

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

APRIL 2024

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A young pinot noir cluster.

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GLOBAL PINOT NOIR

It's a great time to be a Pinot lover.

Anna-Christina Cabrales is the tasting director of Wine Enthusiast and reviews the wines of Burgundy and the Rhône Valley; Michael Alberty reviews the wines of the Pacific Northwest; and Aleks Zecevic reviews Austria, Germany, Alsace and Vin de France.

Anna-Christina Cabrales: Not to sound like I'm complaining but evaluating the various levels of Bourgogne rouge from 2021 and 2022 was a delightful change of pace. Compared to the powerful and warm vintages of 2018, 2019 and 2020, these vintages bring more freshness.

Although 2021 was a tough frost year, it's a shame that some Burgundy enthusiasts snub the vintage before trying its wines. I find joy in 2021's classical essence. The tart and ripe fruit harmonizes with floral perfume, and acidic lift brightens the palate. It's reminiscent of what made us love Burgundy in the first place.

On the other hand, 2022 is a testament to balance. Fruit concentration, depth, structure and freshness are in harmonious equilibrium, reflecting the generous nature of the vintage. Though these vintages are stark contrasts of each other, they are built for the long haul and are both accessible now. And they're delicious.

Michael Alberty: Meanwhile everyone around here in Oregon is reveling in what a fine Pinot Noir vintage 2021 turned out to be. Willamette Valley producers in particular were relieved to get this quality after surviving wildfires in 2020.

2021 did have a heat spike but fortunately, the searing temps came in late June instead of later in the growing season. Things settled down to produce Pinot Noirs with elevated acid-



Anna-Christina Cabrales



Michael Alberty



Aleksandar Zecevic

ity, concentrated flavors and silky textures.

Aleksandar Zecevic: Growers from both Austria and Germany agree that the 2021 Pinot Noirs deliver quality and longevity. Even Alsatian producers share that viewpoint, despite having a difficult growing season.

In Germany in particular, 2021 will prove to be a great Spätburgunder (German for Pinot Noir) vintage. You can expect wines with vibrant acidity and silky tannins, underscoring the ripe red fruit.

It's really a great time to start drinking them if you haven't already. Germany is the third-largest producer of Pinot globally. Their focus on producing world-class examples matches the effort they put into making great Rieslings. Read more about them in my article in the April issue.

Austria doesn't lack love for Pinot. In regions like Burgenland, where warmer climate and limestone create suitable conditions, Pinot Noir (aka Blauburgunder) always gets a special treatment. Hence, the number of beautiful wines is increasing. A great example: the 93-point Claus Preisinger Pinot Noir from the 2022 vintage, which was good for red wine. It has immediate appeal.

As sips from the glass prove: Pinots from around the world have it dialed in for quality and enjoyment. Enjoy right now.

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

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Mike DeSimone: Spain, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, Lebanon, Armenia
Matt Kettmann: Central & South Coast California
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Christina Pickard: Australia, New Zealand, England, New York
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Emily Saladino: Greece, Georgia, Hungary
Reggie Solomon: Beaujolais, Loire Valley, Languedoc-Roussillon
Jesica Vargas: South America & South Africa
Roger Voss: Portugal, France: Bordeaux, Champagne, Southwest & Other France
Aleks Zecevic: Alsace, Vin de France, 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.**

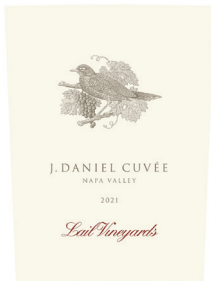
LABELS

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.

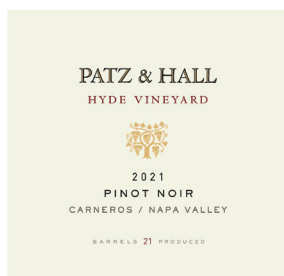
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99 **Produttori del Barbaresco 2016 Riserva Don Fiorino (Barbaresco).** This is a must-have for any Nebbiolo lover, opening with aromas of reconstituted cherries bathed in sweet and savory spices and dried rosebuds. Supple with tannins that coat the palate gently while the plush red fruit notes roll around with sweet tea and dried leaf notes on the sublime finish. Drink now in perpetuity. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140



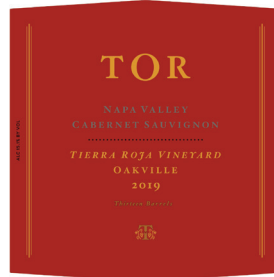
98 **Lail 2021 J. Daniel Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Matching power with complexity, Robin Lail's densely concentrated, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon once again goes deep in black currants, blackberries, cocoa and toasted oak flavors. Velvety, mouthcoating tannins give the structure for a long aging period. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$310



