

A champagne bottle is shown at the top, pouring a golden liquid into a tower of champagne glasses. The glasses are arranged in a pyramid shape, with the liquid bubbling and overflowing from the top. The background is a solid, vibrant pink color.

WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

BEST OF YEAR 2023

THIS MONTH

- 37 CALIFORNIA
- 67 OREGON
- 70 WASHINGTON
- 74 NEW YORK
- 75 CANADA
- 75 MEXICO
- 75 URUGUAY
- 75 ARGENTINA
- 79 CHILE
- 82 FRANCE
- 105 ITALY
- 127 SPAIN
- 137 PORTUGAL
- 145 GERMANY
- 148 ENGLAND
- 149 CROATIA
- 149 ARMENIA
- 149 HUNGARY
- 151 ISRAEL
- 151 AUSTRALIA
- 155 NEW ZELAND
- 158 SPIRITS
- 164 BEER

Celebratory
Champagne
tower.

GETTY

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

AN EYE-OPENING YEAR

What to buy now from Napa, Sonoma and beyond.

Jim Gordon is senior editor, tasting, and lives in Napa Valley.

This Buying Guide wraps up 12 months of blind tasting for our team of 18 reviewers, and it is a big one. As one of the 18, I had an eye-opening year reviewing Napa and Sonoma wines, including 532 in preparation for this issue alone.

My learnings were many while conducting blind tastings two to three times per week, writing the reviews, meeting with winemakers, walking vineyards and writing articles. The reviews in these pages reflect my continuing education in wine after several decades of fascinating “study” and my best efforts to keep you apprised of what to buy.

So what should you buy now? My usuals—Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, Sonoma County Pinot Noir and Chardonnay—but also some unusuals.

The 2020 vintage was a smoky one in this part of California, but don’t be overly cautious about buying 2020 Cabs and Bordeaux-style blends. Wineries did a good job of culling out the smoke-affected lots. Many excellent, even stunning wines were released, like the Stag’s Leap Cask 23 reviewed here.

For Pinot Noir, it’s difficult to go wrong with any of the 2021 offerings from the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast. Look for standouts from Patz & Hall, Lynmar Estate, Merry Edwards and Carneros-based Bou-



Jim Gordon

We are all fortunate in this time and place to enjoy unprecedented access to beautiful wines from around the world, making it impossible to answer a question that I get often: What’s your favorite wine?

unprecedented access to beautiful wines from around the world, making it impossible to answer a question that I get often: What’s your favorite wine? American consumers can choose from the most extensive array of wines available anywhere in the world, and thousands of them are worth discovering. This Buying Guide is a great place to continue your exploration.

—Jim Gordon

chaine to mention just a few.

Many of these wineries have begun bottling more vineyard-designated Pinot Noirs and Chardonnays, partly to have more distinct items to send their wine club members but also to showcase the seemingly infinite, individual terroirs for these Burgundian grape varieties in Sonoma County and Carneros.

But as much as I can enthuse about Napa and Sonoma, the whole wide world of wine is reflected in my colleagues’ reviews included here. From Italy, an incredible lineup of Barolo, Barbaresco and Brunello di Montalcino reviews will send you shopping. Read the sparkling wine reviews of Champagne, various French cremants, Spanish cava and Italian Prosecco to stockpile for the holidays.

We are all fortunate in this time and place to enjoy unprecedented access to beautiful wines from around the world, making it impossible to answer a question that I get often: What’s your favorite wine? American consumers can choose from the most extensive array of wines available anywhere in the world, and thousands of them are worth discovering. This Buying Guide is a great place to continue your exploration.

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by Wine Enthusiast magazine’s editors and other qualified tasters.

STAFF EDITORS

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

WRITERS AT LARGE

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

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

ABOUT THE SCORES

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

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

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

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

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

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

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

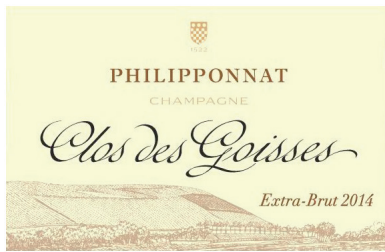
SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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

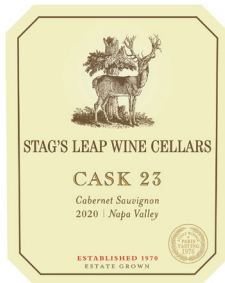
LABELS

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

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



99 Philipponnat 2014 Clos des Goisses Extra Brut (Champagne). This always-memorable single-vineyard Champagne is dominated by rich Pinot Noir. The vineyard, a steep slope facing the Marne river, has given an intense, concentrated wine that has aged so well. Touches of toast are equaled by the rich fruit and acidity. Drink this great wine now. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$350



99 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 Cask 23 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This seamless blend of oak spices, cherry-plum fruitiness and silky tannins makes for an irresistible wine. A Napa classic and collectible, it is big and mouthfilling but so well polished that it's tempting to drink young. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$305



98 Gusbourne Estate 2014 51°N Traditional Method Sparkling Blend (England). A pale radiant gold, this wine delivers vibrant aromas of honeyed lemon, grilled pineapple, guava, nougat and ground ginger, with a toasty, mushroomy underbelly. There's quiet opulence and power here, with beads of fine bubbles and bright acidity. On the long creamy mousse ride a myriad flavors right through to the exceptionally long finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$370



97 Argiano 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). Like a good Valentine's Day party, everything is shades of red on the vibrant, sanguine nose, from strawberries and cranberries to savory notes of pennies, brick and crisp leather. Citrus joins the cranberries on a bright, acidic palate, but a meaty, bitter finish creates balance. Dynamic fruit stands up to authoritative, unapologetic tannins. E. & J. Gallo. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90



97 Argiano 2021 (Rosso di Montalcino). A fresh, salty, slightly chalky nose, like the beach in autumn, starts with wild herbs, shells and dirt, before evolving into warm, astringent aromas of dried cherries, cranberries and dark chocolate. On the rich palate, a bolder cherry streak highlights more astringent red fruit, but a deep earthiness and lingering mineral saltiness preserve a marvelous freshness. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43



97 Ceretto 2019 Prapo' (Barolo). With aromas of dark cherry, preserved raspberries, clove and dried roses, this wine wafts from the glass with grace and class. It offers a firm and well-structured palate, displaying solid tannins and energetic acidity that lifts the notes of mixed wild berries, tobacco and tea, finishing with a chalky minerality. Trincherro Family Estates. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



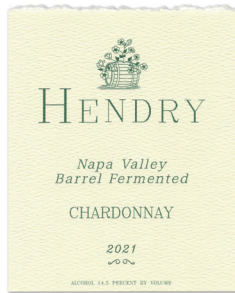
96 Eleven Eleven 2020 Laki's Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Deep and well-concentrated, this richly oaked and powerfully black-fruited wine compares to many at twice the price. It needs time to show its best side. Firm tannins blanket blueberries, black currants and blackberries, while cocoa, espresso and graphite accents give it a dark complexity. Best from 2026–2036. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$140



96 André Brunel 2020 Les Cailloux (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Crisp red apples, rhubarb, red cherries, picked rosemary stems, black olives and warm stones invigorate the senses. The palate is round and generous with concentrated cherry notes, supported by clove and black peppercorn on the finish. Cellar well through 2040+. Quintessential. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



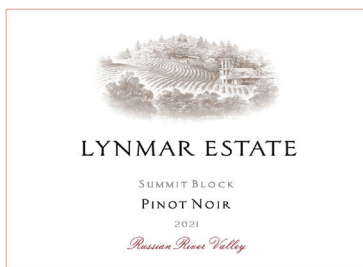
96 Aperture 2020 Del Rio Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This huge and deeply flavored wine was aged in all-new French barrels. It stacks blueberries, blackberries and espresso flavors atop a massive frame of firm tannins that will carry it far into the future. The rewards should be great for those who are patient. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$150



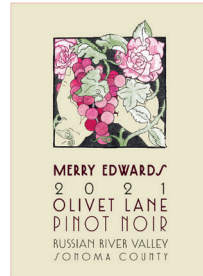
96 Hendry 2021 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Creamy but complex, this elegant wine made from mature vines glides across the palate, sharing subtle oak smoke, toasted almond, butter and Bosc pear flavors in fascinating layers. Silky in texture, nicely dry and long on the finish, the wine is something for a special occasion with a great meal. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38



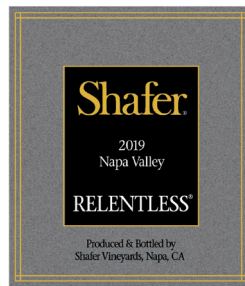
96 La Lecciaia 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is a retired sailor's old leather trunk, smelling of the tobacco, vanilla, dried fruit and dark chocolate once contained within, with a hint of saline. Like the trunk's owner, the palate is mature but not boring, with continuing notes of vanilla and fruit, but umami undertones, ominous tannins and searing acid provide contrast. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



96 Lynmar Estate 2021 Summit Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). So posh and velvety, this alluring wine made from Calera-clone vines offers great concentration without weight. It melds black cherries, spearmint, cinnamon and a shaving of dark chocolate on the palate, wrapped in soft, melted tannins. It's a remarkable, mouthfilling and gentle wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$89



96 Merry Edwards 2021 Olivet Lane Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Almost irresistible for its lavish spices and rich fruits, this deep and expansive wine is memorably flavorful and complex. Cinnamon, cedar, cloves and balsam complement vibrant red cherries, rich black cherries and mulled plums as a full body and moderate tannins give it significant heft in the texture. Best from 2027–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75



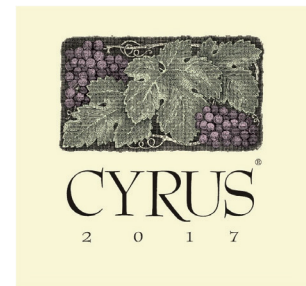
96 Shafer 2019 Relentless Syrah-Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). This powerful, rough-hewn wine that contains 11% Petite Sirah holds extremely deep black and blue fruits in a framework of grippy tannins. A tight, reserved expression on the midpalate signals more aging is needed for best enjoyment. The wine's ripe, compelling, late-harvest fruits match the massive structure. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$90



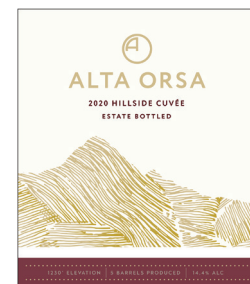
96 The Setting 2019 Glass Slipper Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Delicious and drenched in black fruits, this velvety-textured wine wraps fine-grained tannins around blackberries, blueberries and subtle, complex oak spices for a harmonious, memorable expression. While broad and ripe, it's also nuanced and complex. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$185



96 Tua Rita 2019 Gusto Di Notri (Toscana). Black cherry, blackberries and Mission figs appear on the nose before deep, sanguine and metallic aromas take over, eventually acting like bedrock for the palate, where dark fruit and warm earth tones luxuriate against tannins that are impossibly, preternaturally sleek. The fine-tuning guarantees yet more elegance with age; drink 2029–2039. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100



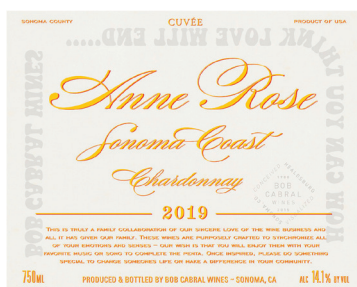
95 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2017 Cyrus Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Here is a big, bold wine that's comfortable in its own skin. It draws from a deep well of dark berries, well-integrated oak spices and accents of tobacco and singed herbs for great breadth and complexity. While full bodied and rather tannic, those tannins are silky and the wine feels relaxed as you sip. Best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



95 Alta Orsa 2020 Hillside Cuvée Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). On the nose, crushed roses and violets, black cherry, plum, currant, unsweetened cacao dust, toasted wood, tar and a sanguine-like umami. The palate keeps this promise, knitting together those flavors with well-integrated firm tannins, generous acidity and balanced alcohol. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$34



95 Banfi 2018 Poggio Alle Mura (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is primarily herbaceous and minty, but fleeting streaks of astringent fruit and iron-rich soil add depth. The cherries and strawberries turn juicy and swell on the palate, but a welcome kick of heat and frenzied tannins and acid maintain order. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$110



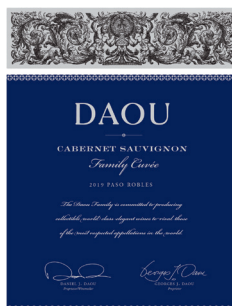
95 Bob Cabral Wines 2019 Anne Rose Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This elegant, racy wine offers breezy acidity, fresh and lively fruit flavors and just a touch of butter and vanilla to round off its edges. Crisp green apples, kiwis and lemons give it an appetizing lift that will pair with a myriad of dishes. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$100



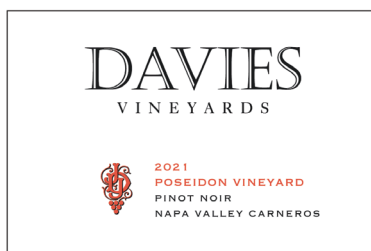
95 Ceretto 2019 Bracco Rocche (Barolo). On the nose, this wine exudes notes of black cherry, tea and cedar. The palate is very elegant, showcasing fine tannins and a very pretty and enticing character. The finish reveals earthy and mineral elements, contributing to its classy profile. A wine for the ages. Drink 2026–2046. Trincherio Family Estates. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA



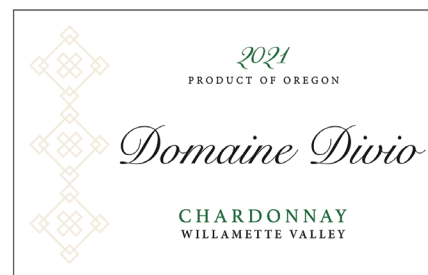
95 Ceretto 2019 Brunate (Barolo). Beautiful aromas of wild cherry, allspice, fresh leather and flowers gracefully emerge from the glass. The wine delights with mouthwatering acidity and crushed red fruits, like raspberry and strawberry, accompanied by balsamic notes. It has a juicy and round profile, well-integrated and poised for aging. Drink 2025–2045. Trincherio Family Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA



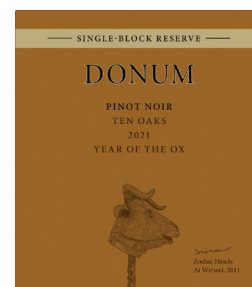
95 Daou 2019 Family Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Incredibly dark in the glass, this bottling shows lightly caramelized berries, espresso grinds and toasted nuts on the unctuous nose. The rich and comforting palate is silky in texture, as polished tannins offer brown sugar, walnut extract and coffee-liqueur flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$130



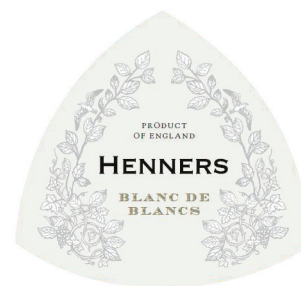
95 Davies 2021 Poseidon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Not obviously oaky, this savory, complex wine captures interest with mellow, mulled-cherry flavors and subtle earthy, leafy, woody accents that merit contemplation. Soft tannins and a gentle texture lend an ethereal feel to this distinctive wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80



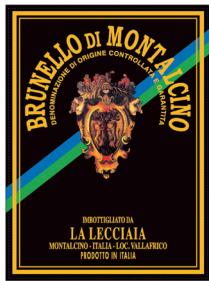
95 Domaine Divio 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Sweet-pea flowers and the scent of fresh laundry hanging on the line make a great first impression. Then the mint, toasted filberts and warm lemon-pudding-cake aromas arrive. Wow. Lemon, sweet butter and pear flavors are lit up by brilliant acidity. Enjoy as often as possible until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60



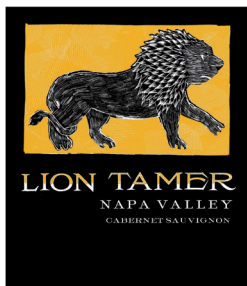
95 Donum 2021 Ten Oaks Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A lively texture and absolutely captivating fruit flavors make this medium-bodied wine hard to resist. Red and black cherries, with hints of cocoa and sour cherries, are woven into moderate tannins for an appetizing texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$125



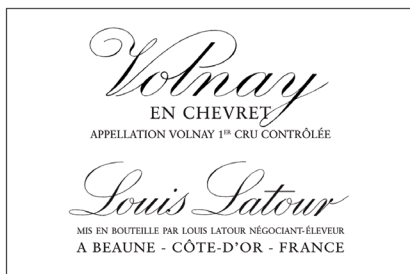
95 Henners 2018 Blanc De Blancs Chardonnay (England). Beautiful, oh-so-English aromas of raw honey, pear, lemon rind, ground ginger, nougat and fresh cream form the nose of this stellar sparkling from a coastal vineyard in East Sussex. Mouthwatering citrusy acidity first hits the tongue, followed by a chalky texture, a tickle of toast and a long lemony finish amid a fine bead of bubbles. Boutinot USA, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65



95 La Lecciaia 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is a first date in the '60s, drinking cherry cola and vanilla smoothies and trying not to spill on new leather car seats. The indulgent palate deepens into a more mature blend of orange and dark chocolate, with strident tannins and bustling acid creating a hot, peppery undertone. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



95 Lions Head Collection 2021 Lion Tamer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Polished and perfumed, this elegant wine drinks easily now but has the balance and quiet concentration to help it improve for several years. Lush black cherries, black currants and blueberries fill the palate, buoyed on moderate tannins and spiced with toast, cinnamon and cedar notes from oak barrels. Blended with 8% Malbec. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65



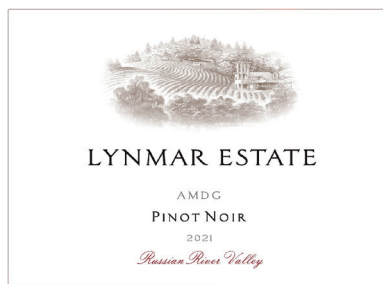
95 Louis Latour 2020 En Chevret Premier Cru (Volnay). Powerful and concentrated aromas of crushed rose petals and strawberry shrub dusted with white pepper sit atop a layer of wild mint, cardamom and musk. Dark black cherry, black licorice and oak spice meld seamlessly with its youthful tannins. Cellar well through 2035+. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$149



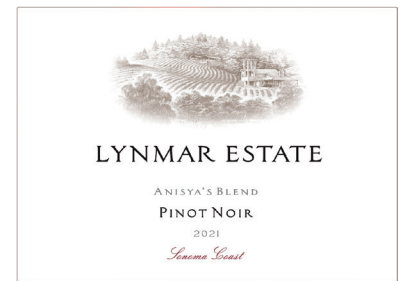
95 Louis M. Martini 2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Malbec (Sonoma Valley). Super dark to the eye, this massively concentrated wine brings black cherries and dark chocolate to the nose and a velvety, mouthcoating texture to the palate. Subtle accents of new leather, tobacco and licorice run through the black fruits, coddled by comforting, soft tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75



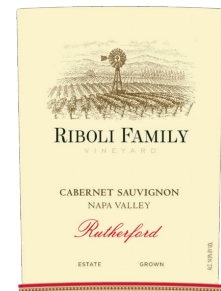
95 Luis Duarte 2020 Rubrica (Alentejano). This is a major wine from the first Duarte generation dedicated solely to its vineyards. The vines are located near surviving Xerez Cromlech monoliths. Serious tannins and rich black fruits layered with a firm, still young structure are hallmarks of the wine. Its future is assured, smoothing out with the wood aging to give a wine that is impressive and ripe. Drink from 2026. Specialty Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



95 Lynmar Estate 2021 AMDG Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This mouthfilling masterpiece of a wine made from Dijon clones and the Pommard clone is relaxed in tempting, ripe black fruits, dark chocolate and soft tannins, for an alluring expression. It shows all the richness, breadth and warmth of the Russian River region. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$81



95 Lynmar Estate 2021 Anisya's Blend Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Beautifully composed and complete, this well-balanced wine matches powerful red and black fruits to firm tannins while backed by good acidity and a full body. While enjoyable now, it has the potential to improve with age. Best from 2026–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$89



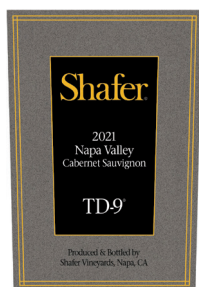
95 Riboli 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Polished yet potent, this extremely deep and concentrated wine feels smooth around the perimeter yet snugly grips its powerful black-fruit flavors in fine-grained tannins. Nuances of mint, graphite and black cherries emerge with more sips for a captivating complexity. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$90



95 Sangiacomo 2021 ViMaria Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Cherries of all types crowd into this vibrant, joyous wine, giving it a vital fruity core braced by energizing acidity and light tannins. Well-balanced to say the least, the wine leads with red, black and sour cherries before the mouthwatering texture and subtle mineral and oak spices seep into the palate. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



95 Schweiger 2017 Dedication Estate Bottled Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Spring Mountain District). Bright black cherries mingle with dark chocolate, toasted oak and vanilla in this well-concentrated, full-bodied and firmly tannic wine that was aged 32 months in 50% new French barrels. The delicious, juicy fruit flavors meld well with the wine's tannins. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125



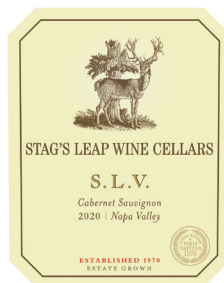
95 Shafer 2021 TD-9 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This TD-9 Cabernet Sauvignon, not to be confused with other TD-9 red wines, shows an amazing clarity of dark fruit. Its deep black cherries, blackberries and touches of black olive embody classic Cabernet. Beautifully integrated tannins lend a posh texture that's still bracing enough to help the wine age and improve. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$75



95 Sierra Cantabria 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine offers aromas of dark berries, milk chocolate and fennel. Cassis, blackberry, dark-chocolate, clove and lavender flavors are cloaked in a sheath of plush tannins that evaporate into an enduring, spice-scented finish. Drink through 2035. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49



95 St. Supéry 2019 Dollarhide Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Relaxed in texture and impressively rich in fruit flavors, this wine opens with a mélange of mint, crushed cherries and raspberries. It then floods the palate with blackberries and blueberries interlaced with cedar, mint and cocoa accents. The wine has improved greatly over past vintages. It is rich enough to enjoy soon but concentrated enough for considerable aging. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125



95 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 S.L.V. Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This silky, polished and gentle wine offers a handsome matrix of black fruits, subtle oak spices and hints of savory herbs that delight and soothe the palate. A medium to full body and very fine-grained tannins give it structure without biting. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$200



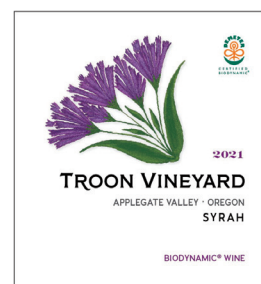
95 The Setting 2019 Rockpile Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile). Massive, sandy tannins encircle deep, dark fruit flavors and powerful oak spices in this full-bodied, ultraconcentrated wine. Enticing cocoa, espresso, blackberries and graphite are tightly held, needing several years to break out of the tannic grip. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$185



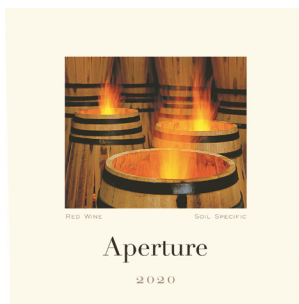
95 Three Sticks 2021 Alana Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Generous butter and oak-spice aromas give way to rich pear and golden apple flavors in this robust, full-bodied wine made in a limited quantity. It feels powerful on the palate, bursting with toast and poached pear flavors on a firm texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$80



95 Three Sticks 2021 Durell Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). With tangy red fruits in the nose and refreshing, vibrant cherries and raspberries on the palate, this silky-textured, superbalanced wine is a treat to drink. Light tannins and good acidity buoy the berry flavors in a way that begs for more sipping. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75



95 Troon 2021 Estate Syrah (Applegate Valley). Raspberries, perhaps intermixed with strawberries, join forces with white pepper and violets to create a set of aromas that suggest northern Rhône via the Applegate Valley. Brilliant acidity and firm tannins support flavors like tart blackberries, pine needles and cedar. The wine's texture is as smooth as silk. Enjoy 2023–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35



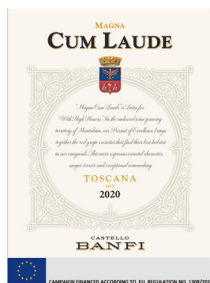
94 Aperture 2020 Soil Specific Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). Very deep in black fruits, this polished but full-bodied wine is steeped in black cherries, black currants and dark chocolate, all finely blended into a velvety, palate-soothing texture. It brings elegance with power. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



94 Arnoux & Fils 2020 Vieux Clocher Symphonie Des Galets (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Aromas of fresh black cherries, tangerine, white peach, Bosc pears, violets and warming spices offer freshness and an inviting energy. This focused wine is packed with power and structure that will benefit from cellar aging well through 2040+. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$47



94 Avancia 2022 Nobleza Old Vines Godello (Valdeorras). This medium-straw-colored wine has a nose of Granny Smith apple, dried apricot and curry leaf. Dried thyme and sage notes ply the palate alongside vivid acidity and tangerine, lemon and green-apple flavors. The finish is equal parts bright and savory. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Banfi 2020 Magna Cum Laude (Toscana). A primarily sanguine and umami nose of iron, graphite and stones also features a rich, decadent sweetness of plums and orange icing. These notes all roll onto the palate with grace, before the candied oranges become the main character at the very end. Acid blazes around unwavering tannins. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



94 Beronia 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark violet-red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, milk chocolate and butterscotch. Spicy clove and eucalyptus (with touches of dark chocolate) open on the palate and are joined by dark- and red-berry flavors. The whole package is wrapped up in polished tannins and well-moderated acidity that linger on the tongue and gums. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



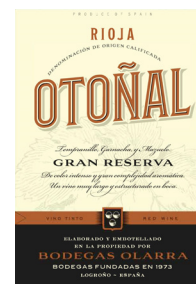
94 Bodega Garzón 2020 Balasto Red Blend (Maldonado). The vibrancy of this wine is one of its main characteristics. Aromas of cherry jam, fig and mulberry form an aromatic nose. The energized palate shares the same notes of black fruit, with a whisper of smoke and dried herbs. This wine is elegant and silky and has the structure needed to age beautifully. Drink now–2033. Opici Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125



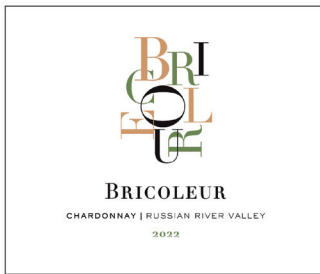
94 Bodegas Castillejo De Robledo 2019 Altos De Valdoso Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of cassis, dried Mediterranean herbs and anisette waft from the glass. Grippy tannins come on strong but are well-matched by bright red-berry flavors and vivid acidity. Notes of mocha, thyme, lavender and fennel seed linger on the palate alongside vibrant fruit. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35



94 Bodegas Escudero NV Dioro Baco Brut Rosado Pinot Noir (Cava). This deep-apricot-colored wine has a steady stream of effervescence that releases a bouquet of green apple, yellow cherry and sage leaf. It is round on the palate, with enticing mouthfeel and nectarine, gooseberry and cocoa butter flavors and a lingering hint of espresso bean. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50



94 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Otoñal Gran Reserva (Rioja). This dark-ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of black currant, Mission fig and violet. Polished tannins play backup to black-cherry, purple-plum, butterscotch, aniseed and lavender flavors. A hint of dried thyme carries into the enduring finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35



94 Bricoleur 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). A silky texture, lacy fruit, oak spice flavors and a growing richness on the palate all contribute to this creamy, elegant wine's charm. A touch of almost peppery wood char adds nice lift on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42



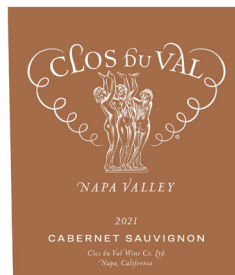
94 Caiarossa 2020 Aria di Caiarossa (Toscana). The nose offers a captivating blend of nuanced fruit aromas, from Bing cherries to rhubarb to pomegranate, and then a fresh herbaceousness, with mint and fennel. On the palate, tannins guide you toward dark fruits that eventually explode into a powerfully peppery finish. A reminder that Bolgheri isn't the only part of the Maremma worth plundering, especially at this price point. Misa Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



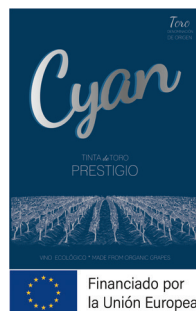
94 Caiarossa 2020 (Toscana). The nose balances dark fruit and berries with the fresh levity of white pepper, mint and eucalyptus. On the palate, notes of vanilla bean and dark chocolate underscore the juicy broadness of the fruit, but a hot, peppery finish presents a thought-provoking contrast and prompts a meditative finish. Misa Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



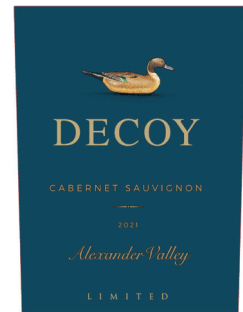
94 Castello di Monsanto 2020 Monsanto Riserva (Chianti Classico). Bing cherry and blood orange, potting soil, graphite and then wild herbs—especially sage—appear on the nose, before a whisper of vanilla and cedar. Juicy and fresh on the palate, with vanilla, chocolate and cherry, and then herbs emerging again on the back. A rare example of a wine with great sophistication that's also an undeniable crowd-pleaser. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33



94 Clos du Val 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Seductive oak spices and a plush mouthfeel come with abundant red and black fruits in this full-bodied, appropriately tannic wine that needs time to reach its full potential. Pine and rosemary accents merge nicely with the blackberries and blueberries. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



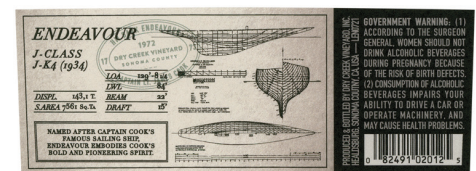
94 Cyan 2018 Prestigio Tinta de Toro (Toro). This inky-garnet-colored wine offers cherry, cassis, dark-chocolate and smoke aromas. There is a touch of earthiness on the palate that underlies black-cherry, blackberry, cocoa-powder, lavender and licorice flavors. Sturdy tannins slowly soften and linger for a while. Solera Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



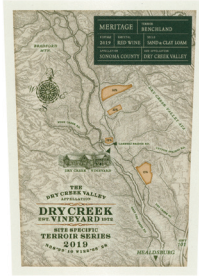
94 Decoy 2021 Limited Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). So concentrated and deep, this massively structured wine performs above its price range. Saturated with blackberries, black currants, espresso and dark chocolate flavors, it is firmly wrapped in a thick layer of tannin. Delicious now, it will become more complex and drinkable with time. Best from 2028–2040. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



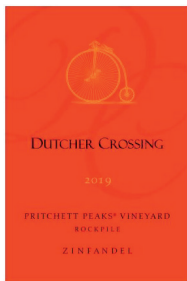
94 Domaine Divio 2021 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine represents the best two barrels from a strong vintage. The wine leads with a tremendous blackberry-tomato leaf combination that is flanked by shortbread and coffee notes. Brilliant acidity goes hand in hand with tart raspberry and citrus flavors. Serve with braised beef cheeks and enjoy until 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$75



94 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Endeavour Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Luscious in black fruits and oak spices, this posh-textured wine aged in 40% new French barrels boasts power with grace. Intensely rich and delicious black currants, blueberries and dark chocolate are framed in masses of fine-grained tannins to come off as soft and plush. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



94 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Terroir Series Benchland Meritage (Dry Creek Valley). Lively black currant and black cherry aromas lead to a mouthful of oak spices, blackberries, cedar and mint in this complex, layered and seductive wine. Velvety tannins are seamlessly integrated with lavish baking spices, chocolate and black currants. Best through 2033. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70



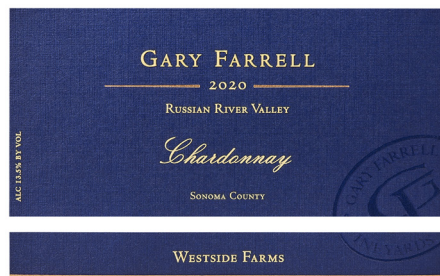
94 Dutcher Crossing 2019 Pritchett Peaks Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). This wine, supplemented with Petite Sirah, shows the serious side of Zin. Well-ripened black-fruit flavors are subtly accented by spicy oak and braced by moderate tannins. Blackberries, blueberries, cedar and cinnamon mingle on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$53



94 Escarpment 2021 Te Rehua Pinot Noir (Martinborough). This is a Pinot set for the long haul and it needs time in a decanter now to show its true personality. It's meaty with a sanguine tinge. There are raspberry, plum, dried violet and cola nuances amid heaps of savory spice. On the palate, fine, spicy tannins are taut and chiseled, but there's lovely freshness and fruit character here, too. Best to leave this at least another year or two. Drink from 2025–2033. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



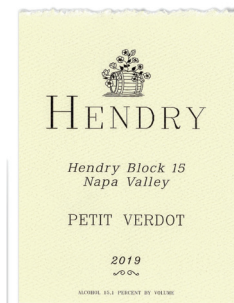
94 Ferrari-Carano 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Bold black fruits, firm tannins and ample oak spices give this full-bodied wine a big impact on the palate. Impressions of dried black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate weave in and out of impressive, fine-grained tannins that add muscle to the wine's structure. Best from 2028–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60



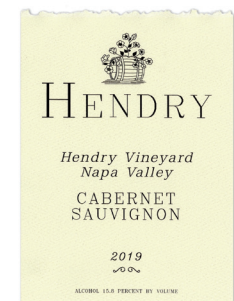
94 Gary Farrell 2020 Westside Farms Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). A restrained but attractive earthy and oaky wood-smoke character lends a spicy appeal to this medium-bodied but silky-textured wine, keeping it in the complex, non-fruity mode. Toast, forest floor and brothy notes continue to develop with each sip, making the wine fascinating and different. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55



94 Gran Elias Mora 2017 La Senda de los Lobos Single Vineyard (Toro). The scent of blackberry, cassis and mocha rises from the glass. Blackcurrant, Mission fig, cocoa-powder, anise and lavender flavors are enfolded in a skein of solid tannins that slowly give way. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90



94 Hendry 2019 Block 15 Petit Verdot (Napa Valley). This deep, concentrated, cherry- and chocolate-scented wine builds flavors and texture as you sip, filling the mouth with blackberries, black cherries and dark chocolate wrapped in substantial fine-grained tannins. The wine will pair awesomely with roasts and steaks. Decant and drink soon, but it will be best from 2026–2036. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$48



94 Hendry 2019 Hendry Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A good-old Napa Cab character comes through in this blackberry and black-olive scented wine that shows great balance despite elevated alcohol. A full body, medium tannins and lots of dark fruit with little noticeable oak keep it focused and delicious. —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$70



94 Iron Horse 2019 Classic Vintage Brut Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). An engaging complexity wafts from the glass as this elegant, well-integrated wine opens with toasted baguette, butter cookie and ginger aromas. These are followed by a fine bead of bubbles, while great acidity keeps it lively. Mineral, chiseled stone and vanilla notes build on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58



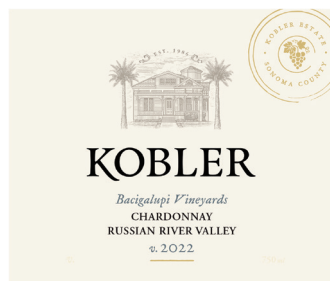
94 Iron Horse 2019 Wedding Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Fascinating but restrained flavors of apricot, yellow plum and raspberry are revealed on the palate, backed by subtle acidity and a nice, dry tension in the balance. This elegant wine is light amber/salmon in color, and offers complexity, depth and a mouthwatering texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58



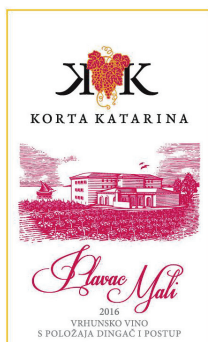
94 Jayson 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This classic, proven style of toasty but balanced Chardonnay will be perfect for a dinner party. It is dry, appetizing and just rich enough in texture to pair with grilled fish, roast chicken, even steak. Savoring on its own brings out a creamy, layered palate of poached pears and vanilla bean. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



94 Jayson 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Focused and concentrated, this eye-opening wine is bright in acidity and fresh in citrus, thyme and parsley flavors. A mineral quality emerges on the sip and leaves a touch of tannin for an extra-appetizing middle and finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45



94 Kobler 2022 Bacigalupi Vineyards Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Sleek and elegant, this perfectly balanced wine offers ripe but tangy flavors of Pippin apples and Bosc pears with light butter, vanilla and cream accents. Good acidity matches the rich fruitiness for a seamless mouth-feel and lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$85



94 Korta Katarina 2016 Plavac Mali (Dingac). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of elderberry, brambly berries and black tea. A blanket of robust tannins encases cassis, blackberry, mint leaf, dark chocolate and clove flavors. The chewy finish is marked with a note of violet. Drink now–2038. Katharine's Garden LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



94 La Spinona 2018 Bergera-Pezzole (Barolo). Fragrant and lifted, this Barolo opens with aromas of mixed wild berries, truffle, savory spice and wild roses. The palate is well-structured and frames the wild cherry aromas alongside dried thyme finishing with savory and earthy notes. Drink 2025–2045. Grantham Distributing. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



94 La Spinona 2019 Bricco Faset (Barbaresco). This wine presents a darker fruit profile on the nose with notes of cherry, blue-violet, savory spice and dried herbs that all elegantly intertwine. Fine tannins accompany notes of leather, chai spice and tobacco. The wine exhibits a balanced and refined character, finishing with elegant tannins and vibrant acidity. Drink now–2045. Grantham Distributing. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



94 La Spinona 2019 Secondine (Barbaresco). Macerated strawberries, dried cherries, savory spice and herbs create an enticing aroma in this refined and earthy Barbaresco. It showcases a firm and structured profile, with high-toned red fruits, chalky minerality and lively acidity. A wine worthy of your wine cellar. Drink 2026–2045. Grantham Distributing. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Lodali 2020 Rocche Dei 7 Fratelli (Barbaresco). This Barbaresco is a study in balance. It opens with aromas of dark cherries mixed with savory spices, wild herbs and fresh flowers. The palate is giving, with mixed wild red fruits combined with black tea, licorice root and a mineral finish. A classy wine that will only get better. Drink 2028–2040. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39



94 Logos 2017 Selección (Navarra). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Garnacha and Merlot has a nose of blackberry, cassis, violet and black pepper. It is smooth on entry, offering black-cherry, Mission fig, milk-chocolate, coffee-bean and lavender flavors. Polished tannins glide across the palate and linger for a while. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110



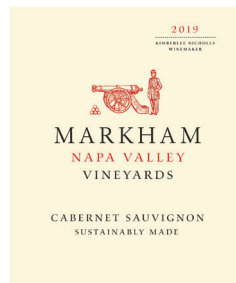
94 M. Chapoutier 2020 Les Meysonniers (Crozes-Hermitage). Aromas of black cherries, licorice, violets and black peppercorn are enveloped by dry earth. The palate is currently a bit wound but mirroring notes of blackberry, violets and clove peek through. There's plenty of energy and beauty to be revealed, given its structure. Give this wine a proper decant before enjoying or cellar well through 2035+ before revisiting. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$46



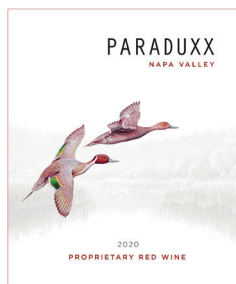
94 Malvirá 2010 Reserva Renesio (Roero). Aromas of smoked black plums, campfire, sandalwood and oak spice waft from the glass. The generous and forward palate offers black cherry, leather, sweet tobacco with burnt sage. Structured with firm tannins, the wine can go even longer in the cellar. Drink now–2035. Indigenous Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



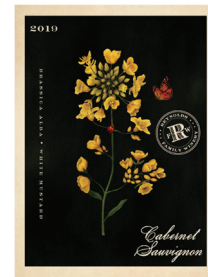
94 Malvirá 2010 Reserva Trinitá (Roero). Intense aromas of dark-berried fruit, medicinal herbs and violets open the nose of this Roero Riserva. Mouthfilling with cherry preserves, sweet tea, leather and oak spice giving way to supple tannins with a powerful finish. Drink now–2035. Indigenous Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



94 Markham 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This serious and refined wine wraps abundant black fruit and oak spice flavors in medium to full tannins that give it an elegant structure and appetizing bite. Find black currants, blueberries and chocolate cherries that are delicious without turning sweet. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48



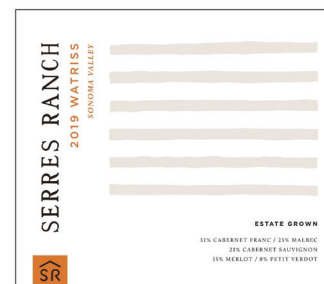
94 Paraduxx 2020 Proprietary Red Blend (Napa Valley). Extravagantly ripe in flavor and generously spiced from oak aging, this full-bodied wine is a well-behaved monster. Full tannins wrap around the blackberries, blueberries, cedar and cinnamon and are deep enough to keep echoing on the finish. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56



94 Reynolds Family Winery 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). So suave and layered, this posh and spicy wine opens with a tempting smoky, tobacco and cedar aroma before lush, dried blueberry and blackberry flavors saturate the palate. Substantial tannins add structure for a good grip in the texture. Opulent oak spices carry into the finish. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$68



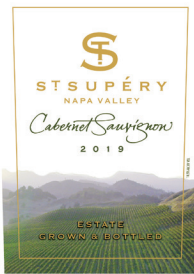
94 Sangiacomo 2021 Green Acres Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Seamless in texture and pure in fruit flavor, this elegant wine combines vibrant lemony acidity with fresh, focused Bosc pear and golden apple flavors that really sing. The wine is well-balanced, clean and fruity, but also subtly accented by baking spices. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$68



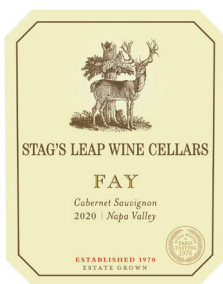
94 Serres Ranch 2019 Watriss Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). Rich, mouthfilling and packed with dried-fruit flavors, this full-bodied blend led by Cabernet Franc boasts blackberries, blueberries, milk chocolate and mint flavors on a broad but slightly gripping texture of fine-grained tannins. It has the concentration, structure and purity of fruit to improve with aging. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85



94 St. Supéry 2018 Élu Estate Bottled Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Inviting chocolate, cinnamon and cedar fill the aroma of this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine before a generous dose of black cherries, mint and dark chocolate coat the palate. The wine is so tempting now for its complexity and richness. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



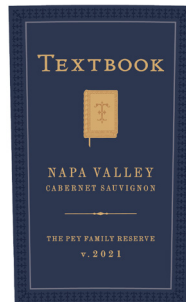
94 St. Supéry 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Luscious and ripe black fruits ride an effortless texture in this seamless and well-balanced wine. Minutely grained tannins weave through dark plums, spearmint, cocoa and black cherries. While enticing and drinkable, the wine should have a long, more complex life ahead. Best from 2027–2040. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58



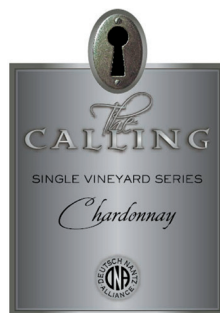
94 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 Fay Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This perfumed and perfectly balanced wine brings a little restraint to the table. Raspberry, blackberry and mint flavors are braced in a lively way by good fruit acidity and moderate tannins for a slight grip in the texture. The wine will be easily paired with savory, meaty dishes and worth cellaring. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$160



94 T. Berkley Wines 2021 Singing Hills Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Chalk Hill). A touch lean in texture and not overblown in flavor, this wine offers terrific refreshment and palate-cleansing qualities, and is the kind of pour that's not tiring. Floral, toasty aromas and tasty blackberry and black currant flavors show accents of grilled herbs and iron, with medium-plus tannins. The wine will be best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



94 Textbook 2021 The Pey Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Punchy tannins, interesting leather and tobacco complexity, and a core of black currants and black olives help this wine stand out from the pack. Just ripe without overdoing it, the black fruits are deep and complex but also fresh and savory. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$46



94 The Calling 2020 Single Vineyard Series Sullivan Vineyard Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Nicely contrasting lively and rich sensations, this well-balanced wine scatters lemon zest and pineapple notes among poached pears and toasted almonds. The generous fruit, vanilla bean and honey touches give it depth and complexity. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



94 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Fox Den Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Beautifully balanced, deliciously fruity and nicely spiced with oak, this concentrated wine has everything going for it. Moderate tannins shape the tempting fruit, cinnamon and mint flavors on the palate and indicate further aging is a good idea. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$62



94 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Terra de Promissio Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This charming, elegant wine opens with fresh raspberries and red cherries in the nose before nervy sour cherries, balsam and redwood-duff nuances fill the palate. The wine has complexity, savoriness, and a tangy, appetizing balance that keeps one begging for more sips. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$78



94 The Landing 2021 Chardonnay (North Island). An enticing and transparent nose of lightly roasted buttered cashews, preserved lemon and cantaloupe give this NZ Chardy, from the northern Bay of Islands, salty, windswept seaside vibes. There are precision, freshness, curves and textural appeal—a well-executed and harmonious bottling. Cooper Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35



94 The Setting 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This deeply concentrated and robust wine sports potent black fruits, enticing oak spices, a full body and medium to full tannins. The wine seems infused with blackberries, black cherries, espresso and wood-char flavors that are hearty and mouthfilling, ready to pair with rich proteins. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$145



94 The Setting 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Thick and concentrated, this impressively structured and deeply flavored wine is a bit monolithic at this young age, boasting dark chocolate, graphite and espresso flavors interlaced with firm, sandy and gripping tannins. It has the stuffing needed to age and improve dramatically with time. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$95



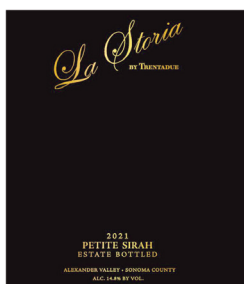
94 The Setting 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Subtle oak spices and mild herb accents are layered with crisp, tangy lemon, green apple and kiwi flavors in this lively, textural and almost tannic wine. Vivid acidity does most of the talking, lending a palate-cleansing, mouthwatering effect that's exciting. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$55



94 Three Sticks 2021 Alana Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Pretty baking spices fill the aroma of this full-bodied, warmly fruity wine. Next, black cherries and sour cherries light up the palate, backed by light tannins and good acidity. The wine is nicely balanced, energized and flavorful, ready to drink through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$85



94 Tirridis NV Barrel Fermented Blanc de Blanc Rendition #3 Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley). The Tirridis wines just keep getting better. This sparkling Chardonnay with a bit of Pinot Gris is clean and fresh, with aromas and flavors of white peach, lemon zest, caramel, chalkboard dust and saline. Frisky bubbles tickle everything. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.56% **Price:** \$38



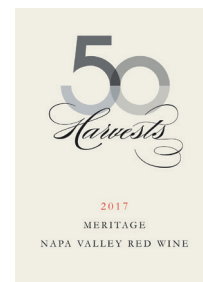
94 Trentadue 2021 La Storia Estate Bottled Petite Sirah (Alexander Valley). Dense, ripe and rich, this inky-dark, dramatic wine is saturated in blackberries and boysenberries wrapped in thick, soft tannins that coat the mouth. While full-bodied and tannic, it's still velvety in texture and easy to sip. Pair with barbecue, burgers or aged cheese. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38



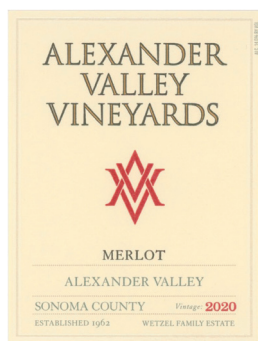
94 Vatan 2019 Vatan Tinta de Toro (Toro). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of cassis, black cherry, caramel and sage. Opulent tannins slowly build in volume alongside blackberry, purple-plum, chocolate-covered-espresso-bean and butterscotch flavors with a hint of mint tea on the enduring finish. Drink through 2039. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50



94 We Know Jack! 2021 Jack Florence Sr. Vineyard Single Block Zinfandel (Rockpile). Very ripe and concentrated, yet not heavy, this sleek wine boasts raspberries and blackberries on a full body laced with light tannins. The focused, pure fruit flavors are delicious to taste and will be easy to pair with pasta, meat and rich fishes like salmon. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.75% **Price:** \$78



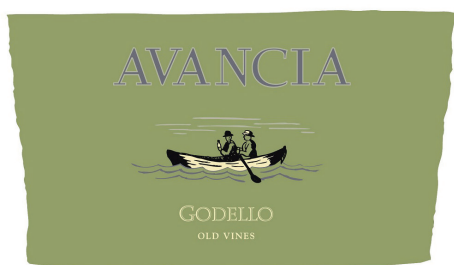
93 50 Harvests 2017 Meritage (Napa Valley). Chocolate-mint aromas greet the nose before a grippy texture and rich cocoa, sparmint and blueberries flood the palate. This wine is sleek yet muscular, showing ample richness and ripeness backed by firm but polished tannins. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70



93 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2020 Wetzel Family Estate Merlot (Sonoma County). Beautiful, broad and plush, this structured but charming wine overflows with red fruits and baking spices, with a vibrant core of black currants. Great concentration, moderate tannins and good acidity mean the wine tastes fresh and deep from the first sip to the last. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24



93 Aperture 2020 Soil Specific Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This handsome, concentrated and textural wine is deep in blackberries, blueberries and espresso flavors wrapped in firm, chewy tannins for a grippy texture that needs time to mellow. Decant if drinking soon. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75



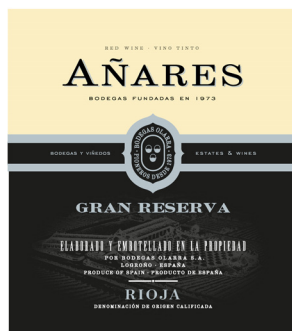
93 Avancia 2022 Old Vines Godello (Valdeorras). Light yellow in the glass, with flecks of gold, this wine proffers a bouquet of apricot, mint tea and orange zest. It is full in the mouth, with flavors of Valencia orange, lemon, Bartlett pear, sage leaf and vanilla. The finish offers a splash of pineapple and a touch of flint. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37



93 Banfi 2020 Belnero (Toscana). On the nose, aromas oscillate between hot and woody, as peppery grilled meat and tar manage to accommodate softer notes of moss, mushrooms and soil. A berry undertone surges on the palate, with hints of vanilla and chocolate providing a sweet balance to an enduring heat, firm tannins and stinging acid. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



93 Bedarra 2020 Estate Malbec (Alexander Valley). Showing as black to the rim, this rich wine is as deeply concentrated with flavors as it is with color. Drenched in dark chocolate and baked blueberries, the palate is lush, soft and deep, while the tannins are rather gentle, making it smooth on the sip. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50



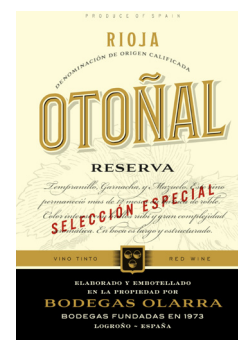
93 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Añares Gran Reserva (Rioja). Floral notes dominate a bouquet that also includes black cherry, blackberry and milk chocolate. Velvety tannins encase blackberry, Mission fig, butterscotch and anisette flavors that gently fade into a smooth finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



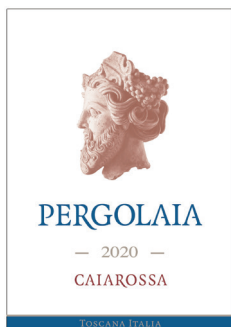
93 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Laztana Gran Reserva (Rioja). A bouquet of blackberry, raspberry and herbes de Provence wafts from the glass. Firm but well-integrated tannins play host to Mission fig, cassis, eucalyptus and dark-chocolate flavors. A soft but pleasant note of earthiness remains on the palate after the last sip. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60



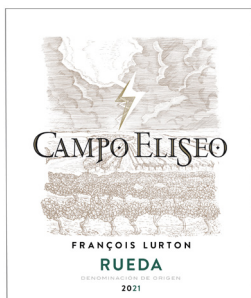
93 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Rivallana Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep-violet-colored wine offers aromas of cassis, blackberry and dried Mediterranean herbs. Tannins come on full force and dissolve to reveal black-currant, mocha, sage-leaf, lavender and fennel-pollen flavors. The long-lasting finish is marked with a splash of pomegranate. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



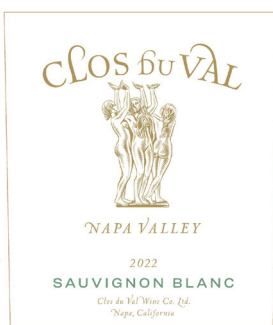
93 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Otoñal Selección Especial Reserva (Rioja). This wine has black-currant, juniper-berry and brined green-olive aromas. It is spicy at first sip, with clove and eucalyptus flavors joined by bold tannins and black-cherry, blackberry, dark-chocolate and dried thyme flavors. Cool herb notes dominate the lasting finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32



93 Caiarossa 2020 Pergolaia (Toscana). On the nose, aromas of rose petals soften a strong, astringent fruitiness, while savory notes of earth and ash lead onto a palate that starts meaty and spicy, before a gentle, tempering sweetness eventually emerges to provide a sense of comfort. Intentional and satisfying. Misa Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



93 Campo Eliseo 2021 (Rueda). This medium-yellow-colored wine has a nose of nectarine, Bartlett pear and sliced ginger. Pineapple, carambola, eucalyptus, vanilla and rose-petal flavors mingle with shimmering acidity and full viscosity. Pineapple and ginger light up the finish. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$59



93 Clos du Val 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Fresh, crisp and almost chewy, this lively wine combines appetizing acidity, subtle oak spices and bright apple, lemon and kiwi flavors. The wine offers great balance and food pairing possibilities for lunch, appetizers and first courses. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55



93 Cormorant Cellars 2021 Preston Vineyard Rhône-style White Blend (Dry Creek Valley).

With a harmonious interplay between fruity, savory and spicy references, this medium-bodied blend of Grenache Blanc and Marsanne offers a creamy but lively texture and good complexity. Subtle and crisp apples, light baking spices and a touch of butter are revealed with more sips, and linger on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$27



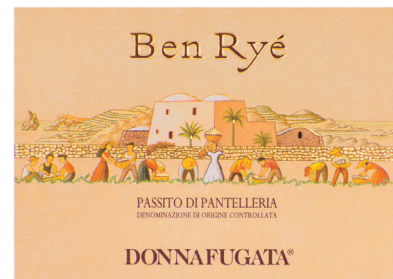
93 Cupere 2021 Mariola Ridge Vineyard Chance Romance Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

This wine has a brilliant yellow-gold color that leads to fresh, vibrant oak and fruit flavors in equal measure. Light toast and baking spices match the bright Fuji apple and pineapple flavors, all backed by snappy acidity. The wine is big but well-balanced, ready to sip on its own or with dinner. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65



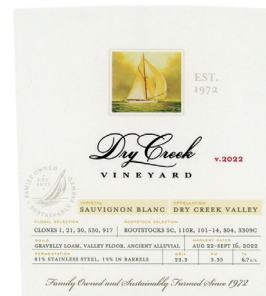
93 Domaine Divio 2021 Les Climats Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).

This balanced beauty represents a great value in the Willamette Valley Chardonnay renaissance. The wine's cilantro and juniper aromas are counterpointed by butter, lemon-zest and pear notes. A round-in-the-mouth texture is graced by elevated acidity and flavors of lemon gelato, basil, ginger and toasted filberts. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30



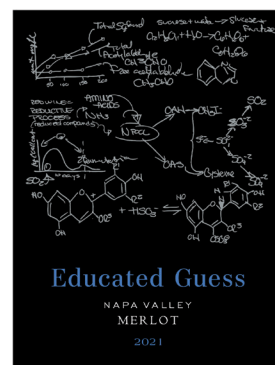
93 Donnafugata 2021 Ben Ryé (Passito di Pantelleria).

This wine is light copper in both color and aroma, as yellow peaches and dried apricots play with varied orange notes on the nose. On the palate, the stone fruit and citrus continue glowing, before a warm, honeyed, almost syrupy finish that recalls a beeswax candle. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



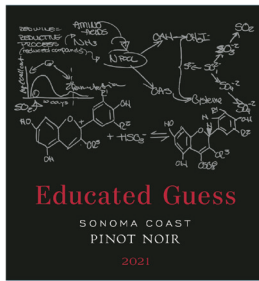
93 Dry Creek Vineyard 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).

All freshness and lift, this vibrant, herbaceous and yet elegant wine tops honeydew melons and Meyer lemons with flatleaf parsley on a dry, nicely tangy texture that whets the appetite. It gets some of its extra verve from Sauvignon Musqué and Sauvignon Gris grapes that make up 21% of the wine. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25



93 Educated Guess 2021 Merlot (Napa Valley).

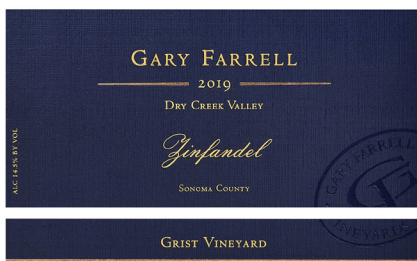
Luscious, deep and full, this wine packs plenty of red and black fruits in moderate tannins, lacing them with orange zest, graphite and espresso for complexity and interest. Supple enough to drink young. Best from 2026. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



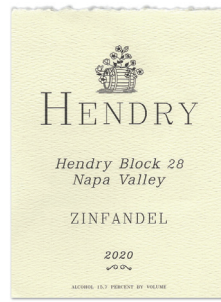
93 Educated Guess 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Nicely structured for a tangy, grippy texture, this appetizing and concentrated wine boasts ripe strawberries, red plums and black cherries on moderate tannins. Tangy acidity and the fresh-tasting fruitiness set it up for infinite, good food pairings. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



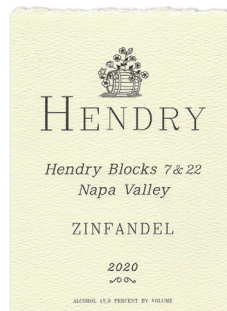
93 Finca la Celia 2018 Eugenio Bustos Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). From the deep soils of Eugenio Bustos in the Uco Valley comes this Cabernet Sauvignon that features a smooth texture and a balanced blend of fruit, alongside light notes of eucalyptus, thyme and bay leaf. Nice acidity energizes the palate and lifts oak spices that linger in the finish. Drink through 2028. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90



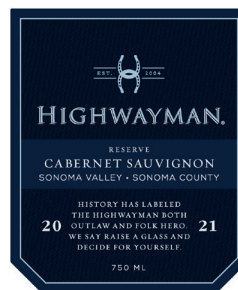
93 Gary Farrell 2019 Grist Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This super-attractive Zinfandel from a Pinot Noir producer has a bright, tangy quality that will pair especially well with Italian tomato-based dishes. Raspberries, dried cherries and a light earthy, brambly quality make it interesting to savor. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



93 Hendry 2020 Hendry Block 28 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). So structured and textural that it begs for a sirloin steak, this hearty, ripe-tasting and moderately tannic wine can be decanted and enjoyed now or matured for several more years. Aged in 65% new French barrels, it offers dark plums, mulled black cherries and accents of cedar, chocolate and mint. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$40



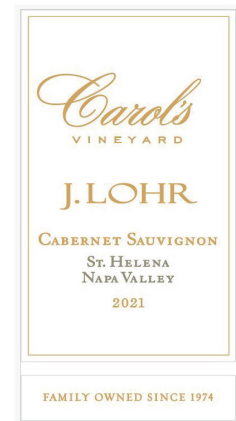
93 Hendry 2020 Hendry Blocks 7 & 22 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Plush in texture, saturated in dark plums and berry pie flavors, this broad, mouthfilling wine has a huge presence. Ripe, almost sweet fruits are wrapped in light tannins on a very full, high-alcohol body so each sip goes a long way. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$40



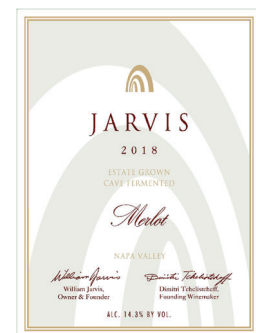
93 Highwayman 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Dark and delicious flavors fill out the velvety tannins of this full-bodied, fruit- and spice-saturated wine for a potent, palate-coating effect. Cocoa, espresso and clove aromas lead to lush black cherries, blackberry syrup and oak-char flavors. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55



93 Iron Horse 2019 Winter's Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Intricate earthy, nutty, smoky aromas lead to equally complex fruit, spice and mineral flavors in this elegant, nicely mature-tasting wine made from half Pinot Noir and half Chardonnay. A silky texture and full body carry the subtle and savory notes through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



93 J. Lohr 2021 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This luxurious wine maxes out the ripe black and blue fruits and chocolaty oak spices for a palate-coating, mouthfilling and sweet-seeming delight. Pair with an equally indulgent roast or grill, or perhaps with chocolate. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



93 Jarvis 2018 Estate Merlot (Napa Valley). Nicely balanced between ripe black fruits, structuring acidity and light tannins, this wine is a good, serious candidate for almost any bird or beast entrée. Dark plums, maraschino cherries and a hint of cedar give plenty to savor. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$190



93 Jayson 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This mouthfilling and gentle-textured blend based on 76% Merlot floods the palate with late-picked blueberries and cherries that are layered with vanilla and milk chocolate nuances for an almost sweet effect on the palate and finish. The wine is luscious enough to drink soon, and through 2032. —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

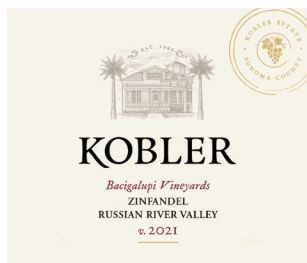
Price: \$75



93 Kenwood 2021 The Barn Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This dynamic, sleek and well-balanced wine offers woodsmoke and black cherry flavors on a compact frame of moderate tannins and good, nervy acidity. The wine has a lip-smacking quality that keeps you sipping, and will be very versatile in food pairings. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

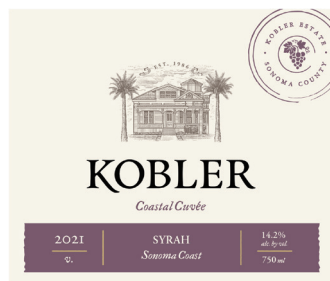
Price: \$65



93 Kobler 2021 Bacigalupi Vineyards Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Power, structure and complexity all come together in this spicy, full-flavored and relatively tannic wine. Wafting from the glass, black pepper, blackberries and hints of smoky oak meld on the palate with rich, saturated black fruits, grilled plums and singed sage. Enjoy now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 15.9%

Price: \$60



93 Kobler 2021 Coastal Cuvée Syrah (Sonoma Coast). A deep color, vivid black-fruit flavors and muscular tannins give this wine made from Syrah clone 877 a striking personality and very firm texture. The black cherry, black pepper and grilled plum notes are concentrated and mouthwatering. Best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$60



93 Kobler 2021 Cuvée of the Fog Syrah (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Violets, oak char, black cherries and sour cherries are the first impressions of this full-bodied and firmly tannic wine. The palate turns juicy, fluid and rich, partially melting the tight structure. While rambling and rowdy, the wine will shine with roast venison or a cassoulet. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.

abv: 14.1%

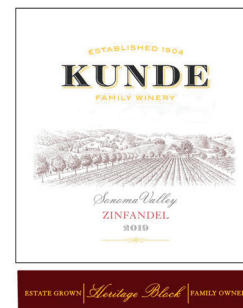
Price: \$60



93 Kunde 2019 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Rich in oak spices, this fully tannic wine grips black cherries, blueberries and bitter chocolate in a tight texture that needs time to resolve and let more generous flavors shine through. Decant an hour early if you must drink it soon. Best from 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.7%

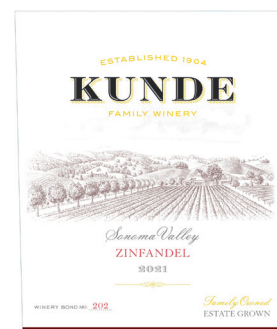
Price: \$100



93 Kunde 2019 Heritage Block Estate Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Dark, rich fruit flavors and handsome oak spices make a good combo in this full-bodied, ripe and tempting wine. Moderately tannic, it will make a good pairing with ribs or chops, and will be equally good after dinner with a chunk of Parmigiana. —J.G.

abv: 14.7%

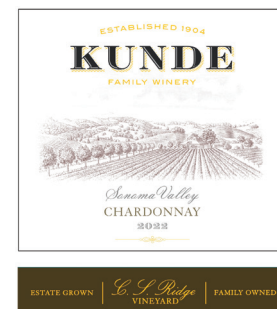
Price: \$40



93 Kunde 2021 Estate Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Absolutely delicious, fruity and mouthcoating, this full-bodied and gentle-textured wine is easy to drink and enjoy on its own or with cheesy, meaty proteins. Pure raspberries, blackberries and plum jam flavors flow on a broad texture backed by light tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$22



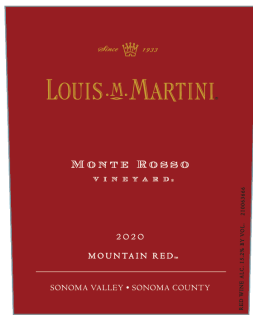
93 Kunde 2022 C.S. Ridge Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Heady, spicy and toasty aromas recall the glory days of power-forward Chardonnay. A full body, rich pear and pineapple-nectar flavors follow through in the same style. Lots of ripeness, new oak and butter are on display here, perfect for fans of this style. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38



93 Louis Latour 2020 Chateau de Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault-Blagny). Aromas of lemon zest, orange oils and acacia delight with precision. Pure and delicate notes of lemon, orange oil, geranium, white mushroom, brioche and crushed stone gently lingers on the palate along its long vanilla finish. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$149



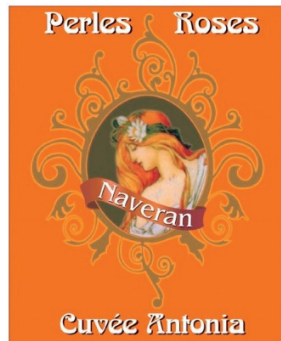
93 Louis M. Martini 2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Mountain Rhône-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). Great balance, fresh fruits and lively oak-spice accents come together in this deceptively full-bodied wine made from mostly Grenache and Syrah grapes. It is big enough to pair with steak and refreshing enough for salmon and quail. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$65



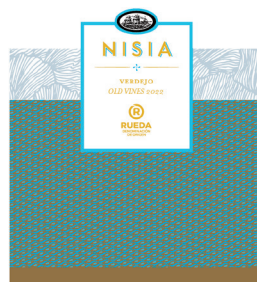
93 Malvirà 2011 Riserva Renesio (Roero). Woodsy aromas with candied cherry, and medicinal spice open the nose of this wine. Savory on the palate with loads of earth notes, the mouth-filling palate has a solid core of cherry. Tannins are still youthful with warm baking spices and earth notes on the finish. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$40



93 Mount Peak 2020 Rattlesnake Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Packed with delicious berries and going light on the oak spices, this focused, joyful wine overflows with buoyant boysenberry jam, raspberry tart and fresh blackberry flavors. Light tannins and a full body allow the effusive fruits to shine through. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$55



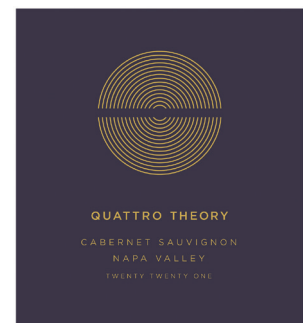
93 Naveran 2021 Perles Roses (Cava). This poached-salmon-colored sparkling wine offers aromas of nectarine, jasmine and vanilla. It has flavors of strawberry, caramelized pineapple, cocoa butter and orange blossom. A soft note of slivered almonds endures on the palate. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$47



93 Nisia 2022 Las Suertes Old Vines Verdejo (Rueda). Aromas of lemon-lime, peach and orange blossom pave the way for flavors of lemon tart, toasted pineapple, fennel pollen, vanilla bean and rose petal. Notes of anise and orange zest endure on the taste buds. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$33



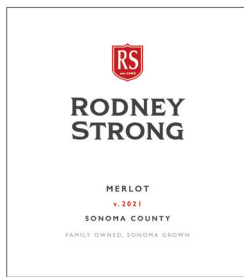
93 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). Wafting orange pith, tangerine and white raspberries, this light-salmon-hued wine pops nerry raspberries, cranberries and lime zest on the palate for a tangy, refreshing and dry expression that is mouthwatering. It is light, lean and elegant, best for educated palates. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27



93 Quattro Theory 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Potent, pure blackberries and black currants fill this full-bodied wine with luscious fruitiness from the first sniff through the palate impression and lingering finish. Dark chocolate, spearmint and light oak char blend nicely into the fruit flavors. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50



93 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinhas Velhas (Douro). A field blend of grapes from old vines, aged for nearly two years in wood, this is a dense, powerful wine. Still young, the wine has layers of black fruits and tannins, giving concentration and great potential. Drink from 2026. Aveleda Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70



93 Rodney Strong 2021 Merlot (Sonoma County). Drenched in black fruits and dark spices, this velvety, mouthfilling wine wows the palate with rich blackberries, black currants and cedar notes, wrapped in noticeable, shaping tannins. One of the more structured Merlots, it will pair with food by Cabernet standards. Best from 2025. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23



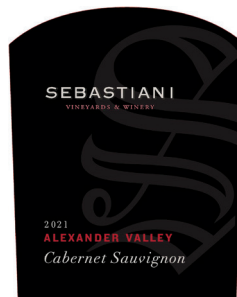
93 Rotari 2014 Flavio Riserva Brut (Trento). As the wine is poured, heady aromas of roasted nuts, baked peach, apple, honey and fresh bread enchant the senses. Full-bodied, it strikes a balance between power and finesse, showcasing rich orchard and stone fruit flavors. Notes of oak spice and walnut add complexity, while a crisp acidity and fine perlage complete the captivating experience. Drink now–2030. Prestige Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$104



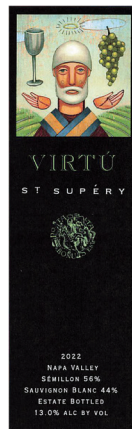
93 Rotari 2018 Metodo Classico Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Trento). Enticing aromas of baked apples, freshly baked croissants, ginger and white flowers pour from the glass of this mountain-grown sparkling wine. The pristine palate lifts as the crisp acidity pops on the palate, balancing the rich orchard fruit, lemon curd and creamy texture of the wine that finishes with a flinty minerality with a fine and elegant perlage. Prestige Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30



93 Schug 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Well-structured, this textural and delicious wine fills the mouth with grippy tannins, snappy raspberries, black tea and rhubarb. Although not too deep in color, it has a full body and lots of flavor impact. Plus, the wine is available in quantity at an affordable price. Pair with braised lamb shanks or mushroom risotto. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32



93 Sebastiani 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Brilliant red and black fruits waft from the glass before rose petals, raspberries, black cherries and spearmint light up the palate. Mouthwatering acidity and lightly gripping tannins add up to great balance in this generous, velvet-textured wine. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30



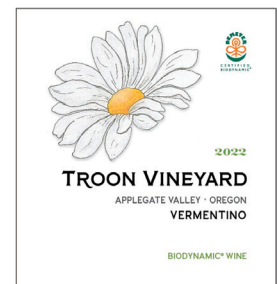
93 St. Supéry 2022 Virtú Estate Bottled Sémillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). A blend of Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc as is common in Bordeaux, this medium-bodied and mouthcoating wine is serious and substantive. Citrus, toast, pear and a touch of honey blend nicely on the palate, where a rich texture carries them through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



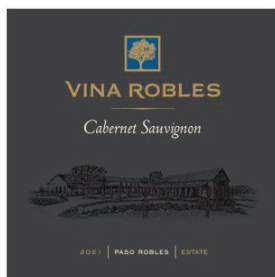
93 Tenuta Rocca 2019 Del Comune Di Serralunga D'Alba (Barolo). Initially reserved, this wine blossoms with air, revealing enticing aromas of sour cherry, wild herbs and rosebud, accompanied by subtle hints of truffle and earth. A solid representation of Comune di Serralunga, it showcases a macerated cherry core embraced by fine, firm tannins, savory spice and vibrant acidity. Drink now–2035. Prestige Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



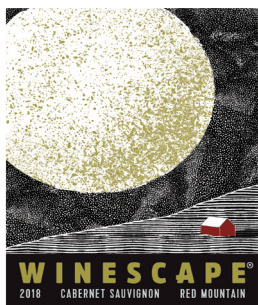
93 Terras Gauda 2022 O Rosal (Rías Baixas). A nose of mixed citrus fruits prepares the taste buds for nectarine, passion fruit, mango and lemon-sorbet flavors. A soft note of rose petal and honeysuckle lingers on the palate. Trinchero Family Estates. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28



93 Troon 2022 Vermentino (Applegate Valley). This exhilarating wine smells like a Sicilian lemon grove under a midafternoon sun. There's also aromas of a salty sea breeze and crushed granite dust. The lithe and lean palate suggests tangerines and a flavor similar to either green tea with lemon or a cup of yerba maté. Either way, the wine's acidity will snap you out of the doldrums. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30



93 Vina Robles 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This solidly satisfying style of Paso Robles Cab will please many palates. Aromas of cocoa, black tea, coffee bean and elderberry decorate the nose. The palate is tense in structure but forgiving enough to present easily enjoyable flavors of elderberry jam, warm oak and dark herb. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32



93 Winescape 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This smooth, balanced Cabernet Sauvignon also includes 8% Malbec and 4% Syrah. Blueberry-gelato, orange-peel and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas are just the beginning. Sweet cherry and blueberry flavors combine with lavender tea and more dark chocolate. The mouthfeel is slick and slippery, with silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$43



93 Winescape 2019 Marmot Incarnate Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Who can resist a ground squirrel deity? This wonderful blend of 52% Syrah, 27% Malbec and 21% Mourvèdre has a nearly perfect combination of sturdy tannins and brisk acidity. It feels smooth and lively on the palate, with aromas and flavors of blueberries, baked apples, lemon curd, sweet-pea flowers and caramel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36



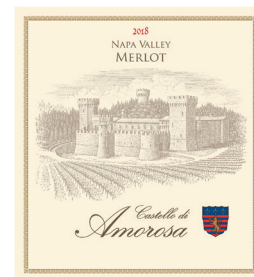
92 Aubaine 2021 Anahata Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This lively Chardonnay opens with lime zest and pineapple aromas that are soon joined by wisps of roasted almonds, freshly cut grass and a pear tart. Lemon-basil tea, toasted filberts, saline and wet slate flavors are complemented by a crisp mouthfeel. Enjoy now—2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$45



92 Bodegas Godeval 2022 Godello (Valdeorras). Pale yellow to the eye, this wine has honeydew melon, apricot and smoke aromas. Vivid peach and yellow-plum flavors are joined by vanilla-bean, bergamot-flower and river rock notes. The vibrant finish is marked with a splash of lemon-lime sorbet. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45



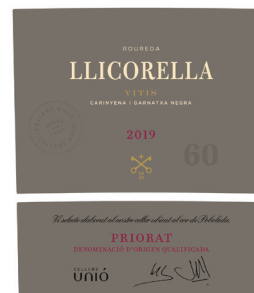
92 Bricoleur 2021 Kick Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Fountaingrove District). Bold flavors and a good, grippy texture result from moderate tannins, fresh acidity and plenty of focused, pure cherry and blackberry nuances in this full-bodied but well-behaved wine. Drinkable now, and better through at least 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85



92 Castello di Amorosa 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley). A silky first impression leads to luscious red and black cherries, blueberries, cinnamon and vanilla in this full-bodied wine. It offers great concentration and pleasure without heavy tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$46



92 Cellers Unió 2019 Roureda Llicorella Clàssic Garnatxa Negra Carinyena (Priorat). Aromas of black cherry, licorice and a hint of olive paste waft from the glass. This wine features blackberry, Mission fig, anisette, dark-chocolate and lavender flavors all wrapped up in a cloak of plush tannins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



92 Cellers Unió 2019 Roureda Llicorella Vitis Carinyena Garnatxa Negra (Priorat). This deeply hued wine has a nose of blackberry, butter-scotch, clove and sage. Sturdy tannins start out strong and gradually drift away, all the while supporting Mission fig, purple-plum, chocolate-covered-espresso-bean, slightly burnt caramel, fennel and dried thyme flavors evaporate into a cherry-pie finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



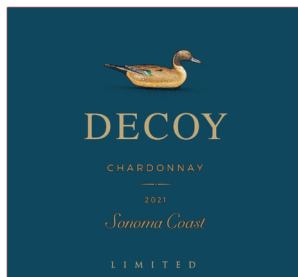
92 Cocchi 2017 Totocorde Brut (Alta Langa). Baked apples, spice and brioche aromas intertwine, accompanied by warm spice notes resembling apple compote infused with cinnamon. It presents a really pretty profile, with possible hints of strawberry and definite cream notes. Light on the palate yet very refreshing, it showcases crushed stone minerality and is quite tasty. *Alpenz.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45



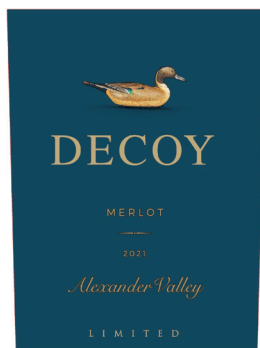
92 Convène By Dan Kosta 2019 Sunchase Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This generous, broad and almost jammy wine charms with its ripe strawberries and red plums that spread quickly across the palate. The wine develops more toasted-oak nuances along with satisfying fruit and a rather full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74



92 Cupere 2021 Mariola Ridge Vineyard Love Is A Gamble Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This sturdy, well-structured, tightly wound and barrel-fermented wine ideally needs time to develop. Firm tannins and crisp acidity grip the palate, subduing the attractive black cherry and sour cherry flavors underneath. Best from 2027–2034. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$65



92 Decoy 2021 Limited Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Golden apples, green apples, vanilla and cinnamon flavors pour out of this ripe and indulgent wine. It has all the warm, buttery nuances and rich texture that make California Chardonnay so appealing. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30



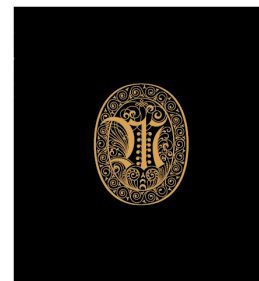
92 Decoy 2021 Limited Merlot (Alexander Valley). This full-flavored Merlot could almost pass for a Cabernet due to its generous tannins, bold black-fruit flavors and satisfying depth. More sipping reveals more fruit, more oak smoke and a more mouthcoating texture. The wine will be best from 2025–2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30



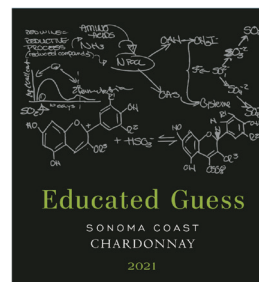
92 Domaine Divio 2021 Les Climats Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Les Climats, with its tart black-cherry, mocha and cedar flavors, is an excellent introduction to the elegant Domaine Divio Pinots. Blackberry and thyme aromas unite with notes of saline, woodsmoke and a trace of bacon fat. A silky texture comes with velvety tannins and just enough acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30



92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh berry-fruit flavors, a good structure of moderate tannins and a velvety texture make this wine a winner. A full body supports blackberry and raspberry notes for a delicious, appetizing expression. Incorporating 20% Petite Sirah and 3% Alicante Bouschet grapes, the wine is ready to drink any time. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



92 Dutcher Crossing 2018 Mathy Wines CFM Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Potent black fruits, firm tannins and a full body drive this blackberry- and oak-spice-scented wine. Mouthfilling and rich, it enhances the deep fruitiness with accents of cinnamon, mocha and mint. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$95



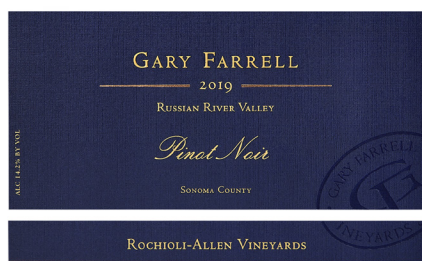
92 Educated Guess 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A hefty, rich texture and a tempting blend of baking spices and baked apples make this full-bodied wine easy to appreciate. Ripe golden apples and poached pears meet toasted almonds and vanilla on the palate and continue into a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30



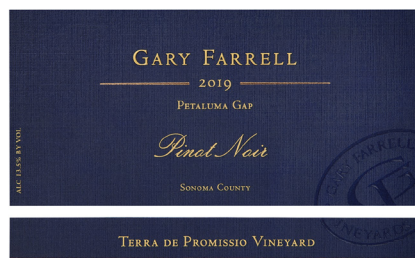
92 Escarpment 2021 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). This is rich and aromatic, with cherry, baking spice and milk chocolate underscored by olive brine and an earthy, mineral core. The palate shows equal density but it's buoyed by fresh acidity and tugged into place by spicy sinewy tannins. Still young, this could cellar another few years. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45



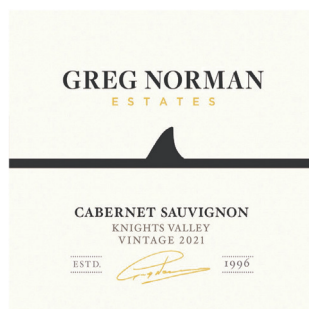
92 Ferrari-Carano 2019 PreVail West Face Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Alexander Valley). So ripe and rich it tastes sweet, this chocolaty, oaky, plummy and blackberry-jam-scented wine sips easily and goes down smoothly despite its size. The jamminess subdues the underlying tannins and will help the wine pair with spicy meat dishes, barbecue and aged cheeses. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$100



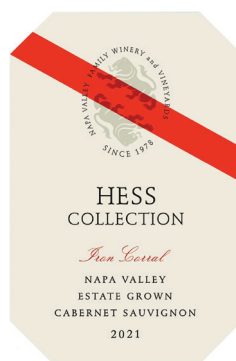
92 Gary Farrell 2019 Rochioli-Allen Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Light-bodied and delicate, this charming wine weaves red cherry, cranberry, tangerine and lemon blossom flavors deftly on a tangy, refreshing texture. The wine is from a storied vineyard property known for its elegant wines. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85



92 Gary Farrell 2019 Terra De Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This broad, ripe-tasting and soft-textured wine relaxes in dark plums, modest acidity and a medium body. It's mouthfilling, mouthcoating and rich with dried black-fruit flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



92 Greg Norman Estates 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). This layered and well-structured wine wraps powerful fruit flavors in assertive oak spices and firm tannins. The wine is enjoyable now if decanted and poured with a grilled lamb chop, but will gain more complexity with time. Best from 2026–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21



92 Hess Collection 2021 Iron Corral Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich, broad and mouthfilling, this generously fruity and gorgeously oaky wine is tempting to drink soon for its delicious red and black cherries, black currants and milk chocolate. Moderate tannins give it an appetizing texture. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70



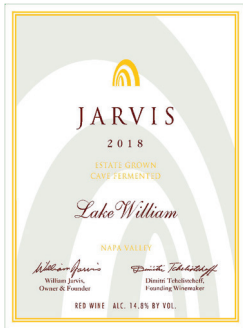
92 Iron Horse 2019 Brut X Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Bone dry, almost austere, this well-balanced and steely wine offers stony, mineral and lean lime aromas that meet with savory herb and earth tones and tangy lemon on the palate. This acid-driven wine would be great to pair with fresh-shucked oysters and a classic mignonette. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62



92 Iron Horse 2019 Ocean Reserve Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). This wine offers vanilla, coconut and toasted brioche tones that lift out of the glass before a plush, fine-beaded mousse soothes the palate. Pastry shop flavors have a sense of sweetness to round off the wine's texture, leaving it smooth and soft. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62



92 J. Lohr 2020 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Known mostly for their Central Coast wines, the Lohr family has long grown grapes in Napa Valley, too. This mouthfilling, appropriately tannic wine wraps a grippy texture around ample blackberry, cocoa and pencil-shaving notes for a broad, brawny feel that will be great for pairing with roasted or grilled beef, lamb and pork. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$60



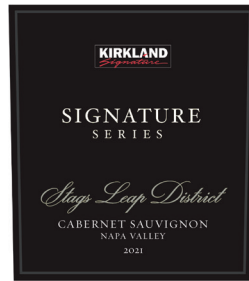
92 Jarvis 2018 Lake William Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). A toasty, spicy, energized expression runs through this wine from the first sniff to the lingering finish. Inviting and assertive aromas of toast, black pepper, char and anise lead to tangy red and black fruits on an edgy, tannic texture. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$325



92 Jarvis 2019 Estate Tempranillo (Napa Valley). Smooth, deeply fruity and lightly spiced with oak, this harmonious wine is a pleasure to sip. Black cherries, sour cherries and floral notes practically sing, while a touch of bright acidity and low tannins keep it fresh and inviting. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$110



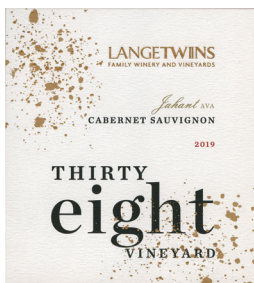
92 Jermann 2021 Vintage Tunina (Venezia Giulia). An icon of a wine, this latest vintage of Vintage Tunina opens with white peaches drizzled with warm honey, roasted hazelnuts and magnolia. The rounded palate mixes orchard fruits and stone fruits that give way to candied lemon and grapefruit and finishes with vibrant acidity and minerality. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85



92 Kirkland Signature 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Packed with dark plums and black cherries, this well-structured wine offers a good fruit core wrapped in full tannins and accented with light vanilla, chocolate and cinnamon notes from oak aging. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$23



92 Kunde 2021 Estate Merlot (Sonoma Valley). Dusky dark fruit and bay-leaf aromas lead to a moderately tannic texture wrapped around flavors of roasted herbs, blueberries and tobacco. This is a hearty, earthy and muscular wine with plenty of toasted, spicy oak behind it. Best from 2026. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

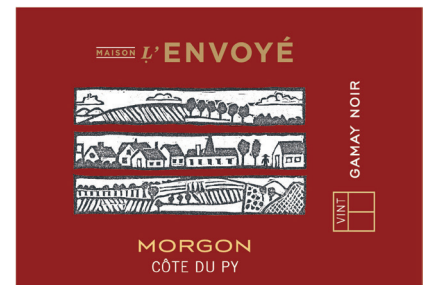


92 LangeTwins 2019 Thirty Eight Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant). This wine opens generously with layered aromas of black cherry, plum and currant, roasted coffee, unsweetened cacao, crushed violets, vanilla and nutmeg. Driven by energetic acidity, the palate is tied together by firm tannins, also integrating a glycerin-like, rounded body from the alcohol. Find additional notes of black pepper, star anise, clove and an animalistic umami in the background. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

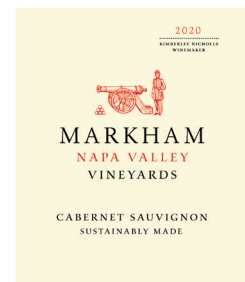
RUBRICA

2022
 VINHO REGIONAL ALENTEJANO
 750ml PRODUCT OF PORTUGAL 13.5% vol.

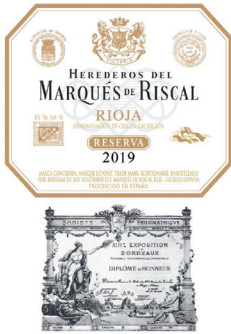
92 Luis Duarte 2022 Rubrica (Alentejano). A mix of wood and tank aging has allowed this wine to retain great freshness. That sits alongside the wine's apple and kiwi flavors, its touch of toast and spicy aftertaste. Drink from 2024. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24



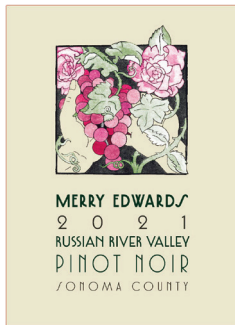
92 Maison L'Envoyé 2021 Gamay Noir (Morgon Côte du Py). A perfumed nose of rhubarb, apricot, raspberry, strawberry and Bing cherry gives life to this ruby-colored Morgon. Grippy tannins kick in on the midpalate and lend robustness and depth to the 40-year-old vines that gave birth to this wine. This Côte du Py Morgon shows the seriousness of Grand Cru Beaujolais. Old Bridge Cellars. **Editors' Choice.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21



92 Markham 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Very ripe, lush flavors of dried cherries and late-picked plums mingle with dark chocolate and espresso accents in this full-bodied, firmly tannic wine as it saturates the palate. The wine is robust and concentrated. Decant and drink now, but it will be better from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48



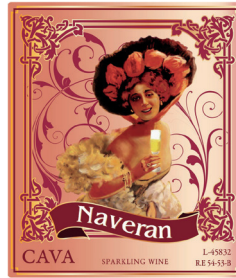
92 Marqués de Riscal 2019 Reserva (Rioja). This deep-violet-colored wine has aromas of cassis, milk chocolate and geranium leaf. Strapping tannins provide a backdrop for menthol, clove, blackberry-jam, violet and dark-chocolate flavors that culminate in a chewy finish marked with notes of butterscotch and thyme. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23



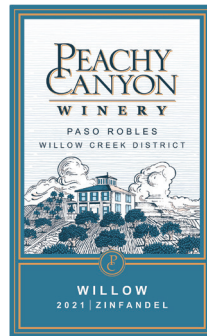
92 Merry Edwards 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Dense and structured, this robust wine offers more than the usual tannins and acidity, giving it a grippy mouthfeel and the potential to mellow with time. Black cherries, black currants and woody spices are there, waiting to develop. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



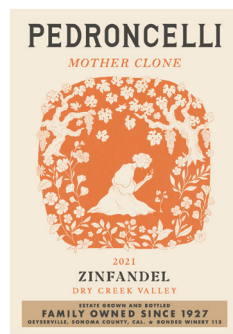
92 Naveran 2021 Brut Vintage Organic (Cava). A soft column of bubbles releases a bouquet of Seckel pear, vanilla bean and nutmeg. Lightly effervescent on the palate, this wine offers flavors of peach, green apple, vanilla and brioche that coalesce in a vivid finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23



92 Naveran 2021 Brut Vintage Rosé Organic (Cava). Tiny bubbles erupt in this soft-pink sparkler. Yellow-plum, pomegranate seed, Turkish delight and flint aromas set the stage for clementine, Gala apple, orange-blossom and lemongrass flavors that wind down to pleasant note of oyster shell. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24



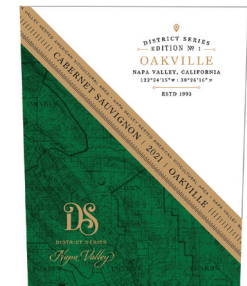
92 Peachy Canyon 2021 Willow Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This is a clean and stony expression of Zinfandel, in part due to the 15% Grenache and 9% Petite Sirah in the mix. Bright aromas of blueberry and strawberry slide from the nose into a tightly wound, acid-backed palate of violet, boysenberry and crushed rock. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44



92 Pedroncelli 2021 Mother Clone Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This layered, polished and handsomely oaked wine brims with aromas like vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg. These lead to lush berry and dark plum flavors on a texture of fine-grained tannins. Velvety in mouthfeel and delicious to sip, the American-oak-aged wine is best now–2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$24



92 Piattelli 2019 Arlene Series Blend Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Cafayate). Made of 85% Malbec and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a flavorful blend from the Cafayate Valley. The nose delivers strawberry, blackberry and mint. Baking spices shape the character, while it has a good amount of fruit flavors balancing the oak. Hints of cassis, incense and mint linger in the aftertaste. Vinocopia. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



92 Precision Wine 2021 District Series Edition No. 1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Rich and relaxed, this easygoing and deeply flavored wine rolls over the palate with broad, juicy black cherries and black currants tempered by subtle oaky notes of vanilla and milk chocolate. Enjoy now–2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



92 Quattro Theory 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Brilliant and vibrant, this nicely nervy wine is packed with limes, lemons and grassy nuances. A touch of salinity gives it mouthwatering freshness plus a bit of food-friendly restraint. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



92 Quinta dos Murças 2021 Minas (Douro). A finely structured wine with rich black fruits, this is developing well. Its berry flavors are full of juicy acidity as well as layered with tannins. With its fruit and texture, the wine will age further. Drink from 2026. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25



92 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinha de Martim (Lisboa). With some wood aging for nine months, this balances fruit and a spicy character. The wine comes from the grapes of 60-year-old vines that give richness and acidity in equal measure. Drink now. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$105



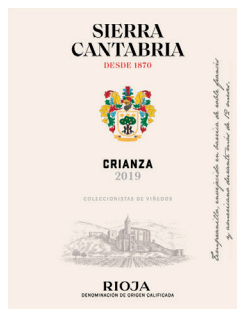
92 Reynolds Family Winery 2020 Persistence Red Blend (Napa Valley). Concentrated and stalwart, this firm-textured Cabernet-based blend wraps ample black fruits in full tannins, and spices them with anise, dark chocolate and cloves. No hurry to drink it, as time will mellow the texture and bring out more complexity. Best 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$68



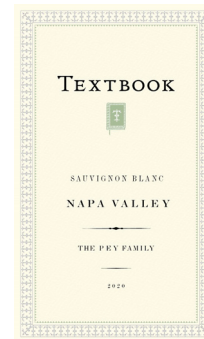
92 Roth 2019 Heritage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). Attractive minty, floral and chocolaty aromas lead to a mouthful of rich, creamy black fruits and dark chocolate in this seductive, full-bodied wine. The hefty tannins are well-integrated for a velvety texture. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$30



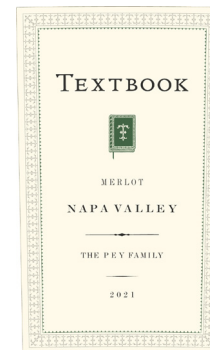
92 Sean Minor 2021 Invited Series Rossi Ranch Grenache (Sonoma Valley). A tempting cherry-chocolate aroma and warm, plummy flavors make this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine broadly appealing. The slightly chewy texture nicely backs up the ripe, cooked berry and plum flavors for great balance. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75



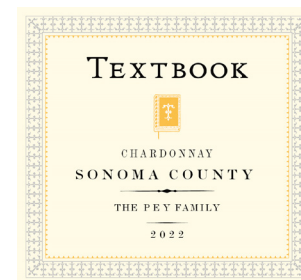
92 Sierra Cantabria 2019 Crianza (Rioja). Deep garnet in color, this wine has a bouquet of black currant, dried marjoram and violet. Glossy tannins and black-cherry, purple-plum, vanilla, licorice and lavender flavors fill the palate and drift into pleasing candied-orange-rind finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



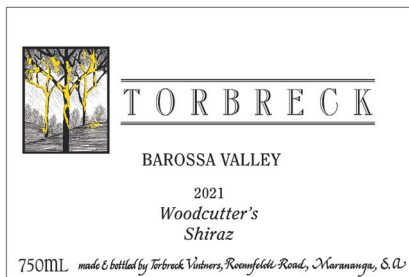
92 Textbook 2020 The Pey Family Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This focused, forceful wine shades vivid lemon and lime flavors with toasted oak, cloves and coconut nuances that give it an attractive complexity. It's fancy enough for a dinner occasion, and appetizing enough for fish and chips. *Editors' Choice*. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25



92 Textbook 2021 The Pey Family Merlot (Napa Valley). This suave, velvety wine is richly layered in baking spices, cherries, berries and chocolate for an indulgent, almost sweet expression. Tasty on its own or with a filet mignon, the wine will please a crowd of red-wine-lovers. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$27



92 Textbook 2022 The Pey Family Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Tropical fruits meet ripe apples in this well-balanced, fresh and forward wine that also sports tempting accents of vanilla, toast and butter. It's light enough for a cocktail party and rich enough for almost any appetizer. *Editors' Choice*. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23



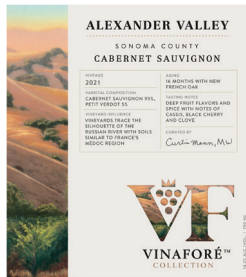
92 Torbreck 2021 Woodcutter's Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Dense and chocolaty, this opens with classic blackberry, blood-plum and black-pepper characters. It's a big wine but not a hefty one. Savory, fine tannins are comparatively gentle, allowing the fruit flavor to shine. Balanced and focused, it offers drinkability now when paired with protein. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26



92 Trione 2019 Henry's Blend Geyserville Ranch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Nicely balanced, rounded and complete, this wine offers minty, cinnamon oak spices in the aroma, generous red and black fruit in the flavors, and a smooth polish to the texture. It's delicious now, so no need for further aging. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60



92 V. Sattui 2020 Quaglia Vineyard Ancient Vine Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Polished and with a French-oak sophistication, this wine can substitute for your favorite Cabernet at the next steak dinner. Cedar, cinnamon and clove aromas lead to beautifully ripe and full black-fruit flavors wrapped in fine-grained tannins for a good, grippy texture. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$58



92 Vinafore 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). A fascinating potpourri of cinnamon, cloves and cedar dominates the complex aromas of this dark and aromatic wine. They lead to spiced cherries, cranberries and dark chocolate on the palate that linger on the finish. Best from 2025. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22



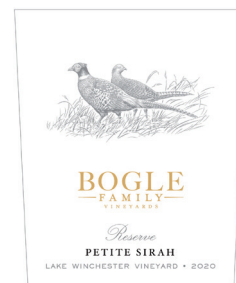
92 Vinafore 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This mellow and savory-tasting wine offers bay leaf, black tea, mushroom and raspberry flavors on a lush but well-balanced texture that leads to a lingering finish. It's easy to appreciate and showcases the grape variety's inherent, delicious complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



91 Antigal 2020 Uno Platinum Edition Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). There is no doubt that Cabernet Franc adapts well to Mendoza's climate. Delicious wines at almost all price levels can be made. This red displays bright aromas of red berries and hints of clove and cinnamon. A touch of eucalyptus adds freshness. Aged in oak barrels, it has enough energy to carry the fruit and spice flavors, along with dried herbs, through the minty finish. Cork Alliance. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



91 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2020 Escudo Rojo Origine Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The nose shows a classical Maipo Valley Cabernet. It's well-crafted, with nuances of oak and ripe fruit that are nicely balanced by elegant texture and excellent acidity. Chocolate is followed by plum flavors in the earthy finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



91 Bogle 2020 Lake Winchester Vineyard Reserve Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). This full-bodied, deeply hued red immediately entices the senses with pronounced aromas of black cherry and plum, cacao, roasted coffee, fresh and dried tarragon, cedar and sweet tobacco. The palate offers a soft, round, glycerin texture that's balanced by the firm, structural tannins and modest acidity, with additional notes of plump Mission fig, olive tapenade, black pepper, star anise and mixed-berry fruit leather. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



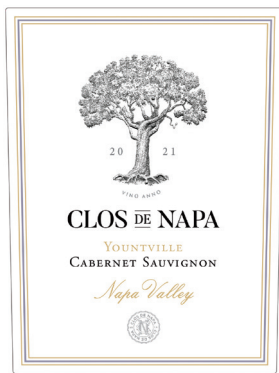
91 BonAnno 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Ripe, almost sweet fruit and oak-spice flavors make this gentle giant of a wine easy to enjoy. Smooth tannins wrap around cherry pie and currant jam notes for a mouthfilling expression that's hard to resist. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



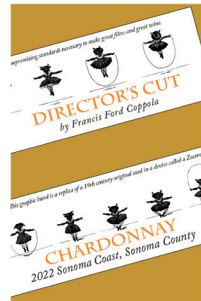
91 Bricoleur 2021 La Rumeur Red Blend (Sonoma County). Warmly ripe and deeply saturated, this gentle giant of a wine was made from mostly Zinfandel and Syrah grapes. It oozes delicious black cherry jam and blackberry pie aromas followed by a broad, velvety texture that carries the rich black fruits, oak char and toasted cinnamon flavors through a lingering finish. Decant and drink soon, or through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65



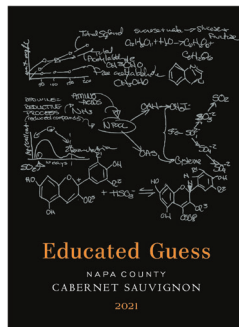
91 Chalk Hill 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Broad, generous and buttery, this silky-soft wine is full-bodied, carrying fresh apples, pears and vanilla to a lingering finish. Oak accents like toast and nutmeg dress it up nicely. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



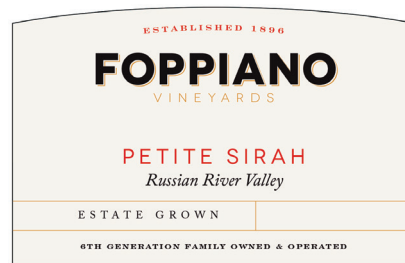
91 Clos de Napa 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). This wine is deep and dark in color, extra-ripe in aroma and saturated with black fruit and dark chocolate flavors. Grippy tannins give it a hearty, robust mouthfeel. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75



91 Director's Cut 2022 by Francis Ford Coppola Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Hard to beat this wine for pure fruit richness, as it ladles out Anjou pears, yellow peaches and a dollop of pineapple, all lazing in a smooth texture and full body. While mouthfilling and ripe, the wine has just enough tropical fruit acidity behind it for good balance. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21



91 Educated Guess 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). Darkly fruity and chocolaty, this full-bodied wine is a good value for Napa Valley. Not too tannic, the wine wraps a smooth texture around the ample dark plum, cocoa and cinnamon flavors. Enjoy now through 2028 with roast beef or Korean barbecue. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



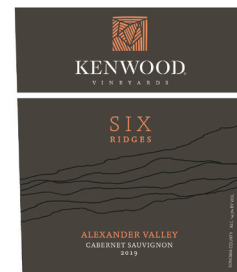
91 Foppiano 2021 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Russian River Valley). Juicy blackberries and black cherries are lightly accented by mint and chocolate in this full-bodied, deeply colored wine from a family that's been growing Petite Sirah for generations. Full tannins merge nicely with rich black-fruit flavors for a good sense of balance. Best from 2025–2032. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$28



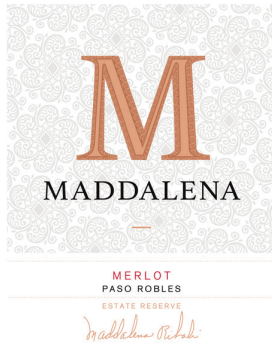
91 Head High 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Vibrant and fruity, this full-bodied, unoaked wine will be a star with fish and shellfish. It melds a sense of richness from Bosc pears and Pip-pin apples along with appetizing acidity enhanced by blocking the malolactic conversion. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



91 John Duval Wines 2022 Concilio Grenache (Barossa Valley). Heady, fruit-driven and highly likable aromas of blueberry and strawberry compote, with violet and white pepper undertones, flow to a palate that's midweight with a silky texture and succulent fruit. This crowd-pleasing Aussie Grenache is perfect for the in-between seasons. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



91 Kenwood 2019 Six Ridges Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Well-polished and well-balanced, this attractive wine pulls you in with cinnamon and vanilla oak aromas followed by ample black cherry and dark plum flavors that are broad and juicy. It's smooth enough to decant and drink now–2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$22



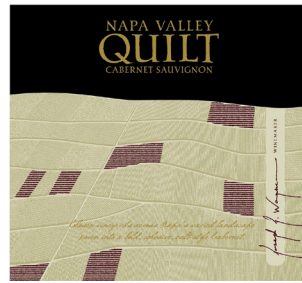
91 Maddalena 2022 Merlot (Paso Robles). This widely available, fairly priced bottling begins with dark red fruit, caramel and woodspice aromas on the nose. Smoothed-out tannins frame the sip, where black cherry and cola make for a flavorful expression. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25



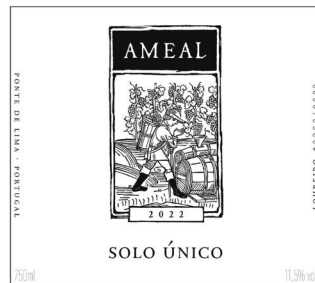
91 Mary Taylor 2019 Marine Descombe (Juliéna). Deep ruby in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of raspberry, black tea and red currant with a hint of blueberry. Slightly grippy tannin affords added texture with some savory notes on the back palate. This Juliéna tends toward ripe summer fruit tempered by forest floor. Mary Taylor Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32



91 Pertinace 2020 (Barbaresco). Wafting aromas of dried raspberry, strawberry, dried leaf, earthiness and tea on the nose. On the palate, the wine showcases warmed fruits with a darker character, accompanied by preserved berries and dark earthy notes on the finish. The tannins are remarkably easy. Drink from now–2040. Freixenet Mionetto USA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



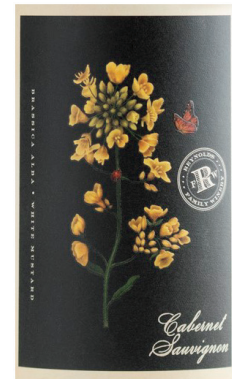
91 Quilt 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Powerful and rich-tasting, this wine from Joseph Wagner is velvety in texture and spicy in aroma. It drips with jammy, Port-like flavors that are backed by fine-grained tannins that tighten a bit on the finish for a good grip. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$55



91 Quinta do Ameal 2022 Solo Único (Vinho Verde). Loureiro is the grape of Ameal's home area, the Lima Valley. It is a ripe wine, full of white fruits and lifted by acidity. This rich, textured wine is ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30



91 Quinta dos Murças 2017 Reserva (Douro). A structured fine wine with dense tannins and acidity, this is just ready to drink. Its black fruits are concentrated and full of ripe berry flavors. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



91 Reynolds Family Winery 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Bold, dried-fruit flavors and a full body give this wine a lot of heft on the palate, as firm tannins support dried cherries, dried plums and black cherries. Pairing with robust meaty, cheesy dishes seems ideal. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$68



91 San Pedro 2020 Altair Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Made with grapes from Cachapoal Valley near the Andes Mountains, this Cabernet-based blend is rich and smooth. The nose exhibits aromas of vanilla, cinnamon, earthy blackberry and mulberry. Oaky notes are also prominent on the palate but blend well with black fruit and cherries. Round tannins and enough acidity provide a firm frame. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



91 San Pedro 2021 Tayu 1865 Pinot Noir (Malleco). This is an earthy Pinot Noir from Malleco Valley, a cool region in Chile's Patagonia. The nose offers aromas of raspberries, leather and mushroom and introduces a textured palate, with generous notes of meat, spices and herbs. The finish is long and savory. VSPT USA. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22



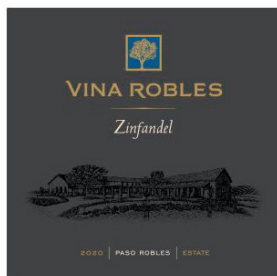
91 Sonoma-Cutrer 2021 Dutton Ranch Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Tasty, fresh-sliced apples and pears are dressed in floral tones that give this smooth, rounded wine a generous, fruity expression. A medium to full body and rich texture make it melt in the mouth. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42



91 Trione 2020 River Road Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Butter, butterscotch and toasted oak aromas give a sweet, candied quality to this low-acid, full-bodied and super-oaky wine. Fans of richness, butter and caramel will love it. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



91 Vina Robles 2020 Estate Zinfandel (Paso Robles).

Plummy notes of this estate bottling's nose are balanced by teriyaki and woodspice. Firm tannins wrap around the sip, where roasted strawberry, cedar and more soy-like flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36



91 ZaHa NV Calcaire Método Champenoise Chardonnay (Argentina).

From vineyards in Paraje Altamira comes this Blanc de Blanc Nature sparkling. The wine was aged on its lees for 12 months, creating a rounded mouthfeel. The nose offers white peach, pear and hints of butter. It's fruity, with citrus acidity and fine bubbles driving flavors of pome fruit, lime and chamomile through the lasting saline finish. *Vino Del Sol.* —J.V.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$21



90 Antigal 2020 Uno Platinum Edition Malbec (Mendoza).

Black tea, clove and cinnamon form an aromatic bouquet. Bright berry flavors blend with dark chocolate and whispers of chai spices. This is a friendly and spicy Malbec with a lingering finish. *Cork Alliance.* —J.V.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25



90 Antigal 2022 Aduentus Special Barrel Selection Blanc de Blancs White Blend (Mendoza).

This is a blend of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin aged for six months in oak barrels. Citrus spices and herbs open the nose and introduce a flavorful palate with a texture that is both round and elegant. Good acidity supports lemons and a dash of ginger and vanilla. It pairs wonderfully with panna cotta. *Cork Alliance.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



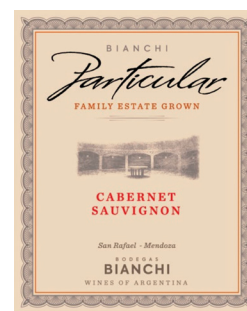
90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2019 Scharzhofberger Brut Riesling (Mosel).

