift of acidity beautifully balances supple fruit and fine, granular tannins on the palate. Long, concentrated and ultra elegant, drink this now through 2033. Southern Starz, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**95 Yangarra 2020 Hickinbotham Grenache (Clarendon).** From 800 million-year-old soapstone, sandstone and clay soils in Australia's premier Grenache region, McLaren Vale, Hickinbotham is set for the long haul while still being approachable now. It's reticent when first poured, so give it some aeration. Once open, there are oodles of ripe, fresh strawberry fruit, and something a touch medicinal. Behind that lurk cherry-cordial, orange-rind, floral and spice notes. The palate is bright and fruity, with an almost surprising tug of raw, textural tannins. A distinctive cherry tang lingers on the long finish. Graceful and silky, this delivers power and ageworthiness. Jackson Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**95 Yangarra 2020 Ovitelli Grenache (McLaren Vale).** From one of Australia's Grenache masters, this is a concentrated-yet-elegant vintage of biodynamic winemaker Pete Fraser's "egg" wine. Lucid, lifted cran-cherry red fruit is woven with savory herbs, licorice and dried florals, and flecked with minerals. The palate is a tightrope of elegance and power, with tightly wound, talc-textured tannins. Still in its infancy, it has at least another decade left in it. Jackson Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 Thistledown 2021 Thorny Devil Old Vine Grenache (McLaren Vale).** Elegance and ease are the name of the game on this silky, mid-weight Grenache. Succulent cherry and blueberry (as well as vanilla, florals and a gentle spice) make for a nose you could dive into. There's lovely freshness to the slinky palate. It's tugged gently by savory, sand-textured tannins. A sexy wine right now, this could gain savory complexity over the next few years. The best part? It's stellar bang for buck. Southern Starz, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**94 Yangarra 2019 High Sands Grenache (McLaren Vale).** From a low-yielding vintage, winemaker Pete Fraser describes this as "tucked in". It's apt. Plump red-currant and cherry aromas are streaked with dried herbs, violets and a cola oak note that will integrate with time. Structured for the long haul, the powerful, chalky tannins frame tangy, succulent fruit and a fresh lift of acidity. Give this another few years in bottle and watch it shimmer. Drink 2024–2034. Jackson Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$250

**93 Schwarz Wine Company 2021 Thiele Road Grenache (Barossa Valley).** From a single vineyard of vines planted in 1941 at the foot of the Barossa Ranges, this is a ripe, concentrated Grenache that opens with evocative, densely packed aromas of cherry cola, green herbs and damp earth amidst a thicket of blackberries and a mineral core. A taut, finely structured line of chalky tannins cinches oodles of juicy, satiny fruit. There's a journey here, and it's one that will keep going for the next eight years or so. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$71

**92 Torbreck 2019 Les Amis Grenache (Barossa Valley).** At 15% alcohol, this vintage of Les Amis, like previous vintages, is a rich, warm, chocolatey wine from a variety that, this reviewer feels, works better in lighter, more elegant mid-weight form. It's nevertheless polished and harmonious. Beneath the oak-driven cherry-cola, potpourri, and cedar-wood aromas lies succulent blueberry and black-cherry fruit. Acidity is lifted, lending a tang to the fruit. Muscular tannins are a bit drying, but they're well structured to go the distance. Drink for another decade at least. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$180

**92 Yalumba 2018 The Tri-Centenary Grenache (Barossa).** From 130-year-old vines, this Grenache offers an enticing, intriguing perfume of strawberries still on their stems, cut flowers in water, vanilla bean and florals. The mid-weight palate is starting to show some bottle age, with slightly cooked red-berry-jam flavors, but there's still a lick of juicy freshness and a tannic tug. Drink now through 2028. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**90 Thistledown 2021 Gorgeous Grenache (South Australia).** Juicy fruit bursts from the glass of this crowd-pleaser. Floral and spice notes follow through to the satiny, light-to-medium-weight palate. There's a touch of alcohol heat, but the succulent fruit and sandy tannins are stars of the show. It is an excellent intro to modern South Aussie Grenache. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Poppelvej 2021 Rookie Grenache (McLaren Vale).** There's a strawberry and rose-soap vibe to the nose of this rustic, naturally made Grenache, with sappy, damp earth undertones and an earthy spice-and-herb combo. The palate is lightweight with raspy, skins-derived tannins. It veers a touch sour at the finish. This smashable style won't be to everyone's tastes, but those who favor the funk will find it an easy, refreshing drop. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

## RED BLENDS

**97 Vasse Felix 2019 Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Margaret River).** This comparatively cool vintage of Vasse Felix's top red is

beautifully perfumed and lucid, with pronounced savory, earthy aromas like beetroot, tobacco and dried Mediterranean herbs and florals. They weave between bright, tangy currants and soft mocha characters. The silky, slinky palate is expertly structured, the fine, talc-like tannins creeping in slowly, then taking over at the long finish. A gorgeous tightrope of power and elegance, and the epitome of class, this is a complete wine now but could age for several decades more. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$165

**95 Woodlands 2017 Clementine Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Margaret River).** From a single vineyard in Margaret River's renowned Wilyabrup subregion, this Cab-dominant Bordeaux blend is a concentrated bottling that's still, despite some age, a young wine. Classically structured, it opens with layers of evocative aromas from red currant and cherry to graphite, tobacco leaf, iodine and garrigue herbs. The powerful palate is sculpted by powdery, savory, fine tannins and tangy acidity. There's a level of austerity here now, but it should age with grace and beauty for at least a decade more. Vine Street Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Gant & Co 2020 Jeune Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Margaret River).** This is a new, small-batch label from experienced winegrowers Claudia and Matt Gant. Based in the southernmost subregion of Margaret River, this Bordeaux blend is earthy, savory and tangy all at once. Reminiscent of the West Aussie bush, it smells of towering eucalyptus and Indian Ocean coastal vegetation. There's even a salty seaweed note amidst the red-berry fruit. The fruit loses its way a tad amidst the bracing, tangy acidity and dusty tannins of the palate, and it finishes on the short side. Nevertheless, this is a characterful, mid-weight bottling that nicely expresses the cooler end of Margaret River. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Paxton 2021 Tiny Paradoxes Shiraz-Grenache (McLaren Vale).** The wine has a vibrant cherry-juice color, and there's a lovely brightness to the red-berry and blood-plum aromas. They're backed by a soft toasted clove and floral note. The palate is silky and round but with enough acidity and sandy tannin structure to keep its shape. This is a softly handled crowd-pleaser that's a tasty now but that could age a few more years. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Balance Nation 2021 Certified Organic Grenache-Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** This wine is chock-full of rich, crowd-pleasing aromatics. Think: mocha, licorice, cherry cordial, florals and baking spice. It's full bodied but shows fruit succulence and quite powerful, sinewy tannins. Drink now with protein and over the next several years. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**91 Bethany 2021 First Village GSM Red Blend (Barossa Valley).** Well-integrated aromas of plump plum, blackberry, cherry, mocha and spice lead to a palate that is equally neatly structured. Succulent, concentrated fruit is framed by muscular tannins. It's done a rich style, but also a crowd-pleasing one. Drink now through 2030. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Dandelion 2021 Menagerie of the Barossa Grenache-Shiraz-Mataro (Barossa).** Plump yet bright red-berry fruit and peppery spice lead to a palate that's full-figured but imbued with crisp acidity, juicy fruit and nicely placed tannins. It's an easy-to-like weeknight sipper. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90 Schwarz Wine Company 2021 The Grower G-S-M (Barossa Valley).** Lifted florals, plump berries, licorice and spice aromas open, followed by a silky, round palate that's tugged by ripe, chalky tannins. This is like a soft-edged, hug-in-a-glass for drinking fireside with a wintery roast. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$33

**90 Smallfry 2022 Eclectik Violet Red Blend (Barossa).** The hazy color of just-pressed cranberry juice, gives a hint about the pleasing red-berry and watermelon juiciness (accented by the subtlest of herbal streaks) that defines this Grenache-Cinsault blend. The palate is tart and fresh, with crunch and feather lightness. Drink chilled on a warm spring or summer's day. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Yalumba 2020 The Y Series Shiraz-Viognier (South Australia).** The Viognier seems to play a significant role in lightening and brightening this ripe-fruited crowd-pleasing red. Plum, licorice and savory spices are buoyed by fresh acidity on the palate that lends tang to the fruit, framed by spicy, sand-textured tannins. Drink now. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Cullen 2020 Red Moon Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Margaret River).** Cullen's Bordeaux blend (minus the Cabernets) is a tangy, tannic number. There are a chocolate-covered-cranberry and currant-jelly notes to start, underpinned by a dried herbal umami savoriness. Raspy tannins are almost jarringly dry, but the berry fruit fights its way through, and lifted acidity gives tangy freshness. A slab of rare steak or aged cheese is needed to stand up to those tannins. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**89 Cullen 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Margaret River).** Fruity and appealing, this Cabernet and Merlot blend offers plump black-cherry and chocolate characters, with a savory herb and graphite spine. The raspy tannins are almost unexpectedly powerful and a little drying at the fin-



ish. But there's tangy, cherry freshness which softens the blow. Drink with plenty of protein and/or leave another few years in bottle. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