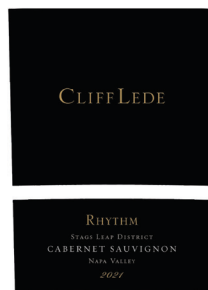
98 **Patz & Hall 2021 Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Dark, deep and brooding, this muscular but agile wine is rich in aromas of cloves, cedar, cinnamon and cooked cherries before blueberries, vanilla and black currants flood the palate. Firm but soothing tannins are seamlessly integrated with the complex fruit and spice elements. Best from 2027–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



98 **Roco 2013 RMS Brut Delayed Disgorgement 10-Year Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This is easily one of the best sparkling wines I had in 2023. After resting for 10 years on its lees before disgorgement, the wine has developed rich aromas of yellow apples, ripe Oregon white truffles and melted Gruyère cheese. This is a full-bodied wine where poached pear and toasted hazelnut flavors rule the rich palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$110



98 **Tor 2019 Tierra Roja Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Not many young Napa Cabernet Sauvignons can be called silky, but this elegant, memorable wine is one of them. A perfumed aroma of black currants, violets and brown butter is followed by milk chocolate, spearmint and cassis flavors. Fine-grained tannins add a bit of grip to the texture. Best 2026–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$195



97 **Cliff Lede 2021 Rhythm Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** Powerful, seamless and saturated with flavor, this giant of a wine goes deep in black currants, black cherries and mint aromas. The dense, rather firm texture holds a tasty mélange of black cherries and black figs shaded by cedar, cocoa, tobacco and espresso. It needs several years to open up. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$125



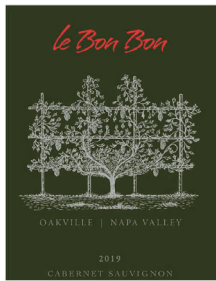
97 **Cult 2021 13th Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Powerful yet superbly balanced, this wine achieves the iron fist in a velvet glove expression that makes it appealing in its youth yet bolsters it for more complexity and depth with time. While firmly tannic, the texture still feels elegant. Although deep in black currants, cloves and cedar, the flavors are fresh and appealing. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150



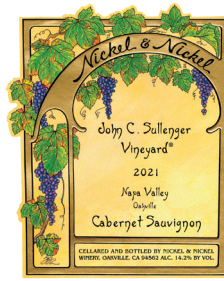
97 **Guarachi Family 2021 Meadowrock Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).** This huge but soft-spoken wine is massive in concentration and tannin structure yet comes off subtle and brooding at first. The nose is deep in black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate before plump, satisfying black-fruit flavors coat the palate, embraced by waves of fine-grained tannins. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110



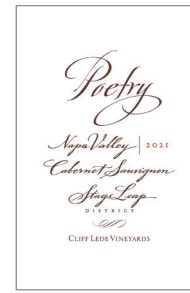
97 **John Duval Wines 2018 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa).** This downright sexy bottling is singing. A high-toned blood plum and blueberry note rings loudest while licorice, mocha, warm gravel and baking spices reverberate. Comfy in its own skin, it's round and supple with lovely berry freshness and elegant, cat's tongue tannins. Drink now–2038. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



97 Meyer Family Cellars 2019 Le Bon Bon Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). A beautiful perfume of oak spices and a velvety-rich palate full of black cherries and blueberries make this tiny-production wine a classic. Well structured for aging, the wine is full bodied, concentrated and deep, matching lavish cinnamon, cedar and tobacco notes with dried cherries, blueberries and cranberries. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$130



97 Nickel & Nickel 2021 John C. Sullenger Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). So silky but also so potent and concentrated, this luxurious wine is drenched in black fruits, oak spices, cocoa and mint that come up in the aroma and expand beautifully on the palate while the texture remains elegant and seductive. The wine is remarkable more for its finesse than its power. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$135



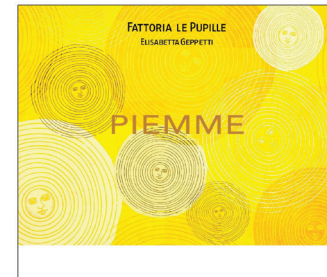
96 Cliff Lede 2021 Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This well-balanced and elegant wine shows beautifully integrated black fruits, oak spices and hints of mint and cedar in the aroma, with similarly delicious flavors wrapped in fine-grained tannins for a velvety texture. Blended with small percentages of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it offers finesse and complexity. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$375



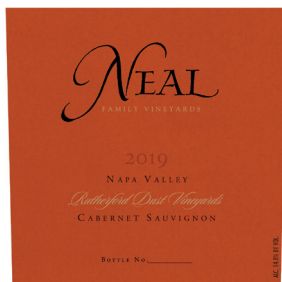
97 Muga 2019 Torre Muga (Rioja). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of black cherry, black currant, vanilla and dried Mediterranean herbs. Deep-set tannins coat the tongue and gums before revealing blackberry-preserve, butterscotch, anisette and violet flavors. The enduring finish offers a splash of pomegranate. Drink through 2039. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140