This elegant sparkler is finely meshed, showing signs of development while layering sleek acidity and a delicate mousse with roasted nut, savory mineral, smoke, petrol notes and hints of white cherry, biscuit and ground ginger flavors. It is inviting with a long finish. *Delicato Family Wines.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45



90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2022 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).

The core of firm acidity in this wine supports the sweet notes of white-cherry, raspberry and ripe citrus flavors, extending with notes of mint and sage. The mineral-based finish exudes sea salt and spice details. *Delicato Family Wines.* —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$32



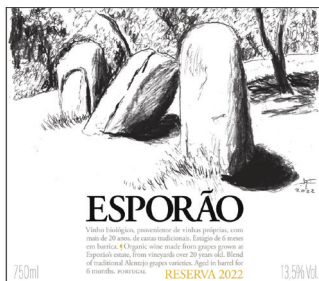
90 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 Particular Family Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).

Malbec might have eclipsed Cabernet Sauvignon in Argentina, but the truth is that the latter thrives in many regions of Mendoza. This one hails from San Rafael. It's fruit-forward, with a nose of berries and a touch of oak spice. The palate feels fresh, delivering lots of raspberries, thyme and cinnamon. Lively acidity complements its soft round tannins. Quintessential. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



CERALTI

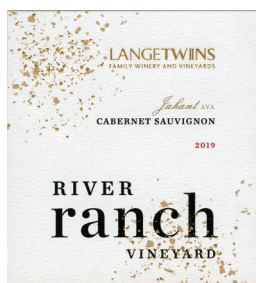
90 Ceralti 2021 Scirè (Bolgheri). The nose balances aromas of earth with flowers, while candied cherries and wild strawberries bring a bolder streak of sweetness. On the palate, vanilla underlines that sweetness, before a resurgent earthiness leads into a peppery finish, where the acid finally pulls ahead of the tannins after a tight race. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$23



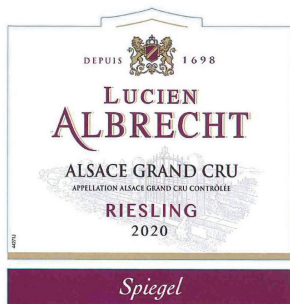
90 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Esporão Reserva (Alentejo). Lightly wood-aged, the wine is rich. Hints of yellow fruits and kiwi flavors are set against the spicy, full body. It is ripe, its fruits still much in evidence. Drink from 2024. Organic. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25



90 Jermann 2021 Where Dreams Have No End (Venezia Giulia). Aromas of mixed stone fruits, flowers, cream and baking spice open the nose of this classic Chardonnay. The palate zigzags between tart nectarine and lemon notes with more textured and creamy notes leading to a pop of acidity on the finish. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85



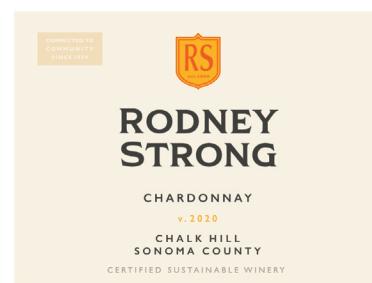
90 LangeTwins 2019 River Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant). Give this wine at least 20 minutes to breathe fresh air and be rewarded with a generous aromatic profile and an integrated palate. Notes of fresh and dried black cherry, cumin, coriander and violet potpourri meet heartier tones of tar, kerosene, damp dirt and roasted capsicum. Crunchy tannins coat the palate, balanced by integrated alcohol and modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$40



90 Lucien Albrecht 2020 Spiegel Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This richer, open-knit and expressive Riesling offers a mineral streak underscoring the flavors of white peach, quince blossom and kumquat. It is nicely balanced with a persistent finish. Foley Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$32



90 Pandemonium 2021 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Baked red-fruit aromas are quite ripe on the nose of this bottling, which also offers hints of woodspice and peppercorn. The palate grows sharper with pomegranate and raspberry flavors, as orange rind and marjoram add nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40



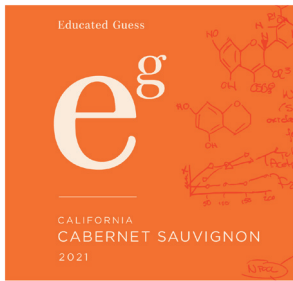
90 Rodney Strong 2020 Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). Lively oak accents like vanilla, coconut and ginger give this rich and ripe-tasting wine a spicy top note, while abundant ripe apples and pears ground it in fruitiness. Simply delicious. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30



90 Sean Minor 2022 Signature Series Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A tempting cherry-chocolate aroma and warm, plummy flavors make this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine broadly appealing. The slightly chewy texture nicely backs up the ripe, cooked berry and plum flavors for great balance. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28



90 Silverado 2022 Miller Ranch Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). Ripe fruits and lemony acidity come together well in this full-bodied and rather broad-textured wine that's substantial enough for buttery fish and creamy pasta dishes. Honeydew melon, Granny Smith apples and lemonade notes fill in the middle. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$30



89 Educated Guess 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a full-bodied red, complete with chewy tannins that are well-met by the dark fruits and savory oak tones. Find notes of black currant, black cherry, toasted wood, fennel, tarragon, star anise and a hint of leather. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



92 Kenwood 2020 Six Ridges Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). An elegant, sleek texture carries light and tasty green apples, minerals, limes and chalk on a full body backed by bracing acidity. This barrel-fermented wine is great value. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



92 Peter Zemmer 2022 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Roasted apples, lemon peel and yeasty aromas lift from the glass of this classic mountain Pinot Grigio. Flavors of green pears and flint define the creamy palate that pops with tangy acidity on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

BEST BUYS



92 Recanati 2022 Yasmin Red Blend (Galilee). This deep ruby wine has a nose of cranberry, tobacco leaf and bittersweet chocolate. It is bright on entry with pomegranate and raspberry flavors joined by plush tannins and dark chocolate, coffee, lavender and fennel bulb notes that skate into a minty finish. Kosher. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

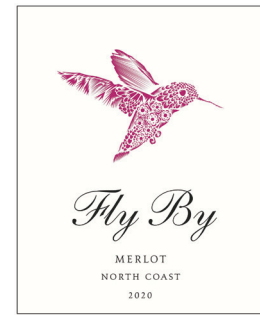


92 Rocca delle Macie 2022 Campo Maccione (Morellino di Scansano). The nose is primarily earthy, herbal and woody, like an old-growth forest, but the bitterness of coffee and sweetness of cherries and strawberries provide balance. The cherries, strawberries and earthiness all continue onto the palate, where tight tannins and bright acid foreshadow an astringent blood orange finish. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

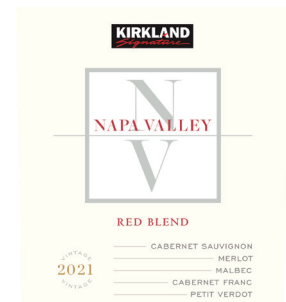


91 Cellers Unió 2021 Perlat (Montsant). This deep-ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of cherry pie and baking spices. Robust tannins are wrapped around flavors of cherry preserves, blackberry liqueur, licorice, lavender and cinnamon, with a closing splash of pomegranate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



91 Fly By 2020 Merlot (North Coast). This demonstrates how a \$20 wine can be complex and interesting, and how Merlot can be the star of the show. Find layered aromas and flavors of roses, red and black cherry, cinnamon spice, fresh fennel, star anise and cedar wood knit together by a solid backbone of tannins, rounded alcohol and a balanced dose of acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



91 Kirkland Signature 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This flavorful, relaxed and deep wine is rich in blueberries, dried blackberries, cedar and mint aromas followed by a luxurious, velvety palate echoing dried fruits and oak spices. It's a posh, broad and generous wine that goes light on the tannins. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

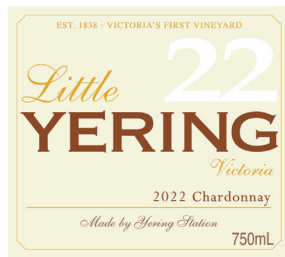


91 Le Grand Courtage NV Grand Cuvée Blanc de Blancs Brut (France). Inviting aromas of baked pears and floral notes kick off this Blanc de Blanc. It's mildly foamy on the palate, with lightly concentrated flavors of juicy melon, stone fruit and enough acidity to balance the fruit. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



91 **Yá Cuvée 23 NV Brut Reserva (Cava)**. A persistent column of bubbles and aromas of white peach, jasmine and rising bread prep the palate for Granny Smith apple, apricot, toasted hazelnut and cocoa-butter flavors. A nice wave of acidity washes over the palate from first sip and lingers. Vinos Libres. **Best Buy**. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

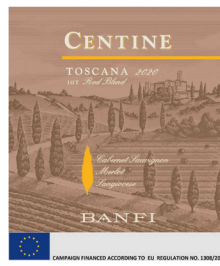


91 **Yering Station 2022 Little Yering Chardonnay (Victoria)**. A bright, fruity perfume of watermelon Jolly Rancher, lime leaf and orange oil opens, with a mineral underbelly, like a river running beneath the surface. Aromas flow to flavors. The melon is less confectioned here thanks to a streak of lovely acidity. There's some richness and a roundness but always drinkability. This is a top weeknight wine for Chard lovers. Rathbone Wine Group. **Best Buy**. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$17



90 **Antigal 2021 Uno Malbec (Mendoza)**. This is a ripe and juicy Malbec that offers aromas of berries and toasted oak. The palate is firm and delivers plenty of plums and blackberry flavors. After 12 months of oak aging, the wine is balanced and shows notes of tobacco in the finish. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy**. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



90 **Banfi 2020 Centine Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Sangiovese (Toscana)**. The nose starts earthy, salty and metallic, with cherries providing pop, but gradually a deep, nuanced sweetness emerges with notes of dried fig and wild oregano. Strawberries join the cherries to highlight the palate, but balance comes from a continued herbaceousness, with mineral stoniness and acid bouncing around chewy tannins. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy**. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15



90 **Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Escudo Rojo Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley)**. This wine has an aromatic bouquet that includes notes of green bell pepper, plum, cherry and black pepper. Herbaceous flavors mixed with plums, raspberries and baking spices on the round palate. A touch of black pepper and eucalyptus provides a tasty finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy**. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



90 **Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Escudo Rojo Reserva Syrah (Maipo Valley)**. There is a lovely aroma of berries in the glass. It has a full body and nice acidity, energizing the firm palate, where prominent notes of toasted oak add to its complexity. Raspberries emerge in the finish of this smooth wine. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy**. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

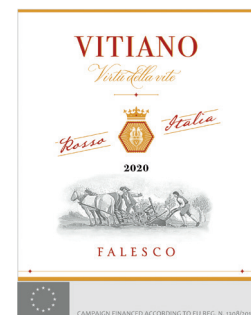
BEST BUYS



90 **Bogle 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California)**. For \$11, this California Cab packs bags of flavor. Find notes of black cherry, plum and currant, cinnamon, nutmeg, fennel, crushed violets and toasted wood alongside mouthcoating tannins and modest acidity. **Best Buy**. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11



90 **Cave Spring 2021 Riesling (Niagara Peninsula)**. A sweet and tangy blood-orange aroma fills the air as wisps of petrol and coconut water stake their claim on the fringes. The wine's elevated acidity and lean, crisp mouthfeel are complemented by flavors of barely ripe pineapple and green tea sweetened with honey. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy**. —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17



90 **Cotarella 2020 Falesco Vitiano Virtù della Vite (Italy)**. This wine offers a lot to enjoy. Aromas of black plum, sweet tobacco, espresso and floral notes entice. It strikes a balanced profile, showcasing ample fruit alongside savory notes of earthiness, leather and rosemary. A solid value. Trinchero Family Estates. **Best Buy**. —J.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$14

BEST BUYS



MERLOT 2019 CLARKSBURG CA

90 Fellow 2019 Merlot (Clarksburg). This super-friendly Merlot is a bang for the buck at \$20. The plethora of aromas and flavors includes red cherry, wild strawberry, fresh and dried rose petals, dusty forest floor, cumin, coriander, floral white pepper, cranberry, pomegranate and a strong hit of capsicum. All intertwine among fine-grained tannins, lively acidity and modest alcohol. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

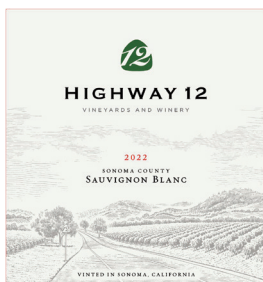


2020 ZINFANDEL LAKE COUNTY

90 Fly By 2020 Zinfandel (Lake County). With 20% Petite Sirah in the mix, this Zin brings together notes of black cherry, dark chocolate, anise, olive tapenade, eucalyptus, violets and a sanguine umami-ness. The coarse tannic texture is well-met by the concentrated fruits, elevated alcohol and modest acidity. Drink now. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

abv: 15%

Price: \$13



2022 SONOMA COUNTY SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Highway 12 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). A fresh breeze of citrus blossoms in the aroma and tangy lemon-lime flavors give this medium-bodied, well-balanced wine a refreshing feel that begs for more sipping. **Best Buy.** —J.G.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$16

BEST BUYS



90 Le Grand Courtaige NV Grand Cuvée Rosé Brut (France). Aromas of crushed strawberry and roses open this pink sparkler. Its delicate mousse creates a creamy texture on the palate, alongside subtle flavors of raspberry and lemon pith. The elevated acid balances the red fruit. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.T.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20



90 Luma Chequén 2020 Estate Bottled Gran Reserva Carmènère (Maule Valley). Earthy aromas on the nose are followed by intense black fruit. Smooth tannins support savory flavors of bell pepper, black pepper, figs and blackberry that integrate well with delicious notes of dark chocolate. The wine's moderate complexity is backed by bright acidity. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$17

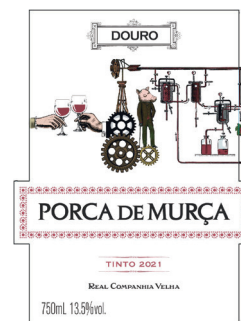


90 Matsu 2022 El Picaro (Toro). Dark violet-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of Mission fig and cassis with a touch of olive tapenade. A web of sleek tannins harbors ripe summer cherry, blackberry, milk-chocolate and rose-petal flavors. The floral-infused finish is long and smooth. Vintae USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$15

BEST BUYS



90 Real Companhia Velha 2021 Porca de Murça Tinto (Douro). A classic Douro blend of four varieties, the wine is rich and spicy. Foot-trodden in open granite lagars, the fruit has developed a smooth, lightly extracted character. Black fruits and soft tannins mean it will be ready to drink from later in 2024. Golden Ram Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15



90 Sonoma-Cutrer 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A pale salmon color to the eye, this light-bodied wine is subtle and cherrylike to the nose and brings a tangy apple and apricot vibe to the palate. It's refreshing for sipping in the sun and great with appetizers. **Best Buy.** —J.G.

abv: 11.9%

Price: \$20



89 Acrobat 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Acrobat is a fitting name for this nimble wine. It is light-bodied, with lip-smacking acidity, velvety tannins and clean, fresh aromas of cherries and lemon peel. Candied-rose-petal and raspberry flavors evolve into something similar to a cup of hibiscus tea with lemon. Excellent value. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

BEST BUYS



89 **ALDI 2021 Peaks & Tides Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This tasty, sturdy and straightforward wine shows ripe blackberry and blackberry flavors with light herbal accents. It's well-structured enough that there's no great hurry to drink it if you stock up. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12



89 **Beronia 2019 Crianza Tempranillo (Rioja).** Dark violet-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of raspberry, dried thyme and mocha. Bold tannins are wrapped around purple plum, black cherry, caramel, butterscotch and aniseed that sail into a cherry-splashed finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

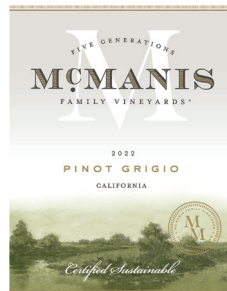


89 **Fellow 2021 Chardonnay (Clarksburg).** Light, crisp and refreshing, this quaffable Chard offers integrated fruit-meets-oak notes of yellow and green apple, honeysuckle, lemon meringue, poached pear, nutmeg and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BEST BUYS



89 **McManis 2022 Estate Grown Viognier (River Junction).** This expression plays to the floral nature of Viognier with perfumy aromas and flavors of white grape, lychee, rose water, white peach and nectarine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.25% **Price:** \$12



89 **McManis 2022 Pinot Grigio (River Junction).** This wine has nice medium weight and good vivacity. A fun and refreshing palate is filled with a surprising amount of flavors, with lemon, lime, lemongrass, kiwi, star fruit, cut grass, acacia blossom, red and green apple, apple blossom and apple juice. Drink now, on its own, just for fun. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$10



89 **Renzo Masi 2020 Riserva (Chianti).** On the nose, cranberries bring out the subtle astringency of cherries, while soil, herbs and hot tar provide a savory dimension. The palate leans into the astringent fruitiness, but chalky tannins bolster a continued earthiness. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

BEST BUYS



89 **Three Thieves 2021 Chardonnay (California).** This light, delicate Chardonnay offers notes of lemon, lime, jasmine, wet stone, white peach, nectarine and dewy grass alongside crisp acidity. An altogether refreshing sip. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11



89 **Tutela 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Grave).** Fresh, light and lifted, this wine wafts out of the glass with aromas of floral, citrus and green apple characteristics. It displays a round palate and makes a solid effort, with lifted acidity on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

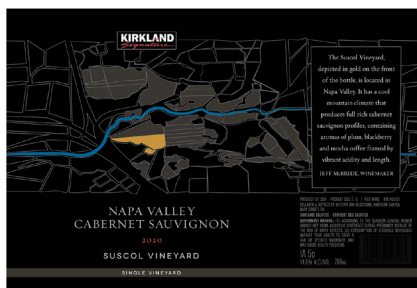


88 **Fellow 2021 Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg).** A pale lemon hue in the glass, this wine offers delicate notes of pear, pear skin, fresh coriander, white pepper and hay carried by a solid dose of acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

BEST BUYS



88 Fellow 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Clarksburg). A slight spritz alongside generous acidity gives this wine a great sense of energy. It delivers lively notes of lime zest and pith, tart green apple, wet stone, mineral water, grapefruit, capsicum, cut grass and jasmine blossom. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18



88 Kirkland Signature 2020 Suscol Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This big, soft and almost syrupy wine exudes blackberry jam, cherry cola and cinnamon accents on a broad frame of sandy tannins. Enjoy it with juicy hunks of beef, pork or lamb. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

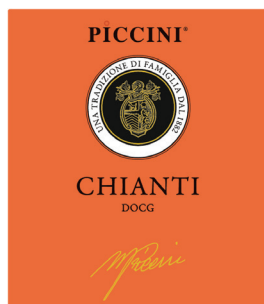


88 Lucien Albrecht 2021 Cuvée Balthazar Pinot Blanc (Alsace). This is fresh and elegant with mouthwatering acidity fueling the flavors of kumquat, apricot and lemon zest, leading to a stony and floral finish. Foley Family Wines. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

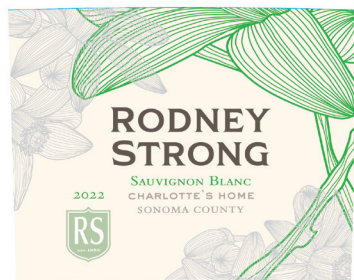
BEST BUYS



88 McManis 2022 Estate Grown Chardonnay (River Junction). This Chard takes me to a tropical island, with lots of fruit and florals. Find vacation-like notes of cherry blossom, white orchid, peony, lily and white rose. White peach and nectarine, lychee, coconut, lemongrass, lime leaf, melon and guava also join in. Sip happy. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$10



88 Piccini 2022 (Chianti). The nose is fresh, green and slightly stony, like a well-manicured lawn, with a slash of astringent fruit keeping things interesting. Cherries flood the palate, but a persistent earthiness is emphasized by chalky tannins and contouring acid, and leads into a finish of dark chocolate and coffee. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13



88 Rodney Strong 2022 Charlotte's Home Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). So fruity that it tastes sweet, this soft-textured wine is pillowy in honeydew melons and pear-nectar flavors, with just a touch of citrus acidity. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

BEST BUYS



88 Sand Point 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Simple but altogether balanced and refreshing, this wine offers notes of lemon, lime, grapefruit, green melon and orange zest. A slight spritz adds an extra mouthwatering quality to this high-acid wine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12



88 Trinity Oaks 2021 Chardonnay (California). This medium- to full-bodied wine offers a balanced, ripe to overripe fruit profile set alongside generous acidity and integrated oak tones. Find notes of Meyer lemon, Golden Delicious apple, pineapple juice, banana, nutmeg, clove and acacia. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$11

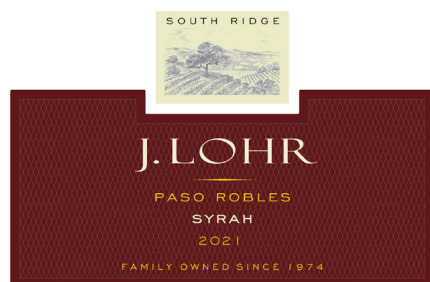


87 Sand Point 2022 Pinot Grigio (California). This simple, drink-me-now white has notes of lemon, lime, river rock, sea salt salinity, cut grass and just-ripe mango and pineapple. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

CORRECTIONS

Reviews that appeared in November
2023 Top 100 Best Buys.

#1



J. Loehr 2021 South Ridge Syrah (Paso Robles).
— 93, M.K.

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.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

#92



Paternoster 2022 Vulcanico Falanghina (Basilicata).
— 90, D.C.

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.

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

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 Hendry 2021 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 4.

Editors' Choice.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

96 Patz & Hall 2021 Bootlegger's Hill Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Lush, ripe Bosc

pears and golden apples dominate the palate of this full-bodied but well-balanced wine made from the Hyde-Wente clone. A streak of lemony acidity lifts the rich flavors through a lingering finish. The wine has all the opulence and vivid fruit one could want, nicely accented by light oak spices and a touch of butter. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70

95 Bob Cabral Wines 2019 Anne Rose Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see

page 5.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$100

95 Lombardi 2020 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Creaminess in the texture and deftly

layered flavors give this extraordinary wine an almost irresistible attraction. So light but so rich at the same time, the wine offers vanilla, butter, poached pears and hints of caramel and toast, while the finish is delicious and lingering. Great for a special occasion. —J.G.

abv: 14%

Price: \$48

95 Patz & Hall 2021 Zio Tony Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Richness and depth

come with good balance, too, in this complex, beautifully oaked wine from "Uncle Tony's" property, managed by the Martinelli family. Opening with toast and butterscotch aromas, it expands on the palate in rich tones of baked apples, baking spices and ginger. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70

95 Paul Hobbs 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Layered and well concentrated, this

impressive wine stacks up cream, butter, toasted almonds and poached pears for a lavish palate that's also nicely grounded in appley acidity. It will be eye opening during cocktail hour and even better paired with fish and shellfish. —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$70

95 Three Sticks 2021 Alana Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review

see page 7.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$80

94 Beringer 2021 Private Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Seductive, almost-sweet aromas

of butterscotch, toasted baguette and poached pears lead to a rich, luscious palate that echoes the aromas and coats the palate with vanilla, butter and pear syrup flavors. A full body, ample oak spices and

an extra-rich texture make this classic wine a show-stopper. —J.G.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$48

94 Bob Cabral Wines 2018 Anne Rose Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Mellow butter and

butterscotch flavors take the fore in this at-first soft and ripe-tasting wine. Lively lemon zest follows up for great balance. Bosc pears, almond extract and more coat the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$100

94 Bouchaine 2021 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). This plump, but-

tery, full-bodied wine is broad and mouthfilling. It exudes delicious butterscotch, vanilla bean and baked apples all the way through a lingering, pastry-like finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$70

94 Bricoleur 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 9.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$42

94 Freeman 2021 Ryo-Fu Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Serious and

oak aged, this sophisticated barrel-fermented wine offers layers of toast, almonds, gentle wood smoke and grilled pears on a relatively light body with breezy acidity. Butter and vanilla accents weave through the fruit and linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$48

94 Gary Farrell 2020 Westside Farms Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review

see page 10.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

94 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 VIII VIII Chardonnay (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).

Paso Robles isn't exactly known as Chardonnay heaven, but this bottling delivers an experience to challenge that reality. Aromas of Asian pear, light mint and white melon are fresh and clean on the nose. The palate is tightly wound and brisk in style, with flavors of jicama in a minty lime glaze. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

94 Jayson 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$60

94 Knights Bridge 2021 KB Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This smooth and silky

wine emphasizes delicious apple and pear flavors, keeping the buttery, oaky notes in the background for a complex and harmonious effect. Granny Smith apples and Bosc pears meet mild vanilla, toast and almond flavors that linger through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

94 Knights Bridge 2021 Pont De Chevalier Estate Chardonnay (Knights Valley). Rich in

fruit flavor, this seamless wine matches indulgent poached pear and baked apple flavors with lightly

BUYINGGUIDE

spiced oak elements of vanilla, nutmeg and toast. While creamy in texture, it is balanced by a snap of crisp apple acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Kobler 2022 Bacigalupi Vineyards Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$85

94 MacRostie 2021 Kent Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This friendly, sunny and lightly buttered wine boasts plenty of green apples, golden apples and a touch of grapefruit, all filling the mouth with juiciness. The tempting, buttery texture is balanced by underlying acidity for a fresh finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$56

94 Patz & Hall 2021 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Silky and subdued at first, this elegant wine seduces you slowly with its subtle Meyer lemon, Bosc pear, mineral and ginger flavors lifted by tangy, appetizing acidity. As an alternative to the butter-bomb Chardonnays, this reasonably priced wine from the Patz & Hall portfolio is a breath of fresh air. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Patz & Hall 2021 Kent Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The concentration and richness of this wine are amazing to behold. It oozes poached pears, melted butter, toasted oak and honey on an almost-thick texture and full body. Soft in acidity and indulgent in fruit flavors, the wine is a standout in this plush style. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Sangiacomo 2021 Green Acres Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$68

94 The Calling 2020 Single Vineyard Series Sullivan Vineyard Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Waypoint 2021 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Silky and seamless, this elegant, lively and well-balanced wine is driven by good acidity to lift the ample Bosc pear, green apple and apple blossom flavors. It is both bracing and satisfying. Fruit and light spice flavors expand on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

93 Copain Wines 2021 Tidal Break Vineyard Chardonnay (West Sonoma Coast). Ripe and robust in flavor, this medium-bodied wine pours out poached pears, baked apples and a touch of lemon for good balance. A nice tang in the texture balances rich, indulgent fruits, keeping the wine appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Cupere 2021 Mariola Ridge Vineyard Chance Romance Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Donum 2021 Year Of The Ox Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Big, ripe yet still balanced, this full-bodied, concentrated wine frames poached pears and peach nectar in subtle acidity, accented by toast, ginger and lemon notes. The wine should pair well with rich fish entrées, roast chicken or simply toasted almonds. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$85

93 Hess Collection 2021 The Lioness Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Generous toasted-oak aromas lead to a tasty, structured palate full of golden apples, vanilla, grilled baguette and roasted almonds in this full-bodied, rich but also acid-balanced wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Kunde 2022 C.S. Ridge Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Lombardi 2020 Martaella Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This opulent, mouthcoating, superripe and delicious wine oozes pear syrup, honey and butter flavors on a thick, creamy texture. Practically a dessert wine, it is monumental to sip on its own or with a ripe Brie. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 MacRostie 2021 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Generous, appley and fresh, this medium-bodied wine offers clean, appetizing fruit flavors, light dashes of butter and vanilla, and a smooth, rounded texture. It should please butter lovers as well as balance seekers. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

93 Maggy Hawk 2020 Skycrest Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Beautiful aromas immediately waft out of the glass, recalling coconut, white orchid, lily of the valley, sea salt salinity and white peach. The palate is driven by steely acidity softened by balanced alcohol. It incorporates additional notes of lime leaf, lemongrass and blanched almond. The challenge is to delight in each nuanced detail, since the wine is just too delicious to stop sipping. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55

93 Olivet Lane 2019 Pellegrini Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Subtle, well-balanced and a bit restrained, this medium-bodied wine wins you over by holding back on ripeness and oak spices, to encourage more sips to “get” its character fully. Marzipan, honey and cream slowly reveal themselves on the palate and lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Outerbound 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A handsome thread of toasted oak weaves through Bosc pears, Fuji apples and touches of butter and vanilla in this full-bodied, dry and well-balanced wine. Toastiness and light savory notes add to its pair-ability with rich seafood and poultry entrées. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 Three Sticks 2021 Durrell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This full-bodied and generous wine is loaded with ripe pears and apples, while lemony acidity gives it an appetizing tang. Well balanced and flavorful, it's greatly appealing with concentrated fruit and light oak spices. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 Bailarin 2020 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This smooth and fruity wine is broadly appealing, and works well for the cocktail hour as well as dinner. Soft Bartlett pear and golden apple flavors rest on gentle acidity, sprinkled with light butter and vanilla accents. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

92 Beringer 2021 Luminus Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District). This is a big, broad and oak-influenced wine. Winning aromas of toasted almonds and pear tart are followed by a rich palate of peach nectar and brown butter. Good for sipping alone, the wine will also pair with indulgent seafood and chicken entrees. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$39

92 Comstock Wines 2018 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Like the ingredients for an apple pie, this attractive wine offers fresh-sliced green apples, baking spices and a hint of butter. Very fresh for a late-release, the wine has a medium body, a nice touch of acidity and overall spiciness that make it a real treat to sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

92 Copain Wines 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Good balance and mouthwatering acidity bring a zesty expression to this medium-bodied wine. Green apples, apricots and a hint of coconut light up the flavors. Light oak and mineral accents develop with more sips, adding extra interest. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$40

92 Decoy 2021 Limited Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 22.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

92 Educated Guess 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 22.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

92 Hertelendy 2019 Woolsey Road Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Aged for 17 months in 90% new French oak, this wine stands out from the crowd for its boldness and excess. A deep, gold color leads to honey, almond and toast aromas followed by browned butter, caramel and

poached pear flavors on a full, almost thick, body. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

92 Kenwood 2020 Six Ridges Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 32. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Knights Bridge 2021 East Block Estate Chardonnay (Knights Valley). A notably deep, gold color and strong oak and butter elements give this wine a big impact on the senses. A full body and mouthfilling texture carry it through to a lingering, toast-and-vanilla finish. Great choice in an all-out oaky style. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

92 MacRostie 2021 Wildcat Mountain Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). As inviting and buttery as a croissant, this soft and creamy wine is loaded with vanilla, fresh butter and baked apple flavors on a broad, melted texture, with just a hint of acidity for balance. Pour during cocktail hour for your Chardonnay-loving friends. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

92 Patz & Hall 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This harmonious and well-balanced wine opens with light butter, toast and Bartlett pear aromas, then fills the mouth with rich pear and peach flavors accented by vanilla. A full body is nicely paired with good acidity, so the wine works fine as a cocktail or with lunch and dinner. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Patz & Hall 2020 Alder Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). The delicate nose on this wine opens with hints of wet stone, lemon, lime and jasmine blossom. This Chardonnay comes to life on the palate, driven by an excellent dose of acid that's balanced by a touch of bitterness from well-integrated phenolics. Flavors are enhanced with additional notes of yogurt, bread crust, flint, hay, white peach and nectarine—all leading toward a lengthy finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Pedroncelli 2022 F. Johnson Vineyard Chardonnay (Dry Creek Valley). Poached pears, pie crust and butter are big elements in this rich, unctuous and soft-textured wine. Lush Bartlett pears, yellow peaches and hazelnuts add to the sweet seduction. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

92 Scheuer 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Rich fruit and spicy oak components are nicely layered in this full-bodied, creamy-textured wine. Bosc pears, golden apples, vanilla bean and melted butter all contribute to a mouth-filling expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

92 Textbook 2022 The Pey Family Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 26. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

92 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Searby Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This generous and relatively light-bodied wine accents deep Bosc pear and toasted almond flavors with spicy oak toast, vanilla bean and ginger notes, while coating the palate with its rich texture. The wine is smooth and relaxed in mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

92 Waypoint 2021 Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Appetizing acidity and a green-apple flavor liven up this medium-bodied, well-balanced wine that will suit lots of different occasions. Its freshness comes with subtle complexities that call for one sip after another. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$59

91 Aeris 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Milky aromas and a subtle blend of oak, butter and baking spices invest this medium-bodied and well-balanced wine with good complexity. Balancing richness with a tang of acidity, the wine is both appetizing and rather deep. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

91 Bennett Valley Cellars 2021 Bin 5757 Unoaked Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Leading with a buttery aroma, this full-bodied wine is relaxed in poached pears, butterscotch and roasted almonds for good depth of flavor and a mouthfilling texture. It's attractive to sip by itself or pair with rich appetizers and seafood. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$29

91 Carol Shelton 2022 Wild Thing Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Ripe and plump, this unusual blend of Chardonnay plus 10% Roussanne and 8% Viognier is full bodied, almost thick-textured, and lays on the vanilla, cream and butter flavors. Seeming low in acidity, the mouthfeel is viscous and soft but a hint of lemon peeks through to keep it balanced. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Chalk Hill 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 28.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Director's Cut 2022 by Francis Ford Coppola Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 28. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Head High 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 28.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Knights Bridge 2021 West Block Estate Chardonnay (Knights Valley). It's the kind of Chardonnay that pairs well with a blackened steak. Bold and brawny, this heavily oaked and toasted wine boasts wood char and brown-butter aromas,

grilled pear and toasted almond flavors and a full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Kobler 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Ripe, full and satisfying, this full-bodied and soft-textured wine is packed with Bartlett pears, Fuji apples, cinnamon and vanilla flavors. The acidity is light, giving a rich, almost sweet effect on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

91 La Crema 2021 Saralee's Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Expressive vanilla and butter aromas lead to butter, fig, coconut and honeydew melon flavors in this soft-textured, lush wine from the estate property of La Crema. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

91 La Crema 2020 Tidal Break Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A gentle texture and soft, ripe flavors of pear and peach nectar give this full-bodied wine an approachable, smooth style. The hints of lemon zest and crisp apple balance it out well. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Marchelle 2021 Tritone Cuvée Chardonnay (California). Grapes sourced from Mendocino, Sonoma and Santa Barbara come together in this steely Chardonnay. Generous acidity cuts through a smooth-textured mouthfeel. Aromas and flavors are delicate, yet layered and nuanced. Find notes of lemon, lime, cut grass, wet stone, acacia blossom, white nectarine and toast. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

91 Merlo Family 2022 Chardonnay (Trinity County). This almost-full-bodied Chard has an interesting layering of fruit, floral and savory tones, including ripe Meyer lemon, squashy yellow apple, honeysuckle, nasturtium leaf and nectar, ginger, marmalade, nutmeg, bread crust and hay. The palate has just a slight phenolic grip, offering textural intrigue. Generous acidity provides energy and vivacity from start to finish. *Hidden Gem.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

91 Pellegrini 2021 Skin Fermented Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). An amber-orange color signals the 14 days of skin contact that this wine went through, as do the unusually savory citrus-peel aromas and earthy, almost chalky flavors. Dried apricots and orange marmalade come to mind as well. It's a concentrated, barrel-aged white wine that can sub for a red at mealtime. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

91 RouteStock 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Dense, ripe fruit flavors pack a big punch in this full-bodied, generous and complex wine. Toasted oak meets vivid lemon, pear and apple notes braced by tangy acidity that keeps it refreshing. Great both before and with dinner. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$23

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Sonoma-Cutrer 2021 Dutton Ranch Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 30.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$42

91 Swim Club 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Calm, pleasant and well balanced, this appealing, light-bodied wine shows everything in good proportion, from ripe golden apples and Bosc pears to subtle vanilla and butter accents on a smooth but not too soft texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

91 Tamber Bey 2021 Deux Chevaux Vineyard Chardonnay (Yountville). This well-concentrated wine is rich in apple and pear flavors, lightly buttered and rather full bodied. It's a mouthfilling expression that will please a lot of people. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$80

91 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Charles Heintz Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This layered and intricate wine veers toward a late-harvest style. Ripe peaches, honey and toasted almond nuances are nicely layered through a melted, soft texture. The wine comes off as sweet, and suggests pairing with brie toasts or sauteed sole. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

91 Trione 2020 River Road Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 30.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

91 World's End 2019 Rebel Rebel Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Pastry-like flavors give this fun, creamy-textured wine an almost sweet effect as notes of vanilla, croissant and butter bathe the palate in richness. Good fruit acidity and elevated alcohol keep it powerful through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$75

90 Domaine Anderson 2020 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Light, delicate and steely, this Chard is driven by its fresh fruit and high acid. Fun and refreshing, it's the perfect pairing to your favorite seafood dish. Find notes of lemon, lime, cut grass, lawn daisy, Granny Smith apple, Bartlett pear, chamomile blossom and a sea-salty breeze. —S.B.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$40

90 Forager 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Apple pie aromas and good butter, vanilla and spiced-apple flavors make this sunny wine a big softie, with an almost-sweet balance and lots of ripe fruit. An easy choice for California wine lovers. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$24

90 Marchelle 2021 Lorenzo Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This soft and silky wine is rich in baked apples, cinnamon and

a touch of butter, offering a mouthfilling body and light acidity. It's easy to drink and enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$62

90 Olivet Lane 2021 Pellegrini Estate Bottled Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This easy-drinking, medium-bodied wine aged in steel barrels. It offers subtle baked apple and cinnamon aromas followed by a blend of light golden and green apple flavors on a relatively soft texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$50

90 Pellegrini 2021 R.R.V. Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). A full body, mouthfilling texture and lush, ripe honeydew melon flavors give this wine an uber-fruitiness. Because it didn't ferment or age in barrels, nor did it go through malolactic, the wine is free of oak spice and butter notes, instead showing a vibrant, tempting fruitiness. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

90 Rodney Strong 2020 Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). For full review see page 31.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

90 Tamber Bey 2022 Sans Chêne Chardonnay (Yountville). Straightforward and refreshingly fruity, this "without oak" wine is generous in crisp apple, Bosc pear and light floral accents that give it a charming, appetizing expression. Light to medium in body, it's a bottle for all seasons and occasions. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$45

90 Thirty-Seven 2020 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). Butter, mineral and flint aromas lead to an almost earthy palate of savory leaves, mushrooms, lemongrass and green apples. This wine feels silky and light despite a full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$32

89 Fellow 2021 Chardonnay (Clarksburg). For full review see page 35. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

89 Greg Norman Estates 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Quite fruity in flavor and viscous in texture, this wine should appeal even to non-wine drinkers. Full and soft, it offers honeydew melon, baked apple and vanilla flavors on a full body. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$17

89 Jess and Jules 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey). This riper, medium- to full-bodied Chard offers vivacious aromas and flavors of mandarin orange zest, citrus blossom, Bartlett pear, ripe peach, nectarine, banana skin, nutmeg, clove and cut wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

89 LangeTwins 2021 Merrill Vineyard Chardonnay (Clarksburg). This fuller-bodied Chard offers generous aromas and flavor of baby's breath blossom, pollen, ripe Golden Delicious apple,

poached pear, banana flesh and peel, toasted wood, nutmeg, clove and vanilla. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

89 Marchelle 2021 Manchester Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino Ridge). This is a rather fruity expression of Chardonnay, with notes of peach preserves, pineapple juice, honeysuckle, agave nectar, canned fruit cocktail, guava and papaya. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$57

89 Moniker 2022 La Ribera Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). This easy-sipping, gluggable Chardonnay offers vivacious notes of lemon, lime, green apple, cut grass, lime leaf and hay. It's driven by energetic acidity that is enhanced by a little bit of spritz, adding a fun, tongue-tingling finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

89 Old Lodge 2022 Chardonnay (Mendocino). A bit shy on the nose, this Chard truly comes to life on the palate. Engaging notes suggest lemon, lime, green apple, white blossom, grape fruit zest and pith, white nectarine, lychee, rose water, cut grass, wet stone and a hint of flint. Flavors are driven by generous acidity, balanced alcohol and a slight phenolic grip that adds textural interest. —S.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$28

89 Precision Wine 2022 Octopoda Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Big, rounded and lovable fruit flavors from apples to pears and peaches fill up this soft-textured wine for an almost sweet, pleasant effect that lingers on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

89 Three Thieves 2021 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 35. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

89 Westerhold 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This is a very full-bodied, extreme version of Chardonnay for those who can't get enough of the toasted-oak effect. A very deep gold color in the glass leads to sawn oak, browned butter and toasted baguette on the nose, followed by baked apples, cinnamon and caramel on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$35

88 Asuncion Ridge 2022 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Orange sorbet and honeysuckle aromas make for a balanced, light nose on this bottling. The palate is much more prominent, showing brisk tangerine alongside jasmine and rounded pear-flesh flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$38

88 Bricoleur 2022 Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). A mouthclinging texture gives this wine such richness that it seems sweet, as pear nectar and honeydew melon flavors wash over

the palate. A full body and soft acidity add to a pastrylike expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

88 Complant 2020 Linda Vista Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This intentionally lean, nervy wine is light bodied, tangy and palate-cleansing, offering apple cider aromas followed by lemon and green apple flavors, with a grippy texture. Its low alcohol and bracing acidity will appeal to many. —J.G.
abv: 11.76% **Price:** \$40

88 Domaine Helena 2021 Single Vineyard Chardonnay (North Coast). This ripe expression of Chardonnay offers notes of lemon, lime, apple sauce, poached pear, baking spice, banana peel and almond skins. —S.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$36

88 Donum 2021 Goldfields Year Of The Ox Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Deep gold to the eye, this full, ripe and almost syrupy wine is drenched in mellow, mature toast, butter and marmalade flavors on a broad, full body and melted texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

88 Geyser Peak 2022 Chardonnay (California). This Chard (with 9% Pinot Gris in the mix) is floral on the nose, with aromas of white orchids, lilies, peonies and baby's breath gently wafting out of the glass. The palate shows a soft mouthfeel and opens to fruitier tones of just-ripe apricots, white nectarines and lychees. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Josh Cellars 2022 Chardonnay (California). An all-around well-balanced wine, this offers notes of lemon, lime, jasmine blossom, white peach and nectarine. The palate is driven by a solid dose of acidity, assisted by a slight spritz that adds the needed energy. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Kendric Vineyards 2020 Proprietor Grown Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). A deep-gold color correlates with lavish butter, toast and vanilla aromas in this proudly oaky wine. The palate shows caramel, coconut and taffy notes on a broad, rich texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Kenwood 2021 The Barn Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A smoky, apricot-skin streak runs through this full-bodied but rather lean-tasting wine, adding an earthy cast to the apple cider, green apple and pineapple notes. The wine may be a sleeper that just needs time to loosen up. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

88 McGrail 2022 Family Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This well-balanced and easily quaffable wine offers delicate notes of lemon, lime, wet stone, mineral water, white grape and sweet pea, driven by generous acidity and rounded alcohol.

A slight spritz to the palate adds extra energy and verve. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

88 McManis 2022 Estate Grown Chardonnay (River Junction). For full review see page 36.
Best Buy.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$10

88 Nottingham Cellars 2021 Sangiacomo Vineyard Roberts Road Extended Aging Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Emphasizing very ripe fruit flavors, this luscious wine is almost sweet in its rich dose of apples, honeydew melons and pear syrup. It is non-oaky, mega-fruity and soft in texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

88 Songbird 2020 Chardonnay (California). A bit shy on the nose, this wine is friendlier on the palate. It opens to notes of poached apple and pear, clove, cinnamon, nutmeg, banana peel and buttered popcorn. The palate offers a generous dose of acidity and slightly elevated (13.8%) alcohol, resulting in a balanced medium-bodied wine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$13

88 Stel+Mar 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi). A pale lemon hue in the glass, this wine offers aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, green and yellow apple, baby's breath blossom, pollen, pineapple rind, banana flesh and peel, hay, clove, nutmeg, vanilla and toasted wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$14

88 Trinity Oaks 2021 Chardonnay (California). For full review see page 36. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$11

88 Twenty Acres 2021 Sustainably Grown Chardonnay (Clarksburg). A Golden Delicious apple shade of yellow in the glass, this casual Chard (with 11% Chenin Blanc) has aromas and flavors to match. It exudes notes of applesauce, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla cream, salted butter and popcorn. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Eden Ridge 2021 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Mendocino). This ripe, full-bodied Chard offers notes of yellow and green apple, poached pear, cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla cream. It embodies what's become a classic California expression of the variety. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$12

87 Kendall-Jackson 2022 Avant Chardonnay (California). A pale, watery lemon hue in the glass, this offers aromas that are as delicate as the visual. Predominantly floral tones waft gently from the glass, recalling white rose, lily of the valley, jasmine blossom, lychee, white grape and wet stone. The palate confirms those aromas and brings along a generous level of acidity. A bit of spritz adds extra energy and jazz to the experience. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Kirkland Signature 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This bottling is a good choice in a non-buttery style. A blend of green and golden apples, tangy acidity and a touch of smoky, petrol flavor give this medium-bodied wine a lean profile. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

87 Kith & Kin 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). The oily texture of this soft wine carries pear syrup, Fuji apples and vanilla that turn tart and lemony on the finish. It's a good, standard bottle for casual occasions. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

87 Navigator 2020 Chardonnay (Carneros). This extremely ripe, full-bodied Chard offers aromas and flavors of peach, nectarine, mango and banana peel among oaky tones of vanilla and nutmeg. It also has leesy notes of yogurt and bread crust, finishing with a bit of struck match and smoke. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

87 No Love Lost 2022 Home Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Yolo County). A balanced, easy sipper, this wine offers notes of lemon-lime citrus, chamomile blossom, pollen, struck match, flint and hay. —S.B.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$35

87 Pacific Redwood 2022 Organic Chardonnay (California). This balanced wine offers notes of pastry dough, poached pear and quince, whipped cream, hay and pollen. —S.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$20

86 Arrowflite 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast). This light- to medium-bodied Chard offers low-intensity aromatics and flavors set against a solid dose of acidity and a bitter phenolic grip. Find notes of wet stone, river water, cut grass and cherry blossom. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Francis Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Chardonnay (California). This rather floral wine is ripe, with notes of lily of the valley, white grape, white peach, nectarine and aromas of white pepper. The palate is juicy, with a little spritz aiding the modest acidity and a slight phenolic grip that adds a bitter edge. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Topophilia 2022 NDA Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Unusually floral in aroma and flavor, this wine exudes geraniums, peaches and apricots as if it were made from a whole other grape variety. A medium body and balancing acidity make it refreshing. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

85 Hunter Chaps 2020 Chardonnay (California). This wine has a strong phenolic grip that gives it a bitter core. It's a balanced, albeit simple, wine with notes of cement, tree bark, matchstick

BUYINGGUIDE

flint, green pear, white peach skin, hay, apple skin and dried floral potpourri. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

85 Slow Press 2022 Chardonnay (California). A strong phenolic grip gives this wine a bitter edge that frames fresh fruit-meets-floral aromas and flavors. Find notes of sweet pea and peony flowers, lychee, white grape, and white grapefruit pith and oil. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Jayson 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 13.2% Price: \$45

94 The Setting 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 14. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.4% Price: \$55

93 Clos du Val 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$55

93 Dry Creek Vineyard 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 16. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.1% Price: \$25

93 Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Coast). Aromas of grilled bread, vanilla and ginger lead to snappy, concentrated grapefruit, green apple and kiwi flavors in this complex, engaging wine. The wine brings together a spicy nose and palate with a zesty, vital fruit core for great balance. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

93 Surveyor 2021 Chosen Vines Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Nicely braced by a portion of new-oak aging, this agile wine wraps a bright citrus core in complementary untoasted barrel flavors such as baguette and white pepper for a harmonious and layered effect that's compelling. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$55

92 Acumen 2021 Peak Sauvignon Blanc (Atlas Peak). Rather rich melon and Meyer lemon flavors carry this medium-bodied wine through a creamy texture to a lingering, tangy finish. Honeydew melon, green figs and coconut all add to its ripe complexity. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

92 J. Cage Cellars 2022 Tzabaco Rancho Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Great balance, concentrated fruit and herb flavors, and an elegant texture make this a go-to wine for all occasions. Lemon, apple and thyme notes mingle with light oak spices on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$32

92 Quattro Theory 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 25.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 Textbook 2020 The Pey Family Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 26. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.6% Price: \$25

91 Pellegrini 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Coast). Grassy, floral and refreshing, this light-bodied wine shows dried thyme and parsley aromas, followed by white pepper and white peach flavors on a silky texture. Partially barrel fermented, it offers great balance and subtle complexity. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$40

91 Round Pond 2022 Jannine Bovet Home Ranch Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford). Dry and invigorating, this tight and crisp-tasting wine aged in 25% new oak is steely in its fruit acidity, mineral flavors and light body. The wine's refreshment and palate-cleansing qualities will pair neatly with shucked oysters and fish and chips. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

91 Tamber Bey 2022 LamBentz Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). One of the bigger Sauvignons, this rounded and full-bodied wine is rich in ripe apples and kiwi fruit backed by a decent amount of citrusy acidity. Grilled halibut would make a great pairing. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$42

90 Acumen 2022 Mountainside Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Grassy aromas and satisfying lemon, lime and green-apple flavors are carried on a rather full body in this attractive wine. It shows the inherent flavors of the grape variety to good effect. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$35

90 Aperture 2022 Soil Specific Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). This lemon and herb-driven wine shows good citrus acidity and a silky texture draped with lemon zest, parsley and thyme flavors. It's well suited for seafood and doesn't go over the top in terms of herbaceousness. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$50

90 Cliff Family 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District). This taut, textural wine reflects the mineral and citrus side of Sauvignon Blanc, offering subtle stony, lemony flavors and a dry, tangy mouthfeel that's appetizing and restrained. Made from certified organic grapes. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$38

90 Cormorant Cellars 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Nicely layered and toasty, this light- to medium-bodied wine made from organically farmed grapes offers a creamy texture and enticing flavors of lemon, crisp apple and graham crackers. Its flinty, doughy freshness calls for sip after sip. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$24

90 Highway 12 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 34. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.9% Price: \$16

90 Silverado 2022 Miller Ranch Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). For full review see page 31.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$30

89 Bella Union 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford). This tangy, mineral-tasting wine offers fresh citrus, stone and herb nuances on a nicely crisp texture. It's a good choice for lunch, pre-dinner and especially with fish and shellfish. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

89 Forager 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Light and fresh citrus flavors are the focus of this medium-bodied wine, adding subtle herb and mineral accents with more sips. It is charming, almost delicate, and well suited for mild fish like trout or sole. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$25

89 Frog's Leap 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford). A more fruity version than many other Sauvignons, this smooth wine offers a relatively soft texture wrapped around lime, green apple and kiwi flavors. Attractive hints of vanilla and toast reflect aging on the lees. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$30

89 Kate Arnold 2022 North Coast Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). Light bodied with crisp acidity and a smooth, silky mouthfeel, this wine offers typical SB notes of lemon, lime, grapefruit, kiwi, star fruit, citrus and apple blossom, with a generous dose of green capsicum. —S.B.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$22

89 Knights Bridge 2021 Pont De Chevalier Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley). A rounded texture and nicely ripe fruit flavors come with sides of butter and vanilla in this full-bodied, oak-aged wine. Soft in mouthfeel, the wine is generous in golden apples and Bosc pears. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

89 McGrail 2022 Peyton Paige Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). This light and lively white expresses aromas and flavors of green apple and pear, wet stone, flint, hay, dusty-sandy earthiness, jasmine blossom and potpourri. —S.B.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$28

89 Murrieta's Well 2022 Mel Estate Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). This Sauv Blanc incorporates small percentages of Viognier, Orange Muscat and Malvasia Blanca into the mix. The result is a balanced and enjoyable white with aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, chamomile blossom, cut grass and a hint of toast. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

89 **Peju 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley)**. Nicely balanced, fresh and fruity, this medium-bodied wine also sports light thyme and cut-grass accents over its generous cantaloupe and golden apple flavors. A crisp, tangy texture helps it pair widely with food. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Valette 2022 Kick Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County)**. Big, bawdy herb and earth aromas lead to a mouthful of grassy, veggie and oaky flavors in this full-bodied, extroverted wine. Simply grab some herbed goat cheese and start a party. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$37

88 **Acre 2022 Morgaen Lee Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville)**. Vivid acidity and subtle fruit and spice flavors give this relatively full-bodied wine a handsome, toasty expression and tangy finish. On the lean side in terms of fruitiness, it emphasizes chalky mineral notes instead. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

88 **Alexander Valley Vineyards 2022 Wetzel Family Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County)**. Pouring out a juicy mouthful of fruit flavor, this full-bodied wine is fresh in cantaloupe and honeydew melon, with good, lively acidity and light herbal accents. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

88 **Fellow 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Clarksburg)**. For full review see page 36. *Best Buy*.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Gen5 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi)**. This wine out of Lodi includes 2% Chenin Blanc, but still evokes classic SB aromas and flavors, ticking all the expected boxes for the variety. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, green capsicum, cut grass, just-ripe pineapple and passionfruit. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$11

88 **Lost Hog 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County)**. This little piggy went to the market and drank Sauv Blanc all the way home. He enjoyed fresh aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, green capsicum, white grapefruit, wet stone and cut grass, driven by a balanced dose of acidity, edged with a slight phenolic grip. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

88 **Myka 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Fair Play)**. A pale lemon color in the glass, this SB offers a unique expression of the varietal. It incorporates notes of cut grass, hay, lime pith and zest, Greek yogurt, peach skin and box tree. A smooth, glycerin mouthfeel, modest acidity and balanced alcohol round out the palate. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Paradise Ridge 2022 Grandview Vineyard Select Byck Family Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley)**. Delivering all the fresh herbs and tangy acidity expected, this is an appetizing, mouthwatering wine. A medium body and full

mouthfeel give it weight, too. It begs for a bite of salad, fish or fowl. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$32

88 **Pestoni Family 2022 Estate Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford)**. This bold wine opens with vivid citrus and equally vivid herbal aromas that lead to grassy, lemony flavors backed by strong acidity and a fairly full body. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

88 **Rodney Strong 2022 Charlotte's Home Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County)**. For full review see page 36. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Sand Point 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California)**. For full review see page 36. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 **Geyser Peak 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California)**. This is a light-body, low-intensity SB offering subtle notes of lemon, lime, green apple skin and hay. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 **Josh Cellars 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California)**. This low-intensity wine expresses subtle notes of white blossom, lemon, lime, grapefruit, just-ripe passionfruit and cut grass, with a sea-air salinity. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Knights Bridge 2021 Fairview Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Knights Valley)**. Soft and buttery, this full-bodied, oak-aged wine could pass for a Chardonnay. It's easy to sip, rich in ripe apples with a hint of vanilla. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

87 **Patent 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville)**. Vivid bell pepper and jalapeno aromas lead to strong grassy, green veggie flavors on a full body with good acidity. This wine shows how intense the vegetal flavors of the grape variety can get. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$33

87 **Precision Wine 2022 Octopoda Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley)**. Relatively soft in texture, this medium-bodied wine smells of dried grass and tastes more savory and herbaceous than outright fruity. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **Songbird 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California)**. This simple SB expresses low-intensity aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, baby's breath, hay and flint. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

85 **1924 2022 Double Gold Sauvignon Blanc (California)**. This simple wine is herbaceous both on the nose and the palate. That green attitude also encompasses subtler tones of lemon, lime, white grapefruit and baby's breath. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

PINOT GRIGIO

92 **Horse & Plow 2022 Pinot Gris (Napa Valley)**. This fruity, floral and richly textured wine made from organic grapes is packed with green apples, lemon blossoms and white peaches that speak of mountain snowmelt and springtime. Enjoyable in all seasons with appetizers, salads and fresh cheeses. *Hidden Gem*. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 **Bouchaine 2021 Estate Selection Estate Pinot Gris (Carneros-Napa Valley)**. A tangy underpinning of fruit acidity supports ripe golden apples, kiwis and floral notes in this medium-bodied, well-balanced wine. It's mouthwatering to sip for lunch and before dinner. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

89 **McManis 2022 Pinot Grigio (River Junction)**. For full review see page 35. *Best Buy*.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$10

87 **Sand Point 2022 Pinot Grigio (California)**. For full review see page 36. *Best Buy*.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 **Dark Horse 2022 Pinot Grigio (California)**. The watery hue of this wine points toward how subtle the aromas and flavors are. It's an altogether simple wine with notes of lemon, lime, green apple and white blossom. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

84 **Josh Cellars 2022 Pinot Grigio (California)**. If looking for a light-bodied, low-intensity, high-acid white, this is it. Subtle aromas of lemon, lime and white flowers lead to a crisp finish. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

CHENIN BLANC

89 **Aperture 2022 Soil Specific Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg)**. This medium-bodied white offers notes of cut grass, crispy green capsicum, hay, lemon, lime, pineapple rind, mango skins and banana. It has modest acidity and a phenolic grip that adds a bitter edge. —S.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$35

88 **Bogle 2021 Sutter Ranch Vineyard Reserve Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg)**. This well-balanced white offers notes of lemon, lime, chalk, water lily, wet stone, flint and white pepper. Everything is carried by energetic acidity and tamed by a slight phenolic grip that adds textural intrigue. Drink now. *Best Buy*. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Dry Creek Vineyard 2022 Dry Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg)**. Shy on the nose, delicate on the palate, this is a quiet wine where joy is found in its light-bodied simplicity with whispering notes

BUYINGGUIDE

of lemon, lime, white blossom, peach and nectarine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Fellow 2021 Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). For full review see page 35. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 LangeTwins 2022 Merrill Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). Nice, light and crisp, this white is attractive in its refreshing flavors. Notes suggest lemon, lime, white blossom, river rock, dewy grass, green melon, Granny Smith apple, white nectarine and mandarin orange zest. —S.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

VIIGNIER

92 Cliff Family 2022 Viognier (Napa Valley). Great depth of fruit and a creamy, rich texture drive this full-bodied, gentle and soothing wine made from organic grapes. Subtle in vanilla, butter, lemon blossoms, white peaches and grapefruit, the wine is nicely complex on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

91 Comstock Wines 2018 Viognier (Russian River Valley). This attractive, unoaked wine offers vivid fruit flavors on a creamy texture backed by good underlying acidity. With an array of coconut, white peach and tangy citrus flavors, there is plenty to explore. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2022 XCV Viognier (Paso Robles). Clean and crisp aromas of apple blossom and coconut cream show on the nose of this bottling. There's a bright acidity and chalky grip to the palate, where apple and peach blossom flavors make for a balanced expression. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

91 Kobler 2022 Viognier (Russian River Valley). Vivid floral and tropical fruit aromas lead to lively pineapple, kiwi and mango flavors in this full-bodied, exuberant wine. Lively acidity keeps all those flavors dancing through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

91 MacLaren 2022 Aida Gregori Vineyard Viognier (Russian River Valley). Heady aromas of coconut, cloves and vanilla lead to mouthfilling, ripe and lively pineapple and Anjou pear flavors in this barrel-fermented, robust and perfumed wine. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

91 Naidu Wines 2022 Catie's Corner Vineyard Viognier (Russian River Valley). Generous floral, coconut and vanilla flavors fill out this medium-bodied wine, from jasmine in the nose to tropical fruit on the palate followed by a lingering finish. The wine feels big and luxurious, fine to sip alone or pair with substantial food. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$40

91 Thumbprint Cellars 2022 Catie's Corner Vineyard Viognier (Russian River Valley). This fresh-tasting, well-balanced, barrel-fermented wine has an appetizing quality that will pair well with a myriad of salads, appetizers and fish. Moderate Bosc pear, orange blossom and white tea nuances give plenty to appreciate while a lowish alcohol content lets the wine's crisp acidity kick in. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

90 Kobler 2022 Kobler Family Vineyards Viognier (Russian River Valley). Tangy in texture and full of vibrant fruits, this medium-bodied wine has a powerful, palate-cleansing effect while delivering delicious apricots, white peaches and lemon blossoms. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$85

89 McManis 2022 Estate Grown Viognier (River Junction). For full review see page 35. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.25% **Price:** \$12

88 Cedarville 2021 Estate Bottled Viognier (El Dorado). This medium- to full-bodied white offers aromas and flavors of Meyer lemon, butter, cream, white pepper, peach skin and matchstick. The wine has a glycerin-like backbone, with that smoothness cut by a touch of phenolic grip. It's well balanced and tasty. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29

86 Asuncion Ridge 2022 Viognier (Paso Robles). Lemon cake and tuberose aromas are prominent on the nose of this bottling. The palate is extremely peachy, with hints of apricot jam that approach sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$38

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Ridge 2022 Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles). This bottling from three vineyards employs 14% Picpoul to add acidic heft to the formula, which checks off so many white-wine boxes. Aromas of sliced peach, coconut and macadamia nut are cut by crushed stone and chalk on the nose. The palate is rounded in salted peach and melon flavors, but remains vibrant in acidity and firm in texture long into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

92 Bouchaine 2021 Estate Selection Estate Gewürztraminer (Carneros-Napa Valley). A heady perfume of dried flowers, lychees and peaches gives way to a palate full of bright fruit flavors, good acidity and enough body to keep the wine silky. Great pairings with fresh, herbed goat cheese or crab cakes come to mind. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$45

92 Gundlach Bundschu 2022 Estate Dry Gewürztraminer (Sonoma Valley). Rose petals, lychee and pink grapefruit waft up from the glass in an aromatic stream before tangy acidity powers the delicious, dry and (for Gewurz) restrained flavors

that light up the palate. This wine is perfect to serve any time you might have chosen Sauvignon Blanc instead. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$29

92 Maggy Hawk 2021 White Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Appetizing aromas of Marcona almond, Greek yogurt and Parmesan cheese immediately waft out of the glass. This varietal Pinot Noir made in the style of a white wine has a unctuously rounded, fleshy body with vivacious acidity that cuts right through the center. The palate adds notes of Meyer lemon, mango, honeydew melon, honeysuckle and agave nectar. **Editors' Choice.** —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55

90 Thibido 2022 Second Date Paso Ono Vineyard Vermentino (Paso Robles). Very light aromas of melon rind, apple water and wet stone show on the nose of this bottling, which was aged in terracotta amphora. There's a chiseled stone texture to the palate, where rounded apple and nectarine flavors pick up tropical notes of pineapple and jasmine. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$43

90 V. Sattui 2022 Albariño (Carneros-Napa Valley). Peaches, toasted almonds and a touch of honey give this full-bodied wine a gorgeous, tempting aroma and delicious flavors just this side of sweet. Will be great on a picnic, with fresh cheese or tapas. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

89 Lucid 2022 L.09 Tethered Sky Picpoul Blanc (Lodi). This medium-bodied white offers a solid dose of acidity that cuts through the otherwise smooth, glycerin-like texture and finishes with a slight phenolic grip. Ripe, plushy flavors suggest yellow peach, mango and pineapple, with fresh florals of nasturtium, jasmine and acacia. —S.B.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$38

88 Bogle 2022 Reserve Albariño (Clarksburg). Slight effervescence gives extra energy to this high-acid, medium-bodied white. That vivacity carries attractive, fruit-meets-floral notes of lychee, white grape, white rose, white peach and nectarine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Marchelle 2021 Old Vine Colombar (Russian River Valley). A strong aroma of mown hay and prickly nettles gives way to nervy, lemongrass and grapefruit flavors in this lean, low-alcohol and acid-driven wine. It's a wake-up call for the senses, and a daring detour from the usual Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc. —J.G.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$28

88 Portalupi 2022 Graziano Vineyard Arneis (Mendocino). Paying homage to the classic Piemonte expression, this bottling offers a plethora of fruit-meets-floral aromas and flavors suggesting apple juice, apple blossom, dewy grass and white

grape. The palate is driven by a generous acidity, balanced alcohol and smooth texture. —S.B.
abv: 11.7% Price: \$36

88 V. Sattui 2022 Semillon (Carneros-Napa Valley). This wine offers good heft in the texture plus subtle fruity and savory flavors, all on a light body. However, the wine is mouthfilling enough to pair with salty nuts, roast chicken and veal piccata. —J.G.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$34

87 Birichino 2022 Blanc de Noire Bechthold Vineyard Old Vines Cinsault (Mokelumne River). This white take on a red grape offers aromas and flavors of apple, pear, hay, raw almond, white pepper, potpourri, banana skin and dried apple rings. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

WHITE BLENDS

93 Caelesta 2022 White White Blend (Paso Robles). This is a fantastically refreshing and energetic white wine to counteract the bold reds of Paso Robles. Aromas of crushed rock give depth to the white melon, pear soda and coconut scents on the nose. The zippy palate offers lychee, lime sorbet and honeydew flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

93 Cormorant Cellars 2021 Preston Vineyard Rhône-style White Blend (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 16. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12.9% Price: \$27

93 St. Supéry 2022 Virtú Estate Bottled Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

91 Lassetter 2021 Zut Alors White Blend (Sonoma Valley). This wine shows the softer, mellower, more aromatic side of the grape variety as it blends 71% Sauvignon Blanc with 29% Sauvignon Blanc Musqué grapes. Its smooth, broad texture reveals vanilla, coconut, melon and pear notes that unfold to a lingering graham cracker and vanilla finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$46

SPARKLING WINES

94 Iron Horse 2019 Classic Vintage Brut Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

94 Iron Horse 2019 Wedding Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

93 Iron Horse 2019 Winter's Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

93 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 19. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

93 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). Lively, lasting pinpoint bubbles and a light salmon color are followed by a complex mix of tangy fruits, toast and minerals in this concentrated and complete wine. Suave but crisp in mouthfeel, imbued with subtle peach and apricot flavors, this wine is something to be savored. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$23

92 Iron Horse 2019 Brut X Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$62

92 Iron Horse 2019 Ocean Reserve Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$62

92 Olivet Lane 2019 Pellegrini Estate Bottled II. La Bionda Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Russian River Valley). A subtle richness is the key to this smooth and supple sparkler. It pleases the palate with light notes of toast, butter cookies and vanilla along with a green-apple zestiness that keeps it well balanced. —J.G.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$70

92 Piper Sonoma NV Brut Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). Like its rosé sibling, this new release is an overperformer. An elegant feel and subtle citrus, toast and mineral flavors add up to a bottle of bubbles with finesse. Tiny, slow bubbles and a light but tangy texture carry the delicate flavors beautifully on the palate and through the lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

91 Iron Horse 2019 Russian River Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Soft, ripe-tasting and mouthfilling, this easy-drinking bottle of bubbles is ripe in Bosc pear, Fuji apple and vanilla bean flavors backed by a hint of sweetness. This may be Iron Horse's richest cuvée, made from two-thirds Pinot Noir and one-third Chardonnay. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

91 Mumm Napa 2016 DVX Rosé Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley). A hint of sweetness softens this luxurious, pleasantly fruity wine made with Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Generous apricot and raspberry flavors fill out the palate. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$85

89 Breathless 2018 Sparkling Pinot Meunier (Sonoma County). Big, fast bubbles and a light straw color are the first things to notice about this lively, palate-cleansing wine before crisp apple and white peach flavors are lifted by good acidity and the speedy effervescence. The wine is refreshing and bright. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

89 Meeker 2022 Pop Punk Sparkling Viognier (Knights Valley). Hazy in appearance and velvety in texture, this pét-nat style of bubbles is rich in lanolin, golden apples and Bosc pear flavors. It has a hefty, almost chewy feel and is nicely packed with fruit. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$34

88 Breaking Bread 2022 Pet Nat Sparkling Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This off-dry wine gushes a frothy effervescence and sweet cherry and peach flavors on a soft texture. Fruity, gulpable and uncomplicated, the wine is perfect for everyday occasions. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

88 Comstock Wines 2020 Blanc De Blanc Sparkling Blend (Dry Creek Valley). Well balanced, clean and refreshing, this light-bodied wine opens with subtle green-apple and lemon aromas leading to fairly crisp and light notes of fresh herbs and lime on a frothy texture. —J.G.
abv: 11.9% Price: \$55

88 Meeker 2022 Pop Punk Sparkling Rosé, Venturi Vineyard Grenache (Mendocino). Produced as a pét-nat, this sparkler made from Grenache offers generous aromas of fresh-squeezed orange juice, citrus blossom, honeysuckle, agave nectar, peony and sweet pea blossoms. On the palate, find large-bubbled mousse structure along with a strong, bitter phenolic grip and a few extra fruity notes of yellow peach and apricot. —S.B.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$34

88 Piper Sonoma NNV Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Sonoma County). This ripe-tasting, generously fruity wine boasts sunny apple, yellow peach and Bartlett pear aromas followed by a fruit-salad palate and rather soft, easy mousse. It should be a crowd pleaser. —J.G.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$23

87 Coeurdesse 2018 Extended Aging Brut Sparkling Blend (Bennett Valley). A bone-dry balance, light green apple flavors and hints of chalky astringency give this wine a tightly wound expression that needs a food pairing to bring it out. —J.G.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

ROSÉS

92 Olivet Lane 2022 Pellegrini Estate Bottled Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Lively acidity and plenty of fresh raspberry and red cherry flavors give this medium-bodied wine a vibrant, refreshing quality that's hard to resist.

BUYINGGUIDE

Great balance, spot-on fruit flavors and a lingering finish add up to a lot of enjoyment. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$40

91 Bouchaine 2022 Estate Selection Vin Gris of Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). This style of rosé is what the world wants now. It's a tangy, pink-grapefruit and red-cherry version that's light on its feet and mouthwatering on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Dry Creek Vineyard 2022 Petite Zin Rosé of Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Good to remember that Zinfandel can be this delicate and charming. This eye-catching, fresh-tasting wine is a lovely pink in color. Vividly fruity in aroma, it carries through with tasty red cherries, raspberries and a touch of lime on the palate. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Paradise Ridge 2022 Brides Blush Byck Family Estate Rosé (Russian River Valley). This light-bodied but rather richly textured wine made from Syrah and Grenache grapes boasts fresh strawberry and raspberry tones on soft acidity. The wine is delicate, fresh and well balanced, perfect for lunch or to start an evening. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$32

90 Sonoma-Cutrer 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 34. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$20

89 Belle Glos 2022 Oeil De Perdrix Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). A brilliant copper color and deep plummy, meaty flavors come with a rich, soothing texture and medium body in this serious wine. It will fly with everything from salmon to fried chicken. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

89 Kobler 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This copper-colored wine has enough body and fruit flavor to enjoy on its own or stand in for a red, despite being low in alcohol. Yellow plum and yellow peach flavors are buoyed by just enough acidity to keep it appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$38

89 Olivet Lane 2022 Pellegrini Estate Bottled White Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Notable for its pale amber-pink color, this light-bodied wine is also light in fruit flavor, but quite refreshing and mouthwatering. Pair with salads, tapas and fried chicken. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

88 Acumen 2022 Mountainside Rosé (Napa Valley). Pretty watermelon flavors and a soft texture help this medium-bodied wine go down easy. More smooth than crisp, it has enough richness to go with grilled proteins and pasta. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

88 López Family Vineyards 2022 Rosé of Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). This wine

is copper-colored in the glass, peachy and plummy in aroma, and nicely full and fruity in the mouth. Although low in alcohol, it is substantial enough to pair with tapas or a full meal. —J.G.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$34

88 Myka 2022 Saureel Vineyard Rosé (El Dorado). Ballet-slipper pink in the glass, this rosé of predominantly Grenache includes 3% Muscat in the mix, accounting for its very floral attitude. Find notes of white blossom, blood orange zest, white nectarine, lychee, apricot and pineapple juice. —S.B.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

88 Paraduxx 2022 Rosé (Napa Valley). This substantial wine offers strong plummy flavors, a medium to full body, and rich, mouthcoating texture. It's not so much a poolside pour as a dry dinner-time drink with a main course. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

87 Rescue Dog Wines 2021 Rosé (Lodi). A perfect salmon hue in the glass, this simple rosé offers delicate notes of lemon, lime, blood orange, struck match and just-cut dried grass. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

84 Stel+Mar NV Rosé (California). This overall balanced, albeit simple, rosé offers notes of white strawberry, just-ripe red cherry, cherry blossom and hay. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

99 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 Cask 23 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$305

96 Aperture 2020 Del Rio Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$150

96 Eleven Eleven 2020 Laki's Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$140

96 Nottingham Cellars 2021 The Pivot Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Opulent and broad on the palate, this expansive and concentrated wine is likely named for Nottingham's move to Napa Valley from Livermore Valley. The wine coats delicious blackberry and blueberry flavors in soft but thick tannins for a mouthfilling, grippy texture that needs time to resolve. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$125

96 The Setting 2019 Glass Slipper Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$185

95 Alta Orsa 2020 Hillside Cuvée Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$34

95 Daou 2019 Family Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$130

95 Lions Head Collection 2021 Lion Tamer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

95 Riboli 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Shafer 2021 TD-9 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$75

95 St. Supéry 2019 Dollarhide Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 S.L.V. Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$200

95 The Setting 2019 Rockpile Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$185

94 Aperture 2019 Farrow Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Super intense and packed with dark, smoky flavors, this massively structured wine will need quite a while to mature to a point of pleasure. Wafting dark chocolate, oak char and grilled plums, it coats the palate with espresso, tobacco, cedar and black licorice flavors laced with thick tannins. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$175

94 Beringer 2020 Knights Valley Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). A beautiful perfume of oak spices leads to intricate red, black and blue fruit flavors in this nicely layered, complex and complete wine. Cherries, blueberries, cinnamon, cedar and cocoa compete for attention while firm but fine-grained tannins lend a velvety texture. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70

94 Carol Shelton 2017 Rockpile Vineyard Rockpile Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile). Intensely ripe fruit flavors dominate this big but comfy wine as it pours out dried blueberries, dried cherries, mint and cedar notes that are delicious and mouthfilling. The wine feels high-octane yet not overly tannic, and since Carol aged it extra long

at the winery, it's enjoyable now. Best from 2026. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

94 Clos du Val 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

94 Decoy 2021 Limited Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

94 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Endeavour Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

94 Ferrari-Carano 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

94 Hendry 2019 Hendry Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$70

94 Knights Bridge 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Quite smooth and supple for a Cabernet, this richly textured and handsomely concentrated wine offers plump blueberries, espresso and black cherry flavors. These are laced with subtle toast and graphite nuances from aging in new oak barrels. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$135

94 Majuscule 2019 Garçon Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). A finely laced perfume of potpourri, toast and chocolate leads to ultrarich and concentrated black fruits in this big, broad and velvety wine made solely from Cabernet Clone 169 vines. Mouthfilling and saturated, the wine coats the palate with dried plums, black figs and complex oak spices. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$125

94 Markham 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$48

94 Maroon 2019 Special Reserve Maroon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Suave, ripe-tasting and deep, this well-structured and well-balanced wine has the full tannins and full body to match the richness of a T-bone and the polish to keep it smooth around the edges, even tempting to sip alone. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$174

94 Mason Cellars 2020 Pelissa Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This firmly structured, well-balanced wine has the feel of a classic Bordeaux blend. Just-ripe red and black fruits blend with subtle toast, cedar and mint on a moderately tannic, slightly tangy texture. The wine is tasty

enough to decant and drink soon with grilled lamb chops or roast chicken. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$110

94 Reynolds Family Winery 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$68

94 St. Supéry 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$58

94 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 Fay Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$160

94 Textbook 2021 The Pey Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$46

94 The Setting 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$95

94 The Setting 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$145

93 Aperture 2020 Soil Specific Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$75

93 Beaulieu Vineyard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Focused and brilliant flavors of red and black cherries and black currants drive this sleek and powerful wine, as minty, toasty, and tobacco-like accents stay subtly in the background until the finish. A full body, medium to full tannins and good fruit acidity lend tangy freshness. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$39

93 Cavus 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This wine holds a deep, dark center surrounded by smooth, velvety tannins and a plush mouthfeel. Super-concentrated black cherries, blueberries, cinnamon and dark chocolate linger through the finish. The wine is smooth enough to drink now. Best through 2035. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$125

93 Compliant 2020 UC Davis South Station Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Nervy and mouthwatering, this wine from Daniel and Sam Baron shows good concentration and balance. Relatively lean and appetizing black-fruit flavors and subtle accents of black pepper and black olive keep it interesting. Moderate tannins, a medium body and good acidity set the wine up for further aging, too. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 13.95% Price: \$175

93 Dry Creek Vineyard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). An inky color, potent black-fruit flavors and a velvety texture add up to a lot of deliciousness in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. Black currants and black cherries are accented by spearmint and toasted oak notes. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$32

93 Hamel Family 2019 Pamelita Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Tightly concentrated dark chocolate, espresso and oak toast flavors are wrapped in very firm tannins, giving this imposing wine a grippy texture. It needs years to relax and release more fruit flavors and nuances. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$225

93 Hestan 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Very ripe and sweet in aroma, this big wine boasts lots of oak spices from cinnamon to cedar and chocolate. These blend with late-picked blackberry and dried blueberry flavors for an indulgent richness. Velvety tannins add a good touch of grippy texture. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$145

93 Hestan 2019 Meyer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Saturated with delicious red and black fruits, this full-bodied wine hugs them with warm, fine-grained tannins for a cozy, rich texture that leads to a lingering finish. Blueberries, baking spices and spearmint develop with each sip. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

93 Highwayman 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

93 J. Lohr 2021 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

93 No Love Lost 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Concentrated in black fruit flavors and snugly wrapped in tannins, this well-balanced wine opens with rose petal, violets and cedar on the nose, leading to ample red and black cherries and tart cranberries on the palate. Well structured and not too full bodied, the wine needs time to develop more complexity. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$60

93 Pine Ridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Oodles of black fruit and a silky texture make this sleek wine easy to sip and appreciate. With relatively light tannins and a full body, the wine gracefully carries its black currant, black cherry, mint and cocoa flavors. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$125

93 Pine Ridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Delicious boysenberry and blueberry flavors saturate this full-bodied, moderately

BUYINGGUIDE

tannic wine. The toasted oak accents are subtle, adding complexity without stealing the show. Fruity and full enough to drink now with a meaty, cheesy main course, the wine should age through at least 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$125

93 Provenance Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Ah, this is an engaging, mouthfilling wine, with everything in the right proportions for enjoyment now or later. A sleek texture, rich fruits and subtle oak spices weave together beautifully on a full body. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$50

93 Quattro Theory 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Raymond 2020 District Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). This concentrated wine is firm in structure and not too full bodied, deep in black cherries, cranberries and black currants. It's an old school, agile Cabernet that needs time to be fully enjoyable with a lamb chop or skirt steak. Best from 2027. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

93 Sebastiani 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 20. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

93 The Messenger 2019 Mountain Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This well-structured and age-worthy wine offers an array of tempting oak aromas, from leather and toast to cloves and cedar. These lead to potent, concentrated black-fruit flavors and firm tannins. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Lisa's Vineyard Top Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Great polish and handsome oak spices lend lots of appeal to this full-bodied, velvet-textured wine. Red and black cherries are accented with vanilla, cedar and cinnamon for an almost sweet impression on the palate that lingers on the finish. Best now–2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$72

93 Valette 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Very deep in color and robust in aromas and flavors, this powerful, firmly tannic wine is packed with roasted fruit, oak char, iron and graphite flavors. Full and grippy tannins suggest a good wait before drinking. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$135

93 Vina Robles 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Waypoint 2021 Beckstoffer Vineyard George III Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This

outstanding micro-lot wine feels soft and full on the first sip, then builds structure with each subsequent one. Layers of fine-grained tannin interlace with deep blueberries, milk chocolate and spearmint, bringing them through a lingering finish. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$149

92 11*14 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Big and hearty, this full-bodied, nicely oaked wine accents black currants and black cherries with plenty of cedar, cinnamon and new leather notes wrapped in moderate tannins. It is drinkable now with a juicy T-bone, but best after 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

92 Alta Orsa 2019 Reserve Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This hits all the marks of a high-quality Cab Sauv that can easily be enjoyed now or cellared for at least the next 10 years. The fruit maintains freshness from start to finish. Accents of oak are secondary, working to uplift and enhance that fruit, while subtle suggestions of age hint at this wine's potential. Find delicious notes of black currant, black plum skins, dried prune, leather, cacao and fennel carried by a firm tannic texture, generous acidity and balanced alcohol. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

92 Bricoleur 2021 Kick Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Fountaingrove District). For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

92 Chronic Cellars 2021 Knight Mare Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This Cab, which is bolstered by 20% Syrah, is in a very juicy and approachable style, sure to please the crowd. Aromas of strawberry sorbet and black cherry lead into an energetic palate of more strawberry sauce, with white-pepper spices that ride tannins into a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65

92 Cuda Ridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This full-bodied Cab Sauv is generous in every respect. Pronounced aromas of black currant, black cherry, black plum, cedar, eucalyptus, crushed violets, cacao, fresh tarragon and mint immediately waft from the glass and intensify on the palate. Firm, structural tannins elegantly coat the mouth, cut by generous acidity and balanced by the voluptuous fruit. —S.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$43

92 Cuda Ridge 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Immediate aromas of crushed violets, black cherry, currant, plum, leather, black pepper, cut wood and capsicum rush out of the glass. The palate of this wine knits together these same flavors with firm, structural tannins and generous acidity that boosts the vivacity of the fruit. Gentle oak tones of anise and clove add nuance without being overwhelming. Enjoy now or cellar through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

92 Dutcher Crossing 2018 Mathy Wines CFM Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 22.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$95

92 Far Niente 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Delicious and eminently drinkable, this full-bodied wine is Far Niente's valley-wide blend. It's soaked in black fruits and wrapped in approachable tannins that shape rather than dry the palate expression. Black cherries, dark plums and blueberries create plenty of appeal. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$155

92 Ferrari-Carano 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Rich and meaty, this full-bodied wine packs plenty of dark plums, milk chocolate and black cherries on a full body that's surprisingly gentle in tannins. These are fine grained for a velvety, almost silky texture that keeps the wine easy to sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

92 Greg Norman Estates 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). For full review see page 23. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

92 Hess Collection 2021 Allomi Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This well-balanced, harmonious wine braces tasty dark plum, black currant and cedar flavors with moderate tannins and a good sense of freshness. Almost-sweet notes of milk chocolate, vanilla and cedar meld nicely with the ripe, delicious fruits. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Hess Collection 2021 Iron Corral Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70

92 J. Lohr 2020 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). For full review see page 23.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$60

92 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Vintner's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This complete and well-balanced wine is a pleasure to drink soon, but will also develop more nuances for a few years. Fresh blackberries and blueberries are accented by light vanilla and cinnamon-scented oak spices on a lightly tannic texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Kintera 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Cedary, floral aromas and rich, complex spice, fruit and mint flavors reflect a strong and delicious oak component in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. It is approach now for its svelte texture and mellow flavors. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$180

92 Kirkland Signature 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 24.
abv: 15% **Price: \$23**

92 Knights Bridge 2019 Christobel Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Extra-ripe black fruit flavors give this full-bodied wine a saturated, fruit-drenched expression while velvety tannins add a lightly gripping texture. Dried grapes, late-picked plums and dried cherries fill out the middle and linger on the finish. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$175**

92 LangeTwins 2019 Thirty Eight Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant). For full review see page 24.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$32**

92 Lobo 2020 Wulff Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). This nicely concentrated wine is superfocused on black cherries and black currant, with subtle oak spices supporting all that delicious fruit flavor. A full body, moderate tannins and a nice nip of acidity give it good balance. Enjoy now and through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price: \$105**

92 Mario Bazán 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich in black fruits and tannins, this big but drinkable wine offers black cherries, blackberries, cinnamon and dark-chocolate flavors. The texture of fine-grained tannins will help the wine age and improve for a few years. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price: \$85**

92 Markham 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 24.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$48**

92 Mount Peak 2020 Sentinel Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Seductive oak-spice aromas and concentrated black-fruit flavors make a great combination in this sweet-seeming, velvety wine. Fine-grained tannins wrap around dried plums, baked cherries, cinnamon and vanilla in a captivating way. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price: \$75**

92 One Acre 2018 Lamm Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). This powerful but understated wine holds back a bit on aromas before flooding the palate with concentrated blackberries, black currants and mint wrapped in medium to full tannins. It's a good bet for further aging. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$110**

92 Paradise Ridge 2018 Barrel Select Rockpile Vineyard Byck Family Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Rockpile). Good balance and a polished texture that's not too tannic mark this medium-bodied wine as one that can be decanted and enjoyed soon, or left in cool storage to develop more complexity with time. Black cherries, raspberries and dark

chocolate make a delicious flavor combination. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price: \$65**

92 Precision Wine 2021 District Series Edition No. 1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 25.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$40**

92 The Farm Winery 2019 Old Union Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Impressively dark in the glass, this dense bottling begins with expertly ripe blackberry, violet and cocoa aromas on the nose. The palate is tense with tannins that frame the espresso bean, walnut and cocoa flavors, as a violet tone sails across a lingering texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$90**

92 Thumbprint Cellars 2017 Sculptured Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Deep and dark, this wine is big but accessible, offering abundant dark plums, black cherries, cooked cherries, vanilla and milk-chocolate tones on moderate tannins. Will be a great companion for lamb and beef. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price: \$100**

92 Vinafore 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 27. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price: \$22**

91 BonAnno 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 27. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$35**

91 Clos de Napa 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). For full review see page 28.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$75**

91 Educated Guess 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). For full review see page 28.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$35**

91 Faust 2021 Salvation Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Oozing with the rich, late-picked flavors of blackberries and blueberries, this full-bodied wine settles into moderate tannins that add to a big, mouthfilling texture. Pour the wine soon with a mixed grill or barbecue, or age through about 2029. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$65**

91 Ferrari-Carano 2019 PreVail Back Forty Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Rich black fruits, subtle oak spices and a rounded, melted texture make this generous wine easy to sip and enjoy. Notes of milk chocolate, vanilla bean and blackberry jam are filled with moderate tannins that can stand up to roasts and barbecue. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price: \$120**

91 Fritz 2020 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). Big and brawny, this wine offers heady aromas of cedar, oak and dark spices that lead to chewy blackberry and black pep-

per flavors. The palate is seriously seasoned with charred oak and cocoa, and grounded in firm tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price: \$80**

91 Glunz 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Intensely dark aromas of elderberry, violet and blue fruits show on the nose of this twist-top bottling. The palate offers charred blueberry and cracked pepper spices, proving impressively dense and firm yet still very accessible for a wide range of tastes. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$28**

91 Hestan 2018 Stephanie Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Densely textured and full of black-fruit flavors, this full-bodied wine coats blackberries and blueberries in rather thick but soft tannins, setting it up for a dinner paired with rich proteins. Enticing cinnamon and cedar aromas echo on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price: \$65**

91 Davies 2020 Oliven Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Practically oozing with milk chocolate, this indulgent, oaky wine tastes almost sweet. Raspberries, cherries and cocoa make us think of dessert, while relatively soft tannins and a full body give it a soft weight on the palate. Best through 2027. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$115**

91 Jenblossom 2018 Scary Good Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Big and hearty, this full-bodied wine offers straightforward blackberries, wood char and black cherries on a firmly tannic texture. It's a fine foil for food pairings with grills and chops. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price: \$195**

91 Justice 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Serious, dense and potentially age-worthy, this young wine is packed with potent tannins that wrap tightly around blackberry, oak char, graphite and espresso flavors. It will need lots of time to reach a good drinking window. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$99**

91 Kenwood 2019 Six Ridges Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 28.
abv: 14.8% **Price: \$22**

91 Marietta Cellars 2021 Game Trail Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Yorkville Highlands). This wine opens with immediate aromas of crushed roses and violets, followed by just ripe black currant, fresh fennel and tarragon. The palate is built on strong, textural tannins and driven by a generous dose of acidity, giving vivacity to those fruits and herbs and adding touches of black pepper, star anise and fresh cut wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price: \$45**

91 Quilt 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 29.
abv: 15.1% **Price: \$55**

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Reynolds Family Winery 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 29.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$68

90 11*14 2018 Mountain Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Powerful charred-oak aromas and flavors dominate this hefty, muscular and tannic wine along with a tight texture that needs several years to relax a bit for easier drinking. Espresso, bitter chocolate, blackened pizza crust and black pepper flavors dominate the wine. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Beringer 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). This fresh-tasting, well-balanced and always reliable wine is packed with just-crushed black cherry and blueberry flavors and bolstered by moderate tannins. Best now through about 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Bogle 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 33. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

90 Cobble Creek 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Pleasantly fat cherry and strawberry aromas meet with wood and rock on the nose of this fairly priced bottling from organic grapes. The palate is clean yet earthy, offering ripe and juicy red fruit against herb and wood, with fine tannins trailing into the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 LangeTwins 2019 River Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant). For full review see page 31.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 Porterhouse Winery 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This plush and full-bodied wine is packed with rich fruits and lavish oak accents. It shows everything from cooked blueberries to vanilla, cinnamon and milk chocolate on a gently tannic texture that feels soft and velvety. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

90 Rose Vine Cellars NV Red Rose Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This smooth, approachable and full-bodied wine will be proper to pour for a wide variety of occasions and food pairings. Moderate tannins and nicely ripe black cherry and blackberry flavors are spiced with light, peppery and cedary notes. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$100

90 Sean W. McBride 2020 Satyrs Ridge Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A charming, floral aroma leads to light and lively cherry and berry flavors in this medium-bodied, light-on-the-tannins wine. This fresh-tasting wine can be chilled for 15 minutes and enjoyed with all kinds of main dishes at a dinner or barbecue. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

90 St. Amant 2021 The Bootleg Society Cabernet Sauvignon (Amador County). Fun, approachable and delicious—that describes this full-bodied Cab. Find notes of black cherry, cacao, fresh cedar, fennel fronds, sweet tobacco, black peppercorn and crushed violets. An animalistic aura adds an extra layer of intrigue. The palate brings firm, structural tannins balanced by alcohol and a modest dose of acidity. Drink now, pairing with your favorite meaty dish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 ALDI 2021 Peaks & Tides Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 35. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$12

89 Caddis 2021 Totem Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Full of blackberry and milk chocolate flavors, this full-bodied wine feels smooth and tastes nicely rich and rounded. Rather light tannins won't keep anyone from enjoying it soon with a meaty entrée. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$80

89 Educated Guess 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 32.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

89 J. Davies 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). This smooth, fruity and almost-sweet wine is a good one to drink soon for its generous, gushing red cherries, blackberries and strawberry syrup flavors. The tannins are low-level and soft. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$140

89 J. Wilkes 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Highlands District). Dark red-fruit aromas are fresh on the nose, with light herbs adding complexity to this wine. Crisp cranberry flavors pop on the palate, where oregano and bay-leaf elements are framed by a decent tannic tension. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

89 Josh Cellars 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Cedar shavings, stewed red fruits, cocoa dust and oregano aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is lighter bodied, offering bright strawberry, pepper and dried herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Louis M. Martini 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This fresh and rasp-berry-scented wine is one of the friendliest Cabs you'll find. It offers ample blackberries and blueberries, light tannins and a hint of sweetness that rounds off the texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

89 Navigator 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Balanced and quaffable, this Cab Sauv is fit for any casual occasion. Enjoy notes of ripe, plump boysenberry and marionberry straight

from the bush, crushed roses and violets, licorice, chocolate and just a hint of barnyard funk. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Pandemonium 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Seared strawberry aromas meet with a hickory smoke scent on the nose of this bottling. That smoky quality meets with fresh red fruit on the palate, making this wine a great barbecue pairing. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Raeburn 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This is a hearty, chunky wine to enjoy during a casual meal. Smoky oak and black pepper give a robust impression in the aroma, before blackberries, cedar and black cherries fill in the palate. Moderate tannins add a nice grip to the texture. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Specially Selected 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A good choice for those who think Cabernet is too tannic, this wine cradles tasty dark plums and blueberries in a soft, mouthfilling texture, with a lingering, baking-spice finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Twenty Acres 2020 Sustainably Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Clarksburg). This well-balanced Cab Sauv incorporates 15% Petite Sirah in the mix. Find notes of red and black cherry, plum and currant, cacao, black pepper, capsicum and all-spice alongside a coarse tannic texture, balanced acidity and modest alcohol. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Bailarin 2018 Mila Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This is a good wine to have around when beef, lamb or bison are on the menu. Its grippy texture of tannin will cut the richness of the meat, while modest dark plum and black cherry flavors give something satisfying to savor. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

88 Francis Ford Coppola 2020 Director's Cut Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Toasted oak and candied-fruit flavors dominate this firmly textured and full-bodied wine, giving an almost sweet effect on top of the firm tannins and peppery, woody notes. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Juggernaut Wines 2021 Hillside Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This balanced and approachable wine offers well-integrated aromas and flavors of black cherry candy, plum jam, boysenberry compote, crushed violets, forest floor and cacao. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Kirkland Signature 2020 Suscol Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 36. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Member's Mark 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Aromas of iron and oak char lead to chocolate, smoky and cedary flavors in this broad, softly tannic wine. A full body and mouthcoating texture lend a weighty structure. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 Mina Mesa 2021 Hazeline Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers cherry, black peppercorn and tar aromas on the nose. The palate is ripe with strawberry flavors, as more peppery spices add a zesty bite. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Old Lodge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This balanced, quaffable Cab Sauv includes 5% Petit Sirah in the mix. Find notes of fresh and dried black cherry and plum, licorice, clove and toasted wood tied together by mouthcoating tannins. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34

88 Wild Hogge 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Roasted cherry, coffee husk, soy and woodspice aromas draw the nose into this bottling. There's an impressive density and lingering tension to the palate, where rich black fruit and espresso flavors pick up a balsamic touch on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

87 Geyser Peak 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This Cab Sauv includes small percentages of Petit Verdot, Merlot, Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Malbec in the mix. The result is a balanced wine offering notes of blueberry, raspberry and toasted wood, cemented together by a tacky tannic texture, modest acidity and balanced alcohol. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$14

87 Oberon 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Potent herbal aromas of marjoram and thyme dominate the dark plummy fruit on the nose of this bottling. That herbal array meets with ripe berry, vanilla and caramel on the nearly sweet palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

87 Parducci 2021 Small Lot Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This balanced Cab Sauv incorporates a bit of Merlot and Grenache into the mix. Find notes of black currant, red and black plum, licorice, cinnamon and wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Phil Long 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Striking cocoa and coconut aromas lead to equally toasted, oaky and darkly spiced flavors that nearly obscure the fruit nuances. The taste of well-charred barrels dominates this tannic, full-bodied wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

87 Precision Wine 2021 District Series Edition No. 1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Aro-

mas of toasted oak and charred cedar lead to a grippy, tannic texture and tart blackberry and black cherry flavors. The wine is concentrated and firm, built to drink with a grilled steak or beef stew. —J.G.
abv: 14.5 **Price:** \$40

87 Slow Press 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This balanced, straightforward Cab Sauv offers simple notes of red and black plum, blackberry jam, smoke, chocolate, grape jelly and cinnamon. Drink now. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Textbook 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Earthy aromas of leather meet with dark red fruit on the nose of this bottling. There's a leathery side to the palate, where pecan, roasted red fruit and dried meat flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$27

86 Hunter Chaps 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This is a simple, cheerful, drink-me-now California Cab with notes of red cherry, vanilla, strawberry, licorice and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Fellow 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Clarksburg). This simple wine offers notes of strawberry preserve, grape jelly, chocolate and vanilla. These are wound together by coarse tannins, ripe alcohol and modest acidity. Drink now. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

84 Curious Beasts 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This simple wine offers notes of red cherry, strawberry, licorice, chocolate and vanilla. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

PINOT NOIR

97 Bouchaine 2021 Estate Selection Mt. Eden Clone Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Our favorite of the 2021 clonal selections from Bouchaine. Polished to a tee, this elegant yet full-bodied wine carries ample black fruits, oak spices and black tea flavors while keeping great balance throughout. It offers excellent depth of black cherries and blackberries, well-integrated cedar and clove notes, and the structure to age. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$90

97 Patz & Hall 2020 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). All polish and elegance, this subtly powerful wine from a cool vineyard site comes on quietly with brooding dark plum and black cherry aromas. It then deepens on the palate, adding sour cherry, rhubarb and pine forest nuances. Well-matched, moderate tannins and a tang of acidity make for excellent balance. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

96 Bailarin 2019 Suacci Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The deep, complex fruit flavors of this singular wine are remarkable for their intensity. It's a treat to savor the red and black cherries, tart blueberries and basil notes along with subtle oak spices that spread across the palate while sipping this well-balanced, appetizing wine. Best through 2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$64

96 Lynmar Estate 2021 Summit Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$89

96 Merry Edwards 2021 Olivet Lane Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

96 Patz & Hall 2020 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine is irresistible for its freshness and verve. Bright and vivid red and black fruit flavors light up this nicely balanced and complete wine. Slightly chewy tannins back up the effusive fruit and rhubarb notes for a big mouthfeel. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

96 Thumbprint Cellars 2021 Martini Clone Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Warm, rich and generous, this full-bodied wine made from a heritage selection of Pinot Noir vines offers well-integrated oak spices among the complex and vivid cherry pie, cranberry relish and rhubarb notes. Crispness and ripeness are in great balance for enjoyment now and for years to come. Best from 2026–2034. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

95 Davies 2021 Poseidon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80

95 Donum 2021 Ten Oaks Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$125

95 Innumero 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Lively, focused and well delineated, this medium-bodied wine lifts tangy raspberries and juicy black cherries with good acidity and a light touch of tannin. Mint, pine and black tea nuances add welcome complexity. Pair with sautéed mushrooms, grilled fish or roast birds. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$68

95 Jayson 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rich and relaxed, this massive, fruit-drenched wine offers deep bass notes of dark plum and black cherries. It releases wave after wave of dark fruits and subtle oak spices with each sip. Pairings like beef bourguignon and Moroccan lamb seem perfect. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

BUYINGGUIDE

95 Lions Head Collection 2021 Panthera Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A great balance between vivid fruit flavors, savory accents and mouthwatering acidity make this wine attractive to almost any wine drinker and set it up for infinite food pairings. Light tannins support red cherries, black tea and cranberry notes. Delicious now, the wine has the structure for aging, too. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

95 Lynmar Estate 2021 AMDG Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$81

95 Lynmar Estate 2021 Anisya's Blend Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$89

95 MacRostie 2021 First Flight Nightwing Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Super well structured, with lip-smacking acidity and bright, ripe fruit flavors, this wine is a vibrant, palate-cleansing mouthful. Fragrant cinnamon and cloves are lifted by almost electric red cherries, sour cherries and cranberries that light up the palate. The wine is so nervy and fresh despite a full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

95 Marchelle 2021 Van Der Kamp Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). Complex and savory herbaceous notes harmonize with tangy red and black fruits in this lip-smacking and deceptively full-bodied wine. Find bay leaf and green-tea aromas followed by red currants and sour cherries, all worth pondering over. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

95 Paradise Ridge 2019 Byck Family Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Enticing nuances of cherry cola and tamarind in the aroma lead to vivid red and black cherries, sour cherries and red zinger tea in this complex, vivid wine. Its appetizing acidity, medium body and light tannins afford great balance. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

95 Patz & Hall 2020 Little Boot Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). The charming, spiced-cherry aromas and warm berry-pie flavors of this complex, delicious wine are easy to appreciate. Hints of red cherries, rooibus tea, cinnamon and cloves all contribute to its considerable, velvety appeal. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

95 Paul Hobbs 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a classic Russian River Pinot, boasting ripe black cherries and black plums, rather soft acidity, and a warm, soothing texture of fine-grained tannins. While easy to enjoy now, it has the balance and concentration for further aging. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

95 Sangiacomo 2021 ViMaria Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Three Sticks 2021 Durell Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

94 Bouchaine 2021 Estate Selection Calera Clone Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Beautiful aromas of red cherries and cinnamon give way to sunny black cherries, dark plums and cloves on the palate of this smooth, broad and delicious wine. Light tannins and light acidity keep it appetizing despite its ripeness. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Bouchaine 2021 Estate Selection Pommard Clone Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). A buttery, berry-pie aroma and powerful dark-cherry flavors saturate the full body of this deeply colored, well-structured wine. The wine has a big presence due to focused, brilliant fruit and moderate tannins for a palate-cleansing effect. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Cobden Wini 2021 Moore Family Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This dreamy, earthy and mushroom-scented wine is draped in rich black plums, black tea and savory flavors that take it well beyond a basic fruitiness. Soft tannins and just enough acidity for balance lend a silky, appetizing texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$85

94 Donum 2021 Single Vineyard Reserve The Observer Year of the Ox Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Lively and vivacious right from the start, this wine opens with a fresh red cherry pop, just-plucked strawberries, herbaceous Earl Grey tea, juicy-tart cranberry and a rose-meets-violet potpourri. The palate keeps it going, driven with generous acidity, a balanced level of alcohol and firm, structural tannins. Find additional notes of cacao, nutmeg, forest floor, mushroom and a touch of wood. Enjoy now. Even better, hold until 2027 and beyond. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

94 Donum 2021 Single Vineyard Year of the Ox Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Extremely fragrant on the nose, this wine pops open immediately with aromas of red cherry, cranberry juice, black tea and a roses-meets-violets potpourri. On the palate, find fine-grained, sandy tannins, well-integrated alcohol and a generous acidity that gives life and love to the plethora of flavors. Additional notes of forest floor, wet stone, boysenberries and a gentle coating of wood dust all intertwine, leading toward a long, lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$95

94 Donum 2021 Year Of The Ox Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This lush, fruit- and spice-infused wine blends sweet oak spices with black cherries and blueberries on a broad texture

backed by moderate tannins. The wine is welcoming and full flavored, high in ripeness and ready to enjoy with a roast duck breast. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$95

94 Freeman 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This savory and complex wine has benefited from extra time in the cellar. Earthy, mossy and tea-like flavors fill the aroma before red cherries, sour cherries and black tea take over the palate. Good, tangy acidity and mild tannins add a nervy, appetizing effect to the texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$48

94 MacRostie 2021 River Road Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Soft, broad and spicy, this full-bodied wine is luxurious in cinnamon, cloves, dark plums and mulled black cherries, while velvety tannins shape the texture nicely. It's smooth enough to drink with or without food, but there is no hurry. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

94 Merry Edwards 2021 Coopersmith Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Ambitious and well polished, this oak-perfumed wine combines excellent fruit concentration with ample cinnamon, vanilla and nutmeg notes from aging in new French barrels. Moderate tannins and a sense of saturation bode well for further improvement with age. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Merry Edwards 2021 Georganne Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Densely concentrated black fruits take a ride on well-integrated tannins and good acid balance in this full-bodied, spicy and delicious wine. The grippy and mouth-watering texture beautifully lifts the fresh red and black cherries, black currants and oak-spice notes on the palate. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

94 Olet'te 2019 English Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rich in dark plums and a dusky, balsam perfume, this luscious, velvety wine spent extra time maturing in the barrel and is totally seductive. A broad, generous and concentrated mélange of sour cherries, black tea and black cherries handsomely fills out the ample frame of soft acidity and mild tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Paradise Ridge 2019 Walters Vineyard Byck Family Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Supple, deep and dusky, this mouthfilling, soft-textured wine is steeped in dark plums, spiced cherries, bay leaf and black-tea nuances that have a dreamy pull on the senses. Medium bodied and softly tannic, it's easy to love. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$59

94 Patz & Hall 2020 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Intense black fruits and a firm structure give this complex wine an eye-opening sense of concentration and grip. Decant and drink now if you must but time will improve this full-

bodied, generously oaked powerhouse. Best from 2027–2034. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

94 Patz & Hall 2020 Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Heady earth, smoke and toast aromas lead to equally complex and savory flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine that really shows its oak at this stage. It leads with an oaky, chunky character that sticks around through black cherry and sour-cherry flavors and a tangy finish. Best from 2025–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

94 Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2022 Sangiacomo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Cinnamon, rhubarb and cedar aromas lead to warm, ripe black cherries and dark plums in this moderately tannic, well-concentrated wine. Hints of balsam, cloves and tobacco add complexity and interest, making it a noteworthy wine to sip and enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$88

94 Tamber Bey 2021 UV Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Red fruits like raspberries and sweet cherries meet dark plums and blueberries in this tempting, generous and broad-textured wine. It's a mouthful of freshness backed by fruit acidity and mild tannins. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$85

94 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Fox Den Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$62

94 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Terra de Promissio Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$78

94 Three Sticks 2021 Alana Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$85

93 Bouchaine 2021 Dijon Clone Estate Selection Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Deeply fruity, this black cherry- and blackberry-scented wine offers great focus, a firm structure and the potential to age well. An unusually deep color leads to saturated aromas, concentrated black fruits and rather grippy tannins. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

93 Bouchaine 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Balanced on a high level, this intense and concentrated wine is memorable now and sure to improve with further age. Focused black currant and black cherry flavors race across the palate, driven by nervy acidity and muscular tannins. The wine is great to pair with roast duck or pheasant. Best from 2027. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$50

93 Bravium 2022 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Red cherry immediately pops from the glass, followed by juicy cranberry and pomegranate, plus a bouquet of roses, violets and lavender. The palate of this wine incorporates a fine-grained, sandy tannic texture alongside generous acidity and balanced alcohol, with additional notes of well-integrated oak. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$40

93 Cobden Wini 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Well structured and grippy in texture, this medium-bodied wine is nicely packed with dark plums, black cherries and woody, piney accents. Great to pair with rich proteins, it will age for the mid term. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$65

93 Davies 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). This Burgundian-style wine offers good red and black fruit flavors and a savory, mushroom and forest-floor expression that takes over the mid-palate and finish. A silky texture is lightly tannic, nicely tangy and appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$55

93 Davies 2021 Keefer Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Rich, relaxed and soothing, this full-bodied, velvety-textured wine fills the mouth with delicious cinnamon, cherry pie and clove nuances that keep you coming back for more. With soft acidity and rounded tannins, it's difficult to resist. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$80

93 Donum 2021 Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Black cherries, dark chocolate and toasted oak flavors give a robust, dense character to this full-bodied wine. It tastes very ripe in dark plums, cooked cherries and cocoa backed by soft tannins and a rich texture. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$175

93 Educated Guess 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

93 Eleven Eleven 2021 Calesa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This bold and well-concentrated wine is powerful in black-fruit flavors and a firm texture of good acidity and significant tannins. Oak spices from aging in all-new French barrels add interest, while the best fruit expression is yet to come. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

93 Freeman 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Vivid fruit flavors and a racy texture lend mouthwatering balance to this relatively light-bodied but impactful wine. The fine-grained tannins and nervy acidity practically dance on the palate and make it fun and refreshing to sip. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$48

93 Freeman 2021 KR Ranch Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Minty, piney aromas meet deep black-cherry flavors in this well-

structured, moderately tannic wine that deftly blends oak spices with a pure fruit character. A bit tight in texture, the wine can benefit from further aging. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$64

93 J. Cage Cellars 2021 Van Der Kamp Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). A full body and nicely ripe black-fruit flavors give lots of character to this moderately tannic wine. Vivid blackberries, dark plums, black cherries and black tea provide a plethora of flavors, while the balance and fresh mouthfeel are a bonus. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$54

93 Kenwood 2021 The Barn Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

93 Maggy Hawk 2020 Stormin Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is a fun wine to sip throughout an evening because it continues to open, even through the length of one glass. Initial notes of red cherry, plum, currant and toasted wood evolve into even more integrated, layered flavors of strawberry, black tea, cacao, juniper, basil, tarragon and pomegranate. The palate is knit together by firm tannins, generous acidity and a well-integrated, medium level of alcohol. Sip, savor, enjoy. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$70

93 Marchelle 2021 Fourth Act Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). This velvety, plummy and mouthfilling wine carries dark plums, black cherries and cloves on a rich texture backed by moderate tannins. From winemaker Greg La Follette, the wine is steeped in delicious fruits and has just enough acid structure to balance them well. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

93 Nella Terra 2021 Reserve Sunol Highlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). Beautiful fragrances of juicy red cherry, cranberry juice, black tea and herbes de provence waft out of this ruby-red Pinot Noir. The palate is driven by linear acidity, fine-grained tannins and rounded alcohol. It brings forth additional notes of fresh black cherry, plum skin, tree bark, leaf litter and a pot-pourri of violets and roses. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

93 Schug 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 20. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.8% Price: \$32

93 Syntropy 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Focused and nervy, this superappetizing wine is driven by good acidity and moderate tannins. The tangy raspberries and cherries taste mouthwatering. Great balance, good concentration and structure mean there is no hurry to enjoy the wine. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

93 Thirty-Seven 2021 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Packed with delicious red and black fruits, this medium-bodied and well-balanced wine

BUYINGGUIDE

is lively, concentrated and a candidate for further aging. Moderate tannins wrap up the vibrant raspberries and black cherries for a slightly grippy, appetizing texture. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

93 Thumbprint Cellars 2021 Shiloh Glen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). All smoothness and fruit, this easy-sipping wine is nevertheless backed by good, fine-grained tannins that boost it on the palate, helping to bring out the red and black cherries, anise and clove nuances. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Westerhold 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Complex and savory, this full-bodied, high-octane wine offers haunting aromas of black tea, tobacco and moss, while vibrant flavors of sour cherries and rhubarb light up the palate. Good acidity, light tannins and a vibrant texture keep it well balanced. —J.G.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$45

93 Zeitlos 2021 Sealift Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Distinctive rhubarb and sour cherry flavors distinguish this nervy, lighter-bodied wine that offers vibrant acidity and a racy, tangy mouthfeel on moderate tannins. Fans of a steely, palate-cleansing style will find this wine from the Jackson Family especially appealing. —J.G.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

92 Aesthete 2020 Dry Stack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Bennett Valley). This wine has everything going for it, from a nice, deep color to ample black-fruit aromas, and a palate full of black cherries, cinnamon and clove. Moderate to full tannins and good acidity nicely balance all that fruit. —J.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$85

92 Cobden Wini 2021 Hogan's Run Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Deep in color and flavor, this well-concentrated wine boasts soft dark plums, plump black cherries, clove and a woody touch, all set on a broad, easy texture of soft tannins. The wine is indulgent and so easy to enjoy. —J.G.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

92 Comstock Wines 2021 Sangiacomo Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Smooth and easy, this rounded, ripe and mellow wine is soft in woody tones, cinnamon and black tea. The gentle, mouth-filling texture glides across the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

92 Convène By Dan Kosta 2019 Sunchase Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 22.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$74

92 Cupere 2021 Mariola Ridge Vineyard Love Is A Gamble Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 22.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$65

92 Davies 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Very ripe and rich, this full-bodied wine wraps soft tannins and abundant oak spices around dark plums and cooked cherries for a suave, plush expression that's gentle on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

92 Elkhorn Peak 2019 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). This full-bodied, mellow and mature-tasting wine is long on woody, mossy aromas, cooked black-cherry flavors and a smoked duck note that offers a great pairing suggestion. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$56

92 Forager 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Well balanced and polished, this silky, medium-bodied wine is one for all seasons and all pairings. Soft tannins and light acidity give it velvety texture, while raspberries, dark plums and macerated cherries show the spectrum of enticing fruit flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

92 Freeman 2019 Yu-Ki Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Mouthwatering acidity and firm tannins give a hearty, structured feel to this plum- and cherry-scented wine. Its grippy texture, sour cherry and cranberry flavors will pair especially well with protein- and fat-heavy dishes. —J.G.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$68

92 Gary Farrell 2019 Rochioli-Allen Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 23.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85

92 Gary Farrell 2019 Terra De Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 23.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 J. Cage Cellars 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Lovely red fruits, soft tannins and decent acidity give this medium-bodied wine an easy charm. Raspberries, red cherries, cinnamon and cloves meld nicely, with just a kick of tannin to add bite. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$49

92 Lombardi 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A rose-water aroma and gentle red and black cherry flavors give this supple, mouthfilling wine an open, fruity character backed by light tannins and a hint of fruit acidity. The wine is approachable, generous and likeable. —J.G.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$52

92 Lombardi 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). This easygoing wine boasts ripe, delicious black cherry, strawberry and red plum flavors backed by light acidity. It sips smoothly, coating the palate with generous fruits soothed by light tannins. —J.G.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Lynmar Estate 2021 Friendship Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A big bouquet of baking spices, roses and spearmint leads to a mouthful of bold, well-defined fruit flavors backed by hearty tannins and a full body. This attractive wine has the power to pair with a rib roast or risotto. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$76

92 Maggy Hawk 2020 Unforgettable Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine lives up to its song name with pronounced, layered aromatic intensity that reverberates with red and black cherry, cacao, crusty toast, red and black plum and black pepper spice. Fine-grained, sandy tannins create a pleasing mouthfeel, while joyous acidity uplifts the nuanced flavors, adding rose and violet potpourri, forest floor, dried wood and nutmeg to the chorus. And with that long, lingering finish—unforgettable, indeed. —S.B.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

92 Merry Edwards 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 25.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Pursuit 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a flavorful, generous and subtly spicy wine. Enticing cranberry, cinnamon and sour cherry aromas lead to a generous palate drenched in dark plums, cooked cherries and broad tannins that give some heft without getting heavy. —J.G.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$49

92 Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2022 Nightwing Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This easygoing, broad and ripe-tasting wine supports dark plums, black cherries and hints of oak spice on mild tannins and a full body. Tasting warm, ripe and relaxed, it is easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2022 Petersen Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Balsam and oak aromas lead to black tea and sour cherry flavors in this rounded, full-bodied, darkly spicy and savory wine. Cloves, cinnamon and umami flavors glide along on moderate tannins. —J.G.