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

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Schwarz Wine Company 2019 Meta Mataro (Barossa Valley).** This cherry-hued Mataro opens with heady aromatics of tart cherry and cranberry, along with a herbal, sappy, whole-bunch lift and smoked meat nuance. The palate is light-to-medium weight, with a crunch and crackle of acidity, and woody, tangy-berried, savory-herb, damp-earth-on-a-spring day vibes. Drink young and slightly chilled with a charcuterie platter. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$58

**86 Poppelvej 2021 Lille Teroldego (Adelaide Hills).** A deep-ruby color, this naturally made Teroldego is quite volatile, which somewhat distracts from the sappy dark-cherry, blackberry, licorice, iodine and tangy rhubarb characters. The palate is rich, with sinewy tannins, a big lift of acidity and juicy freshness. This powerful northeast Italian variety has been made to be as light on its feet as possible. Drink slightly chilled. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

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

## DESSERT WINES

**100 Seppeltsfield 1923 Para Vintage Tawny Shiraz-Grenache (Barossa Valley).** The world's oldest consecutively released wine (since 1878), this is an exercise in time travel, with each vintage showing distinctive variation despite 100 years of aging. These grapes were harvested in 1923, the same year construction on the Sydney Harbour Bridge commenced, a telephone connection was made between Sydney and Brisbane, and the Seppelt family moved into its now-famous western Barossa property. Siphoned from a single barrel on order and housed in a 100 ml bottle, it's the color of molasses and—the '23 in particular—is nearly as thick. Aromas are intense, evocative and museum-like: roasted hazelnuts and campfire smoke but also, the leather seat of an old automobile; the cracking spines of centuries-old books. Buried deep in the time capsule: the preserved fruit of 100-year-old grapes. The treacle-textured palate is still remarkably fresh, thanks to the time-suspending grape spirit, and the finish is seemingly endless. Legend Imports. —C.P.

**abv:** 21.3% **Price:** \$1650

**94 De Bortoli NV Old Boys Barrel Aged Tawny 21 Year Old Port (New South Wales).** For full review see page 7. PH Importing.

**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$70/500 ml

**94 Dandelion NV Legacy of Australia XXXO Pedro Ximénez (South Australia).** This amber-hued fortified, made from the Sherry variety Pedro Ximenez, offers intensely concentrated aromas of molasses cookies, library books, dried dates, orange peel and almond oil. The unctuous palate is rich and sweet but lifted by heady alcohol and acidity. Baked brown-sugar and raisin flavors linger on the long finish. This is an indulgent armchair tittle on its own or with a dried-fruit-dominant wintertime dessert. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$24/375 ml

**92 D'Arenberg 2021 The Noble Wrinkled Riesling Riesling (Adelaide Hills).** Like sunlight shining through melted butter, this vibrant yellow-colored wine is a sweet and luscious as it gets. Candied apricots and mandarins, wildflower honey and raw beeswax glide to a viscous, mouthcoating palate. The acidity is quiet but present, creeping in just before the finish—alongside the alcohol—to provide much a much needed lift. Young, creamy cheese and salted nuts are a must with this sticky little number. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## NEW ZEALAND

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**92 Babich 2022 Black Label Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Waxy lime, grapefruit, grass and crisp green bell pepper open this balanced, food-friendly Sauvignon. It even feels a little floral. On the palate, a citrusy zing lends brightness to the waxy textural richness. There's a long, limey finish. Easy to sip both on its own or with a meal. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**91 Steve Bird Winery 2022 Manu Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Lime, lemongrass and passionfruit lead on this flinty, grassy Sauvignon. The palate is zingy and lightweight with just a touch of residual sugar that nicely balances the lifted acidity. A refreshing, mouth-watering drop. Indigo Wine Group. —C.P.

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

**91 Yealands 2022 Estate Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley).** A prominent note of just-sliced green bell pepper leads on this aromatic, traditionally styled SB. Fresh summer garden notes of basil and green bean mingle with lemon-lime and passionfruit aromas. The palate is dry and crisp, with lovely texture, length and flavor depth that suggests food friendliness. Palm Bay International. —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Alpine Rift 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** For full review see page 24. Daylight Wine Company. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Glazebrook 2021 041°S-174°E Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Green beans, waxy citrus and grass aromas open. Shrieking acidity zooms across the slightly sweet palate. It's mouth watering and ends long and limey. Refreshment in a glass. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Invivo 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** A firecracker of classic Savvy B aromas bursts from the glass, from passionfruit and lime to grass and bell pepper. It leads to a slippery, juicy palate that's fresh, fruity and balanced, with oodles of summer sipping appeal. Seaview Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Te Awanga 2022 Wildsong Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Bombastic passionfruit, lime, pineapple, grass and honeysuckle aromas are followed by a slippery textured palate that's limey with zippy acidity and a long finish. Packs a punch and makes for tasty summer sipping. LeVecke. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 The Horologist 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Lime blossom, pink grapefruit and honeysuckle aromas are set to a green herbal backdrop. Piercing acidity, like sucking on a lemon, makes the hint of sweetness almost unnoticeable. Those citrus and floral notes flow to the finish. W. Direct. —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Tohu 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley).** Bright and fruit forward, this bursts with peach, lime, passionfruit and pink-grapefruit aromas. The floral, grass and bell peppers notes trail behind. In the mouth, there's a lovely balance of tangy citrus and stone fruit, zippy acidity and textural interest. A food-friendly drop that's also easy to sip on its own. Total Beverage Solution. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89 Blicks Lane 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Dry and zippy, this offers aromas and flavors of oyster shell, salted lime, white grapefruit, flint and grass. The citrusy finish is long and tangy. Vine Street Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

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

**89 Elmstone 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Honeyed lime, pineapple, floral and grass notes open this delicately fragrant wine. The palate is fresh with concentrated fruit, texture and lovely, mouthwatering acidity. W. Direct. —C.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Eva Pemper 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** A mélange of grass, bell pepper, dried herbs, lemon-lime and white grapefruit aromas lead to a dry, chalk-textured palate. There's

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mouth-watering acidity, lovely length and harmony. Salveto Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**89 Isabel Estate 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Wairau Valley).** Pungent onion and dried herb aromas are at the fore. The grassy, passionfruit and citrus notes are tucked beneath, though with aeration in glass, they become more prominent. The palate is dry with bright, tingy acidity and a lengthy limey finish. Fresh, fruity and with some textural weight to hold up to a range of spring and summer dishes. Vino Logics. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 OTU 2022 Otuwhero Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley).** For full review see page 27. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Paddy Borthwick 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Wairarapa).** Pineapple and peach aromas lead, with limey zing and a wet-stone note beneath. There's mouth-watering acidity amidst heaps of fruit, and a touch of sweetness on the palate, with a peachy finish. A broad, ripe style, compared to many Marlborough counterparts, but vibrant and versatile as well. LeVecke. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Walnut Block 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Bombastic aromas of passionfruit, white grapefruit, grass and bell pepper flow into a palate that's dry, crisp and fruity with zingy lime and passionfruit at the finish. Vine Street Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Blalock + Moore 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Pineapple, lime, snow pea and bell-pepper aromas march forth towards a dry, tangy palate. The acidity is a tag aggressive, but overall, this makes for crisp, easy drinking. It may evolve with a few more months, or even years, in bottle. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Fault Line 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Vibrant citrus, peach and passionfruit open, with flint, bell pepper, green-grass aromas beneath. A tangy, dry palate comes with crisp acidity. There's a little textural weight here, making this both food friendly and easy solo sipping. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Forrest 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Green veg-led aromas of bell pepper, pole beans and wild mint nestle beside lime, passionfruit and grapefruit characters. The palate is crisp and dry, the more vegetal notes lingering to the finish. Quintessential. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Nine North Wine Company 2022 Skyleaf Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Floral and lime leaf characters weave between white peach,