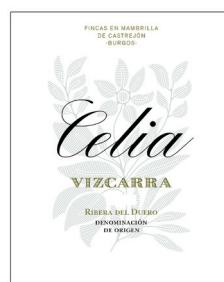
97 Patz & Hall 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Lush and full bodied, this wine sends up black cherry and cinnamon aromas before a broad palate of dark plums, cranberries and black tea brings more complexity. Full bodied and firm in tannins, this bottling is in no hurry to be drunk. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



96 Fattoria Le Pupille 2020 Piemme (Toscana). Warm pavement, crushed shells and sunshine are the backdrop for aromas of fresh pineapple, lychee, Meyer lemon and a whisper of vanilla whipped cream, with spices and herbs underneath. A riot of citrus and tropical fruit on the palate soars on the back of spectacular acid. If both wine and winemakers get better with age, this is one to watch. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$110



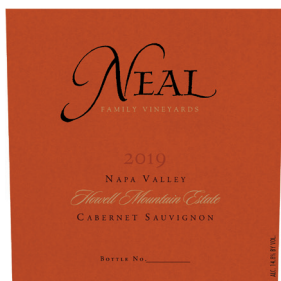
97 Neal Family 2019 Rutherford Dust Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Elegant but rich, structured but velvety, this well-balanced, classically flavored wine keeps expanding with each sip. It offers deep black cherry, blueberry, spearmint and cocoa aromas followed by enticing oak toast, cloves and cedar on the moderately tannic palate. Made from organically grown grapes. Best from 2026–2036. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125



97 Vizcarra 2020 Celia (Ribera del Duero). A bouquet of raspberry, cherry and baking spices emanates from the glass. Pomegranate and Mission fig flavors unfold on the taste buds and are joined by butterscotch and aniseed flavors with a touch of cured ham. The enduring finish just keeps going on as plush tannins slowly dissolve. Drink through 2045. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$165



96 Irvine & Roberts 2018 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). This is one of the best *méthode traditionnelle* Oregon sparklers I've tasted. The wine's aromatic combination of a lemon crème brûlée and fresh pine needles won me over instantly. Then, lemon shortbread, peach and mint flavors backed by snappy acidity made me put my pen down. Bravo! *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120



96 Neal Family 2019 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).

This layered and luxurious wine made from organically grown grapes is pitch black in color with a ruby rim. It wafts generous black cherries, blueberries oak toast and spaded loam aromas before mouth-filling black and blue fruits, mint and earth flavors take over. While tempting to drink now, the wine is a keeper. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$120

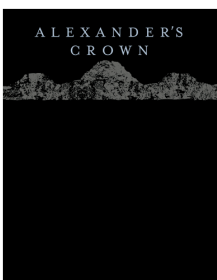


96 Ovum 2021 Memorista Riesling (Elkton Oregon).

A pear aroma is surrounded by a bouquet of apple blossoms, fresh pine cones and the sweet spice of daphne flowers. Lemon cake and juniper berry flavors are joined by something akin to anise or caraway seeds. Elevated acidity makes the Memorista vibrate on the palate. Enjoy this remarkable Riesling now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 10.5%

Price: \$25

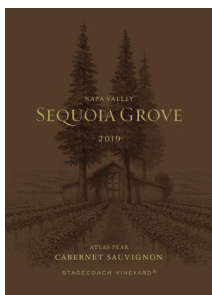


96 Rodney Strong 2019 Alexander's Crown Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).

Powerful, layered and concentrated, this deeply fruity and well-structured wine has been Rodney Strong's top Cabernet for decades. It holds its cards a bit tightly at this age, but will lay them down with more complexity and velvet from 2028 to 2038. Firm tannins, a full body and a wonderful polish in the texture add up to something special. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

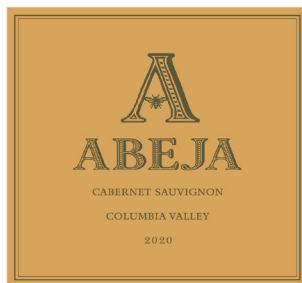


96 Sequoia Grove 2019 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak).

Deep and relaxed at first, this full-bodied and well-concentrated wine offers bold, dark cherries, dried plums and dark chocolate backed by deceptively strong tannins that build with each sip. Graphite, oak char and earth accents add to its complexity and power. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$125

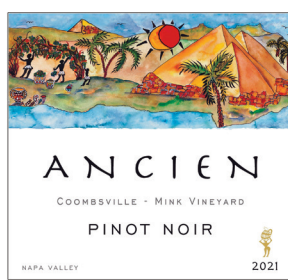


95 Abeja 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).

Boysenberry and lilac aromas were a nice start, but a minty note took me back to my first mind-blowing experience with the eucalyptus of an old Heitz Cellar Martha's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. Freshly pulled espresso shots and Bing cherries mix it up on the smooth palate with notes of dark chocolate and thyme. Drink 2024–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$68