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

92 Vinafore 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 27. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Bennett Valley Cellars 2021 Bin 6410 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). Full bodied and velvety in texture, this savory, fruity wine opens with bright cherry aromas. It then blends balsam, bay leaf and mulled-cherry flavors on soft tannins for an easy, mouthfilling expression. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Bouchaine 2021 Swan Clone Estate Selection Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Brawny for a Pinot Noir, this full-bodied and rather tannic wine boasts lots of ripe black cherries, sour cherries, oak char and clove flavors that tighten on the finish.

Decant the wine and pair with something rich. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$65

91 Copain Wines 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This beautifully fresh expression of Pinot Noir is just what you'd expect from Mendocino's Anderson Valley. Find vivacious notes of tart red cherry, wild strawberry, just-ripe pomegranate, basil and toasted wood. Everything is knit together by firm tannins, driven by a solid dose of acidity and incorporates a balanced alcohol to give weight and lift to the midpalate. —S.B.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$50

91 DNA Vineyards 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). With a color as deep as a Cabernet and plenty of jazzy black cherry aromas, this full-bodied wine makes a big first impression. Firm tannins and good fruit acidity give a lively structure to support the delicious black-fruit flavors. It's a good idea to let it mature some more. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$25

91 Gary Farrell 2019 McDonald Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Aromas of black pepper and flint grab the attention before tangy red and black cherry flavors light up the palate, backed by crisp acidity that leads to a snappy finish. This is a good, vibrant wine, with plenty of possible food pairings because of its balance. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$75

91 Kobler 2021 Bacigalupi Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Well balanced and not too full bodied, this wine boasts bright cherry and black plum flavors accented by orange pekoe tea and sour cherries for a vivid palate impression. Pair its nervy texture with grilled salmon, roast chicken or seared ahi tuna. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$85

91 Lombardi 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Rich, ripe fruit flavors and a melted, relaxed texture give this full-bodied wine an easy-going feel. It is mouthfilling, saturated with plums and dried cherries, and ready to enjoy with most any bird or beast. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$56

91 Lombardi 2021 Martaella Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This broad and generous wine is gentle in texture, ripe in flavor and low in tannin, so it's easy to enjoy. Strawberries, red plums and floral accents give much to savor. —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$68

91 Maggy Hawk 2020 Afleet Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Give this guy a bit of time to open up—he's shy. About 20 minutes to read the room should suffice, and then he'll be talking all about the fresh red cherry, red currant, tarragon and basil mashed onto the redwood forest floor. He'll stand tall on integrated tannins, refreshed by

modest acidity. A balanced, medium level of alcohol means he'll be great sipping all night long. —S.B.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$70

91 Maggy Hawk 2020 Jolie Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is a textbook high-quality Pinot Noir. Though a bit shy on the nose, the vivacious wine comes to life on the palate, driven by generous acidity and encompassed by well-integrated, chalky-textured tannins. Find layered flavors of red currant, cranberry, pomegranate, cacao, basil, tarragon, nutmeg, vanilla, licorice and toasted wood. It's complex, yet maintains a casual attitude. Pair it with your favorite weekday or date-night meal. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$70

91 Olivet Lane 2022 Pellegrini Estate Bottled Nouveau of Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Silky and vibrant at the same time, this light-bodied wine has a soft touch on first sip and firms up nicely with more mouthfuls. Good, jazzy acidity and focused cherry and raspberry flavors give more than enough to keep your interest. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$40

91 Sean W. McBride 2021 Annie's Old Vines Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Showing a spicy, oaky complexity, this plush and medium-bodied wine offers mature, dried plum and macerated cherry flavors wrapped in soft tannins. Hints of black pepper, balsam, cedar and leather join in. Pair with savory mushroom, lentil and meat dishes. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

91 Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2022 Bodega Ridge Block Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Smooth, easy and warm, this mouthfilling, gentle wine weaves light tannins through mulled cherry and black tea flavors. No further aging needed to enjoy this mellow and generous wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

91 The Calling 2021 Single Vineyard Series Patriarch Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). This ripe-tasting, full-bodied wine is amply fruity, showing black cherries and dark plums throughout the nose, palate and finish. A sleek texture and mild tannins keep it soft but balanced in texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

91 Vie Winery 2020 Pinot Noir (North Coast). This very well-balanced, layered wine opens with aromas of red cherry, plum and currant, cremini mushroom, fresh soil, basil and tarragon. The palate incorporates a sandy-tannic texture, energetic acidity and balanced alcohol alongside crushed violets, black pepper and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$35

90 Castello di Amorosa 2021 Morning Dew Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine opens with strong floral aromatics of roses, violets and herbal black tea. The palate comes to life with generous acidity and integrated tannins,

adding notes of red and black cherry, plum, currant, toasted wood, vanilla and nutmeg. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

90 Davies 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Subtle on the nose, this wine opens up more fully on the palate. Fine-grained tannins gently tickle the tongue while integrated fruit-meets-oak flavors come alive with notes of red currant, plum and cherry, cacao and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

90 Davies 2021 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This fuller-bodied Pinot Noir opens with red and black cherry, boysenberry, chocolate soil, vanilla, nutmeg and anise. Textural, corduroy-like tannins gently coat the palate, balanced by acidity and roundness from alcohol. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

90 Davies 2021 Georgian Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This beautiful wine opens with fragrances of raspberry, wild strawberry, crushed roses and violets, damp forest floor, cacao and boysenberry. The palate integrates firm, structural tannins alongside balanced acidity and additional notes of vanilla, nutmeg and wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$80

90 Donum 2021 Angel Camp Year of the Ox Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Rich, round and plump, this fuller-bodied Pinot Noir comes complete with a full mouth of structural tannins and generous (14.6%) alcohol. Find notes of red and black cherry, plum, currant, bittersweet cocoa, vanilla, nutmeg and fresh-cut wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$175

90 Elkhorn Peak 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). Smooth and easy, this well-modulated wine offers baked plums and dark spices, along with a well-rounded texture that melts in the mouth. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$54

90 Gary Farrell 2019 Hallberg Vineyard-Dijon Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A flinty, mineral aroma leads to raspberry and red cherry flavors in this well-balanced, almost delicate wine. Good acidity and rather tangy fruit notes give it an appetizing expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

90 Merry Edwards 2021 Dach Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This bigger, bolder expression of Pinot Noir immediately engages the senses with notes of roses, violets, black cherry and vanilla. The palate incorporates a rustic tannic texture alongside a confident dose of acidity and generous alcohol, bringing forth additional notes of black plum, baking spice and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$75

90 Portalupi 2022 Dolinsek Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Vivid raspberry aromas and black cherry flavors have a tangy, bright expression in this moderately tannic and textural

BUYINGGUIDE

wine. A good snap of acidity keeps it lively and appetizing in terms of mouthfeel, and will help it pair like an ace. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

90 Sean Minor 2022 Signature Series Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 31. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Davies 2021 Dutton-Hallberg Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This easygoing, rather soft-textured wine pours out dark plums, black cherries and cinnamon-y spices on a broad texture. Low in acidity and mellow in flavors, it should be a crowd pleaser. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

89 Fellow 2019 Pinot Noir (Clarksburg). This is a darker, broodier expression of Pinot Noir. Earthier tones take a strong stance alongside those of fresh fruits, but the wine is balanced from start to finish. Find notes of red cherry, currant and plum, dusty forest floor, tarragon, rose and violet pot-pourri, cacao, black pepper and leaf litter alongside a sandy tannic texture and generous acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

89 Hendry 2021 Hendry Vineyard Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). Full bodied and fairly tannic, this nicely dry wine offers a tangy texture, appetizing tannins and modest black cherry and blackberry flavors. It's a high-quality, no-nonsense wine made for drinking with food. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

89 Marchelle 2020 Grower's Reserve Pinot Noir (Mendocino County-Sonoma County). This balanced, quaffable Pinot Noir is made even friendlier by the soft tannic texture. Enjoy aromas and flavors of red cherry, chocolate, roses, crusty pastry, nutmeg and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

89 Marchelle 2020 Oppenlander Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This has all the telltale signs of a classic Northern California Pinot Noir. Notes of red cherry, red currant, forest floor and roses are carried by generous acidity and supported by medium, chalky tannins. Well-integrated oak contributes toasted wood, cacao and baking spices. Drink the wine now and enjoy with good friends and casual fare. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$57

89 Nicholson Ranch 2020 Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Valley). Nicely firm in texture, this solid-quality wine boasts roasted fruits, woody notes, and hints of cloves and cedar. It's not outright fruity, but shows a savory, complex expression backed by moderate tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

89 Sonoma Coast Vineyards 2022 Estero View Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A flinty, mineral aroma and jazzy raspberry and red cherry flavors give this medium-bodied wine a lively texture and

tangy mouthfeel. Moderate tannins and good acidity keep it edgy and food friendly on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Kendall-Jackson 2021 Estates Collection Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Oak tones lead on this darker, fuller-bodied Pinot Noir, with notes of cacao, vanilla, nutmeg and a smoky toast. These continue to black cherry, boysenberry and leather. The wine is woven together by a coarse tannic texture, doused with a modest acidic structure. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 Merlo Family 2021 Pinot Noir (Trinity County). This balanced wine offers black cherry and plum, prune, mission fig, dark chocolate, damp forest floor, crushed violets and blackberry jam alongside coarse tannins and modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

87 Juggernaut Wines 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Cedar, pine and wood char aromas lead to juicy black cherry, maple and clove accents in this full-bodied, oaky-tasting wine. It's a sturdy, stylized pour for casual occasions. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Nella Terra 2022 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Pinot Noir (Livermore Valley). Shy on the nose, this wine opens up a bit more on the palate. Flavors of red cherry, red currant, walnut, black pepper and toasted wood show alongside modest acidity and a solid tannic structure. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$48

87 Olivet Lane 2019 Pellegrini Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This medium-bodied, and mature-tasting wine offers raspberry vinaigrette aromas and roasted fruit flavors on a moderately tannic texture. Cedary, cidery notes linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

87 Pyramid Scheme 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This expression of Pinot Noir includes 5% Syrah in the mix. It offers notes of red cherry, red currant, pomegranate, just-ripe strawberry, cranberry, toasted wood, dried dirt and licorice. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Topophilia 2021 Blanusa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). At this point in its evolution the wine shows strong toasted oak and cedar aromas. Clove and cinnamon flavors dominate cherries that stay rather hidden, and firm tannins need time to soften their grip. Organically farmed. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

87 Troika 2018 Berlin Vineyards Pinot Noir (Bennett Valley). A garnet color and slightly brownish rim give way to heady cider and rhubarb aromas followed by dark spice and woody fla-

vors. Savory and vegetal notes lead the way in this medium-bodied, lightly tannic wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

86 Fly By 2020 Pinot Noir (California). This balanced, albeit simple, Pinot Noir incorporates 16% Petite Sirah in the mix. It offers notes of fresh red cherries, wild strawberries and wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 The Pinot Project 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This simple Pinot Noir offers notes of red currant jelly, wild strawberry jam, pomegranate juice and toasted wood alongside a chalky tannic texture and modest acidity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Three Thieves 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This simple Pinot Noir offers notes of vanilla, chocolate, black cherry and blueberry. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

82 Matte 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This overripe wine emits aromas and flavors of dried black cherry, raisin, prune, pillbox, dusty forest floor and dried cremini mushroom. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET FRANC

94 T. Berkley Wines 2021 Singing Hills Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Chalk Hill). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 One Acre 2018 Frediani Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Calistoga). This sleek but muscular wine aged in all-new French barrels makes an easy entry. Floral, cedar and baking-spice aromas lead to tempting blackberry and black cherry flavors before superfine tannins gently begin to grip the palate. Poised for further development with age, the wine should drink best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$110

92 Breaking Bread 2022 Mizany Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Dry Creek Valley). Fruit-forward but also nicely structured, this light-bodied wine exudes fresh blackberries and raspberries that are lifted by good fruit acidity and restrained slightly by tannin. It's remarkably appetizing and food friendly. Best through 2028. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$23

92 Louis M. Martini 2021 Monte Rosso Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Sonoma Valley). Smooth and lush despite a very full body and significant tannins, this deep wine floods the palate with blackberries, blueberries and mocha accents that build with each sip and linger on the finish. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

92 Naidu Wines 2021 Cassata Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Sonoma Valley). This well-balanced, dry and appetizing wine makes us think of grilled lamb chops and then eggplant parmigiana. Moderate tannins match the slightly restrained black fruits and savory, herbal accents for complexity and elegance. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

91 Cuda Ridge 2021 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). This wine opens beautifully with notes of black cherry, crushed violets, sweet tobacco, fresh-cut wood, river rock and fertile soil immediately floating out of the glass. The palate has a smooth, almost glycerin-like textural background that is balanced perfectly by the firm tannins, adding structural integrity. Find additional notes of olive tapenade, black pepper and anise. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$43

91 T. Berkley Wines 2021 Ophelia Cabernet Franc (Sonoma County). This well-built, reasonably priced wine is aromatic in rose petals and cedar while holding its black cherry and blackberry flavors in rather firm tannins for a grippy texture. It offers a classic Bordeaux profile and can use more time to mature. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 Jarvis 2018 Estate Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). A hefty dose of oak spice adds flash to this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. Vanilla, toast, nutmeg and cloves meet red and black cherries that lead to an almost sweet, spicy finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$190

89 Staysail 2019 Cabernet Franc (Dry Creek Valley). Generous and juicy, this wine is packed with tasty berries and cherries on an easy, slightly tart texture that's appetizing on the palate. Light tannins lend a bit of grip to the mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

89 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Ramazzotti Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Alexander Valley). Rounded and broad, this wine is big and easygoing. A full body, rather soft tannins and lots of plump, late-picked fruit flavors almost give the power of a Port. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$60

85 Fellow 2020 Cabernet Franc (Clarksburg). This balanced, drink-me-now Cab Franc offers notes of raspberry and strawberry jam, chocolate, toasted wood and ash. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

GRENACHE

94 Horse & Plow 2018 Blockhouse Vineyard Organic Grenache (Napa Valley). A potpourri of dried flowers, red cherries, raspberries and cinnamon lights up the aroma of this full-bodied but lithe wine before fresh blackberries and more raspberries fill out the palate. With lively acidity and moderate tannins, the wine will be easy to pair with

cheeses, meats and pastas. Organically grown. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Thacher 2021 Homestead Hill Vineyard Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Alluring aromas of creamy cherry, floral hibiscus and tart pomegranate open this wine. The relatively lighter-bodied palate is tightly wound with red currant and more hibiscus-tea flavors that ride a tense texture long into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

92 Sean Minor 2021 Invited Series Rossi Ranch Grenache (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 26.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Bricoleur 2021 Kick Ranch Vineyard Grenache (Fountaingrove District). Generous oak spices mingle well with sour cherry, black cherry and grilled plum flavors in this complex, moderately tannic wine. Its big aromatics and grippy texture set it up for pairings with lamb burgers, beef braises and green lentils. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

91 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2019 WCS Jack John Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Quite dark in the glass, this is a bold Grenache, loaded with aromas of roasted black cherry and charred meat. The palate is rich and heavy, offering roasted fruit, cola, cocoa and root beer flavors, finishing on a graham cracker note. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$72

90 Absolution 2020 Jada Vineyard Grenache (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Bold aromas of baked cherry and oak show on the heavy nose of this bottling. The palate will satisfy those seeking a ripe style of Grenache, offering juicy cherry, cracked pepper and baking spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$69

90 Meeker 2020 Venturi Vineyard Grenache (Mendocino). Don't let the pale hue fool you. This is a ripe, rich expression of Grenache, with layered aromas and flavors of red and black cherry and plum, dark chocolate, anise, cola, saffras and leather. Warmth from the alcohol is balanced by the ripe, squashy tannic texture, concentrated fruit and modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Vie Winery 2019 L'Imaginaire Grenache (Lake County). The shimmering ruby-jewel hue of this wine completely indicates what's to come. Fresh red cherries pop right out of the glass, intermingling with scents of wild strawberry, crushed roses, damp soil and sea-air salinity. The palate brings an energetic acidity alongside integrated tannins with a soft, chalky texture. An all-around light, bright and refreshing sip. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

89 The Grenachista 2021 Cottonwood Grenache Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Sweet spice and berry pie aromas lead to ripe and dried-fruit flavors in this rich, jammy wine from a producer passionate about the grape variety. A full body and medium tannins give a mouthfilling effect to the texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$46

89 The Grenachista 2021 North Coast Grenache Noir (North Coast). The fresh red-fruit-meets-floral aromas makes this an altogether fun expression of Grenache. Find notes of strawberry preserves, macerated raspberry, kirsch, black tea and potpourri. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

MALBEC

95 Louis M. Martini 2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Malbec (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

93 Baldassari 2020 Asti Ranch Malbec (Alexander Valley). Firmly structured with tannins, this full-bodied wine holds its black cherry, graphite and mint flavors tightly. The wine needs time to gain complexity and a smoother texture, and has the concentration to do so. Decant and drink, or wait until 2026–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$56

93 Bedarra 2020 Estate Malbec (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

93 Brandlin 2019 Malbec (Mount Veeder). So dark and so spicy, but not so tannic, this rich and layered wine is mouthfilling without feeling at all tough on the palate. It is draped in deep blueberry, dark chocolate and blackberry jam flavors that don't quit on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Peachy Canyon 2021 Ms. Behave Malbec (Paso Robles). Dark and intense aromas of wild blackberry are leveled by graphite on the nose of this bottling. The rich and full palate is dense with fresh fruit and ample baking-spice flavors, with a pinch of herbs adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

90 McGrail 2021 Malbec (Livermore Valley). This 100% Malbec was aged for 18 months in a mix of American and Hungarian oak. The result is a well-balanced red with integrated tannins and a lovely integration of aromas and flavors including black cherry, bramble, dusty earth, cut wood, sweet tobacco and fresh and dried violets. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$44

84 1850 2020 Saurel Vineyard Malbec (El Dorado). This wine offers simple notes of

BUYINGGUIDE

blueberry, grape jelly, licorice and vanilla bean. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

SYRAH

96 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2019 Jersey Girl Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Rich and ripe aromas of cassis are balanced by savory scents of black pepper, roasted meat and charcoal on the approachable yet complex nose of this bottling. The tannins are smoothed out on the palate, but retain just enough bite to frame the lavender, elderberry, pepper and chaparral herb flavors. An intensely layered experience. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$72

95 Darioush 2019 Signature Series Shiraz (Napa Valley). This ripe, full and layered wine is full of blackberry jam, black pepper and iron flavors wrapped in a supportive blanket of firm but fine-grained tannins. The fruit and spice elements go deep into the core of this full-bodied, muscular and intense wine for an amazing mouthful of complexity. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$88

95 McKahn Family Cellars 2021 Syrah (Carneros-Napa Valley). Vivid cedar, mint and black pepper aromas lead to wonderfully savory, gamy flavors of beef jus, venison, espresso and wood smoke. This wine needs several years to mellow and gain complexity, but its great potential clearly shows now. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Chronic Cellars 2021 Midnight Maker Syrah (Paso Robles). This dense and bold Syrah is built to last. Aromas of elderberry jam are balanced by crushed rocks on the nose. The palate is intense and expressive while remaining elegant, offering a mix of crushed berry, salted beef and firm tannins. Drink 2025–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

93 Drive 2021 Canihan Vineyard Syrah (Sonoma Coast). The elegant and pretty first impression of this Syrah belies a firm structure underneath that should carry it well into the future. Red and black cherry aromas lead to grilled cherries, wood smoke and roasted herbs on the palate. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$38

93 Kobler 2021 Coastal Cuvée Syrah (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

93 Kobler 2021 Cuvée of the Fog Syrah (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 McKahn Family Cellars 2020 Syrah (Carneros-Napa Valley). Aromas of salt, pepper and grilled beef lead to a super-concentrated pal-

ate of dark chocolate, espresso and graphite that suppresses blueberry flavors beneath. Silky on the edges and firmly tannic in the middle, this wine is not heavy but athletic. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 MacLaren 2019 Drouthy Neebors Syrah (Sonoma County). Elegant and silky in texture, this well-polished wine boasts deep, dark fruit flavors, moderate tannins and an almost soft effect on the finish. Aromas of roast game, earth and leather lead to dark plums and cooked cherries on the palate of the wine. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

91 Cedarville 2020 Estate Bottled Syrah (El Dorado). In a nod to the Northern Rhône, this El Dorado Syrah incorporates 4% Viognier into the mix. Initial aromas suggest black plum and cherry, chocolate, nutmeg, vanilla, tarragon and fennel. The palate adds tones of black pepper, mission fig and licorice. Enjoy with a variety of meals, such as grilled rack of lamb with a pea-mint purée. —S.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$36

91 Thibido 2022 Just Because Homestead Hill Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Baked black plum, dark purple flower and light mint aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate's minty lift keeps everything fresh, as dark berry and cracked pepper flavors form the core. A very versatile food-pairing wine, ready for both lighter fare and hearty steaks. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

90 MacLaren 2019 Atoosa's Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley). Big and broad but medium bodied, this wine wraps straightforward black cherries, black currants and strawberries in rather firm tannins. It is hearty, mouthfilling and strong enough to pair with the richest risotto or osso buco. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Vie Winery 2019 Les Amours Syrah (North Coast). Deep ruby-purple in the glass, this wine opens with aromas of black cherry, prune, cacao, roasted coffee, dried fig, tar and leather. The palate offers a chalky tannic texture alongside a solid acid structure, with additional notes of star anise, black pepper and black olives. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$47

89 Waypoint 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). This full-bodied red is a pretty easy sipper, thanks to the friendly tannic texture and the modest intensity of the flavors. Enjoy notes of black cherry, chocolate, fig jam, tarragon, anise and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$69

88 Alta Orsa 2019 Estate Bottled Syrah (Mendocino). This balanced Syrah conveys aromas of pencil shaving, black plum jam, blackberry jelly, black pepper spice, toasted wood and licorice.

The palate offers a chalky tannic texture, modest acidity and a solid finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

88 Thibido 2021 The Bedfellow Homestead Hill Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Tart and wild aromas of boysenberry and violet show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a mix of tart and extracted flavors, leveled by ample acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

87 Merlo Family 2021 Syrah (Trinity County). Deep ruby-purple in the glass, this full-bodied red has notes of overripe, bursting blackberry, black cherry and plum fruits along notable oak integration. The palate generously coats the mouth with a coarse tannic texture, balanced by the roundness of alcohol and modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

87 Myka 2020 Estates Syrah (Fair Play). This balanced red offers notes of fresh and dried black cherry, licorice, smoke, toasted wood and grape jelly, connected by chalky tannins, warm alcohol and a modest dose of acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

87 Vie Winery 2019 Wynonna's Vineyard Syrah (Big Valley District). This rich, full-bodied red offers notes of sweet vanilla, chocolate and blackberry compote alongside a mouthcoating tannic texture, all leading toward a warm finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

MERLOT

95 Bouchaine 2022 Hyde Vineyard Merlot (Carneros-Napa Valley). A pure harmony of blackberries and black cherries drives this delicious, approachable wine from the wild berry aromas through juicy, mouthwatering flavors to a lingering, fruity finish. Enjoy this rare treat with everything from sauteed scallops to grilled salmon and duck breast. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

94 Matanzas Creek 2021 Merlot (Alexander Valley). This wine has a deep, dark and tempting core of black fruits and oak spices that is surrounded by the velvety, welcoming texture expected from a Merlot. Blackberries, blueberries, toasted wood and cedar bring out complexity on the palate and linger on the finish. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

94 Stephanie 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley). Velvety tannins wrap around impressively concentrated black fruits in this potent, rich and full-bodied wine. Steeped in dried black cherries, blueberries and cocoa, the wine fills the palate with fruit and spice notes that echo on the finish. Decant and enjoy with a rack of lamb. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2020 Wetzel Family Estate Merlot (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% Price: \$24

93 Educated Guess 2021 Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

93 Jarvis 2018 Estate Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$190

93 Rodney Strong 2021 Merlot (Sonoma County). For full review see page 20. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

92 Bailarin 2019 Madden Family Vineyard Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Lively, structured and fresh, this medium-bodied wine is laser focused on vibrant fruit flavors like raspberries and blackberries. It begs for a rich pasta, roast or risotto as a pairing. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

92 Castello di Amorosa 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$46

92 Decoy 2021 Limited Merlot (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 22.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

92 Kunde 2021 Estate Merlot (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 24. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

92 Textbook 2021 The Pey Family Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 26.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$27

91 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Well structured to frame ample black cherry and blueberry flavors, this wine offers excellent depth, a full body and medium-plus tannins. Decant for drinking soon, but best from 2027. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$42

91 Fly By 2020 Merlot (North Coast). For full review see page 32. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

91 Maddalena 2022 Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 29. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% Price: \$25

91 Paloma 2019 Merlot (Spring Mountain District). Dark, ripe and rich, this full-bodied wine goes deep in late-picked plums, dried cherries and smoky oak nuances. The wine is concentrated, mouthfilling, firmly tannic and structured for further aging. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$72

90 Charles Krug 2021 Merlot (Napa Valley). Captivating violet and rose petal aromas

lead to fresh, light blackberry and black cherry flavors on a texture of mild tannins and good acidity. This is a perfect red for most any occasion. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$28

90 Comstock Wines 2019 Estate Merlot (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of wood char, tobacco and singed herbs are followed by chunky and smoky grilled plum and black pepper flavors on a full body backed by medium to full tannins. This wine will tame a grilled steak, chop or roast. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Fellow 2019 Merlot (Clarksburg). For full review see page 34. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Meeker 2019 Merlot (Sonoma County). This sturdy, full-bodied and rather tannic wine offers good, straightforward blackberries and black cherries on a firm structure. It has the grippy texture for pairing with extra fatty, rich dishes. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

89 St. Supéry 2019 Rutherford Estate Merlot (Napa Valley). An inky color, good concentration and firm tannins single this wine out as one for the cellar. The texture is grippy and dry, holding the generous black cherries, black currants and graphite flavors tightly. Best from 2028 when the tannins should have begun to soften. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

89 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 J & T Frei Vineyard Merlot (Alexander Valley). This pleasant, attractive and easy-drinking wine offers moderately rich cherry and berry flavors, rather soft tannins and a very full body. Good to pair with a range of meats, birds and veggies. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$58

88 Bogle 2021 Merlot (California). This full-bodied, hardy red maintains an element of freshness throughout. An underlying herbaceous and earthy tone balances out the rich, ripe fruit structure. Find notes of black cherry, black plum, licorice, cacao, fresh fennel, dried tobacco, cumin and black tea. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$11

88 Trinitas 2017 Merlot (St. Helena). A bottle bouquet like freshly laundered sheets and spearmint leads to a smooth palate full of chocolate mints, cherry cola and vanilla in this full-bodied, mature-tasting wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

ZINFANDEL

96 Carol Shelton 2020 Albini Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). With the grip of a Nebbiolo and the herbal spice of a Sangiovese, this captivating wine brings an Italian flair to California Zinfandel. Moderate tannins brace vivid raspberry, black cherry and cranberry flavors while fresh

thyme and dried-grass notes add complexity. Best from 2025–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

96 Quivira 2020 Katz Vineyard Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Wild blackberries, sage and sun-baked earth aromas meet juicy, fresh and concentrated black cherry and raspberry flavors in this brilliant, balanced beauty of a Zinfandel. Made from a certified organic vineyard planted in 1900, the wine is a treat to drink by itself or with a chunk of Parmigiana, and always with steak or slow-cooked barbecue. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$68

95 Ridge 2021 Ponzo Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Vivid raspberry, wild strawberry and spearmint aromas are followed by a bracing, lively palate of raspberries, blackberries, basil and chocolate in this indulgent, mouthcoating wine. Light tannins add to the good balance. This complex and singular wine will be best through 2033. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

94 Dashe Cellars 2020 Single Vineyard Series Todd Brothers Ranch Old Vines Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). Deep, extra-ripe fruit flavors saturate this full-bodied wine, with blueberries, blackberries and dark plums on a juicy texture that slides easily down the hatch. It is pure indulgent enjoyment for sipping alone or pairing with stews and roasts. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$44

94 Dutcher Crossing 2019 Pritchett Peaks Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$53

94 Florence 2021 Reserve Zinfandel (Rockpile). Lush, almost creamy in texture, this complex, high powered and deeply fruity wine boasts distinctive black pepper and singed sage flavors atop its deep black cherries and blackberries. Moderate to full tannins give it a good backbone for pairing with big proteins. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.9% Price: \$60

94 Fritz 2021 Estate Reserve Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). The clarity, focus and joy in this wine are difficult to resist. Pure raspberry, blackberry and strawberry flavors mingle with light oak spices on a deceptively full body while the tannins are just enough to give a little appetizing grip. Enjoy now–2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

94 Hartford 2021 Fanucchi-Wood Road Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Supersaturated with black fig and dried cherry aromas, this full-bodied wine dives into more deep, pure and ripe-tasting fruit flavors on the palate, accented by dark chocolate and blueberries. Mild

BUYINGGUIDE

tannins and a full body lend a mouthfilling texture that contributes to a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

94 Portalupi 2021 Dolinsek Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). An eye-opening and brambly wild-berry aroma, lively raspberry and boysenberry flavors, and nicely firm structure give this full-bodied wine made from vines planted in 1910 everything it needs to be a classic Zin. While high octane in terms of alcohol, the fruit and wild sage elements are vivid and irresistible. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$65

94 Quivira 2020 Black Boar Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Powerful, fresh boysenberry aromas and flavors imbue this full-bodied wine with a deep, irresistible core that's wrapped in moderate tannins for a nicely gripping texture. Made with organic grapes, of which 5% were Petite Sirah. Best now–2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

94 Ridge 2021 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Vivid, focused raspberries and red currants light up the aroma of this well-balanced, elegant wine before cooked strawberries and red plums fill the palate. Light toasty, oaky accents of vanilla and chocolate lend a bit of extra interest. Best through 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

94 We Know Jack! 2021 Jack Florence Sr. Vineyard Single Block Zinfandel (Rockpile). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.75% **Price:** \$78

93 Dashe Cellars 2021 Single Vineyard Series Louvau Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Jammy, rich and mouthfilling, this 100% varietal wine overflows with blackberries and strawberries on a supple frame of light to moderate tannins and good underlying acidity. The wine has an exuberance that's hard to resist. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$44

93 Dashe Cellars 2021 Single Vineyard Series Rocky Ridge Vineyard Zinfandel (Rockpile). Well built and nicely packed with red and black berry flavors, this hearty wine is ready for the dinner table if meat or pasta are on the menu. Its moderate tannins will cut the fats, and the raspberry and blackberry fruitiness will balance out smoky and spicy aspects of your go-to proteins. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$52

93 Gary Farrell 2019 Grist Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Hartford 2021 Winberrie Knolls Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). The brambly, wild-berry expression of this arresting wine is unmistakable. Raspberry, blackberry and sage aromas lead to juicy, satisfying plums and cooked strawberries on the palate. A soft texture of light

tannins and a full body give the wine a comfy mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65

93 Hendry 2020 Hendry Block 28 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$40

93 Hendry 2020 Hendry Blocks 7 & 22 Zinfandel (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$40

93 Kobler 2021 Bacigalupi Vineyards Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 18. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$60

93 Kunde 2021 Estate Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$22

93 Kunde 2019 Heritage Block Estate Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

93 Marietta Cellars 2021 Angeli Estate Grown Zinfandel (Alexander Valley). This mouthfilling and warmly fruity wine offers plump blackberry and black cherry flavors on a velvety texture of fine-grained tannins. Drinkable now with slow-cooked pork or brisket, but better from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

93 Mount Peak 2020 Rattlesnake Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 19.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Nottingham Cellars 2021 Monte Rosso Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Dense and concentrated, this wine from a storied mountaintop vineyard calls for mushroom risotto or osso buco since its grippy tannins and wonderful, dried-fruit flavors are great foils for rich dishes. A deep color leads to generous oak-spice notes over powerful blackberry and raspberry flavors. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

93 Pedroncelli 2021 Courage Faloni Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of raspberries, spearmint and blackberry jam lead to a juicy, fruity and lively palate, with plenty more berry flavors. This full-bodied, balanced and slightly tannic wine is robust but easy to drink. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$48

93 Preston 2021 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Rich and easy to drink, this wine made from organic grapes is full, spicy and delicious. Blackberries and black peppers fill the aroma before smoky and juicy black cherry flavors drench the palate, soothed by light tannins and a broad texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42

93 Quivira 2020 Anderson Ranch Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Vivid, joyful boy-

senberries and blackberries ride a firm texture in this structured, moderately tannic wine made from organic grapes. It can pair with juicy, grilled meats and will gain more complexity with mid-term aging. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2021 Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Concentrated and vivid black-fruit flavors drive this superfocused, sleek wine with a powerful pull on the palate. It's full bodied, not overpowering, but seductive from the first whiff of black cherries to the lingering, spicy finish. Enjoy now–2028. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$45

92 Baca 2021 Tug O' War Maffei Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This smooth, broad and full-bodied wine offers ample dried-fruit flavors and light tannins for a rich, mouthcoating effect. Vivid strawberries, red plums and a touch of cinnamon make it friendly to most drinkers. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 22.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Peachy Canyon 2021 Willow Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). For full review see page 25.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

92 Pedroncelli 2021 Mother Clone Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 25. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$24

92 Quivira 2020 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). So powerfully fruity that it seems sweet, this pure and intense wine is drenched in raspberries, sweet cherries and wild blackberries backed by moderate tannins and bright acidity that keep it appetizing sip after sip. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Quivira 2019 Anderson Ranch Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). All smoothness and drinkability, this wine is rich in raspberries, blackberries and dark plums backed by light tannins and a hint of acidity that keeps it fresh-tasting. Medium to full bodied, the wine will work in hundreds of food pairings due to great balance. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Ridge 2021 Blasi Metcalfe Vineyard Zinfandel (Chalk Hill). Aromas of spearmint, cola and cocoa lead to warm, broad flavors of dark plums, mulled cherries and baking spices. This wine is soft in tannins and acidity, medium in body and ready to pair with barbecue and dried cheeses. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

92 V. Sattui 2020 Quaglia Vineyard Ancient Vine Zinfandel (Napa Valley). For full review see page 27.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$58

91 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Heritage Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Rich vanilla bean and cocoa aromas lead to opulent blackberry and black cherry flavors in this lavishly oaked, well-polished and moderately tannic wine. It will benefit from a few years' age to let the spicy oak notes mellow a bit. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Maroon 2018 Reserve Zinfandel (Chiles Valley). Rich with oak spices and a velvety texture, this big but polished wine needs a serious roast or stew for pairing. Ample dark plum and black cherry flavors are layered with cinnamon, toast and clove nuances from aging in oak barrels. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$66

91 Miro 2021 Bastoni Vineyard Twentieth Anniversary Vintage Zinfandel (Fountaingrove District). Lilac, cherries, cloves and cinnamon fill the aromas of this high-octane, ripe-tasting wine before potent blackberries and black cherries take over the palate. The wine is full bodied, firm in texture and ready to pair with a steak, chop or kebab. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Portalupi 2021 Dolinsek Ranch Riserva Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This supple, rich and chocolaty wine is heavy on the confectionary spices. Milk chocolate, cocoa, cedar shavings and cinnamon pour over dark fruit flavors of dried blueberries and ripe blackberries. —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$90

91 V. Sattui 2020 Pilgrim Vineyard Zinfandel (Lodi). This dark-ruby Zin is just as deep and layered as the color suggests. Notes of cut wood, star anise, licorice, black cherry and currant, tarragon, violets and black peppercorn are woven together by integrated, mouthcoating tannins, generous alcohol and a solid dose of acidity. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

91 Vina Robles 2020 Estate Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 30.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

90 Bruliam 2021 Zinfandel (Rockpile). This deep and full-bodied wine lavishes blackberry and black cherry flavors on a moderately tannic texture for a mouthfilling, satisfying expression. It will pair up with a broad range of meaty, cheesy and savory dishes. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Fly By 2020 Zinfandel (Lake County). For full review see page 34. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$13

90 Kunde 2021 Reserve Century Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Baked plums and baking spices swirl in the glass, throwing off notes of cinnamon, vanilla and toasted oak that meet lush, ripe blackberry, dried plum and generous wood elements in the mouth. Soft and broad in mouthfeel, this wine is definitely full bodied. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 La Czar 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi). For the price, this Zin brings a lot to the table. Voluptuously ripe notes of red and black plum, black currant and prune are complemented by savory tones of black pepper, fennel, anise, tarragon and a meaty umami. The palate is woven together by a plushy tannic texture, a balanced dose of alcohol and quietly modest acidity. Drink now. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$18

89 Bailarin 2019 Alegria Vineyard Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This big, grippy wine made from a field blend of Zinfandel, Alicante Bouschet and Petite Sirah grapes feels hefty and broad. It brings floral, cedar and clove aromas, while velvety tannins and a full body convey a sense of weight and roundness on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

89 Bricoleur 2021 Zinfandel (Rockpile). Rich cocoa and baked blackberry aromas lead to milk chocolate, toasted oak and bitter chocolate notes in the mouth that practically coat the taste buds. This ripe, effusive wine wraps a full body in moderate to full tannins for a grippy texture. —J.G.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$65

89 Lucid 2021 L.04 Ripen Zinfandel (Amador County). This concentrated Zin offers a mouthful of tannins that are well met by the balanced alcohol and concentration of fruit. Enjoy notes of black cherry, blackberry, boysenberry, violets, sweet tobacco, smoke, leather, fennel, tarragon and a smoky-meaty finish. Drink now. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

89 Marietta Cellars 2021 Román Estate Grown Zinfandel (North Coast). This balanced Zin incorporates 4% each of Petite Sirah and Barbera in the mix. Find notes of black cherry, black plum, cacao, toasted wood and star anise. Drink now. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$26

89 Peachy Canyon 2021 Incredible Red Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Intense aromas of roasted red berries and chaparral herbs show on the nose of this bottling, which also includes 7% Petite Sirah and 2% Grenache. There's a dense presence on the palate, where thyme decorates the red plum and cranberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$24

88 Bailarin 2019 Zinfandel (Rockpile). Showing lots of spicy oak in the aromas and flavors, along with quite a bit of tannin, this stylized and full-bodied wine offers cinnamon, cedar, vanilla and dark plums. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

88 Comstock Wines 2016 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Tempting maple and vanilla aromas give this high-alcohol wine a whiskey-like entry before mulled plums and milk chocolate take over the flavors. The wine is rich, ripe and almost thick

in texture, and good for pairing with dessert or aged cheese. —J.G.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$34

88 Glunz 2020 Dante Dusi Vineyard Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Rugged aromas of wild and tart berry show on the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard. The palate booms with superripe fruit, caramel and a tart acidity. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Glunz 2019 Bunzer's Blend Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Woodsmoke and tart berry aromas meet with cinnamon and nutmeg on the rich, extracted nose of this bottling that includes 7% Petite Sirah. The palate is loaded with stewed fig and prune flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Merlo Family 2021 Zinfandel (Trinity County). This well-balanced wine offers notes of black cherry compote, licorice, chocolate, fresh violets, black plum jam, fresh and dried black currant, black olive, black pepper, prune and dried mission fig. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Pandemonium 2021 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Tart plum, purple flower potpourri and tart grapeskin aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers tangy herb and tart red fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 Pyramid Scheme 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi). The elevated (15%) alcohol, ripe fruits and oak tones give a perception of sweetness in this medium-bodied Zin that includes 20% Petite Sirah. Find notes of black currant, grape jelly, blackberry jam, cinnamon, black peppercorn and cacao. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

88 V. Sattui 2020 Duarte Vineyard Zinfandel (Contra Costa County). This balanced Zin aged 18 months in 35% new French oak. It offers notes of red currant, boysenberry jam, black cherry, chocolate, licorice and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

88 Vиноce 2021 The Grappler Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Prominent aromas and flavors of wood smoke, oak shavings and cedar lend a very spicy-oak cast to this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. It has a robust, heavy mouthfeel and will pair well with ribs or brisket. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$48

87 Paradise Ridge 2019 Byck Family Estate Zinfandel (Rockpile). Ripe and generally fruity, this full-bodied wine offers straightforward dark plum aromas and black-raisin flavors on a texture of light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

87 Precision Wine 2021 Headline Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Assertive aromas of cedar, charred oak and spearmint lead to chocolate and

BUYINGGUIDE

blackberry flavors in this heavily spiced and full-bodied wine. A sense of sweetness pervades the spices and berry fruits. —J.G.

abv: 15%

Price: \$35

PETITE SIRAH

95 Ridge 2020 Lytton Estate Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley). Amazing aromas of black figs,

black pepper and star anise grab attention with the first whiff, before dense, layered blackberries, dark chocolate and espresso flavors coat the palate. Firm, thick tannins and a superdark color are typical of the grape variety, and bode well for further aging. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$47

94 Trentadue 2021 La Storia Estate Bottled Petite Sirah (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$38

93 Carol Shelton 2018 Rockpile Reserve Petite Sirah (Rockpile). Polished but powerful,

this deeply colored, grippy-textured wine packs in blackberries, cocoa and cooked blueberry flavors on a big, tannic structure. It's imposing to drink now, but a safe bet to age further. Best from 2027. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$45

93 Cedarville 2020 Naylor Vineyard Petite Sirah (El Dorado). Opaque, inky ruby-purple in the

glass, this Petite Sirah is as weighty and voluptuous as it looks. It immediately emits aromas of blackberry, boysenberry, bramble, forest floor, tree bark, dried leaf litter, licorice, fennel, black pepper and crushed violets. The palate is rich with ripe tannins and elevated alcohol, both of which are well met by the concentrated fruit structure. Additional flavors include mission fig, nutmeg and cacao, which intermingle as they wind toward a lengthy finish. —S.B.

abv: 15.6%

Price: \$36

93 Girard 2021 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). There aren't many Napa Valley Petite Sirahs, and this is an exceptional one. Opulent, jammy black-

berry and boysenberry flavors fill this full-bodied wine to the rim, while masses of soft tannins add a velvety, rich texture. Espresso, dark chocolate and oak char nuances add a spicy side that builds on the palate and lingers on in the finish. Best from 2025–2040. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

92 Hendry 2020 Hendry Block 23 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). Quietly powerful, this tightly

wound wine grips its potent blackberry and black pepper flavors in firm tannins that will need a long time to relax for easier sipping. The wine is majorly concentrated, dense and deep. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

**92 Pestoni Family 2020 Pestoni Family Quack-
enbush Mountain Vineyard Petite Sirah (Lake
County).** This deep, dark and brooding red offers

robust richness delivered with finesse. Firm, structural tannins and higher alcohol are well met by the voluptuously ripe fruit structure and concentration of flavors. Find layered, nuanced notes of black cherry, plum and currant, capsicum, fennel, violet, tree bark, cacao, nutmeg, toasty smoke and sweet tobacco that lead toward a lengthy finish. —S.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

92 Preston 2021 Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley).

Intense and brawny, this flavor-packed, tannin-wrapped wine made from organic grapes holds black cherries and blackberries in a tight texture that needs a superrich dish to pair with, like a lamb burger, T-bone steak or lasagna. Best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$40

92 Stags' Leap Winery 2020 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). Oak char and black pepper aromas

lead to drenching blackberry and blueberry flavors in this rich and intensely tannic wine. The color is black to a reddish rim, the texture is thick and a bit drying, and the body is full. This wine needs time and/or a good decanting to loosen up. Best from 2027. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

91 Bogle 2020 Lake Winchester Vineyard Reserve Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). For full review see

page 27.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

91 Florence 2021 Petite Sirah (Rockpile). Made in

a hearty, no-nonsense style, this full-bodied and firmly tannic wine will stand up to the fattest sausage or juiciest ribeye, and it will be even better with time. It's packed with the darkest blackberries and espresso flavors. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$60

91 Foppiano 2021 Estate Grown Petite Sirah (Russian River Valley). For full review see

page 28. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$28

90 Portalupi 2022 L. Venturi Vineyards Petite Sirah (Mendocino). Give this solid red at

least 40 minutes to relax. You'll be rewarded with generous, voluptuous notes of black cherry and plum, cedar wood, fresh fennel, tarragon, black pepper spice and crushed violets. Firm, mouthcoating tannins engage the palate alongside pleasantly warm alcohol and modest acidity. —S.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$45

90 St. Amant 2020 Mohr-Fry Ranch Petite Sirah (Lodi). This Petite Sirah is just as deep and

dark as its opaque purple hue suggests. Notes of fresh and dried black cherry, toast, black plum and plum skins, aniseed and leather are sealed together by coarse, mouthcoating tannins and elevated alcohol, which is well met by the robust fruits. —S.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$21

88 Fellow 2019 Petite Sirah (Clarksburg).

This balanced Petite Sirah carries notes

of prune, dried fig, eucalyptus, bitter cacao, dried black cherry, vanilla, nutmeg and sand alongside a mouthful of coarse tannins, generous alcohol and modest acidity. —S.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$20

87 La Czar 2021 Petite Sirah (Lodi). This

extremely ripe wine offers aromas of violets, black cherry, dark chocolate, mission fig jam and blackberry compote. A medium level of acidity and coarse tannins give way to a thin midpalate and modest concentration of flavors. —S.B.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$18

PETIT VERDOT

94 Hendry 2019 Block 15 Petit Verdot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$48

91 Cuda Ridge 2021 Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley). Petit Verdot can be deep, brooding and

heavy, yet this full-bodied expression remains light on its feet due to the vivacity of the fruit structure. Well-integrated oak tones add nuanced spices, while alcohol provides a plump body that enhances both flavor and texture. Enjoy notes of black cherry, currant and plum, crushed violets, star anise, cacao and fresh-cut wood. —S.B.

abv: 15.7%

Price: \$43

OTHER RED WINES

93 Carol Shelton 2019 Wireless Oat Valley Vineyard Old Vine Carignane (Alexander Valley).

A firm, almost chewy texture is the perfect counterpoint to the deep, ripe, blackberry and blueberry flavors in this full-bodied, fully tannic wine. No hurry to drink it, as its fine-grained structure should help it age nicely. Best from 2026. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$30

93 Portalupi 2021 L. Venturi Vineyards Charbono (Mendocino). Hello Charbono—we don't see

you a lot, but so glad you came to the party. Your voluptuously ripe fruits are well met by the elevated alcohol and kept in check by those firm, structural tannins. You breathe and kiss notes of black cherry, blackberry, black plum, sweet tobacco, fresh cedar wood, cacao, anise and mission fig. I'll be introducing you to all my friends. *Hidden Gem.* —S.B.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$48

93 Portalupi 2021 Pauli Ranch Barbera (Mendocino). This wine has a deliciousness factor that starts with the very first whiff. Pronounced

aromas float out of the glass, suggesting plum pie filling, black cherry compote, boysenberry jam, wilting violets, vanilla, clove, nutmeg, chocolate and muddy forest floor. This is enhanced on the palate with its soft tannic texture, modest acidity

and rounded alcohol that leads toward a pleasantly warm finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$48

92 **Jarvis 2019 Estate Tempranillo (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 24.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$110

91 **St. Amant 2021 Barbera (Lodi).** This Barbera in one word: yummy. More words: Vivacious aromas recall red cherry, strawberry, roses, cacao, and black and white pepper. The palate offers generous acidity, a friendly, sandy tannic texture and plumpness from the integrated alcohol. It also reveals additional notes of roses, violets, red currant and plum, cacao and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$20

90 **Hendry 2020 Hendry Vineyard Primitivo (Napa Valley).** This full-bodied wine is made from an Italian grape variety identified as a genetic twin to Zinfandel. Jammy, sweet fruit aromas and a juicy palate full of blackberries and dark plums create a rich core wrapped by moderate tannins and sprinkled in oak spices like vanilla, cinnamon and cedar. —J.G.
abv: 16.1% Price: \$40

90 **Meeker 2021 La Sierra Vineyard, Block 8 Mourvèdre (High Valley).** This wine is pretty with layers and layers of nuanced notes suggesting roses, violets, fresh-picked boysenberry, ripe black plum, toasted wood, star anise, a dusting of cacao, fresh fennel fronds and a touch of capsicum. The full-bodied palate introduces firm, structural tannins, warming alcohol and modest acidity, which all elevate the beauty of the aromas and flavors. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$50

90 **St. Amant 2021 The Road Less Traveled Tempranillo (Amador County).** Opaque ruby in the glass, this big, bold red offers notes of menthol, black cherry, currant, plum, star anise, toasted wood, bittersweet cacao and nutmeg. The palate brings a generous level of mouthcoating tannins, a full dose of alcohol and a balanced acidity for an altogether robust, full-bodied wine. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$20

89 **Birichino 2022 Bechthold Vineyard Cinsault (Mokelumne River).** Balanced and versatile, this varietal Cinsault offers aromas and flavors of red cherry, raspberry, wild strawberry, bramble, toasted wood, black pepper and fresh roses. —S.B.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

89 **Bogle 2019 Reserve Teroldego (Suisun Valley).** Voluptuous notes of boysenberry, blackberry, red and black plum, fresh violets and cedar waft out of the glass. On the palate of this wine, chalk-dust-like tannins gently coat the cheeks, while a solid dose of acidity and generous alcohol enhance the plump, concentrated fruit structure. Additional flavors of fennel, star anise,

leather and dried black currant show on the finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

89 **Marchelle 2021 Greg La Follette van der Kamp Vineyard Pinot Meunier (Sonoma Mountain).** Call it a deep rosé or a light red, this charming, light-bodied wine blends raspberries and red cherries on a tangy texture for an appetizing, mouthwatering effect. The wine drinks well on its own, and is well suited for mealtime too. —J.G.
abv: 11.9% Price: \$50

88 **Post & Vine 2020 Mule Plane Carignane (Mokelumne River).** This balanced red offers straightforward notes of red cherry, plum and currant, licorice whip, raisin, prune and milk chocolate. All are sealed together by chalky tannins and a modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

RED BLENDS

96 **Shafer 2019 Relentless Syrah-Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.8% Price: \$90

96 **Quintessa 2020 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Rutherford).** Deceptively soft on first sip, this wine holds a deep well of dark fruits, seductive spices and firm tannins that build and broaden with more tastes. Yummy milk chocolate, cinnamon and blackberry flavors are wrapped in supportive tannins. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$240

95 **Alexander Valley Vineyards 2017 CYRUS Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Alexander Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

95 **Schweiger 2017 Dedication Estate Bottled Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Spring Mountain District).** For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$125

94 **Aperture 2020 Soil Specific Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

94 **Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Terroir Series Benchland Meritage (Dry Creek Valley).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% Price: \$70

94 **Paraduxx 2020 Proprietary Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$56

94 **Serres Ranch 2019 Watriss Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley).** For full review see page 12. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$85

94 **St. Supéry 2018 Élu Estate Bottled Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

93 **50 Harvests 2017 Meritage (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

93 **Anderson Conn Valley 2019 Right Bank Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This suave, broadly tannic wine made from Cabernet Franc and Merlot is saturated with black cherries, cocoa and toasted-oak flavors that give it a robust, mouthfilling expression. Decant and drink now or save for later. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$86

93 **Beaulieu Vineyard 2020 Tapestry Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Firmly structured and well-concentrated, this impressive wine needs time to mellow and gain more complexity. A tight core of black cherries and black currants is wrapped in firm tannins and dressed with subtle oak spices. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

93 **Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Terroir Series Alluvial Gap Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley).** This generous, mouthfilling and velvet-textured wine shows a great blend of oak spices, rich black fruits and minty, cedary accents. It can certainly age for several years, but is seductive enough to drink soon. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$70

93 **Ferrari-Carano 2019 PreVail LookOut Tree Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc (Knights Valley).** Saturated with blackberry jam and dried blueberry flavors, this full-bodied blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Cabernet Franc brings depth and ripeness to the table. Velvety tannins soothe the palate as the wine's concentration propels it through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$115

93 **Girard 2019 Artistry Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Generous black fruits fill out this dark, ripe and luxurious-tasting wine, lending a deep, soft sense of dried blueberries and blackberries topped with cocoa and mint. Well-integrated tannins give a relaxed texture and encourage a lingering finish. Rich enough for meaty main dishes or after-dinner sipping. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

93 **Hamel Family 2019 Nuns Canyon Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** Great balance, dense flavors and a firm structure bode well for this age-worthy wine made from 78% Cabernet Sauvignon and 22% Cabernet Franc. Notes of black pepper, dark chocolate, blackberries and espresso are wrapped in sandy tannins. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$160

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Jayson 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 18. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$75

93 Kunde 2019 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 18. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.7% Price: \$100

93 Lobo 2020 Howl Wulff Vineyards Custom Red Blend (Oak Knoll District). Full-on tannins and full-on black fruits lend a wallop to this full-bodied wine composed of 71% Syrah and 29% Cabernet Sauvignon. An inky color gives way to toasted oak and blackberry aromas followed by dark chocolate and graphite flavors. Drinkable soon with a rich entrée, but best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

93 Louis M. Martini 2020 Monte Rosso Vineyard Mountain Rhône-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$65

93 Opolo 2021 Maestro Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This reliably satisfying Rhône-style red typifies the power and savory side of Paso. Aromas of toasted herb and charred espresso bean give depth to the berry and lilac elements on the nose. The palate's baked-fruit core is decorated in caramel, coffee cake and toasty oak flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$36

93 Paraduxx 2020 Rector Creek Vineyard Block-5 Red Blend (Napa Valley). Big on black-fruit flavors and not overly tannic, this is a powerful but balanced blend of Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep black cherries, blueberries and dusky oak spices come together well in a lively texture due to good fruit acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$88

93 Ridge 2021 Botticelli Vineyard Red Blend (Rockpile). This beautifully balanced and composed wine made from mostly Zinfandel and Petite Sirah seamlessly blends red and black fruits with subtle oak spices on an agile texture of supple, insistent tannins and good acidity. The wine doesn't yell out for attention but will make many simpatico food pairings. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

93 Ridge 2020 Lytton Estate Vineyard G-5-M (Dry Creek Valley). Made in a rich, dark, Châteauneuf style, this deeply colored and chocolate-scented wine is drenched in dark plums, blueberries and mocha flavors wrapped in thick, velvety tannins. It's a big, full-bodied wine to enjoy with the beefiest entrées. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$42

93 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Three Some Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Lively red and black cherry aromas are backed up by deep, dark blueberries and black currants in this big but gentle blend based on Merlot. It is all ripeness

and richness on the palate, laced with soft tannins that make it easy to sip even when young. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$66

93 Trentadue 2021 La Storia Cuvée 32 Estate Bottled Red Blend (Alexander Valley). Velvety and polished, this is a deft blend based on Sangiovese grapes. An appetizing tannic grip on the palate frames nicely layered cherries, plums and raspberries that show good depth and length. While technically full bodied, the wine feels light on its feet. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

92 Asuncion Ridge 2019 Nefarious Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). There's plenty of depth to this Syrah, which includes 10% Grenache, beginning with roasted red fruit, woodspice and creamy baking spices on the nose. The tannins are quite tight on the palate, framing blackberry, cracked pepper and warm oak flavors. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.6% Price: \$58

92 Bedarra 2020 Bonfire Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Ripe, mouthfilling and somewhat soft in texture, this generous blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon is chock full of dark chocolate, black cherries, cocoa and graphite flavors. Easygoing tannins lend a mouthfilling texture without requiring extra aging. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$55

92 Castello di Amorosa 2017 La Castellana Super Tuscan Red Blend (Napa Valley). Enticing toasted-oak spices and generous black fruit flavors make a great combination in this full-bodied, broad-textured blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Sangiovese. Cinnamon, wood smoke and dark chocolate aromas meet blackberries and blueberries on a texture of velvety tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$106

92 Chronic Cellars 2021 The Unteachables Red Blend (Paso Robles). Concentrated in the glass, this dark blend of 41% Syrah, 34% Petite Sirah and 25% Tannat packs stewed-fruit aromas together with hints of violet. The palate is dense with baked blueberry and blackberry flavors. Creamy tannins are soft yet show just enough edge to ensure an interesting cellar bet. Drink now–2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$35

92 Clif Family 2021 The Climber Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). A bright, tangy aspect on the palate gives this berry- and cherry-laden wine a lift of acidity to balance the very deep and concentrated fruit flavors. Tannins are moderate, letting the wine's vibrancy and freshness shine through. Made from organic grapes. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$42

92 Copain Wines 2022 P2 Pinot Noir-Pinot Gris (Sonoma Coast). This seamless blend of red and white grapes glides across the palate, spread-

ing raspberries, red cherries and red-tea flavors amid subtle acidity and light tannins. The wine has a charming, lively quality that will be easy to pair with food. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$38

92 Ferrari-Carano 2019 PreVail West Face Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$100

92 Galante 2019 Big Little Wine Estate Bottled Red Blend (Napa Valley). Mouthfilling in texture and gorgeously ripe in flavor, this full-bodied wine coats the palate with chocolate, jammy blackberries, blueberries and cocoa, while fine-grained tannins wrap it up nicely. A blend of Petite Sirah and Petit Verdot, it should drink best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

92 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Bonfil Beatty Ranch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Howell Mountain). Broad and delicious, this dark-fruited wine is saturated in black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate that give it a dessert-wine feeling despite being technically dry. A full body and relatively soft tannins make it drinkable now. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$250

92 Jarvis 2018 Lake William Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 24.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$325

92 Paraduxx 2020 Pintail Red Blend (Napa Valley). Structured and flavor packed, this big, hearty Zinfandel-Cabernet blend offers dark chocolate, dried plum and charred oak flavors wrapped in firm tannins. Best from 2027–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

92 Paraduxx 2020 Rector Creek Vineyard Block-4 Red Blend (Napa Valley). Luscious black cherries, dried plums and cocoa fill out a full body in this deep, tannic and concentrated blend of Petit Verdot and Zinfandel. The wine's mouthfilling structure and bold flavors will pair with a ribeye steak or meaty stew. Best from 2025–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$88

92 Peachy Canyon 2021 Para Siempre Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Blueberry, violet and açai aromas make for a compelling nose on this blend of 53% Petit Verdot, 31% Malbec and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is smoothly textured and suavely integrated, showing blue fruit, cracker pepper and leathery meat flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

92 Reynolds Family Winery 2020 Persistence Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 26.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$68

92 Roth 2019 Heritage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 26.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$30

92 Thibido 2021 Hippy Hill Thibido Vineyard Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Smashed blackberry, wild chaparral and loamy earth aromas make for a compelling nose on this blend of 58% Mourvèdre, 29% Carignan and 13% Syrah. Cherry and black plum flavors are lifted by lavender on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

92 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Four Play Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County). Deep, dark and full of ripe black fruits, this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine fills the palate with richness. Its chocolate, blackberry-jam flavors are wrapped in soft tannins for a velvety, easy-drinking texture. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$66

92 Topophilia 2019 Red Blend (Sonoma County). Mouthfilling, appetizing and food-friendly, this fresh, jammy blend of Merlot and Zinfandel shows exuberant blackberry and black cherry flavors lifted by light tannins and some tangy acidity. In hot weather, the wine can take a chilling too. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$26

92 Trione 2019 Henry's Blend Geyserville Ranch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 27.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

92 True Oak Estate 2020 Red Blend (Napa Valley). This Bordeaux-style wine has good balance and a lightly gripping texture to take on grilled and roasted meat. Ample black fruits, dark chocolate and mint accents keep your attention. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$28

92 Wedgewood Vintners 2021 Symphony Red Blend (Suisun Valley). A blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, this full-bodied red has well-integrated, firm tannins that are well balanced by the glycerin-like nature of the alcohol and modest acidity. Find lovely, layered aromas and flavors of black cherry and plum, crushed violets, bitter cacao, cedar wood, fennel, nutmeg, clove and vanilla bean and flower. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

91 Asuncion Ridge 2019 Benton Red Blend (Paso Robles). Toasty oak and pastry aromas meet with charred meat and dried berry on the nose of this blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 43% Syrah. Rounded flavors of baked red fruit, crushed cinnamon and mace make for a spicy sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$48

91 Bricoleur 2021 La Rumeur Red Blend (Sonoma County). For full review see page 28.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$65

91 Caddis 2021 Angler Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Knights Valley). Bold black fruits, moderate tannins and good fruit acidity form the core of this full-bodied, dry wine, while earthy, tarry and leathery nuances lend a meaty complexity. In a blend based on Malbec, find black pepper, black cherries and smoky notes for a fun, spicy expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

91 Chronic Cellars 2021 El Perfecto Red Blend (Paso Robles). This rich blend of 46% Zinfandel, 42% Tempranillo and 12% Petite Sirah starts with goeey aromas of chocolate-dipped cherries and licorice on the nose. The palate picks up coffee and black tea elements to balance the heavy blackberry jam flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$40

91 Hamel Family 2019 Hamel Family Ranch Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). Although nicely concentrated and firmly textured, this wine will need time to open and become more complex. It wraps dark chocolate, blackberry and mint flavors in full tannins, for a tooth-drying effect that will soften with further aging. Best from 2027. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$160

91 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2019 Hell's Kitchen Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Dark and inky in the glass, this blend of 55% Syrah, 17% Graciano, 16% Grenache and 12% Tannat is very extracted on the nose with heavy aromas of cassis, coffee liqueur and toasted walnut. Smooth, comforting tannins frame the sip, where roasted fig and caramelized berry flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$72

91 Kirkland Signature 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 32. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$11

91 Meeker 2021 Type Two Fun Rhône-style Red Blend (North Coast). This deep, rich and complex wine offers a plethora of aromas and flavors that cling to the senses through to a lengthy finish. The palate offers structural tannins, generous alcohol and a balanced acidity, resulting in a weighty, full-bodied red. Enjoy notes of roses, violets, red currant, red plum, fresh fennel, star anise, black pepper, wild strawberry and black cherry. —S.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$55

91 Opolo 2021 Grand Rouge Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). A lighter hue in the glass, this wine begins with ample woodspice aromas, from sandalwood to hickory, while also sporting a crisp red-fruit character. That woody red-fruit combination flows through the palate, also picking up flavors of mesquite, caramel and vanilla. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$28

91 Ridge 2020 Mazzoni Home Ranch Red Blend (Alexander Valley). This bold wine comes from a field blend of Zinfandel, Carignan and Petite Sirah grapes grown in rocky soil. Its ripe flavors and

ample tannins will make a good counterpoint to pair with a good, fatty pasta or meat main course. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

91 Thibido 2021 Future Crossing Thibido Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Intensely ripe while slightly tart aromas of dark berry show on the nose of this blend of 88% Syrah and 12% Grenache. The palate is bright and generous in boysenberry and lilac flavors, with a strong acidity and sticky tannins holding firm into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$65

90 Absolution 2020 Wicked Sensation Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). This bold blend of 57% Tannat, 39% Grenache and 4% Syrah shows ripe berry, maduro cigar and cedar shavings on the nose. The palate's ripe landing is full of cherry, strawberry and clove flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% Price: \$69

90 Castello di Amorosa 2017 Il Brigante Red Blend (Napa Valley). Bold, dark fruit flavors and a good structure of tannins give this wine a big presence as black cherries, blackberries and dark chocolate coat the palate. Decant if drinking soon. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$45

90 Crush 2021 Ellipsis Red Blend (Paso Robles). This bottling's black type-on-black background label is hard to read, but the theme is correct, because it stars an inky blend of 50% Petite Sirah, 25% Tempranillo and 25% Tannat. Savory aromas of charcoal, tar, lava rocks and blackberry lead from the nose into a dense palate of blueberry, açai and pulverized stones. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$58

90 Crush 2021 Sassy Red Blend (Paso Robles). This very fruity blend of 75% Syrah, 20% Tempranillo and 5% Grenache offers fresh blueberry and açai aromas on the jubilant nose. The palate is a little thinner than expected, with brisk blackberry and layers of herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$58

90 Dashe Cellars 2019 The Comet Red Blend (Sonoma County). Distinct leather and balsam aromas give way to roasted plums, charred oak, blackberry jam and black pepper flavors in this funky but fun wine blended from Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Carignan. It should pair well with brisket, roast venison or something equally robust. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$44

90 J. Cage Cellars 2021 Craftman's Blend Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley). Smooth, rich and relaxed, this mouthfilling blend of Sangiovese, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah is ripe in black cherries and blueberries on an easy texture of light tannins. Good balance between a touch of tangy acidity and nicely saturated flavors makes it readily enjoyable. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$49

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Marietta Cellars 2021 Armé Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (McDowell Valley). This well-rounded, full-bodied blend led by Cabernet Sauvignon offers generous aromas and flavors of black cherry, blueberry, bittersweet chocolate, cut wood and dried eucalyptus. Everything is knit together by firm, but friendly tannins, energetic acidity and balanced alcohol. —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

90 Marietta Cellars 2021 Christo Estate Grown Rhône-style Red Blend (McDowell Valley). This full-bodied, robust red blend is a mix of Syrah, Grenache, Petite Sirah and a splash of Viognier. Find layered aromas and flavors of blackberry, black cherry, chocolate, crushed violets, nutmeg and a meaty umami for an appetizing mouthful. —S.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$26

90 Pandemonium 2021 Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 31.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Paraduxx 2020 Co-Ferment Rhône-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Jammy, ripe black fruits, black pepper and dried herbs dominate this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine made from Syrah with minor portions of Grenache and Viognier. Its bold expression will tackle meatballs, Korean barbecue and fried chicken equally well. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

90 Peachy Canyon 2021 G-S-M (Paso Robles). Focused aromas of boysenberry and pomegranate show some extracted qualities on the nose of this blend of 48% Grenache, 32% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre. The palate is heavy with berry jam and pie crust flavors that are balanced by firm tannins on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

90 Ridge 2019 Demostene Ranch Red Blend (Alexander Valley). This brawny blend of 58% Zinfandel and 42% Carignane shows plenty of spicy character in the nose and on the palate, and has firm, fine-grained tannins wrapping its quite-ripe berry and dark plum flavors. A cedary, sun-baked expression comes out on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$40

90 Solitary Cellars 2021 Ball & Chain Red Blend (California). This is a full-bodied blend of Cab Sauv, Petite Sirah and Zin, complete with mouthcoating tannins and elevated alcohol. Find voluptuous notes of black cherry and black plum, vanilla, chocolate, fresh-cut cedar, eucalyptus, prune, leather, star anise and sweet tobacco. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

90 Solitary Cellars 2021 Los Grilletes Red Blend (Lodi). This nicely layered, balanced red is a 50-50 blend of Cab Sauv and Zinfandel. The elevated alcohol provides smooth, glycerin-like roundness to the body, balanced by firm tannins and modest acidity. Enjoy notes of black cherry and black

plum, fresh and dried violets, bittersweet chocolate, vanilla paste, nutmeg and walnut skins. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

90 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Climax Red Blend (Sonoma County). This bold and generously oaked blend based on Zinfandel wraps ample soft tannins around tasty black cherries and dark plums. Its richness counterbalances the tannins for an easy texture, and its cloves, cinnamon and cedar notes are fun to pick out. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$66

90 Vie Winery 2019 Red Blend (North Coast). This full-bodied red blend offers notes of red and black cherry, tarragon, fennel, cedar, cacao, dusty forest floor, sweet tobacco and dried eucalyptus leaf alongside firm, structural tannins, modest acidity and generous alcohol. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Angels & Cowboys 2021 Proprietary Red Blend (Sonoma County). A graham cracker aroma continues in the flavors of this soft and agreeable wine as almost-sweet blueberries and dark chocolate fill in the palate. It tastes rich and sweet, good with spicy barbecue or as an after-dinner drink. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Asuncion Ridge 2020 Lascivious Red Blend (Paso Robles). A bit reductive on the nose, this blend of 58% Mourvèdre, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Syrah begins with aromas of tar, charred meat and dense elderberry on the dry nose. Dense and dark, the palate offers pleasantly charred fruit flavors that finish on vanilla touches. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$48

89 Frog's Leap 2022 Flycatcher Red Blend (California). This balanced blend incorporates notes of prune, fig, fresh and dried black cherry and plum, coffee bean and dried forest floor alongside mouthcoating tannins, modest acidity and warming alcohol. —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

89 Kunde 2019 Destination Series Estate Meritage (Sonoma Valley). This dark, super-ripe-tasting wine based on Merlot and Malbec drenches lots of soft tannins in dried blueberries and plums, milk chocolate and cocoa. The wine is rich and mouthfilling, making it a good fit for meats and pastas. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Post & Vine 2019 Testa Vineyard Old Vine Field Blend Red Blend (Mendocino). This balanced blend of Carignan, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah offers pleasant notes of roses, strawberry preserves, red plum compote, black and white pepper, and red currant jelly. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

89 Solitary Cellars 2021 Code Three Red Blend (California). This is a full-bodied blend of 55% Syrah, 30% Grenache and 15% Merlot. Subtle

aromas and flavors suggest roses, violets, raspberry, red and black cherry, fennel, tarragon, toasted wood and hints of clove and nutmeg. It has a sandy tannic texture, warming alcohol and modest acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 Stel+Mar NV Proprietary Red Blend Red Blend (California). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Petit Verdot offers aromas and flavors of light-petaled roses, strawberry preserves, grape jelly, raspberry jam, red cherry candy, black tea leaves and white pepper. A sandy tannic texture, balanced alcohol and a solid dose of acidity hold it all together. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$14

89 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Redacted Red Blend (Alexander Valley). All smoothness and calm, this full-bodied but friendly wine is deep in dark plums, cooked blueberries and milk chocolate on a bed of soft tannins. Enjoy soon. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$66

88 High Dive 2017 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This full-bodied, dry wine folds red fruits in fairly firm acidity and tannins, for an appetizing, texture-driven expression that really needs food. Black cherries, raspberries and cranberries fill out the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

88 Highwayman 2021 Trailblazer Reserve Red Blend (Sonoma County). This blend of Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Sauvignon is a good choice for bourbon drinkers. A soft, melted texture carries dried-fruit and jam flavors while a broad, almost-sweet ripeness counters moderate tannins that stay in the background. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

88 Indigené 2020 Philanthropist Red Blend (Paso Robles). This rich and extracted blend offers aromas of plum, peppercorn and toasted pecan. The palate is also bold and caramelized, with black plum and fudge flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

88 Jax 2021 Y3 Taureau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Built for further aging, this fully tannic and concentrated wine squeezes its black cherry and blackberry flavors firmly with tannins, giving an extra-grippy texture at this stage. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$25

88 Kenwood 2018 Jack London Red Blend (Sonoma Mountain). This easy-drinking blend of Merlot, Zinfandel and Syrah will please a crowd. While full in body, it's light in tannin, rather rich in plums and cherries, and feels soft in texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Marchelle 2021 Old Vine Family Cuvée Red Blend (Mokelumne River). This is a balanced red, offering notes of red cherry, boysenberry, red

currant, chocolate, fresh fennel, cut wood and forest floor. —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$39

88 OVR NV Old Vine Red Blend (California). This simple, balanced red blend offers notes of grape jelly, licorice, blackberry jam, violet potpourri and toasted wood. Soft, plush tannins and a balanced acidity hold everything together. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 St. Amant 2021 The Bootleg Society, Speakeasy Red Red Blend (Lodi). This is a totally cool, totally casual red blend, with notes of red and black cherry and plum, boysenberry, marionberry, fennel and toasted wood. Soft, plushy tannins and elevated acidity keeps it approachable and friendly from start to finish. Enjoy now. —S.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$24

88 Thumbprint Cellars 2018 Three Some Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Alexander Valley). This good-quality, middle-of-the-road blend based on Merlot braces tasty red and black cherry flavors in firm tannins that need a meaty, rich dish for pairing. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$66

88 Winemakers Selection NV Reserve Red Blend (California). This cheerful red blend incorporates notes of red and black cherry, chocolate, nutmeg and vanilla with a friendly, plush tannic texture and a solid dose of acidity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

87 Asuncion Ridge 2019 Inception Red Blend (Paso Robles). This Cab-based blend includes 10% Syrah, and begins with extracted aromas of roasted red fruit, caramel and heavy oak. The palate is rich and nearly sweet with nutmeg, clove and caramelized fig flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

83 Dark Horse NV Red Blend (California). This simple wine is red-fruit forward, with notes of red cherry, plum and currant. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

OREGON CHARDONNAY

95 Domaine Divio 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

93 Big Table Farm 2021 Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). What's not to love about aromas like lemon curd, toasted filberts, butter and a touch of fresh basil? Classic stuff. Elevated acidity and a brisk mouthfeel accompany flavors like buttered popcorn, pan-seared scallops drizzled in lemon juice and balsa wood. Pair this wine with a thick, firm halibut filet. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Domaine Divio 2021 Les Climat Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

93 Soléna 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This impressive wine's notes of forsythia and orange blossoms unite with aromas of pineapple and talc. Orchard fruit dominates the palate, with apple crisp and apple flavors joined by cinnamon and filberts plus juicy acidity and a crisp texture. Let's hope this is a sign of things to come from the 2022 vintage. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Tekstura 2022 Beacon Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). If you enjoy the elegant coconut perfume issued by Bumble and bumble's Creme De Coco Shampoo, you must try this wine. A perfect coconut aroma blends seamlessly with icy lemon granita and aloe vera notes. A lightning bolt of acidity drives flavors like ripe nectarines, wet slate, rosemary and lime. Lather up. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Aubaine 2021 Anahata Vineyard Estate Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 21. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$45

92 Big Table Farm 2021 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This graceful and balanced Chardonnay leads with a combination of juniper berries and a piece of smoked whitefish drizzled in butter and lemon that is certain to spark a hunger pang. The flavors of peach sorbet and shortbread cookies served with a cup of lemon-verbena tea don't help that pang. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$48

92 Domaine Divio 2021 Estate Clos Gallia Vineyard Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge). Fresh and floral aromas of strawberry, thyme and hyacinth are joined on the wine's nose by a dollop of melted butter. Flavors like apricot, ginger, lemon verbena and honeycomb navigate a lean, clean texture. There is really crisp acidity, with a long finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$65

92 Hartford Court 2021 Warrior Princess Block Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This monument to blazing acidity, and perhaps Lucy Lawless, leads with aromas of lemon curd, white pepper and traces of papaya and mango chutney. Fans of crisp-textured Chardonnays that have some weight should flock to this wine and its Meyer lemon, cayenne and toasted filbert flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Rex Hill 2021 Seven Soils Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The wine's dominant tart pineapple aroma is tempered by bursts of brown sugar and chalkboard dust. The tropical theme continues on the palate, with tangerine, coconut and orange-cake flavors gliding along a creamy texture. This is

a lighter bodied Chardonnay with energetic acidity and a nice finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Shea 2021 Tina-Louise Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). Aged in French oak, concrete and stainless steel, the Tina-Louise possesses a silky texture, tangy acidity and a lemonade aroma punctuated by notes of mint and pine needles. Lemon-shortbread and lemon-basil flavors are joined by a savory marjoram note. Pair with a three hour cruise. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Tekstura 2022 Doration Vineyard Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). Blood orange and apple mint aromas pair up with touches of earthy oregano and gun flint. This light-bodied Chardonnay features soft acidity, a smooth texture and flavors like pear slices paired with baked Gorgonzola cheese bites and filberts. That might also be a nice food pairing for this wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Lemelson 2021 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This whole-cluster fermented Chardonnay did 15 months in French oak, 33% new. It possesses grilled pineapple, lime-zest and lemon-flavored saltwater-taffy aromas that are fresh and lively. Grilled pineapple and brown-sugar flavors mix nicely, with a bit of spearmint on the finish. A smooth mouthfeel pairs with the lively acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$56

90 Padigan 2021 Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). A medium-bodied wine with a moderate amount of acidity, this Chardonnay leads with lemon and toasted filbert aromas, followed by notes of salt and vinegar potato chips and a trace of green tea. The wine's flavors are similar, with browned butter, toasted filberts and lemon gelato holding court. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

89 Redolent 2022 This Must Be The Place Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Based on this light-bodied wine, it's a good place to be. Classic lemon, butter and toasted filbert aromas are matched by notes of freshly cut grass and wet slate. A crisp texture joins with flavors of really ripe peaches and thyme in a pleasant way. A bit more acidity would have been welcome. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$38

86 Acrobat 2022 Chardonnay (Oregon). A pronounced honeysuckle aroma leads the way for bursts of lemon-drop hard candies and kiwi. The wine's creamy texture and residual sugar provide the backdrop for flavors of pineapple, butterscotch and whole-wheat toast. Medium bodied, it comes with soft acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$16

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Anne Amie 2021 Prismé Blanc Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). If Captain Ahab had known about this great white, he'd have dumped the whale. Prismé's cherry, quince and sweet plumaria aromas are worth the price of admission by themselves. Tangerine, candied ginger and macadamia nut flavors are a mere bonus. Soft acidity and mouthfeel meet a touch of tannic structure. Ahoy! *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Peter William 2022 Daisy Creek Vineyard Viognier (Rogue Valley). The Daisy Creek Viognier is consistently one of the best white wine values in Oregon. This year's model starts off with pear, butterscotch and talc aromas. Blazing acidity shines through as flavors like grilled pineapple, Thai basil and blood orange sorbet sashay across the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$27

93 Troon 2022 Vermentino (Applegate Valley). For full review see page 20. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

91 Anne Amie 2022 Twelve Oaks Estate Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). The wine's aromas are an herb pot filed with lemon verbena and thyme. The herbal notes are joined by ripe nectarines, or perhaps apricots. Nervy acidity spotlights flavors of lemon, clarified butter and Marcona almonds. A fresh, clean mouthfeel is the cherry on top. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Big Table Farm 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Big Table Farm is consistently one of the best examples of skin-contact Pinot Gris in the Willamette Valley. The wine's aromas of prosciutto wrapped around a slice of cantaloupe join bits of saline, thyme and apple pectin. Peach-skin, anise and juniper-berry flavors are backed by sturdy tannins, with a crisp mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$38

91 Tekstura 2022 Redford-Wetle Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills). The wine's guava and apple-cider aromas are joined by something akin to the scent of dust warming on a light bulb. Golden Delicious and passion fruit flavors share equal billing with a note similar to oil that's been extracted from hot-pepper seeds. Screaming acidity wakes you right up. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$65

SPARKLING WINES

95 Corollary 2017 Cuvée One Extended Tirage Sparkling Blend (Oregon). This Pinot Noir-driven sparkling blend has all the added depth and complexity you might expect from 60 months *en tirage*. Its creamy-dreamy texture is graced by flavors of yellow grapefruit and lemon shortbread, with a hint of thyme. Buttered sourdough toast slathered

with lemon curd and a sprig of mint describe the wine's aromatics to a tee. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Soter 2019 Mineral Springs Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Yamhill-Carlton). This pink sparkling wine is 81% Pinot Noir, 19% Chardonnay and 100% satisfying. The show begins with energetic bubbles delivering aromas of raspberry sorbet and fresh peach slices served on a *stropwafel*. The flavors are an equally compelling mix of *framboise*, brioche and crushed walnuts, with a texture as brisk as a winter walk. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$75

91 Domaine Divio 2016 Cremant Extended Tirage Hyland Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). After 62 months *en tirage*, this bubbly treat made with old-vine Coury clone fruit is ready to take on the world. Crisp, tangy aromas of tangerines and apricots are accented by bits of freshly cut grass and powdered sugar. Soft bubbles and crackling acidity grace flavors like grapefruit brûlée and almond biscotti. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Tirridis NV House Rosé Rendition #1 Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley). At this price, back up a moving van for this high-acid Chardonnay-Syrah-Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blend. A wandering stream of bubbles delivers peach, raspberry and wet granite aromas. Flavors like peach Melba, strawberries and almond biscotti make it dangerously easy to open up a second bottle. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.42% **Price:** \$24

89 Tirridis NV House Gris Rendition #1 Sparkling Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). This is an earthy, acidity-driven sparkler that fills the air with aromas of freshly turned earth, banana bread and peaches. Flavors like Meyer lemon and coconut mingle with pear and winter melon. Serve with cornichons and stone-ground mustard and tell me I'm wrong. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.46% **Price:** \$24

ROSÉ

90 Peter William 2022 Grenache Peter William Vineyard Rosé (Rogue Valley). Peaches and lemon-granita aromas dazzle up-front, while apricot and orange-zest flavors are joined by a spicy note similar to ginger kombucha. The medium-bodied wine's acidity is electric, with a waxy mouthfeel that will trigger childhood memories of waxed lips at Halloween. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

PINOT NOIR

96 Big Table Farm 2021 Cattrall Brothers Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). I have the highest respect for the Cattrall family and the vineyard it began planting in 1972. This wine honors that legacy, from its dialed-back alcohol and jitterbug

acidity to its plush tannins and long finish. Look for aromas and flavors of dried cherries, blackberries, aged balsamic, bacon fat and lavender in between. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$72

95 Shea 2021 Shea Vineyard Block 23 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). I see the numbers "23" and I think "Michael Jordan." This wine lives up to that comparison. This slam dunk begins with perfumed aromas of talc, vanilla, strawberries and a spicy hint of mace. Full, round-in-the-mouth flavors of candied red apples, cranberries and nutmeg are ably supported by velvety tannins and soft acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Domaine Divio 2021 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$75

94 Shea 2021 Homer Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is my favorite Homer since the Greek poet, and it is equally epic. Aromatically, the Homer is a field of violets and blueberry bushes surrounded by cedar trees. Flavors like bittersweet dark-chocolate-covered cherries and salted peanuts are matched by supple tannins and acidity as bright as Helios. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$115

94 Shea 2021 Shea Vineyard Block 5 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Noses this pretty may make you forget to actually drink the wine. Dark raspberry and macerated strawberry aromas mix beautifully with wisps of lavender and vanilla. A juicy raspberry flavor is wrapped up in notes of hibiscus tea and lemon peel. Lovely acidity and a smooth texture await. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Soter 2021 Mineral Springs Ranch Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This elegant expression of the Willamette Valley's strong 2021 vintage leads with aromas of blackberries, ginger scones and a bit of Tahitian vanilla. Tart cranberry and orange-zest flavors are soon joined by notes of cedar and cacao nibs. The wine's silky tannins and crisp acidity are equally matched. Enjoy now until 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$80

93 Domaine Divio 2021 Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Divio's Ribbon Ridge leads with blackcap raspberry and smoked brisket aromas that are hunger inducing. The wine's cherry, lemon and black-pepper flavors are backed by energetic acidity and silky tannins. This wine has character, so pair with cassoulet and a Charles Aznavour record. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

92 Anne Amie 2022 Two Estates Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Soaring acidity and a lively mouthfeel power this wine. Aromas of blackcap raspberries, violets, dark chocolate and a touch

of blood orange make for a lovely perfume. Blackberry and walnut flavors are joined by a tart note of rooibos tea. Try it with a burger smothered in porcini mushrooms. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

92 Big Table Farm 2021 Sunnyside Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Light and graceful, with restrained alcohol and a delicate texture, this Pinot Noir floats high above on gossamer wings. The wine's blueberry, juniper and cherry-vanilla-seltzer aromas are fresh and clean, with crisp acidity and velvety tannins. Sip with an orange-painted sunset. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$72

92 Chapter 24 2021 Last Chapter Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's saline seabreeze and campfire-smoke aromas, matched by dark plums, will place you squarely on the nearest beach. Expect elevated acidity to light up the palate, with flavors like tart red cherries, ginger and black tea with honey. Pair with s'mores and "The Endless Summer" soundtrack LP. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$91

92 Domaine Divio 2021 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). A pretty perfume of thyme, dark plums and violets is contrasted by a heady mix of wet rocks and saline. The wine feels rich and chalky in the mouth, as a tart cherry and persimmon combination holds court, joined by a touch of espresso. I loved the wine's jangly acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$32

92 Domaine Divio 2021 Les Climat Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 22. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$30

91 Big Table Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). The wine's raspberry and lavender aromas are joined by a wisp of orange peel. Flavor-wise, it is a bowl of blueberries and yogurt mixed up with a heaping helping of toasted filberts and rolled oats. There's even a bit of balsa and leather involved. It has modest acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$72

91 Compris 2021 As One Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Earth and fruit collide as aromas of dark cherries, loam and wet slate mingle with seared steak and aged balsamic vinegar. The fruit is even darker on the palate, with blackberries holding court along with wee bits of black tea and orange zest. Brisk acidity is followed by a light, clean mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$55

91 Domaine Divio 2021 Hyland Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). This nicely balanced Pinot Noir offers up aromas of pomegranate, cherry and a burst of rich dark chocolate. Tart raspberry fruit holds court on the palate, along with traces of leather and a cup of Earl Grey tea sweetened with a

bit of stevia. Lemony acidity combines with velvety tannins in pleasing fashion. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$65

91 Planet Oregon 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a planet you want to live on.

The wine's rich raspberry-jam and lilac aromas make a perfect foil for a meaty note similar to seared steak. Blueberry and candied-rose-petal flavors are joined by an interesting wood note that may conjure up childhood memories of building toy rafts with popsicle sticks. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$24

91 R. Stuart & Co. 2021 Vignette Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Bright red-cherry and orange-peel aromas burst from the glass, followed by bits of cedar and marjoram. Excellent acidity lights the way for tangy flavors of boysenberry, olive oil and toasted almonds. The wine's lighter body and delicate mouthfeel is surprising given that it is almost 15% ABV. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

91 Shea 2021 Breakaway Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). The Breakaway spent nine months in French oak, 20% new and 80% neutral. It is balanced, with sprightly acidity and silky tannins. The aromas are like a fistful of violets waved over a bowl of muddled cherries. There's a crispness to the wine's mouthfeel, as flavors of strawberry-rhubarb and lemon zip across the palate. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$75

91 Shea 2021 Shea Vineyard Block 7 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Blackberry and thyme aromas unite with savory notes of seared steak and cumin. The wine's mildly grippy tannins and energetic acidity support black-cherry, aged balsamic vinegar and allspice flavors. The Block 7 rested in French oak, 71% neutral, for nine months. Enjoy 2021-2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$75

91 Shea 2021 Shea Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine's nine months in French oak, 30% new and 70% neutral, is a winning combination. A pronounced raspberry-pie aroma is joined by notes of sage and orange zest. There's a meatiness to the palate, with tart cherries blending with fennel and Italian sausage notes. The acidity is zippy and the mouthfeel crisp. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

91 Shea 2021 Shea Vineyard Revel Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Prepare to revel in the smell of a warm vanilla cupcake topped with blueberries and raspberries. The wine's zesty acidity and velvety tannins complement flavors like black cherry, lemon, cinnamon and a bitter note similar to a cup of white tea. This wine is excellent with grilled merguez sausages. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$90

91 Sokol Blosser 2021 Big Tree Block Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Red-cherry and damp modeling-clay aromas are encircled by a floral net

of lavender, rosemary and other garrigue components. Elevated acidity and silky tannins match up with flavors like cranberries, walnuts and orange peel. This wine will be perfect with Thanksgiving's ubiquitous leftover sandwiches. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$75

90 Anne Amie 2022 Winemaker's Selection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir where just enough acidity and plush tannins are at home with a soft, smooth texture. The wine's aromas range from blueberries and pine boughs to sweet floral notes of lily of the valley and roses. Cherry and orange flavors are spiced up by a bit of cinnamon stick. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$28

90 Del Rio 2021 Del Rio Vineyard Estate Pomard Clone Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). This beautifully balanced wine rested for 10 months in French oak, 25% new. Raspberry and cranberry-ice aromas are punctuated by bursts of orange zest and grassy green coffee beans. Refreshing acidity and a crisp texture, come with flavors like tart red cherry and black tea. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$45

90 Domaine Divio 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). There is a sweet floral scent here similar to jasmine blooming at night. It is joined by aromas of red raspberries, lemon and talc. Rise from hibernation-levels of acidity shine a spotlight on tart red-cherry and orange-pith flavors that are joined by notes of cocoa powder and pipe tobacco. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

90 Ken Wright 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This note is a snapshot in time. Tasted several months from now, who knows what the score might be? For now, on the cusp of release, it shows aromas of blueberries and a meaty note similar to bacon fat. Red-apple and sour-cherry flavors are flanked by a cedar note, moderate acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$28

90 Lemelson 2021 Thea's Selection Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A pronounced saline note similar to the lining of a freshly shucked oyster mixes with notes of blackberries and marshmallows toasted over a smoky campfire. Bracing acidity and velvety tannins frame flavors like raspberry, smoked almonds and candied rose petals. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

90 Rex Hill 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Blackcap raspberry and orange-peel aromas arrive first, followed by earthy notes of oregano, rosemary and wet cedar bark. This is a medium-bodied Pinot Noir, where the moderate acidity and grippy tannins support damson plum, strawberry and cinnamon flavors. Try it with a pork bánh mì sandwich. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$38

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Acrobat 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon). For full review see page 34. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

89 Dough 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Briary red fruit, like a raspberry-cherry combo, and vanilla aromas make for a nice greeting. The wine's brisk acidity and velvety tannins support flavors like tangy pie cherries, black pepper, thyme and salty barbecue pork ends. It might make a nice pairing with a meatloaf sandwich. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

89 Evolution by Sokol Blosser Winery 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The Evolution displays a nice balance between silky tannins, tangy acidity and rich red-cherry fruit that is accented by bitter notes of almonds and espresso made with robusta beans. Aromas like sweet-pea flowers and cherry pie with a butter crust are equally rich and pleasing. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

89 Hartford Court 2021 Warrior Princess Block Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The wine's blueberry and hyacinth aromas are nearly eclipsed by a woody-earthly note similar to a post-rain walk through a cedar forest. Flavors like tart black cherries, vanilla and Thai basil are joined by more cedar. The Warrior Princess has modest acidity and supple tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$78

89 Soléna 2022 Grande Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The wine's briary raspberry aroma is joined by an eclectic mix of eucalyptus, spicy cumin and wet pavement. The youthful fruit flavors are still a bit tart, with cranberry and ruby grapefruit battling a strong black-tea flavor. The wine's acidity is potent, joined by a chalky texture that rubs exactly the right way. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$35

88 Larkspur 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon). A bowl of raspberries and blueberries drizzled in lemon juice describes the Larkspur's aromatic set to a tee. Throw in a little thyme and talcum powder for good measure. Cherry, orange and candied-rose-petal flavors are accented by a grilled meat note, soft acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

88 Sokol Blosser 2021 Orchard Block Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The wine's sweet aromas of strawberries and grilled beef short ribs are punctuated by a smoky note similar to crushed marigolds. The tannins are plush and the acidity restrained, with flavors of black cherries and earthy natto paste gliding across a slippery texture. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$75

86 Oregon Grove 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Dark raspberries and violets unite with touches of saline and toasted marshmallows to create a most pleasant perfume. The wine's light mouthfeel jibes with its soft acidity, plush tan-

nins and light, sweet red-cherry and cedar flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

85 Averaen 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Smoked blackberries, orange cake and the trifecta of fennel, thyme and oregano aromas made for a good start. The flavors of blackcap raspberries and ginger was also nice. What acted as a distraction was the wine's stringent tannins. This pinot with pucker power may require time or decanting. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

84 Violet Hill 2022 Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). Muddled black cherries and lilacs are quite the contrast to the faint notes of green beans served with bacon. The fruit is tangier on the palate, with cranberries and raspberries mixing it up with a bit of brown sugar. Nice acidity, but the tannins are missing in action. —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

OTHER RED WINES

95 Troon 2021 Estate Syrah (Applegate Valley). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.2% Price: \$35

92 Peter William 2020 PWV Reserve Peter William Vineyard Malbec (Rogue Valley). Dark raspberry and straw aromas are brambly and dusty, while violets linger in the background. The cherry and caramel apple flavors are rich, but not cloying. The wine's tannins are firm, the acidity crisp. Wines like this make me think Malbec should be in the conversation regarding Oregon's signature grapes. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