pineapple rind and oyster-shell aromas. There's a gentle buttery richness below the surface. The palate is light on its feet with prickly acidity and a slight slippery texture. There's long limey finish. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**88 Sea Pearl 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** On the ripe, almost buttery, side, this opens with pineapple, papaya, lime and jalapeño. A tangy, citrusy acidity defines the palate. There's some textural interest, too, suggesting food friendly, summer sipping. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**87 Babich 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's a reductive, flinty and onion-peel note to start, followed by passionfruit, lime and grass aromas. Light and refreshing, a slight sweetness balances the crisp acidity on the palate. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Te Pa 2022 The Reserve Collection Hillside Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Pungent aromatics like grass and nettles combine with peach and lime on the nose. There's a bit of sweetness on the palate that gives richness and roundness to the texture. But a lift of acidity and peachy fruit intensity keeps things refreshing. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Totara 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Salt and flint reductive notes sit atop zingy passionfruit and lime, with green grass and bell-pepper undertones. The palate shows enough sweetness to feel almost offdry, but there's enough prickly acidity and limey freshness to tip the scales towards refreshment. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Vinafore 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** For full review see page 29. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Mount Fishtail 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Aromas of peach and passionfruit, with a grassy underbelly, are followed by a dry crisp palate. The acidity is somewhat shrill, but stone-fruit flavors make their way through the cracks. Southern Starz, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Taonga 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Pungent grass and onion notes are at the fore, mingling with lime, guava and grapefruit characters. There's searing acidity on the citrusy palate that's a little hard to take at the moment. It may settle with another six months to a year in bottle. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Wairau River 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Passionfruit, lime, grass

and green-bean aromas are overlaid in a flinty, oniony reductive note. There's a slight bit of sweetness on the palate that counteracts the tangy acidity and a lemon-lime finish. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**86 Whitehaven 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Heady aromas of pineapple, passionfruit and lime leaf lead to a crisp, perky palate dominated by bright, limey acidity. Still on the young side, another year in bottle should do this good. E. & J. Gallo. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**85 Josh Scott 2022 Yeah Cool Natural Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This wine, from the son of pioneering Marlborough grower/producer, Allan Scott, jumps aboard the natty bandwagon, although the style still feels fairly conventional. It opens with pungent, reductive oniony notes. Beneath lurk more pleasant passionfruit, lime, grass and snow-pea aromas. Rapiere acidity slashes through the bone dry palate. Tropical fruit and lemon linger on the finish. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

## PINOT GRIS

**91 Astrolabe 2022 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** For full review see page 16. Share a Splash.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Te Pa 2022 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** Honeyed apple and pear, and pink grapefruit lend bright, fruity appeal to this fresh, slippery-textured Pinot Gris. A versatile food wine for summer sipping. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Invivo 2022 Pinot Gris (Marlborough).** Pink apple, citrus and floral aromas lead to a fresh, crisp palate that shows a touch of sweetness. Bright and easygoing with spicy food-friendly appeal. Seaview Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

## RIESLING

**93 Spy Valley 2016 Single Vineyard Riesling (Marlborough).** Intense aromatics of kerosene, waxy citrus, honey and lavender essential oil are equally concentrated on the dry, focused palate. There's generosity of fruit, textural interest and lovely freshness. An elegant bottling that shows Riesling's longevity; and it's a bargain to boot. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**92 Two Paddocks 2021 Dry Riesling Riesling (Central Otago).** Intensely and distinctively aromatic, there's honeycomb, waxy lemon peel, lavender just in bloom and a touch of mushroom to begin. Like a novel in two parts, the palate is a

different kettle of fish. It's fresh, dry, delicate and vibrant with mouthwatering, lemony acidity and a chalky texture. Food friendly with some cellaring capacity. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

## WHITE BLEND

**92 Borthwick Vineyard 2021 Paper Road CPR White Blend (Wairarapa).** A blend of 50% Pinot Gris with Riesling and Chardonnay, all varieties are on display here: lamp oil, melted beeswax, honeycomb, grilled pear and preserved lemon. The palate is lighter than the nose implies. It's linear, thanks to a laser-like tang of acidity. Waxy fruit lingers on the the finish. Drink now and over the next several years. LeVecke. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

## ROSÉS

**90 Pyramid Valley 2021 Rosé (North Canterbury).** Coral hued, there's a gentle perfume of peach, strawberry and cream aromas that leads to a rounded palate of textural interest, mouth-watering acidity and an overall balance that implies versatile food friendliness. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Invivo 2021 Graham Norton Rosé (New Zealand).** This sunset-hued rosé opens with heady, crowd-pleasing aromas of peach, apricot, raspberry and florals. It's dry overall but has a tickle of sweetness. Succulent stone fruit, red berry and blossom flavors lingering to the refreshing finish. Seaview Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Josh Scott 2022 Bla Bla Bla Rosé (Marlborough).** Delicate and appealing, this coral-colored rosé opens with a perfume of fleshy red berry, melon, florals and subtle spice. The palate is bone dry with a hefty lift of acidity, a slightly chalky texture and tart cherry fruit. Don't drink too cold in order to enjoy the tang of the fruit. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89 Jules Taylor 2022 The Jules Rosé Rosé (Marlborough).** For full review see page 21. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87 Invivo 2022 Taylor's Rosé Rosé (New Zealand).** Radiant pink in color, gentle and appealing aromas of ripe melon and strawberry are followed by a palate that's dry overall, but with a slight sweetness that shows on the finish. Overall, it's zippy and fresh with tangy fruit and piercing acidity. Seaview Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Te Awanga 2022 Wildsong Rosé (Hawkes Bay).** Strawberry pink in hue, this straight-forward rosé opens with ripe, fleshy red berry and watermelon aromas. There's a slight sweetness to the palate, and oodles of juicy berry fruit. LeVecke. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

## PINOT NOIR

**92 Innocent Bystander 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** For full review see page 14. Old Bridge Cellars.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Loveblock 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** Cedar shavings, tree sap, bay leaf and other savory herbs and spices are at the fore on this distinctive Pinot. Underneath lurk ripe, red and black fruit and some smoky oak. The palate is tightly wound in chalky tannins. There's a good deal of drying, toasty barrel influence. But there's also lovely crisp acidity and densely packed fruit. Drink 2024—2030. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**92 Two Paddocks 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** This vintage of proprietor Sam Neill's four-vineyard barrel blend of Pinot is made for the long haul. Densely packed aromas of mushroom, tree bark, blood plum, currants and oodles of earthy spice lead to a sumptuous palate wound in taut, textural tannins. Quite austere at the moment, this is a wine to squirrel away for now, then watch it sparkle. Drink 2025—2035. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$56

**90 Scott Base 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** Upfront cherry and cranberry, with savory spiced underbelly opens this plump Pinot. It feels a touch volatile but the acetone note is subtle and lifting. There's an *al dente* feel to the lightweight palate, a juicy crunch that lifts the tangy, silky fruit and savory, sappy tannins. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Astrolabe 2019 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Despite a few years in bottle, this is still young and has room to evolve. For now, a vanillin, cola-like oak overlays dense, dark fruit and dusty herbs. Acidity is quite pointy-elbowed on the palate, but a supportive frame of tannins lends structure to the plush fruit. Share a Splash. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 Matt Connell Wines 2020 Rendition Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** An appealing, open-knit perfume of blueberry preserves, strawberry cordial, and a subtle, dusty spice leads to a rounded palate with plump blueberry fruit at the fore. It's framed by tight, raspy tannins. The alcohol feels a

touch warm, but nonetheless, it shows varietal and regional character. DJK Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**86 Ant Moore 2020 Estate Series Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Ripe, slightly confected cherry and strawberry aromas are backed by a hint of wood smoke and vanilla. The palate is silky and round with fruit that sits a bit flatly. It could use more structure and vibrancy, but nevertheless makes for easy weeknight sipping. USA Wine West. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86 Matua 2020 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** A translucent cherry color, this straight-forward Pinot opens with primary red-fruit aromas backed by earthy spice. They lead to a lightweight palate that's fresh and gentle fruity with barely visible tannins. The finish is a short and it falls a bit flat, but makes for easy sipping. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Tankersley Estate 2015 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** This is showing its age via a rusty, brick color and evolved aromas of dusty charred wood beneath raspberry and cherry candy. The palate is lightweight but with a tug of savory tannins. The fruit is barely still there, and the finish is short, but there's a nice red berry tang at the end. Drink up. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**84 Wooing Tree 2018 Cromwell Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** Intense chocolate and cherry cola notes open, framed by dusting polish and plump berry fruit. The palate is tightly wound with angular, drying tannins and elevated acidity. The fruit gets somewhat lost in the mix. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$47