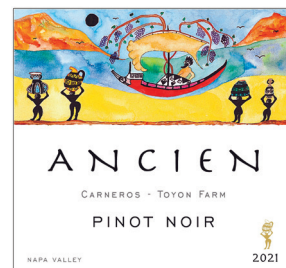


95 Ancien 2021 Mink Vineyard Pinot Noir (Coombsville).

Ripe in flavor and luxurious in texture, this wine is difficult to put down. It is saturated in black cherry, black currant and black fig while staying light on the palate. It's a wonderful indulgence to enjoy by itself or with a roast pheasant or duck breast. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$62



95 Ancien 2021 Toyon Farm Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).

This graceful wine packs juicy, plump fruits in a supersmooth texture for a posh expression that's enjoyable to taste. Black cherries, black currants, cloves and cinnamon are layered on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$64



95 Baldacci 2018 The Thomas Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This big yet well-balanced wine offers concentrated black cherry and blackberry flavors along with enticing oak accents of cinnamon, cedar and vanilla that layer nicely with the fruit components. Moderate to full tannins give it a great frame for further aging. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$1,000 for 3 pack

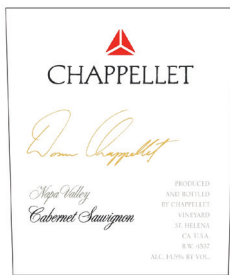


95 Bodegas Escudero 2011 Solar de Becquer Gran Reserva (Rioja).

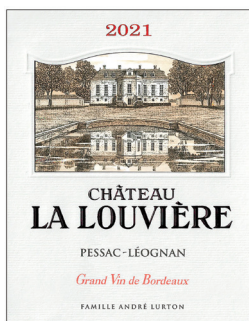
Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of cassis, raspberry and a hint of vanilla. Velvety tannins are wrapped around flavors of blackberry, Mission fig, dark chocolate and black olive paste that are joined by a closing note of aniseed. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$85



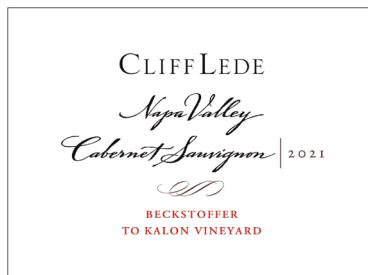
95 Chappellet 2021 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). An extra-dark color and heady aromas of crushed blueberries and blackberries leads to super-concentrated black fruits and milk chocolate on the palate, where silky tannins put a gentle grip around all that flavor. The wine is huge in pure fruit depth yet well polished in texture. Best from 2027–2034. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$95



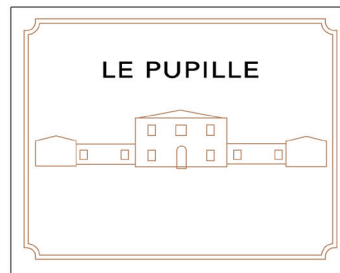
95 Château la Louvière 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). Pure Sauvignon Blanc gives a citrus character, enhanced by the wood aging that gives a spicy, toasty character. It is a ripe wine with a fresh edge. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



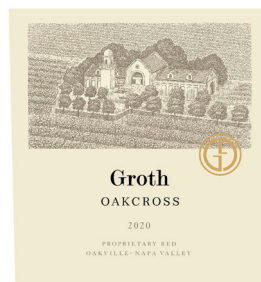
95 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). This is a beautifully structured and textured wine, with rich black fruits that exude style. It is an impressive wine from an estate that is at the top of its form. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48



95 Cliff Lede 2021 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Very ripe and velvety but deceptively tannic, this sleeper of a wine made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon holds its late-harvested fruit flavors firmly without being astringent. Blackberries, roast beef, wood char and black pepper notes give a meaty expression on the palate and finish. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$250



95 Fattoria Le Pupille 2019 (Toscana). The nose is a seaside garden, where an ocean breeze blows through swirling aromas of fresh earth, blackberry brambles and dry, bitter leaves. On the palate, the tart fruit of the blackberries is underscored by a generous amount of black pepper, while acid soars above tannins that are polished yet weighty, like bearing balls. Effortlessly elegant. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$199



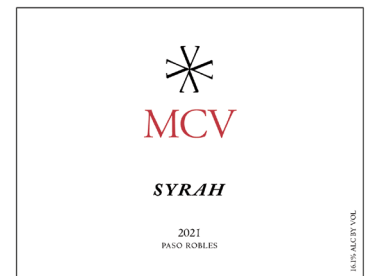
95 Groth 2020 Oakcross Proprietary Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Oakville). While nicely polished and velvety, this wine boasts extremely deep black fruits and full, encompassing tannins that will need several years to resolve for optimum drinking pleasure. Blackberries, blueberries, cinnamon and cloves crowd the palate. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$99



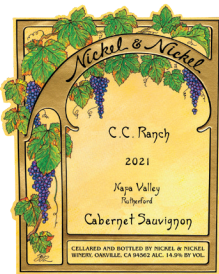
95 Irvine & Roberts 2021 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). This is a heady combination of body, acidity and the kind of restrained elegance made possible by a vineyard at 2,000 feet above sea level. The Convergence leads with Golden Delicious apples, buttered toast, honey and salty Marcona almonds. Brilliant acidity highlights flavors of lemon, lime and rock. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50