91 Anne Amie 2022 Twelve Oaks Estate Gamay Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This light and wispy Gamay Noir leads with a pronounced black-cherry aroma that is flanked by hints of clove and iron filings. Tangy cranberry and red-cherry flavors, along with some serious salinity, almost come across as a nice kombucha. The wine's acidity is absolutely electric. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

90 Peter William 2020 Peter William Vineyard Grenache (Rogue Valley). After 10 months in neutral French oak, this Grenache is eager to make friends. Its dark chocolate and meaty aromas will make you crave pork mole. The flavors are a tangy combination of boysenberry and orange zest, with bits of tobacco and ginger. Boisterous acidity intersects with firm tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$27

90 Peter William 2019 Lot W Peter William Vineyard Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). Aged 19 months in American oak, 30% new, this burly Tempranillo leads with aromas of smoked red cherries, pipe tobacco, cooked meat and freshly baled hay. The wine's chewy tannins provide able support for

cranberry and cherry flavors encircled by notes of balsa wood and bittersweet dark chocolate. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

89 Compris 2021 Moonlit Sky Tempranillo (Chehalem Mountains). A Tempranillo made with fruit grown in the Willamette Valley is a rare find. The wine's slightly earthy nose features potent blackberry, leather and orange-peel aromas that burst from the glass. Slightly chewy tannins are the backdrop for flavors like English breakfast tea and a dark-cherry clafoutis. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

87 Padigan 2019 Malbec (Rogue Valley). There's 10% Cabernet Sauvignon in this wine, which aged 28 months in a combination of new, used and neutral French oak. Blackberry and graphite aromas are joined by a green note similar to green beans cooked in a skillet. Tart cherry and black-tea flavors are framed by plush tannins and modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$24

RED BLEND

91 Peter William 2019 G-S-M (Rogue Valley). This GSM, made with fruit from Peter William and Folin Vineyards, spent 20 months in French oak, 50% new and 50% neutral. It is lithe and lean, with aromas of poppies and lavender melding with blackberry tea. Raspberry and tart cherry flavors are flanked by bacon fat and cardamom. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$27

WASHINGTON CHARDONNAY

89 City Limits 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This wine's bracing acidity and crisp texture are guaranteed to slap your palate out of the doldrums. Guava, passion fruit, mint and chilled cucumber aromas lead to tangy flavors like tangerine, lime zest and a bit of cinnamon. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

89 L'Ecole No. 41 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This is a brisk expression of Chardonnay that features energetic acidity and a lithe and lean texture. Lemon-zest and toasted filbert aromas lead to flavors of chamomile tea, coconut and lemon verbena. Try this wine with grilled halibut and a mango salsa. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

88 Winescape 2021 Snipes Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). Fermented and aged in a combination of French oak and stainless steel, this Chardonnay smells like a slice of ripe, chilled papaya drizzled with lime juice. Tropical coconut sorbet and grilled pineapple flavors glide along a creamy texture, with soft acidity and a bit of saline on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$24

85 Sagelands 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The wine's melon and strawberry aromas take a backseat to a scent similar to a melting wax candle. Salted cashew and butter flavors are joined by a sweet note of coconut that made me wonder if LifeSavers made that flavor. Modest acidity complements a creamy mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

RIESLING

90 Caliche 2022 Dry Riesling (Ancient Lakes). These ripe peach and passion fruit aromas conjure thoughts of a nice Moscato d'Asti. There might even be a bit of cotton candy and wet sidewalk hiding among those scents. The flavors are more to the lemon-lime, with bits of basil and saline. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Winescape 2021 Lewis Family Vineyard Riesling (Yakima Valley). This peppy wine is made in the German Süssreserve style, which means unfermented grape juice was added after fermentation to soften acidity. Honeycomb and petrol aromas lead to ripe tangerine and tart lime flavors. The wine approaches off-dry territory, with bright acidity. Might be brilliant with fresh goat cheese slathered on a crostini. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

89 Dineen Vineyards 2022 Estate Riesling (Yakima Valley). A relaxing lavender aroma is soon joined by fresh Meyer lemon and tart guava notes. The Riesling's crisp delivery offers up flavors of mango, Asian pear and almonds. While the wine's light and wispy mouthfeel is nice, a bit more acidity would have been even better. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

SÉMILLON

91 Dineen Vineyards 2022 Estate Semillón (Yakima Valley). What a cool set of aromas—lemon zest, joined by a savory note reminiscent of sliced serrano ham on challah bread. Crisp acidity punctuates ripe cantaloupe and tart and tangy grapefruit à la a cold bottle of Fresca. Who can ask for more than bright, refreshing and interesting fun? *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$27

89 Grosgrain 2022 Skin Contact Sémillon (Walla Walla Valley). A humid tropical night, complete with the necessary talc, manifests itself in these aromas, with plenty of bananas and passion fruit. Pineapple and lemon flavors are joined by traces of wets slate and apricot-flavored fruit leather. The clean, brisk mouthfeel is a tad chalky. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

89 L'Ecole No. 41 2022 Semillon (Columbia Valley). This Sémillon, with 18% Sauvi-

gnon Blanc, sports fresh pineapple and grass aromas that are accented by spicy cinnamon. Lemon, lime and green-tea flavors dominate the palate, joined by juicy acidity. The wine's truly distinguishing factor is its pronounced salinity. Try this wine with sweet potato fries. You'll thank me later. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Dossier 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Initial nectarine and flint aromas are soon joined by lemon, spruce needles and capers. The wine's flavors of lemon drops, white peaches with their skins and Thai basil unite with frenetic acidity and a rich texture. This wine was aged in a combination of French oak, stainless steel and concrete egg. Enjoy with jalapeño poppers and a football game. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$42

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2022 Luminesce Estate Seven Hills Vineyard Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Walla Walla Valley). The Luminesce's kiwi and macadamia nut aromas are joined by funky-tangy notes of lemon kombucha and freshly cut grass. There's some body here, with a smooth texture, crisp acidity and flavors like orange, coriander, flint and green tea. English pea risotto, the Luminesce calls your name. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Caliche 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Ancient Lakes). Pucker up, as this wine is one high-acid tart fest. It begins with guava and lemon-juice aromas that should tip you off about what is coming. That would be lime zest, mint, and, yes, gooseberries. Serve with fresh goat cheese and any Taylor Swift breakup song. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Grosgrain 2022 Les Collines Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Walla Walla Valley). This wine makes me wish I encountered Grenache Blanc more often. Its aromas of crushed sea shells and sea-breeze saline are like a virtual trip to the beach. The wine's roasted pear aroma is merely a bonus. Bodacious acidity backs white grapefruit and lemongrass tea flavors, with a touch of nuttiness on the long finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$32

90 Grosgrain 2022 Old Vine Méthode Traditionnelle Sparkling Lemberger (Red Mountain). No one ever expects sparkling Lemberger. But they should be happy when this one arrives. The earthy and tart nose mixes aromas of a grape popsicle, pine needles and a trace of guava. The wine is dry, but the pronounced strawberry and raspberry flavors are similar to the icing on a donut. This is great fun to drink. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Caliche 2022 Pinot Gris (Ancient Lakes). A tangy apple-cider vinegar aroma hits first, followed by notes of guava and wet slate. The wine's

acidity is bracing, with an equally energizing mouthfeel. Flavors range from chilled cucumber slices drizzled with lemon juice to pear. If your palate needs a wake-up call, here's your wine. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$19

88 Caliche 2022 Albariño (Ancient Lakes). This wine's ice-pick-like acidity is guaranteed to both refresh and startle. Aromas like guava and cocoa butter mingle with flavors of beeswax and peach-flavored Jolly Rancher candies. Nothing complicated here, just lively fun. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

SPARKLING WINES

94 Tirridis NV Barrel Fermented Blanc de Blanc Rendition #3 Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.56% **Price:** \$38

93 Gård 2021 Skål Sparkling Wine Sparkling Blend (Royal Slope). This is an excellent sparkling wine that will satisfy any apple fans afflicted with "pomomania." It starts with aromas of Cosmic Crisp apples, brioche and honey. That is followed by a tangy apple-sauce and cinnamon Red Hots flavors holding court, with an assist from grapefruit. Lemony acidity, while not apple-related, is a bonus. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$65

92 Tirridis NV House Blanc Brut Rendition #1 Sparkling Blend (Columbia Valley). This is a sparkling blend of 96% Chardonnay and 2% each of Albariño and Pinot Gris. A column of small bubbles delivers clean and fresh aromas of lemon zest, ginger and traces of chalkboard dust. Dazzling peach and pink-grapefruit flavors are joined by notes of basil and pistachios. The wine's mouthfeel is as crisp as the acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.15% **Price:** \$38

ROSÉ

90 Rhody 2022 Rosé (Columbia Valley). In addition to being fun to say, the Rhody Rosé is a fresh, clean pink comprised of 99% Syrah and 1% Sauvignon Blanc. Rhody's red-raspberry and wet slate aromas unite with a spicy orange-like note similar to pansies. Brilliant acidity backs flavors of tangerine and grapefruit. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

97 Liminal 2021 Block 47 WeatherEye Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This powerful Cabernet Sauvignon is built for the long haul. It begins with aromas of blueberries, bitter-sweet dark chocolate, graphite and a freshly pulled espresso shot. Then blackberry and black-tea flavors fill the mouth, joined by wet slate and balsam notes. Muscular tannins will require decanting

BUYINGGUIDE

in the short-term. Drink 2025–2040(+). **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

95 **Dossier 2021 Flagship Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** A powerful blueberry aroma, combined with vanilla, lilac and lavender, makes for a heady perfume. Muscular tannins and nervy acidity match this stunning wine's blackberry and blueberry flavors. Additional notes of balsa and espresso bean hover in the background. Drink it with Mingus and moonlight until 2037. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

94 **Prospice 2020 Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** The first few glass swirls—nothing. Then all at once an aromatic storm of damson plum, raisins, blackberry tea, loamy soil and ginger root struck. Wow. Flavors of black cherry, clove, cedar and bittersweet dark chocolate were equally impressive. The wine's sturdy tannins and elevated acidity provide hope of another decade of enjoyment. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

93 **Winescape 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** For full review see page 21. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$43

92 **Grosgrain 2020 Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This is an elegant, medium-bodied tribute to old vines and restrained alcohol. Black-cherry and pipe tobacco aromas are complemented by notes of fresh daisies and leather. Wild strawberry and cherry flavors unite with balsa and ginger. Firm tannins and bright acidity mean enjoy now through 2032. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$50

92 **Real Nice Winemakers 2021 Into the Woods Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** What a great value. The alcohol is restrained, it is balanced and the word “seamless” comes to mind. The aromas of black cherry, black pepper, maple and grilled rib-eye are a meal unto themselves. The wine's raspberry-pie and black-coffee flavors would tempt Agent Cooper to go back into those woods. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$24

91 **Confluence 2013 Les Collines Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This wine is in a perfect spot right now, with perhaps two to three good years ahead. Aromas of sweet tea and fresh hay bales meld with raspberry and damp modeling-clay notes. Rich black-cherry, candied ginger and green-tea flavors glide along a slippery mouthfeel. Integrated tannins are joined by lemony acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$180

89 **Mercer Bros. 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** Cabernet Sauvi-

gnon—77%—unites with Merlot, Syrah and Malbec to create aromas like cassis and orange peel. Ripe blackberries are joined by flavors of cinnamon, maple candy and blood oranges. This wine is for the big and rich crowd, but it has sturdy tannins and enough acidity to provide a sense of balance. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Two Vintners 2021 Legit Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This Cabernet Sauvignon, backed by 20% Zinfandel and 5% Petit Verdot, leads with blackcap raspberry and cigar-box aromas, along with fresh notes of violets and orange peels. Velvety tannins and modest acidity are the backdrop for boysenberry and grilled portobello mushroom flavors. This is smooth sipping, with an aged balsamic note on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Alki 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** There's a solid tannic backbone here, with Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon joined by 10% Petite Verdot and 5% Malbec. Aromas and flavors of muddled black cherries, lilacs, caramel and cedar are backed by crisp acidity. Tiny notes of menthol and cocoa hover in the background. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Requiem 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** There's some really rich and ripe cherry, vanilla, cola and mocha-latte flavors here, but fortunately, the wine's sturdy tannins and lively acidity maintain a sense of balance. Aromas include blueberries, orange peel and an interesting soy sauce with sticky rice note. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

87 **Radius 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This uncomplicated but pleasing 100% Cabernet Sauvignon starts off with blueberry, rose-petal and toasted marshmallow aromas that are backed by a healthy amount of cedar. The wine's velvety tannins, soft acidity and plush texture join with flavors like boysenberry sorbet, basil and black tea. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$18

SYRAH

96 **Liminal 2021 High Canyon Series Weather-Eye Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain).** There's an earthy aroma here that combines loam and porcini mushrooms. The earthiness is complemented by the sweet aromas of blackberries and figs. The palate is the heart of darkness, with black-cherry, black-coffee and dark-chocolate flavors and a smooth texture. Lemony acidity and silky tannins are nicely matched. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

94 **Avennia 2021 Arnaut Boushey Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This is a beautifully balanced Syrah that could do another 12–15 years in bottle standing on its head. It all begins with

blueberries, blackberries, black olives, violets and pipe tobacco weaving an aromatic web. The wine's black-cherry flavor is joined by a meaty note suggesting some type of spicy street fare, like *taco árabes*. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

92 **Prospice 2021 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** A candied grape aroma similar to the scent of the bugbane plant is matched by notes of lemon-fresh clean laundry, chalk and salted almonds. Blackberry-compote, orange-zest, clove and dark-chocolate flavors are backed by silky tannins and soft acidity. Brats grilling over a wood fire are calling this wine's name. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 **Grosgrain 2020 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Sweet red-cherry and vanilla aromas take a back seat to a double shot of espresso with a lemon wedge. Flavors of dark raspberry sorbet, ginger and earthy oregano are backed by silky tannins, frisky acidity and a smooth texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

91 **Two Vintners 2021 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This nicely balanced and floral Syrah, with 2% Roussanne and 1% Viognier, smells like blackcap raspberries and a big handful of violets that have been placed inside a cigar box. The wine's smooth texture makes tart boysenberry, aged balsamic and grilled mushroom flavors feel like they are gliding on air. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Prospice 2021 Resurgent Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Blackberry and boysenberry aromas match up with this Syrah's tempting bacon-fat and clove notes. A lithe and lean mouthfeel seems at home with enlivening acidity and flavors like dark plums, espresso, saline and Irish breakfast tea. Pair this wine with a Thelonious Monk record and a slice of Italian sausage pizza. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

MERLOT

92 **Confluence 2014 Les Collines Vineyard Merlot (Walla Walla Valley).** This Merlot, with 3% Petit Verdot, spent over two years in French oak, 30% new. It still has lively acidity and a decent amount of tannic structure. Dried cherries and chocolate-brownie aromas are joined by a nice bit of loamy soil notes. Sweet dark-cherry and cacao-nib flavors intersect with black tea and vanilla. Drink now through 2025. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$150

90 **Confluence 2013 Les Collines Vineyard Merlot (Walla Walla Valley).** Ten years after, this Merlot still possesses remarkably firm, chewy tannins. The wine spent 28 months in French oak, 30% new. Its aromas are easy to describe—one big blueberry covered in bittersweet dark chocolate. Tart boysenberry fruit shows up on the palate, along

with a touch of clove and espresso. There are still a few more years of life here. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$160

89 **Confluence 2015 Les Collines Vineyard Merlot (Walla Walla Valley).** Aged for 28 months in French oak, 30% new, this Merlot still has a lot of life left. The wine's blueberry and cedar aromas give way to bits of graphite and mint. Flavors include black cherries and black tea. The 3% Petit Verdot component may explain the wine's still chewy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$120

88 **Canoe Ridge 2021 Expedition Merlot (Horse Heaven Hills).** A big old bowl of boysenberries sitting in a freshly tilled patch of garden soil describes this wine to a tee. There may even be some lavender planted in that garden. The wine's black-cherry and balsa flavors are almost overshadowed by the wine's brisk acidity and clean, slick mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$19

88 **Washington Hills 2021 Merlot (Washington).** This 100% Merlot wine has dark, rich aromas of aged balsamic vinegar, black coffee, damson plum and a touch of cedar. There's a nice balance between raspberry and strawberry flavors, soft tannins and gentle acidity. This might pair nicely with pork-belly burnt ends. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 **Winescape 2018 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This 89% Merlot and 11% Petit Verdot mix saw 23 months in French oak of indeterminate age. Look for sweet cherry and vanilla aromas that are spiced up by notes of cinnamon and clove. Muscular tannins support flavors like chocolate-covered maraschino cherries, toasted almonds and nutmeg. Big and rich, with modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$34

OTHER RED WINES

95 **Avennia 2021 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Horse Heaven Hills).** Fruit from an illustrious vineyard turns into something magical here. This 100% Cabernet Franc's aromas of raspberry pastilles, lemon bars and cedar are hard to resist. Then tart black-cherry, lemon-basil and clove flavors swirl about a meaty core of bacon fat. Brisk acidity and silky tannins help create a smooth and slippery mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

94 **Liminal 2021 High Canyon Series Weather-Eye Vineyard Grenache (Red Mountain).** What an amazingly light and delicate texture given the wine's hefty 15% ABV. Aromatically, this is a hunger-inducing combination of boysenberry pie, grilled teriyaki beef kebabs and the chocolate I associate with a beloved Tootsie Pops. Flavors of dark plums, raspberry jam and nutmeg glide across the palate. Beautiful. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 15% Price: \$85

93 **Winescape 2019 Marmot Incarnate Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.3% Price: \$36

92 **Confluence 2012 Les Collines Vineyard Zinfandel (Walla Walla Valley).** Aged for three years in American and French oak, 30% new, this balanced Zinfandel possesses aromas like black cherry, graphite, violets and a bit of shoe polish. With equally smooth tannins and mouthfeel, it is easy to sip the wine's blueberry, cedar and lemon-rind flavors. Drink now through 2024. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$150

90 **Mercer 2019 Robert Willis Reserve Spice Cabinet Vineyard Malbec (Horse Heaven Hills).** Blackberry-muffin and white-chocolate aromas are encircled by cedar and oaky vanillin notes. The medium-bodied wine's tart blueberry flavor is accented by roasted walnuts and spicy nutmeg. The acidity is moderate, while the tannins are still grippy. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

90 **Mercer 2019 Small Lot Grenache (Horse Heaven Hills).** This fuller-bodied Grenache strikes first with ripe blackberries, black-pepper and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas that make you hum "Paint it Black." Rich blackberry and blueberry flavors are contrasted by espresso and orange-pith notes. Tannins are firm, with a leathery texture. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

90 **Prospice 2021 Alder Ridge Vineyard Mourvèdre (Horse Heaven Hills).** Childhood memories of ice-cream trucks come roaring back as the scent of grape popsicles hit the nose. This Mourvèdre also features a bacon and maple aroma worthy of an expensive designer doughnut. Flavor-wise, it's all blackberries and black pepper, with touches of orange pitch and saline. The texture is chalky, with chewy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$50

89 **Mercer 2018 Small Lot Petit Verdot (Horse Heaven Hills).** The lot is the only thing small about this wine. Rich cherry-compote, black-tea and dark mint-chocolate flavors hang on a massive wall of tannins. Dark raspberry and rhubarb aromas are flanked by notes of leather and cigar box. Pair this wine with wild boar ragu over polenta. —M.A.
abv: NA Price: \$35

87 **Confluence 2014 Les Collines Vineyard Petit Verdot (Walla Walla Valley).** The macerated black-cherry and fig aromas give off a Port-like vibe, along with notes of chocolate liqueur and a squirt of whipped cream. The wine is lighter bodied, low on acidity and shockingly dry. Its dark cherry and Kahlua flavors kind of work. Drink soon. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$150

RED BLENDS

96 **Dossier 2021 Flagship Index Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The Flagship Index is a devastatingly dark Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot-driven blend, with aromas of blackberries, blueberries, fennel and a trace of brisket. The wine's black-cherry compote, orange-peel and Assam tea flavors are supported by sturdy tannins and frisky acidity. Serve with lamb chops and any Nick Cave album. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$110

93 **Grosgrain 2021 Old Milton Vineyard Rosso Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** I loved everything about this 70% Aglianico and 30% Nebbiolo blend, from its restrained alcohol to its lightning-bolt acidity. It smells like dried rose petals and a bowl of tart red cherries drizzled in lemon juice. Boysenberry and chrysanthemum-tea flavors are joined by a bit of orange peel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$40

93 **Liminal 2021 The Barbarous Heart Vineyard Series WeatherEye Vineyard G-S-M (Columbia Valley).** The aromatic equivalent of a bowl of black cherries is accented by notes of loamy soil, roasted Hatch peppers and brick dust. Blackberry-jam and lemon flavors are ably supported by velvety tannins and acidity high enough to take on regenerative powers. Enjoy this wine with a beef and biscuit stew. —M.A.
abv: 15% Price: \$60

93 **Liminal 2021 The Mountain Tower Vineyard Series WeatherEye Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Aged 20 months in French oak, 40% new, this Cabernet Franc-driven blend has a long life ahead. The wine's aromas are fruity and floral, with dusty roadside blackberries and a bouquet of violets and bee balm. Grippy tannins are the platform for cherry, dark-chocolate and cumin flavors that go on forever. Enjoy now until 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$90

92 **Avennia 2021 Gravura Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The Gravura's black-cherry, burnt caramel and Medjool date aromas are joined by a massive burst of cedarwood oil. The palate features tarter fruit flavors of red cherry and boysenberry, with traces of clove and a mocha latte. The wine's brawny tannins may need taming with time or a decanter. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$45

91 **Avennia 2021 Justine Rhône-style Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** This full-throttle, full-bodied blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Mourvèdre and 15% Syrah perfumes the room with aromas of dark cherries, violets and a spicy-savory note suggesting pot roast and Spanish paprika. Fine-grained tannins support flavors of boysenberry gelato, orange citrus and balsa wood. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$45

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Dineen Vineyards 2021 Vintner's Red Blend Estate Red Blend (Yakima Valley). This is a fuller-bodied blend of equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, with 11% Syrah and 6% Merlot. Look for aromas and flavors of dark raspberries, walnuts, dark chocolate and black tea. This wine's smooth, velvety mouthfeel and plush tannins make for easy sipping. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$25

90 Prospice 2021 GSM G-S-M (Columbia Valley). This Rhône-style blend has a dark raspberry and orange-oil aroma combination worthy of an expensive hand soap. Sweet red-cherry flavors are joined by orange zest, espresso and black pepper, all supported by a nice bit of tannic structure and peppery acidity. Pour a glass with a Cuban pork sandwich. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

89 Alki 2019 Red Blend (Washington). This Syrah and Malbec-driven blend's blueberry, almond and sweet vanilla aromas are like scooping up a spoonful of granola. There's more than enough acidity and velvety tannins to balance the rich blackberry, espresso and dark-chocolate-covered graham cracker flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

89 Winescape 2019 Free Fall Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This Port-like red blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 13% Malbec leads with blueberry-pie, marzipan, bacon-fat and espresso aromas. Incredibly sweet flavors of black cherry and dark chocolate are accented by nutmeg and a bitter botanical note. The mouthfeel is slick and slippery, with plush tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$44

87 City Limits 2021 Citizen Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The Citizen's blueberry-pancake-with-maple-syrup aromas are comforting, with an additional cedar note floating in the background. The Zinfandel-driven blend's leathery texture and grippy tannins are joined by flavors of red cherry, dark plum and bittersweet dark chocolate. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$20

NEW YORK

CHARDONNAY

85 Johnson Estate 2021 Freulings Creek Reserve Bright Steel Chardonnay (Lake Erie). Highly perfumed, which is unusual for a variety not known for its big aromatics, this Chard hillows enticing fruit and floral aromas like pink grapefruit, orange, peach and vanilla bean. These aromas, however, veer somewhat flat on the palate, despite the acidity propping it up. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

84 Johnson Estate 2021 Freulings Creek Reserve Toasted Oak Chardonnay (Lake Erie). As the

name suggests, there's a toasted oak note at first sniff here. It's prominent but doesn't entirely drown out the melon, peach, lemon-candy and creamy nougat character. The palate is round and lactic, with just enough acidity to prop up the oak, which feels heavier set here and less integrated than this reviewer would hope. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$16

RIESLING

88 Johnson Estate 2021 Freulings Creek Reserve Dry Riesling (Lake Erie). This Lake Erie Riesling takes its time opening but when it does offers gentle aromas of apple, citrus and florals. It's mostly dry with just a hint of sweetness, a chalky texture and tingly, citrusy acidity. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$17

86 Johnson Estate 2021 Freulings Creek Reserve Semi-Dry Riesling (Lake Erie). Lemon-lime, honey and floral aromas mingle with a mustier, more yeast-derived note on this Lake Erie-based wine. There's a nice lift of acidity at first sip on the palate. It's slippery in texture and off-dry with a hard edge to the finish—straightforward sipping, well chilled. —C.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$17

SPARKLING WINES

92 Milea NV Hudson Valley Vineyards Right Bank Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (New York). This pale-gold-hued bubbly from Hudson Valley producer Miles is bright, with delicate aromas of lemon rind, apple, white peach and brioche. The palate is dry, crisp and refreshing, with a fine bead of fizz, gentle textural weight and a subtle lemon-cookie flavor to the finish. This is an elegant, food-friendly example of NY bubbles. **Hidden Gem.** —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

87 Silver Thread 2022 Pétillant Naturel Sparkling Blend (Seneca Lake). This peach-hued *pét-nat* is raw and rustic—and fault-free—with pleasant, delicate aromas of red apples, honeycomb and orange blossoms. There's a light fizz on the palate, a slightly pithy texture and a short finish. Consider this as a straightforward, refreshing spring and summertime sipper. —C.P.

abv: 11.2%

Price: \$26

87 Three Brothers 2022 Pilot Series On the Fly Carbonated Barbera (Finger Lakes). The color of ballerina slippers, this opens with a heady, sweet perfume of candied fruit: from pink grapefruit to watermelon to strawberry. It's off-dry, and the sweetness is prominent, but it's saved by vigorous fizz and mouthwatering acidity. Drink cold with an end-of-meal cheese platter or summer dessert. —C.P.

abv: 10.6%

Price: \$22

84 RGNV NV Scielo NY On The Lees Riesling (North Fork of Long Island). A cloudy lemon-

juice color, this wine has pronounced aromas of candied peach, yeast and flower-scented soap that lead to a palate that's dry and pithy, with a light prickle of fizz and muted flavor that finishes short. —C.P.

abv: 10%

Price: \$31

CABERNET FRANC

88 Barnstormer 2021 Sawmill Creek Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Seneca Lake). This cherry-juice-tinted Cab Franc opens with notes of tar, dried herbs, tart cranberry and strawberry fruit. There's a cool edge from first sniff. Lightweight and crunchy, acidity shrieks across the tongue, dominating but leaving just enough room for the red-fruit, white-pepper and herbal flavors to sneak through. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

88 Weis 2021 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A soft rhubarb and cranberry tang, accompanied by flower stems and white-pepper spice, is pricked by a slight acetone note. Raw and fresh, with raspy, skin-derived tannins, it feels stripped back and rustic, like a quaffable *vin de table* equivalent. Drink slightly chilled with charcuterie. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$30

87 Lakewood 2021 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A translucent cranberry hue, this vintage of Lakewood's Cab Franc—a cooler one than 2020—is an introverted wine. It doesn't feel closed, just quiet. The faint red-fruit, floral and spice aromas wave a pinky in the air while the crunchy acidity is more outward, framed with a soft smudge of tannins. —C.P.

abv: 12.6%

Price: \$20

87 Wagner 2021 Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). A vibrant red-cherry hue, this wine wafts delicate dried herb, floral and strawberry-compote aromas. It's a featherweight drop but comes with a surprisingly strong tug of chalky tannins at the midpalate. Drink only slightly chilled to keep those tannins in check. —C.P.

abv: 12.4%

Price: \$19

86 Knapp 2021 Select Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). The nose is initially muted, with red-fruit and herb characters barely detectable. With lots of aeration, lovely delicate red-fruit and herbal notes squeak through. It's similarly shy on the light-weight palate but shows a crackle of acidity and a crunch of tangy red-berry flavor at the finish. —C.P.

abv: 12.2%

Price: \$29

84 Glenora 2021 Cabernet Franc (Finger Lakes). Raspberry, vanilla, dried herbs and spices and stems are somewhat muffled by a reductive, oniony quality which does blow off eventually with aeration. It's light bodied but plump, with freshness and aggressive, drying tannins. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$18

AMERICA

92 Redolent 2022 Sister From Another Mister Sangiovese-Syrah (America). This exhilarating wine is 66% Sangiovese and 34% Syrah, where the Sangiovese was destemmed and the Syrah left whole cluster. After a year in neutral French oak, the Sister emerged with aromas and flavors of red currants, raspberries, green tea, orange peel and a hint of sarsaparilla. The Sister hits 10 out of 10 on the acidity meter. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$28

90 Redolent 2022 Brother From Another Mother Pinot Noir-Nebbiolo (America). This 50-50 cofermentation of Pinot Noir and Nebbiolo rested for eight months in neutral French oak. It is an acidity-driven, light-bodied red that delivers aromas of brambly, briary red raspberries and a doughy note similar to freshly made pasta. Tangy lemon, hibiscus and cedar flavors have a nifty drinking vinegar-like quality. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

CANADA

CHARDONNAY

94 Mission Hill 2020 Perpetua Chardonnay (Okanagan Valley). A Golden Delicious apple perfume greets the nose, followed by bursts of lemongrass, talc and petrol. A crisp mouthfeel and lemony acidity go hand in hand with chamomile tea, lemon sorbet and fried sage flavors. The Perpetua was fermented and aged sur lie in French oak puncheons, barriques and concrete egg for 16 months. Colangelo & Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Antunović 2017 Grand Selection Sur Lie Chardonnay Chardonnay (Danube River Plains). Aromas of Fuji apple, yellow cherry and fresh ginger set the scene for Granny Smith apple, starfruit, cocoa butter, mint leaf, ground ginger and jasmine flavors. A strong mouthfeel and vivid acidity make for a nice combination on the palate. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$59

RIESLING

92 Cave Spring 2020 CSV Riesling (Beamsville Bench). An almost perfect aromatic combination of freshly sliced Kaffir limes and Anjou pears mingles beautifully with a wee bit of petrol. The dry, acidity-driven wine feels taut and clean in the mouth, with a tart grapefruit flavor complemented by notes of cardamom and honey lemon tea. HB Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Cave Spring 2021 Riesling (Niagara Peninsula). For full review see page 33. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

RED BLEND

93 Mission Hill 2019 Oculus Osoyoos Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Okanagan Valley). This Canadian take on Right Bank Bordeaux is worthy of cellaring. It offers rich aromas of cassis, dark chocolate and cigar box with a touch of fennel and rosemary. The wine's blueberry and dark raspberry fruit flavors are punctuated by lemon, marjoram, pecans and cedar. Zippy acidity and muscular tannins will help you enjoy the Oculus until 2035. Colangelo & Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140

MEXICO

WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES

88 Monte Xanic 2021 Rosé (Baja). Made with Grenache grapes, this rosé starts with orange peel, peach and flint. The palate is full and has moderate acidity driving notes of raspberry and peach through a brief finish. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Monte Xanic 2021 Viña Kristel Sauvignon Blanc (Valle de Guadalupe). The fruit was sourced from old vines in the Valle de Guadalupe. This Sauvignon Blanc offers subtle notes of pear and dill. The palate has an herbal character, showing notes of grass and citrus fruit alongside moderate acidity. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

RED WINES

91 Monte Xanic 2020 Edición Limitada Malbec (Baja). After a few minutes in the glass, notes of aniseed, mulberry and black pepper unfold on the nose. It's full-bodied and has layers of ripe fruit and spices. Plum, nutmeg, peppercorn and dark chocolate are supported by grippy tannins and lively acidity. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$NA

91 Monte Xanic 2020 Gran Ricardo Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Baja). Aromas of raspberry, cherry and blackberry are bright and inviting. Round and smooth, the palate is invaded by chocolate and baking spices. Additional flavors in this full-bodied wine include red and black fruit. It has ripe tannins, good acidity and a dash of eucalyptus lingering in the aftertaste. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$92

90 Monte Xanic 2020 Selección Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Valle de Guadalupe). Firm tannins and moderate acidity provide a good frame for this Malbec-based blend that includes a small per-

centage of Merlot and a drop of Cabernet Sauvignon in the mix. The nose has subtle aromas of cinnamon and introduces a ripe palate, with oak spice and light notes of red fruit. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

89 Monte Xanic 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Baja). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot from two valleys in Baja California starts with ripe cherry aromas. Light notes of cardamom spice and aniseed complete the bouquet. Bright berry flavors appear on the mouth and mix with a touch of toasted oak. It's an enjoyable red with soft tannins. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$NA

88 Monte Xanic 2020 Edición Limitada Cabernet Franc (Baja). After a few minutes in the glass, the nose exhibits aromas of baking spices and hints of berries. Slightly drying tannins and a tangy acidity support a palate of herbs, red fruit and aniseed. Monte Xanic. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

URUGUAY

94 Bodega Garzón 2020 Balasto Red Blend (Maldonado). For full review see page 8. Opici Wines.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

87 Familia Traversa 2021 Traversa Sauvignon Blanc (Montevideo). Aromas of almond and celery are subtle on the nose of this Sauvignon from coastal vineyards in Montevideo. The palate features moderate acidity and citrus fruit flavors. Lime and grapefruit mix with grassy notes in the short finish. It's a good everyday wine and should pair well with shrimp salad. American Estates Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

ARGENTINA

CHARDONNAY

95 Catena Zapata 2021 Adrianna Vineyard White Stones Chardonnay (Mendoza). This white comes from the Adrianna vineyard in Gualtallary and displays a lively acidity that speaks of its origin. Celery, dried lemon and light notes of oak spices create an aromatic bouquet. It's balanced and has subtle notes of green apple, lime, ginger and mint over a mineral texture. The finish is long and offers hints of dried fruit. This is ready to be enjoyed now, but will certainly develop over the next several years. Drink through 2031. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$140

93 Viña Cobos 2021 Vinculum Chardonnay (Mendoza). After 10 months of aging in oak barrels, this bright Chardonnay starts with

BUYINGGUIDE

notes of honeysuckle and butter. The grapes are from Gualtallary and Chacayes in the Uco Valley and its vibrant character is proof of it. Vanilla bean and ginger cookie flavors are prominent, but good acidity cuts through them, helping notes of ripe lime and honey shine in the aftertaste. Paul Hobbs Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

87 Bodega del Fin del Mundo 2021 Chardonnay (Patagonia). It starts with notes of vanilla on the nose that repeat on the palate. This white has a lean texture and good acidity, backing citrus and pome fruit flavors. Vinamericas, Inc.. —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Aniello 2022 Blanco De Pinot Noir Pinot Noir (Alto Valle del Río Negro). Very light in color, this white wine was made with Pinot Noir grapes from Río Negro in Patagonia. Sweet notes of berries and herbs from the nose. Flavorful, it offers strawberry, kiwi and guava. Moderate acidity supports the weighty palate and leads to a medium leafy finish. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Argento 2022 Artesano Organic White Malbec (Agrelo). This white Malbec has a delicate nose with hints of pome fruit and flowers. There is a ripe blend of pear, white peach and lime on the palate. It's lively and easy to drink, with nice acidity making it enjoyable through the finish. Opici Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Bodega Piedra Negra 2022 Arroyo Grande Jackot Made With Organic Grapes Tockaij Friulano (Uco Valley). Light aromas of butter, lime and dill unfold on the nose. The herbaceous palate echoes the nose and offers flavors of citrus fruit along with pear. It's easy to drink and has mouth-watering acidity and a bright finish. BGPL USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

SPARKLING WINES

91 ZaHa NV Calcaire Método Champenoise Chardonnay (Argentina). For full review see page 30. Vino Del Sol.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$21

90 Antigal 2022 Aduentus Special Barrel Selection Blanc de Blancs White Blend (Mendoza). For full review see page 30. Cork Alliance.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Malma NV Cuvee Reserve Sparkling Blend (Patagonia). This tasty sparkling wine has fruity aromas that evoke ripe apples on the nose. The palate offers candied stone and pome fruit flavors alongside a dash of dried orange that lingers

in the finish. The wine's ripe character is lifted by crisp acidity, making it a good pairing for Ricotta cheese drizzled with honey. Vias Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Alma Negra NV Brut Nature Rosé Sparkling Blend (Mendoza). A refreshing sparkling rosé that opens with delightful berry notes. It has fine bubbles and excellent acidity, supporting strawberry and pomegranate flavors. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Cruzat 2022 Pet Nat Chardonnay (Mendoza). Led by the renowned winemaker Pedro Rossell, the sparkling winery Cruzat made this lively Pét-Nat with grapes from the Uco Valley. The nose exhibits aromas of apples, apricots and pears. The same notes repeat on the palate with a dash of salt and ginger. It's enjoyable and fun to drink. Elixir Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Gouguenheim Winery NV Sparkling Rose Extra Brut Malbec (Mendoza). Made with Malbec grapes, this extra brut sparkler has a nose of raspberry. The palate has gentle acidity backing ripe cherry and red plum flavors. Vias Imports. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉ

83 Trampa 2022 Rosé (Mendoza). This boxed wine has ripe pear and stone fruit aromas that repeat on the palate. It has gentle acidity backing flavors of berries and peaches that finish short. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24/3 L

CABERNET FRANC

94 El Enemigo 2019 Gran Enemigo Cabernet Franc (Los Chacayes). This is a very expressive Cabernet Franc from the appellation Los Chacayes in Uco Valley. The nose exhibits black olive, cranberry and wild herbs. Light meaty and chalky notes complement the bouquet. Flavors of black pepper, blueberries and pomegranate flow easily through the lively palate, where bay leaf and smoke lead to a savory finish. Enjoy now–2033. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

94 El Enemigo 2019 Gran Enemigo Cabernet Franc (Agrelo). Ripeness and elegance define this Cabernet Franc from Agrelo in Luján de Cuyo. The nose is inviting and offers aromas of violets and cranberries. Finely-grained tannins and good acidity provide support to balanced cigar box, blackberry, cranberry and mulberry flavors that merge seamlessly with hints of earthy bell pepper and herbal notes. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Bodega Renacer 2020 R Cabernet Franc (Luján de Cuyo). This was a warm vintage, but there is freshness in this red that starts with light notes of peppercorn and cassis on the nose. The palate shows depth and flavors of blueberry, blackberry, aniseed and eucalyptus supported by fine tannins. It has a long finish that exhibits hints of peppercorn. Wein Bauer Inc. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 El Enemigo 2019 Gran Enemigo El Cepillo Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Licorice and strawberry aromas are very subtle on the nose. This is a wine with nerve and texture. It's vertical and has vigorous acidity driving ripe red plums, green bell pepper and tobacco through the finish. Delicious to drink now, it will only get better with time. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Finca Decero 2020 Mini Ediciones Remolinos Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Agrelo). It's easy to fall for the savory palate of this Cabernet Franc. There is a delicious mix of thyme, eucalyptus, espresso and licorice, accenting mulberry and blackberry flavors. Lively acidity adds energy throughout the lasting finish. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Serca 2020 Single Vineyard Ale And Reserva Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). Aromas of bell pepper and oak spice meet red fruit on the nose. This is fresh and has a potpourri of dried herbs followed by blackberries on the palate. Tannins are soft and firm, shaping the structure of this ripe, elegant wine. 31 Seven Degrees. —J.V.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

91 Antigal 2020 Uno Platinum Edition Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). For full review see page 27. Cork Alliance.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Bressia 2018 Monteagrello Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Bressia is a family-owned winery led by experienced winemaker Walter Bressia. This wine comes from his vineyards in Agrelo and starts with light notes of licorice and grass. It's full-bodied, with plenty of juicy black and red berries on the ripe palate. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Casarena 2021 Lauren Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Luján de Cuyo). Strawberry and raspberry aromas are delightful. The palate is both generous and balanced, offering concentrated flavors of red fruit along with thyme, cumin and tobacco. Fine tannins and excellent acidity make it a versatile wine for food pairings. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Casarena 2020 Lauren Single Vineyard Agrelo Cabernet Franc (Luján de Cuyo). Fruit-focused and medium-bodied, this red is packed with strawberry and blackberry notes that

repeat on the nose and palate. It's balanced and has depth, displaying herbs and light notes of tobacco in the finish. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

90 Durigutti 2022 Proyecto Las Compuertas Cabernet Franc Cabernet Franc (Luján de Cuyo). Las Compuertas is a renowned appellation in Luján de Cuyo, home to elegant wines in this region. Unsurprisingly, this Franc shows balance and fine tannins. The nose displays ripe aromas of red plum and mulberry with hints of bay leaf. Moderate acidity is enough to lift fruity and herbaceous flavors on the palate. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$45

90 El Enemigo 2020 Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). The nose has floral aromas and a trace of oak spices. This vintage shows a ripe palate, with leafy flavors and ripe fruit in the form of plums and figs. It's soft and balanced and finishes with pleasant spicy notes. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

90 Finca La Anita 2020 Edición Limitada Cabernet Franc (Agrelo). Wines from Luján de Cuyo usually lean towards ripe black fruit. In this Cabernet Franc from Agrelo, those notes of earthy ripe plums are bright and pleasant. The palate delivers toasted oak flavors merged with black fruit and green bell pepper. It's concentrated but has enough energy to make it enjoyable. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

90 ZaHa 2020 Toko Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Paraje Altamira). This is a medium-bodied red, with raspberry and flint aromas. There is a balanced blend of flavors that includes herbs and ripe fruit on the enjoyable palate. Moderate acidity adds freshness to a pleasantly herbaceous finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

89 Sur de los Andes 2021 Reserva Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Notes of green bell pepper and hints of clove perfume the nose. Black tea, mint and oak spice fill the mouth of this medium-bodied red, while flavors of strawberry and plum hide in the background. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$36

88 Bodega y Viñedos Catena 2021 Catena Appellation San Carlos Cabernet Franc (San Carlos). Coming from the Uco Valley, this Cabernet Franc has a nose of cherry. The same berry notes repeat on the palate and mix with hints of rosemary and other dried herbs. Its medium body, soft tannins and overall fruity character make it a good wine to sip on its own or serve with onion soup on a chill night. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

88 Lagarde 2020 Guarda Colección de Viñedos Finca La Jacintana Cabernet Franc (Luján de Cuyo). Argentina has been making Cabernet Franc wines for a while now. The grapes for this red come from thirty-year-old vineyards in Luján de Cuyo.

The nose offers light notes of strawberry and introduces a fruit-forward palate, where flavors of berries and hints of smoke are backed by gentle acidity and soft tannins. Misa Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$NA

87 Lamadrid 2020 Reserva Cabernet Franc (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo). In this Cabernet Franc, flavors of red berries and plum show the heat of the vintage. Pleasant ripe notes lean to overripe on the palate. It's an easy-sipper, with moderate acidity and soft tannins. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 Mendoza Vineyards 2020 Gran Reserva Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). There is a subtle note of coffee beans perfuming the nose of this wine. It has dense flavors of black fruit and smoke over the slightly astringent palate and hints of dried fruit in the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

87 Mil Suelos 2022 Tinto Negro Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). It will be hard to find another good-value Cabernet Franc as this one. It's fresh, with a nose of violets and a palate of mild berry flavors. Lightly structured, this wine is a good choice to pair with Margherita pizza. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

86 Penedo Borges 2020 Cepas Single Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo). A note of tobacco emerges from the glass of this easygoing Cabernet Franc. Smoke and espresso flavors mask the fruit on the thin palate, keeping notes of black fruit in the background. Drink now. Metropolis Wine Merchants, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Finca la Celia 2018 Eugenio Bustos Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). For full review see page 17. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14% Price: \$90

92 Casarena 2021 Owen Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). The nose offers subtle aromas of chalk and black fruit. This Cabernet is much more generous on the palate, showing flavors of plums, blackberry and espresso. Hints of thyme and other dried herbs linger in the satisfying finish. It's bright and vigorous. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

90 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 Particular Family Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). For full review see page 30. Quintessential.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

90 Domaine Bousquet 2021 Gran Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). The grapes are sourced from the high-altitude vineyards in Gualtallary and are the last to be

harvested during the season. As a result, this wine has an aromatic nose of blueberry, raspberry and licorice. Oak flavors are prominent on the palate but blend well with red berries over a smooth texture. It's full-bodied and well-structured, with juicy acidity. WISD LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 Sposato Family Vineyards 2017 Grand Sposato Premium Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo). The enticing nose offers oak spices, red fruit and green bell pepper. In the oaky palate, vanilla and cigar box come forward and are followed by blackberries and cherries in the background. It's a ripe Cabernet with enough acidity to lead the flavors through the flavorful finish. Sposato Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$40

89 Finca la Celia 2021 Pioneer Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Balancing acidity lifts the spirit of this medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon from Uco Valley. The nose shows aromas of eucalyptus and black fruit. It has ripe cherry and mulberry flavors followed by a fresh note of mint. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

89 Manos Negras 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Peppermint and dense red fruit aromas shape the nose. The palate echoes similar notes of herbs mixed with strawberry and hints of bell pepper. It has nice acidity and a medium finish. Pair it with pork ribs and BBQ sauce. Uva Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

89 Mendel 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The nose of this Cabernet is not as expressive as the palate, where flavors of concentrated black fruit meet with herbs. Soft tannins and moderate acidity make this wine a good pairing for baked beef empanadas. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

88 Alma de los Andes 2021 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This starts with a light note of red fruit that repeats with the same intensity on the palate. Thyme, tobacco and eucalyptus take the lead in this easygoing Cabernet. Enjoy it now while still young. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

88 Ruca Malen 2021 Capítulo Dos Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Grapes from vineyards in Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley were used to make this Cabernet. Fresh cherry and red plum form the nose. It's easy to drink with round tannins and medium acidity holding a fruit-driven midpalate. Earthy flavors and grass mixed in the brief finish. Opici Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$22

87 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato). The fruit in this Cabernet is slightly overripe. Dense

BUYINGGUIDE

flavors of plums and raspberries join light notes of thyme and are lifted by fresh acidity. It has a soft texture and medium finish. WISD LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

87 Finca La Luz 2018 Callejón Del Crimen Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). There is a dense aroma of red berries on the nose. After eight months in oak barrels, this red offers cooked cherry and plum flavors supported by ripe tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$15

87 Sur de los Andes 2021 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). The nose of this red displays light aromas of red berries. It has fine tannins and enough acidity to hold flavors of ripe black and red fruit, cassis and bay leaf, along with bell pepper. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$36

85 Fincas Patagonicas 2021 Bastante... Bien! Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Easy and light, this Cabernet could be a good match for burgers. The nose is austere, but the palate offers cherry, grass and bell pepper. It finishes slightly warm. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

MALBEC

92 Zuccardi 2021 Poligonos Malbec (Gualtallary). The many shades of Malbec are expressed through the lens of skillful winemakers. Zuccardi's wines are a good example of vertical and balanced Malbec that in this vintage preserves its remarkable vibrancy. The nose is not overly aromatic, but the palate offers a good amount of red berries and wild herbs over a chalky texture. Wine-sellers, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

92 Zuccardi 2021 Poligonos Del Valle de Uco Malbec (Paraje Altamira). An aromatic nose of violets, cherry and pomegranate mixed with notes of rosemary and peppercorn after a few minutes. The palate is structured and fresh, with round tannins backing cranberry and other tart fruits. It has a lasting peppery finish and good acidity. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

91 BenMarco 2021 Malbec (Uco Valley). There is vibrancy and energy in this structured Malbec. The nose offers chalk and light notes of berries. It's full-bodied, with mineral-textured tannins supporting subtle flavors of cranberry, blackberry and black pepper. A touch of jarilla and rosemary fade in the aftertaste. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

91 Familia Mosso 2020 Malbec (Mendoza). This wine encourages small sips to enjoy its full and ripe character. There is an inviting aroma of plum jam and a dash of salt. It's rich but has nice

acidity, lifting flavors of blackberry, chocolate and licorice. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$29

91 Kaiken 2021 Aventura Norte Malbec (Los Chacayes). This unoaked Malbec is part of a series of wines aimed to reflect the different terroir of appellation Los Chacayes and Canota Valley. It starts with a peppery nose that shows a potpourri of dried herbs. Enjoy flavors of black fruit and thyme. It's concentrated on the palate but with enough tannin structure and acidity to hold it all together. Arano LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

91 Luca 2021 Old Vine Malbec (Uco Valley). Dr. Laura Catena sources grapes from old vineyards in the Uco Valley for this fruit-focused and silky-textured Malbec. It boasts flavors of blackberry, mulberry and plum backed by fine tannins. A whisper of dried herbs and spices adds more layers to the palate. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

91 Manos Negras 2020 Artesano Malbec (Paraje Altamira). The wine's fresh and herbal notes evoke memories of linden trees in the Spring. The nose is shaped by aromas of herbs and berries. Savory notes of blackberry, plum and cigar box fill the mouth. It's delicious and well-structured. Uva Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

90 Antigal 2021 Uno Malbec (Mendoza). For full review see page 33. Cork Alliance. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% Price: \$15

90 Antigal 2020 Uno Platinum Edition Malbec (Mendoza). For full review see page 30. Cork Alliance.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$25

90 Vaglio 2021 Aggie Malbec (Tupungato). Austere in character, this wine has a good structure and berry notes mixed with a touch of rosemary. Crisp acidity and ripe tannins lead the flavors through a ripe finish. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

89 Bodega Renacer 2021 Punto Final Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). The flavor profile of this Malbec is marked by notes of cola, eucalyptus and rosemary. Additional flavors include black tea and red plum. It has chewy tannins and good acidity lifting the palate. Wein Bauer Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

89 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Virgen Natural Malbec (Tupungato). The nose is expressive, showing delightful plum aromas. A soft texture and tangy acidity drive flavors of plums and wild berries through a leafy finish. WISD LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

88 Clos d'Argentine 2021 Winemaker's Selection Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This wine has a bouquet of pomegranate and plum. Ripe and medium-bodied, the palate has slightly astringent tannins and shows blackberry, plums and fig. Light coffee beans and grassy notes are persistent in the finish. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$42

88 Kaiken 2021 Estate Malbec (Mendoza). The nose is austere and introduces a palate with balanced flavors of blackberry, mulberry and vanilla. Moderate acidity provides the wine with just enough freshness to lift notes of licorice and grass in the finish. Arano LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$14

87 Solar Del Alma 2021 Made With Organic Grapes Malbec (Mendoza). This Malbec made with organic grapes is light-bodied and fruit-forward. The palate exhibits plum and mulberry framed by thin tannins. As the back label suggests, this wine should be enjoyed chilled. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$22

86 Siete Fincas 2021 Lola Mora Malbec (Mendoza). In this medium-bodied Malbec, the nose reveals aromas of peppercorn and flint. The herbaceous palate shows grass, bell pepper and light notes of black fruit. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

83 Trampa 2021 Malbec (Mendoza). Stewed plum aromas show on the nose of this lean wine. The palate has gentle acidity and thin tannins to support black fruit and leafy flavors. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$24/3 L

RED BLENDS

92 Piattelli 2019 Arlene Series Blend Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Cafayate). For full review see page 25. Vinocopia.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

89 Alma de los Andes 2018 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Pleasant aromas of coffee and cassis from the nose. It has a smooth texture, with ripe cranberry, blackberry and black pepper filling the mouth. Moderate acidity provides enough energy to make this wine enjoyable. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$36

88 Bodegas Caro 2021 Amancaya Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This Malbec-based blend was lightly oaked, preserving flavors of fig and plum alongside soft tannins. Medium-bodied, it features gentle acidity leading to a fruity finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

88 Casa Natal 2019 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This blend of 50%

Malbec, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and a drop of Cabernet Franc has a fruity character, offering strawberry, blackberry and light notes of oak spices over a soft texture. It's lightly structured and finishes with hints of plums. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

87 José Hernández 2020 Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). There is a rich aroma of ripe black fruit and hints of quince paste on the nose of this blend. It's lightly structured, with sweet notes of ripe fruit, cinnamon and bell pepper on the round palate. Naked Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

CHILE

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Odfjell 2022 Armador Organic Sauvignon Blanc (San Antonio). In the Armador collection, young winemaker Francisca Palacios aims for wines with honest varietal expression. This Sauvignon Blanc is a good example of that. It's made with grapes from the coastal San Antonio Valley and has a nose of lime, lemon verbena and green peas. There is a creamy texture on the palate and vibrant acidity, supporting herbaceous and citrus notes and hints of tropical fruits. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2022 Escudo Rojo Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). It's an aromatic wine that has subtle notes of green peas and tangerine peel. Balanced flavors of herbs, honey, lime and other citrus fruits fill the mouth. Good acidity energizes the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Concha y Toro 2022 Gran Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Colchagua Valley). The nose of this Sauvignon is almost neutral, exhibiting light notes of pome fruit. It's more generous on the palate, where pleasant flavors of linden tea, green peas and stone fruit are lifted by crisp acidity. A fresh note of salt lingers in the aftertaste. Viña Concha y Toro USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Jabber 2022 The Blend Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). The joyful aromas of this Sauvignon display kiwi, citrus and pear notes. It's fresh on the palate and shows citrus flavors of orange peel and lime. Gravitas Wine Marketing. —J.V.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$20

88 Quintay 2022 Clava Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). A fresh note of orange zest on the nose is inviting. Austere in character, this Sauvignon offers hints of grapefruit and green peas. It's a great summer sipper or a good

pairing for avocado salad due to its crisp acidity. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

86 Root:1 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Lime and light notes of peach syrup shape the nose of this coastal Sauvignon Blanc. Flavors of salty peach and lime are followed by a tropical note of nectarine and mango. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Ventisquero 2022 Las Cartas Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). This citrusy Sauvignon Blanc makes an easy pour for any weekday night. The lightweight palate offers lime pith and hints of herbs that vanish in the short finish. Austral Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Emiliana 2021 Natura Made With Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Chile). Notes of citrus fruit invade the nose of this everyday wine. It has gentle acidity backing flavors of celery and ripe lemons that vanish in a short finish. Banfi Vintners. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

85 Santa Ema 2022 Select Terroir Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Maipo Valley). Subtle lime and stone-fruit aromas shape the nose of this crisp white. The palate is almost neutral in flavor, featuring hints of herbs and citrus fruit along with good acidity. Opici Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

CHARDONNAY

90 Los Vascos 2022 Cromas Gran Reserva Chardonnay (Colchagua Valley). This lively wine was made with Chardonnay grapes from vineyards near the Pacific coast in Colchagua Valley. Light notes of apricot, apple and pear provide subtle, sweet aromas in the nose. It's crisp and shows a fair amount of citrus and tropical fruit, alongside dried herbs on the palate. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Veramonte 2022 Reserva Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley). Coming from vineyards near the Pacific coast, this wine starts with an aromatic mix of mint and stone fruit. Enough acidity provides freshness to the palate that offers linden tea and mint followed by ripe peaches and Meyer lemons. Light notes of mango unfold in the aftertaste. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Escudo Rojo Reserva Chardonnay (Casablanca Valley). Moderate acidity lifts the herbaceous character of this wine. It offers green peas and celery on the nose and palate. Light notes of oak spice and a hint of apricot add a layer of flavors that disappear in the

medium finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

85 Santa Carolina 2019 Carolina Gran Reserva Chardonnay (Itata Valley). The nose of this Chardonnay is almost austere and leads to a lean palate, with gentle acidity. Subtle notes of pear, celery and citrus fruit fade in the short finish. Enjoy this white wine now. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

SPARKLING WINE

89 Miguel Torres NV Estelado Brut Rosé País (Maule Valley). Floral aromas blend with hints of pear and stone fruit on the delicate nose of this wine made with País grapes. It has fun bubbles and crisp acidity, adding balance and freshness to the flavorful palate of stone fruit, apple and pear. Notes of toasted bread linger in the finish. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Undurraga 2021 T.H. Terroir Hunter Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Alto). The climate in Pirque is influenced by the Andes Mountains, which contribute to cool nights during the summer, allowing a slower ripening period. This is perfect for wines like Cabernet Sauvignon. The nose offers peppercorn, berries and hints of rose petals. It has elegant tannins and a sturdy structure that holds notes of black and red fruit. Flavors of oak spices and basil are well integrated on the palate. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2020 Escudo Rojo Origine Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). For full review see page 27. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Aresti 2020 Trisquel Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). This is a savory Cabernet with succulent tannins. The nose delivers aromas of red berries and grass. It has notes of herbs and black fruit, with hints of tobacco and dark chocolate. The palate shows moderate complexity, with good acidity adding tension. Vinamericas, Inc.. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Escudo Rojo Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). For full review see page 33. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 François Lurton 2020 Gran Araucano Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Coming from the Lolol Valley, a place nestled in the coastal

BUYINGGUIDE

mountain range, and aged 18 months in French oak barrels, this wine offers sweet notes of baking spices on the nose and palate. It's full bodied, exhibiting flavors of vanilla bean and bell pepper. There is a delicate note of plum in the background. It's a bold Cabernet, with a silky texture. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Carmen 2020 Frida Kahlo Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Aromas of ripe black fruit shape the inviting nose of this Cabernet from various vineyards in the Maipo Valley. It has tension, with gripping tannins supporting prune, bell pepper and hints of truffle. Light notes of bay leaf show in the fresh finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.

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

89 Concha y Toro 2021 Marques de Casa Concha Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The nose is filled with red berries and forms an enchanting bouquet. This is a concentrated Cabernet that delivers Mediterranean herbs, earthy plums, blackberries and toasted oak flavors. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Misiones de Rengo 2021 Black Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). A nose of blackberry jam is pleasant and inviting. This easy sipper delivers plenty of ripe berry flavors accented by hints of toasted oak. Moderate acidity extends the flavors through the leafy finish. Enjoy now. Terroir Connections. —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Primus 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Good acidity helps balance the ripe palate of this Cabernet from a warm vintage. It has a nose of meaty black fruit and eucalyptus. Prune and figs are followed by toasted oak flavors and grass on the light palate. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.V.

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

89 Ventisquero 2021 Grey Glacier Single Block Trinidad Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Aged for 18 months in French oak barrels, this Cabernet boasts aromas of vanilla and cocoa bean followed by a note of strawberry. Oak spices repeat on the soft palate and are matched by blackberry and strawberry flavors. Austral Wines. —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Ravalan 2021 Caballo Dorado Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Sweet aromas of vanilla and licorice emerge from the glass of this bold Cabernet. The wine was aged for 10 months in oak barrels and has prominent notes of baking spices masking the fruit. It finishes long, with notes of espresso. W. Direct. —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

87 Casa Silva 2022 Los Lingues Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Aniseed and eucalyptus notes from the nose of this mildly

spicy and savory Cabernet. Hints of prune are overpowered by herbs and black pepper on the lean palate, where gentle acidity carries the flavors through a brief finish. Vine Connections. —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Misiones de Rengo 2022 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Stewed red fruit and a touch of peppercorn show in the glass of this everyday Cabernet. Berries, green bell pepper and grass blend with drops of vanilla essence on the slim palate. Enjoy now. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

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

87 Odfjell 2021 Armador Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Grapes from organic vineyards in the Maipo and Maule valleys were sourced to make this unoaked Cabernet. The wine's herbaceous character is supported by enough acidity to back flavors of green bell pepper and savory black fruit that linger in the medium finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.V.

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

87 Trasiego 2021 Mystic Andes Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The nose of this Cabernet offers aromas of prune and dried fig. It's flavorful and soft, with notes of ripe black fruit and a touch of vanilla extract. Enough acidity makes this wine a good match for beef stew. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

85 Misiones de Rengo 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). There is a mix of berry aromas on the nose of this everyday Cabernet. Flavors of black fruit are lifted by good acidity and framed by light tannins in this simple red. Terroir Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

PINOT NOIR

92 Viña Leyda 2022 Lot 21 Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). The coastal Leyda Valley imprints notes of salinity on this lovely expression of Pinot Noir. It's balanced, with delicate aromas of black tea, subtle black pepper and a hint of hibiscus. There is a savory blend of fruit and herbs on the mouth. Ripe raspberry, cranberry, spices and sage meet on the midpalate. VSPT USA. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

91 San Pedro 2021 Tayu 1865 Pinot Noir (Malleco). For full review see page 29. VSPT USA. **Hidden Gem.**

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Undurraga 2021 T.H. Terroir Hunter Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). Juicy and fresh are the words that describe the character of this red from granitic soils in the cool-climate Leyda Valley. It starts with a nose of cherry and spices, then a potpourri of dried herbs and berries fill the mouth.

Notes of smoke shine in the finish. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.

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

90 Viña Leyda 2022 Coastal Vineyards Las Brisas Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). The wines born in Leyda Valley's granitic soils, usually have a vibrant character. This Pinot Noir is not the exception to the rule. It has tension and offers a mineral-textured palate, showing subtle flavors of thyme, berries and a hint of orange. It's juicy and delightful. VSPT USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

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

89 Apaltagua 2019 Reserva Pinot Noir (San Antonio-Maipo Valley). From coastal vineyards in the San Antonio Valley, this vibrant Pinot has earthy notes on the nose and a fruit-focused palate. Cherry, blackberry, mulberry and a touch of smoke linger in the medium finish. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Escudo Rojo Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). The nose of this wine comes with a maritime influence shows notes of flint and nutmeg. It's textured and has flavors of red berries and oak spices, with leafy notes in the long finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.V.

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

89 Casas del Bosque 2022 Gran Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). The winery sourced the grapes for this Pinot Noir from its estate in Casablanca, where vines are influenced by the Pacific Ocean just 11 miles away. This is structured and has aromas of salt. Red-fruit flavors fill the mouth and are mixed with notes of aniseed in the finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Vistamar 2020 Single Estate Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). There is a pleasant blend of aromas on the nose of this Pinot. It has berries, oak spice and forest soil introducing a fruit-forward palate. Cocoa and other baking spices are part of the mix in this juicy red. International Wine And Spirits. —J.V.

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

88 Luma Chequén 2019 Estate Bottled Gran Reserva Pinot Noir (Maule Valley). This wine hails from the winery's Batuco vineyard in the coastal mountain range. It has a nose of spices and wild herbs. Good acidity helps elevate the palate, with earthy flavors of black fruit, clove and peppercorn. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

87 Root:1 2022 Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Flinty notes mixed with cherry aromas on the nose. This is an easy-drinking and enjoyable Pinot Noir that features red and black fruit, alongside hints of grass. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

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

87 **Trasiego 2022 Red Quartz Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** Red plums and cranberries unfold on the nose of this very lightly structured Pinot Noir from the coastal region of Casablanca. There is a fair amount of red fruit on the palate, with thyme and other dried herbs added to the mix. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 **Viña Aresti 2021 Reserva Pinot Noir (Curicó Valley).** Aromas of dried cherry and flint are subtle on the nose. This red has a soft palate that exhibits light flavors of cranberry and grass, with moderate acidity. In the finish, the wine remains austere and simple. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 **Quintay 2022 Clava Reserva Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** This very lightly structured Pinot Noir has an austere character. The nose offers hints of flint and introduces an almost neutral palate. Subtle flavors of red fruit mixed with grass disappear in the brief finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

85 **Albamar 2022 Estate Series Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** This light and easy red has an austere nose and introduces a palate with similar characteristics. Mild flavors of stewed berries are backed by gentle acidity that leads the fruit through a short finish. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

CARMÉNÈRE

91 **Concha y Toro 2020 Carmín de Peumo Carménère (Cachapoal Valley).** Peumo in the Cachapoal Valley, is known for its delicious Carménère wines. This red proves that this is a special place for this variety. It starts with aromas of violets, strawberries and raspberries. The fruity character on the palate is matched by clove and other spices. It's balanced and full, with enough acidity to keep a smooth flow through the finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

91 **Primus 2020 Carménère (Apalta).** Cherry aromas come with a Christmas-like note of sweet spices. This Carménère hails from a beautiful vineyard in the Apalta subregion of the Colchagua Valley. Ripe blueberries and blackberries are dusted with cinnamon and nutmeg on the palate. It features fine-grained tannins that give it a soft texture. The finish offers notes of cloves and eucalyptus. Gonzalez Byass USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 **Luma Chequén 2020 Estate Bottled Gran Reserva Carménère (Maule Valley).** For full review see page 34. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

90 **Morandé 2020 Gran Reserva Carménère (Maipo Valley).** This is a full-bodied Carménère, with intense black-fruit flavors and hints of black olive over a smooth texture. It's a very enjoyable wine and has a light herbal character that lingers in the finish. International Wine And Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Calcu 2020 Gran Reserva Carménère (Colchagua Valley).** This easygoing Carménère has a herbaceous nose introducing a generous palate that delivers grass, plums, dried cherries and hints of clove in the medium finish. Enjoy now. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

88 **Concha y Toro 2020 Gran Reserva Carménère (Cachapoal Valley).** The nose is aromatic, with ripe fruit and bell pepper creating a sense of sweetness. The palate is generous and features flavors of prune, ripe cherry, coffee and green bell pepper, along with soft tannins. Moderate acidity makes it approachable and a good match for lentil stew. Viña Concha y Toro USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Siegel 2020 Crucero Collection Carménère (Colchagua Valley).** Green bell pepper flavors and ripe berries found equilibrium on the lightly structured palate of this everyday Carménère. The finish features subtle notes of spices. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 **Aresti 2020 Trisquel Gran Reserva Carménère (Curicó Valley).** The nose offers an aromatic combination of oak spice, thyme and flinty notes. Fruit-focused and light on the palate, it delivers mulberry and cherry flavors along with gentle acidity. Vinamericas, Inc.. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **Santa Carolina 2020 Carolina Reserva Carménère (Cachapoal Valley).** The ripe character of this wine is supported by grilled bell pepper and meaty notes. Thyme and eucalyptus are mixed with light notes of cherry that provide brightness to the smoky palate. Drink now. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 **Anakena 2020 Tama Especial Reserva Carménère (Colchagua Valley).** Leafy aromas introduce a lean palate, with prominent notes of toasted oak and grass. Shy notes of prune hide in the background. Accolade Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

SYRAH

92 **Montes 2019 Folly Syrah (Apalta).** This starts with a spicy nose that features hints of aniseed, cinnamon and cassis. It has depth and silky tannins. The wine's balanced mouthfeel shows flavors of mulberry, plum, and oak spices and notes

of Mediterranean herbs that end in a long finish. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

91 **Concha y Toro 2020 Gravas del Maipo Syrah (Maipo Valley).** Grapes for this Syrah are sourced from Buin, where vineyards grow over stony soils on the southern bank of the Maipo River. After 14 months of aging in oak barrels, the nose exhibits aromas of baking spices that are followed closely by red berries. Good acidity keeps the concentrated palate fresh, as it drives flavors of chocolate, red fruit and licorice through the finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Morandé 2019 Morandé Adventure Tirazis Syrah (Casablanca Valley).** This structured but elegant Syrah is grown in a maritime-influenced climate. The nose is subtle, with light notes of salt, cranberry and black olive. The flavor intensity of spices and herbs match that of the fruit on the vigorous palate. Cherries and mulberries and a whisper of dark chocolate and bay leaf are backed by fine tannins and excellent acidity. International Wine And Spirits. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2021 Escudo Rojo Reserva Syrah (Maipo Valley).** For full review see page 33. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Casas del Bosque 2021 Estate Bottled Gran Reserva Syrah (Casablanca Valley).** The nose opens with cassis and introduces a fruit-focused palate. There is a good amount of raspberries, cranberries and cherries mixed with hints of cinnamon in this medium-bodied Syrah from coastal Casablanca Valley. Saline notes reveal its origin in the finish. Southern Starz, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Concha y Toro 2020 Marques de Casa Concha Syrah (Maipo Valley).** This Syrah comes from alluvial soils in the Maipo Valley and has a concentrated palate that offers abundant black and red fruit. Savory notes of herbs and black olive add an extra layer of flavor, with hints of chocolate showing in the aftertaste. Medium acidity complements the smooth tannins for a round mouthfeel. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) 2020 Los Vascos Cromas Gran Reserva Syrah (Colchagua Valley).** It has nice bay leaf aromas that blend with licorice and ripe berries. The palate feels velvety and full, with a tasty interaction between notes of tobacco, herbs, plums and blueberries. Notes of vanilla emerge in the finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

BUYINGGUIDE

90 San Pedro 2020 1865 Selected Collection Desert Valley Syrah (Elqui Valley). The fruit for this wine was sourced in the sunny Elqui Valley, one of Chile's northernmost wine regions. Notes of ripe berries, black olive, wild herbs and chocolate mark the character of this full-bodied red. It has round tannins and moderate acidity framing the smooth palate. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

87 Casas del Bosque 2020 Gran Reserva Syrah (Casablanca Valley). Black-olive and herb aromas are very subtle. This red introduces overripe fruit notes, grass and a touch of smoke. It's a Syrah with thin tannins, gentle acidity and a pleasant, medium finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

OTHER RED WINES

91 Gillmore 2020 Maule Aglianico (Loncomilla Valley). The grape Aglianico, usually found in Southern Italy, also grows in dry-farmed vineyards in the Loncomilla subregion of the Maule Valley. This red has a spicy nose of black pepper and berries. It's vibrant and smooth, with plenty of ripe fruit flavors. Plums, blackberries, mulberries, black cherries and peppercorn dance on the midpalate, along with a light note of earthy chocolate. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Morandé 2020 Vigno Carignan (Maule Valley). This Carignan is aromatic and fresh, with a good amount of fruit matching its herbaceous character. It shows varietal expression and a light structure supported by fine tannins. Flavors of plum, cranberry and wild herbs linger in the aftertaste. International Wine And Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

89 Gillmore 2021 Mariposa País (Loncomilla Valley). This wine is juicy, fresh and bursting with aromas of berries complemented by herbaceous notes. It's a lovely sample of País that has flavors of cherry, strawberries and raspberries, with a touch of thyme. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

RED BLENDS

93 Vik 2019 Millahue Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Made with Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grapes from the beautiful Millahue Valley, this is a wine with elegant silky tannins. Rich notes of oak add layers of flavor to its complexity. Red berries and hints of chocolate nib blend with sweet spices on the firm midpalate. The leafy finish is long and delightful. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Vik 2020 Milla Cala Millahue Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Jammy aromas of plum

and a hint of black olive perfume the nose. The palate is fruit-forward, with bright cherry, blueberry and blackberry flavors mixed with hints of thyme and toasted oak. Light notes of black olive and herbs linger in the aftertaste. It's balanced and has a silky texture. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 San Pedro 2020 Altair Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). For full review see page 29. VSPT USA.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Morandé 2021 Terroir Wines Cinsault-País (Itata Valley). Made with 55% Cinsault and 45% País grapes from Maule Valley, this savory wine starts with aromas of maraschino cherry and a light note of dried herbs. Spicy notes of pink peppercorn meet flavors of plum, pomegranate and ripe cherry, with a pleasant hint of balsamic that adds depth to the structured palate. International Wine And Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Vistamar 2019 Corte de Campo Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Subtle aromas of berries and grass open the nose of this easy-sipping red. It's fruit-focused, with bright ripe cherry and cranberry flavors that are mixed with chocolate and linger into the medium finish. International Wine And Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Anakena 2019 Ona Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). Nice acidity supports and adds much-needed freshness to this full-bodied wine that starts with green bell pepper and eucalyptus aromas. The palate shows cumin, black pepper and dried herbs alongside a shy note of berry. It has a spicy and grassy finish. Accolade Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

ALSACE

PINOT GRIS

94 Jean-Baptiste Adam 2017 Sélection de Grains Nobles Pinot Gris (Alsace). Racy acidity frames this rich, dessert wine, which is creamy in texture and exhibits poached pear, apricot jam, passion fruit and candied orange peel. A chalky undercurrent flows beneath the sweet core, adding a smoky note and warm spices. The finish is very long and multifaceted. Drink now–2037. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$100/500 ml

89 Henry Fuchs 2022 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Rich-tasting white, with an array of tropical fruit and spice notes, ranging from papaya and dragon fruit to cardamom and coriander. There is just enough acidity to balance it out, as this wraps up with a zesty note. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 Lucien Albrecht 2020 Cuvée Romanus Pinot Gris (Alsace). There is a bit of sweetness here, with flavors of Mirabelle plum and mango, as well as exotic spice and a light pine note. It's backed by subtle acidity and slight crunch. Foley Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Willm 2022 Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace). Medium-bodied white, with a fresh profile, this shows flavors of melon rind, candied lemon peel, ginger and hints smoke and white pepper. Finish is tangy. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Joseph Cattin 2022 Riesling (Alsace). This shows bright acidity and offers a fine array of orchard-fruit flavors, along with crunchy white peach and blood orange. The mineral-tinged finish is moderately long. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

RIESLING

90 Domaine Schoffit 2021 Lieu-dit Harth Tradition Riesling (Alsace). This velvety Riesling exhibits juicy peach, Granny Smith apple and lemon-curd notes, with a thread of anise, mint tea, cardamom and candied ginger. Medium bodied, but with a good amount of acidity making it refreshing on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Henry Fuchs 2020 Hagel Riesling (Alsace). Richer style, with orange peel acidity giving energy and focus to the flavors of guava, baked pineapple and aromatic hints of honeysuckle and curry spice. Lanolin note marks the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

90 Lucien Albrecht 2020 Spiegel Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). For full review see page 31. Foley Family Wines.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Willm 2021 Kirchberg de Barr Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This is expressive and finely knit, featuring tangy acidity that brings out aromas and flavors of Meyer lemon and verbena framing the core of juicy yellow apple and wet-stone notes. Stays focused on the lingering finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Henry Fuchs 2021 Riesling (Alsace). This is clean and vibrant, with a salty mineral note accenting the hints of zesty lemon, tangerine, coriander and tarragon. A lovely Riesling, with a juicy, floral finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

89 Joseph Cattin 2022 Sauvage Riesling (Alsace). A bright, minerally, light- to

medium-bodied version, offering a flinty undertow accenting the flavors of yellow plum, preserved lemon, delicate spice, sage and fleur de sel notes. Mouthwatering finish. Cuvée Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Lucien Albrecht 2021 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Crisp apple, lemon and floral notes mix with hints of dried sage and ground ginger notes in this lightly juicy white. Moderate finish. Foley Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Willm 2022 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Open, fresh and easy, with a supple structure supporting its apple, white peach, lemon and mineral flavors. It's vibrant and refreshing. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

PINOT BLANC

88 Joseph Cattin 2022 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). There is a nice mouthfeel to this white, along with flavors of crunchy pear, white peach, lemon zest and stone, with a zesty, mineral-tinged finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Lucien Albrecht 2021 Cuvée Balthazar Pinot Blanc (Alsace). For full review see page 36. Foley Family Wines. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Willm 2021 Réserve Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Velvety and floral, with spice and citrus zest notes underscoring the flavors of crunchy pear and white peach. Moderate length. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

GEWURZTRAMINER

89 Lucien Albrecht 2021 Réserve Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This is firm and mouth watering, with light honey notes framing the core of candied ginger, quince and orange sorbet. The moderately long finish is marked by hints of bittersweet notes. Foley Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Willm 2019 Clos Gaensbroennel Kirchberg de Barr Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). An elegant, nicely balanced version, offering a prominent saffron note upfront, followed by flavors of creamed apple, white peach and slivered almond. Delicate acidity finely integrates all the elements on the moderate finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Willm 2021 Réserve Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This Gewurztraminer features guava and yellow peach fruit flavors layered with mineral, spice, orange peel and graphite notes.

Bright on a moderate finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

CRÉMANT D'ALSACE

89 Bennwihr NV Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). Lemon fruit and yellow apple flavors are accented by a lively bead in this charming sparkler. Marzipan and pastry notes fill in on the inviting finish. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Domaine Schoffit NV Extra Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). This is lacy and balanced, and it offers subtle flavors of pastry dough, poached pear and anise, underscored by a lingering chalky note. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 Lucien Albrecht NV Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). This shows fine texture and length, with a creamy mousse, delivering good balance, as well as notes of toast, chalk, clementine and ginger spice. Foley Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

88 Lucien Albrecht NV Rosé Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). This is spicy, with flavors of white cherry, crushed strawberry and rose water. It is well meshed, offering a subtle pastry note on the moderately long finish. Foley Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

87 Willm NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Crémant d'Alsace). The zesty acidity of this crisp sparkler fuels the mix of green melon, lime zest and blanched almond. Hints of baking spice show on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINE

96 Domaine Barmès-Buecher 2000 Herrenweg Sélection de Grains Nobles Pinot Gris (Alsace). This is a very special SGN, presenting itself probably at its peak, as all the flavors have developed and are expressed with precision and clarity. This has a brownish hue, which suggests maturity and the palate is just as dark with molasses, butterscotch, dried apricot, orange marmalade and honey that ride a bright, powerful undercurrent of acidity. It is smooth and seamless, with hints of white truffle and Cornelian cherry lingering on the endless finish. Drink through 2040. Petit Pois. **Cellar Selection.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$145/500 ml

89 Domaine Schoffit 2021 Vieilles Vignes Chas-selas (Alsace). Light and tangy white, with crunchy acidity and pretty floral notes reminiscent of jasmine green tea and dandelion. Tangerine notes mark the mouth-watering finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

PINOT NOIR

90 Trimbach 2021 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace). Earth and licorice aromas give way to a beam of cherry flavors in this tightly wound red, with leafy and underbrush notes. The tannins are present but well integrated, supporting the long finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

87 Willm 2022 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace). A solid red, offering cherry, blackberry and earth flavors, all integrated with the structure. Moderate length. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

CHAMPAGNE

VINTAGE

99 Philipponnat 2014 Clos des Goisses Extra Brut (Champagne). For full review see page 3. Banville Wine Merchants. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$350

98 Taittinger 2013 Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru (Champagne). This beautiful Chardonnay from five top Grand Cru vineyards is textured with fruit that is still impressively perfumed. Its concentration has allowed it to remain perennially young. Although there are hints of toastiness, the Champagne has many more years of potential. Drink now and at least up to 2027. Kobrand. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$195

94 Vincent Couche 2015 Millésime Extra Brut (Champagne). Fermented in wood, this Champagne is rich and now mature. Toasty flavors go with the taut texture and spice to give a wine with acidity that has now softened to produce a wine that is beautifully textured. Drink now. Organic and biodynamic. Stork Wine Company. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$106

94 Vincent Couche 2010 ADN Brut Nature (Champagne). A Champagne that is on the edge of maturity, this is a great wine. Poise and balance give it richness. The fruit has faded, leaving full flavors and great concentration. Drink the wine now. Stork Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$290

94 Vincent Couche 2002 Sensation Brut Nature (Champagne). From a great Champagne vintage, this wine is impressively mature. Its ripe fruits have now softened into a yeasty and spice character. The acidity of this dry wine shows strongly, giving concentration and intensity. This is a fine wine ready to drink. Stork Wine Company. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$170

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Bernard Lonclas 2014 Vintage Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Champagne). While the Champagne does show yeasty maturity, it also has layers of bright fruit that give it a fine balance. White fruits, cut with citrus, are perfumed, fresh and ripe. There is a fine steely after taste. Drink now. Free Run Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

93 Vincent Couche 2014 Millésime (Champagne). With its mature aromas and dominance of Pinot Noir, this is a ripe Champagne. It has perfumed acidity set against the wine's density and richness. Ready to drink, it is beautifully balanced. Organic and biodynamic. Stork Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$106

93 Vincent Couche 1999 Sensation Brut Nature (Champagne). The Champagne, very mature, is soft and certainly ready to drink. Its old Pinot Noir flavors have a strong toasty character that brings in tight acidity. Drink this powerful wine now. Stork Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$170

NONVINTAGE

94 Dom Caudron NV Sublimité MPC Coeur de Cuvée (Champagne). A perpetual solera started in 2013 from the best wines of each vintage is the base of this beautifully balanced Champagne. It has poise between some maturity and deliciously fresh apple fruits. With its rich Meunier as the dominant variety in the MPC blend (Meunier, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay), the wine is ready to drink. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$150

92 Bernard Lonclas NV Grand Brut Blanc de Blancs (Champagne). The producer, based in the southeast of Champagne, has a fine, soft, toasty wine. Its acidity is muted by the texture and the ripe fruit. Drink this rich wine now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

92 Vincent Couche NV Élégance Brut Nature (Champagne). The Champagne was fermented in wood, giving it extra richness. This balances the extra dryness of the Brut Nature wine. The wine has maturity and spice along with ripe citrus flavors. Drink the wine now. Stork Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$68

91 Bernard Lonclas NV Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Champagne). A textured Champagne with a warm edge of ripe white fruits, this is rich and steely at the same time. Its fruitiness brings freshness and acidity. Drink the wine now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

91 Bernard Lonclas NV Cuvée Prestige Extra Dry (Champagne). While the Champagne is dry, it does also show ripeness and some bottle maturity. It is a rich wine, dominated by Chardonnay but with the rounded texture of Meunier. Drink now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

91 Le Brun de Neuville NV Le Chemin Empreinté (Champagne). Based on six-year-old reserve wines, this Champagne has some maturity. Touches of wood fermentation come through with the richness of the wine. Drink now. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$120

90 Bernard Lonclas NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). A young, bright Champagne with a soft texture and a light edge of minerality. The producer, whose speciality is Chardonnay wines, has created a balanced wine that is both fresh and ripe. Drink now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Bernard Lonclas NV Rosé Brut (Champagne). Aging for four years has softened the Champagne's crispness. The result is a textured, ripe wine with hints of red and plenty of white fruit flavors. Drink the wine now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Besserat de Bellefon NV Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne). Pure Grand Cru Pinot Noir, the wine is textured and tight. Dry and with citrus and white fruits, this fine Champagne is ready to drink. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

90 Besserat de Bellefon NV Rosé Brut (Champagne). Fruity and full of red currant fruits, the Champagne is soft and balanced. It has freshness and plenty of acidity, zingy and young. Age the bottling until 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$98

90 Dom Caudron NV Epicurienne (Champagne). This Champagne is a fine showing of red Meunier, Champagne's third key grape. It has richness and a round character that contrasts with the wine's bright apple fruits. Drink now. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

90 Dom Caudron NV Prédiction (Champagne). A young Champagne that needs some more bottle aging to bring out the natural ripeness of the Meunier. It is fruity, a contrast between freshness and citrus flavors. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

89 Besserat de Bellefon NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). The Champagne has ripeness and a soft texture. Acidity and a hint of minerality

are prominent along with white fruits. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

89 Dom Caudron NV Brut Nature (Champagne). Certainly dry, this Champagne is fresh and still young. That gives the wine extreme freshness. It could be aged a little in bottle, so will be better from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

89 Vincent Couche NV Rosé Désir Brut Nature (Champagne). Mainly Pinot Noir with a touch of Chardonnay, the Champagne has a light structure and freshness. Red currant and citrus flavors are ripe, filling out the wine's dryness. Drink the bottling from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. Stork Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$74

88 Bernard Lonclas NV Cuvée Selection Brut (Champagne). This blend of the three top Champagne varieties is rich and balanced. It has fine white fruits with youth and brightness as well as ripe citrus. Drink the wine now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

88 Besserat de Bellefon NV Bleu Brut Cuvée des Moines (Champagne). A blend of the three main grape varieties, this is a soft Champagne. The nonvintage blend from this producer, the wine is soft and fruity, its light texture just giving acidity in the background. The bottling is ready to drink. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Dom Caudron NV Fascinante (Champagne). The Champagne has some bitterness with a light structure and acidity. Light tannins from 90% Meunier in the blend bring freshness at the end. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES

VAL DE LOIRE

91 Henry Marionnet 2022 Vinifera Chenin (Val de Loire). This is a smooth wine, poised with ripe fruits and creamed apple and spice flavors. Its acidity just points up the wine's perfumed character. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Domaine du Cléray 2022 Chardonnay (Val de Loire). This Muscadet producer's soft, light Chardonnay has an attractive apple and spice character. With its balanced acidity and creamy texture, the wine is ready to drink. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

86 Joseph Verdier 2022 Trésors de Loire (Val de Loire). A light wine, tangy and grassy with crisp grapefruit acidity, this is bright and fresh. The light-alcohol wine is attractive and ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

SANCERRE

93 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 Les Monts Damnés (Sancerre). Chalky minerality leaps out on the nose of this Sancerre followed by green plum, green apple and lime citrus. On the palate the wine is steely in texture with wet stone and hints of white peach on the long finish. This Sancerre would pair wonderfully with mussels, clams, scallops and crustaceans of any sort. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Le Garenne 2021 (Sancerre). Aromatic and characterful with pleasing herbal notes, this Sancerre has a nose of golden apple, Asian pear, jasmine tea and lemon-citrus zest. Playful fruit and herbal notes dot back and forth on your palate, leaving you wanting more. Asgram LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 Clos du Roc (Sancerre). This Sancerre basks in green-apple precision, white-peach fruit and white blossom. On the palate, the wine echoes the nose but with added intensity. This is the Sancerre you open and everyone at your table is happy—especially you. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

91 J. de Villebois 2022 Memini (Sancerre). On the nose, delicate freshly cut grass herbal notes combine with green-apple slice and tangerine in complete harmony. On the palate, the wine balances acidity with warmer green fruit offering some moments of roundness on the back palate. This Sancerre can be confidently enjoyed by the glass and doesn't require food to show well. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 Les Bouffants (Sancerre). This wine has the key elements that one expects from a Sancerre. Pale lemon in color, this wine has a nose golden apple and white peach with hints of orange zest. There are moments of concentration on the midpalate followed by a lemon-citrus-tilted finish. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$43

90 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 Terres Blanches (Sancerre). This Sancerre has two sides to it, along with welcome complexity. The wine has a flinty, smoky nose on one side and green-fruit precision on the other. Steely in texture, the wine boasts of starfruit and green apple, with a touch of

lime citrus on the finish. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 Henri Bourgeois 2022 Les Baronnes (Sancerre). White peach, just-ripened green apple, ripe green pear and white blossom all come to a fore in this Sancerre. On the palate, the wine imparts the requisite steeliness one seeks in a Sancerre along with generous acidity that doesn't overpower. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Roc de l'Abbaye 2022 (Sancerre). This wine has a nose of green apple, grass clippings, grapefruit and lemon zest. Steely in texture, the wine has midpalate concentration that resolves in citrus. Pair this Sancerre with veggies or creamy dishes. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

85 Les Tribordais de Loire 2022 (Sancerre). A perfumed wine with ripe fruits and acidity. Perhaps the perfume could have been less pronounced. Maybe aging will soften the wine. Drink from 2024. International Spirits & Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

POUILLY-FUMÉ

92 Fournier Père et Fils 2020 Grande Cuvée (Pouilly-Fumé). Pouilly-Fumé can sometimes have an herbal tinge and this wine leans into itself in that way with a perfumed nose of Fuji apple, lemon zest, dried grass cuttings, hay and chamomile. The palate mirrors the nose and is slightly more subdued. This wine would pair marvelously with broiled or grilled vegetables and white meats. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$49

90 Roc de l'Abbaye 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). Green apple, tangerine and white blossom leap out on the nose of this wine with just a hint of dried grass. This is a palate cleanser with vibrant acidity and some lemon citrus on the finish. Enjoy now but could easily age for 4+ years. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

89 Complices de Loire 2022 Terre de Caillotte (Pouilly-Fumé). Bright and fruity with some warmth in the hints of tropical flavors, the wine is rich and lightly herbal. It has weight and plenty of youthful acidity that needs to soften. Drink from 2024. Organic. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Le Garenne 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). This is a quiet Pouilly-Fumé with a relaxed disposition. The wine has a muted nose of white blossom, crabapple, white peach and lime zest. There is some waxiness on the midpalate, which echoes muted fruit on the nose. Asgram LLC. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Les Tribordais de Loire 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). This producer seems to go into very perfumed Sauvignon Blanc. That's the case here. Like many Pouilly Fumé wines, this needs to age, its youthful fruit and acidity will soften. Drink from 2025. International Spirits & Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Joseph Verdier 2022 Trésors de Loire (Pouilly-Fumé). An herbaceous wine that has a crisp green fruits and a tangy character. Drink this fruity wine now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

TOURAINÉ

91 Domaine Joël Delaunay 2022 La Voûte (Touraine Chenonceaux). From vineyards around the beautiful Château de Chenonceaux, the wine is a rounded style of Sauvignon Blanc. It has apple and pink grapefruit flavors that are filled out with a light texture. Drink this fine wine from 2024. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Henry Marionnet 2022 Vinifera Sauvignon (Touraine). Ungrafted vines planted in 2000 have produced a rich wine. Its concentration is enhanced by the green fruits and fresh acidity in the background. Drink the wine now. Organic. Henry Marionnet. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Henry Marionnet 2022 M de Marionnet (Touraine). The freshness is mitigated by the ripe fruits from this vintage. A touch of pepper gives the wine an edge of alcohol, while also boasting its richness. Drink now. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

89 Raphaël Midoir 2022 La Plaine des Cailloux Cru Oisly (Touraine). Perfumed and floral, the wine comes from the cru of Oisly. It is a soft wine, bringing out ripe fruits, pears and red apples. Drink the wine now. Jack Edwards Collection. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

88 Henry Marionnet 2022 Domaine de La Charmoise (Touraine). Soft acidity and layers of bright green fruits combine in this refreshing, drinkable wine. It has a bright character, full of fruit and ready to drink. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

87 Complices de Loire 2022 Expression (Touraine). A crisp, brisk, grassy Sauvignon Blanc, this is lifted with citrus fruits and attendant acidity. Drink now. Organic. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Domaine Joël Delaunay 2022 Le Manoir (Touraine). This is an attractive, fresh wine with green fruits and acidity. The wine is fresh and

BUYINGGUIDE

full of zesty fruit. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 Raphaël Midoir 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine). The wine is ripe, full of lime and grapefruit flavors. Its freshness is palpable, light and full of fruit. Drink now. Jack Edwards Collection. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Les Tribordais de Loire 2022 (Touraine). A young wine, the ripeness of the vintage shows strongly. Acidity and fresh citrus are prominent. Drink now. International Spirits & Wines, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

VOUVRAY

92 Domaine Bourillon d'Orleans 2008 L'Oppodum (Vouvray). Definitely mature, this wine shows intense spice and wood flavors. It is a rich wine, very dry with acidity. Certainly ready to drink, the wine reveals the fascination of old Chenin Blanc. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Maison Darragon 2022 Les Tuffes (Vouvray). The wine is rich, while dry. It has a burst of fine acidity that gives the wine a freshness to balance the ripeness. This is a full wine with concentration and honey and lemon flavors. Drink from 2024. Kindred Vines Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Domaine Vincent Carême 2022 Sec (Vouvray). This orchard-fruit-forward Vouvray grown on limestone and flinty soils has a perfumed nose of honeydew melon, nectarine, orange blossom and bruised apple slice. Ripe fruit is undergirded by orange citrus and orange blossom on the palate along with lightly toasted croissant notes on the long finish. Cape Classics. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Domaine Vieux Vauvert 2022 (Vouvray). This medium-dry wine is crisp and honeyed with ripe apple and creamed-pear sauce flavors. It is a soft, light wine that is ready to drink. Advantage International —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Les Tribordais de Loire 2022 (Vouvray). Off dry, the wine is fresh and bright. Its tangy texture and apple fruits give both freshness and a richer character. Drink this wine from 2024. International Spirits & Wines, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Maison Darragon 2022 Les Hauts de Ruettes (Vouvray). This medium-dry Chenin Blanc is soft with creamed apples and spice. The wine has acidity to balance the wine's sweetness, giving

a fruity wine that is ready to drink. Kindred Vines Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Domaine François Villon 2022 Medium Dry (Vouvray). Off dry, the wine is fruity with a honey character and acidity. It is rounded and with a bright ripe-apple aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2024. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

ANJOU

91 Mary Taylor 2022 Pascal Biotteau (Anjou). This is a Chenin Blanc for palates that crave complexity. This wine has an aromatic nose of golden apple, orange blossom, white peach, ripe pear and lemon zest. There are additional notes of chamomile tea and pencil shavings on the honeyed midpalate that lend intrigue and depth. Mary Taylor Wine. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 Château de Fesles 2019 La Chapelle (Anjou). This grand estate, known for its sweet wines, has produced a rich dry Chenin. Its crisp apple flavors are laced with pepper and finished with layers of acidity. Drink the wine now. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Domaine de la Petite Roche 2022 (Anjou). This dry Anjou Chenin Blanc is expressive and floral. The wine has a perfumed nose of nectarine, papaya, green pear, white blossom and quince. Moments of fruit concentration on the midpalate contribute added depth. T. Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

MUSCADET SÈVRE ET MAINE

91 Château du Cléray 2018 Cru Vallet (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). With its five years of aging, this cru wine from Muscadet shows the potential of the Melon grape. It is richer than normal Muscadet with depth and density. A touch of pepper, kiwi and maturity have come together. This is a satisfying wine, ready to drink now. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Domaine du Colombier 2020 L'Envoi (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Produced from 85-year-old vines, this ripe and balanced wine with fine acidity and a touch of maturity, is layered with green fruits and freshness. Drink this wine now. Steep Hill Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Château du Cléray 2022 Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). Tight and with some fine acidity and a layer of freshness that give the wine a tangy character. The wine is attractively fruity with

vibrant fruits. Drink now. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine du Colombier 2022 Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). A bright and fruity wine that balances citrus and green fruits. There is a fine, tangy character to this light wine that is full of vivacious fruits. Drink now. Steep Hill Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Joseph Verdier 2022 Trésors de Loire Sur Lie (Muscadet Sèvre et Maine). A fruity wine with a spike of acidity, it has crisp green and citrus fruits. It is tangy with a salty character and bright fruit at the end. Light alcohol. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

MUSCADET CÔTES DE GRANDLIEU

91 Jérôme Choblet 2022 Fief Guérin Vieilles Vignes Sur Lie (Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu). This is a single-vineyard Muscadet that has some characterful elements and a nose of green pear, banana peel, starfruit and kiwi. This wine has a round midpalate with some lemon citrus and wet stone on the finish. Drink now and suitable for three years of aging. Serge Doré Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

90 Le Garenne 2022 Sur Lie (Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu). This is the Muscadet you serve to friends who don't yet know they like Muscadet. The wine has an aromatic nose of golden apple, pear and white peach. Riper-leaning orchard fruit takes the lead on the palate in a reserved, elegant style. Asgram LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Jérôme Choblet 2022 Domaine des Herbauges Sur Lie (Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu). Tending towards gold in color, this wine has a nose of green apple, white peach, pear and white blossom. On the palate, the wine presents fresh green fruit and palate-cleansing acidity. This Muscadet would pair well with buttery and creamy dishes. Serge Doré Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Clos de la Coulée de Serrant 2021 (Savennières-Coulée de Serrant). This iconic wine, with its own appellation, is dense and full of power. Its flavors of apricot and honey are balanced by great concentrated waves of richness and intense acidity. The wine is young and will age forever. Drink from 2025 at the earliest. Organic and biodynamic. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$157

90 **Domaine de la Commanderie 2022 Elegance (Chinon).** A rich wine, full of tasty white fruits, a sense of ripeness and sweet acidity, this is fragrant and developing quickly. The wine has a fresh edge that balances with the concentration. Drink from 2024. Jack Edwards Collection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 **Henri Bourgeois 2022 Terrasse des Grands Hommes (Quincy).** This wine has a reserved nose of golden apple, pear and chalk dust with hints of cotton candy. On the palate, the Sauvignon Blanc is lively and steely in texture, making it an especially good pairing with cheeses and seafood. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Château de Montguéret 2022 (Saumur).** A delicious wine that naturally has its ripe fruits, hints of honey and creamed apples. It is fruity, softly textured and light. Drink this wine now. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

89 **Maison Laudacius 2022 Les 12 Arches (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** Perfumed and ripe, this is a lightly honeyed wine with youthful acidity. It has the brightest fruit, crisply textured and zesty. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 **Lacheteau 2022 Ohh! Poitou (Haut-Poitou).** Feather light, the wine is fruity and crisp with citrus and bright acidity. From a region south of the Loire Valley, drink this wine now. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

SPARKLING WINES

92 **Domaine Bourillon d'Orleans 2017 Cuvée Gaston Dorleans Brut Zéro (Vouvray).** Attractively mature, this rich sparkling wine is bone dry. The extra years in bottle have softened the dryness, giving spice and secondary flavors of yeast. The wine is ready to drink. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 **Maison Laudacius NV Cuvée Réserve Brut (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** This is a ripe, fruity wine, with some maturity as well as creamed apple flavors. It is balanced, full of acidity as well as riper spice and ground almond flavors. Drink now. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 **Caves de Bussy NV Clair de Lune Brut (Saumur).** This wine has a buttery nose with hints of lightly toasted bread and an underlying streak of golden apple. The palate echoes the nose along with added brioche. This crémant is mature and comfortable in its own skin while still remaining vibrant. Spends 12 months on the lees and is a

great choice for those who enjoy a slightly yeast-forward sparkling wine. Asgram LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Maison Laudacius NV Jardin des Rois Extra Brut (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** Perfumed and fresh with a crisp texture, the sparkling wine balances green apple acidity with riper kiwi flavors. It is full of fruit, freshened by a vivid texture. Drink now. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

89 **Le Garenne NV Rose Brut (Saumur).** Rosé crémant from the Loire should channel the Loire and this one does it in spades. On the nose, this wine is filled with red cherry, red raspberry and orange-citrus zest. On the palate, forest floor elements reveal themselves complimented by dried hay. The 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Grolleau blend benefits from 18 months of lees aging. Asgram LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 **Les Glories NV Brut (Crémant de Loire).** This wine captures the essence of what Loire crémant can deliver and at a great value for the quality level. Candied apple and yeasty caramel notes jump out on the nose. On the palate the dry, crémant is red-apple-led with some additional bread dough notes showing through on the finish. Cardinal Wine Group. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

89 **Les Glories NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Loire).** While you might mistake this for white crémant given the onion-skin color, you'll recognize red fruit instantly on the palate. This rose crémant has a touch of red cherry and violet blossom. The sparkling wine is slightly creamy in texture with a bright finish. Cardinal Wine Group. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

88 **Maison Laudacius NV Jardin des Rois Rosé Brut (Touraine).** Lightly textured, this sparkling wine with its blend of red grapes is almost off-dry. That ripeness translates into a warm rosé wine that is ready to drink. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

88 **Raphaël Midoir NV (Crémant de Loire).** A fruity sparkling blend, dominated by Chenin Blanc and Cabernet Franc, the wine is bright and youthfully fresh. It is nutty as well as ripe, with citrus fruits. Drink now. Jack Edwards Collection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 **Caves de Bussy NV Valse Romantique Rosé (Saumur).** Sparkling rosé should honor its underlying red grape and this one pays proper homage. Salmon in color, this wine has an aromatic nose of dried red cherry, pencil shavings, bread dough and black tea. On the palate, the Cabernet Franc varietal character in the blend shines through. Asgram LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Maison Darragon NV Méthode Traditionelle Brut (Vouvray).** A ripe sparkling wine with almond and spice flavors alongside the soft apple fruits. The wine is full of delicious acidity at the end. Kindred Vines Import. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

ROSÉ

85 **Joseph Verdier 2022 Trésors de Loire (Rosé d'Anjou).** A sweet style of rosé, the wine has a sugary character. Touches of acidity do bring a fresher aftertaste. Light alcohol. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$16

LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES

TOURAINÉ

91 **Henry Marionnet 2016 Vinifera Malbec (Touraine).** Malbec, also known as Cot in the Loire, gives this rich wine, based on ungrafted vines, ripe, concentrated fruits. It has a line of acidity and tannin that are in fine balance with the black fruits. Drink now. Henry Marionnet. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Henry Marionnet 2022 Première Vendange (Touraine).** Fresh with red-cherry flavors and a light texture, the wine is full of fruit. Bottled without added sulfur, its flavors are vivid and forward. Drink the wine from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 **Raphaël Midoir 2022 Jean (Touraine).** Bright red-cherry flavors give fruitiness to this young wine. With a stalky texture that will soften, the wine will age a short time. Drink from 2024. Jack Edwards Collection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Henry Marionnet 2022 Domaine de la Charmoise (Touraine).** A fruity, lightly smoky wine, this is full of blackberry fruits that are lifted by bright acidity. The wine will be ready from 2024. Organic, Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

CHINON

91 **Domaine de la Commanderie 2020 Renaissance (Chinon).** A bold, fruity wine with both acidity and rich tannins, this has great potential. It has a smooth, ripe and rich future with fine tannins softening as it matures. Drink from 2025. Cuvée Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

89 **Domaine de la Commanderie 2021 Médiévale (Chinon).** A rich Chinon that is still young

BUYINGGUIDE

and full of black fruits. There is a smoky background to the wine along with pepper and some solid tannins. The wine is balanced, ready to age further. Drink from 2025. Cuvée Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Joseph Verdier 2021 Chinon (Chinon). The wine is still young with stalky red-fruit flavors. It needs to soften over the next year to give a ripe, smoky wine. Drink from 2024. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Complices de Loire 2021 Les Graviers (Chinon). Still young, this red fruit and tannin wine is ripe and perfumed. Rich berry flavors are laced with acidity and spice, giving a wine with a fine future. Drink from 2024. Organic. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine de la Commanderie 2020 Tradition (Chinon). This is a fine, fruity wine with acidity and blackberry flavors. It is a fresh wine that is attractive and ready to drink. Jack Edwards Collection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

SAINT-NICOLAS-DE-BOURGUEIL

91 Sylvain Bruneau 2022 L'Elosion (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). Aged for 12 months in concrete eggs, this delivers tannins and density. The wine is rich, smoky and full of black fruits. Let it age, and drink from 2025. Organic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

90 Sylvain Bruneau 2022 Les Pentes (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). This rich wine is full of black fruits with acidity and a fine spicy character. The wine has structured with a smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Organic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Les Tribordais de Loire 2022 (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). The wine is structured with ripe black fruits. It is young with acidity and tannins that need to soften. Drink the wine from 2025. International Spirits & Wines, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Sylvain Bruneau 2021 Les Hauts Frogers (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). A wood-aged wine, this is rich and spicy. It has acidity and black fruits in the background, giving structure to the wine. Drink from 2025. Organic. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Complices de Loire 2021 Les Petites Terrasses (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). Perfumed and firmly textured with structure bringing acidity into

the mix. The wine is still firm and will be ready from 2024. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

SAUMUR-CHAMPIGNY

91 Complices de Loire 2021 Les Calcaires (Saumur-Champigny). The wine is packed with black fruits and equally a solid structure. Acidity and a solid background give this wine a fine future. Drink from 2025. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Joseph Verdier 2022 Trésors de Loire (Saumur-Champigny). This is young with a stalky character and blackberry fruits. It is smoky with a light structure and some potential. Give it time. Drink from 2025. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Les Tribordais de Loire 2022 (Saumur-Champigny). The wine is ripe and smoky and with forward red fruits. It has a spicy edge and soft tannins, aging well. Drink from 2024. International Spirits & Wines, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

OTHER RED WINES

90 Complices de Loire 2020 La Grande Pièce (Bourgueil). Maturing well, this ripe wine has a fine, smoky character. Red fruits and tannins have come together in a wine that will develop further. Drink from 2024. Organic. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Henry Marionnet 2022 Cépages Oubliés Gamay de Bouze (Val de Loire). Originating in Burgundy's Bouze-lès-Beaune, this unusual Gamay (Gamay de Bouze) with red, not white, juice, is rare. The Marionnet family makes the only cuvée solely from this grape. The color is black and dense. Its tannins are pronounced, giving richness and the need for aging. Drink this intense wine from 2025. Organic. Henry Marionnet. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Cave Robert & Marcel 2018 Domaine de Peyanne Vieilles Vignes (Saumur). The density that comes from old vines gives this ripe black fruited wine concentration in the mouth. The wine has some spice from wood aging, giving richness. The wine is ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

88 Domaine Joël Delaunay 2022 La Brossette (Val de Loire). The wine is rich with spicy black cherry flavors. It is structured, full of fruit and light tannins. With fine acidity, the wine will age a

little further. Drink from 2024. Organic. Wines Unlimited. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

BOURGOGNE

90 Webster Barnes Selection 2022 Le Champ Aux Alouettes Chardonnay (Bourgogne). Fresh lemon peel, Anjou pear and Gala apple mingle with aromas of white flowers, hay, and salt on the nose. The palate opens with racy acidity, surging with flavors of Bosc pear and apple skins, followed by lilies, stone and salt on the finish. Acidity lingers on the front palate, giving way to a floral midpalate and a subtle finish of apple flesh. Webster Barnes LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Gabrielle 2022 Chardonnay (Bourgogne). Aromas of fresh and delicate pears, lemon skin and pomelo are accompanied by notes of orange blossoms, lilies and salt. The palate is simple and straightforward, showing flavors of lemon skin, pear and wild white flowers. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Prosper Maufoux 2021 (Bourgogne). Aromas of freshly picked lemons, orange oil, and wild white flowers are met by dry soil, dust, and stone. Dustiness coats flavors of lemon pith and wet dandelions, leading to a simple stony finish. Good acidity gives brightness to this straightforward wine. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