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CHARDONNAY

**91 Hamilton Russell 2021 Tesselaarsdal Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde).** Attractive aromas of white flowers, tropical fruit and lime introduce a flavorful and fresh palate. Lime, hints of ginger and baking spices are balanced by bright acidity. Subtle peach and pineapple notes mingle in the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90 Hamilton Russell 2021 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley).** Aromas of cedar, butter and linden tea emerge from the glass. This is a Chardonnay from the cool climate Hemel-en-Aarde-Valley. Bright acidity backs a creamy palate of lime, herbs and oak spices. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43



# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Thorne & Daughters 2021 Copper Pot Chardonnay (Cape South Coast).** The grapes for this flavorful Chardonnay were sourced from vineyards in Oveberg and Elgin. It's a very expressive wine, with notes of honeysuckle and hints of butter and lime on the nose. The palate offers layers of flavors, starting with almond and oak spices. Lime, peach and pear are included in the mix. Lively acidity takes the flavors through a medium finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**89 Buitenverwachting 2021 Bayten Chardonnay (Constantia).** Aromas of white grapefruit and lime are included in the bouquet. A fresh palate delivers citrus fruit and light notes of oak spices alongside good acidity. This Chardonnay has a creamy texture and a medium, enjoyable finish. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 JH Meyer 2021 Palmiet Chardonnay (Elgin).** White-grapefruit and green-apple aromas arise from the glass of this Chardonnay. It has lively acidity and a citrus and herbaceous character. There is plenty of lime, apple and white grapefruit on the palate. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## CHENIN BLANC

**90 David Finlayson 2021 Camino Africana Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** This Chenin is a rich expression of old vines planted in 1960. It has delicate aromas of flowers and honey, with a touch of citrus fruit. Peach blends with chamomile tea and honey on the palate. The wine shows weight and a good structure. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Simonsig 2022 Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** Delicate aromas of lime and peach with a touch of salt shape the enticing nose. Bright acidity and subtle flavors of peach, lime, green apple and grass make this white an excellent summer sipper. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Ken Forrester 2022 Petit Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** This white has a nose and palate with ripe citrus and stone-fruit notes. Subtle flavors of honey and grass mingle in the finish while moderate acidity makes the wine easy to drink. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 DeMorgenzon 2021 DMZ Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** The nose of this wine shows intense oaky aromas in the form of vanilla and smoke. The same notes of oak spices repeat on the palate and overpower citrus-fruit flavors. Good acidity leads the flavors into a medium finish. Indigo Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**85 Rustenberg 2022 Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** This is an easy-drinking Chenin that opens with notes of citrus and tropical-fruit aromas. It has light acidity and ripe lemon, pineapple and grass flavors extending into a medium finish. Indigo Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**89 Van Loggerenberg 2021 Break a Leg Blanc de Noir White Blend (Stellenbosch).** This is a lively white wine made of Cinsault grapes with a drop of Pinotage. The nose is shaped by aromas of flint and wet stone, followed by berries. It's fresh and flavorful without being heavy. Citrus fruit blends with berries alongside bright acidity on the palate. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Rhanleigh 2021 Rosé Grenache Noir (Western Cape).** A flinty nose includes aromas of strawberry. This is fresh, bright and light bodied. Peach, cherry and raspberry show on the palate and in the fruity finish. D & M New Management Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

## ROSÉS

**87 Boschendal 2022 The Rose Garden Rosé (Coastal Region).** The aromas of strawberry mousse are followed by light notes of cherry. This is a medium-bodied rosé that shows ripe berries and hints of citrus fruit on the palate. Moderate acidity supports the flavors and extends them into a medium finish. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 DeMorgenzon 2021 DMZ Rosé (Stellenbosch).** Delicate cherry and floral aromas perfume the nose of this fruit-forward rosé. It's fresh and easy-drinking, delivering blackberry, raspberry and citrus fruit on the palate. Indigo Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Ken Forrester 2022 Petit Rosé (Stellenbosch).** This is a refreshing everyday rosé with an austere flavor profile. The nose offers aromas of wet stone and hints of strawberry. Light notes of berries and grass fade away in a short finish. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**86 Anthonij Rupert 2022 Protea Rosé (Coastal Region).** Red-plum and cherry flavors are subtle. Lively acidity lifts the palate of this light-bodied, easy-drinking rose. Good to enjoy on its own at a summer party. Indigo Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## PINOTAGE

**88 Painted Wolf 2021 The Den Pinotage (Coastal Region).** In the glass, it shows strawberry aromas. This Pinotage is fruit-driven, delivering cherries and strawberries accented by a touch of black pepper, grass and oak spices. It's medium bodied and has nice acidity and enough structure for a young, easy-sipping Pinotage. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Natte Valleij 2021 NAT Naturally Fermented Pinotage (Darling).** Mild notes of red fruit open the nose of this light-bodied red. Coming from Darling in South Africa's coastal region, the wine offers herbaceous flavors mixed with berries. Moderate acidity and light tannins support the palate. It's a good Pinotage for everyday drinking. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Rhanleigh 2021 Pinotage (Western Cape).** Nice berry aromas and a light touch of licorice introduce a palate of juicy cherries and cranberries. This Pinotage has thin tannins and a brief finish. D & M New Management Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## CINSAULT

**90 Craven 2022 Cinsault (Stellenbosch).** This Cinsault from coastal vineyards is aromatic and full bodied. Light notes of herbs are mixed with ripe cherry, raspberry and cranberry flavors over a chalky texture. Moderate acidity and solid tannins frame the palate. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$31

**90 Natte Valleij 2020 Cinsault (Coastal Region).** Delicate notes of raspberries form the nose. This well-structured red shows firm tannins alongside moderate acidity providing a good frame for a fruit-forward palate. It has a fine texture and fresh finish. Canopy Wine Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Babylon's Peak 2019 Cinsault (Swartland).** This is a full-bodied Cinsault from grapes sourced from vineyards in Paardeberg Mountain. The nose opens with flinty and ripe berry aromas. Notes of herbs and cinnamon complete the bouquet. It's savory, offering flavors of plum, cherry and hints of baking spices. A touch of dried herbs mingles in the finish. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

## RED BLENDS

**90 Thorne & Daughters 2021 Wanderer's Heart Wild Ferment Red Blend (Western Cape).** This is a Syrah-based blend with Grenache, Mourvèdre and Carignan from vineyards all around

the Western Cape. Aromas of licorice and cherry jam mark a pleasant nose. The savory palate offers notes of herbs, spices, plum and berries. Vigorous acidity keeps it fresh, while firm tannins provide a solid frame. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Tongai 2021 Freedom Red Red Blend (Cape Town).** Cherry and light notes of herbs mix with baking spices on the nose. This red has balancing acidity and medium tannins supporting a palate with red-fruit flavors and smoke. Vinosphere Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Van Loggerenberg 2021 High Hopes Red Blend (Swartland).** This is an interesting blend of 86% Syrah, 10% Grenache Noir and 4% Cinsault. It has a nose of subtle herbaceous and fruity aromas. The same notes repeat on the palate in the form of thyme, peppercorn and tart cherry. It's a medium-bodied red that will benefit from a slight chill. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 David Finlayson 2020 Cab et al Bordeaux-style Red Blend (South Africa).** The nose of this blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Petit Verdot and 20% Merlot with a drop of Cabernet Franc displays subtle red-fruit notes. Herbaceous aromas complete the bouquet. The palate is soft and offers berry and herbal flavors. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**87 Douglas Green 2020 Rib Shack Vintage Wood Matured Extra Smooth Red Blend (Western Cape).** Light notes of black pepper open the nose. While on the ripe palate cherries and strawberries mix with notes of oak spices and cigar box. It has soft tannins. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Glen Carlou 2020 Petite Classique Merlot-Malbec (Coastal Region).** After a few minutes in the glass, this blend shows cherry-jam and flinty aromas. Its moderate acidity and medium tannins provide enough structure to make it enjoyable. Smoke and hints of herbs wrap up the finish. Pace Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Stellenbosch Vineyards 2021 Mountain Shadows Red Blend (Western Cape).** Notes of tart cherry merge with hints of smoke and spices. It's fruity, has soft tannins and a medium finish. Vinamericas, Inc.. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Boschklouf 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Stellenbosch).** This blend of equal parts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot has an austere nose. The palate displays ripe cherry and bay leaf framed by slightly drying tannins. Grassy

notes extend into the finish. Vine Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**86 Zorgvliet 2020 Silver Myn Argentum Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** This Merlot-based blend has aromas of berry and bell pepper. The palate is soft with notes of ripe red fruits and grass that fade in a short finish. Boutinot USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

SPIRITS



**98 Chinola Passion Fruit Liqueur (Dominican Republic; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** Absolutely delicious, and a must-have for tropical cocktails. The juice-like appearance is burnished orange and cloudy, with a bold, juicy passion fruit and apricot scent. The fruit carries over to the thick, viscous palate, with a peach nectar texture that clings, finishing with a faint hint of ginger. —K.N.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$33



**91 Botanika Angelica Amaro (Poland; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY).** This amber liqueur opens with rich maple and pecan pie aromas. The palate is more bitter and dry than the succulent aroma suggests. Bark and leather notes wind into a faintly nutty exhale, reading more as dry walnut than luscious pecan. **Best Buy.** —K.N.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30



**91 Hoxie Strawberry Rosé Wine Spritzer (USA; Hoxie Spritzer, Greenfield, CA).** The glass shows a deep rose hue and lots of bubbles, and the bold, juicy aroma beckons with ripe strawberry and a hint of bubble gum. On the palate, a fleeting suggestion of juicy berry evaporates quickly, while the exhale leans toward grapefruit flesh. Overall, the impact is like strawberry lemonade, hold the sugar. —K.N.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/8.4oz 4 pack

# AMARO

How (bitter)sweet it is.