95 Landmark 2021 Lorenzo Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This lavish and layered wine is also well balanced, buoying baked apple, vanilla and cream flavors on lemon and crisp apple acidity for a mouthfilling but still vibrant texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65



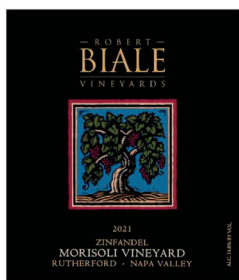
95 MCV 2021 Syrah (Paso Robles). This appellation blend is a very comforting and satisfying Syrah for those seeking power with panache. Dense aromas of elderberry, coffee cake and lavender show on the nose. The palate is unctuous with bold flavors of baked berry, cracked pepper and rosemary, provoking both deep thought and easy relaxation. —M.K.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$52



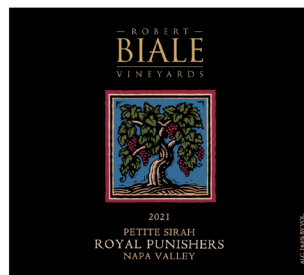
95 Nickel & Nickel 2021 C.C. Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Rich and chocolaty on the nose, deep and saturated with black fruits on the palate, this impressive, dense and concentrated wine is one to save for later enjoyment. The thickness of the fine-grained tannins and sheer power of the blueberries, black cherries and roasted, toasted oak spices need time to marry. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$135



95 Produttori del Barbaresco 2019 (Barbaresco). The 2019 Barbaresco does not disappoint, opening with aromas of fresh cherries, wild thyme and rose petals. Elegant and refined on the palate with notes of crushed raspberries, savory spice and turned earth. The wine finishes with poise and confidence knowing it will most likely outlast all other wines in the cellar. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50



95 Robert Biale 2021 Morisoli Vineyard Zinfandel (Rutherford). Biale Zins let the vineyard terroirs show through the winemaking, and this peppery, earthy and meaty rendition proves the point well. Dark plum and dried plum notes provide harmony for the earthier, spicier accents that dominate. A full body and moderate tannins leave it dry and especially pair-able with game dishes, mushrooms and black truffles. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$68



95 Robert Biale 2021 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah (Napa Valley). Black figs, road tar and dark chocolate fill the aroma before ultraripe blackberries, all concentrated and deep, highlight the flavors. The wine is fully tannic but this is matched by the intensity of the fruit. A monumental wine that's a good bet for extended aging. Drink from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55



95 Tascante 2020 Contrada Sciaranuova (Etna). The nose leans savory, with assertive aromas of slate, graphite and soil, but astringent undertones of hibiscus and cranberry provide nuance. On the palate, emergent cherries add a delicate sweetness, while tannins and acid work together to tie everything together and create wine that is thoughtful but not demanding, like a good romance movie. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$62



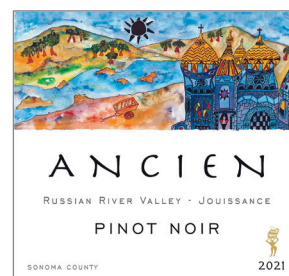
95 Tenuta Monteti 2018 Caburnio (Toscana). The nose is metallic, salty and almost fizzy, like a can of Coke on a fishing boat, but a touch of fruit comes from a latent black cherry element. The palate deftly manages to both stick with that umami saltiness and bolster the fruit notes, while acid crackles around tannins that are polished yet dense, like magnets. Bommarito Wines & Spirits in Missouri. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



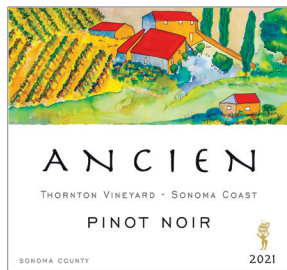
95 Umani Ronchi 2021 Vecchie Vigne (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore). This old-vine Verdicchio shines out of the glass with an intense saltiness, fresh herbs, preserved lemon and white flowers. Mouth-smacking good, with dehydrated lemon, tangerine and almond flavors all playing supporting roles to the star of this wine, the intense seashell minerality. Drink now–2035. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



95 V. Sattui 2018 Terra Forza Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Elegant, supple and intricate, this silky-textured wine wafts aromas of mint, dark chocolate and black currants that segue to plump blueberries, black cherries and cocoa on the palate. Subtle, sophisticated oak accents lend intrigue and complexity to this deftly balanced, reasonably priced wine. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$42



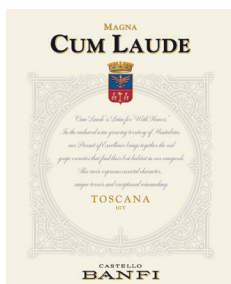
94 Ancien 2021 Jouissance Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Nicely saturated with black fruits and subtle oak spices, this welcoming and mouthfilling wine sips smoothly and goes down easily. Luscious red and black cherries and black currants glide along on soft tannins through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58