CHABLIS

94 Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2020 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis). Gentle aromas of lemon verbena, fresh pears and melon intertwine with baby's breath, acacia, salty ocean breeze and stone. An abundance of white peach, lemongrass, chervil, fresh hay, broken seashell and flaky sea salt coats the palate. A delicious expression with intense minerality and dry extract that lingers on the long finish. Banville Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: NA **Price:** \$63

94 Domaine Vincent Dampé 2020 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis). Wildly complex on the nose with fresh lemon skins, Bosc pear and English pea intertwined with wet hay and saffron spice. The palate is dynamic, with a pronounced cut of acidity, giving way to Gala apples and Bosc pear sprinkled with salt. Its texture and mouth-watering acidity highlight a fine vein of citrus and floral along the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2021 Bas de Fourchaume (Chablis).** Fresh Meyer lemons, green pears, a hint of lemongrass, lilac and honeysuckle aromas fill the glass, along with wet river rocks and a fine waft of vanilla. The palate is coated in an abundance of fresh pears with a slight tart citrus spine and light wet stone. This elegant and gentle profile is marked by a touch of saline elongating the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: NA **Price:** \$45

93 **J. Moreau & Fils 2020 Mont De Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** Fresh aromas of lemon, melon, white peach, tangerine flesh and acacia flower linger on the nose. The palate presents an abundance of bruised golden delicious apples, fresh lemons, lime skin, vanilla and light cardamom. Round on the palate, fruit flavors harmonize with light herbs that persist through in its long stone finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 **La Chablisienne 2020 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Subtle aromas of muddled lemon wedges and dandelions harmonize with tall wet grass, fresh hay and broken stone. The palate is rounded by lactic softness, with flavors of lemon pith, lime skin and bruised apple caressed by light kelp and hay. Mouth-watering acidity energizes the palate as the wine finishes with intense salinity. Demeine Estates. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

92 **Albert Bichot 2021 Domaine Long-Depaquit (Chablis).** Aromas of freshly cut Gala apples, Bosc pear, hay, lemongrass and chalk fill the glass. The palate is coated by mouth-watering acidity, showing flavors of fresh yuzu and lemon grass and extending a long mineral finish. This refreshingly brisk and gentle acidity tantalizes more sips. This wine should be a versatile pairing with many seafood dishes. Albert Bichot USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 **Closierie des Alisiers 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Chablis).** Aromas of golden delicious apple, and Bosc pear and peonies welcome the nose, followed by a layer of wet hay and earth. The harmonious palate boasts fresh pears caressed by wet earth and a gentle touch of white flowers. This medium-bodied wine shines with bright acidity that lifts its pear notes and stays persistent in its long lingering finish. Accolade Brands. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2021 (Chablis).** A beautiful bouquet of wild flowers elegantly caresses the nose, followed by lemon skins sprinkled with white flaky salt. The palate is perfectly ripe with a touch of energizing tartness, followed by a firm stone finish. It is precise with penetrating laser-like acidity, leaving a light layer of slightly pithy extract. This wine is tantalizing even in its simplicity. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: NA **Price:** \$38

92 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2020 Côte de Léchet Premier Cru (Chablis).** Pure and fresh aromas of citrus and Anjou pear are balanced by notes of wet dandelion and stone on the nose. The wine is round and salinic, accentuating a subtle yet persistent limestone, leading to a hay and kelp finish. This expression pairs well with sushi. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **Domaine Raoul Gautherin et Fils 2021 Mont de Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** Aromas of fresh citrus, green pears, tangerine flesh, wild yellow flowers, white tea leaf and flaky white salt linger in the glass. The palate is intense, boasting flavors of fresh citrus and hay accompanied by a long stone finish. Brilliant acidity adds complexity and a lengthy finish. Giuliana Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **J. Moreau & Fils 2020 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Aromas of fresh lemons and white peach intertwine with orange blossoms, peonies, dandelions and wet stone, giving great youth, intensity and ripeness. The palate has great texture that is washed by its acidic cut. Flavors of fresh citrus peel and salty Marcona almond trail toward a long stone finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 **Simonnet-Febvre 2020 Beauroy Premier Cru (Chablis).** Aromas of fresh peonies are followed by pomelo, Anjou and Bosc pears. Round and textured on the palate, with a flavorful abundance of wild flowers, broken sea shells and salt. Greater acidity would allow for more robust energy, but it is still well balanced. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$214

91 **Domaine Gueguen 2021 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine's aromatic intensity is reminiscent of fresh lemons wafting through a bright windy day by the ocean. The palate reflects a similar concentration, leaving a sensation of dry citrus pith carried by its refreshing acidity. Enjoy now. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

91 **Domaine Gueguen 2021 Vosgros Premier Cru (Chablis).** Broken seashells tossed into a basket of sliced Meyer lemons mingle with aromas of fresh hay. The palate is round, yet energized by brisk acidity, with flavors of tangerine rind, lemon slices and wet stones. This wine is delicately complex and elegant. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

91 **Gabrielle 2021 (Chablis).** An abundance of wild flowers embrace aromas of fresh lemon, lime and lemongrass. The palate is round with freshly cut pears, citrus peel, ginger spice, wet stones and salt. Focused and layered, this wine should pair well with fresh prawns and lobster. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

91 **Robert Gouley 2021 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** A fresh basket of Meyer lemons, nectarines, yuzu, and delicate white flowers gives freshness while wafts of soft stone frame these aromas. Flavors of freshly squeezed lemons and tangerine juice coat the palate, marked by a touch of flaky salt and wet river rocks. This medium-bodied wine is gentle yet persistent with its elegant stone finish. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$62

MEURSAULT-BLAGNY

93 **Jean-Baptiste Jessiaume 2020 Premier Cru La Piece Sous Le Bois (Meursault-Blagny).** Fresh and energetic, aromas of citrus, white peach, Asian pear, chervil and light vanilla fill the glass. The palate is round and textured, offering perfectly ripe apples, white peach and finishes with popcorn and flint. Elegantly delicious. Independence Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

93 **Louis Latour 2020 Chateau de Blagny Premier Cru (Meursault-Blagny).** For full review see page 19. Louis Latour Inc.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$149

92 **Chapelle de Blagny 2020 Sous le Dos D'Âne Premier Cru (Meursault-Blagny).** Fresh aromas of lemon peel, white peach, orange blossom, acacia, white tea and stone meld for an inviting nose. The palate provides good texture and welcomes with orange pith and bright fresh lemons, and trails into a long hay and stone finish. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$110

MONTAGNY

93 **Domaine Chanson 2019 Premier Cru (Montagny).** An elegant quilt of fresh Gala apples and bosc pear is intricately woven into aromas of rose, peony and fine vanilla. The palate is dry, boasting great texture and a saline edge. Notes of overripe red apple and lemon pith combine with flavors of yellow flowers and buttery pie crust generously coat the palate. The wine is texturally balanced with good length, making this a perfect pairing wine with an array of roasted poultry dishes. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 **Henri de Villamont 2019 Premier Cru (Montagny).** Freshly cut apples, green pear, and white peach are in tandem with aromas of yellow flowers, white button mushroom, freshly tossed earth and sweet vanilla. The palate shows elegant restraint, with a fine weaving of Madagascar vanilla sewn through apples and white peaches. The wine is balanced with good acidity and finishes with great length along hints of candied ginger and vanilla. Milton's Distributing Co., Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Château de Davenay 2019 Clos Chaudron Premier Cru (Montagny). Fresh aromas of underripe yellow pears and apples combine with wild yellow flowers, subtle chamomile and a light salt edge. The palate is dry, with brisk acidity that accentuates the freshness of cut Gala apples. Purity is evident, with a stone finish that is prolonged by its saline edge. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Jean-Francois Protheau 2019 Les Bouchots Premier Cru (Montagny). Intense aromas of overripe lemons and bruised pears meld with candied ginger, lemongrass, cardamom and vanilla, making for a rich and complex nose. The palate is harmonious, with flavors of bruised apple and honeysuckle entwined in light caramel, slight iodine, salt and vanilla extract. It is rich and full bodied with a remarkably fine saline finish that accentuates sweetness through its long finish. Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

89 Vignerons de Buxy 2021 Buissonnier (Montagny). Clean and gentle aromas of lemon zest and green pear skin mingle with dandelions and wet stone. The incredibly precise palate boasts flavors of squeezed lemon, along with some bitter pith, Anjou pear and underripe white peach, with a stone finish. Bright acidity washes away the bitterness, followed by white-tea leaf on the finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

POUILLY-FUISSÉ

94 Jean Loron 2021 Au Vignerai Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Alluring and elegant aromas of fresh citrus, peonies and peach blossoms are cradled by white tea and stone. The palate is precise, with ample acidity giving lift to delicate layers of lemon verbena and Marcona almonds finely integrated with vanilla and flint. The wine grows generously in the glass with aeration. Bowler Wine. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2021 Aux Bouthières Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Lush aromas of ripe white peach, fresh apples, Anjou pear, delicate geraniums, white tea and wet stone fill the glass. The palate mirrors these notes, with flavors cascading in waves, evoking mineral sensations. The finesse of fruit and stone harmonize, finishing with a lingering, delicate salinity. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$79

93 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2021 En Bertillonne (Pouilly-Fuissé). This wine wows with a deep nose that is fresh and focused with a concentration of Bosc pear, dandelions, chamomile, almond and fine vanilla. The palate is bright with impressive acidity. Flavors of cut apples, Anjou pear and underripe white peach harmonize with light

hay and pulverized wet stone. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$66

93 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2021 La Grange Murger (Pouilly-Fuissé). Fresh citrus and orange oil aromas intermingle with wild dandelions, tall grass and wet stone, creating a beautifully complex bouquet. The palate mirrors this elegance with successive waves of flavor, all carried by a refreshing wash of acidity. A truly tantalizing experience with every sip. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

93 Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2021 Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fuissé). Delicate aromas of pithy citrus are accompanied by wild white flowers, orange oil chamomile, soft tall grass, and wet stone. This medium-bodied wine offers good texture, yet remains light on the palate with its crisp acidity. An expression of finesse and purity, the palate mirrors the nose perfectly and finishes with light saline minerality. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 Vins Auvigue 2021 La Frérie Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Fresh, with gentle floral aromas of yellow lemon pith and pomelo harmonizing with baby's breath flowers. The palate is intense, boasting good precision and minerality. Tremendous salinity is balanced by mouth-watering acidity. Cape Classics. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2021 (Pouilly-Fuissé). Freshly squeezed citrus and dry orange pith harmonize with baby's breath, chamomile, and wet-stone aromas. The palate features Gala apples and lemon oil, complemented by fresh almonds and wet stone. This medium-bodied wine is an elegantly complex expression complete with a long almond finish. Delicious with every sip. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 Collin-Bourisset 2021 Au Vignerai Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Fresh aromas of lemon skins, pith, and wild white flowers concentrate on the nose. The palate is initially reserved but has focused flavors of dandelion and vanilla and an almond finish. Wine Wine Situation. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Vins Auvigue 2021 Au Vignerai Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Sliced yellow lemons, Gala apples, and Anjou pears mingle with aromas of chamomile and baby's breath. The palate is round yet sparked by brisk acidity, highlighting flavors of yellow citrus and green pears that persist along its gentle stone finish. This refreshing expression is gentle on the palate, pairing well with creamy Brie cheeses. Cape Classics. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Romuald Valot 2021 Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé). Aromas of fresh pears, peonies and

Marcona almonds linger on the nose. A precise cut of pear fruit is tossed in flavors of chamomile, white tea and almonds, making for a pure and clean palate in this textbook expression. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$100

CRÉMANT DE BOURGOGNE

92 Domaine Chavy-Chouet NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Intense aromas of bruised apples and pears are in tandem with salted caramel, violets and white pepper—all making for an inviting nose. The subtle palate delivers orange pith and gardenia that grow with length on the palate. This wine is delicious, refreshing and complex. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$47

91 Louis Bouillot NV Perle de Vigne Grande Réserve Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). A complex nose of fresh orange flesh, apples and cherry skins harmonize with fresh thyme and violets on the nose. The gentle palate shows flavors of red and blackberries accompanied by freshly cut apples sprinkled with salt. Its delicate long finish is caressed by a hint of salinity. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

90 Louis Bouillot NV Perle de Nuit Blanc de Noirs Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Aromas of fresh Pink Lady apples, orange oil, gardenia, rose petal and white-tea leaf fill the glass. The palate is round and straightforward, with the flavor of fresh cut apples sprinkled with salt. This wine is refreshing and boasts a long finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Caves de Marsigny NV Réserve Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Fresh and zippy aromas of cut apple, lime skin, orange peel, white peach and white flowers penetrate the nose. The palate gives flavors of dehydrated lemon, along with orange oil, dandelions, and stone. Its round and creamy mouthfeel is refreshed by its gentle acidity. Simple and refreshing. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

88 Jean-Charles Boisset NV No.Infinity Brut (Crémant de Bourgogne). Riesling-like aromas are accompanied by cherries, wildflowers and damp earth on the nose. The palate displays flavors of Anjou pear, stone and light salt encased in good texture and brisk acidity. This wine makes for a great aperitif. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 Bouchard Père & Fils 2020 Grand Cru (Chevalier-Montrachet). Defined by purity and elegance, this wine opens with a symphony of fresh citrus and white-floral aromas. It exempli-

fies boundless verve, with its luxurious and luminous palate that maintains a yellow floral vein that persists into a gentle finish of flaky salt on almond paste. Hold through 2035+ before revisiting. Henriot USA. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$675

97 **Domaine Blain-Gagnard 2020 Grand Cru (Bâtard-Montrachet)**. This astounding wine wows with its tremendous complexity and purity. Energetic aromas of fresh citrus, light orange skins, and ginger spice dominate the nose. The palate is elegant and refined, finishing with a beautiful white-tea leaf note, with pure citrus and fresh stones persistent on the finish. Enjoy now and hold well through 2030+ before revisiting. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$430

95 **Louis Latour 2020 Clos Poirier Grand Cru (Bâtard-Montrachet)**. Ethereal bright citrus and earth lead to fresh aromas of yellow and white flowers lingering over perfectly ripe lemon skins and wet stone. The palate is quilted with an intricate layer of delicate fresh almonds and whispers of vanilla. Powerful and should deliver plenty of complexities after cellaring well through 2030+. Louis Latour Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 **Domaine Blain-Gagnard 2020 Caillerets Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet)**. Concentrated Meyer lemon and Bosc pear harmonize with aromas of acacia, honeysuckle, vanilla bean and wet stone. The palate reflects this concentration, with flavors of lemon zest, dehydrated orange, lemon pastry and fresh pears mingling with honeycomb and elegant vanilla on the finish. This medium-bodied wine is textured with a light dry extract that lingers after a wash of acidity. Enjoy now or hold well through 2028+ before revisiting. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

93 **Albert Morot 2020 Beaune Aigrots Premier Cru (Beaune)**. An intense and compelling nose of lemon verbena, freshly cut apples, pears, and lemongrass harmonize with a light dusting of candied ginger and fresh vanilla. The palate is equally intense, presenting acacia, cardamom and vanilla spice on the finish. The wine is balanced with good acidity, but cellaring well through 2025+ should weave intricate layers beautifully. Multiple U.S. importers. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$63

93 **Domaine Blain-Gagnard 2020 Morgeot Premier Cru (Chassagne-Montrachet)**. This wine presents joyful aromas reminiscent of picking fresh pears and citrus on a sunny day through a field of wild yellow flowers. The palate is elegant, with lemon curd, subtle nuances of vanilla, nutmeg and a pop of decadent hazelnut. This wine is round and balanced with a long lingering saline finish. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$115

93 **Domaine Françoise André 2020 Sous Frétille Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesse)**. Aromas of Meyer lemon, fresh Pink Lady apples, grapefruit skin, light citrus-vanilla custard and honeysuckle linger on the nose. The palate is persistent with a beautiful overlay of fresh citrus atop wet river stones, finishing with a quiet touch of vanilla pod. This wine is delightfully refreshing and boasts a long elegant finish. Shiverick Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

BURGUNDY RED WINES BEAUNE

93 **Chanson Père et Fils 2021 Clos des Marconnets Premier Cru (Beaune)**. High-toned aromas of fresh red cherries, crushed overripe strawberries and pomegranates are tossed in a bowl of rosehip, thyme and moss. The generous palate is balanced amongst underripe black cherries, rose petal, clove and salt. This wine is rich and medium bodied with impressive concentration balanced by brisk acidity. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Chanson Père et Fils 2021 Clos du Roi Premier Cru (Beaune)**. Aromas of Bing cherry, blackberry and high tones of pomegranate entwined with roses and thyme delve into notes of black plum tossed in potting soil and mint. The palate is dry and harmonious, with fresh cherries, rose and thyme leaves traversing back and forth. Fine dark tannins lead to a delicious finish of red plums. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 **Chanson Père et Fils 2021 Grèves Premier Cru (Beaune)**. Fresh and perfectly ripe on the nose, aromas of rhubarb, white strawberries and black plums harmonize elegantly with red rose petals and crushed white peppercorns. A definite verve pulsates through this wine. The palate is dry with black plums and white strawberries balanced by clove and cardamom. Mouth-watering acidity tames its youthful tannins, giving a nice linger of cherry, white tea and rose petals on the finish. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Chanson Père et Fils 2021 Clos des Fèves Monopole Premier Cru (Beaune)**. In this elegant and ripe nose, aromas of fresh cranberries, red cherries and pomegranate intermingle with red rose petals, brown mushroom, white peppercorn and thyme, kissed by a hint of clove and black tea leaf. The palate is opulent, with wild strawberries and ripe black plums embraced by rosehip and wild thyme. This delicious wine is balanced and shows great energy in addition to a long finish of red florals and black pepper. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Chanson Père et Fils 2021 Les Bressandes Premier Cru (Beaune)**. Good concentration and purity on the nose, seductive aromas of perfectly ripe red plums and white strawberries meld with leafy rhubarb and light brown sugar in the glass. Its bracing acidity highlights ripe rhubarb, red cherry, and wild strawberry compote atop rose, thyme and cardamom. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$92

SAVIGNY-LÈS-BEAUNE

93 **Domaine Jean-Baptiste Boudier 2020 Ez Connardises (Savigny-lès-Beaune)**. Complex aromas of dark cherries, blackberries, cardamom, crushed rose, sanguine and underbrush fill the glass. The nose is restrained yet delivers verve. The palate confirms the complexity and is reminiscent of freshly picked blackberries and raspberries picked on a crisp fall afternoon. Balanced in structure, with gentle tannins that should pair perfectly with dishes such as Japanese ginger pork or souvlaki. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$47

93 **Maurice Ecard 2020 Les Narbantons Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune)**. A dynamic nose of dark fruit and game makes way for black cherries, rose, wild mint and garrigue. These aromas evolve in the glass to a captivating perfume of pomegranate, violets, rose and thyme. The palate is textured, with supple tannins framing black cherries and plums. It is focused with a long finish of black peppercorn and subtle tea leaf, making this wine easy to enjoy now. Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 **Maison André Goichot 2020 Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune)**. Beautifully concentrated aromas of wild strawberries welcome the nose wrapped in a bouquet of rose petals, dark stone and black peppercorns. The palate is dry with perfectly ripe fruits bringing tremendous juiciness. Supple tannins are balanced with mouth-watering acidity and the long finish is marked by black-tea leaf and thyme, making for an expression that can be enjoyed now. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

92 **Romuald Valot 2020 Premier Cru (Savigny-lès-Beaune)**. Energetic aromas of baked rhubarb, raspberries and high-toned pomegranate are framed by wild thyme and fall leaves. The pomegranate echoes on the palate along with supple fruit flavors of wild strawberries that sit on the front, followed by black cherries, a sprinkle of black peppercorn and fresh earth. The acidity lifts and brings energy to an otherwise earth-driven profile. This wine is delicious, silky and can be enjoyed now. V&N Cellars. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

POMMARD

93 Château de Pommard 2020 Close Marey-Monge Monopole (Pommard). Aromas of ripe red cherries, cassis and blackberries mingle with wild thyme, freshly tossed dry earth and black peppercorn in the glass. The palate is rustic with a concentration of blackberry and boysenberry, pomegranate and fresh rose. Tannins add texture that are balanced by mouth-watering acidity. This wine still shows some austerity and should be cellared through 2030+. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$128

93 Domaine Blain-Gagnard 2020 (Pommard). Deep and brooding black cherries, blackberries and red apple skins meld with aromas of rosehips, wild mint, thyme stems and tarragon, filling the glass atop a bed of crushed violets on this intense and pretty nose. The palate is silky, with mouth-coating flavors of fresh blackberries and black cherries in abundance. Soft plush tannins settle on the palate, leaving traces of black tea and thyme. Its slight salinity adds length to the finish. Winebrow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

92 Château de Pommard 2020 Clos Marey-Monge Grands Espirits (Pommard). Fresh pomegranate and rhubarb welcome the nose, followed by aromas of Gala apple, rosehip and fresh potting soil. The palate is textured yet rustic, with gentle yet persistent tannins, balanced by good acidity. Flavors of black and red cherries are accompanied by notes of rosehip and clove that lead to a light black-tea leaf finish. Cellar through 2030+. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$66

90 Château de Pommard 2020 Clos Marey-Monge Micaut (Pommard). Aromas of fresh blackberries and newly plucked thyme are tossed in aromas of dried soil, mint and salt. The palate is pristine, with flavors of red cherry balanced by cooked rhubarb and blackberries. It is linear, with brisk acidity and fine tannins that coat the front palate. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$72

VOLNAY

95 Louis Latour 2020 En Chevret Premier Cru (Volnay). For full review see page 6. Louis Latour Inc.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$149

92 Louis Latour 2020 (Volnay). Heady and intense aromas of dark florals, fresh black cherry, rhubarb and an abundance of rose mingle with notes of earthy mushroom, tossed soil, cardamom and vanilla. Rich ripe red cherries and black pepper spice are layered with rose petal along the midpalate, framed with cardamom and brown mushroom. Tannins integrate beautifully with aera-

tion, while acidity softens and leaves a fine texture that trails into long notes of black tea. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

SANTENAY

93 Louis Latour 2020 (Santenay). Plush aromas of cherry skins and fresh berries harmonize with fresh clove on the nose. An immediate attack of crisp red apple is followed by red plum, fresh cherry, thyme stems and potting soil that persist on the palate. An elegant expression with a balance of fruit and earth, with a light white peppercorn and a black tea leaf finish. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Maison André Goichot 2020 La Maladière Premier Cru (Santenay). Concentrated aromas of black plum, red cherries, rhubarb, rose and an edge of fresh black pepper linger on the nose. The palate is delightful and fresh, boasting flavors of white strawberries, pomegranate seeds and red cherries, entwined with fall leaves, white pepper and stone. Tannins are well integrated, making for an approachable expression that should pair well with tender pork dishes. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

93 Roux Père et Fils 2020 Beaurepaire Premier Cru (Santenay). Ripe aromas of black plums, blackberries and sugar lady apples mingle with brown sugar, wild thyme and fresh potting soil combine for an inviting nose. A fresh palate of crunchy red apples, fresh rhubarb, red cherry skins, plums and pomegranate harmonize with a layer of rose and white peppercorn. Refreshing and mouth-watering acidity balances astringent tannins, leaving traces of ripe strawberry along the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

BEAUJOLAIS

RED WINES

JULIÉNAS

92 Laurent Perrachon 2022 Roche Bleue (Julié-nas). This Julié-nas seeks those who search for concentration and complexity. Black tea leaps off of the nose followed by black raspberry and dried red cherry. Concentrated black fruit is the hallmark of this wine that swims in weighty tannins. Soilair Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Laurent Perrachon 2022 Les Vignes Cente-naires (Julié-nas). Deep purple in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of blueberry compote, raspberry, vanilla baking spice, blackberry and cin-namon. On the palate, the wine has body and rich-

ness that would pair well with steak, grilled poultry and vegetables. Soilair Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Mary Taylor 2019 Marine Descombe (Julié-nas). For full review see page 29. Mary Taylor Wine. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

FLEURIE

94 Laurent Perrachon 2022 Vieilles Vignes (Fleurie). This fun, juicy Fleurie rocks! Deep purple in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of rose petals, cranberry, crushed raspberry, dried cherry, black plum and rhubarb. Black tea reveals itself on the palate supported by slightly grippy tan-nin ultimately completing with a long finish. Soilair Selection. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

93 Gilles Copéret 2022 La Madone (Fleurie). Deep purple in color, this wine has a per-fumed nose of hibiscus, black plum, rhubarb, rasp-berry, macerated strawberry and dried violet blos-som. Layers of complex fruit swing dance on your palate with humble confidence that beg for a sec-ond sip. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

92 Maison L'Envoyé 2021 Chateau Vivier Mono-pole Gamay Noir (Fleurie). This Fleurie has a distinctive aroma silhouette that immediately communicates something good is about to happen in your glass. Black raspberry leaps out on the nose followed by black plum, black tea, forest floor, red cherry and rosehip. On the palate well-integrated black fruit is in lockstep with ripe tannins. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

MORGON

93 Laurent Perrachon 2022 Côte du Py (Mor-gon). Deep ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black raspberry, red currant and black cherry. On the palate, the wine is muscular with developed, grippy tannin. This Morgon could age for 6+ years or could be enjoyed now with an hour of decanting. Soilair Selection. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

92 Domaine Ruet 2022 Grands Cras (Morgon). This ruby-colored Morgon has a nose of blackberry, red raspberry, strawberry and rose petal. Concentrated in texture with robust tannins that lend aging potential for 5+ years. This is a wine with concentration and stamina that you can con-fidently pair even with red meat, poultry or grilled veggies. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Gilles Copéret 2022 (Morgon). Deep purple in color, this wine has an aromatic nose of blackberry, blueberry and hints of hibiscus. This vintage shows Morgon's strength and aging potential in a way that is accessible now but can be enjoyed later. Robust fruit makes this an excellent partner with beef and heavier dishes. This is a beautiful Morgon! Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

92 Laurent Perrachon 2022 Corcelette (Morgon). Deep purple in color, this Morgon has an aromatic nose of black tea, raspberry, forest floor and black cherry. On the palate, the wine has a plush mouthfeel with well-integrated tannins. Drink now, but the wine has the ability to age for 5+ years. Soilair Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

92 Maison L'Envoyé 2021 Gamay Noir (Morgon Côte du Py). For full review see page 24. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

OTHER RED WINES

93 Laurent Perrachon 2022 Terres Roses (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine presents a sophisticated blend of aromas including violet blossom, black plum, red currant and blackberry. The wine is elegant on the nose and more so on the palate with slender black fruit walking in lock step with well-integrated, velvety tannins. Soilair Selection. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Domaine Ruet 2022 Voujon (Brouilly). This Brouilly has a nose of blackberry, apricot, cherry cola, strawberry and rosehip. On the palate, the wine is sinewy and muscular with well-integrated tannins. It is a versatile pairing partner and would go well with veggies, poultry and thinner cuts of beef. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Gilles Copéret 2022 Les Chastys (Régnié). Deep purple in color, this wine has a floral nose of rose petal, dried crushed violet blossom, hibiscus, black plum and blueberry. Grippy tannins asserts themselves on the palate in balance with the fruit and will make your mouth pucker. Pair this Régnié with food to enjoy it at its best. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Gilles Copéret 2022 Saburin (Brouilly). This small-batch Brouilly leads with delicious black fruit. The wine has a nose of pencil shavings, black plum, dried mushroom, pureed raspberry and hibiscus. The palate echoes the nose but with added fruit concentration completing with a long finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

91 Maison L'Envoyé 2021 Terre De Thé Gamay Noir (Moulin-à-Vent). Restraint can be allur-

ing and this Moulin-à-Vent embodies that. This wine has a nose of black raspberry, leather, dried mushroom and red currant with hints of apricot. Reserved black fruit dominates the midpalate, completing with a lingering finish. Old Bridge Cellars. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Domaine Pertuizet 2022 Lantignié (Beaujolais). This Beaujolais does a good job of balancing fresh and dried fruits. This wine has an aromatic nose of raspberry, dried apricot, plum, boysenberry, rhubarb and dried cherry. There is some chalkiness on the midpalate with fruit flavors echoed on the nose. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Mary Taylor 2021 Marine Descombe (Beaujolais-Villages). You can confidently open and enjoy this Beaujolais Villages any day of the week without hesitation. The blackberry-first nose of this wine is followed by additional aromas of black currant, cigar box, leather, black olive and dried mushroom. On the palate, the wine is tight and could benefit from decanting or additional years of aging. Mary Taylor Wine. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES

CONDRIEU

95 Delas Frères 2021 Clos Boucher (Condrieu). Harmonious aromas of fresh lemon zest, orange oil, apricot, pineapple and peach harmonize in the glass. The palate is utterly captivating, akin to savoring a platter of ripe orchard fruits drenched in fresh acacia honey. Truly breathtaking. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$99

95 Domaine Martin Clerc 2020 La Roncharde (Condrieu). Indulge in a luxurious nose teeming with fresh-cut lemon, Anjou pear, vibrant orange oil, delicate white lilies, succulent apricots, hints of candied ginger and a dash of white peppercorn. The palate delivers perfectly ripe apricots accentuated by crisp acidity and a subtle oak spice that lingers into a finish of white-tea leaf notes. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$176

93 Maison Les Alexandrins 2020 La Caille (Condrieu). An aromatic bouquet with notes of orange blossoms, candied peach and apricot, gently embraced by delicate lilies, drizzled with fresh honey and stony undertones. The texture is oily, featuring a touch of bitter white tea in the midpalate and a lengthy vanilla and popcorn finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Gabriel Meffre 2020 Laurus (Condrieu). Opulent aromas of yellow peach, orange

blossom, tangerine, pears, hints of honeysuckle, acacia, ginger and river stones. Dry on the palate with a beautiful midpalate reminiscent of peach-apricot pastry. Lively acidity helps refresh the palate and give length to a lightly salted caramel finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Jean-Luc Colombo 2019 Amour De Dieu (Condrieu). Fruity aromas of ripe yellow peaches, zesty orange oil, lemon peels, succulent apricots and fresh honey make for a delightful nose. On the palate, it maintains its invigorating freshness, featuring perfectly ripened orchard fruits, citrus zest, stony minerality and a hint of white peppercorn on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$92

SAINT-PÉRAY

93 Jean-Luc Colombo 2021 La Belle De Mai (Saint-Péray). Fresh and ripe aromas of tangerine skin, lemon verbena and fresh pear dance harmoniously with notes of acacia, white flowers, ginger spice and cardamom. On the palate, flavors of ripe apple skins, dried lemon peel and yellow peach combine with notes of orange blossom, light salted caramel and fresh hay. Generous acidity balances the complexity of flavors, highlighting a delicious hint of light brown butter toast on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Alain Voge 2020 Harmonie (Saint-Péray). Fresh aromas of citrus peel, orange blossom and white flower are caressed by a note of light sweet butter. The palate is equally fresh yet slightly pithy, with flavors of Asian pears embraced by notes of ginger spice, white peppercorn and nutmeg. The richness of this elegant wine is balanced by prominent refreshing acidity. Citadel Trading. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Alain Voge 2019 Fleur De Crussol (Saint-Péray). Rich on the nose, aromas of freshly squeezed orange and peach are in concert with notes of dusty dandelions, white peppercorn and stone. The palate is opulent, with flavors of ripe green and Korean pears, and candied lemon peel embraced by warm round stones, cardamom, white pepper and white flowers. Its round and textured mouthfeel is marked by a pronounced glycerol edge that dissipates with proper decanting. Citadel Trading. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Alain Voge 2019 Ongrie (Saint-Péray). Concentrated aromas of Meyer lemon, orange blossom, freshly picked dandelions and dusty earth fill the glass. The palate is ripe with good texture, displaying flavors of orange peel, ripe lemon, and Korean pear nestled in with ginger spice and nutmeg. Despite a hint of brash glycerol that has yet to integrate, great salinity carries through a lengthy finish. Citadel Trading. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Vidal-Fleury 2021 (Saint-Péray). Aromas of fresh and bruised green apples, Anjou pear, yellow peach and orange peel combine with notes of acacia, honeysuckle, lilies, candied ginger and stone for a delicately elegant nose. The palate boasts fresh red apple, Asian pear and yellow peach in harmony with flavors of acacia, cardamom, ginger spice, white pepper and fine vanilla. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 E. Guigal 2020 (Côtes du Rhône). Fresh and delicious aromas of yellow peach, Bosc pear, dehydrated pineapple, and stone fill the glass. The palate gently delivers mirroring flavors that are accentuated by candied ginger and uplifting acidity that contributes to its long finish. This wine is a winning pair to a wide range of vegetable preparations. Vintus LLC. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Alain Jaume et Fils 2020 Domaine La Grange Saint Joseph Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône). Perfectly ripe aromas of Meyer lemon, green pear, acacia flower, salt and stone linger on the nose. The palate is round and generous, with an abundance of freshly cut pears and Gala apples, sprinkled with candied ginger. This wine is delicious with pork and lamb Mediterranean dishes, and don't hold back on the tzatziki sauce. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Vignerons de L'Enclave 2020 Chasse Nuages (Côtes du Rhône). Inviting aromas of red bramble, bruised green apples, white flowers and baking spices make for an intriguing nose. The palate is abundant with green apple, finishing with cardamom and stone. Its brisk acidity gives beautiful length to its stony finish. Enjoy now. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

89 Maison Les Alexandrins 2020 Les Terrasses de L'Eridan (Côtes du Rhône). Notes of white strawberries, green pears, cherry blossoms and baby's breath fill the glass. The palate is vibrant, with freshly cut Gala apple and Asian pear, and finishes with salinity and stone. Simple and straightforward, this expression pairs well with beets and citrus, as well as goat cheese. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

96 Domaine Chante Cigale 2021 Extrait (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Aromas of white pears intrigue the nose, along with peaches sprinkled with fresh saffron and tossed in candied ginger. The palate is round with bright piercing acidity, giving this wine great aging potential through 2030+ and

beyond. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

95 Domaine des Pères de L'Eglise 2021 Le Calice de Saint Pierre (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Fresh and vibrant on the nose, this wine delights with aromas of fresh green pears, Meyer lemon, white peach, acacia, chervil and stones. The palate is energetic, with an immediate attack of perfectly ripe pears, tangerine and white peach, and transitions to a stony layer. The wine is balanced with great length on the finish and should benefit from additional cellaring well through 2030 and beyond, yielding additional complexities and further harmonious integration. Bruno Lafon. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Simian 2021 Le Traversier (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Delightful aromas of freshly squeezed lemons, mandarin orange oil, yellow grapefruit rind, acacia flower and candied ginger make for an alluring nose. The palate is textured with a lingering extract of grapefruit pith followed by granny smith apples, fresh green pears and cardamom. This wine can be enjoyed now or cellar through 2030+. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Domaine de Beurenard 2021 Le Boisrenard (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Inviting aromas of fresh lemon citrus oil and yellow peach, embraced by geraniums, orange blossoms, ginger spice and Marcona almonds fill the glass. The palate is elegant and complex, with yellow citrus, fresh pears and almonds growing in abundance. This wine boasts great acidity and roundness while maintaining lightness and finesse. While impressive now, this expression should cellar well through 2035+. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Domaine de la Présidente 2021 Nonciature (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Freshly cut lemons, orange pith and yuzu combine with ginger spice, honeysuckle, chamomile, cardamom, marzipan and almond paste, making for a highly complex nose. The palate boasts orange pith and orange blossom, giving way to a ginger-orange marzipan finish. This wine is defined by power in elegance. Simply delicious. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$41

93 Domaine Saint Gayan 2021 Belle Jeanne (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Aromas of Meyer lemon, white peach, green pear, acacia and fresh thyme tantalize the nose. Comparably, the palate is more expressive with notes of Meyer lemon, tangerine, Gala apple, candied ginger, yellow flowers and white stones. This wine is powerful and textured with bright acidity that uplifts this beautiful symphony. Europvin USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Emma M. Louise 2021 Les Terrasses de Galet (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Vivacious aromas of jasmine complement a layer of citrus and white peach, making for a refreshing nose. The palate is round, boasting orchard fruit sprinkled with orange blossom and cardamom atop warm river rocks, displaying great refinement and elegance. Decant to enjoy now, or cellar through 2030+ before revisiting. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 M. Chapoutier 2021 La Bernardine (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Aromas of lemon pith, lime zest, fresh pears, squeezed orange, geranium, white tea and stone fill the glass. The palate is textured with ripe lemons and Gala apples, accompanied by light white flowers, candied ginger and a gentle stony finish. Brisk acidity lifts the palate, making this wine an enjoyable aperitif or paired with soft cow cheeses. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaine de la Côte de l'Ange 2021 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Fresh pears, red apple skins and underripe white peach weave elegantly with aromas of carnations, lilies, tall grass and light almonds. The textured palate is refreshed by mouth-watering acidity, giving lift to notes of lemon marzipan, chamomile and a saline finish. Wine Wine Situation. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Delas Frères 2021 Domaine Des Tourettes (Hermitage). The nose is seduced by aromas of wild strawberries, purple plums, garrigue and damp earth. The palate provides additional complexity with layers of cassis, clove and stone. Youthful tannins beautifully integrate and are balanced by acidity, allowing this wine to be enjoyed now or cellar well through 2030+ before revisiting. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$99

93 Domaine Coursodon 2020 Le Paradis Saint-Pierre (Saint-Joseph). A dark-fruited expression dominated by black plums, blackberry and blueberry that lie atop a layer of violets, lavender and garrigue. Black plums coat the focused palate, while crushed black pepper and clove emerge along its saline finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

ROSÉS

92 Cave De Tavel & Lirac 2022 Cuvée Royale (Tavel). Translucent ruby in color, aromas of freshly cut watermelon, white strawberries, pomegranates, saffron, thyme, pulverized stone and white peppercorns make for a delightful nose. Round on the palate with brisk saline acidity, it finishes with

a delicious white-chocolate raspberry finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

92 Cave De Tavel & Lirac 2022 Domaine Saint Jérôme (Tavel). Fresh summery aromatics of watermelon, raspberries, rhubarb, white strawberries, wildflowers and white peppercorn come together on the nose. The wine is dry with gentle flavors of white strawberries and salty Marcona almonds. Its bright acidity and texture should make this a great pairing for orange chicken or chicken satay. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

RHÔNE VALLEY

RED WINES

CÔTE-RÔTIE

95 Vidal-Fleury 2017 La Chatillonne (Côte-Rôtie). An immediate rush of blackberries, blueberries and rhubarb meets high-toned aromas of pomegranate and freshly turned pebbled soil on the nose. A perfect strike between red berries and savory notes on the palate, with a pop of dark red cherries presented along the finish. Enjoy this wine now with a proper decant and pair with a juicy steak or a hefty burger. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$160

94 Domaine Georges Vernay 2020 Christine Vernay Blonde du Seigneur (Côte-Rôtie). Profuse aromas of blackberry, plump plum and cassis harmonize into a layer of violets and garrigue. An abundance of fresh black cherry, blueberry, rhubarb, crushed rose, wild mint and clove coat the palate. Tremendous in structure, this wine presents youthful tannins that trail into a subtle white-tea leaf finish. Enjoy now with a proper decant or cellar through 2030 and beyond. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$135

94 Domaine Martin Clerc 2020 Côteaux De Tupin (Côte-Rôtie). Aromas of blackberry jam, fresh blueberry and raspberry harmonize with crème de menthe, violets, wild mint and sandalwood. The palate is dry and fresh, with flavors of black cherry, juicy black plums, blueberries, rosehip, clove and dried earth. This wine shows deliciously now and can be enjoyed with steak au poivre after a proper decant. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$220

94 Vidal-Fleury 2019 Brune et Blonde (Côte-Rôtie). Bold aromas of blackberry, black plum, cassis, violet and wild mint penetrate a firm stone bed and fresh potting soil. The palate is focused, with lush black fruit and black olives, intertwined with a harmony of violets, garrigue,

underbrush, pink peppercorn and dried earth. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$100

93 Domaine Martin Clerc 2021 Collet (Côte-Rôtie). On the nose, aromas of concentrated red cherry and raspberry dominate a layer of black olive, violet, thyme and black pepper. The palate unfolds with an elegant quilt of black plums, black olives, violets, white flowers and green peppercorns, finishing with fine minerality. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$190

92 Domaine Martin Clerc 2020 Côteaux De Basenon (Côte-Rôtie). This wine boasts great finesse and elegant aromas of fresh blueberry, black cherry and raspberry—all embraced by wild mint, lavender and granite. The palate is more concentrated and expressive, with black cherries giving way to violets, clove and round stones along a long saline finish. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$175

92 Famille Ravoire 2020 Oliver Ravoire Hallebarde (Côte-Rôtie). Heady, with immediate aromas of rose and woody musk sitting atop a bowl of juicy dark red cherries, freshly turned wet soil and brown mushroom. The palate is coated with black raspberries, blackberries, wild game and a hint of dust and clove. Suggested by its intensity and structure, cellar through 2028+ before revisiting. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$76

92 Gabriel Meffre 2020 Laurus (Côte-Rôtie). Powerful yet focused aromas of baked bramble weave elegantly with violets, black peppercorn and dried earth. The palate boasts layers of blackberries, blueberries, plums and cassis atop violets, lavender, saffron and clove. Cellar well through 2030+ before revisiting. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

SAINT-JOSEPH

94 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 (Saint-Joseph). Complex aromatic layers of black plums, blueberries, sanguine, Kalamata olives, prosciutto, lavender, fresh potting soil and a touch of salt. The palate is divine, and provides additional depth with notes of cassis, and violets. Balanced and structured, this wine is enjoyable now and should reveal gorgeous complexities with additional time in cellar. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

94 Tardieu-Laurent 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Joseph). Irresistible juicy aromas of black cassis, bramble jam, fresh rose, violets and a touch of fresh earth fill the glass. The wine exudes freshness and purity throughout. The palate is particularly lovely, showcasing pure cherry and blackberry fruit accented by just the right amount of baking

spice. Enjoy immediately or stash a few bottles in the cellar. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

93 Domaine Coursodon 2020 Silice (Saint-Joseph). The nose is intensely black fruited and slowly reveals notes of crème de menthe and hints of rocky soil. As black fruits and fine drying tannins coat the palate, its lively acidity provides verve and a lengthy finish. This wine should pair wonderfully with various lamb preparations. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$41

92 Gabriel Meffre 2020 Laurus (Saint-Joseph). The nose of this wine reveals freshly peeled red-cherry skins, rhubarb, blackberries, violets, clove, saffron and a hint of vanilla. A ripe and juicy palate of red licorice is framed by cardamom and vanilla. Rustic tannins are washed away by mouth-watering acidity, making it an excellent pairing for game dishes such as venison. Classic Wine Imports, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

HERMITAGE

96 Tardieu-Laurent 2020 (Hermitage). Heady and seductive aromas of violets atop blood orange, wild strawberries, black plums, blackberries and rose linger on the nose. Its rich, robust palate remains juicy with firm youthful tannins and refreshing acidity, giving tremendous lift to its fresh fruit core. With a proper decant, this wine can be enjoyed now or cellared well through 2035+. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

94 Domaine Belle 2020 (Hermitage). A luxurious abundance of blue- and blackberries tossed in a bowl of wild thyme and sprinkled with clove invites the nose. The palate intrigues with a layer of black plum sprinkled with saffron and cardamom that sits atop fresh almonds that frames the fruit-spice beautifully. Its dark profile is balanced by sandy tannins, making this wine a great pairing with asado or a juicy burger. Petit Pois. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$100

94 Domaine Belle 2019 (Hermitage). Aromas of perfectly ripe blackberries sewn with wild mint grown atop stones spark countryside nostalgia. The palate is textured with a delicate silky presentation of blackberries and olives, persisting through a finish of gentle clove and black-tea leaf. Delicious. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$100

CROZES-HERMITAGE

94 M. Chapoutier 2020 Les Meysonniers (Crozes-Hermitage). For full review see page 12. Folio Fine Wine Partners.
abv: 13% Price: \$46

94 M. Chapoutier 2020 Petite Ruche (Crozes-Hermitage). Delightful aromatics exude brunch vibes as the nose is reminiscent of bramble jam over butter toast with bits of black licorice shaved on top. The palate offers white strawberries, pomegranate juice, rhubarb, blackberry, rose petals, green peppercorn, sweet vanilla and cardamom. Tannins are balanced by impressive acidity, making it difficult to put the glass down. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Gabriel Meffre 2020 Laurus (Crozes-Hermitage). Ripe aromas of black currants and blackberries, crème de cassis, black licorice, black peppercorn, tarragon, fine vanilla pod and fresh earth allure the nose. Full bodied with a palate that presents baking spices weaving through its dark fruit layers. Supple tannins provide support and leaves a lingering black-tea leaf finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Clairmont 2021 (Crozes-Hermitage). Alluring aromas of wild strawberries, dried cranberry embraced by rose and green peppercorn linger on the nose of this wine. The palate perplexes with notes of black cherries, cassis, green and black olives, violets, black peppercorn and a long saline finish. Round tannins gently coat the palate and are washed away by refreshing and mouth-watering acidity. People Wine Corp. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

92 Clairmont 2021 Domain de Saint-Clément Horizon (Crozes-Hermitage). Brilliant aromas of fresh black cherries, rhubarb, pomegranate, cassis and licorice grazed by a touch of jasmine seduce the nose. The fresh palate boasts blackberry, bruised Gala apple, black olive, rosehip, lilac, orange pith and pink peppercorn. The wine is textured by its persistent youthful tannins, balanced by uplifting acidity carried through to its long finish. Enjoy now with a proper decant or cellar through 2030+ before revisiting. People Wine Corp. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Clairmont 2021 Les Palais (Crozes-Hermitage). Refreshing aromas of Bing cherries, wild strawberries, cassis, red licorice and thyme harmonize with a floral bouquet of acacia and violets. The juicy palate entices with ripe blackberries, black cherries, blueberries, olives and violets. The fruit-forward finish is long, yet subtle. Hold through 2035+ for a well-integrated expression. People Wine Corp. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

92 Famille Ravoire 2021 Espée (Crozes-Hermitage). A perfume of wild violet and rose hip embraces the nose, followed by a sublime basket of fresh cherries and wild strawberries. The palate is equally alluring, with brisk acidity giving life to juicy blackberries, cassis, black olive and thyme along its lengthy finish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Gabriel Meffre 2021 Saint-Pierre (Crozes-Hermitage). Aromas of fresh cherry skins and rosehip fill the glass with purity and delicacy. While taut, the palate slowly reveals flavors of lush blackberries. Even with its simplicity, this focused and pure wine is delicious. Decant or cellar through 2030 and beyond. Classic Wine Imports, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Vidal-Fleury 2021 (Crozes-Hermitage). Aromas of dark plums, blueberries, blackberry, violets, crispy bacon and freshly picked thyme fill the glass. The palate is fresh and enveloped by flavors of pomegranate, rhubarb, plums and blackberries. With its polished tannins, the wine becomes juicier with aeration, making it easy to enjoy now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Domaine Combier 2021 Laurent Combier (Crozes-Hermitage). Fresh red apples and plums intermingle beautifully with aromas of acacia, lavender and violets. Uplifting red currants, cherries and rhubarb make for a delicious concentration of flavors on the palate, with acidity balanced by medium tannins. Cape Classics. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Jean-Luc Colombo 2021 Les Fées Brunes Syrah (Crozes-Hermitage). White, yellow and violet flowers immediately greet the nose, followed by fresh red cherries and white peppercorns. The dark-fruited profile is accompanied by pulverized stone that dances all over the palate and finishes with black peppercorn. This no-fuss wine can be easily enjoyed with tender beef preparations such as Korean barbeque. Taub Family Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

90 Delas Frères 2021 Les Launes (Crozes-Hermitage). Fresh blackberries and black cherries mingle with rhubarb and violets on the nose. The palate is a bit restrained and straightforward with a firm stone finish. Tannins integrate well, making it a great pairing with complex dishes such as lamb tagine. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Emmanuel Darnaud 2021 Les Trois Chênes (Crozes-Hermitage). Freshly picked red cherries, violets, thyme and green peppercorn greet the nose. The palate offers dark plum, boysenberry, blueberries and more green peppercorn intensity. Youthful sandy tannins are softened with some aeration, integrating well into the wine. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 Domaine Jaume 2021 La Source Courtois (Côtes du Rhône). Wild aromas of boysenberry and plum are in concert with leather, bacon fat, violets, wild thyme and clove in this seduc-

tive and luxurious nose. The palate is abundant with high-toned red fruit, purple plums, pressed blackberries and clove, followed by an impressively earthy and saline finish. Petit Pois. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 La Ferme du Mont 2021 Mademoiselle du Mont (Côtes du Rhône). Fresh and brambly, high tones of rhubarb mingle with blackberry and wild mint on the nose. The wine is lively with a rush of acidity that energizes a focused palate of blackberries, blueberries and fresh thyme stems. Rustic tannins are balanced by its brisk acidity, making it accessible now with a proper decant. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 La Ferme du Mont 2021 Première Côte (Côtes du Rhône). Fresh and candied notes of strawberries, dried cranberries, blueberries, violets and white peppercorn fill the glass. The palate is dark-fruited and focused, with persistent mouth-coating fine tannins that remain, resisting the wash of acidity. This expression shows great promise and time in the glass allows brighter notes to leap. Pair this wine with textured meaty dishes such as picadillo or beef empanadas. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Maison Sinnae 2021 Esprit du Rhône Réserve (Côtes du Rhône). Aromas of blackberries, fresh rhubarb and tangerine mingle with violets, white flowers and black peppercorns, which are all mirrored on the palate. The wine is balanced with a white-tea leaf note that lingers on the finish. W. Direct. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Château Gigognan 2021 (Côtes du Rhône). Aromas of cherries and menthol are followed by fresh cranberry, Bing cherries, black peppercorn and forest floor. Good acidity and juicy fruit are present on the palate, washing away mild tannins. This wine should be a great accompaniment to dishes such as eggplant parmesan. French Libation. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES

92 Rotem & Mounir Saouma 2019 Inopia (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Fresh rhubarb and red cherries harmonize with black olives, fresh thyme, bacon fat, a hint of smoke, and intense stone and granite on the nose. The delectable palate boasts a concentration of red ripe fruits made complex by layers of savory herbs and meatiness. This impressive wine should pair well with an elevated charcuterie platter. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Cellier des Princes 2019 La Chasse des Princes (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Aromas of fresh cassis, purple plum, blackberry and crème de menthe intertwine with wild thyme, black peppercorn,

and granite minerality. The palate is mineral laden and gives way to fresh blackberry, black plum and black cherry. Firm minerality strikes back up the midpalate, finishing with black olive brine, clove and black tea. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$15

91 **Domaine Guy Mousset 2019 Les Garrigues (Côtes du Rhône Villages).** Freshly pressed red cherry and blueberry aromas are framed by violet and pink peppercorns. The palate is dry with juicy fruit, with cranberry and apples mingling with an abundance of lavender and thyme stems persistent through the finish. Acidity brightens the palate and gives length. This would be an amazing pairing with roasted quail. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

91 **Joseph Castan 2019 (Côtes du Rhône Villages Plan de Dieu).** A deep crush of wild strawberries and cranberries mingle with aromas of crème de menthe and a slight barnyard essence. The palate boasts fresh red cherry and cranberry interwoven with fresh thyme sprigs, pink peppercorn and a clay granitic minerality that adds complexity. Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

CAIRANNE

91 **Jean Paul Clément 2020 Grande Réserve (Cairanne).** Lush and delightful on the nose, aromas of cherries, pomegranate, red licorice and black cherries fill the glass. Pure in fruit, the dry palate grows in juiciness, with flavors of raspberries and Bing cherries tossed in freshly picked thyme leaves and ground clove. This versatile wine easily pairs with cheese and charcuterie nights with friends. W. Direct. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$42

91 **Marius César 2019 Sancta Oppidum (Cairanne).** Aromas of baked red cherries, pomegranates, wild thyme and violets linger in the glass. The palate is welcomed to a rich core of blackberries and plums, followed by black olive and a long stone and clove finish. Simple and straightforward, this wine would pair well with a vast array of charcuterie. W. Direct. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$28

89 **Domaine de Galuval 2020 La Montagne (Cairanne).** An aromatic core of black licorice dominates the nose, while blackberries, rhubarb, cedar and oak spice mingle in the background. The palate is dark fruited, with savory herbs and finishes with a saline-peppercorn finish. Gentle tannins coat the palate and are balanced by refreshing acidity. This straight-forward wine should pair well with beef barbecue or marinated steaks. Plume Ridge. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$NA

88 **Boutinot 2020 La Côte Sauvage (Cairanne).** Upon initial whiff, find aromas of rhubarb, cherries, wild thyme, green olive and cedar. The palate is reminiscent of fresh apples and potpourri, with wild savory herbs and green peppercorns traveling along the finish. Boutinot USA, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$32

GIGONDAS

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2020 Aux Lieux-Dits (Gigondas).** Freshly cut Gala apple, green pear, Bing cherries, dried cranberries and black plum mingle with savory aromas of fresh bacon, black olives and rose in the glass. The palate is decadently alluring and perfectly mirrors the pure fruit core with beautiful poise, and lingers well through its long finish. Delicious and enjoyable with a proper decant, but this should benefit from cellaring well through 2030+. Martine's Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$57

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2020 Clos Derrière Vielle (Gigondas).** This wine epitomizes purity with its captivating, concentrated nose of diced Morello cherries encased in wild mint and rose. The palate is layered with a delicate quilt of saffron, violet and white peppercorn. Its brisk acidity allows for immediate enjoyment, but this wine should yield more layers of complexity after additional cellaring well through 2030+. Martine's Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$86

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2020 Les Hautes Garrigues (Gigondas).** Delightful and elegant aromas of Asian pear, black plum, cassis, black and red licorice, and violet fill the glass. The palate is lush and immediately presents deep dark cherries and plums that give way to a gentle clove and stone finish. Textured with youthful tannins, cellaring well through 2030+ should reveal impressive layers of complexity. Martine's Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$104

95 **Tardieu-Laurent 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Gigondas).** This old-vine Gigondas tantalizes the nose with heady aromas of red cherries and rosehip, which are elegantly framed by a touch of clove. The palate is rich and wound with plenty of energy in the midpalate that presents concentrated red cherries, strawberries, cassis, violets and green peppercorn. Generous and textured with persistent tannins that should integrate seamlessly after cellaring well through 2030+. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

VACQUEYRAS

93 **Clefs des Murailles 2020 (Vacqueyras).** This wine entices with aromas of baked red apple slices and red cherries, complemented by hints of violets and wild herbs. On the palate, discover a

symphony of flavors, including blackberry, fig, black olives, thyme, lavender, violets and earthy notes. Its round palate is embraced by plush tannins and refreshing acidity, which culminates in a finish of black tea leaves. Planet Wine. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

93 **Marquis de Sade 2019 (Vacqueyras).** Aromas of fresh rhubarb, cherry skins, black plums, and cassis intermingle with black olives, wild thyme, fresh bacon fat, black peppercorn and granite. The palate is juicy with flavors of purple plums and blackberries harmonizing with black olive brine, thyme, green peppercorn and an abundance of lavender. Mouth-coating tannins are balanced by brisk acidity, with a long finish elongated by salinity. Ventura Selections LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

92 **Ogier 2019 La Pourpre (Vacqueyras).** This wine delights with aromas of plums, black cherries, underripe rhubarb, peonies, thyme leaves and wild mint. The palate offers complex waves of fresh nectarine, white peach, blackberries, peonies, white pepper, bacon fat, green olive brine and more fresh thyme. A balance of acidity and fine tannins make this wine approachable in its youth. Advini USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

91 **Arnoux & Fils 2019 Château Lestours Clocher Les Pénitents (Vacqueyras).** This wine presents juicy plums, pomegranate juice, fresh apples and green pears complemented by white flowers, violets, wild mint and freshly turned earth on the nose. The palate reflects these aromas with added intensity of thyme, leading to a stone and saline finish. Well balanced by acidity, it's ready to enjoy. Lionstone International. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

91 **Domaine de la Verde 2019 Alpha-Omega (Vacqueyras).** This wine boasts intense aromas of fresh black plums, pomegranate juice, blackberries and wild mint. The palate is vibrant with perfectly ripe blackberries, accompanied by grippy tannins upfront and a subtle hint of fresh thyme stems. Well-balanced acidity makes it a great match for ribeye, and with a bit of aeration, it truly shines. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$45

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

96 **André Brunel 2020 Les Cailloux (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** For full review see page 3. Quintessential. **Cellar Selection.** —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70

96 **Domaine Chante Cigale 2020 Extrait (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Decadent aromas of Bing cherries, blackberries, tomato leaf, saffron and garrigue make for an inviting nose. Its refreshing palate delights with fresh blackberries, black plums and clove. Persistent youthful tannins may benefit

BUYINGGUIDE

from cellar aging through 2030 and beyond. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$175

96 **Domaine de Beurenard 2020 Le Boisrenard (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Fresh aromas of crushed strawberries, dried cranberries, dark plums, rosehip and wild mint meld beautifully in the glass. Its acidity strikes brilliantly against a palate of black cherries, blueberries, blood orange, wild thyme, clove and pulverized green peppercorn. Rustic tannins envelop the palate and yield a long and intense saline finish. Cellaring through 2030+ should yield stunning complexities. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$2020

95 **Domaine Chante Cigale 2020 Pi (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. The freshness and verve are immediate, along with harmonious aromas of bramble, rose petals, white peppercorn and warm baking spices melding in the glass. The palate is abundantly dark and juicy with round drying tannins that remain long on the palate. An incredible wine. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$85

95 **Domaine de Beurenard 2020 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Notes of mulled purple plum, blueberry, rhubarb and rose mingle with wild thyme on the nose. The palate boasts a deep core of blackberries, black cherries, a touch of blood orange, rhubarb and a deep crush of violets. Persistent youthful tannins are balanced by brisk acidity and beautifully frame its concentrated fruit profile. Allow for cellar aging well through 2040+. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

95 **Domaine Pierre Usseglio et Fils 2020 Réserve Des 2 Frères (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Vibrant aromas of black cherries, wild strawberries, cassis, fresh mint and rosemary linger on the nose. Cedarwood and thyme notes emerge with further aeration. The palate is juicy with lush waves of blackberries, blueberries, light baking spice and clove. Rustic tannins frame the fruit beautifully and should further integrate from additional cellaring well through 2035+. Maison Barriere USA. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 16% Price: \$126

94 **Alain Jaume et Fils 2020 Domaine Grand Veneur Le Miocène (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. A classic nose of deep red and black cherries is embraced by captivating violet perfume and saffron-cardamom spice. The palate is concentrated, supported by youthful tannins and a generous wave of acidity that refreshes the palate and provides lift to its intense dark-fruit finish. This expression will be exciting to revisit even after a few years of cellaring. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$62

94 **Arnoux & Fils 2020 Vieux Clocher Symphonie Des Galets (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. For full review see page 8. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 15% Price: \$47

94 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2020 La Dame Voyageuse (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. This full-bodied wine has a decadent nose of black plum, red cherry, rhubarb, licorice, rose potpourri, cinnamon, clove and freshly turned earth. The palate is structured with concentrated black plum and black licorice up front, followed by a midpalate of warm baking spices, earth and a green peppercorn finish. Its velvety texture and ripe-fruit profile make this bottling easy to enjoy now. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 16% Price: \$139

94 **La Ferme du Mont 2020 Capelan (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Dusty aromas of red cherries, blackberry jam, cassis, black olive, sorel, violets, sage and clove make for a complex nose. Its bright acidity provides lift to a rich and velvety textured palate, and washes away firm mouth-coating tannins. Cellar well through 2035+ before revisiting. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$120

94 **Marius César 2020 Spiritus Pontificum (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Bold aromas of fresh blueberries, raspberries, black cherries, orange oil, black olive and thyme stems overflow from the glass. The palate is taut, but presents delicious hints of blackberries, cassis, black licorice, black plums, freshly turned earth, black peppercorn and pulverized stones. Full bodied yet precise, this wine should show best after cellar aging well through 2040+. W. Direct. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$65

93 **Delas Frères 2020 Haute Pierre (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Aromas of black plum, blueberry, cassis, black licorice and olives waft through violets and dusty wood musk. The palate broods in fresh blackberries, raspberries, freshly ground black pepper and clove. This full-bodied expression has fine grippy tannins that trail into a black-tea finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$57

93 **Domaine Albin Jacumin 2020 La Bégude des Papes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Gentle aromas of freshly peeled red cherry skin, Gala apples, pomegranate, violets, pink hydrangea and clove linger in the glass. The palate is textured with notes of stewed strawberries, rhubarb, black olive and mint. Rustic tannins gently coat the tongue and trail into a long clove finish. BPW Merchants. —A.C.C.
abv: 16% Price: \$65

93 **Domaine la Boutinière 2020 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. High-toned red fruit aromas immediately take center stage, while rosehip, violets, mint leaves, brown button mushroom, coriander, earth and clove add depth. The palate is a bit

austere, yet offers fine tannins that seem to be intriguing well. Greater layers of complexities should unfold after cellaring well through 2035+. Taub Family Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

93 **Famille Ravoire 2021 Olivier Ravoire Caparçon (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Floral aromas of honeysuckle and peonies take center stage, followed by a layer of fresh apricot, dehydrated orange, pineapple and lime wedge. The palate is incredibly complex, with blood orange, pears and dried apricots interweaving notes of almond paste and ginger spice. Its round mouthfeel grows in volume, making this enjoyable to drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$40

93 **Marquis de Sade 2020 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Plush, with high-toned aromas of cooked rhubarb and wild strawberries amidst a layer of fresh purple plums and rosehip. The palate is balanced, with an immediate entry of red cherries that persists through a midpalate of black olives, and a gentle stony finish. Sandy tannins coat the palate, leaving behind gentle rhubarb tones. Cellaring well through 2035+ should yield beautiful results. Ventura Selections LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 16% Price: \$NA

LIRAC

95 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2020 La Reine Des Bois (Lirac)**. A core of violets is enveloped in blackberry, red currant, black licorice, thyme and mint, and gently framed by warm baking spice. The palate is silky with dark fruits taking center stage. Absolutely delicious and captivating, this should hold well through 2035+. Kysela Père et Fils. *Editors' Choice*. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$48

93 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2020 La Dame Rousse (Lirac)**. A fresh nose of black plum, fresh blackberries, thyme wild mint and dry potting soil meld in the glass. The palate exudes purity with a core of ripe black cherries and clove. It is rustic yet charming with youthful mouth-coating tannins that signal for a proper decant before enjoying with a juicy burger. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$34

93 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2019 La Dame Rousse (Lirac)**. This highly aromatic Lirac showcases ripe wild strawberries and black cherries atop aromas of crushed rose, clove, wild thyme and fresh potting soil. The palate delivers perfectly ripe blackberries and plums with a sprinkle of black pepper, sitting prominently on a firm granitic layer. Brisk acidity gives balance to this rich wine. Enjoy now. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$34

92 **Clos du Mont-Olivet 2020 (Lirac)**. A vibrant expression showcasing aromas of pomegranate, cherry skins and cranberries. The dry palate

starts with high-toned pomegranate and transitions smoothly into black-fruit flavors. The mouth-coating tannins give way to a finish highlighted by clove and stone. North Berkeley Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$29

92 **Domaine Corne-Loup 2020 (Lirac).** This wine is juicy and vibrant, highlighting aromas of pomegranate, red cherry, rhubarb, crabapple, cranberry, rosewater, pink peppercorn and freshly turned earth. The alluring palate is reminiscent of Beaujolais, with an enticing acidic lift and a back-drop of dark brambly fruit. An excellent choice for cheese and charcuterie nights with friends. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Domaine de la Mordorée 2019 La Reine Des Bois (Lirac).** Fresh and elegant on the nose, a bouquet of roses is followed by black plums, ripe red apples, thyme stems, clove and peppercorn. The palate is taut with overripe black plums entwined in flavors of olive, blackberries and a fine stony edge. Plush tannins coat the palate; and further cellar aging will help coax out more of its beauty. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

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

92 **Domaine Pierre Usseglio et Fils 2020 Usseglio (Lirac).** Pronounced aromas of violets loom over a medley of black plums, pomegranates, blackberry jam, cassis, mint and peppercorn. The palate is juicy with youthful drying tannins that beautifully frame mulled blackberries, rhubarb, black licorice and clove. Barrière Frères USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 **Domaine La Løyane 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Lirac).** Restrained on the nose, aromas of blackberries and mulberries are woven with violets and eucalyptus. Rustic tannins persist through the palate, adding texture to flavors of blackberries, blueberries, black plum, clove and stony dry soil. Great acidity balances youthful tannins, leading to a finish of black-cherry skins and black tea. Elixir Wine Group. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

90 **Domaine La Løyane 2019 Cuvée Marie (Lirac).** Aromas of ripe Morello cherries, black plums, blackberries and prune meld with black olive, wild mint, black peppercorn and dried soil. The palate is dark fruited and dusty, boasting flavors of black plum, intense clove and green peppercorn. Persistent tannins coat the palate and leave a black-tea finish. A proper decant should help this wine harmonize for immediate enjoyment. Elixir Wine Group. —A.C.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$39

VENTOUX

94 **Domaine de Fondrèche 2020 Persia (Ventoux).** Beautiful aromas of intense black cherries and green olives harmonize with saffron

spice and cedar musk in this highly complex nose. The intense palate is focused and taut, brooding in dark black fruit. Voluminous and persistent mouth-coating tannins linger, leaving hints of blueberry and clove in its lengthy finish. French Libation. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

93 **Château Juvenal 2020 Perséides (Ventoux).** This youthful wine entices with pronounced aromas of Bing cherry, tangerine, pomegranate juice and blueberries, atop a layer of acacia, wild mint and nutmeg. Blue and black fruits are cradled by acidity that drives the fruit to the front palate. The fruit is ripe and juicy, accentuated by an intensely saline and stone finish. Cellar well through 2028+. Misa Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$40

93 **Domaine de Fondrèche 2020 Divergente (Ventoux).** Alluring aromas of nutmeg and coriander immediately invite the nose, leading to a deep core of black cherries, rhubarb, wild mint, eucalyptus and clove. These aromas are hefty and generous, matching a palate that is intensely dark and granitic. Flavors of fresh blackberry and blueberry harmonize with thyme and salt along the finish. The wine's acidity gives lift to this full-bodied expression. Youthful tannins are quelled by aeration, presenting an enjoyable expression that can be enjoyed now. French Libation. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 **Domaine de Fondrèche 2020 Il Était Une Fois (Ventoux).** The nose is reminiscent of a blueberry muffin accompanied by a bowl of fresh red cherries. The palate is initially juicy, with refreshing acidity that rolls generously. Tannins settle on the midpalate, giving way to delicious blackberries, blueberries, thyme and clove. French Libation. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château Haut-Grelot 2022 Sélection Blanc (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is rich with powerful acidity, ripe peach and kiwi flavors touched by pepper from alcohol. It is an intense wine that needs some time. Drink from 2024. PIE Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

91 **Domaine des Graves d'Ardonneau 2022 Cuvée Prestige Blanc (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Wood aging shows its profile in this ripe, balanced wine. Behind the toastiness, it's possible to find the perfumed white and citrus fruits. They give the wine freshness and plenty of acidity at the end. Drink the wine from 2024. TAP Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château le Petit Boyer 2022 Les Confidentiels Cuvée Mary (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aromatic and fresh, the wine is bright with acidity and crisp citrus flavors. Touches of wood from the barrel aging give richness. The wine will be ready from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 **Château Montfollet 2022 Le Valentin (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Fresh, while at the same time rich, this is a full, concentrated wine. It has a touch of tropical fruits along with acidity that brings in a lime flavor. Drink the wine from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château Haut Grelot 2022 Première Cuvée (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is smooth with ripe lime and a touch of spice. Its acidity is well integrated with the rich fruit, giving a wine with warmth and density. Drink from 2024. Citadel Trading. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

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

89 **Château Monfollet 2022 Icône (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** An intensely rich wine, concentrated and wood aged. With its powerful structure, the wine has ripe citrus and yellow fruits, spice and a contrast of almost sweet acidity. Drink from 2024. One Vine Wines. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 **Château Montfollet 2022 M de Monfollet (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is soft and fresh. Its tangy edge has a ripe character that gives the wine warmth and richness. With a touch of citrus to bring contrast, the wine is packed with fruit. Give it a year and drink from late 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 **Château des Matards 2022 Tradition Blanc (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A bright and fresh wine with light grassy and citrus flavors, this is a balanced, fruity wine. It does have a riper side but this is mainly a crisp wine. Drink now. Unistar Imports-Celerier's Cellar. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Château Lacaussade Saint-Martin 2022 TroisMoullins (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is bright and ripe with apple and kiwi flavors to give a fresh edge with tanginess. Still young, so drink from 2024. Plume Ridge. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Maison Neuve 2022 Sauvignon (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This rich wood-aged wine is spicy and dense. It has weight and a touch of tropical fruits along with a youthful zesty character. Drink from 2024. Vine Direct LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

88 **Château Penaud 2022 Cuvée Serge (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The ripe Sauvignon flavors give this wine a rounded character. It is fruity,

BUYINGGUIDE

while soft; a bright wine. Drink from 2024. Acorvina & Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

87 **Château Barbé 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Spicy with extra rich fruit, this is a dense wine. It does have a fresher streak that brings in some citrus crispness. Ready to drink. Vine Importers LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Calet 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** An aromatic wine, this has ripe fruit and concentrated apple and lemon flavors. The acidity and the richness have come together well. Drink from 2024. Vidalco International, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Haut Cluzeau 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is fruity with a lemon-grass flavor, giving a touch of spice as well as citrus. With a crisp character, the wine needs to calm down. Drink from 2024. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Château la Pénellerie 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A smooth wine, ripe with apple and a zesty edge from its youth. The wine is fresh, bright and ready to drink. PIE Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$12

SAINTE-FOY CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

90 **Château Carbonneau 2022 La Verrière (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aging for a year in large wooden barrels yielded a rich wine with a spicy, polished character that is already offering a ripe feel. The wine is a fine success. Organic. Vine Direct LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Carbonneau 2022 Margot (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is lemony with tight acidity, full of brightness as well as peppery freshness. It is going to be ready from 2024. Vine Direct LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 **Château Hostens Picant 2022 Cuvée des Demoiselles (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine has richness with a touch of spice, giving the wine warmth as well as youthful acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. Marquee Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

DESSERT WINES

92 **Château Dauphiné Rondillon 2017 Cuvée d'Or (Loupjac).** From a special parcel on the chateau's estate, this wine has maturity and a beauti-

ful texture. It is rich, but balanced with acidity and sweetness in harmony. Drink this delicious, lightly honeyed wine now. Aline Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 **Château La Caussade 2021 (Saint-Croix-du-Mont).** The wine is young, but its potential is there. The richness of its sweetness and balanced botrytis give it a fine structure and intensity. It has a good future. Drink from 2026. DB Wine Selection. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Dauphiné Rondillon 2019 (Loupjac).** Despite its age, this sweet wine is still developing. It has layers of botrytis that give the wine poise and richness. The wine is worth aging, drink from 2024. Aline Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château du Cros 2020 (Loupjac).** A fresh, balanced wine, its sweetness is still developing. It has a fine honeyed and textured character that hints at richness. Drink this poised wine from 2024. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22/500 ml

89 **Domaine du Salut 2022 (Cérons).** The wine village of Cérons is known for its dessert wines as well as its white and red Graves. This wine is lightly sweet with attractive acidity and a touch of honey. Drink from 2024. Select Beverage Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINE

89 **Dom Brial 2022 Chardonnay (Côtes Catalanes).** Aromas of honeysuckle combined with pear make up the dynamic nose of this bottling. With a creamy mouthfeel, the palate offers baked apple, lemon pith and light acidity. Citadel Trading. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

BORDEAUX RED WINES

88 **C. Mondavi & Family 2021 French Blue (Bordeaux).** Merlot and 40% Cabernets, the wine is soft with black-currant fruits and a polished structure of wood aging. Fruit from the right bank of the Dordogne river, the wine is juicy, balanced fruit and tannins and will be ready from 2024. C. Mondavi and Family. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 **Château Petit Boyer 2021 Le Corbeau et le Renard (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a

full, rich wine with some firm tannins set against the wood-aging flavors. It has density and concentration, with ripe blackberry flavors promising a fine future to the wine. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

91 **Château la Cure 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Fragrant black-currant flavors show well in this fruity wine. Its acidity and background tannins add to its almost-immediate drinkability. Drink from 2024. Vidalco International, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 **Vignobles Carreau Sélection 2021 Sauvagine (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The smokiness of this wine, combined with the black tannins initially give just structure. But the black fruits at the back give the potential. Drink from 2025. Wines & Beyond Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

91 **Vignobles L'Amouller 2021 La Favorite (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** While the wine is young, it is possible to discern the rich tannins against the black fruits. That gives promise for the future, the ripe berry flavors full of succulent acidity. Drink from 2025. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 **Château Clairac 2021 Excellence (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Spice and firm tannins drive this wine. With its potential richness, it should soften well to give a ripe, full wine. Wait until 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château Clairac 2021 Tradition (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe and juicy, the wine is firm with a strong sense of structure. It is a rich wine with a future as its tannins integrate with the fruit. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Château Gontier 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is spicy, perfumed with juicy black fruits. It is fresh, the black currant flavors shining through the structure. Drink from 2024. Vidalco International, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château Haut Grelot 2021 Première Cuvée (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A dense, dark coffee and spice wine with plenty of fruit in the background. Generous tannins give structure. It is already balanced and juicy, ready to drink from 2024. Citadel Trading. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

90 **Château L'Escadre 2021 Grande Réserve (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Bold black fruits and ripe tannins give this wine a solid structure. It has fine acidity alongside the black currant flavors.

Drink this wine from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 **Château L'Haur du Chay 2021 Cuvée Tradition (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a fine, fruity wine with a soft texture and plenty of succulent black fruits. Its firm background gives it both richness and the possibility of aging. Drink from 2024. JK Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

90 **Château La Roche Bazin 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Juicy and fruity, the wine has layers of black currant and spice. It is a ripe wine with balanced tannins and acidity at the end. Drink from 2024. Savorian Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

90 **Château Mayne Guyon 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A smoky wine with some firm dry tannins, this also has dense black fruits and acidity as a balance. The wine needs to soften, so wait to drink until 2025. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 **Château Miquelon 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is young but with plenty of juicy potential. It has a rich core of tannins and black plum fruits that are coming together well. Drink from 2024. Wines & Beyond Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

90 **Château Pey Lalande 2021 Grande Réserve (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is soft and rounded. Its tannins have already smoothed and polished, giving a rich wine that is developing well. The wine's spice and black currant flavors add to the ripeness. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 **Château Peybonhomme-Les-Tours 2021 Quintessence (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is packed with black fruits and rich tannins. It promises ripeness and a generous character that gives fine berry flavors set against the firm, youthful structure. Drink from 2025. Summit Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

89 **Château Cone-Taillason Sabourin 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine has warmth with rich black fruits and a layer of tannins. Its smoky character also promises aging. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

89 **Château la Petite Roque 2021 Mémoire (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is ripe, with soft fruit and light tannins. It has a succulent character, the wine developing well. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

89 **Château Mayne Mazerolles 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aromatic and fruity,

the wine is ripe and spicy. It still has rich tannins and strong acidity that need to soften. The wine is succulent and will be ready to drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

89 **Château Monconseil-Gazin 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Firm tannins are at the heart of this wine. With a powerful density, the wine is big and with a bold structure. It has a future, drink from 2024. Wine Country Connect. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

89 **Château Montfollet 2021 Intense (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is full of black fruits, rich tannins and spice. It has a dense character, solid while also succulent. It is a ripe wine, ready to drink from 2024. One Vine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

89 **Château Piron La Romaine 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Full of smoky black fruits, the wine has a fully integrated structure of tannins layered with black fruits. Berry ripeness comes through strongly in a wine that will be ready from 2024. Wine Country Connect. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

89 **Château Sainte-Clotilde 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is full of ripe fruits that keep it fresh. Its acidity and light structure are well balanced with the blackberry fruits. Drink from 2024. Vidalco International, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

88 **Château Cazeaux 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Red fruits shine through in this ripe, fresh wine. Its acidity and berry flavors are lightly structured with some generous tannins at the end. Drink from 2024. Continent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

88 **Château de la Chapelle 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Black currant flavors dominate this fruity wine. It is ripe, balanced by acidity and a core of dry tannins that promise some aging. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

88 **Château Frédignac 2021 Cuvée Le Gabier (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is fresh and fruity, dominated at this stage by its succulent acidity. It is an attractive wine that will develop quickly. Drink from 2024. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$24

88 **Château Haut Grelot 2021 Sélection (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is firm, with rich tannins and layers of acidity. It has black currant freshness that needs to soften into the richer wine that is in the future. Drink from 2024. PIE Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 **Château les Tours de Peyrat 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Smooth and rich, this is already an attractive, open wine. Its tannins are well judged against the wine's blackberry flavors. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

88 **Château Peybonhomme-Les-Tours 2021 Energies (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Fruity and juicy, the wine is dominated by black fruits. It is still firm, but the potential fruitiness is present and promising. Drink from 2024. Summit Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

88 **Château Terre Blanche 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe berry fruits are fresh with light berry flavors and layers of acidity. The wine has a fine, fruity character and the lightest background of tannins. Drink from 2024. Savorian Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

87 **Château Calet 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A bright, fruity wine with soft tannins and a lightly yeasty edge. The wine will come together well over the next few months to give fresh balance. Drink from 2024. Vidalco International, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 **Château Gardut Haut Cluzeau 2021 Cuvée Prestige (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Ripe and smoky, the wine has generous tannins and a spicy character. Its density comes from the complex structure that needs to soften. Drink from 2024. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

87 **Château la Pénellerie 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a ripe, succulent wine, its berry fruits and generous tannins giving both freshness and black fruits. Drink from 2024. PIE Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

87 **Château Le Cap 2021 Tradition (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A spicy wine with plenty of fresh acidity and tannins to balance. This is an attractive wine, light and full of fruit. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

85 **Château Haut Cabut 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Firm and dry, the wine has solid tannins. It is richly structured, but the fruit has become lost in extraction. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

85 **Château Haut Grela 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine has a strong set of tannins. With a firm dryness, the wine's fruit has been lost in extraction. Continent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 **Château de Belcier 2021 B de Belcier (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A full and fruity wine with a core of solid tannins, this shows good potential. Its structure throws the black fruits into relief, giving a big wine. Drink from 2025. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

92 **Vignobles Lavaud 2021 Prèvenche (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This is a rich wine, full of ripe black fruits with balancing acidity. That combination brings the wine a fine structure, complex and ageworthy. Drink from 2025. LVC Las Vegas Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

91 **Château de Monrecueil 2021 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A full, smoky wine, ripe with solid tannins alongside the black fruits. The wine is bold with density that promises aging. Drink from 2025. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

91 **Château Haut Dina 2021 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Fruity and full of succulent acidity, this is an attractive wine. It has ripe berry flavors that give a generous character to the wine. With its solid core of tannins, the wine will age well. Drink from 2025. LVC Las Vegas Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 **Maison Kavaklidere 2021 La Folie (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Firm with some solid tannins, the wine has rich black fruits that lie underneath and are full of promise. It is a rich wine that needs to age further. Drink from 2025. The House of Burgundy. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château Beynat 2021 Cuvée Léonard (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This is a juicy, ripe wine with spicy tannins and a touch of pepper. It is a dense wine that needs to age. Drink from 2025. G. Montot Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 **Château de Belcier 2021 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. The wine is dry and firm. Its tannins are dominating the solid structure and masking the fruit. It will soften, but not much. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 **Château Beynat 2021 Abracadabra (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. The wine is jammy, showing some overripe black fruits. The result is unbalanced. Biodynamic. BNP Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

85 **Château Bréhat 2021 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This is a firm and dry wine with more tannins than fruit. Probably extracted,

the wine is likely to remain tough. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

SAINTE-FOY CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

90 **Château les Paris 2021 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Smooth and rich, this is a fine, fruity wine. It is balanced with some solid tannins as support to the generous black fruits. Drink this attractive wine from 2025. Etruscan Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Carbonneau 2022 La Franc Touch (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A spicy wine with succulent black fruits, this is ripe and full of flavor. It is a young wine with a rich potential that will give it density and a soft aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Vine Direct LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 **Château Capelle 2021 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A fruity wine that has soft tannins and bright acidity. It is full of berry flavors with just a core of tannin. Drink from 2024. Etruscan Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

87 **Château Carbonneau 2022 Pur Jus (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A young, juicy wine full of blackberry flavors and light tannins. Drink young as a wine of the vintage. Organic. Vine Direct LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château La Caussade 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A firm core gives this wine structure and some solid tannins. The contrast is with the berry fruits that shine strongly. The elements are all there, the wine just needs time. Drink from 2025. DB Wine Selection. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Château les Conseillans 2021 Réserve du pre Carré (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A bright, juicy wine, succulent and full of berry flavors, this is immediately attractive. Its young red-fruit flavors are balanced against the solid core that holds promise. Drink from 2025. Wine Traditions. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Château Ampélia 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A ripe, jammy wine with layers of rich black-plum fruits that cover the firm tannins. It is a juicy wine that will develop well. Drink

from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château les Conseillans 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This smoky wine has bright berry flavors balanced with a solid core of tannins. It is a ripe wine with a good future. Drink from 2024. Wine Traditions. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Brethous 2021 C'est la Vie! (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Black fruits come right to the fore in this rich, dark wine. Its juicy acidity is balanced by the solid core of tannins. Drink the wine from 2024. Organic. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **Les Vignes de Coulous 2021 Cuvée Artisanale (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A fruity, black-berry-flavored wine, this is perfumed and attractive. There is a brightness to the wine that gives freshness. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

FRANCS CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château Franc Cardinal 2021 Amphora (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. The wine is smooth with soft tannins and a spicy character. Black fruits are to the fore, showing aging potential as well as current fruitiness. Drink from 2024. JA Imports. *Hidden Gem*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Laulan 2021 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A fine, juicy wine, rich in berry fruits and backed by tannins, this is going to age well. The wine's spice and acidity need time, so drink from 2025. Park Street Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Franc Cardinal 2021 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Ripe and fruity, this wine is soft and full of berry flavors. With its black fruits and very succulent character, this wine will be ready to drink soon. Drink from 2024. JA Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Godard Bellevue 2021 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A rich, dense wine, tannins behind the black-currant fruits, this is a fruity wine. It has a fresh feel that will give it a fine future. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINES

91 **Château la Gravière 2021 Cuvée les Terrasses (Côtes de Bourg)**. This is a ripe, juicy wine, rich in blackberry fruits. It has balanced tannins

that promise potential and aging. Drink this attractive wine from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

91 **Château Paloumey 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** Still young and juicy, the wine is full of bright black-currant fruits. It also has a firm structure that will allow it age. Drink this succulent wine from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 **Château Renard 2020 Mondésir (Fronsac).** An aromatic, wood-laden wine, this is dense and rich. Its solid tannins align with juicy black-currant fruits in a full-bodied blend of both Cabernets and Merlot. Drink this ripe wine from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château de Montebert 2018 Villa Jeanne (Côtes de Bourg).** Produced from four parcels of the vineyard, this rich and dense wine is layered with black fruits and solid tannins. It is full and ripe, with a prominent structure and a fine herbal aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2025. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 **Château Carbonneau 2022 Le Nouveau Souffle (Bordeaux Clairet).** In the style of Clairet, this light-red-colored wine has acidity and tannins. Strawberry fruits and freshness give a bright, light character. Vine Direct LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Château de Seguin 2022 Cuvée Amphore (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Black tannins and the potential richness of the Malbec fruit promise well for this wine. Aged in amphoras, it has structure with black fruits underneath. Drink from 2026. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON WHITE WINES

PAYS D'OC

91 **Croix d'Or 2021 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** A well-balanced Chardonnay with inviting aromas and flavors of white roses, lychee and orchard fruit. The finish is generous and crisp. Artisans and Vines LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

91 **Domaine Saint-André 2022 Folie d'Ines (Pays d'Oc).** Very expressive on the nose, this Viognier shows enticing floral and peach aromas. The palate has a creamy texture, with flavors of baked pear and apricot marmalade. The finish is crisp and has subtle notes of lychee and lemon. Hemispheres. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

89 **Famille Fabre 2022 Baron Coulon L'Instant Rare (Pays d'Oc).** Perfumed with floral notes, this medium-bodied wine offers delightful melon, citrus and ripe peach flavors with enough uplifting acidity to balance the fruit. Baron Francois Ltd. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Jean-Luc Colombo 2021 La Violette Viognier (Pays d'Oc).** Delicate but generous aromas of honeysuckle and crushed slate on the nose. The palate is intriguing with honey, lychee, nectarine and lemon flavors. The mouthfeel is creamy and the finish is generous. Taub Family Selections. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 **Famille Fabre 2022 Grande Courtade Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc).** Rich in floral aromas that are backed by fresh notes of crushed slate. Medium bodied, with modest acidity and flavors such as green apple, citrus fruits and sage tea are displayed on the palate. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

CRÉMANT DE LIMOUX

91 **Côté Mas NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Limoux).** This sparkling opens gently, with aromas of crushed raspberries, rose petals and toasted almonds. The bubbles are lively, balancing the tangy acidity and red-fruit flavors. Enjoy now or lay down for three to five years. Taub Family Selections. —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 **Aubert & Mathieu NV Baburu Brut (Crémant de Limoux).** Nutty aromas are in the forefront of this creamy sparkler. Fresh apple, crushed slate and subtle notes of citrus fruit liven up the palate. The wine shows nice length, with lingering saline notes. Drink now but can lay down for five years. Lipman Bros. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 **Côté Mas NV Brut (Crémant de Limoux).** This sparkling opens gently, with aromas of apple, pear and soft floral notes. Dry with a refined moose. The mouthfeel has a creamy texture and subtle citrus and acacia notes. Can drink now or lay down for three to five years. Taub Family Selections. —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

89 **Pierre & Antonin 2021 Blanc de Blanc Brut Nature (Blanquette de Limoux).** This sparkler opens with moderate intense aromas of fleshy green apple and lightly toasted brioche. The creamy palate is well balanced with lively bubbles, citrus notes and bright acidity. Enjoy now or lay down for three years. Wine Wine Situation. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 **Domaine de Baronarques 2021 (Limoux).** Lovely aromas of white peaches and flowers on the nose. Approachable and crisp, the palate is loaded with concentrated flavors of passion fruit, lemon, subtle notes of vanilla and mouth-watering acidity. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$41

90 **Gérard Bertrand 2021 Aigle Royal (Limoux).** Enticing aromas of citrus fruit and crushed stone open this white wine. Fleshy green apple, green tea and lemon-peel flavors contribute to a light mouthfeel, with restrained acidity. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON ROSÉ WINES

CÔTES DE THONGUE

91 **Domaine Montrose 2022 1701 (Côtes de Thongue).** With a beautiful pink hue, aromas of raspberry and honeysuckle dominate the nose, while flavors of peaches, pineapple, strawberry and lemon peel come into play on the luscious palate. Cream Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Domaine Montrose 2022 (Côtes de Thongue).** Dry and medium bodied, this rosé shows pronounced red fruit, alongside bursts of grapefruit and raspberry-tea flavors. The mouthfeel is crisp, with a balancing fruity finish. Cream Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

89 **Domaine Montrose 2022 Prestige (Côtes de Thongue).** Charming aromas of baked pears and raspberry on the nose. There's depth to the red-berry flavors on the palate, and the acidity is bright and lively. Cream Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

OTHER ROSÉ WINES

90 **Pink Flamingo 2022 Gris de Gris (Sable de Camargue).** Pale in color, the wine is dry, but fruit forward with balanced acidity and nuanced flavors of rose petals, grapefruit zest, pineapple and subtle notes of white pepper. Vranken Pommery America. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 **Château de Lascaux 2022 Éclat de Garrigue (Languedoc).** This rosé is a deliciously bright and perfumed, medium-drinking wine with a tropical fruit nose and ripe peach, melon, vanilla and herbaceous flavors on the creamy palate. Montaigne Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

BUYINGGUIDE

89 **Pink Flamingo 2022 Gris Rosé (Sable de Camargue).** A delicately blush wine with notes of crushed strawberry and rose petals on the nose. Flavors of black cherry, apricot and citrus fruits emerge on the palate, closing with bright, uplifting acid. Vranken Pommery America. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

88 **Famille Fabre 2022 L'Instant Grande Courtade (Pays d'Oc).** This wine is rich in juicy red fruit and floral notes with a generous, fruity finish. Delicately structured and light in body with slightly elevated acid. Williams Corner Wine. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

RED WINES

CORBIÈRES

90 **Château Peyrepertuse 2021 Citadelle (Corbières).** There are lovely notes of baked red fruit on the nose, with an abundant aromas of dill, vanilla and rosemary. Both texture and acidity are soft crushed raspberries, vanilla and rosemary flavors. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

90 **Château Fabre Gasparets 2019 Boutenac (Corbières).** The aromas bring notes of raspberry and hibiscus to the nose. Structured, with moderate tannins and acid, the concentrated flavors of raspberry and strawberry are combined with vanilla and dried herbs, giving the palate complexity. Baron Francois Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 **La Rougeante 2022 (Corbières).** Rosemary, blueberry and cassis aromas are subtle and complementary on the nose. The tannins are supple and are followed by uplifting acid and notes of aca-cia, juicy raspberries, black pepper and sage. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Famille d'Exéa 2020 Château de Sérame (Corbières).** The nose is floral, with rose petals and cherries. The flavors of juicy red fruits are balanced with hints of spice and earthy tones, making this a nice, quaffable wine. W. Direct. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

OTHER RED WINES

91 **Château La Négly 2021 La Falaise (La Clape).** Lovely aromas of oregano, rosemary and ripe strawberries opens this red blend. Rich flavors of cherries, crushed strawberries and baking spice fill the mouth, followed by silky tannins. The finish is smooth and lengthy. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$46

90 **Château La Négly 2021 La Côte (La Clape).** The pleasing nose opens with notes of vanilla, black cherry and raspberry. The palate is complex and sophisticated with moderate tannin, ripe red fruit, cracked black pepper and balanced acid. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 **Domaine Bisconte 2021 (Côtes du Roussillon).** The nose of this red blend is fresh and floral, with peonies combined with raspberries and black cherries. The juicy flavors of raspber-ries, strawberries and oregano permeate the palate, leading to a generous finish. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Tendon 2020 (Saint-Chinian).** Inviting rose petals and pomegranate aromas are displayed on the nose. Subtle notes of sage, strawberry, dried cranberry make up the palate. The mouthfeel is plush and soft, as are the tannins and acidity. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

VIN DE FRANCE

WHITE WINES

94 **Henry Marionnet 2019 Provignage Domaine de la Charmoise (Vin de France).** Produced from vine shoots from the rare Romorantin grape taken from pre-phyloxera rootstock circa 1820-1840—possibly the oldest in France—the wine is impressively dense and ripe. It has richness, acidity and pure white fruits with great intensity. Drink now, but the wine will also age, at least until 2026. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$132

93 **Henry Marionnet 2020 Domaine de la Char-moise La Pucelle de Romorantin (Vin de France).** The rare ungrafted Romorantin shoots for this wine were taken from pre-phyloxera vines from 1840-1860 and planted in 2007. Ten years after the first harvest, the provenance gives this wine a rare intensity. With its ripe flavors and per-fumed dryness, the wine is rich, full of acidity and spice. Drink this impressive wine from 2024. Mar-tine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

91 **Le Grand Courtage NV Grand Cuvée Blanc de Blancs Brut (France).** For full review see page 32. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.**
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Domaine Gassier NV Blanc de Blancs Cru (Vin de France).** This bottling shows enticing aromas of fleshy green apple and toasted brioche. It's rounded on the palate, with creamy bubbles that deliver flavors of pear, apple and lemon pith. W. Direct. —J.T.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Le Grand Courtage NV Grand Cuvée Rosé Brut (France).** For full review see page 34. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.**
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Famille Fabre 2022 Generation Louis Andrieu Vin Orange (Vin de France).** Aromas of peo-nies and apricots on the nose. The palate is loaded with ripe peaches, cantaloupe and dried herbs. It offers balanced acidity and a crisp, fresh finish. Baron Francois Ltd. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

86 **Domaine Joël Delaunay 2021 Casca Vin Orange (Vin de France).** Sauvignon Blanc made like a red wine with maceration of skins, the wine has structure and concentration. With a tangy texture, the wine will be ready from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

85 **Thierry Delaunay 2022 Septembre (Vin de France).** A ripe style of Sauvignon Blanc with acidity and rich green fruits. The wine is rounded with tight acidity. Drink now. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

VIN DE FRANCE

RED WINE

85 **Thierry Delaunay 2022 Septembre (Vin de France).** The wine is lean and bears little resemblance to a Pinot Noir. Cherry flavors are there along with a strong stalky character. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

OTHER FRENCH WINES

89 **Château de Rouanne 2021 Comté de Grignan (Méditerranée).** Rich aromas of raspber-ries and fleshy apples are in the forefront, the floral notes are subtler. The mouthfeel is creamy in tex-ture with vivacious bubbles. There's enough acidity to keep it refreshing. Winebow Imports. —J.T.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Laroque 2022 Chardonnay (Vin de Pays Cité de Carcassonne).** An expressive nose, this Chardonnay opens with lemon peel, lychee and baked pear aromas. The palate is crisp, offering fla-vors of lime peel with rounded, juicy melon. Aquit-aine Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

88 **Laroque 2022 Chardonnay (Vin de Pays Cité de Carcassonne).** Pale pink in color, this rosé displays delicate cherry-blossom aromas. With elevated acid, the palate blends juicy pear and strawberry flavors, with a hint of citrus fruit on the finish. Aquitaine Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

87 Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2021 Pinia (Ile de Beauté). Named after a pine forest that is set between the mountains and the sea, this wine is fragrant and full of ripe red fruits. It has a light poise as well as a tangy citrus edge. Drink now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

NORTHEAST ITALY WHITE WINES

FRIULI

89 Puiatti 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli). This wine lifts out of the glass with aromas of white grapefruit, passion fruit and lemongrass. The palate is more peach-forward with lemon zest and oil finishing with a light mineral edge. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Venchiarezza 2022 (Friuli). Mineral notes combine with mixed apple aromas, accompanied by a hint of lees, resulting in a rounded palate with fleshy and ripe tree fruits. Sunrise Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Kirkland Signature 2022 (Friuli). Light and refreshing, this wine reveals a mix of citrus notes, leaning toward lemon, along with fresh white flowers, creating a clean profile. It hints at Sauvignon Blanc but delivers the texture that is expected of Pinot Grigio. Finishing with a touch of herbs, this wine is a great quaffer and worthy of your fridge. L No Submitting Co. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Puiatti 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). Apple and lemon oil aromas lead the way followed by fresh lily and hints of crushed river stone. The palate showcases an intriguing textural quality that keeps the palate engaged the entire time you enjoy the wine. A tasty wine. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

FRIULI ISONZO

90 Tenuta di Angoris 2022 Villa Locatelli Pinot Grigio (Isonzo del Friuli). With its copper color, this intriguing wine unveils hints of cherry and wild fruits. It presents a solid, interesting profile that is hard to pin down as the wine veers among notes of cherry, citrus and peach with subtle savory notes ... but undeniably enjoyable. Ventura Selections LLC. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Sant'Elena 2020 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Isonzo). With aromas of lemon and green apple, this wine carries a leesy quality with a hint of lemongrass. Crisp and refreshing on the palate with a ripe

apple core finishing with a pop of crunchy acidity. Vinifera Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Sant'Elena 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli Isonzo). Lifted and fresh aromas of peach, lemongrass and crushed stone. Light and crisp on the palate with mixed citrus notes, melon and a slightly pithy note on the finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

VENEZIA GIULIA

92 Jermann 2021 Vintage Tunina (Venezia Giulia). For full review see page 24. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

90 Bastianich 2018 Plus (Venezia Giulia). Golden in color, the wine exudes aromas of pine, candied lemon and roasted apples. There are hints of red apple skin, and the wine showcases a lush and concentrated profile with hints of botrytis. The wine is singular and lush. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

90 Jermann 2021 Where Dreams Have No End (Venezia Giulia). For full review see page 31. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

89 Venchiarezza 2022 (Venezia Giulia). This wine showcases a very classic Friulian style, upfront with notes of peach, melon, mixed citrus zest and wild herbs. The palate is rounded but perks up on the finish, displaying lifted acidity that keeps the wine zippy and great for an aperitivo or lighter dishes. Sunrise Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Bastianich 2019 Vespa Bianco (Venezia Giulia). This wine opens with aromas of baked apples, roasted citrus and baking spices. The rich and ripe palate shows creamy pears dusted with cinnamon, and a hint of tropical fruits that lead to a kiss of acidity and minerality on the finish. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Puiatti 2022 Ribolla Gialla (Venezia Giulia). Aromas of yellow peach, Golden Delicious apple and white flowers waft from the glass of this wine. Fresh and easy on the palate with a ripe apricot and candied lemon zest giving way to a crunchy acidity. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Venchiarezza 2022 Vigna del Tempo (Venezia Giulia). This wine opens with subtle floral notes, saffron, waxy honey, almond and a stony minerality. The rounded palate highlights peach flavors with a hint of mint and blanched almonds finishing with a pop of acidity. Sunrise Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

TRENTO

94 Ferrari 2015 Riserva Lunelli Metodo Classico Extra Dry (Trento). Subtle at first, this complex sparkling wine evokes aromas of toasted hazelnuts, candied lemon, baking spices and toasted oak. The full-bodied palate opens with baked apple, pie crust and vanilla cream then leads you to a flinty and crushed rock note finishing with a finessed and elegant perlage. Drink now–2030. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$67

93 Monfort 2016 Le Général Dallemagne Extra Brut (Trento). Aromas of acacia honey, lemon zest and flint rise from the glass of this energetic sparkling wine. As it opens, hints of roasted hazelnut and crème fraîche emerge. The extended aging has given the palate a rich texture with notes of apple tart, lemon curd and candied ginger that all coalesce around the deep flinty core and lifted mountain acidity. Drink now–2035. Colangelo & Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Rotari 2018 Metodo Classico Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Trento). For full review see page 20. Prestige Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Rotari 2014 Flavio Riserva Brut (Trento). For full review see page 20. Prestige Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$104

92 Letrari 2016 Brut Riserva (Trento). Aromas of apple pie, lemon curd and fresh bread waft from the glass of this pretty sparkling wine. Generous and giving on the palate with a creamy Greek yogurt note and candied lemon and ginger that give way to crushed rock. The wine minerality finishes a rich nuttiness. Colangelo & Partners. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Le Vigne di Zamò 2021 Orange Zamò (Delle Venezie). Floral and peach notes intertwine, showcasing both texture and a bitter marmalade taste. It carries a pleasant bitterness, reminiscent of dried flowers and roasted stone fruits. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 St. Pauls 2022 Sauvignon (Alto Adige). Fresh grapefruit and apple notes mingle with a touch of lemongrass. The wine is bright and refreshing, with a citrusy palate and a hint of minerality. A fun and tasty wine to add to your weekly mix. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Tutela 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Grave). For full review see page 35. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** abv: 12% Price: \$18

87 Venchiarezza NV Ribella & La Bestia (Venezia Giulia). Ripe peaches with lemon blossom pour out of the glass of this exuberant sparkling wine. Generous on the palate with a mix of ripe apples and apricots giving way to a creamy texture and soft perlage. Sunrise Wines. —J.P. abv: 11% Price: \$28

85 Cavit 2022 Oak Zero Chardonnay (Trentino). Fresh aromas of green apple and honeydew melon waft from the glass of this easy white wine. Fruity and forward, the simple palate delivers bright orchard fruit flavors with a soft finish. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

NORTHEAST ITALY RED WINES

VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO SUPERIORE RIPASSO

91 Buglioni 2021 Il Bugiardo (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). This wine showcases black cherry characteristics and a lush, plump texture on the palate. Fine tannins and good acidity contribute to its overall balance and structure. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P. abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Campagnola 2021 Corte Armano (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). Reserved at first, the wine gains momentum with darker fruits taking the lead. Ripe plum and herbal notes intertwine, creating a lush and captivating palate experience that dances on the taste buds. Marchetti Co. —J.P. abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

90 Monte del Frà 2019 Casa Capitei (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). With an herb-forward character, this wine offers notes of cocoa powder and candied/liqueured black cherries. The solid palate has roasted plum notes complemented by savory spice, violet and dusty earth notes finishing with fine and elegant tannins. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P. abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

90 Rubinelli Vajol 2020 Corte S. Anna (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). More driven by red fruits, this wine reveals spice and earthy undertones in the background. The mouthfeel is rich and mouthfilling, with a touch of medicinal character, reminiscent of old-school Valpolicella. Village Wine Imports. —J.P. abv: 14% Price: \$30

OTHER RED WINES

90 Jermann 2020 Red Angel on the Moonlight Pinot Nero (Venezia Giulia). This lifted Pinot Noir opens with aromas of sour cherries, clove, allspice, wild thyme and forest floor. Mixed red berries that are macerating define the palate with savory and earthy elements adding complexity and finishing with super elegant tannins. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P. abv: 13% Price: \$40

90 Sant'Elena 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Friuli Isonzo). Dark-fruited and savory, this wine showcases serious earthy elements. It presents spiced and slightly tart fruits on the palate with savory elements revealing themselves with more time in the glass, resulting in an intriguing profile. Vinifera Imports. —J.P. abv: 14% Price: \$23

89 Englar 2019 Baltasins Pinot Noir Riserva (Alto Adige). Abundant ripe red fruits intertwine with oak spice in this juicy and plump wine. The rounded palate is well-crafted, although it leans more toward a more New World style than Italian, emphasizing the oak spices and ripe fruit influence. Bizou Wines. —J.P. abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

88 Peter Zemmer 2022 Pinot Noir (Alto Adige). This wine exhibits ripe plump, red and blue fruit notes infused with sweet spices. The juicy palate reveals a mix of tart fruits with an herbal edge, supported by good acidity. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P. abv: 13% Price: \$23

86 Tenuta di Angoris 2018 Albertina Pinot Nero (Isonzo del Friuli). This wine delivers mixed red fruits, reminiscent of cherry cola, with candied and licorice undertones. The soft palate makes this an easy wine for everyday consumption. Ventura Selections LLC. —J.P. abv: 13% Price: \$40

VENETO WHITE WINES PROSECCO

91 Domini del Leone NV Frizzante Col Fondo Organic (Prosecco). Fresh and lively out of the gate, this Col Fondo blends notes of Fuji apples, Bosc pears, alpine herbs and wet stone. The crisp palate pops with fresh acidity and notes of lemon zest and green apple are balanced by more savory and mineral-driven elements on the finish. Jenny and François Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 11% Price: \$20

89 BiancaVigna NV Brut (Prosecco). Wafting and gentle, this wine exudes delicate white flower aromas, such as lily and apple blossom,

alongside inviting orchard fruit notes. On the palate, it is light and fresh finishing with zippy acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

89 Wild Nature NV Brut Organic (Prosecco). Mixed orchard fruits with a touch of citrus zest and a hint of river stone open the nose of this fresh Prosecco. Light and lifted with a green apple core and gentle perlage that finishes with a zippy acidity. Skin Contact Wines. —J.P. abv: 11% Price: \$21

88 Ruggeri & C. NV Brut (Prosecco). Bright and fresh, this wine offers a lifted profile with red apple and floral notes. The fresh and fruity palate pops with notes of pear candy and white flowers and finishes crisp. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 11% Price: \$17

88 Ruggeri & C. 2022 Brut (Prosecco). Light and easy, this rosé Prosecco pops out of the glass with a mix of ripe red berries, red apples and fresh flowers. The strawberry-driven palate is generous with a touch of strawberry leaf on the bright and refreshing finish. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

87 Bosco del Merlo 2022 Millesimato Brut (Prosecco). Light and wafting aromas reveal pretty apple and white flower notes. It is an easy-drinking wine with good acidity, that overdelivers. Serendipity Wines TX. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

87 Bottega NV Il Vino dei Poeti Gold Brut (Prosecco). A variety of ripe apples dominates the profile, complemented by light white flower notes. The wine offers a fresh and fruity palate with a fresh lemon zest note. Palm Bay International. —J.P. abv: 11% Price: \$33

86 Balerin NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Aromas of pine forest, orchard fruit and a hint of tropical fruit open the nose of this Prosecco. The gentle palate offers ripe pear notes with a hint of candied lemon with a soft and gentle finish. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P. abv: 11% Price: \$15