If you think amaro might be too fancy for you, here's a confidence from Sother Teague, proprietor of NYC amaro bar Amory Amargo: "If Coca-Cola was served flat and alcoholic, it would be the bestselling amaro in the world."

He has a point. Both elixirs contain top-secret mixes of herbs, spices, citrus and other botanicals meant to create a stomach-settling effect, along with sugar. While Coke's modern-day formula likely varies greatly from the 1880s original, it still bears more than a passing resemblance to an amaro-and-soda highball.

That said, not all amaros are alike. From the bright, grapefruit-like red bitters that give a Negroni its signature rosy hue, or a darker, extra-bitter digestive meant to sip slowly after a meal, the range is wider than ever. Considered a key component for many cocktails, a good amaro can be a versatile addition to the bar cart.

Just like Coca-Cola, most of these amaros

are closely guarded secret recipes. But every now and then, producers give a peek into key ingredients. Consider two bottlings reviewed on page 181 that center arugula and artichoke (see also: Cynar) as key flavorings. Another subcategory, rabarbaro, features rhubarb—specifically, the dried stems that grow underground—as a key bittering agent. It's enough to make you take a second look around the produce aisle.

In addition to Italy's amaro, reviews this month include a couple of Pelinkovacs from Croatia. Located just across the Adriatic, Croatia was part of

If Coca-Cola was served flat and alcoholic, it would be the bestselling amaro in the world.

Italy at one point, and shares some spirituous history. ( See the feature on Italian Liqueurs for more insight.)

If you still doubt the similarities between cola and amaro, we'll leave you with two final drink suggestions. Pair a Southern-style hot Dr. Pepper with a served-warm Amaro Caldo. Old-school amaro purists might not appreciate this comparison, but it's too much fun not to try.

—Kara Newman



**90 Crafthouse Cocktails Coffee Old Fashioned (USA; Crafthouse Cocktails, Traverse City, MI).** Coffee takes center stage in this Old Fashioned variation. Over ice, it's almost like drinking iced espresso. Look for a deep brown hue and distinctly coffee-like aroma and flavor, laced with a bit of vanilla and a hint of baking spice. The base is bourbon from Traverse City Whiskey Co., though it's well buried beneath the coffee. —K.N.  
**abv:** 25.6% **Price:** \$40



**90 Crimson Amaro (USA; Pollinator Spirits, Long Eddy, NY).** Aptly named, this has a vivid rose-petal hue. The aroma mixes raspberry and a floral hint. The syrupy-thick palate has an appropriately bitter bite, finishing long with a floral exhale and menthol hint. Mix this red bitter into Negronis. Naturally colored with cochineal. Made with a hint of raw honey. —K.N.  
**abv:** 24% **Price:** \$45



**96 Lucano Anniversario Amaro Essenza (Italy; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).** Look for a deep plummy hue and rich, enticing blackberry compote and dried rosemary aromas. The palate is big, bracing and complex, showing rounded red fruit and coffee bean, plus a hint of vanilla sweetness mid-palate. It finishes with grapefruit-peel bitterness and warming baking spice. Sip or mix. Aged for 12 months in casks that previously held grappa.  
**abv:** 34% **Price:** \$80/700 ml

**96 Amaro Lucano Anniversario (Italy; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).** The plush palate opens with a burst of dark fruit—plum, dried fig and date, black cherry—leading into hints of espresso and vanilla. Clove and cinnamon bark warm the long, tingly finish. Consider as a dessert sipper.  
**abv:** 34% **Price:** \$37

**95 DeGross New World Amaro (USA; Clear Creek Distillery, Hood River, OR).** This new amaro, the first from “King Cocktail” Dale DeGross, commands attention. From the moment the bottle is opened, the bold, deeply spiced aroma invites. The palate surprises with a vibrant burst of lemony brightness, drying to a grippy plum-skin effect mid-palate. A long finish is perfumed with curry-like spice, with warm cinnamon, anise, cardamom, cumin, plus a menthol exhale. Made for mixing.  
**abv:** 35% **Price:** \$40/700 ml

**95 Fratelli Vergnano Cioco Artichoke Liqueur (Italy; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** Deep brown and velvety, this bittersweet liqueur opens sweetly, showing plum, cocoa, dried cherry and blackberry. Bitterness and a dried-herb quality emerge toward the finish.  
**abv:** 16.50% **Price:** \$37

**94 Accompani Amaro (USA; Straightaway, Portland, OR).** Look for a burnished gold hue and aromas of marigold and honey. The palate opens bracing and relatively dry, with light gentian bitterness. Chamomile tea lifted with mint, cinnamon and a whiff of orange peel fade into honeycomb on the long but light finish. Consider slipping a little into a cup of tea. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 25% **Price:** \$30

**94 Amaro di Erbe Trieste (Italy; Uva Imports, Atlanta, GA).** Named for the port city of Trieste, this amaro has a honey hue and floral aroma. The palate opens bitter and very dry, teasing hints of chamomile, lemon pith and peel, and ginger root heat. The finish is sharp, slightly astringent and appropriately bitter, with a hint of dark honey that lingers on the tongue. Made with 12 botanicals including hops, dandelion and eucalyptus.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$70/700 ml

**94 Amaro di Toscana (Italy; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT).** Mild blackberry aromas lead into a comforting sweet-tart palate that recalls dried cherry or cranberry compote, with a bitter edge that suggests espresso with sugar. A faint

sprinkle of dried mint and thyme refreshes. Versatile and mixable. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$25

**94 Amaro Mysteriosa (USA; Van Brunt Stillhouse, Brooklyn, NY).** This distinctly herbaceous liqueur will remind some of yellow Chartreuse. The burnished gold liquid has a bitter scent, suggesting roots and barks, and a sweet-bitter palate. Honey sweetness unfurls into cinnamon and clove tingle. Turkish rhubarb is used to add earthy backbone.  
**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$50

**93 Amaro Lucano (Italy; Kobrand, Purchase, NY).** Cinnamon, cardamom and a hint of red fruit create a lightly spiced aroma. The palate echoes the sweetness and spice, framed by red fruit, plum and plum skin, and blackcurrant, finishing slightly sticky with a hint of espresso. Faint menthol refreshes the exhale. A good workhorse for cocktail mixing.  
**abv:** 28% **Price:** \$33

**93 Black Note Amaro (Italy; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** On the sweeter side of the amaro spectrum, this deep-brown liqueur has a pleasing fruity aroma, suggesting red fruit, plum and fig, framed by a rooty bitter note. Roasted coffee and vanilla flavors coat the palate, leading into a lightly bitter finish.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$37

**92 Brezio Bitter (Italy; Originals, Stamford, CT).** Tawny and bright in the glass, this Southern Italian amaro offers a lightly nutty aroma coupled with a hint of dried apricot. The palate echoes that nutty sweetness, articulating it as pecan and almond, layering vanilla and a hint of chamomile into the long, bittersweet finish.  
**abv:** 25% **Price:** \$32

**92 Maraska Pelinkovac Bitter Liqueur (Croatia; Worldwide Libations, Lyndhurst, NJ).** Look for a deep plum hue and lean, medicinal scent. The palate opens with plum-skin bitterness, leading into hints of fruit leather, dark fruit and a drying grapefruit-peel finish. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 28% **Price:** \$25