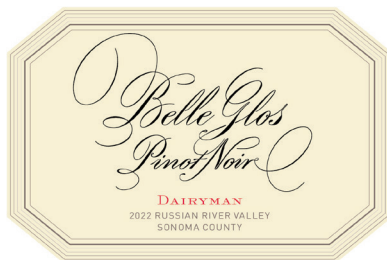
94 Ancien 2021 Thornton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This silky and well-balanced wine wafts black cherries, cola and blueberry aromas. These lead to a graceful texture and layered red- and black-fruit flavors that are delicious and persistent. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70



94 Baldacci 2021 Fraternity Red Blend (Napa Valley). Superripe flavors of dried cherries, dried plums and black figs are matched by moderate tannins in this very full-bodied, rich and generously textured wine. It melts in the mouth, saturated with chocolate, mint and vanilla notes that add to the luscious black fruits. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85



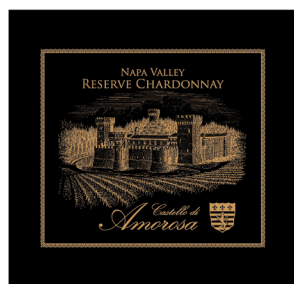
94 Banfi 2021 Magna Cum Laude (Toscana). The nose is full of dark, macerated, rich fruit, with texture coming from slightly dusty undertones of dried fig, pepper and flint. On the palate, a smudge of graphite boosts the pepper, against persistent dark fruit, before a creamy, sweet blueberry finish. Highly polished tannins create a lush mouthfeel. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



94 Belle Glos 2022 Dairyman Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Beautiful, pure and focused fruit flavors distinguish this elegant, well-balanced wine. Tart cherries, black cherries, tart blueberries and black tea nuances seem primed for further complexity over time. A lithe structure of fruit acidity and medium tannins will carry it far. Best from 2026–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55



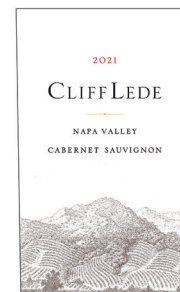
94 Borgogno 2019 (Barolo). Aromas of macerated cherries with mixed spices, thyme, dried violets and roses all work like a spell to draw you deeper into the wine. Each part of the palate is in its place with fruit, earth, spice and savory qualities all working toward the same goal: being delicious. Drinkable now, this will go the distance as a classic Barolo. Drink now–2045. Ethica Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100



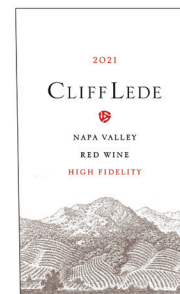
94 Castello di Amorosa 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This nuanced and well-structured wine holds just-ripe apples, Bosc pears and toasted almond nuances in a snug grip of tangy acidity, with a hint of oak tannin. Look for this wine to open up more with a bit of extended aging. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59



94 Ceretto 2020 Asili (Barbaresco). Aromas of black cherries and dried flowers flow along the top of the glass as notes of earth, truffle and incense swirl below. Elegant but firm tannins, with the first sip showing savory flavors of black tea and herbs macerating with wild red fruits that linger for what seems like ages. Drink 2025–2045. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA



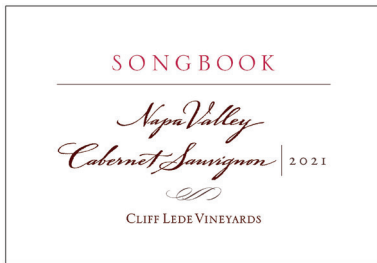
94 Cliff Lede 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). So silky and drinkable at the first sip, this well-concentrated wine feels tight and restrained with more tastes, holding its trove of black fruits, cedar, cinnamon and dark chocolate in a rich blanket of extra-fine tannins. Its complexity, layering and lingering finish are something special. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$80



94 Cliff Lede 2021 High Fidelity Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Extremely rich and deep, this wine blankets deep, dark fruit and oak-spice flavors in lavish, firm tannins that will need time to mature for best drinking. The concentration and layering are impressive and the spicy, dried-fruit mix is delicious. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$100



94 Cliff Lede 2021 Rock Block Series Diamond Sky Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stags Leap District). This blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Malbec is one for long-term cellaring, and could be magnificent with time. Very firm tannins coat the deep, dark fruit and chocolate flavors for a tooth-drying sensation that will soften over the years. Black cherries, dark chocolate and blueberries will emerge. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$115



94 Cliff Lede 2021 Songbook Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This intense and tightly wound wine aged in 80% new oak is one to put away for a decade or more until the texture relaxes enough to reveal the complexities of flavor. At this stage, it mostly reveals wood char, graphite and bitter chocolate over black currants and black olives. Best from 2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$260