CONEGLIANO VALDOBBIADENE PROSECCO SUPERIORE

93 BiancaVigna 2022 Rive di Soligo Extra Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine is a stunner with orchard and stone fruit aromas swirling out of the glass followed by mountain flowers and wet gravel aromas. The textured palate has layers of fresh and candied citrus, melon and green apple that lift the palate and finish with a tight and focused minerality. Banville Wine Merchants. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P. abv: 11.5% Price: \$26

91 BiancaVigna 2022 Rive di Ogliano (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Driven by mineral notes, this cru Prosecco draws you into the glass. Alongside the mineral edge are aromas of MacIntosh apples, lemon and orange blossom. The steely palate pops with fresh green apples and electric acidity finishing with a crisp dry finish. Banville Wine Merchants. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

91 BiancaVigna 2021 Sui Lieviti Brut Nature (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine offers cider, green apple and pressed flowers on the nose with a leesy note that gives depth to the wine. The crisp palate pops with crunchy acidity with notes of Bosc pear, dried orange peel and savory herbs. Do not worry about the hazy quality of the wine; that is as it should be for this style of wine. Banville Wine Merchants. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

91 UDO 2021 Cajvo Col Fondo Brut Nature (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Ripe apple and yellow flowers, accompanied by a touch of hazelnut and river stones, define the nose of this sparkler. It exhibits liveliness and energy on the palate that brings forward the herbal and mineral notes leading to flavors of lemon oil and apple skin. Steep Hill Importing. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

90 Masottina 2022 RDO Ponente Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Bright and fresh, this wine has an intense apple character, supported by white flowers and candied citrus. Creamy in texture but with a lifted acidity reminiscent of green apple and lemon zest finishing with a river stone minerality. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Luca Ricci NV Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Lifted green apple aromas intermingle with a hint of green melon and white flowers. Subtle notes of lemon zest add freshness to the overall fruit-forward character. The wine is solid and enjoyable. Steep Hill Importing. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

89 Masottina 2022 RDO Levante Extra Dry (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This Prosecco opens with freshly cut apples squeezed with lemon and white flowers. The light palate is loaded with orchard fruits and finishes with bright and lifted acidity with an easy and soft perlage. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$35

87 Tentuta di Collalbrigo NV Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This wine is easy and fresh, with a very fruit-forward profile with loads of ripe orchard fruits, including some dried pear and stone fruit notes. Easy and fresh, a fun wine. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Maeli NV Dili (Veneto). This heady wine opens with aromas of preserved white peaches, wildflowers, sweet spice and sage. The vibrant palate shows notes of bitter orange candy and wild mint and finishes with crushed rock minerality. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

90 Latium di Morini 2022 (Soave). Aromas of peach, apple and Meyer lemon skin, accompanied by white flowers, create an enticing nose for this Soave. The palate gives orchard fruit flavors with subtle mineral undertones. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

87 Brancher 2022 Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Fresh and vibrant, this wine opens with an entire orchard of apples in the nose with a touch of lemon and lily. The fruity palate is generous with pear and citrus notes finishing with a soft perlage. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

86 Valdo 2019 Numero 10 Metodo Classico Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of pear and candied lemon define the nose of this easygoing Prosecco. The light palate hits with green apple notes with a slight river rock minerality finishing with a soft perlage. C. Mondavi and Family. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

VENETO RED WINES

92 Fidora 2019 Monte Tabor (Valpolicella Ripasso). Revealing a pretty and lifted nose, this wine pops with classic cherry aromas intertwined with mixed herbs and subtle hints of bitter cocoa. The lush palate boasts a core of fruit, complemented by a touch of coffee, as well as tobacco and savory spice. Fine tannins underscore its solid structure. Baron Francois Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 Marchesi Fumanelli 2017 Squarano Red Blend (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). Dried cherries and mixed berry compote take the lead, accompanied by spices that enhance its fruit-forward nature. The wine displays vibrancy, with a juicy and herbal finish that adds to its overall appeal. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$51

LOMBARDY SPARKLING WINES

FRANCIACORTA

93 Bellavista 2018 Rosé (Franciacorta). Notes of strawberry, cranberry and fresh rose create a lifted and vibrant aromatic profile. The wine exhibits a touch of blood orange zest finishing with crisp acidity, a lively perlage and an enduring finish. Terra Moretti Trading. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Bellavista 2018 Satèn (Franciacorta). Bright and crisp orchard fruits, accompanied by lemon zest, burst from the glass. Light yeast notes add complexity, while good crunchy acidity provides freshness. The wine is fruit-forward, with a light minerality and a hint of yellow flower. Terra Moretti Trading. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Ferggettina 2017 Milledì Brut (Franciacorta). Baked orchard fruits, roasted lemon and freshly baked bread aromas define this wine, which offers a round and rich mouthfeel, reminiscent of yeast. A touch of minerality adds depth and complexity to this refined and tasty wine. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$69

93 Ferggettina 2015 Riserva 33 (Franciacorta). Crisp apples, fresh wildflowers and hints of brioche lift from the glass. The zippy palate pops with a wave of orchard fruits, candied lemon zest and crushed stone minerality on the long and complex finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Villa Franciacorta 2019 Mon Satèn Brut (Franciacorta). Fresh apples, pears and citrus with a touch of mint and flint aromas rise from the glass. Tart lemon zest and Braeburn apple flavors define the palate. The wine is bright, fresh, lean and mineral-driven, with crunchy acidity. MPP Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Villa Franciacorta 2018 Cuvette Brut (Franciacorta). Aromas of green apple with citrus undertones and hints of fresh brioche waft from the glass of this pretty wine. Flinty and mineral-driven, the wine is very bright and crunchy, offering a lifted sensation on the palate. It has good structure and is composed of 85% Chardonnay and 15% Pinot Noir. MPP Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Bellavista 2018 Brut Teatro alla Scala (Franciacorta). Lemon, lime and pear notes are complemented by crusty bread aromas on the nose. The palate reveals lifted flavors and a core of orchard fruit, focused on green apple, accompanied by a subtle mineral character. The wine boasts a

BUYINGGUIDE

tight and finessed perlage. Terra Moretti Trading. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Villa Franciacorta 2019 Bokè Rosè Brut (Franciacorta). Made from 100% Pinot Noir, the wine opens with aromas of tart red berries, strawberries, citrus peel and wildflowers. The wine's palate mimics the nose and is bright, refreshing, vibrant and energetic. MPP Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Villa Franciacorta 2019 Emozione Brut (Franciacorta). This wine showcases rounded orchard fruits, white flowers, candied lemon zest and a hint of yeast. It is bright on the palate, with a creamy pear texture, hints of spice, ginger and a note of grapefruit finishing with an elegant perlage. MPP Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Ronco Calino NV Brut (Franciacorta). Soft on the palate, it showcases flavors of lemon and citrus curd, complemented by crème fraîche and a creamy texture. The wine has a bright pop of acidity, a focused minerality and a long solid finish. Vineyard Road. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Vigna Dorata NV Satèn Brut (Franciacorta). This wine provides aromas of Fuji apples, mixed citrus and loads of white floral aromas that dance out of the glass. The gentle palate is crisp but very elegant with a core of ripe and spiced Comice pear finishing with a faint note of river stones. Chambers & Chambers. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Bellavista NV Alma Grande Cuvée Brut (Franciacorta). Lifted aromas of spiced apples, wild mint, lilies and ginger draw you into the glass of this fresh sparkling wine. The palate shows baked orchard fruits with roasted nuts, cream and finishing with a bright pop of acidity. Terra Moretti Trading. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Bonfadini NV Opera Rosé (Franciacorta). Fresh berries and baked apples in pastry dough open up the nose of this bright sparkling wine. The crisp palate gives notes of mixed wild berries, fresh rose and a candied ginger note finishing with a delicate perlage. Bottle to Glass. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 La Montina 2018 Millesimato Brut (Franciacorta). This fresh and forward sparkling wine lifts from the glass with aromas of Fuji apples, citrus blossom, fresh bread and wet gravel. The crisp palate pops with lemon zest and finishes with a creamy texture and lifted acidity. Wine Affairs. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

90 Monte Rossa NV Cabochon Fuoriserie N. 024 Brut (Franciacorta). Spiced apples with fresh brioche and candied lemon aromas waft from

the glass of this lush sparkling wine. Textured on the palate with layered notes of apple tart, cream, lemon curd and baking spices that all carry to the finish. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Ronco Calino 2018 Brut Nature (Franciacorta). Cider-like qualities and crushed apple aromas dominate with brioche and subtle floral honey aromas. Vivid acidity adds freshness and vibrancy to the palate with green apple skin spiked with lemon creating a supertart and refreshing finish. Vineyard Road. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Vigna Dorata NV Brut (Franciacorta). Wafting aromas of yellow apples, roasted lemon and pie crust lift from the glass of this Franciacorta. Crisp and vibrant with more green apple notes giving way to hints of ginger and crushed stone on the finish. Chambers & Chambers. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Vigna Dorata NV Rosè Brut (Franciacorta). Lifted and light aromas of cranberry and strawberry rise from the glass with a hint of candied orange peel and freshly baked fruit tart. Elegant on the palate with more subtle sour cherry notes that give way to a delicate mousse and spiced finish. Chambers & Chambers. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Villa Franciacorta 2018 Diamant Pas Dosé (Franciacorta). Grilled apples drizzled with warmed honey on brioche, accompanied by hints of sea salt. The nutty and crisp palate carries a crushed stone minerality and citrus pith on the finish with finesse and elegance. MPP Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

89 Villa Franciacorta 2018 Extra Blu Extra Brut (Franciacorta). Composed of 90% Chardonnay and 10% Pinot Noir, this wine presents aromas of mixed orchard fruits with a hint of fresh bread. Mouthwatering, the palate pops with tart green apples, lemon zest and a defined minerality. It finishes with zip and an elegant perlage. MPP Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$36

OTHER SPARKLING WINE

88 Castello del Poggio NV Moscato (Provincia di Pavia). This wine opens with aromas of pine, candied lemon and white flowers. Mint, green apple skin and apricot pop on the palate with a refreshing acidity. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$12

LOMBARDY RED WINES

95 Nino Negri 2018 Vigna Fracia (Valtellina Superiore Valgella). This wine opens with aromas of warmed strawberries, violet, rosemary and forest floor. The palate achieves a near-perfect balance between fruit and savory notes, each in harmony. Elegant tannins and lifted acidity saunter to the finish, where the wine lingers in a contemplative manner. Supple and so pretty. Drink now–2035. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$72

88 La Genisia 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oltrepò Pavese). Dark and spiced blackberries mingle with sweet and savory nuances and a hint of herbs. The palate reveals plummy flavors and soft tannins, making it effortlessly approachable and easy. Ribevi Wines Int. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

85 La Genisia 2022 Pinot Nero (Oltrepò Pavese). Cranberry juice merges with spice-infused cherries, accompanied by oak-driven tannins and a dried earth character. The palate presents sour red fruit, tea-like tannins, and dusty tannins. Ribevi Wines Int. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

90 Luca Ferraris 2022 Sensazioni Viognier (Piemonte). Floral and lifted, this wine exudes gentle peach aromas and presents a pretty character. It is well-balanced, with solid freshness and savory elements that add complexity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Cascina Galarin 2021 Carossi Chardonnay (Piemonte). Aromas of baked apple, roasted lemon peel and baking spices all lift from the glass of this Chardonnay. Medium in body, the palate is balanced among ripe orchard fruits drizzled with honey, sweet spice and crushed rock minerality. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 Dezzani 2022 4 Bucce (Piemonte). A bright and refreshing blend of Cortese, Chardonnay, Sauvignon and Timorso, this wine exhibits a mix of orchard fruit, citrus and white flower aromas. The soft palate is generous, displaying loads of apples and an almond nuttiness. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

88 Truffle Hunter 2022 Leda Bianco (Piemonte). This wine is fresh and fruit-forward, with prominent notes of orchard fruit and ripe melon. It offers an easy and refreshing character, with a lush

palate and enough acidity to maintain its balance. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Luca Ferraris 2020 Bisou Viognier (Piemonte). Butterscotch, burnt honey on peaches, and dried magnolia define the profile of this lush and rich wine. Lush on the palate with dried apricots, bitter almonds and a hint of stone finishing with a whisper of acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$28

85 Cascina Faletta 2020 Myricae (Piemonte). Intense aromas of butterscotch, caramel apples, pressed yellow flowers and buttered rolls leap from the glass of this rich chardonnay. Full-bodied with flavors of pear and apple pie with cream. Beviame International. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

MOSCATO D'ASTI

92 Cascina Pian d'Or 2022 Bricco Riella (Moscato d'Asti). This lifted and pretty Moscato d'Asti opens with aromas of jasmine, mint and white peach while the energetic palate highlights the apricot and melon flavors. The wine finishes with a bright pop of acidity that keeps the wine fresh. Heritage Wine Cellars. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$13

91 Cascina Delle Rocche di Moncucco 2022 Bric di' Arsura (Moscato d'Asti). This lively Moscato d'Asti opens with aromas of fresh peach, wildflowers and citrus zest. The exotic palate shows tropical fruits, apricots and mint with an elegant finish. Doria Wines, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$24

90 Bersano 2022 Monteolivo (Moscato d'Asti). Upfront aromas of wildflowers, pine needles and peach pop from the glass of the Moscato. Flavors of candied lemon zest, melon and mint permeate the palate with a soft and gentle finish. 8 Vini, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Tenuta IL Falchetto 2022 Tenuta Del Fant (Moscato d'Asti). Lifted aromas of lily, white peach, mint and fresh rosemary swirl in the glass of this pretty wine. Flavors of candied lemon and orange peel add to the fruit-forward nature of this wine balanced by the crisp and vibrant acidity. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Arione 2022 La Signora (Moscato d'Asti). Aromas of white peach, lily, white tea and fresh herbs waft from the glass of this wine. Pretty and fruit-forward on the palate with flavors of nectarine, melon and candied lemon. MISA Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$13

88 Ghiga Enrico 2022 (Moscato d'Asti). This Moscato d'Asti is a classic with upfront aromas of peach, cantaloupe and freshly cut white flowers. The vibrant palate showcases the grapes' energetic nature with fresh apricot and mint notes followed by a zesty finish. Wide Roots. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$10

88 Scagliola 2021 Primo Bacio (Moscato d'Asti). Preserved peaches, orange marmalade, wild mint and flowers. Light on the palate with a gentle fizziness with soft stone fruits on the palate. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Cascina Castlet 2022 (Moscato d'Asti). Lifted aromas of candied lemon, white flowers and pears waft from the glass. The soft palate has notes of lime, tart peach and a touch of mint on the easy finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Fontanafredda 2021 Moncucco (Moscato d'Asti). Canned peaches, honey and wildflowers waft from the glass. Gentle and soft with a very light fizz. Palm Bay International. —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Mombaruzzo 2020 Dolcevita (Moscato d'Asti). This light and floral Moscato wafts from the glass with subtle hints of fresh mint and apricot. The zesty palate is fruity with candied lemon, peach and melon with a kiss of acidity on the finish. Beviame International. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$14

87 Tenuta Carretta 2022 (Moscato d'Asti). Candied lemon zest and dried apricot aromas fill the glass of this Moscato with hints of jasmine. The palate is lush and fruity with preserved pear, peach and cantaloupe finishing with a hint of fresh herbs. Specialty Cellars. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Truffe Hunter 2022 Leda (Moscato d'Asti). Aromas of pine, apple and mint waft from the glass of this Moscato. Tart stone fruits dominate the light palate with a hint of white flowers on the finish. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$10

GAVI

89 Fontanafredda 2022 (Gavi). Light aromas of citrus and white flowers grace the nose, while the wine impresses with a pitch-perfect structure on the palate. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Banfi 2022 Principessa Gavia (Gavi). A waxy texture accompanies the Golden Delicious apple notes in this wine, which also features candied lemon flavors. The rounded and creamy palate

highlights the strong apple-driven character. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Ricossa 2022 Ricossa (Gavi). With a steely and mineral-driven character, this wine exhibits prominent notes of lemon pith and white flowers. On the palate, it offers a citrusy profile, moderate acidity and a slightly bitter finish, creating a harmonious experience. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

86 Terzetto 2022 (Gavi). This wine showcases a strong apple-driven character. It presents a simple yet enjoyable profile with hints of almonds and an intriguing herbal edge. Marchetti Co. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

LANGHE

90 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2021 Sauvignon (Langhe). Bright citrus and stone fruit notes dominate, with a refreshing hint of minerality in the background. The wine offers a layered and textured palate, zippy and slightly herbal, but fruit-forward, with a zesty citrus character. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Vozzio Martini 2022 Bricco Cappellina (Langhe). Fresh and lifted aromas of melon, stone fruit and almond, with hints of white flowers. The palate is crisp with bright lemon flavors and a focused mineral edge. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Ettore Germano 2020 Chardonnay (Langhe). Ripe and roasted apples mixed with lemon peel, lemon oil and a chalky note on the nose. Light and fresh on the palate with green apple skin and a slightly creamy texture from lees contact. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Moscone 2021 Chardonnay (Langhe). This pretty and easy Chardonnay from the Langhe opens with aromas of Golden Delicious apples, acacia honey and pressed yellow flowers. The creamy palate shows lemon curd and zest and finishes with a kiss of minerality. A light, refreshing and tasty Chardonnay. Alarich Distributing. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Rocca Giovanni 2022 Chardonnay (Langhe). This light and refreshing Chardonnay opens with aromas of green pear, apple blossom and lime zest. The soft palate is an apple orchard in the glass with hints of lemon and peach finishing with a lift from the crisp acidity. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

ALTA LANGA

94 Enrico Serafino 2010 Zero 140 Riserva (Alta Langa). Aromas of lemongrass, candied lemon zest, orange blossom honey, hazelnut and fresh croissants pour from the glass of this vital and important wine. Lifted on the palate with energetic acidity, the wine has a richness and depth from 140 months on the lees but pops with citrus notes finishing with a lingering minerality. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Contratto 2018 Blanc De Blancs Pas Dosé (Alta Langa). Opening with honeyed aromas, Fuji apples, pressed white flowers, and nuts, this 100% Chardonnay sparkler delights. It reveals candied lemon zest, a round and plush palate with good acidity, and continues with flavors of lemon drop, a hint of passion fruit and peach. A creamy texture, vibrant acidity and elegant perlage finish the wine. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Contratto 2018 For England Blanc De Noirs Pas Dosé (Alta Langa). Aged for over 40 months on the lees, this 100% Pinot Noir sparkling wine defines posh. Aromas and flavors of strawberry, peach, grapefruit, acacia honey, and rhubarb entice. Tartness and vibrance create a textured and layered palate finishing with zippy acidity. Indigenous Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Enrico Serafino 2017 Zero (Alta Langa). Green apple and lemon zest/oil dominate the aromatic profile, showcasing a mineral-driven character. Lean on the palate with a salty quality, this wine pairs exceptionally well with oysters or other seafood dishes. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Cocchi 2017 Totocorde Brut (Alta Langa). For full review see page 22. Alpeng.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Contratto 2018 For England Rosé Pas Dosé (Alta Langa). Loads of citrus, leaning toward bitter orange and ruby red grapefruit, emerge from this wine. The palate is tart and zippy, with a touch of green guava candy, bright acidity and great structure finishing with a tight and persistent perlage. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Enrico Serafino 2018 Oudeis Brut (Alta Langa). A blend of 85% Pinot Noir and 15% Chardonnay, this wine displays red apple aromas mixed with hints of strawberry and baked goods. It offers a round and warm invitation with exotic tropical fruit notes and lemon oil. Lush on the palate, it evolves into grilled peach flavors and finishes with solid minerality. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Cocchi 2018 Rōsa Brut (Alta Langa). The pale salmon color sets the stage for tart, light red berries and a salty character. It resembles a strawberry tart with a touch of lemon zest, finishing with refreshing tartness and acidity. Mineral-driven and enticing. Alpeng. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

91 Cocchi 2017 Pas Dosé (Alta Langa). With an elegant nose, this wine reveals white cherry notes, cream, yeasted bread, limestone and lemon zest. The rounded palate is mouthfilling, with great acidity and a linear profile that leaves a mouthwatering sensation. Alpeng. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Contratto 2019 Millesimato Pas Dosé (Alta Langa). This wine opens with aromas of ripe apples, grilled lemon peel, flinty minerality, roasted nuts and lemon curd. The wine offers a creamy texture balanced by solid acidity, reminiscent of a lemon drop finishing with finesse and an elegant perlage. Indigenous Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Tenuta San Mauro 2017 (Alta Langa). This Alta Langa sparkling wine is 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay. It opens with the aromas of a baked fruit tart, with hints of strawberry, mint, apple and pie crust. Rounded on the palate with baked Fuji apples, creamed pears and candied lemon are complemented by great acidity and a gentle perlage. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

90 Cocchi 2017 Bianc'd Bianc Brut (Alta Langa). Fresh and crisp, this wine is driven by green apple flavors and accompanied by chalky mineral notes. There are hints of lemon zest and oil, with a very lifted profile and subtle yeast undertones. Light and fresh on the palate, it offers orchard fruit and a touch of floral character, supported by good acidity. Perfect as an aperitivo, with a gentle perlage. Alpeng. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Réva 2021 Grey (Verduno). Lifted aromas of stone fruit, particularly peach, along with grapefruit and orange notes, accented by pungent white flowers. The wine offers a textured and layered palate, bright and refreshing acidity and a finish marked by crushed stone minerality. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Guidobono 2022 (Roero Arneis). Aromas of Bosc pear, lemon zest and white flowers. The bright palate pops with green apple flavors with a subtle almond note and sea salt minerality. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Malvirà 2020 Riserva Vigna Saglietto (Roero Arneis). Aromas of melon, Fuji apples and

white flowers waft from the glass of this pretty Arneis. Mixed orchard fruits and white peach define the palate, giving way to blanched almond and salty minerality. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

PIEDMONT RED WINES

90 Cantine Volpi 2022 Aurora Barbera (Piemonte). Mixed plums, particularly Damson, and abundant violets create a super pretty aroma. The wine is plump and juicy, with refreshing acidity and a touch of earthiness. It is a solid wine and great value. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Cascina Faletta 2017 3 Fucili (Piemonte). Perfectly ripe cherries mingle with forest floor, mushroom earthiness and oak spice in this well-crafted wine. While it carries some weight from the wood, the palate needs a little more time in the bottle to come together. Drink 2025–2035. Beviamo International. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 Dezzani 2022 Otto Buccce (Piemonte). With a dense color, the wine immediately reveals intense sweet and savory spice aromas followed by dark and ripe black-fruited characteristics. Lush on the palate, it offers blackberry, spice and fine tannins. A flashy wine that makes a statement. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Casali del Barone 2022 150+1 (Piemonte). Aromas of roasted plum, grilled cherry and spice on the nose. The wine delivers ample fruit on the palate, accompanied by notes of candied violets and herbs. Schenk Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Dezzani 2020 La Vecchia Via (Piemonte). This easy wine is loaded with roasted plum, cherry, warmed spice and oak spice aromas. Plump and juicy on the palate with well-constructed tannins give the wine a more sturdy structure, making it a good pairing for your next grilled feast. Misa Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Truffle Hunter 2022 Leda Barbera Passito (Piemonte). Super primary aromas of plum and black cherry jump from the glass with floral notes adding to the aromatic profile. This wine is straightforward and tasty, with loads of fruit and a pop of acidity on the finish. It offers an easy and sappy character. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

BAROLO

98 Borgogno 2019 Cannubi (Barolo). From the first sniff, the significance of this wine

is evident. Dark cherry, rosebud, clove and savory herbs create an enveloping aroma. The polished and pure palate offers generosity, yet yearns for further development. Presently, flavors of mixed wild berries, licorice, tobacco and chalk notes shine on the palate. Drink 2025–2050. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$190

97 Ceretto 2019 Prapo' (Barolo). With aromas of dark cherry, preserved raspberries, clove and dried roses, this wine wafts from the glass with grace and class. It offers a firm and well-structured palate, displaying solid tannins and energetic acidity that lifts the notes of mixed wild berries, tobacco and tea, finishing with a chalky minerality. Trinchero Family Estates. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

97 Luigi Baudana 2019 Cerretta (Barolo). Dark cherry aromas mingle with hints of coffee, dried herbs and flowers. The wine exhibits a super pretty character with incredibly fine-grained tannins, almost as if it were a study in the art of crafting wine. A stunning effort that will continue to give for years to come. Drink 2026–2050+. Vajra USA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$100

97 Sandrone 2017 Vite Talin (Barolo). Loads of gorgeous red and black fruits, sweet and savory spices and dried flowers make this wine highly aromatic and sumptuous. The palate is dense with spiced cherries, plums and crushed raspberries dusted with clove, cinnamon and vanilla. Firm tannins are present that give the wine a serious edge finishing with a deep-rooted earthiness and acidity. A significant wine. Drink 2028–2045. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$675

96 Borgogno 2019 Fossati (Barolo). The well-crafted wine reveals a gradual opening of aromas of dark cherry, wild herbs, dried rose, mint and orange zest. The generous palate delights with ample mixed berry fruit, harmonized by notes of licorice, savory elements and oolong tea. Supple tannins and vibrant acidity captivate the palate on the finish. Drink 2025–2045. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$140

96 Elvio Cogno 2019 Ravera (Barolo). Crushed raspberries and sour cherries lift from the glass, with hints of rosebud, thyme and leather. The elegant palate showcases proper tannin management with supple tannin, and vibrant acidity creating an elegant profile. The palate continues with notes of red nectarine, macerated raspberries and crushed stones that are all additive as the wine will continue to develop with time in the cellar. Drink 2025–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

96 Giulia Negri 2019 Marassio (Barolo). From the highest part of the Serradeneri cru,

this Barolo shows the grace of location and aspect with wafting aromas of wild strawberries, mint, sweet spice and warmed earth. Mouthwatering and energetic, the wine lifts on the palate with tart red berries, savory herbs and fine tannins. Drink 2026–2046. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$50

95 Ceretto 2019 Bricco Rocche (Barolo). For full review see page 5. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA

95 Ceretto 2019 Brunate (Barolo). For full review see page 5. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA

95 Luigi Baudana 2019 Baudana (Barolo). Vivid aromas of cherry stand out as the dominant fruit note, harmonizing with abundant mineral and mixed spice characteristics. The palate presents a firm yet giving structure. The chiseled palate offers notes of wildflowers, savory herbs and spices finishing with a persistent minerality. Drink 2026–2046. Vajra USA. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$100

95 Marcarini 2019 La Serra (Barolo). The moment the cork is pulled, aromas spill out this beautifully crafted Barolo. Notes of wild cherry and macerated raspberry steal the show on the nose but as the wine develops, savory herb and spiced tea notes emerge. The wine dances on the palate with vivid red fruit notes that meld with herbal and woody notes finishing with elegant, yet firm tannins and crunch acidity. Built for the cellar. Drink 2026–2045. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$84

95 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2019 Monvigliero (Barolo). Framboise and cherry compote aromas lead, accompanied by sage and hints of new leather. The palate is lush yet structured, with the fruit held in place by the fine, yet firm, tannins. This solid wine will benefit from some time. Drink 2025–2050. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$144

94 Boroli 2019 Cerequio (Barolo). The Cerequio cru's pedigree is brilliantly showcased in this Barolo, as deep and fragrant aromas of black cherry, rose, baking spices and freshly turned earth captivate the senses. The polished palate offers supple textures, mouthfilling fruits, savory herbs and black tea notes. Fine yet firm tannins and vibrant acidity provide structure. Best enjoyed from 2026–2046. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA

94 Elvio Cogno 2019 Cascina Nuova (Barolo). This aromatic Barolo opens with wild red berries, fresh herbs and dried roses to create an aromatic lift that will captivate you. The palate delights with light-footed macerated raspberries

dusted with spice leading to crushed chalk minerality and fine tannins. Drink 2025–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

94 Famiglia Anselma 2018 Me. G.A. Lazzarito (Barolo). This Barolo needs some time but once it opens it shines with aromas of crushed cherries and sour red plums mixed with wild herbs, dried roses and warmed spices. The structured and sturdy palate is giving with ample red fruit notes but showcases the savory spice, herb, oolong tea and earthy notes that make this wine so captivating. Drink now–2045. Crus & Stills. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$72

94 Giulia Negri 2019 La Tartufaia (Barolo). Savory aromas swiftly emerge, accompanied by wild mixed berries and herbs. The palate delights with sour plum, Bing cherry, mint, warmed spices, tar and dark earthy nuances. An exceptional expression of Negri's winemaking prowess. Drink 2025–2045. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$50

94 La Spinona 2018 Bergera-Pezzole (Barolo). For full review see page 11. Grantham Distributing. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

94 Luigi Baudana 2019 del Comune di Ser-ralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Aromas of mixed berry fruits, both fresh and preserved, along with notes of orange citrus, create an elegant and pure expression on the palate. The wine achieves a beautiful balance between fruit and savory elements with notes of cherry, rosebud, bay leaf and allspice. Super pretty and polished tannins make it enjoyable now–2040. Vajra USA. *Hidden Gem*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$65

94 Marcarini 2018 Brunate (Barolo). Red berries emerge from the glass, offering hints of preserved and jammed fruits, rosewood and underbrush. The palate is stacked with cherries, raspberries, a touch of orange rind, and bay leaf notes. Fine yet firm tannins accompany mouthwatering acidity, leading to a finish of tobacco and earth. Drink now–2040. Empson USA Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14% Price: \$106

94 Piazzo Armando 2019 Valente (Barolo). Subtle at first—but once the wine opens, a cascade of aromas follows with notes of fresh cherries, wild herbs, black tea, truffle and cola. Bold on the palate with mixed red and black fruits balanced by savory and earth notes finishing with firm tannins and vibrant acidity. This wine is like an iceberg now; you are only seeing 20% of it, so give it some time. Drink 2025–2045. Angelini Wine. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

94 Poderi Fogliati 2019 Bussia (Barolo). This Barolo shows the allure of Nebbiolo with

BUYINGGUIDE

aromas of sour cherry, thyme, mint, forest floor and dried flowers. The rounded palate showcases the supple tannins that frame and balance the macerated raspberries and savory spice flavors that lift with the vibrant acidity found on the finish. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Rocchevberti 2019 Bricco Boschis (Barolo). Somewhat reserved at first, the wine hints at red fruits, wild herbs, mixed flowers and forest floor. Elegant on the palate with a solid core of fruit and a significant structure that gives the wine volume that is quickly balanced by the vibrant acidity. Drink 2026–2040. The Piedmont Guy. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Rocchevberti 2019 Rocche di Castiglione (Barolo). Aromas of tart red cherries, medicinal herbs, dried rosebud and savory spice waft from the glass. Super elegant and well-balanced, this is a classic and solid Barolo. Great pop of acidity that finishes with fine tannins. Drink now–2040. The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Boroli 2019 Villero (Barolo). The enticing Barolo reveals dark fruit aromas of plum and blueberry, intertwined with baking spices, dried herbs and sweet tobacco. The plump palate showcases a deep core of mixed red and black fruits, accompanied by oak notes and fine tannins that contribute to a savory and mouthwatering finish. Best enjoyed from 2026–2045. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Ca'Viola 2019 Caviot (Barolo). Aromas of macerated raspberries, wild rose, thyme and savory spice open the nose of this pretty Barolo. The fine-tuned and well-constructed palate delivers a deep core of cherry fruit in tandem with forest floor and truffle notes finishing with firm, but fine tannins and classic acidity. Drink 2025–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

93 Ca'Romè 2019 Rapet (Barolo). This Barolo seamlessly lifts from the glass with aromas of candied cherries, rose extract, orange zest, rosemary and pipe tobacco. The pretty palate is forward with macerated raspberries, savory spice and leather that are all laid upon the sturdy foundation of tannins that ask to be left in the cellar for a while. A classy wine! Drink 2029–2045. Demeine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$107

93 Cantina Massara Burlotto 2018 Monvigliero (Barolo). This Barolo showcases the beauty of the Monvigliero cru with opening aromas of macerated cherries, crushed raspberries, savory herbs, blue violets and dried earth. Elegant and well-chiseled, the palate gives red currant and red plum flavors bolstered by black tea, leather and underbrush finishing with firm tannins that will resolve with

time. Drink 2026–2045. The Piedmont Guy. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

93 La Spinona 2018 Bergera-Pezzele Sori Gepin (Barolo). Wild berries, both dried and preserved, mixed with savory herbs and dried flowers, create an enticing aroma in this classically styled Barolo. The soft and rounded palate is generous, featuring ample cherry notes that give way to hints of black tea, leather and savory spices. Fine, supple tannins and lifted acidity complete the experience. Enjoy from now–2040. Grantham Distributing. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Malvirà 2018 Boiolo (Barolo). Aromas of fresh cherries and raspberries mingle with rosebud, fresh thyme and mixed spices on the nose of this classic Barolo. Generous on the palate, the bright red berry fruits pop on the palate with crunchy acidity and a chalky minerality finishing with supersweet and fine tannins. Drink now–2045. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Negretti 2019 (Barolo). Radiant and pure, this Barolo captivates with uplifting aromas of red fruit that gracefully transform into thyme, rosemary and warm savory spices. The generous palate reveals a deep cherry core embraced by nuances of tea and leather. Crisp acidity and firm yet elegant tannins conclude this wine. Drink 2025–2045. Domace Vino. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Palladino 2019 Del Comune Di Serralunga D'Alba (Barolo). This wine opens with forward aromas of black cherry, allspice, thyme and black tea. The palate sits with gravitas and purpose with dark berries at its core followed by forest floor, truffle and a chalky minerality. Drink now–2040. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Tenuta Rocca 2019 Del Comune Di Serralunga D'Alba (Barolo). For full review see page 20. Prestige Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Arnaldo Rivera 2019 Rocche dell'Annunziata (Barolo). Dark mixed fruits and abundant spice, both savory and sweet, create a well-structured and complete wine that shows great promise. Given some time, this well-crafted wine will likely evolve beautifully. Drink 2025–2040. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

92 BHN 2018 No. 23 (Barolo). Aromas of black cherries, dried rose, savory spice and thyme waft from the glass. Classic vibrant acidity and fine tannins greet the palate, revealing notes of dried orange peel, tea and a vibrant minerality. Drink from now–2035. Wines of Kings. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$199

92 Boroli 2019 (Barolo). This exciting Barolo, from various vineyards in Castiglione Falletto, bursts from the glass with pristine aromas of ripe cherries, fresh wildflowers and sweet spices. The generous palate showcases mixed red berries with hints of rosewood and nutmeg finishing with supple tannins that make it enjoyable in its youth. Drink from now–2040. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Enrico Serafino 2019 Serralunga D'Alba (Barolo). The Comune del Serralunga d'Alba Barolo shows why this village-appelated wine was created. This wine shows the classic Serralunga vitality, power and balance with aromas of crushed black cherries, wild roses, dried herbs and crushed stone on the nose. The dense palate gives a core of ripe red fruits with underbrush, tea, licorice root and leather finishing with vibrant acidity and firm tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$88

91 Guidobono 2018 Le Coste di Monforte (Barolo). Ethereal aromas of dried cherries, medicinal herbs, rose and forest floor waft out from the glass. The palate is as classic as they come, driven by tart red fruit notes balanced by savory spice, tar, roasted mushrooms and superfine tannins. An elegant and well-crafted Barolo. Drink now–2040. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Kirkland Signature 2019 (Barolo). There is no denying that the 2019 Kirkland Barolo is tasty! It has all the notes of a classic Barolo: dark cherry, sweet and savory spice, rose and truffle. The well-crafted palate is giving with ample red fruit notes followed quickly by persistent minerality, well-managed tannins and crunchy acidity. Drink now–2040. Ethica Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2019 Ludo (Barolo). High-toned red fruits mingle with savory spices, leather and tobacco, expressing earthy characteristics. The woody palate features dried cherries, and fine tannins that lead to an earthy finish. Drink 2025–2045. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$57

91 Rizieri 2018 Silio (Barolo). Dried cherries and dried flowers permeate the glass, accompanied by savory and balsamic notes. The generous fruit on the palate is balanced by crunchy acidity and fine tannins. Enjoy from now–2034. DB Wine Selection. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Cantine Povero 2019 Priore (Barolo). This Barolo opens with aromas of ripe cherry, raspberry, fresh herbs and savory spice. More reserved on the palate with subtle red currant flavors, black tea, dried flowers and finishing with a chalky minerality. Vintage Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Giacomo Grimaldi 2019 Ravera (Barolo). Sweet oak spices mixed with ripe and lush red fruits pour from the glass with subtle floral aromas. The juicy and lush palate is plump with cherries, allspice, clove and black tea finishing with elegant and easy tannins. A really juicy wine. Synergy Fine Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Mauro Sebaste 2019 Trèùri (Barolo). Opulent aromas of candied cherries, liquored raspberries, clove, cinnamon and vanilla leap from the glass. The forward and generous palate reveals preserved berries with sweet baking spices, subtle earthy hints and a lingering finish. Superfine tannins and classic Nebbiolo acidity complete this wine. Enjoy from now–2040. Saranty Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Rocca Giovanni 2019 Ravera di Monforte (Barolo). Elegant aromas of fresh strawberries, cranberries and dried rose waft from the glass. The palate is well-structured with ample fruit to enjoy now but with a vision to the long term. Drink 2025–2040. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Arnaldo Rivera 2019 Cannubi (Barolo). Black cherry enveloped in savory and sweet spice, with hints of violets. Fine and firm tannins accompany tart red fruits. This wine has a classic profile that needs time to develop, finishing with a dried earth note. Drink 2025–2035. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

89 Bersano 2019 Nirvasco (Barolo). Super ethereal aromas as if the wine is in soft focus: pretty, lifted, elegant. Aromas of raspberry, macerated strawberries, flowers and medicinal herbs. Fine tannins with sour red fruits on the palate with a tea and truffle earthiness. Drink 2025–2040. 8 Vini, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Mauro Sebaste 2019 Cerretta (Barolo). This wine jumps from the glass with aromas of red and blue wild berries, baking spices and dried flowers. The firm palate opens with cedar and oak notes followed by ripe cherry flavors that are covered in cinnamon, clove and allspice. Firm and tannin on the finish. Drink 2026–2045. Saranty Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

BARBARESCO

97 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2020 Martinenga (Barbaresco). Beautiful classic aromas of mixed cherries, tobacco, warmed spices and bay leaf enchant the senses. The refined and elegant palate offers a blend of warmed fruit and density, with an earthy, well-structured and

mineral-driven finish. Drink from 2025–2045. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 Francesco Versio 2020 (Barbaresco). This is a special Barbaresco with aromas of wild cherries and preserved raspberries rising from the glass. Savory spice, including cardamom, blood orange and dried rose creates an exotic and high-toned aromatic profile. The well-structured palate is generous with vibrant red fruits with subtle savory and earth elements in the background, just waiting for the right time to shine. Drink 2026–2050. Artisanal Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

95 Elvio Cogno 2020 Bordini (Barbaresco). Dusty red berries and raspberry aromas intertwine with chalky notes, creating an electric and energetic aromatic profile. The wine showcases fine yet firm tannins, displaying excellent structure with a core of tart red fruits today that will give way over time to more of the wine's savory and mineral characteristics. Drink now–2040. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Fontanabianca 2020 Bordini (Barbaresco). Black raspberries, medicinal herbs and spiced tea dominate the aromatic profile. The firm palate reveals that the fruit is at the core, surrounded by sweet and savory spices, including notes of cigar box and worn leather. Mouthwatering acidity adds to its appeal. Drink from 2025–2045. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

95 Fontanabianca 2020 Serraboella (Barbaresco). Reserved yet somewhat haunting on the nose, this wine presents pristine dark-berried fruit aromas, dried rose and savory spices. Warmed and macerated black cherry shines on the palate, accompanied by mouthwatering acidity and a solid earthy bass note with firm, yet fine tannins. This wine is meant to be savored. Drink 2025–2045. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

95 Luigi Giordano 2020 Asili (Barbaresco). This wine displays high-toned and bright wild berries, particularly raspberries, along with sweet spice and fresh thyme. The palate is super pretty, with fine tannins and a drinkability that will astound the senses. There is more stuffing in the wine, with lush cherry flavors, both fresh and preserved, yielding to oolong tea, pepper and earth on the finish. Drink 2025–2050. The Piedmont Guy. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

95 Luigi Giordano 2019 Montestefano (Barbaresco). Well-balanced with dark berried fruits and savory spice, this wine exudes a classic character with hints of truffle, tar and rose. It offers more depth and rounded flavors on the palate with preserved cherries, sweet tobacco, leather and a

chalk minerality. Drink now–2045. The Piedmont Guy. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

95 Nada Giuseppe 2020 Casot (Barbaresco). Baked cherries, mingled with sweet spices and a touch of thyme, blend harmoniously with crushed rocks and stone elements. Well-structured with fine tannins and lifted acidity, this wine delivers in all aspects. A wine to add to your collection. Drink 2026–2045. Bowler Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Nada Giuseppe 2020 Marcarini (Barbaresco). This is a classic wine that opens with pretty and polished aromas of fresh cherries, rose, warmed spices and subtle earth notes. The mouthfilling palate is expressive with generous raspberry and other wild red fruit flavors supported by elegant tannins and a defined minerality with a bright and vivid finish. Bowler Wine. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Pio Cesare 2019 Il Bricco (Barbaresco). Subtle, pure and pretty, this wine carries an intentional character. It offers dark cherry notes, both fresh and warmed, enhanced by sweet spice. Earthy and leathery undertones accompany fine but present tannins finishing with lifted acidity, built to last. Enjoy from 2025–2045. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$144

94 La Spinona 2019 Bricco Faset (Barbaresco). For full review see page 11. Grantham Distributing. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 La Spinona 2019 Secondine (Barbaresco). For full review see page 11. Grantham Distributing. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Lodali 2020 Rocche Dei 7 Fratelli (Barbaresco). For full review see page 11. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

94 Luigi Giordano 2020 Cavanna (Barbaresco). Super pretty, wafting aromas of dried cherries and jam along with rose create an ethereal experience. The wine features crunchy acidity, dried orange peel and superfine tannins. Light on its feet but impactful with a balance of grace, agility and strength. Drink now–2040. The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Luigi Giordano 2018 Montestefano (Barbaresco). Roasted cherries and mixed red berries create a captivating first layer of aromas. As the wine opens, sage, black tea and savory spice develop. This wine goes beyond elegance and drinkability, with fine tannins and an earthy character. It's hard not to be tempted to drink it all. The structure is remarkable with firm yet refined tan-

BUYINGGUIDE

nins. Drink now–2040. The Piedmont Guy. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

94 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2020 (Barbaresco). The wine displays a super beautiful color, with a translucent ruby hue. Aromas of very pretty wild red berries, licorice and sweet and savory spice captivate the senses. The palate is truly delightful, with the fruit shining through initially, followed by earthy notes, such as truffle. Superfine tannins contribute to its overall elegance. Enjoy from now–2040. Empson USA Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$59

94 Prunotto 2020 Bric Turot (Barbaresco). Focused aromas of wild strawberry and raspberry combined with fresh bay leaf, wildflowers and sandalwood rise from the glass of this serious wine. Flavors of cranberry and tart cherry pop off the vibrant palate with notes of leather and tea finishing with supple tannins and a persistent minerality. Drink 2028–2040. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$61

93 Ca'Romè 2020 Rio Sordo (Barbaresco). The nose exudes classic and pretty aromas of crushed cherries and raspberry with hints of orange peel and roses. The palate is textured and driven by flavors of fruits of the forest, wild thyme and camphor, adding to its complexity. Drink 2025–2040. Demeine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$103

93 Fontanabianca 2020 (Barbaresco). Candied cherries, wild herbs and darker flowers, with subtle violet notes, create a very pretty aromatic profile. Well-structured, it showcases a great balance, with supple tannins and lifted acidity. While it can be enjoyed now, a bit more time in the cellar would be beneficial. Drink from 2024–2040. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

93 Lodali 2020 Loreus Giacone (Barbaresco). This wine leaps from the glass with bright and fresh aromas of raspberry and cherry alongside fresh roses, alpine herbs and a touch of earthy spice. The palate pops with lively acidity and flavors of mixed berries that meld perfectly with licorice, black tea and a stony minerality finishing with fine, yet present tannins. Drink 2025–2042. Empson USA Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$123

93 Luigi Giordano 2019 Asili (Barbaresco). Warmed spices, dried cherries and orange peel intertwine in this elegant and pretty wine. The soft palate showcases warmed berries, wild herbs, pressed roses and turned earth. It possesses great structure, fine tannins and a finish that will not stop. Drink now–2045. The Piedmont Guy. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

93 Pio Cesare 2019 Pio (Barbaresco). A mixture of red berries, including raspberry and currant, combined with allspice and earth-driven spices. The wine is pretty and lifted, with dark cherry flavors on the palate. Superfine tannins give the wine an elegant structure that highlights the chalky mineral notes, leather and tobacco. Drink now–2040. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

92 Col dei Venti 2019 Tufoblu (Barbaresco). Dark and ripe mixed fruits, along with abundant spice and dried flowers, define this well-constructed wine. It strikes a balance between fruit and earth giving depth and complexity. The mouth-watering acidity freshens the palate as the well-constructed tannins give the wine more gravitas. Drink now–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$46

91 Grimaldi 2018 Manzola (Barbaresco). Aromas of wild strawberries, fresh green herbs, drying flowers and sandalwood lift from the glass. The structured palate pops with bright acidity highlighting the sour cherry and raspberry flavors framed by fine tannins and a mineral finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$40

91 Pertinace 2020 (Barbaresco). For full review see page 29. Freixenet Mionetto USA.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

91 Prunotto 2020 (Barbaresco). Aromas of wild raspberries with floral undertones lift from the glass of this classic Barbaresco followed by present but subtle earthy tones. The juicy palate is loaded with tart red fruits balanced by medicinal herbs and sweet spices. Supple tannins are lifted on the finish by the vibrant acidity. Drink now–2035. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$44

91 Rivetti Massimo 2020 Froi (Barbaresco). The wine presents a very pretty nose and strikes a good balance between fruit and savory notes. Classic characteristics shine through, framed by elegant tannins that contribute to the wine's appeal. Drink now–2035. Angel's Share Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 Ricossa 2018 Antica Casa (Barbaresco). This pretty Barbaresco opens with aromas of macerated raspberry, red currant and rosebud. The lifted palate pops with crunchy red fruit notes, savory herbs, spice and a chalky minerality finishing with easy, fine and elegant tannins. Drink now–2035. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

90 Rivetti Massimo 2020 (Barbaresco). Vibrant cherry aromas, candied and lifted, create a pretty bouquet with hints of sweet spice, tar and earth. The palate delivers textured tannins and classic acidity, ensuring a well-structured and

harmonious experience. Drink now–2040. Angel's Share Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 Roberto Sarotto 2018 Riserva (Barbaresco). Vivid cherry aromas leap from the glass of this classically styled Barbaresco followed by notes of tea leaf, mixed spices and dried rose. The energetic palate pops with a solid core of red berry flavors with savory herbal notes playing in the background finishing with elegant and supple tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

89 Rivetti Massimo 2018 Riserva Serraboella (Barbaresco). This wine's aromas are a balanced mix of warmed cherries, wild herbs, cedar and savory spice. The firm and densely structured palate opens with dried raspberries, currants and sour plum finishing with black tea and dried earthy notes. Drink 2028–2040. Angel's Share Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

88 Tenuta San Mauro 2015 Canova (Barbaresco). Dried red currants, dried herbs and dried earth waft from the glass of this Barbaresco. The firm palate opens with sour red fruits mixed with baking spices and dried blood orange zest finishing with a deep and dark earth tone. Tannins still need time. Drink 2028–2040. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$65

87 Covalli 2019 (Barbaresco). Mixed red berries, both macerated and preserved, are paired with sweet and savory spice, accompanied by dusty earth notes. This wine is straightforward, displaying a classic profile with vibrant acidity, fine tannins with notes of dried red currant, orange peel and roses. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

LANGHE

94 Guidobono 2021 (Langhe). Marasca cherries infused with savory spices open up the lovely aromas of this Langhe Nebbiolo. Earthy tones develop, hinting at truffle and oolong tea. Structured and mineral-driven, this wine offers depth and concentration. Deserving of a meal. Drink from now–2045. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$19

93 Giulia Negri 2021 Pian Delle Mole Nebbiolo (Langhe). Crushed raspberries, savory herbs and wildflowers envelop the senses. Elegant and caressing, this wine reveals a core of mixed red berries, forest floor and a mineral finish. Classic Nebbiolo tannins and acidity shine through. Enjoy from now–2035. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

90 Flavio Roddolo 2009 (Langhe). Roasted fruits are paired with spice, savory notes,

tobacco and herbal nuances, with even a touch of saltiness. The wine finishes with a dank earthiness, and old-school character, leaning toward a barnyard quality that might be polarizing to some but I find enjoyable. This wine needs to be with roasted mushrooms, meat or game dishes. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$82

86 Manera Fratelli 2019 Furestè (Langhe). This Bordeaux blend is easy-drinking but lacks distinctiveness. Aromas of cassis, blackberry and tobacco all hit but this could be from anywhere, and that is okay as the wine gives what it is meant to do: easy pleasure. Vintner's Stash. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

ROERO

94 Malvirà 2010 Riserva Renesio (Roero). For full review see page 12. Indigenous Selections. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Malvirà 2010 Riserva Trinità (Roero). For full review see page 12. Indigenous Selections. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Malvirà 2011 Riserva Renesio (Roero). For full review see page 19. Indigenous Selections.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Malvirà 2011 Riserva Mombeltramo (Roero). Aromas of crushed raspberries and pomegranate juice, dried roses and mixed citrus notes rise from the glass of this very pretty wine. Soft on the palate with high-toned red fruits giving way to thyme and bay leaf finishing with sweet spices and well-balanced acidity and tannins. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.

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

92 Malvirà 2011 Riserva Trinità (Roero). Wild strawberry jam with fruit leather and mixed spices waft from the glass, with flowers in the background. The soft palate is giving with red berries fruits, allspice, leather and supple tannins. Indigenous Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Malvirà 2009 Riserva Mombeltramo (Roero). Black cherries in spiced cake, hints of menthol and medicinal herbs open the nose of this wine. The oak-spiced palate is firm with loads of juicy dried and preserved cherry flavors finishing with a black tea and earthy notes. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Malvirà 2009 Riserva Trinità (Roero). Savory on the nose with notes of medicinal herbs, licorice, clove, dried flowers and mixed dried fruits. The elegant palate shows dried blood oranges, cran-

berry and baking spice. Superfine tannins with oak spice define the finish. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Malvirà 2009 Riserva Renesio (Roero). Dried roses and black cherry compote sprinkled with dried herbs lift from the glass. The firm palate still packs a tannic bunch with oak spice, leather, tobacco and dusty earth notes. This 100% needs aged cheese or a savory dish to reach its peak. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

GATTINARA

93 Travaglini 2018 Il Sogno (Gattinara). Il Sogno is a unique wine made from meticulously selected grapes that are dried for 100 days before fermentation. Aromas of cherry, currant, tobacco and savory herbs emerge. The palate is mouthfilling, with chewy tannins enveloping compote-like fruit flavors sprinkled with clove and cinnamon. Drink from 2026–2045. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$137

93 Travaglini 2018 Tre Vigne (Gattinara). As its name suggests, this wine is a blend of three specific vineyards within Gattinara. It opens with dried black cherry and balsamic and pine notes, leading to dried red and purple flowers with sweet spices. The generous palate gives warmed red berries framed by firm yet elegantly placed tannins. Mouthwatering acidity lingers on the finish. Drink from 2025–2045. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Travaglini 2019 Estate Bottled (Gattinara). This elegantly perfumed wine opens with aromas of wild cherry, dried thyme, wildflowers and underbrush, offering savory spice notes. The palate shines with a balance between ripe red fruits and savory, earthy flavors leaning toward iron, finishing with supple tannins and bright acidity. Drink now–2035. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

CAREMA

93 Cantina Produttori di Carema 2018 (Carema). Stunning aromas of wild raspberries mixed with fresh violets and rose, accompanied by hints of mountain shrubs. The palate is bright with tart red berries, macchia notes and electric acidity. Fresh and pretty, this wine is incredibly tasty. Drink now–2040. Blue House Wines. —J.P.

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

93 Monte Maletto 2020 Sole e Roccia (Carema). Like a siren, this wine's enchanting aromas will captivate you. Hyacinth, Rooibos, wild and tart forest berries and turned earth fill the bouquet. The palate is elegant and stunning with pure fruit flavors. Subtle notes of dried herbs and rosewood

emerge as superfine tannins and lifted acidity carry the finish. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$77

92 Cantina Produttori di Carema 2017 Riserva (Carema). Dried cherry, savory and earth-driven aromas with tar and crushed stone open this wine. Notes of balsam, worn leather and spice add complexity. The mouthwatering acidity pops with crushed red berries giving way to savory notes. The wine is classically structured and nuanced with elegant tannins. Drink now–2035. Blue House Wines. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

94 Guidobono 2020 Loreto (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Shy at first, this wine benefits from a little air. As the wine opens elegant aromas of macerated cherries in savory spice with fresh thyme and rose waft from the glass. Enchanted, you are pulled deeper into the glass where the palate shines with ripe raspberries, tobacco leaf, leather and clove as fine tannins keep the wine taut with mouthwatering acidity on the finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Sandrone 2021 Valmaggione (Nebbiolo d'Alba). The Valmaggione of Sandrone is a benchmark wine. This vintage, the wine leaps from the glass with aromas of macerated raspberries, tea leaves, sweet and savory spices, rosebud and wild herbs. The structured palate opens with ripe cherries dusted with allspice and clove, then evolves into savory and earthy notes that are all surrounded by fine and firm tannins. Drink now–2040. Vintus LLC. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Rizieri 2021 (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Bright aromas of fresh cherries, rose and thyme waft from the glass of this fresh and pretty Nebbiolo. Elegant, the palate pops with fresh tart red berries that make enough room for savory and earthy notes to slide in on the finish with fine and elegant tannins. Drink now–2035. DB Wine Selection. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Manera Fratelli 2021 Serre Buatto (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Leaping out of the glass, this wine bursts with fresh raspberries, cherries and roses, accompanied by hints of savory spice. Tart fruits dance on the palate with vibrant acidity and fine tannins, finishing with fresh earthy notes. Vintner's Stash. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Mauro Sebaste 2021 Parigi (Nebbiolo d'Alba). This 100% Nebbiolo opens with mixed blue and red berries and upfront baking spices and fresh wildflowers. The refined palate showcases candied cherries, allspice, tobacco and

BUYINGGUIDE

dried herbs finishing with firm tannins. Saranty Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

BARBERA D'ALBA

93 Abrigo Giovanni 2021 Marmineola (Barbera d'Alba). Aromas of black cherry, tangy red berries, subtle floral hints and wild herbs entice on the nose. The taut palate reveals fine tannins, ripe yet lifted mixed berries and energetic acidity, making it a mouthwatering and food-friendly wine. Elevation Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Guidobono 2021 (Barbera d'Alba). Initially reserved, the wine gradually reveals dark and ripe cherries with hints of red and purple floral notes, dried thyme and savory spices. The palate is giving and round, showcasing plum flavors, clove, a touch of pepper and turned earth notes. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Manera Fratelli 2021 Bricco Serafino (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). This deeply extracted wine exudes aromas of black plum, cherry jam and warmed baking spice accompanied by hints of violet. The lush and juicy palate strikes a well-balanced chord with ample fruit, complemented by crunchy acidity and fine tannins. A solid wine. Drink now—2035. Vintner's Stash. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

91 Elvio Cogno 2021 Bricco Dei Merli (Barbera d'Alba). This Barbera lifts from the glass with fresh aromas of mixed berries, sweet spices, wild herbs and underbrush. The juicy palate gives notes of black cherries, raspberries and tea finishing with bright acidity. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Guidobono 2019 Due Gelsi (Barbera d'Alba). Plump and juicy black cherry and macerated raspberry aromas accompanied by spiced tea and wild herbs open the nose of this wine. Structured, the palate reveals violets, underbrush, leather and licorice on the finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Marchesi di Barolo 2020 Peiragal (Barbera d'Alba). This forward Barbera opens with loads of mixed baking spices, cherry pie filling and candied violet. The palate is juicy and round with a deep core of plum mixed with savory and oak spices finishing with well-constructed tannins and vibrant acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Malvirà 2019 (Barbera d'Alba Superiore). Darker fruits, both liquored and macerated, blend with sweet and savory spice leading to subtle earthy notes. The rich palate gushes with cherry and plum flavors wrapped up with notes of clove,

cinnamon and vanilla finishing with a pop of acidity on the finish. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

DOLCETTO D'ALBA

91 Flavio Roddolo 2016 (Dolcetto d'Alba). Dark and earthy, this Dolcetto states its gravitas from the moment it's poured. Aromas of grilled black cherries mix with plum jam, rosemary and dried violets that spill from the glass. Blackberry compote spiced with savory spices and clove drive the palate as oolong tea and forest floor provide a balance to the rich fruit notes. An example of how well Dolcetto can age. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Elvio Cogno 2022 Mandorlo (Dolcetto d'Alba). Aromas of roasted plum dusted with clove, dried herbs and dried violets waft from the glass of the Dolcetto. Radiant and pure blackberry flavors both fresh and preserved define the core of the wine with savory spice, dried leaf and fine tannins all in support. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Rocca Giovanni 2022 Vigna Sant'Anna (Dolcetto d'Alba). This lush and forward Dolcetto opens with tart blueberry and boysenberry aromas followed by fresh violets. The juicy palate pops with vibrant plum and medicinal herb notes that balance each other with an agrodoce feeling. Enjoy with roast chicken or cauliflower with salsa verde. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

88 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2020 Monte Aribaldo (Dolcetto d'Alba). Violets and savory spice waft out of the glass with wild plum notes following quickly behind. The light and refreshing palate is giving with black cherry notes, dried herbs and turned earth. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

BARBERA DEL MONFERRATO

91 Accornero 2020 Giulin (Barbera del Monferrato Superiore). Super pretty aromas shine, with forward and fleshy blue and black fruits, violets and spice. It is mouthwatering, with tart fruits on the palate and a touch of herb and forest floor complexity. Golden State Wine Co. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Accornero 2018 Bricco Battista (Barbera del Monferrato Superiore). Dark-fruited, the wine is lush and broad on the palate, showcasing lots of spice. The palate is loaded with preserved plum and roasted coffee notes with a hint of can-

died violets finishing with fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

89 Marchesi di Barolo 2020 Maraia (Barbera del Monferrato). This wine balances high and bass-toned red and black fruit aromas and flavors, delivering a juicy yet tart sensation. Solid notes of spice and earth emerge, creating a warm and inviting palate primed for dishes focused on more savory and earth-driven flavors. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Hic et Nunc 2021 Femmine Singolare (Barbera del Monferrato). Aromas of black-hued fruits, cooked and fruit leather alongside spice notes. On the palate, the wine offers mouthwatering and tangy fruits, with notes of plum skin and even orange peel. Easy, juicy and fun. Rarm Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$8

MALVASIA DI CASTELNUOVO DON BOSCO

92 Cascina Gilli 2022 Gilli (Malvasia di Castelnuovo Don Bosco). Wild raspberries and cranberries burst from the glass, accompanied by fresh roses, violets and other aromatic flowers. Resembling the best fruiti di bosco jam ever made, it offers a delightful combination of tartness, slight sweetness and a subtle fizziness. This wine is akin to a perfect bowl of fruit and a basket of flowers. Vino Veritas. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Bava 2021 Rosetta (Malvasia di Castelnuovo Don Bosco). The wine exudes wild forest berries, intertwined with rosebud, rosewater and orange peel. The exotic palate is carried with wild cherries mixed with wild and medicinal herbs finishing with soft easy tannins. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Bava 2022 Rosetta (Malvasia di Castelnuovo Don Bosco). A dominant rose character drives the aromas of this wine, accompanied by tart strawberry notes and hints of fresh herbs. The palate showcases the herbal qualities, with fresh and ripe cherry and raspberry notes on the finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER RED WINES

94 La Prevostura 2018 (Lessona). This wine shows the class and beauty of the Alto Piemonte opening with aromas of wild cherries, fresh mixed flowers, alpine herbs and savory spices. The palate is polished and refined with warmed red-berried fruits, amaro herbs, fine tannins and per-

sistent finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

93 Azienda Agricola Deliquent 2020 (Freisa d'Asti). Dark raspberries macerated with herbs and savory spices, accompanied by loads of violets, create an aromatic delight. The palate is joyous and vibrant with a touch of rusticity that adds to its charm. Fine tannins and good acidity contribute to a juicy and lively finish. Amanda's Wine Adventures. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

93 Pecchenino 2020 Siri d'Jermu (Dogliani Superiore). The Siri d'Jermu is an iconic single-vineyard Dolcetto that helps define the category. The deeply hued wine opens with aromas of blackberry wrapped in a mix of warm spices, violets and crushed stone. Homemade cherry jam flavors captivate the palate with subtle wild herb notes and hints of pepper balancing the fruit. An example of why this grape is so important, worth drinking and most importantly, shared. Drink now–2035. Vias Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

92 Crivelli 2022 (Ruché di Castagnole Monferato). This Ruché is a classic example of this unique grape. High-toned mixed fruits of cherry, blackberry, raspberry and sour plum with an abundance of wildflowers create an enticing and exciting aromatic profile. Plush on the palate with more plum jam notes layered with savory spice. It has fine and present tannins, finishing with wild herbal notes and crushed stone minerality that adds complexity. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

92 Crivelli 2021 Collina La Mora (Barbera d'Asti). Aromas of black cherries, tart raspberries and purple flowers intertwine with layers of sweet and savory spice. On the palate, the wine showcases giving characteristics of plum jam and blackberry compote, candied violets and clove while maintaining classic Barbera acidity. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$23

91 Azienda Agricola Deliquent 2022 (Freisa d'Asti). Cherry notes blend with exotic spices, balsam, pine and herbal elements. Pomegranate jam and wild herbs emerge, along with a hint of pepper. Loads of violets and firm tannins define the palate, finishing with lifted and crunchy acidity. Will benefit from a little time in the cellar. Drink 2025–2035. Amanda's Wine Adventures. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 Azienda Crus 2019 Colma Santa Barbara (Bramaterra). Mixed fruits, predominantly red but with various characteristics ranging from jammy to preserved, dominate the aroma with subtle notes of wildflowers and pepper. The wine showcases intense spice and herbal notes. The wine delivers more as it begins to open and showcases the elegance and beauty and earthy notes that make

this Bramaterra worth the search for a bottle. Drink now–2035. The Piedmont Guy. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$80

91 Braida di Giacomo Bologna 2019 Il Baciato (Monferrato). Roasted black fruits, peppers and oak spice dominate the inviting and pleasurable aromatic profile. The lush palate exhibits a pronounced herbal character that complements notes of roasted plums, figs and an abundance of oak spice. Fine tannins and lingering licorice notes add depth. Drink now–2035. Soilair Selection. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$33

91 La Prevostura 2020 Muntacc (Coste della Sesia). Displaying a dusty red color, the wine offers subtle yet pretty aromas. Ripe cherries infused with sweet spices and a hint of tree bark fill the nose. The palate is subtle with sour red fruits at its core showcasing dried herbal and black tea notes finishing with elegant tannins and a long, mineral-driven finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Banfi 2021 L'Altra Anima (Barbera d'Asti). Plum, blackberry jam, violets, gamy nuances and licorice notes create a complex aromatic profile. The palate combines red and black fruit with juicy yet tart qualities, showcasing a solid structure infused with spice and earth elements. Banfi Vintners. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Coutandin 2019 Ramie (Pinerolese). Initially perplexing this unique wine presents black fruits and an abundance of spice, complemented by leather and earthy elements. Figgy and prune notes with worn leather, and dried herbs and a hint of sea salt contribute to the complex profile on the palate. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

89 Cascina Vèngore S.S. 2020 Belguardo (Terre Alfieri). Organically grown, this wine exhibits its spice-forward aromas of clove, cinnamon and licorice, along with ripe red fruits. The palate showcases cherry-forward flavors, lots of vanilla, and sweet baking spices, with moderate tannins that show the influence of oak. Vintage Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$29

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

94 Caiarossa 2021 Bianco (Toscana). The nose features a mix of fresh and cooked apples, with lemonade and mixed spices adding to the nuanced sweetness. That nuance continues on the palate, which brings more tree fruit and sweet citrus notes, while rumbling acid guarantees balance. Integrated and coherent. Misa Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

90 La Bastarda 2022 (Toscana). On the nose, white flowers soften the piercing aromas of lemon, salt, pepper and green apple, but those notes crescendo on the palate to create an intensely savory flavor that is underscored by searing, undeniable acid. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy*. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

BOLGHERI

94 Caccia al Piano 1868 2021 Lungocosta (Bolgheri). The nose features the gentle sweetness of yellow apples, pears and honey, while toasted almonds and lemon zest provide a loose yet palpable structure. On the palate, the sweet notes shine, but a towering wave of acid balances the fruit until a more restrained, savory finish of salty nuts. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

90 Campo al Mare 2022 Vermentino (Bolgheri). The nose starts rich and indulgent, with notes of honey butter, lemon curd and toasted almonds, but a salty, umami undertone pushes back. On the palate, fresh citrus, an acid rinse and a white pepper finish bring a welcome brightness. Kobrand. *Best Buy*. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

TUSCANY RED WINES

99 Masseto 2020 (Toscana). A hedge maze of aromas greets the nose, from blackberries and black cherries to crushed stones and crumpled petals, before a gentle addition of vanilla and toasted coconut. Mixed berries with vanilla and cardamom soak the palate, followed by freshly tilled dirt and flinty stone notes, and finally an astringent, brooding spiciness on the back. Tannins are tightly stitched together across the palate like a tapestry, with acrobatic acid emphasizing a salt and pepper finish. A wine that speaks volumes without shouting. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 15% Price: \$860

98 Le Macchiole 2020 Messorio (Toscana). A nose like a private library with old books on the shelves, dried lavender and violets on the desk, and sunbeams and damp air from outside streaming through the drapes, held at bay by a smoky warmth from the hearth. The palate delivers a riot of berries and chocolate and spices, with a salty astringency at the back. Tannins and acid that start quiet, and then rise up and roar. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$350

97 Argiano 2020 Solengo (Toscana). The nose is dark yet polished, like a new leather jacket, with aromas of blackberry, black olive, wet stone, dirt and playful violets. The palate mixes a more pronounced, sweeter streak of berries with an enduring metallic earthiness, before a chili choco-

BUYINGGUIDE

late finish. Powerful tannins and acid ensure age-worthiness. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

96 La Massa 2020 La Massa (Toscana). The nose is an astringent blend of dried cherries, cranberries, bricks, soil and hibiscus, with a mix of fresh wild herbs providing some warmth. The sanguine fruitiness and earthy notes continue onto the palate, but polished tannins and lithe acid create a round texture. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

96 Mazzei 2020 Siepi (Toscana). The nose balances dense, fiery aromas of grilled meat, pepper and gunpowder with lighter, friendlier notes of cherries and wild berries. The berries take a leading role on the palate, but the spicy smokiness lingers as an assertive undertone, leading into a hot finish. Tannins have grit without being rustic, emphasizing a saliva-inducing savoriness throughout. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$139

96 Tenuta di Trinoro 2020 Palazzi (Toscana). A primarily sanguine and umami nose draws balance from sweet, slightly astringent notes of plum, blueberry and boysenberry. The berries flourish on the palate, but acid brings out a latent mix of pepper and spices to preserve balance, while silky, opaque tannins provide framing. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$325

96 Tua Rita 2020 Giusto Di Notri (Toscana). The nose offers seemingly infinite layers, first showing tiny wild blueberries and mulberries, then violets and peonies, then a soft, soothing earth element comes in, with a final tangy, peppery aroma. On the palate, sweeter, darker berries spar with continued astringent notes, while silky tannins blanket everything with the distinctive mouth-feel of Tua Rita. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

96 Tua Rita 2019 Gusto Di Notri (Toscana). For full review see page 4. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

95 Castello di Meleto 2019 Parabuio (Toscana). On the nose, raspberries and tart plum skin provide the fruit, while graphite, tea leaves and soy sauce bring savory balance. The raspberries and plums become richer on the palate, while salt and pepper undertones crackle until a minty finish that radiates off highly polished tannins. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

95 Fattoria Le Pupille 2020 Saffredi (Toscana). A rich, juicy nose presents handfuls of cherries and mulberries, along with slices of passion fruit, but a fresh savoriness keeps the sweetness in check. On the palate, dark chocolate brings depth,

while tannins and acid attack in tandem. Bold and self-assured—a precise wine. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

95 La Massa 2018 Grigio Primo (Toscana). The nose is a summer barbecue with clouds of smoky meat mingling with dark, plush berries and fruit. Dessert arrives on the palate, with a slice of berry tart, but peppery heat and searing tannins provide balance through a bitter, sophisticated, lingering finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Mazzei 2020 Concerto Di Fonterutoli (Toscana). The nose balances the peppery, sanguine smokiness of grilled meat with a succulent swirl of black cherries and chocolate. On the palate, that balance continues, and is spotlighted by a strong undertone of spice and salt, while polished tannins and integrated acid create cohesion. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$119

95 Podere Sapaio 2019 (Toscana). A nose that's marvelously chameleon-like, offering first cherries and berries with a sweet but serious vanilla undertone, then tangy, sanguine soil and crushed rocks, then bitter roots and spices. The palate is equally layered, then electrified with heat and acid through a lingering finish. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$94

95 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2020 Merlot (Toscana). An unctuous, umami blend of hot tar, balsamic vinegar and wild herbs on the nose, with a crack of black pepper before blackberries flood in. More pepper and crushed stones on the palate insist on the savory and austere elements right now, but the fruit promises to mature and offer a truly luxurious experience with time. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$155

95 Urlari 2019 L'Urlo (Toscana). The nose leads with cherries, strawberries and an earthy, herbal woodsiness, before chocolate and mushrooms suddenly arrive. The cherries and earthiness continue onto the palate, above a peppery, mineral undertone that endures until breaking against a rich, chocolaty finish. Vine Connections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Banfi 2020 Magna Cum Laude (Toscana). For full review see page 8. Banfi Vintners.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

94 Bertinga 2017 (Toscana). Sweet with vanilla, salted dark chocolate and dark berries on the nose at first, but then savory aromas of wild herbs and grilled just barely gamy meat. Berries and chocolate continue on the palate, with sanguine, meaty undertones still guaranteeing a richness and depth. Just delicious. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Caiarossa 2020 (Toscana). For full review see page 9. Misa Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Caiarossa 2020 Aria di Caiarossa (Toscana). For full review see page 9. Misa Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Carobbio 2015 Pietraforte Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The nose is both tropical, with notes of vanilla and coconut, and woody, as tobacco smoke is cut by tart currants and plums. On the palate, blackberries highlight continued streaks of vanilla and plum, while a floral finish balances a lingering smokiness and firm, yet smooth, tannins. Quintessential. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Il Borro 2019 (Toscana). Morello cherries and blackberries roll in dirt and wild herbs on the nose, and then stretch their legs on the palate over aromas of vanilla, dark chocolate and espresso. Lively acid and penetrative heat accents the earthy salinity that Il Borro uniquely expresses. Exuberant but sophisticated, worth holding on to until 2029 at least. USA Wine West. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

94 Renzo Masi 2020 Contrappasso (Toscana). The nose features a nuanced, slightly astringent sweetness, with aromas of strawberry fruit leather, cherry, roses and hibiscus, and a stony undertone providing balance. On the palate, oranges emphasize the strawberry notes, while the enduring stoniness adds a light salinity. Powerful tannins and acid hold everything together. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

94 Tenuta Sette Cieli 2018 Indaco (Toscana). The nose has primarily umami notes of leather, graphite and dark chocolate, but macerated black cherries and blackberries create a plush, succulent undertone. That undertone grows on the palate before the dark chocolate returns on the finish, but unrelenting tannins and heat provide balance throughout. Plenty of time for aging. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$81

93 Banfi 2020 Belnero (Toscana). For full review see page 15. Banfi Vintners.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 Cabreo 2019 Il Borgo (Toscana). Dark fruit and chocolate, then damp soil, leaves and underbrush swirl together on the nose with a final smoky hint of campfire. Earth and heat remain on the palate, with more chocolate and even nutty undertones, girded by solid but refined tannins. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Caiarossa 2020 Pergolaia (Toscana). For full review see page 16. Misa Imports.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Conte Guicciardini 2020 Tricornio (Toscana). An earthy, peppery, lightly woody nose draws balance and delicacy from a sweet berry undertone and a splash of vanilla. The berries, pepper and earthiness all reappear on the palate, and the vanilla blossoms above a blend of spices, which is underscored by austere tannins and fiery acid. Vivino Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2021 Crognolo (Toscana). Ultra fresh juicy cherries with more delicate aromas of violets and rose petals on the nose roll onto a palate rich with more cherries and berries balanced by earthy, astringent notes of soil, branches and roots and a finish of bitter cocoa and anise. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Terenziola 2018 Forma Alta (Toscana). A primarily sweet nose of strawberries, raspberries, pomegranates and guava draws balance from a dusting of wild herbs. On the palate, the herbaceousness grows and turns the fruitiness slightly bitter, as strawberry fruit leather and bitter orange stand their ground against imposing tannins, acid and spice. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: NA **Price:** \$68

92 Col d'Orcia 2020 Spezieri (Toscana). The nose starts richly sanguine, like roast beef, before lightening into aromas of plums, violets and a fresh, coppery earthiness. Salt and pepper reinforce the meatiness on the palate, while continued plum notes maintain their sweetness even against well-tuned tannins and substantial acid. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Conte Guicciardini 2020 La Historia Di Italia (Toscana). The primarily fresh, savory nose has notes of earth and crushed stones, while undertones of wild herbs and astringent fruit provide nuance. Salt and pepper accentuate the stony freshness on the palate, while the fruit turns slightly richer to create a silky texture despite firm tannins and vivacious acid. Vivino Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Fattoria Carpineta Fontalpino 2018 Do Ut Des (Toscana). The nose is herbaceous, metallic and slightly earthy, with notes of pepper, pencil shavings, fennel, balsamic and soil shining above a fruity undertone. On the palate, cherry, plum and orange trees sprout from a continued earthiness, which is emphasized by dusty tannins, while lightly crackling acid provides balance. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Supremus 2018 (Toscana). The nose is a succulent balance of fruit and meat, with dark chocolate tying notes of black cherry and blackberry to savory undertones of pepper and graphite. On the palate, flintiness, bright acid and taut, dusty tan-

nins frame the enduring dark fruit and dark chocolate. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Le Masse 2019 Santa Goccia (Toscana). Bright and fresh on the nose, with cherries and red berries, then the metallic tang of soil and more refreshing aromas of wild herbs. The palate is equally lively and earthy, with chalky tannins and a hint of heat and spice on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

91 Renzo Masi 2020 Erta e China (Toscana). The nose is primarily warm, floral and fruity, with prominent notes of plums and figs, but draws balance from cooler, fresher undertones of stone and damp earth. The palate preserves the floral and fruit elements, before structured tannins and decisive acid carry through a spicy finish. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

91 Tolaini 2020 Legit Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The nose is primarily peppery grilled meat, but plums and currants cut that savory smokiness. The palate glides gracefully in the opposite direction, as an initial blast of macerated dark fruit gives way to resurgent sanguinity before a bitter finish emphasized by imposing tannins and unrelenting acid. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Tommasi 2020 Poggio al Tufo Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). A dark, almost regal nose of black cherries, blackberries, steel and slate gets welcome levity from an undertone of violet. The dark fruit and metallic glint reappear on the palate, while chalky, chewy tannins accentuate a slow-developing dark chocolate note, and bright acid provides tartness through the finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Banfi 2020 Cantine Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Sangiovese (Toscana). For full review see page 33. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Barbanera 2020 Saracosa Governo (Toscana). The nose features both bright, assertively sweet cherries and apples and lighter notes of tulips, while herbs growing through the crack in a brick wall provide a savory balance. On the palate, tannins and acid cut a heightened sweetness of bubble gum, passion fruit, berry ice cream and candied apple. Pazzione Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Boscarelli 2021 De Ferrari (Toscana). A savory, umami nose offers cured meat, potting soil and balsamic vinegar, then Bing cherries and blackberries. The palate is lively and juicy with berries, but with the meatiness still present and

a spicy, salt and pepper finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Fattoria Fibianno 2019 Le Pianette (Toscana). Cinnamon and cherry candy on the nose with some savory aromas of tomato leaf and metallic notes of pencil shavings. The palate is alive with crunchy red fruit and simmering with acid. Fresh and fun. Artisanal Cellars. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Piccini 2021 Poggio Alto (Toscana). The dense, almost chewy dark fruit flavors of dried figs, dried cherries and plums with earth tones of soil and rocks and then savory aromas of old leather and bitter cocoa on the nose reveal the use of the Governo style, with more salted chocolate and dried red and black fruit on the palate for a decadent sip. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Pietraserena 2020 Ser Gervasio (Toscana). The nose is full of tart, astringent fruit, but violets lend delicacy and a wet stoniness provides balance. On the palate, wild berries mingle with tea leaves before the party is broken up by a peppery mocha finish. Firm, polished tannins and balanced acid create a sense of cohesion. Lytrium International. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Fattoria Uccelliera 2021 Ginepraia (Rosso di Toscana). The nose opens bright and fresh with Bing cherries, wild strawberries and raspberries followed by dark chocolate and then aromas of hot tar and graphite. The palate stays berry rich and chocolaty, balanced by solid, polished tannins and the warmth of heat and spice on the finish. Franco Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

BOLGHERI

95 Ornellaia 2021 Le Serre Nuove Dell' Ornellaia (Bolgheri). On the nose, hot, meaty, umami aromas hold court, but dark fruit and a sanguine, tangy metallic component prevent those notes of smoke, pepper and tar from becoming overpowering. Undertones of vanilla and chocolate lift the fruit on the palate, but unyielding tannins and energetic acid ensure the spicy earthiness endures. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Le Macchiole 2021 (Bolgheri). On the nose, sweet, slightly tart aromas of cherries and blackberries are balanced by a stony, spicy earthiness. That interplay between tart fruit and sanguine earthiness continues on the palate, creating the sensation of a breath of fresh spring air after the rain, before chalky tannins and bright acid usher in a bitter, peppery finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Banfi 2019 ASKA (Bolgheri). A savory yet fresh nose features both earthiness and woodiness, with a sparkle of spice and smear of dark berries providing balance. The berries and heat crescendo on the palate, where acid buzzes on your tongue and tannins maintain structure through a lengthy finish. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Ceralti 2020 Sonoro (Bolgheri Superiore). A rich, sanguine, metallic nose is emphasized by an astringent fruitiness, while faint rose undertones provide delicacy. The fruit sweetens and becomes denser on the palate, while the florality intensifies to contrast with bittersweet citrus notes that are elevated by abundant acid and rigid tannins. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$83

90 Campo al Mare 2021 (Bolgheri). On the nose, aromas of Rainier cherries, strawberries and blood orange are balanced by a wet, woody, vegetal quality, and then underscored by a pleasant salinity. That salty earthiness continues onto the palate, while the lingering astringency of barely ripe berries evolves into a bittersweet cocoa finish. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Ceralti 2021 Scirè (Bolgheri). For full review see page 31. HB Wine Merchants.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

CHIANTI

90 Caposaldo 2021 (Chianti). A savory nose leans into earthy and umami notes, while the slight tartness of wild cherries and strawberries brings levity that skates smoothly onto the palate, which leans into the fruitiness but draws balance from lead and pepper undertones, while acid glints off supple tannins. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Fattoria di Basciano 2017 Riserva (Chianti Rufina). The nose is savory yet varied, with notes of meat, balsamic, oregano, stone and wood, while black cherries and blackberries provide some balancing succulence. The interplay between the black cherries and the more savory notes continues onto the palate, where acid and tannin set up a peppery finish. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Fattoria Poggio Capponi 2021 (Chianti). The nose swerves among the comprehensive fruitiness of cherries and figs, a rubbery earthiness, and the freshness of mint. On an equally dexterous palate, the cherry notes blossom, but blossoms require enduringly fresh soil, and a bounce of acid blows the mint back through like a fresh breeze. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Fattoria Poggio Capponi 2020 Riserva (Chianti). On the nose, sweet aromas of cherry

and strawberry dance with the bitterness of orange peel and the dustiness of soil and coffee grounds. Darker berries underscore the cherries' sweetness on the palate, but firm tannins and an enduring splash of coffee structure a bitter, chocolaty finish. Wine Wine Situation. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Renzo Masi 2020 Riserva (Chianti). For full review see page 35. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Piccini 2022 (Chianti). For full review see page 36. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Gabbiano 2021 (Chianti). The nose leans umami, with notes of soil, graphite and salt draped around a light woodiness, but a splash of cherry provides pop. On the palate, strawberries arrive to emphasize that cherry sweetness, but bouncy acid ensures the nose's salinity is preserved. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Melini 2021 Borghi D'Elsa (Chianti). Dried cherries and cranberries highlight the nose, but notes of wood and soil provide structure, while a hint of vanilla leads into a palate defined by fresher fruit and a crackle of pepper that sets up a warm, slightly bitter, tannic finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

CHIANTI CLASSICO

94 Cantalici 2018 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Red, astringent fruit headlines the nose, with roses bringing a welcome delicacy and earthy aromas of soil and coffee providing balance. The interplay of toned red fruit and fresh, metallic earthiness continues on the palate, before acid activates a latent spiciness through a long finish. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Castello di Meleto 2019 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). A balanced nose features sweet cherries, orange blossoms and vanilla, but also sanguine aromas of meat, bricks, pennies and tar. On the palate, that equilibrium continues, and a new tension also emerges as severe tannins and searing acid push up against a polished, silky mouthfeel. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Castello di Monsanto 2020 Monsanto Riserva (Chianti Classico). For full review see page 9. Freixenet Mionetto USA.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

94 Quercia al Poggio 2018 Riserva (Chianti Classico). An intensely metallic nose features aromas of graphite, gunmetal, slate and wood, all sprinkled with salt and pepper, but a slow-develop-

ing blend of red fruit and vanilla eventually appears, and grows more powerful on the palate, even as the fresh, earthy, salty stoniness persists. The Source Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Tenuta di Nozzole 2019 La Forra Riserva (Chianti Classico). The nose starts in your grandmother's living room, with perfumed aromas of flowers, baking spices, vanilla and candied cherries, before vegetal notes of bell pepper and herbs waft in from her garden. On the palate, these savory notes slowly crescendo into a vibrant, spicy, acidic finish. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Volpaia 2020 Coltassala Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). A fresh, herbal yet earthy nose pulls a light sweetness from notable cherry undercurrents, which are emphasized on the palate by a creamsicle swirl of orange and vanilla, but the lightly metallic, medicinal herbaceousness works with polished tannins and vibrant acid to create a streamlined, balanced feel. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$112

92 Cantalici 2019 Baruffo Riserva (Chianti Classico). An umami, sanguine nose of soil, herbs and peppery meat draws balance from an undercurrent of sour cherries and wild strawberries. The pull of tart fruit becomes more forceful on the palate, but a salt-and-pepper finish, firm tannins and vibrant acid uphold the nose's savory legacy. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Mazzei 2020 Vicoregio 36 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The sweet, slightly tropical nose is like a resort dessert, with notes of vanilla, coconut and Luxardo cherries, but a peppery woodiness provides balance. On the palate, an emergent graphite tang joins the enduring pepperiness to combat that continued cherry-vanilla element, which swells against firm tannins and youthful acid. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

92 Villa Calcinaia 2019 Vigna Bastignano Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose starts with cherries and cherry blossoms, before an umami swell of dirt, balsamic and pencil shavings. The cherries and dirt continue onto the salty palate, with a bitter blend of orange and cocoa providing an edge for the tannins to cling to. The Marchetti Co. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

92 Villa Calcinaia 2019 Vigna La Fornace Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). The nose balances umami aromas of dirt, mushrooms and espresso with fruitier notes of fig, cherry and orange peel. On the palate, the fruit livens up, while the drizzle of espresso continues as an undertone and anise provides a spicy glitter. Tannins and acid pro-

vide structure and integration. The Marchetti Co. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

91 Cantalici 2021 Baruffo (Chianti Classico). The nose starts with a flash of spiced vanilla before settling in with earthy notes of soil and cedar chips on one side, and then fruit aromas of cherries and strawberries on the other. The cherries headline the palate, but resurgent spices, a curl of bitter orange peel and a hot, acidic finish add liveliness. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Castello di Meleto 2020 Riserva (Chianti Classico). A primarily sanguine and umami nose is lifted by bitter citrus and sweet, tart wild cherry. Those fruity notes star on the palate, before a herbal, minty finish that is accentuated by sleek acid. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Castello di Querceto 2020 Il Picchio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Aromas of vanilla, coconut and cherry create a sweet nose, with a dusting of earth and herbs providing balance. On the palate, orange notes underscore the fruity sweetness, but an enduring, spiced herbaceousness works with organized tannins and acid to create a wine that is clean and breezy, but deep. Prestige Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Vignamaggio 2020 Terre Di Prenzano (Chianti Classico). The nose starts earthy, stony and slightly dusty, before a tart, astringent fruitiness and sugary notes of vanilla and cola emerge. The fruit sweetens on the palate, but the initial earthy minerality also lingers, and is emphasized by the tannins and acid. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Volpaia 2021 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, dark chocolate links sweet cherry and vanilla to savory tomato leaf and earth. The streaks of cherry, chocolate and vanilla continue on the palate, with strawberries highlighting their sweetness, but well-timed tannins and acid boost the enduring, vegetal tomato note to maintain balance. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Castello di Meleto 2021 (Chianti Classico). On the nose, a sweet, red fruitiness is glazed with vanilla, while balance comes from bitter orange peel and a soft meatiness. The palate also leans fruity, but a slight astringency blooms from the nose's orange note to maintain balance. Golden Ram Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Melini 2018 Vigneti La Selvanella Riserva (Chianti Classico). A primarily savory nose of earth, spices, cured meat and wood draws levity from a cherry vanilla undercurrent. The dry palate stays earthy, herbal and meaty, but courageously persistent cherries work with chalky tannins and

substantial acid to provide some pop. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Villa Calcinai 2021 Cappone (Chianti Classico). The initially sweet, woody nose turns tarter and almost sanguine with aromas of wild cherry, root beer and balsamic vinegar. Cherries star on the palate, alongside a resurgent earthiness emphasized by dense, chewy tannins, while acid revs up the heat at the finish line. The Marchetti Co. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

ROSSO DI MONTALCINO

97 Argiano 2021 (Rosso di Montalcino). A fresh, salty, slightly chalky nose, like the beach in autumn, starts with wild herbs, shells and dirt, before evolving into warm, astringent aromas of dried cherries, cranberries and dark chocolate. On the rich palate, a bolder cherry streak highlights more astringent red fruit, but a deep earthiness and lingering mineral saltiness preserve a marvelous freshness. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

96 Biondi-Santi 2020 Greppo (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose is floral and sweet, but refreshing thanks to clean, balancing aromas of mint and dirt. The palate takes that freshness a step further, to a light, bouncy, almost astringent level. Precocious tannins are young yet dense and supportive, while jubilant acid sings. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$126

95 Bonacchi 2019 Molino del Piano (Rosso di Montalcino). The fresh, astringent nose is like a garden in the morning rain, with aromas of roses, hibiscus, cranberries, pennies, coffee and pencil shavings. On the palate, a persistent coppery streak accentuates a metallic, earthy flintiness, but lingering astringent fruit and a meatiness emphasized by dense, chewy tannins create a balanced, supremely satisfying wine. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

95 Carpineto 2021 (Rosso di Montalcino). A balanced nose begins with opulent notes of raspberry and black cherry, before metallic, earthy and saline aromas emerge. The palate initially runs with the umami streak, before swirling into a decadent ice cream sundae of chocolate and vanilla, sprinkled with nuts and berries. Chalky, grippy tannins structure an acidic, astringent finish. Opici Wines. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

98 Argiano 2018 Vigna Del Suolo (Brunello di Montalcino). A sweet, floral nose welcomes you with a warm embrace of vanilla and cherry before an earthy savoriness surprises you with

notes of soil, leather, sun-dried tomato and oregano. The tomatoes sweeten on the palate joined by cherries and chili heat before a saline finish. A wine that defines itself with fruit so alive you could take its pulse, and contoured, seductive tannins. E. & J. Gallo. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$250

98 Salicutti 2018 Piaggione (Brunello di Montalcino). On the nose, overtones of rose petals brighten the denser aromas of dried strawberries and figs, while notes of stone, soil and balsamic add nuance. Electric fruit, an enduring earthy foundation and the introduction of sparkling, peppery heat are all unforgettably reminiscent of Salicutti's seemingly endless horizons. Bowler Wine. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$123

98 Salicutti 2018 Sorgente (Brunello di Montalcino). Fresh and earthy on the nose, like wet soil after a rain, with salty, sanguine aromas of crushed stones and just-brewed coffee and then the restrained sweetness of black cherries on ice and balsamic vinegar reduction. Black cherry, dried figs and dark chocolate appear on the palate, with razor-sharp acid and tannins that give a slow but crushing embrace. Statuesque. Bowler Wine. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$110

98 Salicutti 2017 Teatro (Brunello di Montalcino). The luminous nose starts sweet, with wild cherries and strawberries, then turns toward more astringent fruit as an herbaceous undertone gradually emerges. The palate is full of crunchy fruit, but taut tannins and pointed acid create a tension between sweetness and spice, along with a satiny, warm feeling on your tongue. Stunning. Bowler Wine. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$230

97 Argiano 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 3. E. & J. Gallo.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

97 Corte Pavone 2017 Riserva Anemone Al Sole (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is fresh and cool, like an afternoon outside after the rain, with aromas of mint, slate, black cherry sno-cones and iced coffee. The rich palate brings warmer notes of chocolate and espresso, but the cherries and stoniness linger. Tannins are tightly organized, while inspiring acid elevates everyone's performance. AP Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

97 Giodo 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose brings an umami sanguinity, with notes of tar, petrol and soil, but undertones of black cherries and blackberries make those aromas invigorating rather than harsh. The fruit ripens on the palate, but a slow-developing, spiced earthiness works with deliberate tannins and latent acid to maintain propriety. Panbianco. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$165

96 Col d'Orcia 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is warm, dry and fruity, with aro-

BUYINGGUIDE

mas of cranberry, cherry, strawberry and orange peel wafting above pennies jingling in the background. On the palate, rose petals accentuate the fruitiness, while the tannins are polished but not slippery, like expensive leather. A classic luxury experience. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

96 Il Colle 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts hot, dark and powerful, with dominant notes of tar and coffee, but earth, spices, dried cranberries and a light woodiness eventually emerge from the shadows. In contrast, the palate turns sweet with cherries and mixed berries, before tight tannins and exuberant acid crescendo into a meaty, metallic finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$73

96 La Lecciaia 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 4. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

96 Le Chiuse 2013 Diecianni Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts deep, with dark chocolate and black cherries, but gradually lightens into aromas of strawberries, blood orange peel and an herbal freshness. On the palate, vanilla puts wind in the sails of the sweeter notes, but powerful tannins and fierce acid recall the original depth. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$180

96 Le Gode 2018 Vigna Montosoli (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts hot and smoky, like a cowboy's dinner, before morning comes with gentler aromas of leather, coffee and soil, all above a plum undertone. The pepper returns on the palate, and is accentuated by tight yet polished tannins, but enduring dark fruit leads into a chocolaty finish. Angel's Share Wines. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

96 Voliero 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is a rainy day in the garden, as notes of soil, leather and tobacco mingle with undertones of cherry, bitter orange and herbs, with pepper streaking through it all. The cherries and earth both continue on the energetic, slightly medicinal palate, before a dramatic finish of acid circling the endless battle between fruit and earthiness. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Banfi 2018 Poggio Alle Mura (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 5. Banfi Vintners.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$110

95 La Lecciaia 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 6. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

95 La Poderina 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts at a café, with espresso and a cherry vanilla scone, before heading outside to a

field of wild herbs. On the elegant palate, enduring notes of mocha and cherry are balanced by a spiced, medicinal undertone. Flexible yet sturdy tannins and simmering acid undergird a velvety, contoured texture. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

95 La Poderina 2017 Poggio Abate Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose recalls your first day of school, carrying sharpened pencils and new notebooks over the just-mowed lawn, with a fruit salad in your bag for lunch. These notes all persist on the warm, complete palate, which blends herbaceousness and sanguinity until a playful, sparkling, vanilla orange finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

95 La Torre 2018 Estate Bottled (Brunello di Montalcino). The autumnal, faintly melancholic nose is a windswept traveler, wrapped in his old leather jacket and blowing cigar smoke into the dying sweet breezes of summer. That sweetness billows one last time on the palate, but the spiced, earthy finish points decidedly toward winter as tannins and acid look on. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

95 Lisini 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). Dark fruit aromas stretch across the nose but don't entirely mask hints of vanilla, pencil shavings and a salty, peppery stoniness. On the palate, the vanilla escalates to initially further emphasize the dark fruits, before new undertones of bitter orange and meaty umami elements emerge. Acid zips around dense tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

95 Martoccia 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose calls to mind the first buds of spring, with fresh, earthy aromas of flowers, cherries and herbs. Those light notes continue onto the palate, but a lurking, medicinal undertone of roots, austere tannins and acrobatic acid create a balanced wine that is decadent yet sophisticated. August Wine Group. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Poggio dell'Aquila 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose starts on a trading ship sailing through the tropics, as sweet coconut and vanilla play with spicy cloves, before turning lavish with candied oranges, Luxardo cherries and dark chocolate. On the palate, a mocha drizzle accentuates those richer notes, while acid cavorts around polished tannins. New Last Bottle Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Poggio dell'Aquila 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose strikes an impressive balance between bold and delicate notes, with roses standing their ground against gunpowder, before both give way to cherries, citrus and a layered umami undertone. On the textured palate, dusty tannins bring out the enduring cherries, along with

dirt and cocoa, while the citrus continues to sparkle. New Last Bottle Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Poggio Lucina 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is primarily tart, fruity and citrusy, with undertones of graphite and warm bricks providing a savory balance. The fruit sweetens ever so slightly on the palate, but the sophisticated bitersweet nature is maintained by taut tannins and spritely acid. Yountville Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Tenuta La Fuga 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The sanguine, umami nose is all slow-cooked meat, as stones and hot tar provide structure, but pop comes from just enough strawberries and balsamic. Although cherries join the strawberries on the palate, savory flavors continue to dominate before a delightful, spicy argument between chili and vanilla bean plays out on the leisurely finish. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

95 Tenute Silvio Nardi 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is autumnal, as if summer's last batch of plums has been dried, while a metallic, slightly melancholic tang of tar, olives and wild herbs portends rainy weather. On the palate, dark fruit, bitter cocoa and stone join persistent tar, maintaining a wistful feel through a long finish. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$85

95 Uccelliera 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose showcases a spectrum of umami aromas, from soil to astringent fruit to balsamic, stone and wild herbs. The palate leans into the fruity notes, with pepper providing heat and a continued metallic quality providing structure. Tightly coiled tannins and buoyant acid accentuate haughty citrus overtones. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$83

95 Villa Poggio Salvi 2018 Pomona (Brunello di Montalcino). The sweet yet distinguished nose leads with notes of dried cherry and roses, then turns umami with aromas of stone, coffee and herbs. On the palate, fresher streaks of cherry and plum emerge, along with a bitter orange undertone, before a citrusy finish. Tannins are taut and youthful, like an athlete in their prime. FX Magner Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

94 Abbadia Ardenga 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is red and just slightly rubbery, like new lipstick, a convertible's tire or a glittering, centerpiece bowl of fruit. On the palate, the fruit soars, but a salty, stony earthiness acts as an anchor, while acid bubbles around tannins that are suave yet comforting, like a mysterious stranger you watch from across the bar. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 **Abbadia Ardenga 2018 Vigna Piaggia (Brunello di Montalcino).** An umami nose of wet earth, mushrooms and balsamic draws balance from tart undertones of cranberries and cherries. The fruit sweetens on the palate, but continues to dance with the salty earth of the nose, as polished, silky tannins look on. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 **Cava d'Onice 2018 Sensis (Brunello di Montalcino).** A powerfully umami nose starts with a drool-worthy meatiness, then develops into sharper notes of tar, smoke, and leather above an undertone of dried fig. The self-confident yet elegant palate stays savory, but cranberries and cherries provide a fresher, slightly medicinal pop. Lipman Bros. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 **Le Chiuse 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** An earthy, umami nose recalls an elderly man, coffee in hand, noticing the button mushrooms at the edges of his flowerbeds. Light blackberry aromas strengthen on the palate, and are joined by a drizzle of chocolate and vanilla to push back on continued metallic earthiness and frisky tannins and acid. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

94 **Piombaia 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** A primarily umami nose starts with old leather and mushrooms, then lightens into an earthy mintiness, while rich undertones of brown butter and cherries provide nuance. The palate is full of ripe, crunchy fruit, but a spiced earthiness persists, and is underscored by solid tannins and attentive acid. Good Earth Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

94 **Ridolfi 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The intensely herbal nose starts with a powerful flash of anise, then softens with notes of fennel, sage, soil and cherries. On the palate, the herbs and cherries create a round, slick texture, but a dusting of bitter cocoa, along with framing tannins and self-assured acid, provide balance. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 **Villa Poggio Salvi 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is a campground, where soft, fresh aromas of herbs, cherries and strawberries are cut by the harsh minerality of gravel crushed beneath car tires. The palate brings more cherries and berries, while chalky tannins bring out the astringency of citrus pith, and acid provides a welcome warmth. FX Magner Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 **Le Gode 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is primarily savory, with notes of soil, tar, stone, leather and herbs, but the tartness of cherries and blackberries provides balance. On the palate, blood orange emphasizes the tart fruit, before a hot, acidic, spiced finish recalls the nose's earthiness. Angel's Share Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Poggio Castagno 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts plush and refined with cherries and dark chocolate, before earthier, more metallic, slightly tart undertones emerge. That evolution repeats on the palate, which begins with cherries and blood oranges, then leans into umami undertones of coffee and dirt. Acid flares around firm yet approachable tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 **Poggio Landi 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is predominantly earthy, mineral and stony, but a powerful herbaceousness and delicate, just-ripe cherries provide balance. On the palate, fruit goes on the offensive against a persistent earthiness that's empowered by chalky tannins and buzzy acid. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 **Podere Brizio 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose balances freshness with playful sweetness, as white chocolate, maraschino cherries and mocha flirt with soil and mint. The chocolate and syrupy cherries glide onto the palate, where a lightly peppery finish livens up those richer flavors. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

92 **Tenuta di Sesta 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The astringent sweetness of barely ripened cherries and blood oranges brightens an otherwise earthy, herbal, umami nose, while the palate brings spice, buzzing acid and acrobatic tannins. The sweetness throughout makes this a warm, approachable wine. Grape Expectations (CA). —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

MORELLINO DI SCANSANO

92 **Fattoria Le Pupille 2020 Riserva (Morellino di Scansano).** The nose leans sweet, with vanilla, cherries, strawberries and a touch of blood orange, but undertones of spices and earth emerge with time. Cherries also star on the palate, before buoyant acid lifts a latent heat into an astringent finish, where the nose's blood orange note blossoms. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 **Rocca delle Macie 2022 Campo Maccione (Morellino di Scansano).** For full review see page 32. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

92 **Val delle Rose 2018 Poggio al Leone Riserva (Morellino di Scansano).** The savory yet energetic nose features notes of hot rubber, grilled meat and herbs, with a prominent citrus streak brightening everything up. The palate stays savory with a continued smoky herbaceousness, while the enduring citrus, defensive tannins and empowering acid provide structure. Volio Vino. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 **Fattoria Le Pupille 2022 (Morellino di Scansano).** A sweet, juicy nose of vanilla and strawberry draws balance from a light florality, along with slightly astringent undertones of blood orange, hibiscus and blackberry. On the palate, the fruit and flowers are lively and fresh, alongside harmonious tannins and acid. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Val delle Rose 2021 (Morellino di Scansano).** A quiet nose leans sanguine, with notes of wood and stone, while a tart fruitiness provides balance. The palate is richer with fruit, before a slightly dusty finish of earth, coffee and dark chocolate. Angular tannins and acid contrast with a satiny texture. Volio Vino. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

93 **Leonardo Bussoletti 2022 Collemurello (Umbria).** Ripe and roasted tropical fruit notes of pineapple, along with very aromatic white flowers and hints of cream. Medium-bodied with great texture, the wine showcases roasted orange peel, bright acidity and a crushed stone character. It evokes the warmth of the sun and offers a textural experience, reminiscent of warmed apricot. Jan D'Amore Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 **Leonardo Bussoletti 2022 Colleozio Grechetto (Umbria).** Intensely aromatic, this wine opens with notes of lemon peel, mandarin orange, citrus blossom and river stone. The textured palate shows baked citrus and orchard fruits with hints of sweet spices and dried flowers finishing with a persistent minerality. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 **Podere Castorani 2022 Amorino Superiore (Abruzzo).** The savory, nutty nose is like an empty fairground, with aromas of slightly burned popcorn wafting above the warm pavement, and playing with undertones of dried herbs and lemon. On the palate, the interplay between nuts and citrus continues, creating a round texture even as acid and salt light up your tongue. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 **Moretti Omero 2022 (Montefalco).** Wafting and gentle aromas of lilies and crushed stone captivate the senses, while the wine's textural quality adds to its overall enjoyment with a core of mixed apples and lemon oil finishing with crushed chalk minerality. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 **Terzini 2022 Pecorino (Abruzzo).** The nose is primarily light and floral, but a crackle of salty citrus provides nuance. On the palate, pepper streaks through continued notes of salt and citrus,

BUYINGGUIDE

above herbaceous undertones. A satisfying tension between lushness and acidity persists throughout. Wine Wine Situation. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Ilauri 2021 Avalos (Colline Pescaresi).** The quiet nose is like one of the last warm days of summer, with notes of apple, almond, lemon and a subtle herbaceousness. The herbs and citrus highlight the palate, but the nuttiness lingers as an undertone, creating a round, slick mouthfeel. Plentiful acid sets up an astringent finish. PSP Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

DESSERT WINE

94 **Umberto Cesari 2014 Colle Del Re Pas-sito (Albana di Romagna).** The nose is all Bananas Foster, but with more spice than usual, and an undertow of nuttiness. On the palate, the bananas, rum and vanilla ice cream all stick around, but the spices and nuts swell in importance before the finish turns suddenly umami, like magic. Opici Wines. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55/375 ml

CENTRAL ITALY SPARKLING WINES LAMBRUSCO

94 **Cleto Chiarli 2022 Vigneto Cialdini (Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro).** Concentrated aromas of black plum, fig, blackberry, white pepper, allspice and tea leaf roll out of the glass. Gamy on the palate with a lush and generous offering of black cherry jam that is balanced by floral and savory elements bringing the wine to its earthy finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

91 **Cleto Chiarli 2022 Vecchia Modena Premium (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** Wild strawberry, sour cherry, orange zest and fresh thyme aromas open the nose of this fresh and vibrant sparkler. The zingy palate pops with crushed raspberries, roses and a hint of game finishing with electric acidity that keeps the palate fresh and vitalized. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

90 **Moro di Rinaldini NV Amabile (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** This dark and spicy Lambrusco opens with aromas of black plum, blackberry compote, chai tea and a touch of lavender. The rich and full-bodied palate is dominated by fresh and preserved black fruit flavors all spiced with clove, allspice and bay leaf finishing with gentle perlage and bright acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$21

89 **Moro di Rinaldini NV Secco (Reggiano).** Wild plum, violets, sweet spice and freshly

turned earth pour out of the glass of this Lambrusco. Round on the palate with a balance between lush black fruit notes and savory spice, the wine finishes with bright crisp acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

88 **Moro di Rinaldini NV r'Osé (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** This Lambrusco leads with aromas of fresh wild berries both red and blue that give way to violet and fresh herbs. The light palate has a deep core of cherry with a soft and creamy texture finishing with savory herbal and game notes. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

87 **Moro di Rinaldini NV Vecchio Moro (Lambrusco dell'Emilia).** Dark and brooding plum notes, accompanied by sweet and savory spice and fresh earth create a heady experience on the nose. The rich palate is driven by lush dark-hued fruit notes with savory herbs, dried flowers and an underbrush note on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

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

88 **Cleto Chiarli NV Centenario (Lambrusco di Modena).** Exotic spices, dried violets and sweet plum aromas dominate on this juicy and fresh Lambrusco. The lush palate is driven by notes of blackberry, fig and cherry jam all intertwined with sweet and savory spices finishing with a pop of acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$20

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

94 **Boscarelli 2018 Sotto Casa Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The primarily savory nose is defined by earthy, salty and stony aromas, but a mix of cherries and vanilla provides just enough sweetness. Those sweeter notes flourish on the palate, while fierce tannins and a latent spiciness maintain integrity. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$77

94 **Tenuta di Poggio Oliveto 2019 (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The nose starts off powerfully herbaceous, before the florality of lavender, spice of cardamom and sanguinity of soil and car-paccio bring complexity. This blend of notes continues onto the palate, where imposing tannins and fiery acid keep everyone in line. Yountville Wine Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

93 **La Braccasca 2018 Vigneto Santa Pia Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The nose features the sweetness of vanilla and cherries, dustiness of old leather and astringency of dried

cranberries, all above a woody undertone of damp earth. The cherry vanilla swirl continues onto the palate, but athletic, springy tannins balance that sweetness, while acid bounces through the finish. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.