**91 Amaro Guelfo (Italy; Uva Imports, Atlanta, GA).** Made with a base of three-year-old Italian brandy and botanicals from Northern Italy, this liqueur has a ruddy appearance and distinctly fruity and candied aromas. The palate echoes hints of bubble gum, licorice and banana candy. Hits of dried cherry play around the edges, making the mouth water. Gentle cocoa powder and vanilla sweetness coupled with cinnamon bark smooth the finish.  
**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$50/1L

**91 Botanika Angelica Amaro (Poland; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY).** For full review see page 180. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**91 Piolinko-Max (Italy; Uva Imports, Atlanta, GA).** The playful cartoon label suggests this is a modernized version of Croatia’s Pelinkovac bitter liqueur. Look for a ruddy hue and a palate that mixes concentrated vanilla with a milder bitter herbal note, plus a touch of cocoa. The long finish balances both bitter and sweet aspects. Botanicals include wormwood, wild fennel and orange peel.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$60/1L

**90 Crimson Amaro (USA; Pollinator Spirits, Long Eddy, NY).** For full review see page 180.  
**abv:** 24% **Price:** \$45

**90 Enrico Toro Amaro 72 (Italy; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** Amber with ruddy highlights, this amaro has a mild aroma. The lightly sweet palate shows hints of dried figs and dates and cinnamon bark, shored up with appropriate bitterness. The finish entwines spearmint and vanilla.  
**abv:** 27% **Price:** \$40

**89 See the Elephant Amaro di Rucola (Italy; Vedi d’Elefante, Hellertown, PA).** It’s an amaro made from arugula! Dried date and plum aromas lead into a distinctly sweet palate, showing hints of cocoa, bubble gum and banana. The candied finish is accented with baking spice and a faint cayenne flicker. Made in Southern Italy.  
**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$43

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## APERITIF WINES

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**91 Atōst Aperitif Wine Citrus (USA; Pressman Wines, Boulder, CO).** Pale yellow in the glass, this aperitif wine has aromas of white grape and peach. The light palate shows lemon flesh and a flicker of ginger heat, plus mouthwatering acidity into the finish. Made with California white wine fortified with California grappa.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$30

**89 Atōst Aperitif Wine Rosé (USA; Pressman Wines, Boulder, CO).** Look for a vibrant rose hue and bold, fruity aroma. The sweet palate suggests strawberry jam, candied fruit and a hint of banana, with cinnamon tingle into the finish. It will remind some of sangria. Made with California white wine fortified with California grappa.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$30

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## ADDITIONAL LIQUEURS

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**98 Chinola Passion Fruit Liqueur (Dominican Republic; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** For full review see page 180.  
**abv:** 21% **Price:** \$33

# BUYINGGUIDE

**96 Black Irish Salted Caramel Liqueur (Ireland; Selected Imported Wine, New York, NY).** Backed by Mariah Carey, this dangerously tasty cream liqueur has a chocolate-milk appearance and dulce de leche flavor that coats the palate, plus a faint minty tingle. Think salted alfajores/caramel cookies—and the salt really does keep you coming back for more.  
**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$29

**94 Black Irish White Chocolate Liqueur (Ireland; Selected Imported Wine, New York, NY).** Backed by Mariah Carey, this silky liqueur has a pale, creamy appearance, indeed like melted white chocolate. The flavor is familiar, like a typical Irish cream liqueur, with just enough zing from the whiskey lifting the finish.  
**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$29

**91 Ume Plum Liqueur (USA; Plumeshu, San Francisco, CA).** The startling deep-purple hue catches the eye, while the aroma mixes violet and fresh apple notes. The mouthwatering, sweet-tart palate reads like fresh-cut Granny Smith apples, white grape juice, or plum flesh, winding into a gentle floral exhale. It's pleasant, but the color is the real reason to pour this for a wide range of cocktails.  
**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$35

**87 Barrel Finished Bosc Pear Liqueur (USA; Heimat, Mamaroneck, NY).** This limited-edition liqueur is made with locally sourced pears, and aged in ex-whiskey barrels for at least 12 months. The result is a rusty hue and slightly smoky aroma, tinged with dried apricot and butterscotch. Pear compote and grilled pineapple show on the light palate.  
**abv:** 22% **Price:** \$42/375 ml

**86 Cenote Green Orange Liqueur (Mexico; Stoli Group, New York, NY).** Made with blanco tequila and “green orange nectar,” this pours as pale straw, with a faint greenish tinge. A bold lime-lollipop scent mixes with agave nectar. The palate carries over that candied lime note, mixed with hints of pine and white pepper sparks, finishing with bitter lime peel and alcohol heat.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$72

**84 Wild Arbor Clear Cream Liqueur (The Netherlands; Monsieur Touton Selection, New York, NY).** Since clarified cocktails—made using dairy products—are popular right now, perhaps a clear cream liqueur is on point. Oddly, this one is both dairy free and lactose free. It's indeed clear in the glass, and viscous. The aroma suggests cream, and has plastic-like tinge, while the palate is relatively neutral and lightly sweet, with a medicinal hint on the exit.  
**abv:** 19.75% **Price:** \$30

## WHISKEY RTDS

**92 The Old Fashioned (USA; Bully Boy Distillers, Boston, MA).** Made with whiskey, bitters and sugar, this nicely approximates the Old Fashioned

experience. The aroma mixes oak with a little fruit—just enough that it's easy to imagine cherries muddled in the glass. The palate opens with plenty of cinnamon and clove, with a hint of sweetness midpalate and a warming finish.  
**abv:** 37% **Price:** \$33.99

**90 Crafthouse Cocktails Coffee Old Fashioned (USA; Crafthouse Cocktails, Traverse City, MI).** For full review see page 180.  
**abv:** 25.6% **Price:** \$40

**89 Oaksid + Cocktail Co. Rye Old Fashioned (Two James Spirits, Detroit, MI).** Cinnamon leads the nose and palate in this Old Fashioned variation. Overall, it's relatively dry, showing oak and spice. Adding water coaxes hints of leather and cocoa forward, plus a fleeting dried-cherry note. Made with a four-year-old rye distilled from Michigan-grown grain, plus demerara syrup and bitters.  
**abv:** 41% **Price:** \$50

**88 The Manhattan (USA; Bully Boy Distillers, Boston, MA).** Made with whiskey, sweet vermouth, bitters and Bully Boy's amaro, this RTD cocktail offers a pleasing spiced aroma and dry palate that shows oak, leather and a faint hint of cocoa powder. Set over ice, a distinct red fruit note emerges that suggests dried cherry and cranberry, while a fleeting lemon peel note sets the mouth watering.  
**abv:** 35.65% **Price:** \$34

## NEGRONI RTDS

**89 Negroni (USA; Bully Boy Distillers, Boston, MA).** The breezy label—is that that Nantucket or Amalfi?—will have you dreaming of a coastal vacation. Look for a ruddy hue and grapefruit and cinnamon aromas. The soft palate opens with plenty more spice, adding cardamom and turmeric, finishing with a lightly bitter exhale. It's best well chilled, which tamps down some of the spice and lets the bitterness come forward. Made with Bully Boy's Estate Gin, two different varieties of sweet vermouth, and two different expressions of bitter liqueur.  
**abv:** 28% **Price:** \$34

**87 Oaksid + Cocktail Co. Negroni (Two James Spirits, Detroit, MI).** With its brownish hue and dried fruit character, this drinks more like a Manhattan than a Negroni. That said, it's still pleasant drinking, leading with dried cherry and prune, and finishing with a dry leather note and whisper of baking spice.  
**abv:** 26% **Price:** \$50

## “SPRITZ”-STYLE RTDS

**91 Hoxie Strawberry Rosé Wine Spritzer (USA; Hoxie Spritzer, Greenfield, CA).** For full review see page 180.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/8.4oz 4 pack

**90 Stoller Swing Rosé Spritz (USA; Stoller Family Estate, Dayton, OR).** Expect a pink-grapefruit hue with a froth of bubbles. The palate is light and bittersweet, like grapefruit flesh, with hints of rose petal and eucalyptus on the exhale. What's in the bottle is Pinot Noir blended with white vermouth and natural grapefruit, ginger and blood orange flavors.  
**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** \$10/500 ml

**89 Honeymoon (USA; Matchbook Distilling Co, Greenport, NY).** Billed as “part spritz, part natty wine,” this is a food-friendly sipper. Look for an orange hue, with a light mousse of bubbles. The aroma is yeasty and bold, while the palate is bone dry and citrusy, with lots of lemon peel and just a hint of bitterness on the exit. Hopefully, your bottle won't explode the moment the top is popped, as ours did. Made with carbonated orange wine, milk oolong and Mallorca melon tea.  
**abv:** 6% **Price:** \$12/350 ml