94 Eleven Eleven 2020 X-1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Sleek and smooth, this wine is deep in dark chocolate, blackberry jam and baked blueberry flavors wrapped in superfine-grained tannins. An almost sweet jammyness wins out against the wine's structure, as it finishes sweet-ish and full of dark chocolate. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$90



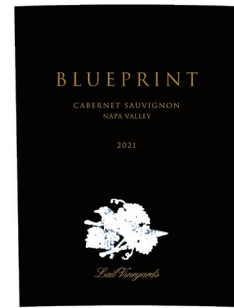
94 Far Niente 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). A creamy texture carries lush, ripe tropical fruits, ample butter and toast nuances in this bold, full-bodied wine. The layering of baked apples, vanilla, Bartlett pears and almonds is impressive and delicious. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76



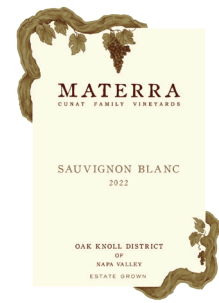
94 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Generous, deeply fruity and warmly spicy, this wine will be fun to drink soon, but will continue to improve with time. Cinnamon, cloves, cedar and toasted oak notes waft from the glass before broad but slightly tangy black cherries and blackberries coat the palate with a gentle tannic strength. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$100



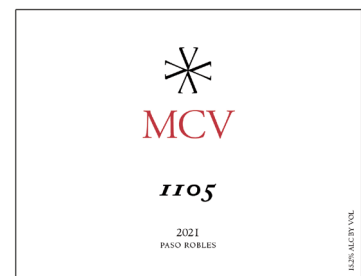
94 Irvine & Roberts 2021 Convergence Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). The Convergence's raspberry and cherry fruit aromas are accented by traces of chalk and pine needles. The wine feels light and fresh, with crisp acidity and bright red fruit flavors mixed with bits of hibiscus flower tea and thyme. These estate vines grow at over 2,000 feet above sea level. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50



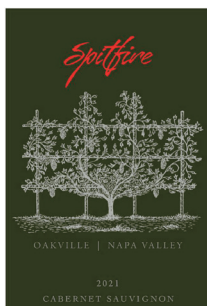
94 Lail 2021 Blueprint Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Baked fruits and toasty oak aromas lead to richly layered blackberries, blueberries and cocoa in this full-bodied and warmly tannic wine. Aged in 50% new French barrels, it is well structured for aging and has the concentration to match. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95



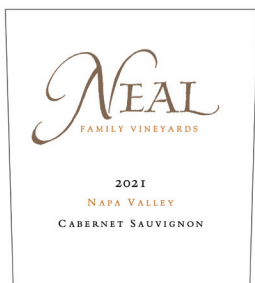
94 Materra Cugat Family Vineyards 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District). Complex, sophisticated and partially oak aged, this wine offers an intricate array of white pepper, sea salt and citrus aromas followed by a textured, tangy palate full of toast, vanilla, ginger and gooseberry flavors. It is concentrated, memorable and long on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27



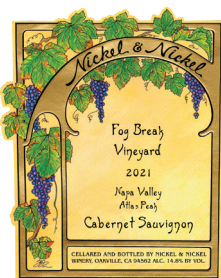
94 MCV 2021 1105 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Petite Sirah pro Matt Villard is adept at blending with the grape, which is bolstered here by 12% Grenache, 11% Tannat, 10% Syrah, 6% Petit Verdot and 1% Viognier. Intense aromas of boysenberry, violet and wet clay lead from the nose into a mouthcoating sip of elegant earthiness, juicy baked blackberry and hints of bay leaf and thyme. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55



94 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 Spitfire Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Aromas of chocolate mints, pipe tobacco and blackberries are followed by ripe and delicious black cherries, blueberries and cocoa in this not-too-heavy but broad-textured and typically tannic wine. Tempting to drink soon for its complexity and tempting ripeness, but best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$66



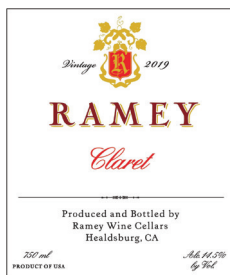
94 Neal Family 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Very concentrated and firmly structured, this wine is built for aging. Deep, dark black cherries, black currants and blackberries are shaded by star anise, espresso crema and clove accents as sandy, supportive tannins lend a firm backbone. Made from half Rutherford and half Howell Mountain grapes. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



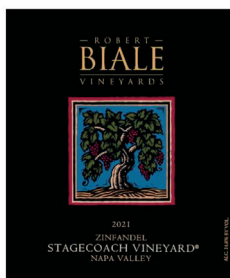
94 Nickel & Nickel 2021 Fog Break Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). While big and firmly structured, this super-concentrated wine starts off smooth and generous. It offers baked blueberries and dark chocolate before toasted oak, graphite and iron nuances work their way into the palate impression. Fascinating now in its youth, the wine should show best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$135