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

OTHER RED WINES

94 **Terra Rossa 2020 (Rosso di Montepulciano).** A woody nose features notes of soil, tobacco leaf, pencil shavings and tree bark, with cherries and dried tomatoes providing some sweetness. Cherries and strawberries highlight the palate, but a pointed spiciness emphasizes continued earthiness. Tannins are polished yet firm. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

93 **Barberani 2019 Polvento (Umbria).** Made from 100% Sangiovese Grosso, this showcases a blend of blue and black fruit, underbrush, tea, leather and lavender. This wine is mouthfilling and lush, yet still showcases solid tannins. There is a lot of wine to discover in this bottle. Drink now–2040. Vinifera Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

90 **Araldo Caprai 2021 (Montefalco).** Black cherry and spice dominate the aroma, along with an intense floral element. The wine is lush on the palate, with gripping tannins, mouthwatering acidity and ample dark fruit notes both fresh and preserved with an undertone of clove and cinnamon. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Barberani 2020 Foresco (Umbria).** Reticent and brooding, this wine simply needs time to evolve. The nose and the palate align with notes of black fruit, pepper, bay leaf and tobacco. The palate is well-structured with fine, yet firm tannins and the Sangiovese gives the crunch acidity that keeps the palate fresh. Drink 2025–2035. Vinifera Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

90 **Bocale 2020 (Montefalco).** Sour plum intertwines with rosemary, flowers and sour cherry on the palate, presenting solid fruit flavors. The wine is really tasty, with mixed spice and fine tannins that bring a touch of underbrush earthiness. Tradizione Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE WINES

SPOLETO

90 **Le Thadee 2019 128 Trebbiano Spoletino (Spoleto).** Super gold in color, the wine reveals loads of mixed citrus aromas. Roasted peaches and grilled pineapple give the palate both

lush and tart qualities. Notes of dried yellow flowers and lemon oil are found on the mineral-driven finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$90

88 Cantina Fratelli Pardi 2021 Spoleto (Spoleto). Aromas of lemon zest and dried wildflowers open the nose of this wine. The wine is mouthwatering with roasted nut, warmed spice and baked orchard fruit notes finishing with a rounded texture and flinty minerality. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Le Thadee 2021 Fijoa (Spoleto). Mango and orange flower water combine with a dried floral nuance. The wine boasts good acidity and a more citrus-focused flavor profile finishing with rocky minerality. Weygandt-Metzler. —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Perticaia 2020 Del Posto (Spoleto). Aromas of baked citrus fruits and dried flowers, along with hay notes. The palate is rounded and showcases mineral and tart lemon notes finishing with a sea salt note. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

SOUTHERN ITALY

RED WINES

NARNI

93 Leonardo Bussoletti 2019 Ràmici Ciliegiole (Narni). Smoked cherries, fruit leather, dried flowers and turned earth define the nose. The palate is deep and rich, loaded with dark berry flavors dusted with cocoa and clove giving way to wild thyme and a hint of pepper. The wine is firm and textured, offering depth and complexity. Jan D'Amore Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.

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

90 Leonardo Bussoletti 2020 Brecciaro Ciliegiole (Narni). Super pretty cherry aromas mingle with wildflowers, savory spice and fresh herbs. The polished palate pops with juicy red berry notes spiced with sweet baking spices and a savory and earthy finish. A great all-around pasta wine. Jan D'Amore Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Leonardo Bussoletti 2022 Asla (Narni). Wild cherries, fresh herbs and dried earth create an enticing aromatic blend on the nose. The wine is juicy and fun, with subtle earthy undertones with dominant cherry flavors. Plump and easy on the palate. An assured crowd-pleaser! Jan D'Amore Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

PAESTUM

94 San Salvatore 1988 2020 Jungano (Paestum). A decadent nose features a powerful, chocolaty meatiness, but blood orange and plum skin delineate firm boundaries. The sanguine, citrusy, slightly astringent fruit continues on the palate, at least until tannins, acid and heat come barreling in. Unapologetic and delicious. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

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

94 San Salvatore 1988 2017 Omaggio a Gillo Dorfiles Aglianico (Paestum). On the nose, dark fruit aromas are balanced by crisp new leather and a sprinkle of salt and pepper. A spicy, sophisticated palate features dried herbs, cinnamon and cloves, with indulgent undertones of vanilla and dark berries maintaining balance. Chalky tannins lead into a hot, peppery finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$103

93 San Salvatore 1988 2022 Ceraso Aglianico (Paestum). A careful balance among aromas of roasted red peppers, cranberries, Bing cherries, blackberries and finally the sanguine tang of carpaccio defines both the nose and the palate, with the palate adding cinnamon and chili pepper for depth and intrigue. Fizzing acid and fierce tannins add tension and drama to the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

93 Arnaldo Caprai 2019 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). The nose of this wine opens with intense aromas of red and black fruits dusted with cocoa, allspice and dried flowers. The palate pops with vibrant acidity that gives more tart fruit notes. The taut palate indicates that some time in the cellar will be helpful. Drink 2025–2040. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$52

92 Donnachiara 2020 Riserva (Taurasi). Dried cranberries, hibiscus tea and red plums on a nose enlivened by enough black pepper to fill the hold of a trade ship. Although the palate is meatier and more savory, the balance between astringency and pepper notes continues, while the tannins reveal a bitter earthiness on the long finish. Michelangelo Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

92 La Fortezza 2019 Enzo Rillo (Aglianico del Taburno). The nose is primarily smoky, peppery and fiery, but a decadent drizzle of dark berries and dark chocolate creates balance. That enchanting blend of smoke, pepper and rich, sweet notes continues onto the unexpectedly comforting palate. Kysela Père et Fils. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Amastuola 2020 Capocanale Merlot (Puglia). The nose is meat grilling in a well-landscaped yard, as a smoky sanguinity mingles with playful aromas of plums, spices and tea leaves, while a mineral stoniness provides structure. On the palate, mixed berries give way to a mocha finish, where a splash of acid is heightened by dense tannins and dancing acid. Allora Wine Group. —D.C.

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

91 Arnaldo Caprai 2018 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Grilled cherries, wild herbs and sweet spices define the aromas of this wine. The palate is layered between ripe red berry preserves with notes of sweet hay and dried wildflowers. The wine's tannins are firm but balanced, giving the palate a sturdiness that will pair well with roasted meats, earthy vegetables or aged cheese. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.

abv: NA **Price:** \$52

91 Donnachiara 2020 (Taurasi). The nose is full of sweet, dark fruit and flowers, with undertones of soil, coffee and pepper adding complexity. On the palate, a vanilla-chocolate swirl underscores the enduring sweetness, but that earthy, metallic tang returns on the finish. Tannins are firm but not intrusive, while acid is playful and flirtatious. Michelangelo Selections. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

SICILY

WHITE WINES

94 Benanti 2020 Noblesse Carricante Brut (Terre Siciliane). The nose is a sunny, summery plate of grilled, spiced chicken, with aromas of lemon, mustard seed and dandelion wafting through the open window. On the palate, salt and pepper emphasize the enduring smoke and spice, while citrus undertones linger until a toasty finish. Linear and savory. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

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

94 Benanti 2018 Noblesse XLVIII Carricante Brut (Terre Siciliane). A warm, sunny nose balances the richness of butter and toasted nuts with the freshness of yellow apples and acidity of pineapple. On the palate, continued apple notes create a round creaminess that stands its ground against persistent perlage and citrus overtones. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

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

91 Zisola 2021 Contrada Catarratto (Terre Siciliane). A spiced, herbaceous nose draws balance from undertones of flowers and lemon, along with a pop of fresh rubber. The lemon headlines the palate, but the savory, spicy quality persists, while acid provides framing and structure. Demeine Estates. —D.C.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$72

90 Alessandro di Camporeale 2022 Benedè Catarratto (Sicilia). A bright nose features notes of citrus, apple and pear, with a light grassy

BUYINGGUIDE

saltiness providing nuance. The citrus initially dominates the palate before the apples, pears and salinity reappear and before the citrus ultimately returns, buoying the finish. **Panebianco. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Alessandro di Camporeale 2022 Vigna di Mandranova Grillo (Sicilia). On the varied, citrusy nose, notes of grapefruit, orange, bergamot and lemon draw both strength and balance from undertones of salt and metal. The orange stars on the palate, but the savory undertones persist, and heat radiates from the acid. **Panebianco.** —D.C.

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

90 MandraRossa 2022 Grillo (Sicilia). The delicate nose is defined by white flowers, peaches and grapefruit, with undertones of salted nuts providing density. Apricots join the peaches and grapefruit on a palate defined by stone fruit, but orange zest, wild herbs and those lingering nuts work with a salty, acidic backbone to provide excellent value. **Palm Bay International. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Tenuta Rapitalà 2022 Viviri Grillo (Sicilia). The nose is a citrusy cocktail accompanying a well-composed charcuterie board, as lemon, grapefruit and a light florality mix with salted nuts and a peppery undertone. On the palate, potent acid emphasizes the citrus, but herbs join the salt to create a round, oily texture. **Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Zisola 2022 Azisa (Sicilia). The citrusy, springy nose features a glimmer of lemon flashing around tulips, honey, grass and a handful of salted almonds. The palate breeds consistency, as the notes of honey, lemon, grass and salt all persist to create a round fullness, but acid keeps everyone accountable. **Demeine Estates.** —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

ETNA

94 Benanti 2021 Contrada Cavaliere (Etna). The nose balances fragrant tulips and white blossoms with savory notes of grass and stone, above undertones of bitter citrus and herbs. On the refreshing yet full palate, the citrus sweetens into lemonade iced tea, with the herbaceousness lingering through the finish. **Wilson Daniels Ltd.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$62

94 Benanti 2021 Contrada Rinazzo (Etna). Overtones of flowers and spices brighten an otherwise seriously savory nose. The palate stays savory, but the spices linger and work with an emergent lemon streak to create a volcanic minerality even as it delivers a round, full texture before a long, hot finish. **Wilson Daniels Ltd.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$67

90 Generazione Alessandro 2021 Trainara (Etna). The nose is primarily floral and lightly soapy, but juicier aromas of white peach and candied lemon peel eventually emerge. The lemony streak extends onto the palate, where the introduction of a nutty component balances the nose's florality. **Panebianco.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

DESSERT WINES

95 Tua Rita 2019 Sese (Passito di Pantelleria). The dark copper color is a velvet curtain that, when lifted, reveals aromas you probably last smelled at grandma's house, like dates, tea leaves, dried fruit and saffron. The tannic, lightly metallic notes of dates and tea leaves continue onto the palate, before an almond butter finish puts a bow on an incredibly rich, complex wine. **Winebow Imports.** —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

93 Donnafugata 2021 Ben Ryé (Passito di Pantelleria). For full review see page 16. **Folio Fine Wine Partners.**

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Cantine Colosi 2017 Na'Jm Malvasia Delle Lipari Passito (Salina). The nose starts sweet and snackable, with notes of popcorn, almonds, toasted coconut and brown butter, before some sharp streaks of lime and spearmint. The nuts and mint stick around on the palate, where a hint of licorice provides a medicinal quality to contrast with the buttery croissant finish. **Vias Imports.** —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$42/375 ml

91 Cantine Colosi 2017 Passito (Terre Siciliane). A medium copper color prefaces an initially floral nose, which sees notes of almonds and candied citrus grow in prominence over time. The flowers and citrus both stick around on the slick but crisp palate, before making way for a honey-nut finish. **Vias Imports.** —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35/500 ml

OTHER WHITE WINES

88 Santa Maria La Palma NV Aragosta Brut (Alghero). The nose is an afternoon in your mother's flower garden, with citrus blossoms, daffodils and lilies and then aromas of banana bubble gum and lemon drops. The frolicking of candy and flowers together continues on the palate, where a spicy undertone and salty finish provide balance. **MS Walker. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉ

90 Planeta 2022 (Sicilia). Strawberry candy, watermelon and rose petals are first on the nose of this salmon-pink Sicilian rosato, then

sanguine notes of sweet blood orange and finally savory aromas of sun-kissed, salty stones and wild oregano emerge. The silky, strawberry jam palate is cut through with salinity and acid for a refreshing contrast. **Taub Family Selections.** —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

SICILY RED WINES

91 Donnafugata 2021 Sherazade Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose starts with zingy, fruity notes of hibiscus, passion fruit, raspberries and slightly tart wild strawberries, before a metallic, earthy pepperiness emerges to provide balance. The palate dips the strawberries in milk chocolate, while tannins and acid walk in lockstep toward a finish that recalls the nose's pepper. **Folio Fine Wine Partners.** —D.C.

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

90 Baglio di Pianetto 2021 Nero D'Avola Made With Organic Grapes (Sicilia). The nose brings a compelling, nuanced bitterness, with notes of coffee, cocoa and burning wood, and a smear of black cherry providing a sweet balance. That sweetness blooms on the palate, but balance is maintained by firm tannins and booming acid sailing on an undercurrent of spiced dark chocolate. **Opici Wines. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Caruso & Minini 2021 Nebacco Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The scarlet, fruity nose has notes of cherries, strawberries, raspberries and pomegranates, while a puff of brick dust provides depth. That blaze of fruit grows sweeter and more syrupy on the palate, but a kick of spice works with dusty tannins and bright acid to maintain balance. **Mas-sanois Imports. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Castellani 2021 Oynos Nero D'Avola-Merlot (Sicilia). The nose sees sweet, candied cherries play with sour apples and plums, while savory notes of soil, herbs, stone, salt and pepper look on. The fresh, green palate leans into the soil and herbs, but bubbly acid underscores a lingering astringent fruitiness. **Marchetti Co. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 MandraRossa 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia). An herbal, astringent nose features currants, bergamot, hibiscus, mint and tea leaves. Sweet red berries star on the sunny, warm palate, but an earthy, mineral depth lends a sense of freshness. Tannins and acid are strong without being aggressive. **Palm Bay International. Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Alessandro di Camporeale 2020 Donnata Nero D'Avola (Sicilia). The smoky, gamy nose is all meat grilling in the forest, with strong aromas of pepper, burning leaves and toasted spices. A sour

plum undertone becomes more prominent on the palate, but the persistent smokiness is boosted by dusty yet solid tannins and dancing acid. Panebianco. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

89 Musità 2020 Nahla Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia). Astringent currants and plums lead off the nose, but aromas quickly turn umami with notes of mushrooms, moist underbrush, and balsamic. On the palate, berries and dark chocolate join continued flashes of plums and a lingering earthiness. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$14

88 OG de Négoce 2020 Lot 337 Riserva (Sicilia). The nose mixes the sweetness of strawberries and raspberries with savory notes of wood, herbs and salt. On the palate, vanilla spotlights the sweet berries, but lingering woody notes give tense tannins something to cling to. OG de Négoce. **Best Buy.** —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$10

ETNA

94 Benanti 2021 Contrada Cavaliere (Etna). The nose is beachside flora, as wild fruit and herbs grow between the cracks of rocks encrusted with salt. The palate leans into the metallic, savory notes, but cherries, bubbly acid and a latent heat provide balance. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$56

94 Benanti 2021 Contrada Dafara Galluzzo (Etna). The nose is demurely sweet, with dried cherries and both fresh and preserved oranges drawing strength from hints of vanilla and baking spices, while herbs and soil provide a savory balance. The mix of cherries, oranges and baking spices continues on the palate, like a warm scone, before an acidic, salt-and-pepper finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$56

94 Benanti 2021 Contrada Monte Serra (Etna). On the nose, aromas of strawberry and cherry emerge first but are soon followed by savory notes of herbs, spices, soil and stone. The savory elements bloom on the palate, which is built on a foundation of salted, meaty flavors, but a citrus overtone emphasizes the fruit of the nose, while acid escalates through the finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$56

92 Generazione Alessandro 2020 Croceferrò (Etna). The smoky, sanguine nose has notes of pepper, carpaccio and pennies, but dry, bitter fruit and a light herbaceousness provide balance. The palate both stays meaty and leans into the fruit, as fresh cherries and candied orange chat with approachable tannins and acid, creating an eminently drinkable wine. Panebianco. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

ITALY OTHER WHITE WINES

94 La Regola NV L'Eccezione Rosé (Vino Spumante). The nose is defined by the savory citrus of blood orange and pink grapefruit, while the round, creamy palate brings floral aromas and the tangy sweetness of wild strawberries. A subtle but persistent perlage delivers lively bubbles on the tongue. Lionstone International. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

93 Monte Maletto NV Vecchie Tonneaux (Italy). Honey, Greek yogurt, yellow plum, golden fig and candied citrus rind aromas create a rich tapestry in which this wine tells its story. Mouthfilling, this super interesting wine offers savory chamomile, pressed yellow flowers and candied citrus notes showcasing the uniqueness of Erbaluce finishing with an edge given by electric acidity. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$42

93 San Salvatore 1988 2020 Gioi Brut Rosé Classic Method (Italy). The nose is all warm colors, as sparkling orange soda, pink grapefruit and copper pennies provide astringency to cut the sweetness of candied cherries. On the palate, a lively, even mousse emphasizes the grapefruit component, before a metallic minerality emerges on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Crotin NV Camporotondo (Italy). Bitter oranges, roasted peaches and dried yellow flowers define the aromatic profile. The palate highlights the mineral notes with orange peel and marmalade flavors. The wine's bright acidity and stunning texture provide a long and complex finish. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$26

91 Briganti 2022 Mecola (Italy). Nuts, salt and a light minerality define a primarily savory nose, with undertones of lemon and white flowers providing levity. The citrus is radiant on the palate, but continued nuttiness and minerality create excellent balance, making this wine a great value. Briganti. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

88 Albino Armani NV Bubbles from the Basement (Italy). This pét nat balances aromas of grapefruit, dried apricot and candied lemon zest with wildflowers, herbs and notes of cider perfectly. The salty palate leads to very citrus-forward flavors finishing with a seashell minerality. Saranty Imports. —J.P.

abv: 11%

Price: \$27

88 Cantine Lunae Bosoni NV No. 1 R Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante). Cherries on top of cherries dominate the aromas of this energetic and fun sparkling wine. As it opens, hints of wild herbs and rosebud emerge. The fresh palate showcases the

vivid red-berried nature of the wine giving way to a tart and bracing finishing with tight perlage. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$32

88 Guidobono 2019 Segretevigne Extra Brut (Italy). This sparkler opens with aromas of green pear, fresh laundry and alpine herbs. The light and easy palate is focused on mixed apples, lemon zest and a mineral finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

ITALY OTHER RED WINES

93 Tenuta il Nespolo NV Vino da Sete (Italy). This juicy and plump wine leaps from the glass with notes of sour plum, cranberry and macerated cherries. More savory elements emerge as the wine opens with wildflowers and thyme notes wafting up. Drinkable and gulpable, the generous palate is loaded with plum and mixed berry flavors balanced by savory spice, a touch of pepper and finishing with energetic acidity. The Piedmont Guy. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$22/1L

90 Cotarella 2020 Falesco Vitiano Virtù della Vite (Italy). For full review see page 33. Trincherio Family Estates. **Best Buy.**

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$14

SPAIN WHITE WINES

92 Barrialto 2019 Azacanes Colección Limitada Y Exclusiva (Spain). This wine, with its deep amber color, offers aromas of dried apricots, toasted hazelnuts and saline. Oxidized notes of orange marmalade, salted almonds, toffee and iodine are offset by a clean vein of acidity. The finish is also marked with notes of toffee and toasted nuts. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$39

91 Barrialto 2019 Santa Brigida Colección Limitada Y Exclusiva (Spain). Aromas of dried stone fruit, slivered almonds and rose petal set the scene for nectarine, apricot, honeysuckle, butterscotch, flint and ground almond flavors. This wine has a viscous texture that lingers in the mouth alongside notes of hazelnut and orange zest. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$38

87 Organic Wine Tribe 2021 Pure Est. Orange Wine (Spain). Medium-amber colored in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of apricot preserves and almond paste. White peach, nectarine and marzipan flavors are infused with a touch of peppermint tea. A bright note of apricot endures on the palate. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 12%

Price: \$31

BUYINGGUIDE

86 Parajes Del Valle 2022 Maceración Macabeo Ecológico (Spain). This amber-colored wine is a bit cloudy. Guava, quince and jasmine aromas prepare the palate for Valencia orange, lime juice and yellow-currant flavors that remain energetic on the tongue from first sip to lingering finish. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

84 Celler de les Aus 2022 Aus Orange (Spain). Medium amber and slightly cloudy to the eye, this wine has aromas of tangerine and rising pizza dough. It feels fizzy on the palate, with dazzling acidity and lemon, brined green-olive, sage-leaf and Granny Smith apple flavors. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

CAVA

95 Llopart 2011 Original 1887 Brut Nature (Cava). Deep straw in color and with a steady column of bubbles, this sparkler features a bouquet of dried apricot, caramelized pineapple and roasted almonds. A strong vein of acidity backs yellow currant, caramelized pineapple, croissant, toffee and lemon-blossom flavors that coalesce in a surprisingly vivid, lingering finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$100

94 Alta Alella 2019 Laietà Gran Reserva Brut Nature Rosé (Cava). The color of poached salmon, this heartily effervescent wine offers a bouquet of white peach, dried apricot and roasted cashews. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of grapefruit and lemon zest backed by more sophisticated notes of guava, dried pineapple, salted almond toffee and lemon thyme. Vivid acidity lingers on the palate. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

94 Alta Alella 2019 Mirgin Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). Medium-yellow to the eye, this wine offers a constant current of bubbles and guava, dried apricot and toasted nut aromas. Peach nectar and apricot-jam flavors are accompanied by notes of rising pizza dough, vanilla and hazelnuts. Gentle notes of almond and nutmeg endure on the taste buds. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

94 Alta Alella 2019 Mirgin Reserva Brut Rosé Nature (Cava). Aromas of dried apricot, candied orange peel and toasted hazelnuts waft from the glass. Flavors of roasted almonds, peach-pie filling, rose petal and iodine are woven into a wine with brilliant acidity and bold effervescence. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

94 Bodegas Escudero NV Dioro Baco Brut Rosado Pinot Noir (Cava). For full review see page 8. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

93 Alta Alella 2019 Mirgin Opus Paratge Qualificat Valleirera Brut Nature (Cava). This medium-yellow sparkling wine offers a bouquet of apricot preserves, quince and honeysuckle. It is bright on the tongue, featuring lemon-preserve, tangerine, espresso-bean and cocoa-butter flavors that persist into a lemon-zest finish. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$66

93 Llopart 2015 Leopardi Brut Nature (Cava). Light yellow to the eye, this softly sparkling wine has Bartlett pear, Fuji apple and vanilla-bean flavors. It is brighter on the palate than expected, with lemon-lime, Granny Smith apple and white-peach flavors that are met with a sophisticated streak of slivered almond and freshly-baked brioche. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Naveran 2021 Perles Blanques (Cava). Pale yellow in the glass, this energetic sparkler has a bouquet of yellow plum, white chocolate and jasmine. Zesty flavors of Bartlett pear, pink grapefruit, croissant and caramelized nuts wind down to a Valencia orange-scented finish. Olé & Obrigado. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Naveran 2021 Perles Roses (Cava). For full review see page 19. Olé & Obrigado.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

92 Celler de les Aus 2020 Aus Capsigrany (Cava). Bold effervescence releases lemon, Cavaillon melon and blanched almond aromas. This sparkling wine is full on the palate, offering lemon-lime, grapefruit, dried apricot and crumbled sage-leaf flavors that linger on the tongue. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

92 Llopart 2020 Rosé Brut Reserva (Cava). Medium blush and with rapid bubbles, this wine has aromas of apricot, guava and jasmine. Bright peach and Valencia orange flavors open on the palate and are joined by notes of strawberry, white chocolate and rose petal that coalesce in a vivid finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Naveran 2021 Brut Vintage Organic (Cava). For full review see page 25. Olé & Obrigado.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Naveran 2021 Brut Vintage Rosé Organic (Cava). For full review see page 25. Olé & Obrigado.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

91 Alta Alella 2017 Mirgin Exeo Paratge Qualificat Valleirera Brut Nature (Cava). A constant stream of bubbles delivers aromas of Gala apple, baking bread and Turkish delight. Lemon zest opens and then continues on the palate, followed by notes of bergamot, lavender, lemon-lime sorbet and a

touch of dried thyme. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$95

91 Bodegas Murviedro NV Arts de Luna Organic Brut Rosé (Cava). The color of a summer sunset, this wine has a bouquet of green apple, dried stone fruit and nutmeg. Vibrant clementine, white-peach, lemon-zest and honeysuckle flavors are well matched by zesty acidity and bold effervescence. Schenk Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

91 Naveran 2021 Brut Nature Vintage (Cava). Light yellow and with steady perlage, this wine has a nose of honeydew melon, lemon zest and rising pie crust. Peach, apricot, Gala apple, and slivered almond flavors mingle with delicate effervescence and lively acidity that lingers on the palate. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

91 Yá Cuvée 23 NV Brut Reserva (Cava). For full review see page 33. Vinos Libres. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Alta Alella 2019 Laietà Gran Reserva Brut Nature (Cava). With a soft column of bubbles, this wine has a nose of butterscotch and tangerine. A soft floral note underlies lemon, green-apple, dried Mediterranean herb and espresso flavors. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

90 Codorníu NV Limited Edition Brut Reserva (Cava). This wine offers a steady stream of bubbles and aromas of Fuji apple, nectarine and toasted nuts. It is lively on the palate and has honeydew melon, apricot, jasmine and cashew flavors. The finish is marked with a note of lemon zest. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Codorníu NV Limited Edition Brut Rosé (Cava). Pale blush in color and with persistent tiny bubbles, this sparkler has aromas of strawberries and lemon tart. It offers vivid acidity and Valencia orange, cherry, dried apricot and rose-petal flavors that coalesce in a floral-infused finish. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Sumarroca NV Yá Cuvée 23 Brut Rosé (Cava). Ballet-slipper pink, this wine features soft effervescence and a nose of pink grapefruit, roasted yellow pepper and slivered almonds. Flavors of tangerine, bergamot and honeysuckle are accompanied by toasted nut and vanilla notes and vibrant acidity. Vinos Libres. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Alvaroni NV Brut Rosé Organic (Cava). Deep blush to the eye, this wine has a nose of strawberry, crushed almond and rose petal. Strawberry and rose petal transition to the palate, where they are joined by flavors of Valencia orange, pie crust and tarragon. A note of apricot jam lin-

gers in the mouth. Worldwide Libations. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 Chozas Carrascal 2020 Roxanne Brut (Cava). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has soft effervescence and aromas of Bartlett pear, lemon zest and slivered almonds. It is bright on impact, offering nectarine, Gala apple, orange-blossom and toasted nut flavors that culminate in a vivid finish. Wine For The World. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Codorníu NV Anna de Codorniu Brut Rosé (Cava). The color of ripe apricots, this sparkling wine has forceful perlage and a nose of ripe summer cherry, orange blossom and fennel pollen. It features flavors of strawberry, pineapple, marzipan and a hint of tarragon that lingers alongside bright citrus notes. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 Hammeken Cellars NV Avent Organic Brut Rosé (Cava). This salmon-colored, delicately sparkling wine features mango, nutmeg and honeysuckle aromas. Orange marmalade and toasted pineapple flavors open on the palate and are joined by notes of cocoa butter and roasted fennel bulb. The finish is marked with a splash of passion fruit nectar. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Celler de les Aus 2021 Aus Bruant Brut Nature (Cava). Steady effervescence and cassava melon, rising bread and toasted nut aromas lead the way for apricot preserve, caramelized pineapple, croissant and cashew flavors. The pleasing finish is surprisingly bright. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

88 Codorníu NV Anna de Codorniu Blanc de Blancs Brut Reserva (Cava). Light straw in color and with a stream of tiny bubbles, this sparkler has aromas of Seckel pear, Granny Smith apple and vanilla. It is bright at first sip, with vivid acidity and peach, quince, white chocolate and apricot-preserve flavors that endure into a zesty finish. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Mas Fi NV Brut Rosé (Cava). The color of a summer sunset, this Cava has a bouquet of Bartlett pear and raspberry. Flavors of strawberry, nectarine, hazelnut and lemongrass mingle with soft effervescence and lively acidity. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Bodegas Murviedro NV Arts de Luna Organic Brut (Cava). Light effervescence and a bouquet of Golden Delicious apple, toasted pine nuts and honeysuckle set the stage for gooseberry, lemon zest and Valencia orange flavors with a hint of orange

blossom. Bright acidity lingers on the palate. Schenk Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

TXAKOLINA

94 Hiruzta 2020 Parcela No. 3 Barrel Aged Hondarrabi Zuri (Getariako Txakolina). Aromas of lemon zest, jasmine and dried sage leaf open to flavors of bergamot, butterscotch, slivered almonds and dried apricot. Well-integrated acidity and a soft note of vanilla endure on the palate. While Txakoli is almost always released and consumed young, this is an excellent example of a successfully aged version. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Doniene Gorrondona 2021 Iri (Bizkaiko Txakolina). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of yellow currant and honeysuckle. Pineapple, mango, lemongrass and orange-blossom flavors are bathed in scintillating acidity. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

84 Doniene Gorrondona 2021 Gorrondona (Bizkaiko Txakolina). This light-yellow-colored wine offers a bouquet of dried apricot, toasted hazelnut and lemon thyme. Tart flavors of lemon and grapefruit take hold of the palate and linger. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

RÍAS BAIXAS

93 Fillaboa 2020 Selección Finca Monte Alto Albariño (Rías Baixas). This light-yellow-colored wine has aromas of pineapple and bergamot with a touch of river rocks. Nicely textured, it has flavors of yuzu, lemon-lime, dried thyme and sage. The vivid finish is infused with notes of freshly chopped basil and parsley. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

93 Terras Gauda 2022 O Rosal (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 20. Trinchero Family Estates.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Matarramera 2022 CM Criado Sobre Lías Albariño (Rías Baixas). A bouquet of lemon tart and honeysuckle wafts from the glass. Toasted pineapple, mango, Fuji apple and jasmine flavors are set into a richly textured wine that coats the palate and then drifts into a vibrant finish with a pronounced note of salted almond. Solera Imports. **Hid-den Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Nora 2020 Nora da Neve (Rías Baixas). Soft yellow in the glass, this wine has a nose of lemon, bergamot and aniseed. It is bright on entry, with pineapple, cocoa-butter, jasmine and fennel-

pollen flavors. The vivid finish offers a gorgeous citrus bouquet. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Bodegas Eidosela 2022 Ethereo Albariño (Rías Baixas). Light straw to the eye, this wine offers aromas of pineapple and passion fruit. These notes transfer to the palate along with a brighter flavor of grapefruit and a soft hint of rose petal that dissolves into the vivid finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Fillaboa 2022 Estate Grown Albariño (Rías Baixas). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of peach, yellow plum and a touch of lavender. It has a full texture, offering apricot preserve, lemon, nutmeg and herbes de Provence flavors that endure into a zesty finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Gotas de Mar 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This pale-yellow-colored wine has a bouquet of Bartlett pear and nectarine. It offers a feeling of roundness on the palate and peach, apricot and orange-blossom flavors, with a hint of dried sage on the bright finish. Hammeken Cellars USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Nora 2022 Nora Albariño (Rías Baixas). This light-straw-colored wine has a bouquet of lemon zest, mango and rose water. A floral note continues on the palate, joined by pleasant acidity and pink-grapefruit, nectarine, orange-blossom and aniseed flavors. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Nubori 2022 Pazo de Nubori Albariño (Rías Baixas). Gala apple and lemon-zest aromas lead the way for mango, lemon-lime, jasmine and brined green-olive flavors. This wine has a nice texture and offers a zesty finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Rectoral do Umia 2022 Calazul Albariño (Rías Baixas). Light yellow in the glass, this wine has a nose of honeydew melon, ripe summer peach and honeysuckle. A light floral note underlies nectarine, apricot and lemon-zest flavors and persists on the palate along with a bright splash of citrus. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

VALDEORRAS

94 Avancia 2022 Nobleza Old Vines Godello (Valdeorras). For full review see page 8. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Avancia 2022 Old Vines Godello (Valdeorras). For full review see page 15. Jorge Ordóñez Selections.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$37

92 Bodegas Godeval 2022 Godello (Valdeorras). For full review see page 21. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13% Price: \$45

RUEDA

93 Campo Eliseo 2021 (Rueda). For full review see page 16. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% Price: \$59

93 Félix Lorenzo Cachazo 2022 Carrasviñas Fermentado en Barrica (Rueda). The scent of Seckel pear, nectarine and rose water emanates from the glass. A soft floral note underlies mango, passion fruit and cocoa-butter flavors with a hint of mint leaf that lingers on the palate. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

93 Nisia 2022 Las Suertes Old Vines Verdejo (Rueda). For full review see page 19. Jorge Ordóñez Selections.
abv: 14% Price: \$33

92 Naia 2019 Náiades (Rueda). Golden yellow to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cas-sava melon, apricot and Marcona almonds. Full textured, it offers radiant acidity, good mouthfeel and pineapple, passion fruit, rose-petal, mint-leaf and vanilla-bean flavors. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Bodegas Merayo 2022 Godello (Bierzo). This light-straw-colored wine has a nose of guava, Bartlett pear and flint. It is bright on entry and offers grapefruit, yellow-currant, vanilla, river-rock and dried thyme flavors that evaporate into a vivid finish marked with a touch of oyster shell. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

93 Cellers Grifoll Declara 2019 Gran Predicat (Priorat). This wine has a bouquet of Seckel pear, guava, lemon thyme and grated ginger. It is full in the mouth, with cassava melon, mirabelle plum, white-chocolate, marjoram, dried mint-leaf and hazelnut flavors. Polished tannins, a sense of brightness and a hint of orange zest make for a sophisticated finish. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$90

93 Viña Costeira 2022 Meu Albariño (Ribeiro). Not from Rias Baixas but from nearby Ribeiro, this wine has a nose of Fuji apple and freshly chopped parsley and basil. Peach, Granny Smith apple, cocoa-butter, orange-blossom and

mint-leaf flavors are set into a full-textured wine that offers a closing note of citrus zest and saline. W. Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

92 Llopert 2016 Leopardi Brut Nature (Penedès). An enduring flow of tiny bubbles reveals a bouquet of Golden Delicious apple and lemon-meringue pie. Dynamic acidity and effervescence offer a backdrop to nectarine, yellow-plum, vanilla, buttered toast and peach-nectar flavors that go on and on. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$48

92 Pazos del Rey 2022 Pazo de Monterrey (Monterrei). Aromas of pineapple, lemon zest and a touch of saline lead the way for peach, nectarine, sage, toffee and salted almond flavors. A nice vein of acidity bathes the palate from first sip to finish. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

92 Regina Viarum 2022 Viticultura Heroica (Ribeira Sacra). A bouquet of ripe summer peach, lemon pith and pie crust sets the scene for pink-grapefruit, clementine, and Fuji apple flavors. Don't be fooled by the vivid acidity and fresh fruit flavors: the presence of complex dried Mediterranean herb and clam-shell notes and a creamy texture add up to a very nice pour. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

90 Freebird Wine Co. 2022 Far del Sud Blanc (Terra Alta). A bouquet of nectarine, rose petal and cocoa butter leads the way for peach, apricot, dried thyme and honeysuckle flavors. A nice level of acidity and a pleasing sense of chalkiness endure on the tongue and gums. 4Front Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

89 Herència Altés 2019 La Serra Blanc (Terra Alta). This pale-straw-colored wine has aromas of Bartlett pear and jasmine. There is a light floral note on the taste buds alongside green-apple, nectarine and slivered almond flavors. A nice touch of acidity lingers on the palate. European Cellars. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

89 La Maldita 2021 Garnacha Blanca (Rioja). Light yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of bergamot, lemongrass and freshly ground white pepper. It is bright on entry, offering Valencia orange, lemon-lime and jasmine flavors with a persistent touch of nutmeg in the vivid finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

SPAIN RED WINES

88 Valderba 2021 Tempranillo (Spain). Aromas of black plum, elderberry and caramel set the scene for cassis, Mission fig, dried thyme and

bittersweet chocolate flavors. Slightly chewy tannins recede into a smooth finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

NAVARRA

94 Logos 2017 Selección (Navarra). For full review see page 12. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$110

94 Ochoa 2013 Reserva (Navarra). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, cassis, clove and freshly ground black pepper. Dark berries transition to the palate and are joined by flavors of anisette, violet, nutmeg and dark chocolate. Lush tannins wrap around the tongue and gums and slowly recede into a lasting finish. Drink through 2028. Wine Bridge Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

94 Pleno 2015 Gran Reserva (Navarra). Deep cherry red to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry, mocha, lavender and dried thyme. It is generous on the palate, with opulent tannins and bold flavors of black cherry, black currant, espresso bean, butterscotch and violet. The smooth finish is marked with a pleasant note of dried thyme. 4Front Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

93 Agramont 2015 Gran Reserva (Navarra). Made with Tempranillo, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has a bouquet of black currant, pomegranate, baking spice and coffee. A web of silky tannins encases flavors of black cherry, blackberry preserves, milk chocolate, aniseed, marjoram and lavender that endure into a pleasing finish. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

93 Finca Albret 2018 Lastra (Navarra). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, Mission fig and star anise. A network of opulent tannins backs up blackberry, raspberry, mocha, anise and dried thyme flavors. The enduring finish is marked with a bright splash of pomegranate. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

90 Pagos de Araiz 2019 Red Blend Crianza (Navarra). A blend of Tempranillo, Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has aromas of blackberry preserves and baking spices. It is soft on the palate, with lightweight tannins and cherry, cassis, vanilla and violet flavors and a smooth finish. All in all, this is an easy-drinking red wine. Consortium Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$14

RIOJA

95 Marqués de Riscal 2020 Tapias Tempranillo (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of ripe summer cherry, cedar block and vanilla. A bold note of vanilla transitions to the palate, where it backs cherry, blackberry, eucalyptus, bittersweet-chocolate and fennel-pollen flavors. Vigorous tannins and well-moderated acidity make for gorgeous pour. Drink through 2045. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$100

95 Rioja Vega 2018 Con Gracia (Rioja). This wine is 100 % Graciano, which is usually used as a blending grape in Rioja. It is inky garnet and has blackberry, black-cherry, violet and tar aromas. It is full in the mouth, with sturdy tannins and Mission fig, purple-plum, butterscotch, ground black-pepper, anisette and dark-chocolate flavors. A touch of savory dried herb notes linger on the taste buds. Ecosur Group, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$80

95 Sierra Cantabria 2020 Finca El Bosque (Rioja). Raspberry, butterscotch and violet aromas lead the way for black-currant, blackberry, caramel, violet, and clove flavors wrapped in subtle acidity. Rugged tannins build in volume and subside into a long-lasting finish. Drink through 2038. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$185

95 Sierra Cantabria 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 7. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% Price: \$49

94 Beronia 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 8. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

94 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Otoñal Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 8. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

94 Casado Morales 2018 Alonso López de Familia Crianza (Rioja). This dark-garnet-colored wine offers a bouquet of black currant, anisette and sage. Blackberry, cassis, dark-chocolate, violet and clove flavors are joined by a note of marjoram. Tannins start out feather light, slowly fill the palate, and linger for a while. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

94 Cuenta Viñas 2020 CDVIN (Rioja). This deep-ruby colored wine offers aromas of Chambord, black currant, juniper berry and crumbled sage leaf. It is juicy on entry, with vivid acidity that provides a backdrop to opulent tannins and flavors blackberry, raspberry, anisette, milk chocolate, coffee bean and a touch of rose petal that endures

on the palate. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$80

94 La Rioja Alta 2016 Viña Ardanza Reserva (Rioja). Ruby colored to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, saddle leather and clove. Tannins come on full-bore but are offset by vibrant acidity and bright flavors of pomegranate and red currant. Soft spice notes and a sense of earthiness linger on the taste buds. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

94 Señorío de Villarrica 2018 Reserva (Rioja). This deep violet-red colored wine has a bouquet of black cherry, cassis, mocha and aniseed. Plush tannins encase bold black- and red-berry flavors that mingle with notes of baking spices, caramel, cocoa powder and fennel bulb that evaporate into a finale laced with orange zest. Drink through 2033. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

94 Sierra Cantabria 2020 Colección Privada (-Rioja). This inky-garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of Mission fig, licorice and milk chocolate. It is smooth on the palate, offering polished tannins and Chambord, black-cherry, chocolate-covered-espresso-bean, mint-tea and aniseed flavors. The finish is marked with notes of orange zest and milk chocolate. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

94 Viñedos y Bodegas Sierra Cantabria 2019 Amancio (Rioja). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry, cedar chest and olive tapenade. Muscular tannins frame cassis, purple-plum, dark-chocolate, lavender and dried thyme flavors. A bright cherry note endures on the palate. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$200

93 Beronia 2020 Elaboración Especial Tempranillo (Rioja). This deep-garnet-colored wine has aromas of cassis, cocoa powder and caramel. Blackberry, raspberry, cherry, bittersweet chocolate and licorice flavors are encased in a sheath of elegant tannins that slowly drop away into a long, smooth finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

93 Bodegas Bilbainas 2015 Viña Pomal Gran Reserva (Rioja). Fruit of the wood, mocha and dried sage aromas pave the way for cassis, purple plum, cocoa powder, anise and violet flavors. Plush tannins remain hidden at first sip, slowly build in volume, and then drift into a pleasantly chewy finish. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

93 Bodegas Lozano 2019 Viñas Viejas (Rioja). Black-currant, anisette and chocolate-covered-espresso-bean aromas set the stage for cherry, purple-fig, clove, eucalyptus, violet and dark-chocolate flavors. Well-balanced acidity, dense

tannins and spice notes create a lingering finish. SQW Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$48

93 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Otoñal Selección Especial Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 15. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

93 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Añares Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 15. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

93 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Laztana Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 15. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

93 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Rivallana Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 15. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

93 Burgo Viejo 2019 Licenciado Reserva (Rioja). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of Mission fig, cocoa butter and dried Mediterranean herbs. Opulent tannins offer a backdrop to black-cherry, purple-plum, clove, caramel and crumbled sage-leaf flavors as well as a faint note of mint tea that carries into the enduring finish. Drink through 2038. Votto Vines Importing. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$44

93 Casa Primicia 2019 Viña Diezmo CR Crianza (Rioja). A bouquet of black cherry, violet, milk chocolate and oregano emanates from the glass. There is a touch of spice on entry that presages clove, mint-tea, freshly ground black-pepper, blackberry, purple-fig and dried thyme flavors. Mid-weight tannins and well-balanced acidity skate into a pleasing finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

93 Proelio 2018 Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of black and red cherries with a hint of baking spice. A cloak of polished tannins is wrapped around cassis, purple-plum, mocha and summer farm-stand flavors that evaporate into a soft, savory finish. Mesk/Wine Nation. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

93 Sierra Cantabria 2019 (Rioja). Inky violet-red to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, butterscotch, and clove. Blackberry and butterscotch transition to the palate alongside milk chocolate, roasted fennel-bulb and violet flavors swaddled in silky tannins. The floral-scented finish features a note of chocolate-covered-orange-peel. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$32

93 Sierra Cantabria 2019 Única Reserva (Rioja). Inky garnet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of cassis, butterscotch and crumbled sage

BUYINGGUIDE

leaf. Dark and red-berry flavors and notes of cocoa bean, eucalyptus, licorice and violet are set into a wall of compact tannins that slowly crumbles to expose a spicy, long-lasting finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Bodegas Leza García 2020 Valdepalacios Crianza (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of black cherry, black currant and dark chocolate. It is full on the palate, with opulent tannins and Mission fig, milk-chocolate, purple-plum, butterscotch and lavender flavors that evaporate into a satisfying finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Reciente Reserva (-Rioja). This dark-ruby-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, caramel and dark chocolate. It is spicy at first sip, with clove and spearmint flavors that step back to reveal concentrated tannins and purple-fig, black-plum, vanilla-bean and violet flavors. Dried Mediterranean herbs and a touch of black cherry persist after the last sip. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Sagasta Reserva (Rioja). Dark garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of cherry, pomegranate and dried sage leaf. There is a nice interplay of fruit and savory flavors including raspberry, red plum, caramel, herbes de Provence and tobacco leaf. Rigid tannins slowly dissolve into a surprisingly bright finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

92 Bodegas Olarra 2016 Cerro Añon Estate Bottled Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep-ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, pomegranate and butterscotch with a tiny hint of tar. It is bright at first sip, offering ripe summer cherry, pomegranate, caramel, and espresso flavors. Soft hints of eucalyptus and orange zest linger on the palate. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

92 Bodegas Tobía 2015 Óscar Tobía Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep-garnet colored wine has a nose of black cherry, cedar chest and freshly ground black pepper. Notes of dark chocolate, clove and cinnamon back up black-currant and blackberry flavors that are encased in a framework of rigid, palate-coating tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

92 Bodegas Ugalde 2018 Bianai Limited Edition Crianza (Rioja). The scent of cassis, lavender and baking spice wafts from the glass. A cloak of fluid tannins is wrapped around blackberry, cherry, cocoa-powder and butterscotch flavors with a bright note of candied fruit that continues on the taste buds. 4Front Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Finca El Recreo 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of Mission fig, bittersweet chocolate, butterscotch and herbes de Provence set the stage

for pomegranate, blackberry, chocolate-covered-caramel, olive-paste and dried lavender flavors that are encased in a web of opulent tannins. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Luberrí 2021 Seis (Rioja). This dark-garnet-colored wine has aromas of cherry liqueur, butterscotch, dried marjoram and fennel seed. Powerful tannins are well matched by vibrant acidity, while Luxardo cherry, cassis, chocolate-covered-espresso-bean, menthol and anisette flavors skate into a cool mint finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

92 Marqués de Murrieta 2018 Finca Ygay Reserva (Rioja). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of black currant, raspberry and cedar chest. Plush tannins coat the palate and provide a nice backdrop to black-cherry, purple-plum, mocha and anise flavors. A soft touch of peppermint tea permeates the smooth and long-lasting finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Marqués de Riscal 2019 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 25. Shaw-Ross International Importers.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Muga 2019 El Andén de la Estación Crianza (Rioja). Aromas of ripe summer cherry, coffee bean and dried thyme and sage set the stage for blackberry, Mission fig, butterscotch, herbes de Provence and orange-zest flavors cloaked in silky tannins. Lingering notes of fresh sage leaf and citrus zest remain on the palate. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Ostatu 2020 Valdepedro (Rioja). This dark violet-colored wine has aromas of blackberry, Mission fig, vanilla bean and a hint of dried marjoram. Black-cherry, cassis, butterscotch, cocoa-bean and crumbled sage-leaf flavor are sheathed in a layer of satiny tannins that fade into a pleasing finish marked with a note of licorice. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Palacio de Primavera 2019 Reserva (Rioja). A bouquet of blackberry, black currant, clove and cedar sets the stage for ripe summer cherry, raspberry, milk-chocolate, fennel-seed and crumbled sage-leaf flavors. Plush tannins ply the palate and slowly drop off into a long, smooth finish. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Puente del Ea 2019 Saiaz (Rioja). Deep red-violet to the eye, this wine features aromas of cassis, black plum and lavender. Eucalyptus and clove top notes ride black-cherry, blackberry, milk-chocolate and violet flavors wrapped in polished

tannins that endure on the palate. Vinaio Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Sierra Cantabria 2019 Crianza (Rioja). For full review see page 26. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Viña Salceda 2018 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of black cherry, Mission fig and lemon thyme emanate from the glass. A nice note of coffee bean underlies velvety tannins and cassis, purple-plum, black-olive-paste and lavender flavors that dissolve into an orange-rind-scented finish. Allied Beverage Group. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Anciano 2016 No.7 Reserva (Rioja). This dark garnet-colored wine offers aromas of cassis, Mission fig and anise. Bold tannins are wrapped around black-cherry, caramel, clove and mocha flavors that coalesce in a long-lasting, vivid finish. Well-Oiled Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Casa Primicia 2021 Viña Diezmo JT Joven (-Rioja). Aromas of blackberry, raspberry, thyme and oregano lead the way for Mission fig, mint-leaf, milk-chocolate and candied-orange flavors. Powerful tannins coat the palate and then gradually reveal a black-cherry and licorice finish. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 La Maldita 2022 Garnacha (Rioja). This deep violet-red colored wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, Mission fig, clove and lavender. It is vibrant on the tongue, with Mission fig, purple-plum, menthol and anisette flavors. Sleek tannins stick around with notes of menthol and cherry. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

91 Rioja Vega 2022 GG Garnacha y Graciano (Rioja). Deep cherry-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry, caramel and black-olive tapenade. Pomegranate, raspberry, milk-chocolate, eucalyptus and marjoram flavors are encased in velvety tannins that evaporate into a bright, floral-scented finish. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

91 Rioja Vega 2020 Crianza (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine has a nose of ripe cherry and caramel. It is bright at first sip, offering velvety tannins and pomegranate, red-plum, milk-chocolate and aniseed flavors. The finish is marked with a note of candied orange peel. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Viña Salceda 2019 Crianza (Rioja). A heady nose of fruits of the wood, butterscotch and anise leads the way for black-currant, Mission fig, milk-chocolate, licorice and violet flavors wrapped up in a sheath of glossy tannins. The finish is

marked with a refreshing splash of cranberry. Allied Beverage Group. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

91 Zinio 2019 Crianza Tempranillo (Rioja). Deep garnet in color, this wine has aromas of cassis, black tea and a hint of roasted red pepper. Rigorous tannins encase black-cherry, Mission fig, bittersweet-chocolate, coffee-bean and dried thyme flavors. The finish is marked with a lingering note of cocoa powder. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Bodegas Amézola de la Mora 2018 Viña Amézola Rioja Crianza (Rioja). This dark garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of cassis, pomegranate and marjoram. Velvety tannins support black-cherry, raspberry, cedar-chest and crumbled sage-leaf flavors, with a hint of chocolate that carries into the post-palate. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 El Coto 2018 Coto de Imaz Reserva (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine proffers a bouquet of cassis, Mission fig and eucalyptus. Powerful tannins offer a backdrop for pomegranate, black-cherry, lavender and butterscotch flavors. A touch of eucalyptus makes its way into the enduring finish. Opici Wines. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Manzanos 2022 111 Garnacha (Rioja). Medium cherry-red, this wine has a nose of raspberry, pomegranate and mint leaf. It is soft on the palate, with smooth tannins and cherry, raspberry, vanilla and eucalyptus notes that culminate in a cool, lingering finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Manzanos 2022 Finca Manzanos Garnacha (Rioja). Bright garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of black cherry, aniseed and mocha. Velvety tannins play host to blackberry, raspberry, mint-tea, aniseed and milk-chocolate flavors that wind down to a lavender-scented finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tobelos 2019 (Rioja). The scents of Luxardo cherry, cassis, licorice and rose petal waft from the glass. This wine offers an interesting mélange of fruit and cool-herb flavors. Black-cherry, Mission fig, eucalyptus and clove flavors (with a touch of violet) mingle with soft acidity and luxurious tannins. The Spanish Acquisition. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Beronia 2019 Crianza Tempranillo (Rioja). For full review see page 35. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

89 Bodegas Monpás 2019 Era Costana Reserva (Rioja). Garnet colored with a slightly brickly rim, this wine has a nose of blackberry and green bell

pepper. Slightly tart cherry, cranberry, black-olive paste, bittersweet-chocolate and dried marjoram flavors are wrapped in a layer of robust tannins that coat the tongue and gums. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Bodegas Olarra 2019 Clásico Reserva (-Rioja). This inky-garnet-colored wine offers a bouquet of cassis, dried thyme and saddle leather. It is savory on the palate, with flavors of dried Mediterranean herbs, olive tapenade, clove, elderberry, and menthol flavors cloaked in powerful tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Bodegas Ondarre 2021 Ondarre Primeur Organic (Rioja). Inky-garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of blackberry, red plum and olive tapenade. Velvety tannins and soft acidity support the Mission fig, raspberry, cocoa-butter, dried lavender and cedar flavors. Vine Street Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Finca Los Principes 2021 El Rihuelo (Rioja). Aromas of blackberry, dark chocolate and a hint of violet pave the way for cassis, Mission fig, milk-chocolate, caramel and lavender flavors. Silky tannins and a soft note of thyme linger on the palate. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Manzanos 2021 Berceo Tempranillo Organic (Rioja). This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of purple plum, dark chocolate and flint. Bold tannins cradle Mission fig, blackberry, black-truffle, mocha and dried sage flavors that dissolve into a savory finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Bodegas Ondarre 2019 Ursa Maior Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of brambly fruits of the wood and summer farm-stand lead the way for raspberry, blackberry, roasted red pepper, green bell pepper, dark-chocolate and black-olive flavors. Green bell pepper and chalky tannins linger on the palate. Vine Street Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Manzanos 2020 Siglo Edicion Oro Crianza (Rioja). The scent of cherry, cocoa powder and dried Mediterranean herbs wafts from the glass. Tannins come on strong at first and then peel back to showcase bright acidity and black-cherry, Mission fig, caramel, eucalyptus and mocha flavors that coalesce in a slightly spicy finish. Manzanos Wines USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

RIBERA DEL DUERO

95 Dominio de Atauta 2018 La Celestina Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Dark violet-red in color, this wine offers aromas of black currant, Mission fig, mocha and a touch of mint tea. Deep-set tannins take hold of the palate and slowly peel away to

reveal blackberry, raspberry, dried Mediterranean herb and carob flavors that endure on the taste buds. Aviva Vino. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

95 Dominio del Pidio 2020 (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, licorice and black pepper. Polished tannins and well-integrated acidity unfold cherry, Mission fig, milk-chocolate, fennel-bulb and violet flavors. Gorgeously textured, it settles onto the palate and gradually melts away. Drink through 2035. Alt Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Valduero 2015 Reserva Premium 6 Años (Ribera del Duero). Dark ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black cherry, cedar chest and violet candy. A pleasant floral note is a constant companion to blackberry, anisette, clove and dark-chocolate flavors that are enclosed in a shell of muscular tannins. A soft note of pomegranate permeates the grippy finish. Drink through 2035. Vinaio Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Bodegas Castillejo De Robledo 2019 Altos De Valdoso Crianza (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 8. Tri-Vin Imports. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Bodegas Vilano 2020 Vilano (Ribera del Duero). Dark red-violet to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry and aniseed with a soft note of crumbled sage. Athletic tannins back cherry, cassis, mocha, licorice and violet flavors. The lingering finish is marked with a burst of cranberry. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2019 Tábula (Ribera del Duero). This deep garnet-colored wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, cassis and anisette. Raspberry, cherry, milk-chocolate, baking-spice and crumbled thyme flavors are wrapped in a cloak of downy tannins. The finish is highlighted by a splash of pomegranate. Drink through 2039. Misa Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Matarromera 2019 Prestigio (Ribera del Duero). This dark violet-colored wine has a bouquet of black currant, pine needle and smoke. Brawny tannins and vivid acidity offer a backdrop to ripe summer cherry, pomegranate, chocolate-covered-espresso-bean and violet flavors. The finish is marked with a touch of candied orange slice. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Torres 2019 Celeste Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This blackberry-jam-colored wine has a nose of cassis, charcuterie and lavender. Mission fig, black-cherry, mocha, violet, thyme and licorice flavors are wrapped in a cloak of powerful tan-

BUYINGGUIDE

nins that is well matched by a vein of lively acidity. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$42

93 **12 Linajes 2020 Finca Los Arenales (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of cassis, black cherry, lavender and dark chocolate emanate from the glass. A network of strapping tannins overlays blackberry, dark-plum, violet, chocolate-covered-coffee-bean and citrus-zest flavors. The enduring finish is enriched by notes of milk chocolate and fennel. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

93 **Atalayas de Golbán 2018 Torre De Golbán Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of blackberry, cassis, butterscotch and cedar chest lead to black-currant, plum, chocolate-covered-espreso-bean and vanilla flavors, along with a touch of earthiness. Plush tannins come on strong and then peel away to reveal a smooth finish. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

93 **Bodegas Milvus 2020 Fuenconcejo Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of cassis, mocha and vanilla pave the way for blackberry, purple-plum, dark-chocolate and licorice flavors that are encased in a framework of rigid tannins. A soft wave of acidity washes over the palate from first sip and softly evaporates. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$83

93 **Bodegas Vilano 2019 Legón Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** This wine has aromas of Mission fig, tar and rose water. A soft note of rose permeates the palate alongside vigorous tannins and black-cherry, pomegranate, chocolate-covered-caramel and aniseed flavors. Vibrant acidity bathes the tongue and gums, keeping tannins in check. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 **Díaz Bayo 2015 20 Meses Barrica (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of brambly berries, mocha and caramel set the stage for blackberry, raspberry, bittersweet-chocolate, fennel-pollen and lavender flavors. This wine is juicy at first sip and then muscular tannins take hold of the palate and hang on into a slightly chewy yet bright, fruit-splashed finish. The Sorting Table. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 **Finca Rodma 2020 Selección Tinto Fino (Ribera del Duero).** This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, cherry and crumbled sage leaf. Black-plum, purple-fig, eucalyptus and milk-chocolate flavors ply the palate alongside robust tannins and vivid acidity. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 **Pago de Carraovejas 2020 (Ribera del Duero).** This deep violet-red colored wine offers a bouquet of cassis, mocha and violet. Gentle tannins back black-plum, cherry, dark-chocolate and anise flavors that are lit up by a vein of acidity that lingers

after the last sip. USA Wine West. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

93 **Viña Sastre 2019 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of black and red berries, mocha and lavender set the stage for black-cherry, black-currant, eucalyptus, fennel-bulb, violet and dark-chocolate flavors. A soft note of pomegranate and solid tannins endure into a slightly grippy finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 **Arzuaga 2020 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of purple fig, aniseed and graphite. Rigorous tannins provide a framework for blackberry, black-cherry, mocha, fennel-bulb and crumbled sage-leaf flavors that evaporate into a red-berry and milk-chocolate finish. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

92 **Díaz Bayo 2019 15 Meses Barrica (Ribera del Duero).** Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of cherry, purple fig, lavender and rosemary. A nice note of butterscotch underlies black-cherry, blackberry, milk-chocolate, crushed violet and taragon flavors. Tannins slowly build in volume, coat the tongue and gums, and stay there for a while. The Sorting Table. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 **Dominio de Atauta 2018 Torre de Golbán Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This deep garnet wine has a nose of blackberry, raspberry, butterscotch and black-olive paste. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of pomegranate and raspberry that are accompanied by opulent tannins and cocoa-powder, crumbled sage-leaf and espreso-bean flavors. A nice note of orange zest lingers on the palate. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 **Tamaral 2019 Vendimia Seleccionada Tempranillo Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This deep violet-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry and smoked bacon. A pleasant whiff of mocha carries onto the palate alongside black-cherry, Mission fig, candied violet, vanilla and marjoram flavors. Smoke and dried herb flavors linger into a long, fruit-filled finish. Tropical Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

91 **Alvides 2020 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, mocha and vanilla. Blackberry, black-cherry, cocoa-powder, clove and violet are wrapped in a web of downy tannins that drift away into a final note of cranberry. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 **Alvides 2020 Finca las Juanillas El Molinero Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of cassis, fennel and cedar chest pave the way for black-currant, blackberry, caramel, violet, and dried thyme flavors. Bold tannins make their presence

known and then dissipate to reveal closing notes of cocoa and candied orange peel. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

91 **Miguel Sanz 2019 Alacer Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of clove, nutmeg and raspberry. Dark-chocolate and black-cherry flavors wrapped in solid tannins are joined by juniper-berry, cedar and dark-chocolate notes that endure on the taste buds. Bodegas Riojanas. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

91 **Monteabellón 2020 14 Meses en Barrica (Ribera del Duero).** This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of cassis, butterscotch and clove. Satiny tannins play host to bright red-berry, vanilla, fennel-pollen and lavender flavors. A nice vein of acidity continues on the palate. Eurovin USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Viña Mayor 2019 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** A bouquet of brambly fruits of the wood and dried Mediterranean herbs prepares the palate for black-currant, raspberry, dried thyme, lavender and milk-chocolate flavors cloaked in midweight tannins. A burst of bright pomegranate breaks through and lasts on the palate. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 **Legaris 2018 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Bright ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of black cherry, raspberry and milk chocolate. It is smooth on the palate, offering silky tannins and pomegranate, blackberry and dark-chocolate flavors with a touch of dried thyme on the surprisingly bright finish. Raventos Codorniu. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

TORO

95 **Carodorum 2017 Único (Toro).** This deep violet-red colored wine proffers a bouquet of blackberry, licorice and mocha. Vivid black-cherry and Mission fig flavors are accompanied by luxurious tannins and anisette, dark chocolate, and nutmeg notes that drift into a long-lasting finish. Drink through 2037. W. Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$120

94 **Carodorum 2017 Selección Especial (Toro).** Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of black-cherry preserves, dark chocolate and a touch of eucalyptus. Black- and red-berry flavors open on the palate and are quickly joined by eucalyptus, clove, lavender and mocha flavors nestled in opulent tannins and well-integrated acidity that endure on the tongue and gums. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$62

94 **Cyan 2018 Prestigio Tinta de Toro (Toro).** For full review see page 9. Solera Imports.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

94 **Elias Mora 2017 La Senda de los Lobos Single Vineyard (Toro).** For full review see page 10. Grapes of Spain. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

94 **Lui & William 2017 Abelis Carthago Fighting Bulls Reserva (Toro).** Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of Mission fig and dried Mediterranean herbs. Black-currant, pomegranate, dark-chocolate, anise and marjoram flavors are backed by rigid tannins that dissolve into a vivid, fruit-filled finish. W. Direct. —M.D. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$61

94 **Vatan 2019 Vatan Tinta de Toro (Toro).** For full review see page 14. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

91 **Cyan 2021 Tinta de Toro (Toro).** Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of slightly brambly fruits of the wood and mocha. Robust tannins and soft acidity provide a backdrop for raspberry, cassis, chocolate-covered-espreso-bean and anisette flavors. The finish is marked with a pleasant touch of flint. Solera Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 **Lui & William 2022 Dominio de Taurum (Toro).** Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, blackberry and fennel pollen. Black-cherry, Mission fig, licorice, eucalyptus and caramel flavors are backed by downy tannins that endure on the tongue and gums. W. Direct. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Matsu 2022 El Picaro (Toro).** For full review see page 34. Vintae USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Bodegas Fariña 2019 Lágrima (Toro).** Aromas of brambly black and red berries and cedar chest lead the way for black-currant, purple-plum, bittersweet-chocolate, black-tea and mint-leaf flavors. Chewy tannins linger on the palate with soft notes of licorice and clove. Vinos Libres. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

COSTERS DEL SEGRE

93 **Castell del Remei 2019 Oda (Costers del Segre).** Dark violet-red to the eye, this wine has aromas of red and black berries, graphite and lavender. Plush tannins provide a backdrop to black-cherry, raspberry, violet, milk-chocolate and mint-tea flavors that slowly drift away to reveal a closing note of orange zest. Bottle Diplomacy. —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Castell del Remei 2018 1780 (Costers del Segre).** This Cabernet Sauvignon, Tempranillo and Garnacha blend offers a bouquet of black currant, cherry and eucalyptus. Tannins come on full force and then back down to allow pomegranate, elderberry, violet, graphite and caramel flavors to

ply the tastebuds and then linger into a fruit-filled finish. Bottle Diplomacy. —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 **Raimat 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Made With Organic Grapes (Costers del Segre).** This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, cassis, graphite and purple flowers. Polished tannins back up flavors of raspberry, purple plum and milk chocolate. A note of violet candy remains on the palate. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

PRIORAT

98 **Torres 2019 Mas de la Rosa Vinyes Velles Porrera (Priorat).** This deep violet-colored wine offers a bouquet of blackberry preserves, clove, black-olive paste and rose petal. Lively acidity and an enticing note of butterscotch appear on entry. A cloak of opulent tannins swaddles Mission fig, black-cherry, milk-chocolate, roasted fennel-bulb and clove flavors, while the butterscotch note is joined by a whiff of smoke on the enduring finish. Drink through 2039. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$300

96 **Cellers Grifoll Declara 2018 Gran Predicat (Priorat).** This deep ruby-colored wine offers aromas of Chambord, herbes de Provence, violet and cocoa bean. Opulent tannins support flavors of Mission fig, cherry preserves, licorice, clove and violet. A splash of brightness and a silky butterscotch note stick around long after the last sip. Drink through 2033. Misa Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

93 **Torres 2019 Salmos (Priorat).** Deep ruby-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, butterscotch, and a hint of smoked bacon. A smoky notes transitions to the palate, joined by black-cherry, blackberry, violet, caramel, milk-chocolate, sage-leaf and lavender flavors. Opulent tannins ply the mouth and linger alongside a note of chocolate-covered-cherry. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

92 **Cellers Unió 2019 Roureda Llicorella Clàssic Garnatxa Negra Carinyena (Priorat).** For full review see page 21. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Cellers Unió 2019 Roureda Llicorella Vitis Carinyena Garnatxa Negra (Priorat).** For full review see page 21. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Casa Gran del Siurana 2018 Cruor (Priorat).** A bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, milk chocolate and crumbled sage paves the way for black-cherry, Mission fig, anisette, bittersweet-chocolate and dried thyme flavors. Tannins start off

light, build in volume and then linger into an enduring finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —M.D. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$33

MONTSANT

91 **Cellers Unió 2021 Perlat (Montsant).** For full review see page 32. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

91 **Potente 2020 (Montsant).** Deep black cherry to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry, eucalyptus and juniper berry. It is juicy in the mouth, with flavors of black and red berries, mint leaf, clove and butterscotch. Plush tannins hang on into an orange-zest finish. Misa Imports. —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Zerran 2021 (Montsant).** Aromas of blackberry, anisette and lavender waft from the glass. This wine is spicy on entry, with clove and mint flavors joined by blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate and violet. Spice notes linger on the palate alongside powerful tannins. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Tosalet 2021 (Montsant).** Aromas of purple plums, spearmint and tar set the stage for cassis, black-cherry, eucalyptus, lavender and milk-chocolate flavors, alongside touches of dried Mediterranean herbs. Bold tannins recede into an enduring, earthy finish. Hammeken Cellars USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CAMPO DE BORJA

91 **Bodegas Aragonesas 2019 Aragonia Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** Deep-ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of cassis, licorice and mint tea. Feathery tannins support pomegranate, ripe summer cherry, clove, violet and nutmeg flavors. A splash of cranberry and note of five-spice powder liven up the finish. Marchetti Co.. —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Vinos del Atlantico 2021 Los Garnacheros Expedición No.3 Garnacha (Campo de Borja).** A bouquet of dried cherry, aniseed and dried thyme prepares the palate for cherry pie, Chambord, rose petal, clove and crumbled sage leaf. Soft tannins gently coat the tongue and gums and drift away, leaving notes of fennel pollen and fig. Olé & Obrigado. *Best Buy.* —M.D. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

87 **Bodegas Aragonesas 2021 Coto de Hayas Roble Tempranillo Cabernet Sauvignon (Campo de Borja).** Mostly Tempranillo with 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, this deep garnet-colored wine has a nose of black currant, caramel and violet. It is soft at first sip and then slightly stiff tannins fill the palate alongside raspberry-preserve, dried cran-

BUYINGGUIDE

berry, white-chocolate, anisette and lavender flavors. A burst of acidity softens the tannins' impact. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Bodegas Aragonesas 2021 Coto de Hayas Garnacha Syrah (Campo de Borja). The color of blueberry-pie filling, this wine has aromas of Chambord, mocha, and dried thyme and lavender. Flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, licorice, black olive paste and lavender are encased in lean tannins that endure into a bright, fruit-filled finish. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Bodegas Aragonesas 2020 Don Ramón Roble Imperial Garnacha (Campo de Borja). This deep violet-red colored wine proffers a bouquet of Luxardo cherry, butterscotch and clove. Black-cherry and black-currant flavors wrapped in lightweight tannins and vivid acidity are joined by notes of menthol, anisette and fennel bulb. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

94 Clunia 2020 Tesela by Clunia (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This blend of Syrah and Tempranillo offers a bouquet of cherry, black currant and freshly ground black pepper, with a touch of earthiness. Bold tannins are wrapped around cassis, purple-plum, raspberry, fennel-pollen and dried lavender flavors. Soft Mediterranean herb flavors and relaxed tannins linger on the palate. Quigley Fine Wines. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Finca la Rinconada 2017 Barcolobo El Jaral (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Deep violet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, cassis and dried Mediterranean herbs. A wall of rigid tannins comes on strong and then backs off to reveal cherry, black-currant, raspberry, crumbled thyme and dark-chocolate flavors. The enduring finish is marked with a note of coffee bean. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Clunia 2019 Edición Limitada Malbec (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This unusual Spanish Malbec is deep violet in the glass and has aromas of black cherry, butterscotch and hints of violet and pencil lead. It is full on the palate, with forceful tannins, lively acidity and flavors of red and black berries, herbes de Provence, and bittersweet chocolate. Chocolate and cherry notes stroll hand in hand into a long-lasting finish. Quigley Fine Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Vizcarra 2019 Merlot (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). The color of blueberry pie, this wine has a nose of cassis, raspberry, ani-

seed and lavender. It fills the mouth with a sheath of polished tannins and black-cherry, blackberry, milk-chocolate and baking-spice flavors. A note of candied violets appears on the lasting finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$78

OTHER RED WINES

97 Torres 2019 Reserva Real (Penedès). This inky-garnet-colored wine has aromas of blackberry preserves, cherry, milk chocolate and a touch of smoke. Purple-plum, Mission fig, chocolate-covered-espreso-bean, anise and candied violet flavors are wrapped in a cloak of lusty tannins that coalesces in a lasting finish that is stamped with notes of butterscotch and lavender. Drink through 2039. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$171

94 Bodegas Guelbenzu 2010 Lautus (Ribera del Queiles). This wine has aromas of dark plums, cassis and mocha with a whiff of tar. Bold tannins coat the tongue and gums and then recede to reveal blackberry, elderberry, dried thyme, dark-chocolate and eucalyptus flavors. The enduring finish of this Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot blend from a lesser-known region is marked with notes of violet and flint. Beviameo International. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

94 Torres 2021 Gonfaus (Spain). Made with a grape that was almost extinct before being rescued by the Torres family, this deeply hued red wine has aromas of black and red cherry, with a hint of mint and touch of florality. Gorgeous acidity and polished tannins encase black-plum, cassis, cocoa-butter and fennel-pollen flavors that wind down to a finish infused with a touch of juniper. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$83

94 Torres 2019 Gran Muralles (Conca de Barberà). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, violet and a dusting of baking spice. Luxurious tannins coat the palate bearing cassis, Luxardo cherry, aniseed and milk-chocolate flavors. Notes of toffee and violet linger in the mouth as tannins drift away. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$161

94 Torres 2018 Grans Muralles (Conca de Barberà). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of black currant, mocha and black-olive paste. It is juicy at first sip, with bright cherry and raspberry flavors that are followed by dark-chocolate, fennel-bulb, lemon-thyme and lavender flavors. Plush tannins and well-integrated acidity endure on the palate. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$126

93 Celler Piñol 2019 Nuestra Señora del Portal Garnatxa Negra/Cariñena (Terra Alta). Inky-garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry jam, caramel, and dried mountainside herbs. It is

spicy on entry, offering bold clove and licorice top notes joined by black cherry, purple plum and milk chocolate. A web of silky tannins glides across the palate and dissolves into a smooth finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

93 Lezcano-Lacalle 2019 Maudes Crianza (Cigales). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, cherry and a hint of summer farm-stand. Velvety tannins play host to black-cherry, raspberry, milk-chocolate and crumbled sage-leaf flavors that skate into a long-lasting finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

92 Bodegas Guelbenzu 2018 Azul (Ribera del Queiles). This blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Tempranillo from an under-the-radar region in northern Spain has a nose of black cherry, blueberry and violets. A cloak of plush tannins wraps around blackberry, purple-fig, coffee-bean, dried marjoram and lavender flavors that slowly drift away. Beviameo International. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Celler Piñol 2019 L'Avi Arrufi Vinyes Velles Criança (Terra Alta). This deep violet-colored wine has aromas of Mission fig, butterscotch and cocoa powder. Flavors of raspberry preserves, black currant, dark chocolate, violet and clove are framed by a network of slightly rigid tannins that peel back to reveal a lavender, thyme and ripe cherry finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Tinedo 2019 Cala No.1 (Tierra de Castilla). A bouquet of red plum, cassis and anisette paves the way for black-currant, blackberry, clove and fennel-pollen flavors. Tannins come on hard and heavy but well moderated acidity keeps them from overpowering the palate. Eucalyptus and baking-spice notes remain on the palate. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Tinedo 2018 Cala No.2 (Tierra de Castilla). Inky garnet in the glass, this wine has a bold nose of Chambord, cherry preserves and clove. Grippy tannins are wrapped around elderberry, blackberry-pie, butterscotch and anisette flavors that evaporate into a spicy finish. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2022 Art Collection Tempranillo (Ribera del Guadiana). This violet-red-colored wine proffers a bouquet of cherry pie and roasted fennel bulb. Mint and licorice notes are slightly stronger than black-cherry, raspberry and violet flavors. Velvety tannins and lively acidity offer a nice sense of balance. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Terrai 2020 OVT (Cariñena). Blackberry, raspberry and vanilla aromas pave the way for cherry, raspberry, cocoa-powder, violet and dried oregano flavors. This wine is bright on the palate, with soft tannins and a refreshing finish. Cameron Hughes Wine. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2022 Pintaresco Tempranillo (Ribera del Guadiana). Aromas of black currant and lavender emanate from the glass. Juicy at first sip, this wine offers black-cherry, elderberry, ground clove, spearmint, and dark-chocolate flavors wrapped in a blanket of downy tannins. A splash of pomegranate brightens up the closing note. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

86 Capa 2022 Tempranillo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). A bouquet of raspberry and butterscotch leads the way for black-cherry, raspberry, menthol, violet and clove flavors. This easy-drinking wine offers soft tannins and a spicy finish. Hammeken Cellars USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

86 Monte Amán 2021 Tempranillo Roble (Arlanza). Aromas of cherry, pomegranate and milk chocolate emanate from the glass. This easy-drinking red wine has soft tannins and purple-fig, red-plum, cocoa-butter, fennel-pollen and lavender flavors, with a hint of smoke on the short finish. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Bodegas Cristo de la Vega 2022 Camina (La Mancha). Dark violet to the eye, this wine has a nose of black cherry, violet and mint. Cool herb flavors dominate the black- and red-berry notes, while vivid acidity and a bright cherry note keep eucalyptus and anise in check. Vinamericas, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

82 Mary Taylor 2022 (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). This deeply hued wine has aromas of elderberry, geranium leaf and mint. There is a strong floral note on the palate underlying menthol, anisette, cranberry and pomegranate flavors. Mary Taylor Wine. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

VINHO VERDE

94 Anselmo Mendes 2021 Curtimenta (Vinho Verde). The wine is maturing with ripe white fruits and a hint of toastiness. Aged in wood, it shows the ability of Alvarinho to take to barrel aging. The result is a rich wine that still has a fresh edge. Drink now. Grape2Glass. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Anselmo Mendes 2022 Muros de Melgaço (Vinho Verde). In the tallest bottle, this wine reflects its origins in the town of Melgaço in the north of Vinho Verde. It is rich, full of citrus and textured acidity. Fermented and aged in wood, the wine is spicy while never losing its great fruit. Drink from 2024. Grape2Glass. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Falua 2020 Barão do Hospital Reserva (Vinho Verde). Alvarinho from the north of Vinho Verde gives a ripe wine with a fine line of green fruits and acidity. It is an impressive wine, its richness showing density and concentration. Drink now. Concurrent Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Anselmo Mendes 2022 Pássaros (Vinho Verde). From the Lima Valley in the heart of Vinho Verde, this finely textured wine is full of intense white fruits that are laced with citrus acidity. It is possible to drink now but will be better later in 2024. Grape2Glass. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 2.5% **Price:** \$13

91 Quinta do Ameal 2022 Solo Unico (Vinho Verde). For full review see page 29. Now Wine Imports.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). From northern Vinho Verde, the wine is rich and full-bodied. Its creamy texture is allied to green fruits and great freshness. Drink this mineral, textured wine from 2024. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Alvarinho (Vinho Verde). From the north of the Vinho Verde region, this is a ripe, creamy wine. Its green fruits are fresh, providing contrast to the wine's richness. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Quinta do Ameal 2022 Ameal Loureiro (Vinho Verde). From the Lima Valley, this is full of white fruits and creamy acidity. It is a delicious, refreshing wine that is ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Avesso (Vinho Verde). From old vines on granite soils, the wine has impressive richness and concentration. It is a fine, green fruit and spice wine that is ready to drink. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Loureiro (Vinho Verde). This wine, from the Lima Valley in central Vinho Verde, is fruity with a light, fresh character. It is dry, its fruitiness giving the wine's ripeness. Drink now. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

87 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Twin Vines (Vinho Verde). This blend of Loureiro and Alvarinho is softly textured, off-dry and fruity. Crisp white fruits and plenty of acidity give the wine, named after the twin children of one of the owners of Fonseca, total freshness. Drink now. Share a Splash. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$10

86 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Plainas Loureiro (Vinho Verde). The wine is crisp, light and fruity. It is an easy wine that has plenty of citrus and lime fruitiness. Drink now. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Vicente Faria Vinhos 2022 Animus (Vinho Verde). This is an off-dry wine, lightly sparkling and full of bright green fruits. It is fresh with lime and lively acidity. Drink now. Bronco Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

85 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Azal-Arinto (Vinho Verde). A light, fresh and off-dry wine, this has creamed apple and spice flavors. Acidity comes through at the end. Drink now. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

DOURO

93 Família Carvalho Martins 2019 Méda (Douro). A mature, toasty wine, this is rich and concentrated. It has perfumed, textured and ripe fruits that are just at the right moment of aging. Drink this fine wine now. Weygand Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$89

92 Quinta de la Rosa 2022 La Rosa Reserva (Douro). A spicy and lemon character gives this wine freshness and great acidity. With a mineral edge, the wine is still textured and needs further aging. Drink from later in 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Poças 2022 Fora de Série Scuba (Douro). Whole bunch fermentation gives this wine richness and concentration. Its ripe white fruits and tangy acidity shows the youth of this fine wine. Drink from later in 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

91 Quinta das Bandeiras 2022 Passagem by La Rosa Reserva (Douro). From vineyards in the Douro Superior region, this is a rich wine. It has dense texture from ripe white fruits and intense acidity. Drink from 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Solar de Cambres 2021 Casa de Cambres Grand Reserva (Douro). This wood-aged blend of Arinto and Rabigato is ripe and rich. Its white fruits

BUYINGGUIDE

and kiwi flavors go with fresher acidity. It is a full wine with touches of spice that can age further. Drink from later in 2024. M Imports, LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Quevedo 2021 Grande Reserva Branco (Douro).** This rich, wood-aged wine is dense while also light. Its white fruits are crisp with a touch of spice. It is a fine wine, ready to drink. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

90 **Quinta da Pacheca 2021 Grande Reserva Branco (Douro).** This wood-aged wine is ripe and full-bodied. It has acidity and citrus flavors, but these are integrated with the richness and intense spice and toastiness. Drink this powerful wine from 2024. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

90 **Quinta da Pacheca 2021 Reserva Branco (Douro).** A wood-aged wine with rich toastiness and spice, it also shines with fruit. It has ripe lime and lemon flavors that are fresh and rounded at the end. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Burmester 2022 Reserva (Douro).** A blend of Portugal's Gouveio, Rabigato and Viosinho grapes, the wine is packed with fruit. It has bright apple flavors with just a touch of spice. The wine is still young and will be better from late 2024. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 **Família Carvalho Martins 2022 Pacto Branco (Douro).** Both fresh and rich, the wine is balanced and full of textured white fruits. Apples and a touch of pineapple give the wine complexity. It will be ready from later in 2024. Weygand Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Real Companhia Velha 2021 Porca de Murça Reserva Branco (Douro).** This rounded, ripe wine has rich fruit that is mature and smooth. With plenty of acidity set against white fruits, the wine is balanced with a fine concentration. Drink now. Golden Ram Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 **Santos & Seixo 2021 Cevêr Reserva (Douro).** The blend of Rabigato and Gouveio is rich from lees aging, giving a full-bodied density. It's lightly spicy from wood aging. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 **Maçanita Vinhos 2018 Malvasia Fina (Douro).** Lightly perfumed, the wine is softly textured, with fresh white fruit flavors and tight acidity at the end. It is ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

88 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Lilás Branco (Douro).** A blend of three varieties, the wine has freshness along with light and poised citrus flavors. Minerality gives the wine a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 **Quinta de la Rosa 2022 La Rosa (Douro).** A fresh and fruity wine, this has bright citrus and a tight texture that is still crisp. The wine is light on its feet and goes down easy. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

88 **Quinta dos Murças 2022 Esporão Assobio (Douro).** A blend of five Douro white varieties, the wine is fresh and lightly mineral. It is a fruity wine, with white fruits and acidity over a perfumed aroma from the Verdelho in the blend. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

88 **Rui Roboredo Madeira 2022 Castello d'Alba (Douro).** A mineral, textured wine with acidity and tight citrus fruit flavors, this is fruity and vibrant. This character suggests that the wine will age a while, so drink from late 2024. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 **Santos & Seixo 2021 Santos da Casa Reserva (Douro).** A wood-aged white wine, this is rich, dense and balanced. Spicy white fruits, apples and kiwi are prominent. It is a fine wine that is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Solar de Cambres 2022 Casa de Cambres Reserva (Douro).** Still young, this is a fruity wine with a touch of wood. It is fresh and full of citrus flavors with a lively, bright backdrop. The wine needs a few more months. Drink from later in 2024. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Burmester 2022 (Douro).** A bright, fruity wine that is lightly textured and mineral, it has a tangy aspect that brings out apple and citrus flavors. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta da Pacheca 2021 Superior Branco (Douro).** A light and fresh wine, this is fruity with acidity and bright grapefruit flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta da Rede 2022 Rede Branco (Douro).** The wine is fruity with touches of lemon and fresh acidity. It has a light touch with a vibrant aftertaste. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Real Companhia Velha 2022 Porca de Murça Branco (Douro).** Five varieties go into this fresh white from vineyards on the plateau north of the Douro. Its bright melon and kiwi flavors are lit by citrus. The wine is ready to drink. Golden Ram Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Vicente Faria Vinhos 2022 Quinta Vale Santa Luzia (Douro).** The wine's density allows it to have some weight, bringing layers of great freshness. Drink this attractive wine from 2024. Bronco Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Real Companhia Velha 2022 Dandy de Cidrô (Douro).** This light wine has tight acidity and a touch of spice. It is very fresh, with citrus flavors dominating to give a lively wine that's ready to drink. Vinofiamma. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

86 **Solar de Cambres 2022 Casa de Cambres Colheita (Douro).** Bright with light fruitiness, the wine is fresh and full of citrus flavors. It's ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

DÃO

90 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Ribeiro Santo Automático (Dão).** Soft and smoothly fruity, the wine shows the natural richness of the Encruzado grape. It has a fresh background, balancing with a full-bodied ripeness. Drink from 2024. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Pinha Encruzado (Dão).** This ripe and creamy wine is balanced with white fruits and acidity in profusion. It is rich and concentrated with a dense texture. Drink from 2024. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 **Cabral Almeida & Fonseca 2022 Jardim de Granito (Dão).** A soft blend of ripe, creamy fruits and warm acidity, this is fresh and perfumed. Blending Malvasia and Encruzado, the wine is lightly perfumed and ready to drink. Gold Medal Wine Club. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Fontes da Cunha 2022 Mondeco Branco (Dão).** With Encruzado in the blend, this is a ripe wine with delicious, refreshing green fruits. They give richness to the spicy wine that is drinkable now. EcoValley. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Jardim da Estrela (Dão).** A combination of creamy Encruzado and perfumed Malvasia, this is full with ripe acidity. It is a well-balanced wine that has

plenty of freshness as well as richness. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

TEJO

89 Falua 2020 Vinho com Historia Reserva (Tejo). The wine has richness that shows well in its ripe fruits, hinting at honey and pineapple. It is full, perfumed and ready to drink. Concurrent Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

89 Quinta da Lapa 2022 Alvarinho (Tejo). A light, crisp style of Alvarinho, the wine is perfumed and textured. With a tangy character and lemon fruits, the wine is bright with acidity at the end. Drink from 2024. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

88 Quinta da Lapa 2021 Fernão Pires (Tejo). Thanks to long skin contact, this wine has added richness. It is dry and also intense, giving a full wine with light oxidation and plenty of taut acidity. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

87 Quinta da Centieira 2021 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo). Fresh and fruity with a grassy character, this wine has ripe fruitiness with spice and an attractive citrus and kiwi character. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

87 Quinta da Lapa 2022 Nana Branco (Tejo). Bright and fruity, this is full of green apple and citrus flavors. It has a fresh feel that makes it refreshing. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

87 Quinta da Lapa 2022 Selection Branco (Tejo). A ripe blend of Fernão Pires and Arinto, the wine has apples and layers of lemon acidity. With its freshness and bright character, the wine is refreshing and ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

ALENTEJANO

92 Herdade Grande 2019 Gerações Reserva (Alentejano). Some aging in new wood gives this wine a rich character. Dense and textured, it has ripe white fruits alongside spice and acidity. It celebrates the previous generations who have built up the wines. Drink now. SAWM Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$12

92 Luis Duarte 2022 Rubrica (Alentejano). For full review see page 24. Specialty Cellars.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

90 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2022 (Alentejano). This fruity wine is perfumed and aromatic. Its freshness is ready to capture and drink now. The wine is packed with lemon and has a crisp after-taste. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

90 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2022 Amantis Reserva (Alentejano). Thanks to wood fermentation and aging, the wine is rich and spicy. The ripe white fruits blend well with the toastiness and polished edge. Drink this full-bodied wine from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$29

89 Abegoria 2022 Herdade do Gamito (Alentejano). This is a delicious perfumed and honey-flavored wine. It has layers of white fruits and acidity that are inviting. Drink from 2024. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

88 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2022 Viognier (Alentejano). Touches of yellow fruits and fresh acidity combine to give a balanced, rich wine. It is a fruity wine with a mineral texture that gives it complexity. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$21

87 Herdade Paço do Conde 2022 (Alentejano). The wine is a soft blend of Antão Vaz and Arinto. Its ripe acidity and red apple fruits have a burst of citrus freshness at the end. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

85 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Flor de Maio (Alentejano). The wine is named not for the ship but for a red poppy that flowers in Portugal in May. It is soft and fruity with kiwi and pears and bright acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

ALENTEJO

91 Herdade Grande 2020 Vinho de Talha (Alentejo). Aged in amphorae, this rich wine has a ripe, smooth character. There is a light oxidation that gives the wine a golden color and an extra richness. Drink now. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$31

90 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Esporão Reserva (Alentejo). For full review see page 31. Now Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

89 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2021 Arinto Reserva (Alentejo). From one of the top white varieties in Alentejo, this wine is ripe and richly aromatic, open and packed with white fruits. Drink now. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$34

89 Herdade Grande 2021 Roupeiro Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo). This ripe, dense wine from a Douro variety is rich with sweet lemon and a background of acidity. It is full of fruit touched by the wood fermentation. Drink from 2024. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

88 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Monte Velho (Alentejo). There is lovely fresh fruit in this attractive, crisp wine. Its apple and citrus flavors are bright and forward. Drink from 2024. Organic. Now Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

87 Abegoria 2021 José Piteira (Alentejo). With wild berry fruits and citrus freshness, the wine is rounded and dense. It is full-bodied, balanced and refreshing. Drink now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

86 Aveleda 2022 Villa Alvor (Algarve). From the sunny southern region of Portugal, the wine is a blend of Arinto and Sauvignon Blanc. It's zesty and full of citrus freshness. Drink now. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

PICO

90 Abegoria 2021 Eruptio Verdelho (Pico). Lightly perfumed, this wine from the volcanic island of Pico in the Azores is fresh and packed with kiwi and lime fruits. There is a mineral texture that gives the wine an attractive edge. Drink now. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

89 Abegoria 2021 Eruptio Arinto (Pico). This crisp and fruity wine has a light texture. It is a mineral wine with acidity and green fruits. Bright and packed with freshness, the wine, from the Azores, is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$48

88 Abegoria 2021 Eruptio Terrantez (Pico). A strongly floral wine from the island of Pico in the Azores, this is softly textured and ripe with generous apple and spice flavors. The wine is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$44

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinha de Martim (Lisboa). For full review see page 26. Aveleda Inc.
abv: 13% Price: \$105

88 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2022 Sauvignon Blanc, Verdelho (Península de Setúbal). This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Verdelho is refreshing. The Verdelho perfumes the wine and brings

BUYINGGUIDE

out a riper side to the Sauvignon Blanc. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2022 (Duriense). This is a perfumed wine. Its ripeness and white fruits are fresh and packed with fruit. The wine is ageworthy and will soften over the next year. To be at its best, this wine should be drunk from late 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

87 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Minho). Fresh, fruity and grassy but also acidic and slightly herbal, the wine is light, fresh, crisp and mineral. Drink now. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

86 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2022 Beyra Branco (Beira Interior). Bright fruits, including the local Sírria and Fonte Cal grapes in the blend, are the hallmark of this high-altitude wine. It has a fresh lift, citrus acidity and a tangy finish. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

PORTUGAL ROSÉ WINES

90 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Herédias (Douro). This ripe wine is rich, full of red berry fruits and touches of spice. It is a dense wine that is made to be aged for a few months. Drink from later in 2024. Iberian Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Ribeiro Santo Pé Franco (Dão). With soft fruit and light acidity, this is a rounded wine. Its yeasty edge adds complexity and richness. It is drinkable now. Green Bus Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Quinta de la Rosa 2022 La Rosa (Douro). This ripe rosé is attractively ready with red fruits mingling with a layer of citrus to bring out the freshness. Drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Santos & Seixo 2022 Pena Vermelha (Tejo). Fruity and crisp, this ripe rosé is also full of bright acidity and red currant flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Aveleda 2022 Fonte (Vinho Verde). This is a ripe wine, balancing fresh red fruits and a touch of softness and sweetness. The wine is drinkable now. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

87 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2022 Dona Maria Rosé (Alentejo). A soft, ripe wine with red currant and berry flavors, it has a touch of spice along with a tangy character. It is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

87 Fontes da Cunha 2022 Quinta do Mondego (Dão). With vineyards situated on the longest river entirely in Portugal, known in pre-Roman times as Munda, this Mondego wine is fresh with red fruits in the background and perfumed acidity. The wine will be best from later in 2024. EcoValley. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Ribeiro Santo Pinha (Dão). This smoothly textured wine is full of spice, red currant fruit flavors and light acidity. It is a vivid, ripe wine that is ready to drink. Iberian Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

87 Quinta dos Murças 2022 Esporão Assobio (Douro). Soft and fruity with a steely edge of structure set against red currant fruits, it's a bright and fruity wine with lively acidity at the end. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Santos & Seixo 2022 Encosta do Sobral (Tejo). This full rosé is a blend of Aragonez and Touriga Nacional. Its freshness comes from orange peel flavors that are preserved by brief aging in stainless steel. Drink now. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Santos & Seixo 2022 Santos da Casa (Douro). Made from 100% Touriga Nacional, the wine is perfumed and full of fruit. Its light structure and red berry flavors are still bright and young. Drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Falua 2022 Conde Vimioso Sommelier Edition (Tejo). This blend of Touriga Nacional and Syrah is fruity with ripe red fruits and a cut of citrus. It has freshness that gives a lift. Drink now. Concurrent Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

86 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Monte Velho (Alentejano). A light wine with crisp acidity and red fruits, this is immediately accessible. It is fresh and fruity, shot through with acidity. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2022 Beyra Rosé (Beira Interior). A fresh rosé with citrus fruits and intense acidity, this is fruity and bright. Its lift comes from light tannins and final freshness. Drink now. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Quinta da Lapa 2022 Selection Rosé (Tejo). Thanks to its soft texture, this wine is gentle and easy. Its crisp edge makes it very accessible. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

86 Quinta da Lapa 2021 Nana Rosé (Tejo). Bright and fruity, this rosé is fresh and lightly textured. With attractive red fruits, the wine is ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Quinta da Rede 2022 Rede Rosé (Douro). This soft-textured wine has ripe red berry fruits and balanced acidity. There is a crisp after-taste that gives it a final lift. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Plainas Rosé (Vinho Verde). From the southern Vinho Verde region, the wine is flavored with red fruits and a light sweetness. Drink now. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

85 Solar de Cambres 2022 Casa de Cambres Colheita (Douro). Fresh and fruity, the wine has a light touch of red fruits and acidity. It is bright with a crisp and ripe balance. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

94 Quinta dos Murças 2021 Margem (Douro). A rich blend of Touriga Nacional and Tinta Franca, this is an impressive wine. It is dense, with concentrated dark fruits and layers of still-young tannins. The wine deserves some serious aging. Drink from 2026. Now Wine Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Casa de Cambres 2018 Grande Reserva (Douro). This is a powerful, now mature wine. Its ripe tannins and concentrated blackberry texture are still vibrant, while tinged by a softer well-aged character. Drink this impressive wine from 2024. M Imports, LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Poças 2018 Fora de Série French Connection (Douro). Made from a field blend of grapes from old vines, the wine is rich and densely textured. It's tannic and spiced from wood aging that has brought out the wine's ripeness and structure. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 **Quinta de la Rosa 2021 (Douro).** Richly structured and dense, the wine is balanced with tannins already integrated with the black fruits. This wine, with acidity and a mineral texture, will age further. Drink from 2026. Winesellers, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

93 **Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** For full review see page 19. Aveleda Inc. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Burmester 2021 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** This rich, perfumed wine is powerful and dense with tannins. It has richness from the black fruits and generous berry flavors. Aged in wood, the wine will be ready to drink from 2025. Wine In-Motion. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

92 **Família Carvalho Martins 2020 Golpe Reserva (Douro).** A dense and concentrated wine, it has some powerful tannins that still need to soften. The potential is therefor a full wine that hints at its wood aging. Drink from 2025. Weygand Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Quinta da Pacheca 2021 Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** A rich, spicy wine, this is full of black fruits and youthful acidity. It is dense and ripe with blackberry flavors and the great concentration from old vines. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Quinta da Pacheca 2020 Grande Reserva Touriga Nacional (Douro).** The wine is already smooth with richness and concentration. Wood aging brings out the texture and powerful black fruits. Big and ripe, this fine wine will be ready to drink from later in 2024. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

92 **Quinta de la Rosa 2020 La Rosa Reserva (Douro).** From the la Rosa estate in the heart of the Douro vineyards, this impressively smooth wine is full and generous, with a structure embedded with the ripe black fruits. Thanks to its fruits and structure, it will develop well. Drink from 2026. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

92 **Quinta dos Murças 2021 Minas (Douro).** For full review see page 26. Now Wine Imports.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 **Maçanita Vinhos 2019 E Sousão (Douro).** The wine is just approaching maturity with spice and layers of bright acidity that are typical of the variety. Full of red fruits, the wine is ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 **Quinta da Pacheca 2018 Grande Reserva Tinta Roriz (Douro).** This all-rounder with grape, which is called Tinta Roriz only in the upper altitudes of Douro and Dão, goes by many other names including Tempranillo. This Douro wine is powerful, now mature. It has density and spice from wood aging. Big and bold, the wine is now ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

91 **Quinta dos Murças RESERVA (Douro).** Structured and boasting dense tannins and acidity, this is a fine wine that is just ready to drink. Its black fruits are concentrated and full of ripe berry flavors. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 **Quinta dos Murças 2017 Reserva (Douro).** For full review see page 29. Now Wine Imports.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Roboredo Premium (Douro).** This is a fine wine, its rich tannins and solid fruit giving structure and density. It has a natural potential, black fruits and balanced acidity that will allow it to age further. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 **Burmester 2021 Reserva (Douro).** This is a sophisticated wine, rich with tannins and layers of black fruits. Its spice and ripe fruit come from wood aging, giving the wine extra structure. Drink from 2025. Wine In-Motion. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **Maçanita Vinhos 2019 Letra F (Douro).** With a small percentage of white fruits in the blend with red, the result means softer tannins in the wine. Still, it has red fruits and acidity in profusion. Drink now. Olé & Obrigado. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

90 **Real Companhia Velha 2021 Porca de Murça Tinto (Douro).** For full review see page 34. Golden Ram Imports. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Castello d'Alba Reserva (Douro).** This wood-aged wine is rich, packed with tannins and a solid structure. It has a spicy character giving density and aging potential. It is a full wine, with black fruits still vivid and forward. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 **Quinta da Pacheca 2020 Sousão Reserva (Douro).** Full of smooth tannins and smoky textures, this ripe wine is balanced and full of fruit. It's also young, the tannins firm and acidity still needing to soften. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 **Vicente Faria Vinhos 2020 Quinta Vale Santa Luzia Reserva (Douro).** Mainly Touriga Nacional, showing black fruits and rich tannins, the wine is dense and has a solid structure. Its core of dryness promises aging, and the wine certainly shows that need. Drink from 2025. Bronco Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 **Poças 2021 Fora de Série Vinho da Roga (Douro).** Light in color, this single-vineyard wine has a juicy freshness and a gentle texture. Its red cherry flavors are fresh. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 **Quinta da Pacheca 2021 Superior Tinto (Douro).** The blend of five grapes was aged for nine months in wood. The result is a ripe wine, full of black currant fruits and wood flavors, that is still vivid and young. Drink from 2024. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Quinta da Rede 2021 Rede Tinto (Douro).** A small amount of wood aging has polished this wine. With its red fruits and light tannins, it has an open texture that gives the wine a fruity, black currant aftertaste. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Sogevinus 2020 Veedha (Douro).** The wood aging has given this wine a distinct spicy character that will soften to give smooth black fruits. It is a ripe wine, acidity and black fruits going together for the future. Drink from 2024. Wine In-Motion. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 **Solar de Cambres 2021 Casa de Cambres Colheita (Douro).** Lightly wood aged, this wine is more about spicy red fruits. It has a generous blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Solar de Cambres 2019 Casa de Cambres Reserva (Douro).** Partially aged in wood for six months, the wine is ripe with black fruits and light tannins. It is almost mature with berry flavors and acidity in balance. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Burmester 2021 (Douro).** A fruity wine, with red berry flavors and lively acidity, this is an open, easy wine. Its light structure is enhanced by minerality to give a wine that is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Vicente Faria Vinhos 2021 Animus (Douro).** This fruity, friendly wine has an easygoing character. Berry fruits and ripe tannins are rich,

BUYINGGUIDE

giving a light structure. Drink now. Bronco Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Família Carvalho Martins 2022 Pacto Palhete (Douro). This is a light, fresh red with gentle tannins and bright fruits. Made like a Beaujolais Nouveau, it has a jarring banana flavor that diminishes its impact. Weygand Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

DÃO

93 Quinta do Mondego 2018 Munda Phoenix (Dão). This blend of five varieties is spicy, smoky and dense. Its black fruits are concentrated and layered with acidity that is still fresh. The wine is young and worth aging further. Drink from 2025. EcoValley. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

92 Quinta do Mondego 2015 Munda Touriga Nacional (Dão). A seriously wood-aged wine, this is polished and dense. It is now mature, rich and full-bodied. The wine has a fine aromatic character, typical of Touriga Nacional. The spicy aftertaste is lifted in this wine that is ready to drink. EcoValley. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Freire Lobo 2020 Vigno (Dão). A rich, spicy wine from vineyards at 1,800 feet, it has a floral character, ripe black tannins and dense fruit. With its structure still in place, it could age further. Drink from 2025. Beaune Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Ribeiro Santo (Dão). A smoothly structured wine with tannins that are fully integrated into the black fruits. There is a fine touch of spice that brings out the wine's richness. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Cabral Almeida & Fonseca 2021 Jardim de Granito (Dão). This soft wine, now mature, is full of red fruits and light tannins. It is a poised wine, ready to drink. Gold Medal Wine Club. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Jardim da Estrela (Dão). A smoothly textured wine, this is lightly structured with rich black fruits. With its ripe character, the wine is now ready to drink. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

LISBOA

89 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Arreio Tinto (Lisboa). Black currant flavors, acidity and layers of tannins give ripeness with a fine future

to this ripe, firm wine with rich fruits. Drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 SyTr (Lisboa). This blend of Syrah and Tinta Roriz is rich and complex with firm tannins. The wine's black fruits are ripe with a light pepper and spice character. The wine should age further. Drink from late 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Vidigal 2018 Brutalis (Lisboa). Weighing in at 4.3 pounds, this bottle lives up to its name. The wine inside is more balanced, ripe but with some freshness to set alongside the firm tannins. It has a spicy, toasty aftertaste that will do well with further aging. Drink from 2025. Bincellar USA. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

88 Aveleda 2020 (Lisboa). This wine is attractive and open textured, with fine acidity and ripe, young red fruit at the fore. The wine will be ready to drink from later in 2024. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Dona Flor (Lisboa). A nicely balanced blend of Touriga Nacional and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is ripe and firmly textured, with juicy red fruits. Drink from 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Minha Velha Reserva (Lisboa). Lightly wood-aged over six months, the wine is rich and full of black fruits. It is worth aging to bring out the ripeness and balance the acidity. Drink from late 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Waterdog (Lisboa). A ripe and juicy wine with a high percentage of Syrah, this is spicy with a lightly toasty character from a short time in wood. The wine is aging quickly. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Fonte das Setas (Lisboa). Fresh red fruits and soft tannins mark a wine with an open, fruity character. It is young, succulent and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 87% **Price:** \$10

86 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2022 Miradouro da Vinha (Lisboa). A simple, open wine with a soft texture and light red fruits, it's fresh, generous and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 Vidigal 2020 Porta 6 Reserva (Lisboa). This blend of four varieties, including a prepon-

derance of Syrah, was briefly oak-aged, polishing the structure and ripe tannins. Its texture and berry fruits have developed well. Drink now. Bincellar USA. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

TEJO

93 Falua 2020 Conde Vimioso Reserva (Tejo). A powerful blend of Touriga Nacional and Cabernet Sauvignon, it is rich and structured yet still developing its density and fine black fruits. The wine needs to age and will be ready to drink from 2025. Concurrent Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Falua 2020 Vinho com Historia Reserva (Tejo). This is a succulent wine, though its acidity and structure are still young. It has a spicy, perfumed character and is rich in tannins and full of acidity that promise aging. Drink from 2025. Concurrent Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Quinta Monteiro de Matos 2022 Reserva do Paul Cabernet Sauvignon (Tejo). Pure Cabernet Sauvignon grown in Tejo vineyards east of Lisbon was aged in wood for nine months, creating a structured wine with solid tannins and good aging potential. Its black currant flavors are forward and will soften as the wine matures. Drink from 2025. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Santos & Seixo 2020 Sublinhado Reserva (Tejo). This dense, ripe wine is full-bodied and packed with black fruits. Finely structured and succulent, with tannins fully integrated with the black fruits, the wine is ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Quinta da Centieira 2021 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Tejo). The wine has marked wood-aging character. It needs to soften after its 12 months in wood. The fruit underneath has some attractive black currant flavors. Drink from later in 2024. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Quinta da Lapa 2018 Nana Reserva (Tejo). A rich, wood-aged blend of Touriga Nacional, Aragones and Alicante Bouschet, the wine is dense and generous. Its black fruits and spice are warm, producing a wine that has tannins and concentration. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Santos & Seixo 2020 Encosta do Sobral (Tejo). Lightly wood aged, this polished wine is ripe and perfumed. The gentle tannins are now mature and give the wine its richness. The

wine is full and ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Santos & Seixo 2019 Pena Vermelha Reserva (Tejo). A ripe, juicy wine with black fruits and acidity, it's full and balanced but does need the acidity to soften. Drink from late 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Quinta da Lapa 2021 Selection Tinto (Tejo). This is a fresh and fruity wine with red berry flavors and vivid acidity. There is a spice edge that brings complexity and adds richness. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