**89 Hoxie Grapefruit Elderflower Wine Spritzer (USA; Hoxie Spritzer, Greenfield, CA).** The word “dry” is on the label; they're not kidding. This RTD has a pale straw hue punctuated with lots of big bubbles. The light aroma suggests grapefruit peel, while the palate is crisp and nearly neutral, with a drying lemon and grapefruit peel finish. Made with a white-wine base.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/8.4oz 4 pack

**88 Zonin Coastal Lemon Spritz (Italy; Zonin, Aventura, FL).** Pale yellow and lightly effervescent, this spritz offers yeasty and citrusy aromas. The palate is slightly sweet, like a dry lemonade. It's best served over ice, making it more refreshing and easy drinking. Made with sparkling wine and natural and artificial flavors including lemon juice concentrate and lemon-lime flavors.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$18

**87 Hoxie Lemon Ginger Rosé Wine Spritzer (USA; Hoxie Spritzer, Greenfield, CA).** With a pink-grapefruit hue and lots of bubbles, this spritzer opens with a distinctly floral, somewhat soapy aroma. The palate begins with mild ginger, while lavender and rosewater perfume the bone-dry finish. Adding ice brings out more ginger bite. Made with a rosé-wine base.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/8.4oz 4 pack

## FRUIT BEERS

Tropical fruits are well suited for summer.

**W**hile fruited beers are delicious any time of year, they seem to land better in the warmer months. This might be psychological. When the sights and smells of farmers' markets appear in a well-poured glass of beer, it scratches a summertime itch.

Much of the bounty that winds up in a beer recipe is fresh picked and processed by the brewers shortly before it's added to a lager or ale. Fresh fruit is nothing new in beer. Styles that have long been established bring depth to a base beer.

The kriel, for example, is a Belgian-style ale that heavily relies on cherries for aging, color and flavor. The result is often both sweet and tart, bracing and refreshing.

Modern brewers have traversed the globe to find both familiar and exotic flavors to add to their beers. Today, tropical fruits like pineapple, mango, passion fruit and guava rank among the most popular. This is also thanks to specialty hop varieties that can impart those flavors and

aromas into beer. When combined with the real McCoy it's a double dose of flavor.

Yuzu appears to be popular with brewers, who covet the zesty, punchy and acidic qualities of the floral, lemony fruit.

Brewers have become adept at using different parts of the fruits in brewing. From the rind or skin or peel to the pith and flesh, different components of fruits offer various aromas and flavors.

Ales, particularly saison, still seem to be the preferred style for showcasing fruit. The malt-forward style with rustic, country qualities goes well with many harvested fruits. Lagers are also joining the mix these days, with some brewers enjoying the crisp and clean style as a canvas to accent fruits.

Not every fruit beer uses whole fruit. Several puree companies have been pushing into the beer space, offering juices, purees and already-processed fruits that can be blended into beers.

—John Holl

Modern brewers have traversed the globe to find both familiar and exotic flavors to add to their beers.

**96 Alesong Whiskers on Kittens (Fruit Beer; Alesong Brewing and Blending, OR).** The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes used in this farmhouse ale dominate flavors, boosted by barrel aging and a wild character from the yeast. Soft carbonation allows flavors to unfold gracefully. This is a bottle to open during times of quiet reflection.  
**abv:** 8.9% **Price:** \$18/500ml

**95 Alesong Raspberry Parliament (Fruit Beer; Alesong Brewing and Blending, OR).** Lovely layers of raspberry from the skin and seeds to the flesh and tart juice cascade together on top of woody tannins. Robust and refined, it has a faint sweet thread that keeps acidity at bay throughout.  
**abv:** 6.9% **Price:** \$18/500ml

**94 Alesong Stonefruit Sonata (Fruit Beer; Alesong Brewing and Blending, OR).** Tart nectarine with subtle sweetness on the back is the calling card of this oak-aged ale. Ruddy orange in color, it offers flashes of the fresh fruit—including skin—followed by dots of sugar. Finishes with woody tannins and a touch of pleasing bitterness.  
**abv:** 7.3% **Price:** \$18/500ml

**94 Great Lakes Kickaround POG Tart (Fruit Beer; Great Lakes Brewing, OH).** A lively combination of citrus, berry, and tropical fruit flavors meld into a tart golden ale. This fruit-punch-inspired ale works great in the midafternoon on a day off, or helps to ease into a staycation mindset.  
**abv:** 4.3% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

**94 Schlafly Raspberry Hefeweizen (Fruit Beer; St. Louis Beer, MO).** A soft touch of raspberry adds both color and a sweet accent to the banana and clove nature of the base beer. They harmonize to create a warm-weather refresher that should be served with a handful of berries in the glass.  
**abv:** 4.1% **Price:** \$10/16oz 4 pack

**93 Highland Seasonal Berryful (Fruit Beer; Highland Brewing, NC).** Bursting with blueberry, dusty skins and all, this dark-pink ale keeps the fruit mostly in the aroma and only moderately on the palate. The result is a delightful sipper that gains depth as the glass empties and puts the taste focus on the beer. Pair with a cobbler.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

**93 Pontoon Trail Marker (Fruit Beer; Pontoon Brewing, GA).** Aromas of strawberry lemonade with almond blossom emerge quickly and are confirmed on the palate. This is a beer for summer twilight, a gap between lighter sips in the day and robust ones to come at night. Not too tart, not too sweet, and with toasted sugar threads, it's a lot of fun to drink.  
**abv:** 5.2% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

**92 805 Cerveza (Fruit Beer; Firestone Walker, CA).** A Mexican-style lager brewed with a hint of lime. Rather than from juice, the flavor tastes peel derived, giving a little depth but not acidity. Hits the spot for liquid refreshment in relaxing situations.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$11/12oz 12 pack

**92 Common Roots Party Shirt Fridays (Fruit Beer; Common Roots, NY).** This fruited IPA manages to retain much of the hop bitterness and tropical essence of the base style while getting a boost from funky tropical fruit and a strong smack of citrus. Working in tandem, the fruit and hops bring a fun experience to the palate.  
**abv:** 6.9% **Price:** \$19/16oz 4 pack

**91 Dokkaebier Calamansi & Tea Lager (Fruit Beer; Dokkaebier, CA).** Pouring the color of an Arnold Palmer with a frothy white head, this conveys an appropriate look for a tea and Asian lime lager. The base beer is largely masked by the citrus and leafy tannins but does help with a clean finish. Not sweet, it's just right for garden party refreshment.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$18/16oz 4 pack

**91 Hell or High Watermelon (Fruit Beer; 21st Amendment, CA).** A soft wheat beer body lays a wonderful canvas for cucumber-skin and melon-rind aromas that morph into pleasing watermelon after a few sips. The fruit is never overly sweet or artificial tasting, but more akin to an early-season melon or natural chewing gum.  
**abv:** 4.9% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

**91 Urban Artifact Teak (Fruit Beer, Urban Artifact, WI).** Lime and pineapple forward, this full-bodied, tart ale also has a tropical fruit essence in the background. Never assertive the fruits add acidity and tang to a sweet beer base. The high alcohol content is well hidden in the glass.  
**abv:** 7.2% **Price:** \$14/12oz 6 pack

**90 Fort Point KSA (Radler; Fort Point Brewing, CA).** A juicy, easy-drinking ale, this offers a bright amount of yellow citrus that refreshes and delights the tastebuds. This summer gulper will do well along a fresh grilled shrimp garden salad.  
**abv:** 4.3% **Price:** 12/16oz 4 pack

**90 Urban Artifact The Gadget (Fruit Beer; Urban Artifact, WI).** Viscous and pouring a royal purple, this offers overripe, jammy berries that make an impression in assertive tangy flavor, along the side of the glass, and by masking a high



# BUYINGGUIDE

abv. Blackberry adds a depth of earthy tart to the sweetness of the raspberry.

abv: 8% Price: \$13/12oz 6 pack

## 90 Meadowlark Fungus Shui (Field Beer; Meadowlark Brewing, MT).

Lively aromas of maple syrup, derived from the use of candy cap mushrooms, are the stars of this show. Sweet and sticky, like a diner booth table after Sunday breakfast, the syrup aroma is lovely and ever-present. A slight touch of ginger midpalate is followed by a clean earthy finish.