87 Santos & Seixo 2021 Sublinhado (Tejo). Castelão and Touriga Nacional have been blended together with Trincadeira into a fruity wine that has soft tannins and a succulent character. It is still fresh, with the fruit and acidity right upfront. Drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

84 Quinta da Centeira 2021 Reserva Syrah (Tejo). The wood aging has given this wine an intensely smoky aroma and flavor. It has marked the fruit with heavy toast. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

ALENTEJANO

95 Luis Duarte 2020 Rubrica (Alentejano). For full review see page 6. Specialty Cellars. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2018 Touriga Nacional - Petit Verdot (Alentejano). This is an unusual and fine blend with rich tannins, dark colors and black fruits all around. It has some tannins with a dense texture and black plum flavors. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. **Hidden Gem.** —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

91 Abegoria 2020 Herdade do Gamito Reserva (Alentejano). This rich, wood-aged wine has dense layers of tannins and spice. Its black fruits are powerful and concentrated, with berry and black currant fruits coming together. Drink from 2025. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2019 Petit Verdot Reserva (Alentejano). Still replete with tannins, this black fruited wine has a dense structure. It also has concentration and a touch of spice from wood aging. The wine still needs time. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Herdade Grande 2020 Sousão (Alentejano). Sousão, more familiar from the Douro, shows itself rich and full of black fruits in the Alentejo. Acidity and spice are prominent, giving a ripe wine that is still young. Drink from 2025. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

91 Herdade Grande 2019 Gerações Reserva (Alentejano). Celebrating the previous generations who have worked at the producer, the wine is rich, driven by the 40% Alicante Bouschet in the blend. It is a full, dense wine that needs further aging. Drink from late 2024. SAWM Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Herdade Paço do Conde 2021 (Alentejano). This is a ripe and juicy blend of Aragonez and Syrah. Its tannins and firm fruits are dense and concentrated. It is a rich wine whose black fruits need to age a little longer. Drink from late 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Herdade Paço do Conde 2021 Touriga Nacional - Syrah (Alentejano). With over a year in wood, this wine is rich and dense. Its black fruits and blend of Touriga Nacional and Syrah are ripe and spiced with a polished character. Drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 Abegoria 2021 Herdade do Gamito (Alentejano). This dense wine with its intense red color is still young and full of perfumed acidity. It is a wine for aging, its wood and spice still coming together. Drink from 2025. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Artisanal Reserva (Alentejano). A blend of four grapes aged in wood, this is a dense wine. Its black fruits are full of spice with black currant flavors. The wine needs some aging. Drink from late 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Ségur Estates 2021 Ossa Touriga Nacional (Alentejano). Pure, fruity Touriga Nacional, the wine is lightly perfumed and juicy with acidity and red fruits. It can be drunk now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Artisanal (Alentejano). This open, fruity wine is full of blackberry fruits with ripe acidity. Its juicy character is still young and should be aged. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

ALENTEJO

94 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Vinha de S. Lázaro (Alentejo). From fruit foot trodden in open lagars, the wine is powerful with a generous texture. It is an impressive wine, its tannins giving the wine richness. Black fruits are still young, still vibrant, so the wine needs to soften. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Herdade Grande 2021 Amphora (Alentejo). The amphora gives the wine its typical smooth texture. Showing red fruits, the wine is rich and generous, with light tannins and a hint of attractive oxidation at the end. Drink from 2024. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$31

91 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2019 (Alentejo). A blend of four varieties from this estate in Estremoz forms this wine. Its ripe berry flavors and black fruits are juicy with a layer of tannins that is now softening. It's a rich wine that will be ready to drink from 2025. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

90 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2020 Grande Escolha (Alentejo). This blend of Trincadeira and Alicante Bouschet is dense, powerfully structured and still young. Its weight and richness come from superripe fruit and tannins. Age this wine further, be aware of the alcohol, and drink from 2025. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2021 Vidigueira Touriga Nacional (Alentejo). This is a rich, perfumed wine with a succulent texture combined with ripe perfumed fruit. The wine has been briefly wood-aged, giving extra richness. Balanced acidity completes the wine's complexity. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Ségur Estates 2020 Vinha da Talha Alicante Bouschet (Alentejo). Aged in amphorae, the wine is soft and rounded. The light tannins support the bold black fruits and the ability to age. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Abegoria 2021 José Piteira (Alentejo). The Moreto variety is planted mainly in the Alentejo. The wine is rich and full of cherry fruits. Spice and ripe tannins come from the aging in amphora. The wine is ready to drink. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira 2022 Vidigueira (Alentejo). The wine is soft and ripe. Black fruits and gentle tannins are well integrated, the structure open and with balanced acid-

BUYINGGUIDE

ity. Drink from 2024. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Adegas Cooperativas de Vidigueira 2022 Vidigueira Syrah (Alentejo). This very young wine has light wood-aging flavors with ripe tannins. It is juicy with a light perfume of violets and a firm structure that needs time to soften. Drink from 2025. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Adegas Cooperativas de Vidigueira 2021 Vidigueira Alicante Bouschet (Alentejo). Ripe, deep-colored and having bold tannins, this is a powerful wine. Thanks to some wood aging, there is a polished veneer that goes with the acidity. Age this wine for at least several months and drink from late 2024. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Adegas Cooperativas de Vidigueira 2022 Vila dos Gamas (Alentejo). A warm, ripe wine with some solid tannins and blackberry fruits, this is open and ready to drink. It has a light texture that supports the easy fruitiness and acidity. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Adegas Cooperativas de Vidigueira 2019 Vidigueira Reserva (Alentejo). This wine is too much—from its high alcohol to its hugely dense and powerful texture. This is really only for those who like blockbusters. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$25

PENÍNSULA DE SETÚBAL

92 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva (Península de Setúbal). This rich wine with tannins and black currant fruits has a fine toasty edge from wood aging. It is a solid wine, structured with a firm texture that needs a little more time. Drink from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2020 Dona Ermelinda Grande Reserva (Península de Setúbal). A rich spicy wine, this is full of ripe black fruits and some solid tannins. The acidity and juicy berry flavors are layered with the rich wood aging. The wine is going to be ready from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2015 Vinho do Grutas Reserva (Península de Setúbal). Fine and mature, this rich wine is poised between impressively ripe fruit and fragrant smokiness. The wine is still structured, although this has softened. It's very ready to drink. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2021 Vinha do Torão Grande Escolha (Península de Setúbal). A delicious, juicy wine with ripe acidity and berry flavors, it has plenty of structure and generous tannins that are going to give a rich wine as it matures. Drink from late 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2020 Dona Ermelinda Reserva (Península de Setúbal). Still young, this ripe wine has considerable potential. Blackberry fruits and fine tannins have come together with its succulent acidity. Drink from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2021 Vinha do Fava Reserva (Península de Setúbal). A ripe, smoky wine with full juicy fruits, this is developing well. Acidity and ripe tannins are forming together with black fruits. Drink from later in 2024. Lionstone International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Periquita Reserva (Península de Setúbal). Wood aging gives a smoky, black fruit-flavored wine. It is smooth with weight and richness, lined with acidity. Drink from 2024. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Waterdog Reserva (Península de Setúbal). Castelão is the prominent grape in this rich, fruity wine. Its wood aging is well integrated, softening the bright red wine. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 José Maria da Fonseca 2022 Periquita (Península de Setúbal). From a brand that is well-known in Portugal, this wine is very accessible, young and fruity. Its red fruit flavors and acidity are bright, open and ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Casa Ermelinda Freitas 2021 Carménère Reserva (Península de Setúbal). The wine has a funky aroma that follows through to the flavors. In the background are berry flavors and acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

91 Wines & Winemakers 2019 Pegos Claros Reserva (Palmela). From grapes of 70-year-old vines, this ripe wine is richly structured and has a dense texture. It has a fine juicy black currant flavor; a layer of freshness adds to the wine's

concentration. It's ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Beyra Reserva (Beira Interior). Native Tinta Roriz and Jaen, grown on schist in mountain vineyards at 2,300 feet, were combined into a full, ripe and solid wine. Its black fruits are still firm and young, giving a fine potential to this serious wine. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Beyra Tinto (Beira Interior). Keep an eye on this mountain appellation that abuts the Spanish frontier. Its dense schist-and-quartz-mountain wine, with its black fruits and light structure and perfumed acidity, is juicy with a structure that is almost ready. Drink from later in 2024. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Casa Santa Eulália 2022 Vinhão Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde). A highly acidic wine, this has tight red fruit flavors and tannins. It is typical of red Vinho Verde, best drunk young and cool. The Green Wine. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

86 Vicente Faria Vinhos 2022 Lolita (Portuguese Table Wine). A blend of four varieties from different parts of Portugal, the wine is fruity and bright with layered red fruits. It's ready to drink. Bronco Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

PORT

93 Quinta de la Rosa 2021 Colheita Tawny (Port). This young, beautiful Colheita tawny shows a rich side of Port. Density and concentration are major elements. Bottled from barrel, the wine will not age further, so drink now. Winesellers, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Quinta de la Rosa 2018 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). The Port is still young with richness and a light structure that is still developing. It will fill out and ripen as its ages and smooths. All the elements are there for a very fine wine. Drink from 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Duorum 2019 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). A ripe, sweeter Port, this is generous with jammy berry flavors and touched by wood aging. It is full and concentrated with a fine structure that will allow it to age. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$30

90 Quevedo 2021 Vintage (Port). A smoothly textured Port, this has sweetness. The com-

bination of fruit and spirit is fully integrated, giving richness and density. Drink this approachable wine from 2028. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.

abv: 19.5% Price: \$85

89 Quevedo NV Crusted (Port). Aged in wood, the Port is bottled with some sediment that will allow it to age further. It is rich with touches of nuts and spice. Bottled to be drunk now, it can also be aged for many years. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.

abv: 19.5% Price: \$35

85 Quinta das Carvalhas NV Rosé Porto (Port). Sweet and spicy, this is a jammy red berry-flavored Port. It is lightly textured and ready to drink. Signature Imports. —R.V.

abv: 19% Price: \$24

85 Quinta das Carvalhas NV White Porto (Port). This is a sweet style of white Port with an edge of spirit and touches of toffee flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Signature Imports. —R.V.

abv: 19% Price: \$24

MADEIRA

96 Cossart Gordon 1995 Malmsey (Madeira). This magnificent wine is rich and sweet but with such maturity that the sweetness has now softened. It is layered with acidity and dense fruits that have fully integrated. Drink this memorable wine now or for any 30th anniversary in 2025. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$275

93 Blandy's 2010 Bual (Madeira). A medium-sweet Madeira, this is a beautifully textured wine. Its vibrant character is matched by the light wood and spice flavors that fill it out. It has great concentration and should be aged further. Drink from 2025, but it will certainly last longer. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$129

92 Blandy's 2010 Malmsey (Madeira). A rich, enticingly sweet Madeira has a well-integrated combination of wine and spirit. It is intense, maturing well and could be ready now. But it will be better from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$129

90 Miles 2007 Meio Doce (Madeira). As its name suggests, the Madeira is medium-sweet. It is softly textured with acidity and lightly tangy as the spirit comes into the background. Sip in a comfortable chair now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$125/500 ml

88 Miles NV 20-Year Old Doce (Madeira). The Madeira is seriously sweet, almost cloying. It is saved by a background of acidity that moves the wine toward balance. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.

abv: 20% Price: \$90

GERMANY

RIESLING

93 A.J. Adam 2022 Hofberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). A mineral-driven version, with a delicate frame, this bottling shows intense flavors of chamomile tea, passion fruit, nectarine and rose petal. There is a fine balance and length, with a succulent feel. It delivers harmony and grace, with a lilted, fresh aftertaste. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 8% Price: \$NA

93 Carl Ehrhard 2022 Rudesheim Berg Roseneck Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). A concentrated yet elegant white, this exudes notes of flint, peach, ripe apple, brown spice and hints of matchstick flavors. Wrapped in a silky texture, the finish echoes the ripe fruit and mineral notes. The wine shows terrific harmony and length. No doubt that this can age, but it is really delicious now. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.

abv: 8.5% Price: \$21

93 Nik Weis 2021 St. Urbans-Hof Goldtröpfchen GG Riesling (Mosel). This finely knit and mineral-infused white has a silky texture and is rather elegant, displaying aromas of lemon oil and tarragon leading to flavors of pear, elderberry, white pepper and coriander. This is firm and the acidity is powerful right now, but all the elements suggest that it will age gracefully. Best after 2026. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.

abv: 12% Price: \$64

92 Carl Ehrhard 2021 Frau Ehrhard Natürlich Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A very elegant wine, this offers a cloudy, sunrise-yellow appearance. On the nose, it exudes notes of dried apricot and coriander seed, while the palate is beautifully balanced, displaying passion fruit and soft peach flavors, with vibrant acidity and a touch of tannins that build a firm backbone. Delicious to drink on its own, it would pair well with pork and apple sauce, or with white meat. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.

abv: 12% Price: \$31

92 Carl Loewen 2022 Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel). This beautifully combines the fruity and zesty elements, delivering great harmony between a vibrant array of peach, dried apricot and white-plum flavors and the firm backbone of acidity. The long, supple finish is well spiced. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

92 Carl Loewen 2022 Herrenberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This seductive kabinett offers aromas of wet stone, with plenty of minerality tied to the intense flavors of Honeycrisp apple, green tea and dandelion flavors which are built on an elegant structure. A long finish of jellied citrus lingers inviting you to reach for more. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 9% Price: \$NA

91 Carl Loewen 2021 Laurentiuslay Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This pure, focused and suave

white offers aromas of quince blossom and flavors of candied lemon and white peach. Mouthwatering acidity, mineral notes and fruity elements find equilibrium on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 8% Price: \$33

91 Carl Loewen 2021 Maximin Klosterlay Erste Lage Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Very expressive, with a savory profile, this white shows fine balance and texture thanks to the ripe apple, wild plum and dried citrus flavors which lend this wine a subtle complexity. Lilac and beeswax notes emerge on the spicy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12% Price: \$30

91 Weingut Hüls 2021 Letterlay Riesling (Mosel). The first impression is a long vanilla-spice note, accenting the apricot and passion fruit, both on the nose and palate. Then, the underlying mineral starts to take over, with a flinty, savory essence building up. It finishes gracefully. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$31

91 Weingut Hüls 2021 Zeltinger Sonnenuhr Riesling (Mosel). A graceful white, with a delicate palate, this sports flavors of ripe apple, pear and jellied citrus, plus an underlying smoke note. This is silky and vibrant, with a long and charming finish, which is filled with ginger, cream and spice. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.

abv: 12% Price: \$32

90 A.J. Adam 2022 Riesling (Mosel). Quite zesty, this Riesling features honeysuckle and cream hints behind the mix of apple and peach. It is light but shows intensity and complexity, with slate and spice elements adding interest to the inviting finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 11% Price: \$NA

90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2022 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). For full review see page 30. Delicato Family Wines.

abv: 8% Price: \$32

90 Carl Ehrhard 2022 Old School Feinherb Riesling (Rheingau). This silky and super friendly, with its off-dry profile, but then the beam of acidity takes over, accenting the tangerine and white-peach flavors. Savory mineral notes and baking spice add to the complexity as this comes to a mouthwatering conclusion. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.

abv: 10.5% Price: \$21

90 Nik Weis 2022 Bockstein Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This offers a nice range of flavors, from white raspberry to lemon parfait, daisy to spice and mineral. This finally settles in the mineral camp, with a subtle sweetness and a long aftertaste. It is refined and elegant. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.

abv: 7.5% Price: \$32

90 Schloss Lieser 2022 Thomas Haag SL Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Pure and sleek, this wine offers an energetic palate that features flavors of white peach, Bosc pear and papaya built

BUYINGGUIDE

on a frame of zesty acidity. Hints of salted butter and pastry faintly echo on the sleek finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

90 St. Urbans-Hof 2021 Nik Weis Piesporter Goldtropfchen Auslese Riesling (Mosel).

Lush and rich, the lip-smacking red-peach and ripe melon flavors are well spiced. The juicy finish lingers with mineral and dried tarragon notes as this lures you in for another sip. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$38/375 ml

89 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2022 Dom Riesling (Mosel).

This off-dry version shows expressive crunchy pear, passion fruit and lime flavors midpalate. Notes of sweetened dandelion tea and savory mineral mingle on the harmonious finish. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.

abv: 10% **Price:** \$23

89 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2022 Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).

Racy in style, this wine shows plenty of apple, with accents of flowers, golden raisin, grapefruit and mineral. The silky white is balanced by vivacious acidity. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$30

89 Carl Ehrhard 2021 Herr Ehrhard Unfiltered Trocken Riesling (Rheingau).

Bracing acidity brings out subtle notes of pie crust, McIntosh apple and apricot on the palate. The firm finish picks up a walnut hint. This is interesting and long, but also idiosyncratic. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

89 Mönchhof 2022 Ürzig Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).

This charming, friendly version of Riesling comes with zesty minerality due to the flavors of red peach, white pepper and glazed apple. The spicy finish is delicate and open textured. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$30

89 Nik Weis 2022 St. Urbans-Hof Wiltinger Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel).

This shows lots of zest behind the notes of clementine, durian and daisy, while savory herb and mineral accents add to its complexity. It is silky, with a slight crunch towards the persistent finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Peter Nicolay 2022 Ürziger Würzgarten Dry Riesling (Mosel).

This starts off zesty, showing a juicy core midpalate and sporting Bosc pear, nectarine and quince-blossom notes. It is pretty dry, but fruity, with a moderately long finish. Vinum Cos. —A.Z.

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

88 A.J. Adam 2022 Zwischen den Reben Riesling (Mosel).

This wine offers an assertive herbal aroma, with lanolin, tarragon and green-fig flavors. Anise and prickly pear notes give this

an exotic touch on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2022 Dry Riesling (Mosel).

This features a zesty, citrusy character, with ripe peach, apricot and wild plum flavors. Notes of *fleur de sel* appear on the spicy finish. Vinum Cos. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

88 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2022 Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett Riesling (Mosel).

This fruity white exhibits a spicy aroma, following through to creamy flavors of ripe apple, peach and passion fruit. Hints of anise and citrus mark the finish. Vinum Cos. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$14

88 Nik Weis 2022 Kabinett Riesling Riesling (Mosel).

Light and delicate, this comes with melon and peach flavors and some lanolin accents. The juicy and well-honeyed finish delivers brioche and lemon-cake notes. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$17

88 Weingut Hüls 2021 Schieferspiel Riesling (Mosel).

Notes of lanolin and grapefruit open up this Riesling, while subtle lime, apple and pear mingle at the core. It has a moderately long finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.

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

87 Nikolaus Kowerich 2021 For Fairies and Elves Riesling (Mosel).

This bottling offers a crisp, savory herbal edge to both its green-apple and white-currant flavors. The fresh finish features an edgy, lanolin note. Vivino Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$21

86 Von Schleinitz 2021 Riesling (Mosel).

Zesty, this white features lemon-lime notes and hints of dried apricot. It is pretty fruity, with spice accents and some minerality on the moderate finish. The Marchetti Co. —A.Z.

abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Clean Slate 2022 Riesling (Mosel).

A friendly, easy version of Riesling, this comes with a mix of peach and quince offset by vibrant acidity. It also delivers hints of spice on the modest finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Nik Weis 2022 Single Post Riesling (Mosel).

Round and juicy, the Single Post comes with off-dry notes of light peach and apricot. The crisp acidity refreshes on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 10% **Price:** \$14

PINOT BLANC

91 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2022 Siebeldingen Vom Muschelkalk Trocken Pinot Blanc (Pfalz).

This bottling delivers a charming, clean and precise style of a medium-bodied Pinot Blanc. It shows aromas of jasmine and oolong, while the palate displays a vibrant mix of nectarine, crisp apple and honeysuckle notes. Firm acidity provides the framework and lends this the potential for aging. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Wagner-Stempel 2021 Reserve Trocken Pinot Blanc (Rheinhessen).

This shows a slight oak note at first, but those flavors add to the complexity of this velvety, focused and well-balanced white. Notes of quince blossom, dandelion tea and ripe citrus mingle here, carried by vibrant acidity, which cuts through the texture. Crunchy minerality marks the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

90 Schäfer-Fröhlich 2022 S Trocken Pinot Blanc (Nahe).

Prominent acidity and a pronounced vein of savory mineral creates a vibrant, tangy frame for this elegant, medium-bodied white, offering a tightly meshed range of kiwi, chinotto-orange, granite, mint and lemon-verbena notes. It remains focused through the mouthwatering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

89 Wagner-Stempel 2022 Dry Pinot Blanc (Rheinhessen).

There is good intensity and range of flavors in this zingy white. It exhibits floral, apple, lemon, mineral and smoke notes that are worn quite elegantly by the vibrant structure. It is light on its feet and refreshing on the moderate aftertaste. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

88 Willems-Willems 2022 Dry Pinot Blanc (Mosel).

Vibrant acidity creates a clean-cut frame for the mix of green peach, shaved ginger and salty mineral aromas and flavors in this well-knit, light-on-its-feet white. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 Selbach-Oster 2020 Dry Pinot Blanc (Mosel).

Hints of petrol and nut oil accent the poached apricot and mandarin-orange-peel notes in this moderate white backed by tangy acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

86 Schloss Saarstein 2021 Pinot Blanc (Mosel).

Crisp and easy, this comes with direct notes of citrus and green apple. It is refreshing and clean on the moderately long finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.

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

SILVANER

93 Hans Wirsching 2020 Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg GG Silvaner (Franken). This is lush, with its sleek texture caressing the palate, while offering nuances of white tea, white pepper, vanilla spice and crisp apple. A touch of smoky sage adds to the character on the edges as this shows great harmony between all the elements. The finish is long, combining the floral and mineral elements that lure you in for more. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

90 Hans Wirsching 2022 Iphöfer Trocken Silvaner (Franken). This lively white shows a nice silky texture that is decorated with notes of white pepper and wet stone, picking up the lime and blanched almond details towards the savory, lingering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Fürst Castell 2021 Casteller Kugelspiel Silvaner (Franken). There's a stony undertow to this white, along with a well-balanced, subtle richness and hints of lemon, crisp apple and vanilla spice. Vibrant and mouthwatering, it has good length on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Wirsching 2022 Silvaner (Franken). A crisp version of the grape, this arrives with underlying acidity that underscores green-apple and white-pepper flavors that mingle at the core. It also has a moderately long finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28/1L

PINOT NOIR (BLANC)

91 Carl Ehrhard 2022 Blanc De Noirs Unfiltered Trocken Spätburgunder (Rheingau). An intriguing, racy style, is accompanied by notes of verbena and tarragon leading the way for bright red-fleshed peach, rose-hip and bergamot-oil flavors. It is very tactile and the finish only pronounces that quality even more, along with an inviting cardamom note. Marchetti Co. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

86 Schäfer 2021 Blanc De Noir Dry Spätburgunder (Rheinhessen). This shows light notes of toasted nut up-front, with a mix of orchard and stone fruit mid-palate. It is vibrant and mouthwatering. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: NA **Price:** \$17

80 Paul Anheuser 2021 Blanc de Noir Pinot Noir (Nahe). An idiosyncratic wine, this comes with notes of sourdough underscoring the subtle raspberry and rosemary. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

WEISSBURGUNDER

91 Ziereisen 2020 Lügle Weissburgunder (Germany). This is medium to full bodied without feeling overly heavy. Its aromas might make you think that this is sweet, but it is rather dry and yet it displays an array of expressive flavors of apple tart, peach skin, brioche and fragrant accents of verbena, ground cardamom and chamomile. It is velvety on the lasting finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

89 Salwey 2022 Trocken Weissburgunder (Baden). This offers apple, grapefruit and pear-tart flavors that are well spiced, with vibrant acidity for balance. Vanilla accents emerge on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Dönnhoff 2021 Trocken Weissburgunder (Nahe). A streak of stony mineral underscores flavors of Honeycrisp apple, pink-grapefruit granita and fresh ginger, while sleek acidity frames it, bringing out the zesty finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

CHARDONNAY

92 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2020 Hansjörg Rebholz R Dry Chardonnay (Pfalz). A classy white, this is silky in texture and racy, featuring lemon, apple, blanched almond, and savory mineral flavors. Intense and airy at once, it builds to a long aftertaste of citrus oil and sea salt. The acidity lends the right amount of support and never gets in the way, but leaves a mouthwatering impression. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$110

90 Kühling-Gillot 2022 Réserve Trocken Chardonnay (Rheinhessen). Clean and pure, this arrives with a pronounced savory mineral essence, wet stone, underscoring the white tea and quince blossom. The wine wraps those flavors around the palate, then launches to a long and harmonious lemony, slightly toasted finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

GRAUBURGUNDER

94 Salwey 2019 GG Grauburgunder (Baden). There is beautiful definition and balance to this white with a pinkish hue. The palate is offering violet, flint, quince and pear aromas and flavors on a firm, full-bodied structure, while the acidity cuts through providing balance and keeping this rather elegant. The finish features a plethora of spices. This is only starting to unravel and will show its best after 2025. The German Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

90 Salwey 2022 Trocken Grauburgunder (Baden). There's a tinge of copper in the color and some herbal and white-pepper notes on the edges, while the core exudes peach, pear and mineral flavors on a vibrant structure. Try it with rich seafood. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

88 Dönnhoff 2021 Trocken Grauburgunder (Nahe). This clean-cut, mineral-driven white features a fresh mix of crisp apple, orchard blossom, sea salt and dandelion. Light bodied, it has a savory finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Pfeffingen 2022 Dry Scheurebe (Pfalz). This will lure you in with its seductive elderflower aroma, then it wraps you in its silky texture on the palate, where it displays flavors of blood orange, white raspberry and nectarine. Rosewater hints add another layer, as this finishes with spice and mineral accents. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

90 Fio Wein 2022 Glou Glou Orange (Mosel). Rather distinctively, the wine has a slight spritz upfront, showing hints of cider. This eases up with air and offers notes of orchard fruit, macerated apricot and citrus. Savory mineral details and hints of pie crust linger on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Hans Wirsching 2022 Iphöfer Trocken Scheurebe (Franken). Very light and crisp, this delivers a subtle aromatic component, offering notes of bergamot and lavender that extend on the palate, underscoring juicy elements of kumquat and star fruit. There is a good amount of acidity here to support the length on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2022 Trocken Muskateller (Pfalz). This aromatic white is bright and light on the palate, with tangerine acidity and underlying hints of chalk providing support to the lovely range of chrysanthemum and Asian pear with coriander and ground ginger notes. The finish lingers, inviting you for another sip. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

87 Müller-Catoir 2021 Trocken Muskateller (Pfalz). A charming, aromatic white, this bottling comes with notes of kiwi fruit, quince blossom and bergamot. It is light and vibrant—a perfect everyday, *apéro* wine. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

WHITE BLENDS

90 Rings 2021 Kalk & Stein White Blend (Pfalz). Harmonious and elegant, this has all its elements in the right proportions. It presents itself with lots of baking spice and hints of roasted nuts, before the singed lemon peel, shaved ginger and quinine come in. The finish retains the balance and shows good length. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

87 Schlossgut Diel 2020 Diel de Diel White Blend (Nahe). An easy-drinking white, this delivers notes of apricot pastry up-front, followed by some jasmine-flavored green tea. It is light, but it would be interesting with smoked fish and green vegetables. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

SPARKLING WINES

90 Bischöfliche Weingüter Trier 2019 Scharzhofberger Brut Riesling (Mosel). For full review see page 30. Delicato Family Wines.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

90 Selbach-Oster NV Above the Clouds Pét-Nat Sparkling Blend (Mosel). A very spicy and floral *pét-nat*, this has marjoram, elderflower and guava flavors, lifted by vibrant acidity and backed by lively bubbles. It is zesty and juicy and super easy to enjoy, especially on a warm, sunny day. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

89 Nik Weis NV Cuvée Clara Brut Sparkling Blend (Mosel). A well-cut *sekt*, with the fine, tightly knit bead carrying expressive notes of Bosc pear, apricot pastry, salted butter and ground ginger. A mineral undertow lingers on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$48

ROSÉS

87 Salwey 2022 Rosé (Baden). Nuances of raspberry and melon rind form the core in this light-bodied rosé, with a light whiff of white pepper lining the moderately long finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

85 Nik Weis 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Mosel). This displays red-berry and white-pepper flavors, as well as notes of savory herb that linger on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

RED WINES

90 Rings 2020 Sand & Kiesel Portuguise (Pfalz). A light and fleshy, generously fruity red, this delivers damson plum, black tea, mulled blackberry, violet and warmed anise notes. It offers a silky feel through the earthy finish. This will have a lot of fans. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$48

89 Ziereisen 2019 Talrain Blauer Spätburgunder (Baden). A bit dark in profile, this wine gives blueberry, ground anise and sandalwood flavors. The finish shows a graphite-tinged mineral element that extends for a long time. It is refined and well balanced throughout. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

ENGLAND

CHARDONNAY

94 Hush Heath Estate 2019 Balfour Skye's Chardonnay (England). With heaps of regional, cool-climate character, this vibrant, medium-gold-hued Chard opens with flinty notes atop guava, lemon zest, pineapple rind and cream, in a toasted nutty frame. The palate is tightly wound and steely, with a distinctive and generous texture that's buoyed by lovely citrus and melon-rind acidity. A food-friendly bottling now, it has the ability to age over the next several years. Vine Street Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

93 Hattingley Valley Wines 2020 Still Chardonnay (England). This is delicately aromatic bottling demonstrates England's ability to make Chardonnay that's as stellar in still form as in sparkling. A perfumed of green apple, pear, cantaloupe and orchard blossom—with a chalky, gingerly underbelly—flows to a palate that is chiseled and taut with beautiful talc-like texture, laser-like acidity and purity of fruit that lingers on the finish. Valkyrie Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Gusbourne Estate 2019 Guinevere Boot Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (England). There's a cool steely quality to this pale-gold-hued English Chard. A myriad aromas, from melon rind, green apple skin and ginger to nougat, coconut flakes and cashew nut are underscored by buttery oak notes. It's midweight, with a taut, Chablis-like structure, subtly slippery texture, a whisper of toast and a green-apple-skin edge to the finish. Still young, this could develop honeyed complexity with several more years in the cellar. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

SPARKLING WINES

98 Gusbourne Estate 2014 51°N Traditional Method Sparkling Blend (England). From an excellent vintage and on lees for over six years, this exceptional bubbly is also England's most expensive wine. Reaching a decade of age, it's remarkably youthful. A pale radiant gold, this wine delivers vibrant aromas of honeyed lemon, grilled pineapple, guava, nougat and ground ginger open, with a toasty, mushroomy underbelly. There's quiet opulence and power, here, with beads of fine bubbles and bright acidity. On the long creamy mousse ride a myriad flavors right through to the exceptionally long finish. It's a world-class sparkling with regional character but global appeal. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$370

95 Hennes 2018 Blanc De Blancs Chardonnay (England). For full review see page 5. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

94 Gusbourne Estate 2019 Brut Reserve Traditional Method Champagne Blend (England). A complex and expertly made English bubbly from one of the nation's top estates, this opens with some struck match reduction. It adds to (rather than detracts from) the aromatic medley of toasted nut, citrus, melon rind and crushed rock. A laser beam of lemony acidity shines bright on the textural palate, and a fine, vigorous fizz seems to prickle the tongue for a full minute. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$72

90 Gusbourne Estate 2020 Guinevere Chardonnay (England). From a comparably warm vintage, this is downright opulent by English standards. There's a nutty, vanillin overlay to the green apple and melon fruit. The palate tells a different story. It's fresh and textural, creamy with subtle flavor and plenty of power. In the end, the cool climate wins out. And while this hides the oak better than the previous vintage, it's still present. This classy, ageworthy Chardonnay could cellar until 2030 at least. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

PINOT NOIR

92 Gusbourne Estate 2020 Boot Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (England). The red-berry, spice and floral aromas on this English Pinot are, frankly, gorgeous. The palate is shy in comparison, even shy in comparison, but it nevertheless showcases the wine's elegance via silky texture, taut, leathery tannins and lovely acidity that equate to a level of Pinot luxuriousness few would have thought possible in England a decade ago. Broadbent Selections, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

CROATIA

POSIP

92 Korta Katarina 2022 Posip (Korcula). This light yellow wine offers a bouquet of honeydew, peach and herbes de Provence. Delicious nectarine, apricot, white chocolate, lavender and mint flavors are well matched by a silky texture and brilliant acidity. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Korta Katarina 2021 The American Posip (Korcula). This golden yellow wine has a nose of green pear, pineapple and almond blossom. Pineapple, cantaloupe, eucalyptus, butterscotch, white pepper and honeysuckle notes are set into a full-textured wine with bold acidity. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

PLAVAC MALI

99 Saints Hills 2020 Ernest Tolj Plavac Mali (Dingac). The color of freshly picked blackberries, this wine has a seductive nose of Chambord, blackberry, cocoa powder and a touch of cigar box. Voluptuous tannins coat the mouth while subtle acidity lights up the palate, joined by Mission fig, purple plum, coffee bean and fennel frond flavors. The softest touch of mocha is a highlight of the dazzling finish. Drink now–2035. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Korta Katarina 2016 Plavac Mali (Dingac). For full review see page 11. Katharine's Garden LLC. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Korta Katarina 2013 Reuben's Private Reserve Plavac Mali (Dingac). Dark garnet with a brick rim, this wine has a bouquet of black currant, Red Delicious apple peel, cedar chest and aniseed. Apple peel and cedar continue on the taste buds alongside mint leaf, cherry pie, dried thyme and lavender flavors. Tannins come on strong and subside into an enduring finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

ZINFANDEL

94 Splendid Vina 2018 Benmosché Family Diamond Hill Vineyard Zinfandel (Dalmatia). Aromas of black currant, clove and juniper berry pave the way for blackberry, black cherry, eucalyptus, clove, bittersweet chocolate and lavender flavors. Sinewy tannins coat the tongue and gums and power through to a floral-scented finish. Murphy Distributors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Korta Katarina 2019 Zinfandel (Dalmatia). The scents of black cherry, chocolate, butterscotch and dried marjoram emanate from the glass. There is a saline note at first sip, rapidly joined by flavors of licorice, pomegranate, cherry, chocolate-covered caramel, coffee bean and clove that mingle with opulent tannins and vivid acidity. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

SLOVENIA

94 Saints Hills 2022 Le Chiffre Chardonnay (Primorska). This wine has aromas of ripe summer peach and bergamot flower. It is full-textured and almost creamy in the mouth, offering starfruit, pineapple upside-down cake, nectarine and butterscotch flavors backed by a vein of vivid acidity that endures on the palate. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

ARMENIA

ARENI

93 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2018 Areni (Vayots Dzor). This black cherry-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, Earl Grey tea, clove and butterscotch. Cassis, Mission fig, milk chocolate, violet and baking spice flavors are wrapped in a web of silky tannins. The vivid finish is marked with a hint of mint. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2018 Sarpina Areni (Vayots Dzor). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate and nutmeg. Velvety tannins encase black cherry, Chambord, milk chocolate, caramel, licorice and rose petal flavors with a touch of eucalyptus that lingers on the taste buds. Paul Hobbs Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

WHITE WINE

90 Yacoubian-Hobbs 2019 Aghavnadzor White Blend (Vayots Dzor). A bouquet of pineapple, honeydew and fennel seed sets the scene for starfruit, kiwi, mint leaf, butterscotch and orange zest flavors. A nice vein of acidity plies the palate from first sip to vivid finish. Paul Hobbs Selections. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

HUNGARY

FURMINT

95 Royal Tokaji 2018 SZT. Tamas Furmint (Tokaj). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of caramelized pineapple, cantaloupe and lavender. It has strong viscosity and a tangible sense

of minerality that back orange marmalade, starfruit, dried thyme and nutmeg flavors with a hint of honeycomb in the drawn-out finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

94 Lenkey Pincészet 2013 Válogatás Furmint (Tokaj). This golden straw-colored wine has a bouquet of apricot marmalade, brined green olives, beeswax and freesia. It is bright on entry, offering an opening salvo of pineapple and peach backed by rose water, sage leaf, vanilla bean and a hint of clove set into a full-textured wine that ends as bright as it began. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

94 Oremus 2019 Petracz Single Vineyard Dry Furmint (Tokaj). This wine offers a bouquet of pineapple, green apple and grated ginger. The ginger note is apparent on the palate as well, along with starfruit, nectarine, lavender and orange zest flavors that culminate in a radiant finish. Europvin USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$78

93 Royal Tokaji 2018 Mézes Mály Furmint (Tokaj). Aromas of pineapple, vanilla bean and honeysuckle set the stage for honeydew, peach, jasmine and dried thyme flavors. The brilliant finish offers a lingering coffee bean note. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

93 Somlói Vándor 2022 Furmint (Nagy-Somló). Aromas of peach, honeydew and nutmeg waft from the glass. Peach and honeydew transition to the palate alongside flavors of dried apricot, a hint of honeycomb and a touch of salinity that lingers in the mouth. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Vega Sicilia 2020 Oremus Mandolás Furmint (Tokaj). Light straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of ripe summer peach, vanilla bean and saline. It is bright from entry to finish, with pineapple, honeydew, butterscotch, fennel bulb and ground white pepper flavors that evaporate into a jasmine-infused finish. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Sanzon 2019 Classic Furmint (Tokaj). A bouquet of peach, apricot and Turkish delight set the scene for nectarine, clementine and rose petal flavors with a hint of mint tea. Vivid acidity makes it presence known immediately and endures on the palate with a touch of salted sage leaf. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

HÁRSLEVELÜ

92 Jász Laci 2017 Bazalt Hárslevelü (Somló). This light amber wine has a nose of peach pie and toasted almonds. It is full-textured, offering

BUYINGGUIDE

vivid acidity and dried apricot, white peach, Gala apple, white chocolate and lemongrass flavors. A note of salted almond toffee endures on the palate. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Lenkey Pincészet 2013 Válogatás Hárslevelű (Tokaj). Medium straw in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of peach, pineapple and apricot preserves. Pineapple and apricot preserves continue on the palate with a tiny touch of residual sugar and notes of nutmeg, cocoa butter and lemon thyme. The vivid finish is marked with a splash of lychee and bergamot. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 Somlói Vándor 2020 Hárslevelű (Nagy-Somló). A bouquet of Mirabelle plum, guava and oyster shell sets the scene for Valencia orange, grapefruit and mint tea flavors. It is bright on entry, and the mint notes are joined by dried thyme and a touch of salinity that leave a lasting impression. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 St. Donat 2020 Red Sandstone Selection Rizling Olaszrizling (Balatonfüred-Csupak). This light yellow wine has a nose of casaba melon, ripe summer peach and carnation. A pleasant salty note opens on the palate and is joined by flavors of pineapple, peach, rose water and sage leaf. The vivid finish is equal parts tropical fruit and savory dried herbs. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

93 Villa Tolnay 2020 Csobáncz Zöldvelteli Ráthonyi-Domb Grüner Veltliner (Balaton). Scents of Seckel pear, quince, dried apricot and flint waft from the glass. Peach and honeydew flavors are joined by rosewater, nutmeg and vanilla bean notes that culminate in a vivid, spice- and flower-strewn finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Somlói Vándor 2020 Juhfark (Nagy-Somló). This medium gold wine has aromas of casaba melon, nectarine and flint. It is full on the palate and has flavors of peach, honeydew, nutmeg and candied orange peel that are encased in a layer of shimmering acidity. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Villa Tolnay 2021 Csobáncz Olaszrizling (Balaton). Light straw in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of nectarine, cocoa butter and oyster shell. Nectarine and oyster shell transition to the palate, where they are joined by notes of honeydew, fennel pollen and a touch of rose petal that lingers on the taste buds alongside a splash of pine-

apple. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Villa Tolnay 2022 Zöldvelteli GV Selection Grüner Veltliner (Balaton). This wine has a bouquet of cantaloupe, Golden Delicious apple and freshly ground white pepper. It has a bright, almost effervescent quality and a nice mélange of stone fruit, floral and light baking spice flavors. The bright finish offers equal parts ripe peach and orange blossom. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Benedek 2022 Cserszegi Fuzseres (Mátra). One of this Hungarian grape's parents is Gewürztraminer, which is apparent in the peach, floral and spice bouquet as well as on the palate, where flavors of ripe nectarine, mango, rose petal and almond blossom mingle with a vein of vivid acidity. Pronounced floral notes linger on the taste buds. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Villa Tolnay 2020 Csobáncz Rajnai Rizling Riesling (Balaton). Pale yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of peach and Bartlett pear with a discrete whiff of petrol. It features guava, casaba melon, Turkish delight and dried thyme flavors merged with columns of acidity and minerality. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Villa Tolnay 2022 Csobáncz Sauvignon Blanc (Balaton). This light straw-colored wine offers aromas of ripe summer peach, grapefruit, chopped fresh parsley and jasmine. There is a bold floral note underlying nectarine, clementine, cantaloupe and nutmeg flavors that culminate in a vivid finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Bussay 2022 Roots Tramini (Zala). Medium amber and slightly cloudy, this wine has aromas of orange marmalade, Turkish delight and marzipan. Tart lemon and tangerine flavors are accompanied by a feeling of grittiness and notes of toasted cashew, white chocolate, aniseed and mint tea. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

WHITE BLENDS

93 Gál Tibor 2021 Egri Csillag White Blend (Hungary). This enchanting white blend from Eger has aromas of white peach and orange blossom. Pineapple, nectarine and jasmine flavors mingle with vivid acidity and palpable minerality that lingers into a tropical fruit finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

93 Lenkey Pincészet 2020 Flow White Blend (Tokaj). A blend of indigenous grapes from

Tokaji, this wine features aromas of apricot preserves, bergamot, aniseed and lemon thyme. Flavors of Valencia orange, pineapple, nectarine, honey-suckle and dried thyme are infused with vibrant acidity and a lingering touch of saltiness. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

93 St. Donat 2018 Marga Furmint x Olaszrizling White Blend (Balaton). This blend of Furmint and Riesling has honeydew, apricot and white flower aromas with a whiff of petrol. Viscous on the palate, it offers white peach, cantaloupe, lemongrass and sage leaf flavors with a sense of chalkiness that lingers into the lively finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

SPARKLING WINES

92 P.A.N.K. 2022 Bátor Pét-Nat Rosé Brut Sparkling Blend (Hungary). Slightly cloudy and with persistent fizziness, this deep pink sparkler has a nose of pomegranate, clementine and lavender. It has strawberry, cherry and tangerine flavors with notes of mint leaf, rose petal and white chocolate, and a lively finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 St. Donat 2021 5 Bar Brut Nature Unfiltered Sparkling Blend (Hungary). A steady stream of tiny bubbles releases green pear, guava and lemon zest aromas. Soft effervescence, lively acidity and white peach, lemon, rosewater and nutmeg flavors make for a nice pour. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15/375 ml

ROSÉS

91 Dúzsai Tamás 2022 Kékfrankos Rosé Rosé (Szekeşvárd). Deep salmon in color, this rosé has a nose of raspberry, fennel pollen and roasted yellow pepper. Vivid acidity provides a backdrop for raspberry, pomegranate, orange zest and dried thyme flavors with a pleasant dusting of mild paprika. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 St. Donat 2021 Volcanic Selection Rosé (Balaton). This medium blush-colored wine offers a bouquet of Golden Delicious apple, yellow currant and almond blossom. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of apricot preserves, peach, ground almond and rose petal that evaporate into a zesty, floral-infused finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

RED WINES

93 Dúzi Tamás 2021 Kadarka (Szekszárd). This bright ruby wine has a nose of cherry preserves, dried cranberry and fennel bulb. It is soft on the palate, offering pomegranate, raspberry, aniseed, lavender and dried thyme flavors backed by a layer of silky tannins. If your idea of a Hungarian red is overbearing and highly tannic, this is a good place to start to help change your mind. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 St. Donat 2019 Magma Kékfrankos Unfiltered Kékfrankos (Balaton). Deep violet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Chambord, bittersweet chocolate and sage leaf. Slightly spicy at first sip, it offers clove and mint tea notes alongside pomegranate, cranberry, eucalyptus, milk chocolate and dried marjoram flavors. Ultrasoft tannins make for a smooth sip. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Bussay 2021 Csókaszőlő (Zala). A bouquet of cassis, tobacco leaf and bittersweet chocolate paves the way for flavors of cranberry, cherry, eucalyptus, dark chocolate, sage and lavender. While sturdy tannins coat the tongue and gums, a wash of soft acidity keeps a feeling of balance on the palate. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Benedek 2020 Pinot Noir (Mátra). This medium cherry red wine has raspberry, nutmeg and fennel aromas. It is soft on the palate, with polished tannins and raspberry, Mission fig, menthol and milk chocolate flavors that wind down to a cool finish. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

RED BLENDS

94 Gál Tibor 2022 Egri Bikavér Superior Red Blend (Hungary). Deep cherry red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, dried thyme and aniseed. It is slightly spicy on the palate, with notes of clove, mint leaf and black pepper supporting blackberry, pomegranate and black olive paste flavors. Opulent tannins coat the tongue and gums and stick around for a while. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

94 Villa Tolnay 2019 Névtelen Unfiltered Red Blend (Balaton). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has blackberry, clove and black olive paste aromas. Flavors of cassis, purple plum, dark chocolate, butterscotch, aniseed and dried thyme are wrapped in a cloak of pliable tannins that start out superlight, slowly build in volume, and then drift off to leave a note of toffee on the palate. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

93 Bukolyi Marcell 2020 Steinhauser Syrah-Kékfrankos Superior Reserve Organic Red Blend (Eger). This deep violet wine offers aromas of black currant, dark chocolate, dried thyme and a hint of paprika. It is soft at first sip and then lush tannins slowly build in volume. Blackberry, purple plum, mocha, licorice and sage leaf flavors are joined by a pleasant closing note of green bell pepper. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Villa Tolnay 2019 C Cuvée Unfiltered Red Blend (Balaton). This deep-hued wine offers aromas of black currant, mocha and truffle paste. It is simultaneously bright and spicy on the palate, with clove, spearmint, pomegranate, Mission fig, milk chocolate and dried thyme flavors. Robust tannins are out in full force, but soft acidity keeps them from overpowering the palate. The finish is marked with a soft note of butterscotch. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 St. Donat 2021 Red Blend (Tihany). Bright garnet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cassis and sage leaf. It is bright on the palate from start to finish and has velvety tannins and cranberry, pomegranate, milk chocolate and dried thyme, lavender and mint leaf flavors. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

DESSERT WINES

93 Lenkey Pincészet 2017 Szamorodni White Blend (Tokaj). Aromas of ripe summer peach, canned pineapple slices and butterscotch pave the way for pineapple, peach nectar, rosewater and nutmeg flavors with a hint of mint leaf. A soft texture and vivid acidity keep the pleasant sweetness from coming on too strong. Palinkerie/Fine Hungarian Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

93 Vega Sicilia 2021 Oremus Late Harvest White Blend (Tokaj). This medium straw-colored wine offers a bouquet of lemon meringue pie, apricot preserves and Turkish delight. It has gorgeous mouthfeel and intense acidity alongside flavors of peach nectar, lemon preserves, rose water, grated ginger and honeycomb. The vivid finish is equal parts sweet and bright. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$55

ISRAEL

92 Recanati 2022 Yasmin Red Blend (Galilee). For full review see page 32. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Recanati 2022 Yasmin White White Blend (Galilee). Light straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of green apple, fennel bulb and dried thyme. Tannins feel a little stiff, but vibrant acidity

and tropical fruit flavors dusted with notes of eucalyptus and clove overcome them. Kosher. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

AUSTRALIA CHARDONNAY

95 Giant Steps 2021 Tarraford Vineyard Chardonnay (Yarra Valley). The original of Giant Step's single-vineyard wines, this vintage of Tarraford strikes a lovely, lucid balance of oyster shell and briny goodness, with toasted cashew, vibrant, ginger-flecked melon and preserved lemon. The palate is both linear and focused but also mouthfilling, with salty, crystalline acidity and just the right amount of oak and lees influence to lend power, texture and complexity without wrestling out the fruit. A harmonious, classy drop, this is drinking well now but is capable of another seven to eight years in bottle. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 Mandala 2021 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley). Aromas of peach, lemon, toast and wet stone take their time opening, but with aeration offer a salt-rimmed margarita appeal through to the mouthwatering finish. There's weight and texture from the oak and lees influence, but the lovely citrus-like acidity and stone-fruit flavor keep this quaffable while also being seriously structured. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$38

92 Xanadu 2021 Vinework Chardonnay (Margaret River). 2021 was a cool year in "Margs" and so, this is on the lighter side for this producer. A melon, lemon and grilled pineapple combo kicks things off. There's plenty of oak, too, and a saline edge. Lovely citrus and stone-fruit acidity buoys the textural palate, where the salty, maritime vibe continues. Poised and balanced, this could age several more years in bottle. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Yering Station 2021 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley). An open-knit, fruit-forward nose of melon, peach and tangerine take the lead, with more lactic, buttered toast, roasted nut and saline notes tucked just beneath. The palate is slippery—almost glycerine-like—with a lovely tang of citrusy acidity and a peaches-and-cream finish. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Yering Station 2022 Little Yering Chardonnay (Victoria). For full review see page 33. Rathbone Wine Group. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$17

89 Ashbrook Estate 2021 Wilyabrup Single Vineyard & Hand Picked Chardonnay (Margaret River). This golden-hued Chardy, from the heart of Margaret River, is rich and opulent in style. Aromas evoke struck match, honeyed nuts, beeswax, grilled

BUYINGGUIDE

melon and a beachy salinity. Elevated acidity on the palate is more than racy, it's borderline shrill, but it does help cut through the toast richness. Drink only slightly chilled. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Fowles Wine 2020 Ladies Who Shoot Their Lunch Wild Ferment Chardonnay (Victoria).

The golden color suggests a rich, concentrated wine, and then delivers it. A intense, high-toast style, this opens with aromas of gun flint, roasted hazelnuts, campfire smoke, grilled melon and salted lemons. The palate is rich and mouthfilling but doesn't offer the intensity of flavor or bright ring of acidity to get this bold wine to the finish line. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$35

88 Howard Park 2022 Miamup Chardonnay (Margaret River).

This is a heady, nougaty Chard with aromas of melon, peaches and cream, and toast. Salt and struck-match nuances lurk below. There's a big lift of acidity amidst the a gently creamy texture. Still young and quiet, this should evolve more in the coming months. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

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

88 Xanadu 2021 Circa 77 Chardonnay (Margaret River).

Melon, nougat and some toffee-characters open on this little-sibling chard. Acidity is quite pronounced, almost to sparkling levels, but there's just enough creamy texture and fruit weight to temper it. Consider this to be solid intro to the renowned "Margs" style. Rathbone Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Mad Fish 2021 Chardonnay (Western Australia).

Sporting a green-tinged golden hue, this is an opulent, aromatic Chardy with heady fruit notes of grilled peaches, melon, ginger and seashell. The palate is rich and round with creamy, nougaty flavors, more melon and stone fruit. It may be a highly fruity style but it never feels flabby. This was crafted in a is a commercial and crowd-pleasing manner. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

SAUVIGNON BLANC

87 Bec Hardy 2022 Pertaringa Scarecrow Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide).

Young and a little reductive with an oniony overlay, quiet citrus and white floral notes are tucked beneath. The palate comes with tingly acidity and some textural weight, as well as lemon-lime fruit at the finish. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

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

87 OG de Négoce 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Limestone Coast).

Pale gold, this arrives with bombastic aromas of lemon balm, lime, grass and green pepper that lead to a slippery palate that's crisp and refreshing with what feels like a touch of

residual sugar and a short finish. A very "made" wine emulating the famed New Zealand style. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —C.P.

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

85 Bec Hardy 2022 Garden Series Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide).

Reductive struck-match and Band-Aid aromas overlay subtle citrus, pineapple and grass characters. There's a hint of creaminess to the palate and more flinty notes amidst the lemony fruit. A sharp edge of acidity feels a touch underripe. Liquid Innovation. **Best Buy.** —C.P.

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

84 D'Arenberg 2022 The Broken Fishplate Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide Hills).

Prominent green bell pepper and green-bean characters stick out on the nose, while the lemony fruit is tucked well below. Acidity is searing and shrill, and the citrusy fruit and gentle creamy texture do little to balance it out. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

WHITE BLEND

88 Spring Seed Wine Co. 2022 Forget-Me-Not Organic Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (McLaren Vale).

Lemon-lime and grapefruit notes are accompanied by flint and white-pepper-spice nuances. The palate is dry and textural with well-placed acidity and subtle citrus flavor. This is an easygoing summery, food-friendly drop. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

SPARKLING WINES

96 House of Arras 2014 Rosé Champagne Blend (Tasmania).

Vibrant gold with a slight pink tinge, this almost 10-year-old rosé bubbly has a nose you could fall into. It smells of honey cake and lemon-shortbread cookies. There's a creamy undercurrent and a touch of mushroomy bottle age that adds complexity. At first sip, straight away comes a big lift of fizz and a laser beam of acidity hit the tongue, before the slippery, gently creamy texture tempers and broadens, the fruit holding its own. Surely, this is one of Australia's best bubbles. Accolade Wines. —C.P.

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

96 House of Arras 2007 EJ Carr Late Disgorged Champagne Blend (Tasmania).

With nearly 17 years under its belt, this late disgorged bottling, named for its winemaker Ed Carr (one of Australia's top sparkling producers) is golden-hued, opulent and aromatic, with layers of rich, heady aromas that start with the sulfuric strike of a matchstick followed by grilled pineapple, lemon rind, baked ginger and nougat. While there's still plenty of freshness, the palate is subdued and the fizz, while still present, is no longer the main act. In mouthfeel and flavor it gives a subtle cream-of-mushroom-soup vibe (in the best sense), which is countered by citrus and

pineapple tang. It is a class act that has aged gracefully. Drink up. Accolade Wines. —C.P.

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

95 House of Arras 2014 Méthode Traditionnelle Blanc de Blancs Champagne Blend (Tasmania).

Showing the lovely lemony vibrancy typical to Chardonnay in Tasmania's cool climate, this is bright, citrusy and, at first, stiff, but equally, it's rich and lactic, like peaches and cream, with white pepper, toast and flint tucked beneath. It's wonderfully fresh and youthful with tight, fine, long-lasting beads of bubbles, a creamy mousse and pulsing lemony acidity through to the long finish. Arguably the most austere wine in the Arras line up but it is a cracker nonetheless. Accolade Wines. —C.P.

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

94 Clover Hill 2016 Méthode Traditionnelle Champagne Blend (Tasmania).

Medium gold in hue, it instantly offers likable aromas of lemon, toast, margarita salt and cashew. They lead to a wonderfully fresh, zippy palate with a chalky texture, tingly, lemony acidity, a softly creamy mousse and persistent bubbles to the long finish. It is a class act from a top Tassie bubbles producer, and at a cracking price to boot. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

93 House of Arras 2014 Grand Vintage Champagne Blend (Tasmania).

From an excellent, if low-yielding, vintage, the 2014 opens with evocative aromas of freshly baked lemon-honey cake. There's a doughy vibe, with a smoky, toasted undercurrent like grilled peaches over an open fire. The fizz is still vibrant and vigorous in the mouth, aided by lovely acidity and texture. It's not as long or complex as the nose suggests but it nonetheless makes for elegant sipping. Accolade Wines. —C.P.

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

92 Mt Yengo 2021 Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills).

Bright fruit aromas dominate the nose, with floral and lactic notes behind, like lemon, tangerine and white peach with a dollop of crème fraîche and garnish of edible flowers. The palate is dry and slippery, with lovely tingly, citrus acidity and fine bubbles to the finish. This is a tangy, refreshing drop for drinking solo or with a wide range of cuisine. Legend Imports. —C.P.

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

91 Jansz 2018 Vintage Rosé Sparkling Blend (Tasmania).

A pale-pink color, this is an aromatic, sweet-fruited rosé bubbly, with notes of candied watermelon, strawberry and peach juice, and white pepper beneath. The palate comes with a gentle creamy texture and a pleasant lift of bubbles and acidity. It's a straightforward but harmonious spring and summer sipper. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Alpha Box & Dice NV Tarot Prosecco Sparkling Blend (Murray-Darling).

Zippy, yeasty

aromas of lemon, orange, biscuit, ginger and florals lead to a fresh, prickly palate that's dry, crisp and refreshing with fruit and floral flavors to the finish. Bonus: it's under 11% alcohol. Boutinot USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$17

90 Jansz 2018 Vintage Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Tasmania). Lemon, grilled and white peach, with saline, nougat and toast notes open, with a slight acetone tinge. Bubbles are prickly in the mouth and there's similar flavors to the nose. It is a solid, dry bottling for every day drinking. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 The Islander NV Pétiyante Sparkling Blend (Australia). There's a buttery, honed character atop peach, lemon and melon aromas. A big burst of fizz prickles across the tongue, cutting through the creamy texture and hint of sweetness. The bubbles flatten out relatively quickly, leading to a fruity, lemon-curd finish. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

90 Shottesbrooke NV 1337 Heritage Blanc de Blanc Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). Fresh grapefruit, lemon-lime and white-floral aromas flow to a refreshing palate that pops with vigorous fizz and lemony acidity. This would be delish on a hot summer's day. The Ravensvale Group. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

90 Vino Volta 2021 Methode Ancestrale Chenin Blanc (Swan Valley). Like cloudy apple juice in appearance, this *pét-nat*, from the historic Swan Valley region of Western Australia, offers gentle pithy orange and lemon aromas combined with wild herbs, flowers and minerals. The palate, although also quiet on the flavor front, is bone dry and pithy, with a texture and acidity combo that makes it a refreshing, rustic, drop well-chilled on a warm day. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Wildly NV Brut Cuvée Organic Sparkling Blend (South Australia). Bright fruity aromas of strawberry, grapefruit, lemon curd and peaches and cream—with a whiff of white pepper—comprise the nose. There's a lovely lift of bright acidity that, when combined with the prickly fizz, cuts through some of sweetness making this a tongue-tingling partner for a cheese platter or but-tery pasta dishes. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Innocent Bystander 2022 Pink Moscato Rosé (Victoria). Peach-colored and intensely aromatic, this bursts with confected fruit aromas like watermelon Jolly Rancher and strawberry popsicle, with a hint of florals. The palate is sweet but, thanks to a good level of acidity, never sickly or syrupy. Drink ice cold with a summery dessert. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$15

SHIRAZ

94 Schwarz Wine Company 2020 Nitschke Block Shiraz (Barossa Valley). From a single 55-year-old vineyard in the Bethany subregion of Barossa, this is a modern, finessed and approachable Shiraz, with open-knit aromas of succulent red and black berries, florals, clove and earthy spice. The palate shows restraint and silkiness. Fine tannins are neatly woven between the juicy fruit. Drink now or cellar up another decade or so. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$71

93 Pikes 2021 Eastside Shiraz (Clare Valley). With a lovely, lifted perfume of blood plum, black cherry, petrichor, cracked peppercorn and violet, this Clare Valley Shiraz is a classy, concentrated bottling with lucidity, a silky texture, tangy acidity and fine tannins. Drinking gracefully now, it could age another several years. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

92 Torbreck 2021 Woodcutter's Shiraz (Barossa Valley). For full review see page 27. Delicato Family Wines.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

92 Two Hands 2021 Gnarly Dudes Shiraz (Barossa Valley). There are black pepper, cherry and chocolate vibes to start here. They lead to a palate that's big but surprisingly fresh thanks to a lift of tangy acidity, which brightens fruit and softens tannins. It's no wallflower, but its power is reined in, allowing the fruit and site character to shine. Drink now and over the next seven to eight years. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$33

91 Schwarz Wine Company 2021 The Grower Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Plump, juicy black and red-berry fruit, licorice and earthy roasting spices flow from nose to palate on this ripe yet balanced Shiraz. It's succulent and mouthfilling on the palate but it retains structure, freshness and drinkability, as long as a plate of protein is in sight. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$33

91 Schwarz Wine Company 2020 The Schiller Shiraz (Barossa Valley). A lifted perfume of cherry cordial, vanilla and baking spice leads to a medium-bodied palate that shows bright acidity and supple, silky fruit. Tannins play a supporting role. Powerful, but with verve and modernity, this has the ability to age a decade or more. Kysela Père et Fils. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$112

90 Elderton 2019 Shiraz (Barossa). Classic South Aussie Shiraz notes of plump cherry and plum, with peppery spice and a warm gravel nuance, lead to a rich, full-figured palate that comes with a big lift of acidity framed in textural tannins that support without overwhelming the tangy fruit

and spice. It could use more time in bottle, or a good decant if drinking now. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$30

90 Two Hands 2020 Bella's Garden Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This is a concentrated, rich, old-school style Shiraz with notes of cherry cola, dusting polish and blackberry jam. There's a fair lick of oak showing here. The palate is equally high octane, with powerful tannins, oodles of tangy fruit and spice. It's not for the faint of heart, but that lift of acidity keep things in check, and suggests a good deal of aging in this bottle's future. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

90 Yalumba 2021 Shiraz (Barossa). Plump and fruity, with lucid aromas of black cherry, plum, mint and ground pepper, this is a full-figured but not-overblown bottling of Australia's most famous red style. A gentle frame of spicy tannins frames everything, and a nice level of acidity helps wash it all down. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Chapel Hill 2020 The MV Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Concentrated black-currant, licorice, pepper, chocolate and bay leaf aromas lead. There's a big lift of acidity on the palate and gauzy, powerful tannins in the mouth. The dark-berry fruit squeaks through the cracks on this powerful red that needs a serious slab of protein beside it. American Estates Wines, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Colab and Bloom 2020 Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Perfumed aromas of plum jam and cola, with some chocolatey, spicy oak influence behind, pre-empt a plump, full-figured palate that's fruit forward but fresh with a soft spice to the taut tannins. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Dandelion 2019 Lionheart of the Barossa Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Tangy red cherry and blood plum mingle with green peppercorn and savory spice aromas on this crowd-pleasing Shiraz. There's a big lift of sharp-edged acidity on the densely packed palate, and powerful tannins that dry out the mouth at the finish. Still, the fruit fights its way through. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Paxton 2021 Tiny Paradoxes Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This inky Shiraz is a ripe, densely packed wine with blackberry jam, licorice and spice throughout. It's rich and mouthfilling with oodles of dark, jammy fruit framed by powerful tannins. Despite its bulk, it's relatively well balanced, oak neatly tucked and alcohol in check. It could use a few more years in bottle, and, even then, plenty of decanting. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 3 Rings 2020 It's Magic Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Plump plum, mocha and spice char-

BUYINGGUIDE

acters pop from the glass, while the palate shows richness and heft but also freshness, succulence and well-placed tannins. Quintessential. —C.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Balance Nation 2021 Certified Organic Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Dense but lucid aromas of raspberry, dark chocolate, dusting polish and earthy spice are followed by a full-figured palate that's tightly packed with dark fruit, slightly astringent, powerful tannins and a lift of acidity. This muscular, weighty wine needs protein. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Henschke 2019 Tappa Pass Shiraz (Barossa). Plum, cherry compote, licorice, vanilla and peppery spice open. There's some roasted coffee-bean oak showing at the moment, too. The red fruit is the focus on the bold, succulent palate where tight, chalky, savory spiced tannins are tempered by lifted acidity. There's a slight alcohol heat. It's in a slightly awkward place at the moment. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$136

86 Barossa Valley Estate 2019 E&E Black Pepper Limited Release Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This is a dense, old-school Barossa with an acetone tinge to the plump blackberry, tar and earthy dried spice aromas, along with a good lick of vanillin oak. The palate is tightly wound in raspy, drying tannins. Fruit is ripe and extracted, and, combined with those vice-like tannins, it's hard to get to the other side here. Delegat USA, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$88

GRENACHE

95 Yangarra 2021 Hickinbotham Grenache (Clarendon). Enticing aromas of strawberry, spice and florals billow from the glass. The palate is medium to full bodied, by Grenache standards, with oodles of plump, juicy fruit girdled by spicy, fine tannins and lovely acidity. The cool 2021 vintage has ramped up the aromatics here (and the acidity), and it's drinking beautifully now but will age gracefully for at least eight to 10 years. Sovereign Wine Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Yangarra 2020 High Sands Grenache (McLaren Vale). Bright aromas of cherry and cranberry are underpinned by white pepper, savory spice and a slight meaty nuance, with a stony, mineral core. Succulent red-berry flavors are lifted by tart acidity on the midweight palate, and a line of chiseled, textural tannins weaves it all together. This is a still tightly wound vintage of High Sands that should evolve nicely with time in bottle, for a decade or more. Sovereign Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

93 John Duval Wines 2019 Annexus Grenache (Barossa). This is a perfumed, lucid and characterful Grenache that wafts blueberry, violets and savory, earthy spice. The medium- to full-figured palate shows power and lift, with chewy yet fine tannins, succulent fruit and a satiny texture. This is a classy bottling for sipping now and over the next decade. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 Yangarra 2021 Ovitelli Grenache (McLaren Vale). 2021 was a cool vintage in McLaren Vale and this "egg" wine takes its time opening. When it does, the perfume evokes fresh blue and red berries, dried florals, some peppery spice and an autumnal, just-fallen-leaves vibe. The succulent, silky palate is framed in fine, talc-like tannins that never overwhelm the berry fruit or spice. A lift of acidity and long finish take this cool-edged wine to a place that suggests that more time in bottle will reward. Sovereign Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

91 John Duval Wines 2022 Concilio Grenache (Barossa Valley). For full review see page 28. Old Bridge Cellars.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

PINOT NOIR

93 Paringa Estate 2022 Peninsula Pinot Noir (Mornington Peninsula). A lifted, distinctive perfume of cherry cordial backed by dried herb, mocha, green peppercorn and wet stones leads to a palate that's lightweight but with structure and bright acidity. It shows regional character, a cool-climate edge, red-fruit tang and lots of likability, while still being seriously structured and age-worthy. Fox Beverages USA. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Riposte 2021 The Dagger Pinot Noir (Adelaide Hills). Lovely and vibrant aromas of dried cherry and raspberry are grounded by savory, meaty bass notes, like hoisin sauce on red meat. The palate is lightweight, with lovely freshness, fruit vibrancy and a silky texture. It's a polished, crowd-pleasing Pinot with elegance and harmony. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Fourth Wave 2022 Crimson Monster Pinot Noir (Limestone Coast). An open-knit perfume of ripe red fruit and savory spice and herb aromas flows to a palate that's midweight and silky, with succulent fruit, a gentle line of well-placed tannins and a sexy ease that makes it easy to take another sip. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Fowles Wine 2021 Ladies Who Shoot Their Lunch Wild Ferment Pinot Noir (Victoria). This offers quiet but bright aromas of red berry, mushroom, oatmeal and spice. The palate is light on

its feet but also plump and round in shape, with a short finish. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Henschke 2020 Marble Angel Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa Valley). From red clay and limestone, this single-vineyard Barossa Cab is big but characterful, with ripe cherry and red-currant-jam, white-pepper and licorice aromas framed by toasty, chocolatey oak. The palate is still tightly wound, but with freshness and fine, powerful chalky tannins. Give this plenty of time in a decanter and sip with protein if drinking now, but ideally it needs several more years in bottle. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

93 John Duval Wines 2018 Integro Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa). This former Penfolds Grange winemaker's reds are always big, characterful, old school and precise, and the 2018 Cab, from prized old vineyards in the Eden Valley, lives up. Heady aromas of cherry preserves and savory spice are framed in toasty oak, followed by roast veg and petrichor nuances. The palate comes with lifted acidity and an earthy, beetroot tang. Tannins are ultra fine and powdery, weaving a tight web amidst the red and black fruit. Drink 2026-2038. Old Bridge Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$150

89 Two Hands 2022 Sexy Beast Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). Plump, winter-warming aromas of cherry cola, dried mint, licorice and wood spice, with a fair lick of toasty vanillin oak influence, flow to a hefty palate that's densely packed with ripe dark-berry fruit that is framed in muscular, grainy-textured tannins, with pointy-edged acidity. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

OTHER RED WINES

91 Smallfry 2022 Pimpinel Trousseau (Barossa). This cherry-hued red is a house wine in a sparkling bottle, complete with crown cap, but there's no fizz to be found here. Despite the slight misconception, this is nonetheless a tasty bottle of minimally made red. It's highly perfumed, with heady potpourri and soap-dish aromas of dried flowers, herbs, red berries and a slight meaty, olive-like savoriness. It's dry and ultrafresh, with bracing acidity and tart red-cherry fruit. It is rustic but clean, and singular style for drinking slightly chilled with charcuterie. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$36

89 Smallfry 2022 Starry Starry Night Cinsault (Barossa). A cranberry color, this is a little musty, but the fresh, tart red berries, ground pepper, violet and slight meaty notes win out. The

palate is fresh, with crunchy fruit and spice, and a pinch of chalky tannins. Ignore the sparkling bottle and crown cap—this is a light table red sans fizz. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

RED BLENDS

93 **Hickinbotham 2020 The Peake Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Clarendon).** An almost 50-50 blend of Cab and Shiraz, this is a big but balanced and perfumed bottling with heady aromas of blueberry and blackberry preserves, savory spice and licorice. There's a charred veg nuance, like the pan scrapings of a vegetable roast, with a subtle coating of sweet toasty oak. The rich palate is buoyed by crunchy acidity and framed in powerful but fine, talc-like tannins. Oak is better tucked here. This is a polished, mouthcoating Cab that needs serious protein if drinking now, but that should cellar until 2040 or longer. Majestic Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$200

93 **Yalumba 2019 The Signature Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Barossa).** This is an open-knit, polished and characterful bottling of The Signature, with heady, bright aromas of cherry chocolate, tomato pulp, red licorice and savory, earthy spices. The palate is powerful yet silky and harmonious, with chiseled, fine tannins, and lovely fruit purity and freshness. Still young and tightly wound now, it should cellar with grace for at least another seven to 10 years. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$73

NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANC

93 **Loveblock 2022 Tee Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** The second vintage of this experimental wine from Kim and Erica Crawford, which supplements green-tea tannin extract for sulfur, is as delicious and outside the box as the first. A pale-gold hue, it's rich and honeyed with up-front notes of butterscotch, grilled pineapple, fresh wild herbs and, yes, green tea, although it's less prominent this vintage. The palate is dry—more than the nose might suggest. It's textural and weightier than your typical Marlborough SB. There's a lovely crunch of tangy acidity and a skinsy grip to the finish. Terlato Wines International. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

91 **Settlement 2022 Heritage Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** From a single 33-year-old vineyard in the Wairau, this strikes a fine balance between pungent green-veg aromas like bell pepper and snap pea, and fruitier ones like passion fruit, white grapefruit and lime. It's prickly and vibrant, with lovely texture and an acidity that makes the mouthwater, leaving you craving another sip. Vintus LLC. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 **McBride Sisters Collection 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's a firecracker of typical Marlborough aromas (think: passion fruit, lime, tomato leaf, bell pepper, dried green herbs) to start. Lifted acidity slices and dices on the dry, slippery palate. Aromas morph into flavors and the limey finish lingers. McBride Sisters Collection. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Hay Maker 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Almost opulent by Marlborough standards, this offers oodles of tropical-fruit notes like guava, lime and pineapple rind, along with dried herbs and a honeysuckle note. The palate shows some viscosity and broadness but it's still fresh, dry and warm-weather-friendly. Accolade Wines. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 **Saint Clair 2022 Dillons Point Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Bombastic, if pungent, aromas of onion, grass, nettle and green bean—with fruitier ones like grapefruit and passion fruit—take the lead on this young, crisp summer sipper. It's slippery, bone dry and unmistakably Marlborough. E. & J. Gallo. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 **Wither Hills 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** With feet firmly in the tropical- and stone-fruit camp, the green-bean and bell pepper notes are tucked well beneath the heady passion fruit, pineapple and peach aromas. The palate is fresh and fruity, with a satiny texture and zippy acidity. Drink up. Distinguished Vineyards & Wine Partners. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Tiaki 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** An aromatic combo of struck match, lime, passion fruit and green bean is followed by mouth-watering acidity on the light and airy palate. There's a nice crunch of freshness but also a slight burn of sulfur on the finish. Concurrent Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 **Matua 2022 Sauvignon Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Striking a balance between flint, bell pepper, grass, passion fruit, grapefruit and guava, this punchy Sauvignon is crisp—if a little shrill—with lots of refreshment but with a somewhat synthetic, overmade feel. Treasury Wine Estates. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

85 **Sunday Mountain 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's a sulfuric struck match and oniony reduction at first sniff, here. Beneath that lurk lime and passion fruit notes, tinged with white spice. It's light and fresh but the flavor falls away quickly, deflating the wine. It feels somewhat overmade. HB Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

CHARDONNAY

94 **The Landing 2021 Chardonnay (North Island).** For full review see page 13. Cooper Imports. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 **Escarpment 2022 Chardonnay (Martinborough).** High-toned citrus and pineapple shine alongside more flinty, nutty, saline characters. There's a big lift of lemony acidity that cuts through the textural weight of the palate. Linear and focused, this is a well-made Chardy that should gain interest with age. Drink now and through 2030. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 **Hans Family Estate 2020 Chardonnay (Marlborough).** This honey-hued Chardy smells as it looks, like warm, runny honey over fresh melon and pineapple fruit, but it's a honey with a flinty, toasty thread tucked beneath, and a river-stone minerality below that. The palate is earthier, more mushroomy and somewhat autumnal. It's round and rich but never unctuous or cloying, with just enough acidity to uplift. It's a winter-warming Chard that, like everything in the Hans range, walks to its own voluptuous beat. Cape Ardor LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$47

91 **Elephant Hill 2021 Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay).** Vibrant aromas of peach, citrus, flint and some buttered toast are succeeded by a midweight palate that shows equally bright, mouthwatering acidity which cuts through the slippery texture, streamlining the Chard and making this a wine that's food friendly but easy to sip solo. Smith Wine & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Settlement 2020 Poplars Vineyard Chardonnay (Marlborough).** Tight and focused with that struck-match, buttered toast and nut reduction that some love and others run from, this opens—after some aeration in glass—to reveal more tropical- and stone-fruit aromas. There's creamy a texture and a crunch of orange-peel acidity on the slightly austere palate. This is a bottling that could very well blossom with another few years of age. Vintus LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 **The Landing 2020 Boathouse Chardonnay (North Island).** A green-tinged-gold color, this is a rich, concentrated Chard with heady aromas of toffee, peach, lemon oil, flint and toast. Full bodied, with textural weight yet also freshness, there's an earthy, mushroomy note to the honeyed fruit and toast flavors. It's an easygoing Chard for drinking now. Cooper Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

PINOT GRIS

90 River Farm 2022 Estate Grown Pinot Gris (Marlborough). Honeyed citrus, stone-fruit and floral characters play the opening act to this dry, textural Pinot Gris. A lovely lift of acidity buoys the bombastic peaches-and-cream-flavors and rich texture, making this a crowd-pleasing Pinot Gris for drinking now. *Vino Del Sol. Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 The Landing 2022 Pinot Gris (North Island). Delicate honey-flecked stone-fruit, pear and orchard-blossom aromas lead to a dry yet fruity palate. There's prickly acidity and fruit weight on this restrained, textural, food-friendly Pinot Gris. *Cooper Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Yealands 2021 Pinot Gris (Marlborough). Pale gold, this aromatic bottling smells of lime leaf, guava, orange blossom and fresh ginger. A vibrant line of acidity slices through the lactic texture and peaches-and-cream flavors on the palate. This Alsatian-style Pinot Gris is an easy-sipping, food-friendly drop. *Palm Bay International. Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Waipara Springs 2021 Pinot Gris (Waipara Valley). Bright and peachy, with light ginger and floral notes behind, this Pinot Gris is dry but fruity and fresh, with a slippery texture. Drink well chilled on a warm day. *American Estates Wines, Inc.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINES

92 Clos Henri 2020 Solange Blanc de Noirs Méthode Traditionnelle Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Give this a few swirls to open in the glass. When it does, the melon, tangerine, stone-fruit and floral aromas come to the fore, followed by subtle toast. There's a whisper of sweetness to the palate, but plenty of bright acidity and vigorous bubbles to keep things refreshing. Drink now with a wide range of foods and throughout the next several years. *Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

89 McBride Sisters Collection NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Hawkes Bay). A radiant pink hue, this Hawke's Bat bubbly is exuberant and fruity with aromas of watermelon, strawberries and cream that lead to a palate that's dry with more fresh fruit, a slippery texture and plenty of lively fizz. It's fun, refreshing everyday drinking. *McBride Sisters Collection.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Black Estate 2021 Damsteep Pét-Nat Pinot Noir (North Canterbury). Sunset-hued, the wine's heady aromas of candied watermelon and

strawberry lozenge (with a lactic creaminess) lead. The palate is off-dry. Drink well chilled and quickly after opening as the bubbles dissipate rapidly, and once that happens, it pronounces the sweetness. This would pair well with something savory and acidic like feta cheese. *Wine Dogs Imports LLC.* —C.P.

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

ROSÉS

92 The Landing 2022 Rosé (North Island). A light peachy hue, this opens with aromas of stone fruit, melon and dried herb and spices that offer a little more complexity than your average rosé. The palate is dry and crisp, with textural interest, and a big lift of acidity that complements rather than overpowers the gentle berry and stone-fruit flavors. Drink now and through 2028. *Cooper Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 The Landing 2022 Boathouse Rosé (North Island). Delicate stone-fruit, strawberry, tangerine and floral aromas open on this pale-pink rosé from the far north of New Zealand. In the mouth, it's dry and slippery with lovely, mouthwatering acidity and similarly delicate flavors to the nose. Made with intention and food-friendliness in mind, this could easily become a summertime fridge staple. *Cooper Imports. Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Elephant Hill 2022 Le Phant Rosé (Hawkes Bay). A little reductive and plasticky at first sniff, with aeration in glass, this pink drink offers red berry, watermelon and some dried herbs. It's bone dry but with plenty of ripe red fruit, a sharp-edge of somewhat shrill acidity and a short finish. Easy sipping, but don't chill it down too much. *Smith Wine & Spirits.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

PINOT NOIR

94 Black Estate 2021 Wild Life Triangle Pinot Noir (North Canterbury). This zero-sulfur, biodynamically farmed wine from one of New Zealand's most progressive producers offers beautifully evocative, woody vibes. Along with cranberry and cherry, there are dried florals and a myriad earthy, savory herbs and spices. There's verve and balance to the palate, with aromas morphing to flavors. It's juicy and silky, with rustic tannins and a plumpness to the fruit that's buoyed by a lovely line of mouth-watering acidity. *Wine Dogs Imports LLC. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Escarpment 2021 Te Rehua Pinot Noir (Martinborough). For full review see page 10. *Delicato Family Wines. Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Settlement 2020 Settlement Vineyard Pinot Noir (Marlborough). A lovely, layered bouquet of bright black and red currant, strawberry, spice, florals and a meaty nuance opens. The elegant palate is seamlessly put together with supple, spiced fruit and well-structured chalky tannins. A mineral thread runs quietly beneath. It's lucid and ready to drink now but could age for several more years. *Vintus LLC.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

93 Rockburn 2020 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Classic Otago Pinot aromas of black cherry, earthy spice, dried florals, petrichor and shiitake mushroom billow from the glass. The mouthfeel is smooth and satiny. Flavor, tannin and acidity meld together and make for seamless sipping. This is an understated and utterly lovely Pinot for drinking now and over the next several years. *American Estates Wines, Inc.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Clos Henri 2020 Estate Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Reductive at first, the sulfide and beef-jerky aromas subside with time in glass, but remain part of the wine, weaving between cherry-chocolate, toasty peppery spice and a medley of dried herb and floral characters. The palate offers lovely mouthwatering acidity, powerfully sculpted tannins, and tangy fresh fruit and herbs. A dense wine, this still feels quite young; it should evolve nicely in bottle for several more years. *Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.* —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

92 Escarpment 2021 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). For full review see page 23. *Delicato Family Wines.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 McBride Sisters Collection 2021 Papatuanuku Pinot Noir (Central Otago). This is plump, fragrant and fruity Pinot that exudes raspberry, cherry and a medley of ground spices. It's supple and silky with rounded edges and gentle, savory tannins, but with a lift of crunchy acidity and a structure and density that suggests it could age another eight or so years. *McBride Sisters Collection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 McBride Sisters Collection 2020 Papatuanuku Reserve Pinot Noir (Central Otago). The 2020 vintage offers enticing aromas of rhubarb, dried orange, florals and spice. It's on the lighter end of the body scale, with silky, plump fruit and earthy tannins. A spice and floral note continues to the finish. It's elegant and refined but with heaps of drinkability. Drink now and over the next several years. *McBride Sisters Collection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Rockburn 2020 Devil's Staircase Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Succulent blueberry and cherry aromas are underpinned by meaty, earthy spice and mineral nuances, like just-seasoned

jerky on hot stones. There's a raw, crush-pad-at-harvest-time vibe, too. Aromas morph to flavors in the mouth, where shades of lightness and darkness make a balanced bottling with a silky texture and a gentle tannin structure. American Estates Wines, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

92 Villa Maria 2020 Taylors Pass Pinot Noir (Marlborough).

A noseful of mulberries, black cherries, medicinal herbs and potpourri, with toasty, chocolatey nuances, leads to a palate that's lighter than the nose implies, but still comes with plenty of fruit density and dusty spiced tannins. Initially straightforward, it gains more complexity with time in the decanter. This focused Pinot was made for the long haul. Drink until 2033. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

91 Escarpment 2021 Kupe Pinot Noir (Martinborough).

This vintage of Kupe, from 24-year-old vines, is dense and somewhat austere at the moment, with notes of cola, jerky, plum, black cherry and spice. The palate is equally reticent: the powerful, dusty tannins and lifted acidity muffling the fruit and spice. While this reviewer would like to see more character and vibrancy now, this should likely evolve with several years or more in the cellar. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$95

88 Amisfield 2020 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).

This is a ripe, plump Pinot with cherry, vanilla, dried herbs and spices and a lick of cola-like oak. It's a full-figured style with intensity, lifted acidity and dusty, granular, herb-flecked tannins. It could age several more years. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

86 River Farm 2022 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Marlborough).

An aromatic Pinot, with vibrant notes of red cherry, raspberry, white pepper and more spice, the palate is lightweight and refreshing. It's a bit underwhelming relative to the nose, with angular acidity and a short finish, but it makes for solid weeknight drinking. Vino Del Sol. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$18

85 Oyster Bay 2021 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).

This is a meaty, mealy, dense Pinot with plenty of earthy spice and red-fruit characters. The palate is round and rich but with freshness and supple, spicy tannins. Delegat USA, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20



98 The Glenlivet 25 Years Old (Scotland; Pernod Ricard USA, New York, NY). Finished in PX sherry and Cognac casks, this single malt has a deep amber hue and toffee and red fruit aromas. The palate opens with dried cherry and oak. A splash of water unlocks chestnut, lemon cream and vanilla, teased by fleeting hints of peach, Muscat grape and violets. A puff of campfire smoke gathers on the exhale, along with drying hints of leather and black pepper.

abv: 43% **Price:** \$650



96 Jura 18 Years Old (Scotland; Spirit of Gallo, Healdsburg, CA). This single malt was finished in Bordeaux casks, yielding an amber hue and rich toffee and oak aromas. The big, bold palate suggests caramel, sticky toffee pudding, dried dates and roasted nuts, finishing long with hints of allspice and peat smoke. A splash of water brings out milk-chocolate tones. Consider as a dessert pairing.

abv: 44% **Price:** \$100



96 Lismore Aged 18 Years (Scotland; Sans Wine & Spirits, Irvine, CA). Fresh apple and vanilla-bean aromas entice. The bold palate unfurls a light layer of peat smoke wrapped around a caramel core tinged with butterscotch, toffee and roasted nuts. Cinnamon and clove warm the finish, accompanied by a subtle violet exhale.

abv: 43% **Price:** \$70

SINGLE MINDED

Within limits, single malt Scotch finds room to innovate.

When it comes to luxury bottles, single malt Scotch—that is, whisky made in Scotland by a single distillery, using only malted barley, yeast and water—is often top of the list.

While some regard old, rare or expensive single malts as status symbols, know that doesn't always have to be the case. Many experts suggest that Scotch is best between 12 to 25 years old. After that, many become overly woody and flavor compounds tend to fade. (That said, some older bottles hold up better than others.) And some single malts offer excellent value. In fact, we've designated 16 bottles priced \$60 or under as Best Buys.

Unusual cask finishes continue to yield single malts worth seeking out. While Scotch producers have long rested whisky in barrels that previously held sherry or bourbon, the latest crop pushes further. For example, Pineau des Charentes, a fortified wine from France's Cognac region, adds delicate fruity tones to a

mellow highland Scotch, while a peaty Islay finished in an ex-Tequila barrel casts a sidelong glance at smoky mezcal.

Looking ahead, expect to see more of these creative cask finishes, says Colin Gordon, distillery manager for Scotch-maker Ardbeg. "We're tightly regulated by the Scotch Whisky

Association," he explains, meaning that strict limits are imposed on how single malts can be manipulated. As stated above, Scotch contains only malted barley, yeast and water. No additives, flavorings or other grains.

But that leaves plenty of room for innovation in cask styles and barrel-wood types.

Also, keep an eye out for experiments involving fermentation, yeast types and adjustments to that malted barley, such as roasted grain, all which stay within SWA guardrails. All of which leads to exciting and yes, indulgent new whiskies ahead. "The future for single malt is bright," he concludes. We agree.

—Kara Newman

Some single malts offer excellent value... We've designated 16 bottles priced \$60 or under as Best Buys.



96 The Dalmore 14 Years Old (Scotland; E&J Gallo Spirits, Healdsburg, CA). Almond and vanilla aromas entwine with a floral whiff. The palate opens with concentrated caramel and finishes buttery and rich, with hints of dried fig, cinnamon and clove. Finished in PX sherry casks.

abv: 43.8% **Price:** \$90



95 The Dalmore 21 Years Old (Scotland; E&J Gallo Spirits, Healdsburg, CA). The 2023 edition of this single malt is finished in casks that previously held 30-year-old oloroso sherry. Toasted almond and vanilla lead the nose, while the first sips show palate-coating butterscotch plus hints of hops, toasted grain and vanilla. A splash of water draws out a distinct peanut tone, creating a peanut-butter-cookie effect. Ginger and cinnamon frame the long exit.

abv: 43.8% **Price:** \$800



94 Rampur Select Single Malt. Special Release 2022 (India; SG Worldwide, Edison, NJ). This pleasing, complex sipper has a honey hue and aromas that suggest red fruit and oak. The bold palate opens with sandalwood, incense and candied ginger, rounding into an elongated finish that echoes red fruit and warming baking spice, plus a fleeting floral hint on the exhale.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$140



94 Talisker 30 Year Old (Scotland; Diageo, New York, NY). Expect a burnished gold hue and ripe pear and peat-smoke aromas. The palate opens with almond and fruit, swiftly followed by lots of peat smoke and alcohol heat, plus an intense peppery tingle on the tip of the tongue. Add plenty of water to temper this cask-strength bottling.
abv: 49.6% **Price:** \$1,100/700ml



94 The Dalmore 15 Years Old (Scotland; E&J Gallo Spirits, Healdsburg, CA). Red-fruit and allspice aromas lead into a big, punchy palate. Each sip opens rich, with smoked cherry, vanilla bean, dried fig and chocolate-covered caramels. It finishes dry, with cigar wrapper, leather and a hint of clove. To be clear, the effect is dry but never austere: think comfy leather chairs and indulgent cigars. Finished in a variety of sherry casks.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$140



94 The Dalmore 18 Years Old (Scotland; E&J Gallo Spirits, Healdsburg, CA). Look for an amber hue and rich caramel aroma. The palate echoes big, rich caramel tones, followed by dusty cocoa powder and hints of black licorice and clove. The long, lip-smacking finish offers oak, cocoa and leather. 2023 edition. Aged in ex-bourbon and oloroso sherry casks.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$290



94 The Dalmore 25 Years Old (Scotland; E&J Gallo Spirits, Healdsburg, CA). Maturation in emptied sherry and bourbon casks has yielded a single malt with a deep amber hue plus rich toffee and allspice aromas. The palate opens with toasted oak, dried cherry, caramel and clove, leading into a long, spiced finish and a final orange peel exhale.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$1,600



94 Tullibardine 500 Sherry Cask Finish (Scotland; Prestige Beverage Group, Mendota Heights, MN). This is a non-age-statement single malt finished in oloroso and PX sherry casks. The palate unfurls a modest amount of smoke around a core of baked pear, vanilla and candied ginger, leading into a long, nuanced finish perfumed with white flowers and sandalwood incense. Best Buy.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$400



93 Ardbeg Anthology: The Harpy's Tale (Scotland; Moët-Hennessy, New York, NY). The latest release in the Anthology series is a 13-year-old Islay single malt fully matured in a combination of ex-bourbon and Sauternes casks. The result is a burnished gold hue and aromas of peat smoke and iodine that mingle with almond. The palate opens with chewy almond-nougat notes, plus toothsome vanilla bean. What starts as a modest amount of peat smoke turns to billowing embers with repeated sips.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$165



92 Ardbeg Traigh Bhan Batch #5 (Scotland; Moët-Hennessy, New York, NY). This is the fifth release of the Ardbeg line, named for the “singing sands” near Port Ellen. Look for a bright marigold hue and assertive peaty aroma, with a baked-pear undertone. The palate echoes that smoke underpinned by fruit, translating as smoked pear and grilled pineapple.
abv: 46.2% **Price:** \$350



92 Lismore Aged 15 Years (Scotland; Sans Wine & Spirits, Irvine, CA). Juicy red apple and maple aromas lead the nose. The brisk palate opens with light smoke, vanilla and an almost effervescent feeling on the tip of the tongue. Hints of dried apricot

BUYINGGUIDE

cot and roasted nuts linger into the smoky fade, finishing with ginger crackle. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$57



91 Jura Seven Wood (Scotland; Spirit of Gallo, Hayward, CA). This non-age-statement single malt comprises a blend of whiskies aged in barrels made with seven French and American oak varieties. The end result is succulent dried date, dried apricot and almond aromas. Treading more lightly, the palate shows lemon meringue encircled by cigar and peat smoke, finishing with a curl of lemon peel on the ginger-spiked finish. **Best Buy.**
abv: 42% **Price:** \$60



89 Jura 12 Years Old (Scotland; Spirit of Gallo, Healdsburg, CA). Mildly smoky aromas entwine with vanilla. The bold palate opens with cigar wrapper, leather and maple, while a splash of water releases tinges of burnt orange peel, espresso and unsweetened chocolate. Nuanced oak and smoke wind into the mouthwatering, puckery finish. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50



89 Lismore Single Malt Scotch (Scotland; Sans Wine & Spirits, Irvine, CA). This non-age-statement whisky opens with a baked apple scent

plus a whiff of campfire smoke. The notably silky, slick palate offers toasted almond and toasted coconut, leading into baked apple midpalate. White pepper and ginger heat linger on the tingly, slightly numbing finish. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$20

98 Aberlour 18 Years Old (Scotland; Pernod Ricard USA, New York, NY). A dark and delicious single malt. Cocoa and caramel on nose and palate lead into a plush midpalate with succulent hints of red fruit, toffee, dried fig and hazelnut. Leather, walnut and dark chocolate dry the finish, with a final clove exhale.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$125

97 Isle of Skye 25 Years Old (Scotland; Silver Lake Imports, Miami, FL). A rich and inviting sip, from start to finish. Caramel, cocoa and oak aromas lead to deeper toffee and fresh-roasted coffee bean flavors. The long, lush finish shows orange marmalade, almond butter and crushed hazelnut.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$205

97 Isle of Skye 30 Year Old (Scotland; Silver Lake Imports, Miami, FL). Complex and enjoyable, this is introduced by a deep topaz hue and rich toffee and caramel aromas. The palate echoes the toffee note, though it seems less rich, dried with brisk espresso, leather and oak. It finishes with walnutty dryness and a whisper of cocoa powder. The final exhale mixes orange peel, cardamom and cinnamon bark.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$320

96 Isle of Skye 21 Years Old (Scotland; Silver Lake Imports, Miami, FL). Rich maple and toasted almond take the lead on this single malt, with hints of baked pear. Adding water lightens flavors to mouthwatering roasted peanut and salted caramel, finishing with cardamom and clove.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$115

95 Aberlour 16 Years Old (Scotland; Pernod Ricard USA, New York, NY). Notably silky and spiced, this single malt has a bright copper-penny appearance and rich caramel and baked-apple aromas. Each sip opens with sweet mesquite smoke, followed by toasted oak, almond and dried date. Torched cinnamon stick lends a big, bold finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$85

95 Aberlour A'bunadh (Scotland; Pernod Ricard USA, New York, NY). Matured in emptied oloroso sherry casks and bottled at cask strength, this non-age-statement single malt has a copper-penny hue and mellow vanilla and caramel aromas. The palate opens mildly sweet, suggesting cinnamon bun, pecan pie, golden raisin and creamy caramel, finishing long with sweet spices and a floral hint. Consider for a dessert pairing.
abv: 60% **Price:** \$90

95 Blackadder Black Snake Single Malt Scotch (Scotland; Glass Revolution, Las Vegas, NV). Rich, nutty tones make it clear this is an oloroso sherry-finished bottling. The first sips open with

concentrated butterscotch and oak, followed by mouthwatering roasted pecan, salted caramel and finally hints of smoke and black-pepper tingle. Ginger sparks enliven the finish.
abv: 59.9% **Price:** \$85/700ml

95 Glenmorangie The Cadboll Estate 15 Years Old (Scotland; Moët Hennessy USA, New York, NY). It would be simplistic to say this single malt Scotch is a dead ringer for a bowl of Honey Nut Cheerios. So we'll deconstruct: Dried apricot and almond aromas lead into a lively palate showing honey and toasted grain, along with hints of caramelized pineapple and toasted coconut. A splash of water draws out a puff of smoke into the long, rounded finish. Made with barley grown on Glenmorangie's Cadboll Estate, and zero Cheerios. Third batch of limited-edition Cadboll Estate series. 2023 Edition
abv: 43% **Price:** \$100

95 Octomore 14.1 (Scotland; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY). In this super-peated single malt from the iconic Bruichladdich distillery, look for a golden hue and mild vanilla and spearmint aromas. The palate opens with mouthwatering butterscotch and menthol, finishing long with a smoked maple-sugar effect, which ever so slowly tapers off.
abv: 59.6% **Price:** \$220

95 Octomore 14.2 (Scotland; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY). This complex and memorable Islay single malt has an amber hue and a roasted grain aroma plus a bit of peat smoke. The velvety palate offers an instant hit of tobacco and peat smoke, finessed with maple and vanilla. A splash of olive brine at the end makes the mouth water.
abv: 57.7% **Price:** \$260

95 Old Pulteney Pineau des Charentes wine cask matured (Scotland; Hotaling & Co., San Francisco, CA). This is a non-age-statement single malt aged in casks that previously held Pineau des Charentes, a fortified wine from France's Cognac region. The result is a complex, pleasing whisky layered with delicate peach, apple and marzipan tones, finishing with a floral hint and a waft of smoke. Part of the limited-edition Coastal Series.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$80

95 Port Charlotte PMC:01 (Scotland; Remy Cointreau, New York, NY). The sixth release in the Cask Exploration series from Bruichladdich is a 2013 vintage finished in Pomerol wine casks. Look for a topaz hue and mild cocoa aroma, plus a hint of ginger root. The buttery palate echoes that cocoa note, layering it with red fruit, peat smoke and black-pepper tingle. The pleasingly robust, smoky exhale reminds this is an Islay single malt, and by design, one of the peatiest ones on the shelf.
abv: 54.5% **Price:** \$150

95 The Glenlivet 21 (Scotland; Pernod Ricard USA, New York, NY). This single malt is finished in a complex mix of emptied barrels: oloroso sherry, Cognac and port. Each contributes a little something. The floral lilt on the toffee-forward

aroma is reminiscent of Cognac, while the pronounced dried-cherry flavor is clearly the result of port's influence. Hints of hops and roasted nuts can be traced to the sherry cask. Part of the Sample Room Collection.

abv: 43%

Price: \$320

94 Blackadder Raw Cask Blair Athol Aged 13 Years (Scotland; Glass Revolution Imports, Las Vegas, NV). Distilled at Blair Athol Distillery in 2009 and bottled at cask strength, this peated single malt boasts hints of chocolate-covered cherry and campfire smoke, plus hints of orange and lemon peel. It finishes with peppery tingle and a lightly smoky finish.

abv: 52.1%

Price: \$140/700ml

94 Isle of Skye 12 Years Old (Scotland; Silver Lake Imports, Miami, FL). Fresh apple mixes with a hint of iodine on the nose. The palate opens big, bursting with tons of butterscotch, salted maple, hints of grapefruit peel and hops before a long finish. Adding water coaxes fruitier tones of apple and dried apricot, closing with ginger. **Best Buy.**

abv: 40%

Price: \$28

ALL-SEASON STOUTS

Winter isn't the only time for stouts and porters.

Many people have a seasonal mindset about stouts and porters. They believe that because the beers have a deep color and rich disposition, they are ideally consumed during the colder months. Undeniably, the dark brews land differently on the palate when the mercury is low, acting like a taste-bud comfort blanket. However, the truth is that stouts and porters are enjoyable any time of year.

The most famous stout in the world is brewed by Diageo's Guinness. This dry Irish stout served in nitro is as much fun to look at as it is to drink. Thanks to St. Patrick's Day, the beer is most popular in late winter and early spring. Adventurous newcomers to the ale are often surprised at its light body and easy drinkability.

It's a good reminder that most stouts and porters are of moderate weight and abv. Imperial versions, of course, will pack more of a punch, but the everyday dark ales are refreshing, flavorful and ideal for food pairings.

The use of dark malt means that many offer flavors of coffee, chocolate and even dark toast.

Adventurous newcomers to the ale are often surprised at its light body and easy drinkability.

Brewers use that canvas to add other flavors to the beers including vanilla, fruits and nuts, as well as real java and cocoa.

Those dessert brews are often decadent and full bodied, with tongue-coating viscosity. They often show best in small pours or sharing with friends. Some brewers have gotten serious about sourcing different kinds of chocolate and vanilla beans from specific sources to provide a sense of place in each sip and also to differentiate their beers from others on the market.

Stouts and porters deserve attention when it comes to food pairings. Lighter versions make ideal partners for grilled meats like hamburgers, and traditional pub foods like fish and chips. The easy-drinking nature and roast characteristics with a touch of sweetness help them complement fatty or heavier foods. They also make great matches with many desserts, from cheesecake to ice cream.

Winter is nice for these dark, intriguing beers, but reaching for them any time of year is a smart decision.

—John Holl

97 Edmund's Oast Leather Jacket (porter; Edmund's Oast; SC). With a soft and spicy cola-like note and a slightly roasted disposition, this snazzy porter has just a touch of alcohol heat. Perfect for outdoor drinking in the swing seasons. **abv:** 6.5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

96 Von Ebert A Night in Tallin (Baltic porter; Von Ebert Brewing, OR). This porter is just the right amount of hearty and strong, without being overpowering. Layers of dark chocolate, roasted espresso and spicy hop combine with an overall nuttiness. Complex but understated, this is one to sip and let the mind wander. **abv:** 7.2% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

96 Pure Hazelsaurus Rex (stout; Pure Project, CA). Rich aromas of toasted hazelnuts burst forth from the glass. This full-bodied, almost slick stout coats the tongue, allowing the nuttiness to

build on both sweetness and earthiness. An excellent use of filberts in a standout of a beer. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18/ 500ml

96 Russian River Porter (porter; Russian River Brewing, CA). This everyday drinking porter helps you look forward to every day. A slight vanilla character mixes well with a subtle dark-roast maltiness, followed by just a splash of spicy and herbal pine hops. A mix of Old World sensibility with deft hop usage. Drink with your next burger. **abv:** 5.75% **Price:** \$20/16oz 4 pack

95 Port City Porter (porter; Port City, VA). Sometimes you just want a porter. A no frills, easy drinking, gonna have three at the pub before heading home porter. With a little chocolate and coffee roast, a kiss of hops and a medium body that doesn't weigh down the palate. This is that beer. **abv:** 7.2% **Price:** \$13/12oz 6 pack

95 Von Ebert Waning Echoes (stout; Von Ebert Brewing, OR). This aggressively hopped American stout offers big, pleasing bitter malts. Slightly boozy and full bodied, the ale has a foamy tan head that lasts and laces the glass as it empties. Pair with a hearty steak sandwich. **abv:** 6.7% **Price:** \$17/16oz 4 pack

94 Exhibit 'A' Briefcase Porter (porter; Exhibit 'A' Brewing, MA). Robust with a chalky dark-malt accent, this brings on and builds upon long-roasted coffee flavors and a touch of sweetness with each sip. A hint of grassy, spicy hops on the finish rounds out the experience. **abv:** 5.4% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

93 Cellar West Loon Shadow (porter; Cellar West, CO). Ruddy brown with a thick mocha-colored head, this is easy drinking, with softly roasted malt attributes that bring out a bready, light espresso vibe. There's a slight hop kick on the finish, with a touch of alcohol heat. **abv:** 8% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

93 Port City Colossal Two (smoked porter; Port City Brewing, VA). This strong, smoky porter offers aromas of bacon and wood char mixed with faint chocolate and coffee notes that add a little sweetness and depth. Pair with roasted lamb. **abv:** 9% **Price:** \$15/12oz 4 pack

92 Fogtown Night Nurse (Imperial stout; Fogtown Brewing, ME). Dark, rich and full bodied, this strong stout has layers of sweet, preserved stone fruit and a jamminess intermingled with a faint fudge. A late evening beer, it's best served in a dimpled mug, paired with an artisanal blue cheese. **abv:** 7.1% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

92 Samuel Smith Organic Chocolate Stout (stout; Samuel Smith, Merchant du Vin, WA). For drinkers with a sweet tooth, this English import does not disappoint. Big aromas of fudgy chocolate milk emerge from the glass and follow through on the palate, with sugary corner store candy bar flavors. **abv:** 5% **Price:** \$11/14.9oz

91 Westfax Hometown Coffee Stout (stout; Westfax Brewing, CO). A collaboration with Sweet Bloom coffee roasters, this java-forward ale feels like that first morning cup that sets everything off in the right direction. A stout for serious coffee lovers. **abv:** 7% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

90 Crux Stout (stout; Crux Fermentation Project, OR). A full-bodied, roasty stout with a thin mocha head, this delivers a good amount of light coffee and chocolate midpalate through the finish. A pub beer, it's made for multiple rounds over good conversation with friends. **abv:** 7.7% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

90 Ferment Nitro Dry Stout (stout; Ferment Brewing Co., OR). Smooth and easy drinking, this stout offers an earthy hop array on the palate boosted by dark-chocolate sweetness and a touch of light-roast coffee. Pair with bangers and mash.

abv: 4.5%

Price: \$16/16oz 4 pack

89 Arizona Wilderness German Chocolate American Presidential Stout (stout; Arizona Wilderness, AZ). A strong stout, this shows light chocolate accents and a touch of almond flour flavor on the finish. A syrupy coffee bitterness grows with each sip. Suited for sharing.

abv: 11%

Price: \$11/12oz

88 Gun Hill Void of Light (stout; Gun Hill Brewing, NY). This foreign-style stout brings on a moderate hop character from the first sip through the finish. It's dark roasted, with touches of berry and minerality that come and go. Strong and thoughtful.

abv: 7.9%

Price: \$18/16oz 4 pack

88 Muckraker Dark as Your Soul (Imperial stout; Muckraker Beer, NJ). A strong, viscous stout, this has a boozy, vinous character that comes on early and quickly verges into fudge syrup. A robust treat for the cold months of the year or when in a brooding mood.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19/16oz 4 pack

BARREL-AGED STOUTS

91 Westbound & Down 8oz is Enough (Imperial stout; Westbound & Down, CO). A neat boozy stout, this comes with a big abv but mellow bite. Toffee, stone fruit, caramel and whisky combine into a smooth concoction that soothes the soul.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$32/8oz 4 pack

90 Good Word Brewing Analog Death (imperial stout; Good Word Brewing, GA). A collaboration with Orpheus Brewing, this hearty stout offers spirited toffee, raisin and fig flavors, with flashes of spicy cola and vanilla. Drink fresh with friends.

abv: 11.5%

Price: TK /500ml

88 Amalgam Another Realm (imperial stout; Amalgam Brewing, CO). A slick and assertive stout this offers undercurrents of vanilla, toffee and shaved wood. It's thick and full bodied, and a few sips pack a big punch before landing on a fudgy whisky finish.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$20/12oz