abv: NA Price: NA/16oz 4 pack

## 89 Ska Rue B Soho (Fruit Beer; Ska Brewing, CO).

This grapefruit lager feels right at home during the breakfast hours, even if it's eggs for dinner. It has a lively pop of deep, tart citrus, and a touch of malt sweetness.

abv: 5% Price: \$11/12oz 6 pack

## 89 Lūki Trippy G.O.A.T. (Saison; Lūki Brewery, CO).

Apricot and citrus mix well in this wheaty, earthy saison, brings a bit of summer sunshine to the glass. Lively carbonated with a touch of funk and hop bitterness on the finish. Citrus peel becomes pronounced as the glass empties.

abv: 7.5% Price: NA/ draft

## 89 Ecliptic Parsec (India pale ale; Ecliptic Brewing, OR).

By adding fresh grapefruit to a hazy IPA, the brewery has taken old-school flavors, once derived in hops, and put them in a new-school package. Hazy with a touch of dankness plus small aromas of tropical fruit, this is mostly citrus driven, almost radler-esque, but with more body and personality.

abv: 6.5% Price: \$13/12oz 6 pack

## 89 Neshaminy Creek Rita's Mango (Fruit Beer; Neshaminy Creek, PA).

A collaboration with the Italian ice maker Rita's, this mango-flavored blonde ale is big on syrupy fruits. It tastes much like a melted version of the ice would, but for a bit of malt sweetness, a good amount of carbonation and faint hops on the finish. A blending of two industries.

abv: 5% Price: \$15/12oz 6 pack

## 88 Fort Point Animal Remix (India pale ale; Fort Point Brewing, CA).

This traditional IPA gets a sweet and slightly funky boost from the added guava. The citrus in the hops pops a little brighter. Bitterness at the finish nicely sets up the next sip.

abv: 6.5% Price: \$17/16oz 4 pack

## 88 Meadowlark Peach Wheat (Fruit Beer; Meadowlark Brewing, MT).

Refreshing and satisfying on a hot day. Muted flavors in the background give an impression of white stone fruit rather than a big bite of peach. It finishes with a happy snap of sweetness.

abv: 4.2% Price: NA/16oz 4 pack

## 88 Nebraska Prickleberry (Fruit Beer; Nebraska Brewing, NE).

A vibrant, tingly combination of prickly pear and berries make this a lazy weekend afternoon sipper, preferably in the shade with a warm breeze passing through. Summer relaxation in a glass.

abv: 4.2% Price: \$8/draft

## 87 Bruz Oak Marionette with Peaches (Fruit Beer; Bruz Beer, Colorado).

Bracingly tart and acidically emphatic, this wine stone fruit accented wild ale will appeal to assertive-seeking palates. Pair with goat cheese and preserves.

abv: 6% Price: \$19/500ml

## 87 Dokkaebier Bamboo Lager (Fruit Beer; Dokkaebier, CA).

Woody and green with a touch of stinky sweetness, this specialty lager finishes with an earthy tea flavor.

abv: 4.9% Price: \$17/16oz 4 pack

## 87 Hi-Wire Strawberry Cheesecake Parfait (Fruit Beer; Hi-Wire Brewing, NC).

Teeming with aromas of strawberry cream and immediately landing with vanilla sweetness, this full-bodied ale mimics the popular dessert with the addition of carbonation. Perfect for those with a sweet tooth.

abv: 8% Price: \$18/16oz 4 pack

## 87 Hi-Wire Grandma's Cherry Pie Parfait (Fruit Beer; Hi-Wire Brewing, NC).

With copious amounts of milk sugar, this graham-cracker-flavored, forward beer is joined by syrupy cherry pie filling. A dessert in a can that could do well paired with s'mores.

abv: 6.5% Price: \$18/16oz 4 pack

## 87 Pontoon Snozberries (Fruit Beer; Pontoon Brewing, GA).

Thick and full of sediment, this collaboration with 450 North Brewing is a celebration of sweetness, excess and silliness. The base beer is lost under sugar and pureed fruits. A smoothie with a kick.

abv: 5% Price: \$20/16oz 4 pack

## 87 Nebraska Squeeze the Day (Radler; Nebraska Brewing, NE).

A collaboration with the Nebraska Marathon, this lemon-forward radler is more sweet than tart and hits the refresh and restore notes that come with post-race libations. Can be served over ice.

abv: 4% Price: \$11/12oz 6 pack

## 87 Pure Perezoso (Fruit Beer; Pure Project, CA).

More smoothie than beer, this collaboration with Tripping Animals Brewery is viscous and pours a royal purple. A rosy, light purple head is persistent and laces the glass. Copious amounts of sweet blueberry are unmistakable and get a taste of the tropics with an added punch of mango.

abv: 6% Price: \$25/16oz 4 pack

## 86 Bruz Kriek (Kriek; Bruz Beers, CO).

Reddish-brown in color, with a low head and aromas of aged cherries, this kriek delivers muted flavors of

the stone fruit and tartness from the first sip to the finish. A fine companion to smoked duck.

abv: n/a Price: \$19/32oz draft

## 86 Urban Artifact Pickle (Fruit Beer; Urban Artifact, WI).

Pickles can be polarizing as an ingredient, but the brine and flavor are natural allies to tart beers. Here the brine is musty and earthy, with a little salinity and aromas of dried cucumber skin.

abv: 4.3% Price: \$20/12oz 12 pack

## 86 Urban Artifact Astronaut Food Peach (Fruit Beer; Urban Artifact, WI).

Brewed with freeze-dried fruit, this pours like pure nectar mixed with gelatin. Thick and mouth coating, it has a fluffy, nitro-pour head and fruit remnants in suspended animation in the body of the beer. The carbonation is low and the fruit won't quit. Blast off.

abv: 15% Price: \$33/8oz

## SELTZERS

## 88 High Noon Tequila Seltzer Grapefruit (Hard Seltzer; High Noon, CA).

Big, pithy and punchy citrus aromas lead the sip. As the grapefruit flavor settles in, tastes of agave can rise a bit onto the palate. Refreshing and bracing. 100 calories.

abv: 4.5% Price: \$24/12oz variety pack

## 87 High Noon Tequila Seltzer Lime (Hard Seltzer; High Noon, CA).

A watered-down version of a well tequila mixed with club soda, splash of lime from a plastic bottle. It's as advertised and will hit the spot early in the day poolside, if plans require concentration later on. 100 calories.

abv: 4.5% Price: \$24/12oz variety pack

## 87 High Noon Tequila Seltzer Passionfruit (Hard Seltzer; High Noon, CA).

This offers a slightly pleasing funky aroma, like the deep flesh of an over-ripe passionfruit. It is clear and pours yellowish pink. Whiffs of agave appear near the finish. 100 calories.

abv: 4.5% Price: \$24/12oz variety pack

## 87 Nectar Asian Pear (Hard Seltzer; Divinely Nectar, CA).

This offers pleasant aromas of pear skin and blossom, with a soft sweetness on the palate. Springtime in a carbonated form. 90 calories.

abv: 4.7% Price: \$19/12oz variety pack

## 86 High Noon Tequila Seltzer Strawberry (Hard Seltzer; High Noon, CA).

This is big on the aroma and flavor of strawberry candy—the kind grandparents keep at home in the wrapper that looks like the fruit. It comes on fast and stays well past the finish. Liquid nostalgia. 100 calories.

abv: 4.5% Price: \$24/12oz variety pack

## 86 Nectar Asian Yuzu (Hard Seltzer; Divinely Nectar, CA).

Slightly cloudy, this is lemony

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forward, leaning into fresh peel. With a fine mix of tart and sweet, it finishes clean. 90 calories.

**abv:** 4.7%

**Price:** \$19/12oz variety pack

**85 Sunny D Vodka Seltzer (Hard Seltzer; American Beverage Corporation, MN).** Designed to tug on the nostalgia strings for latchkey kids from the 80s and 90s, this alcoholic and carbonated version of the after-school drink is big on carbonation and sticky sugars. The citrus is present but never quite lands on this milky-water-colored seltzer. 95 Calories.

**abv:** 4.5%

**Price:** \$11/12oz 4 pack

**84 Nectar Lychee (Hard Seltzer; Divinely Nectar, CA).** Aromas suggest sugared summer berries and a touch of tropical funk. Overall sweet, it has an additional sugar kick at the finish. 90 calories.

**abv:** 4.7%

**Price:** \$19/12oz variety pack

**83 Nectar Mandarin (Hard Seltzer; Divinely Nectar, CA).** Blunt aromas of dried orange peel and a touch of simple syrup follow through to the taste and finish. 90 calories.

**abv:** 4.7%

**Price:** \$19/12oz variety pack