94 Planeta 2020 Santa Cecilia (Noto). The nose starts bubbly and sweet, with aromas of black plums, cherry and vanilla, then turns savory but still crackly, with notes of pencil shavings, pepper, graphite and leather. The palate doubles back toward juicy fruit with figs and more plums, then shifts again toward that sanguine earthiness, but textured tannins and almost silky acid unifies the whole. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA



94 Ramey 2019 Claret Red Blend (North Coast). Sophisticated spices and minerals in the aroma and layered, complex fruits, herbs and spices in the flavor give a lot to explore in this medium- to full-bodied wine. Moderate tannins and light acidity support the array of dark plums, tobacco, toast and vanilla. So tempting to drink now but best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



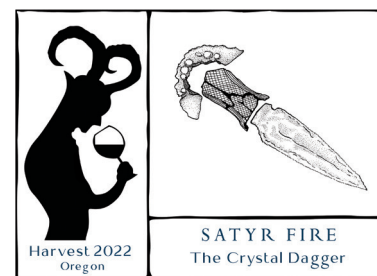
94 Robert Biale 2021 Stagecoach Vineyard Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Blackberries and black cherries light up the aroma of this bold, flavorful wine before identical, focused black fruits hit the palate with good concentration and depth. Moderate tannins and a full body form an appetizing structure for this dramatic wine. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70



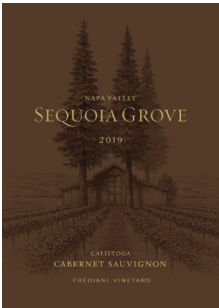
94 Rodney Strong 2019 Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This big, velvety wine is aromatic in black cherries, cocoa, mint and toast, followed by a creamy palate of rich, polished fruit and oak-spice impressions. Rather firm tannins are well integrated and soothing while supporting good aging potential. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



94 Rodney Strong 2019 Rockaway Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Mint and black cherry aromas lead to vivid, juicy black cherry and blackberry flavors in this well-balanced, moderately tannic wine. It has the grip and good balance for pairing with all sorts of protein, including rich meat, bird and bean dishes. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90



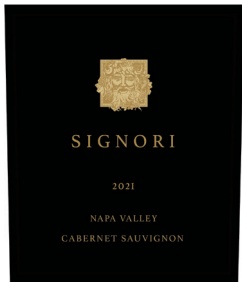
94 Satyr Fire 2022 Crystal Dagger Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). Crystal Dagger is an apt description of how this dry Riesling's electric acidity and aromas of wet slate, peach skins and lemony green tea laced with lime tree honey pierce the defenses of jaded palates. Flavors of honeycomb, lemon zest and a trace of pine resin are mere bonuses. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$40



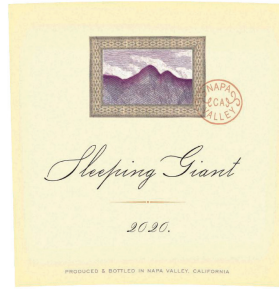
94 Sequoia Grove 2019 Frediani Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). This might be the biggest, brawniest Sequoia Grove bottling of the vintage. Grown in the hot northeastern corner of the valley, and blended with 25% Cabernet Franc, the wine is powerful in wood char, dark chocolate, cassis and anise flavors on a rich texture of full tannins. Lay this one away and enjoy from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125



94 Signorello 2021 S by Ray Signorello Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Enticing aromas of pencil shavings, cedar and toasted oak lead to a firm, concentrated palate packed with dried blueberries, black cherries, mocha and mint. The wine is full bodied, appropriately tannic and built for the long haul, gaining complexity and smoothness with age. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$90



94 Signorello 2021 Signori Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lush and layered, this intensely rich and handsomely oaky wine wraps full tannins around dark chocolate, espresso and black cherries for a huge palate impression. Toasted oak, toasted almonds, graphite and tobacco mingle on the palate and linger on the finish. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$150



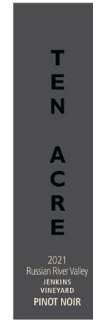
94 Sleeping Giant 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Drenched in handsome oak spices, this mouthfilling and richly textured wine boasts aromas of cinnamon, cloves, vanilla and black cherries. These lead to chocolate, blackberry jam and maple flavors that are alluring and delicious. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$140



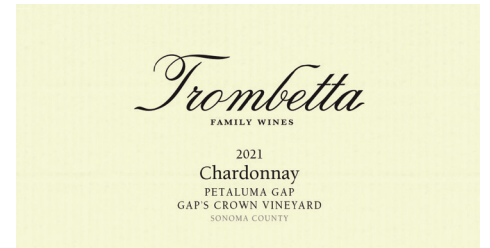
94 Sleeping Giant 2021 Dearden Vineyard XV Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Hints of smoky, perfumed oak add to aromas of red and black cherries in this complex, layered and moderately tannic Pinot Noir. The wine is poised between tangy and ripe characteristics for great balance and probable longevity. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$105



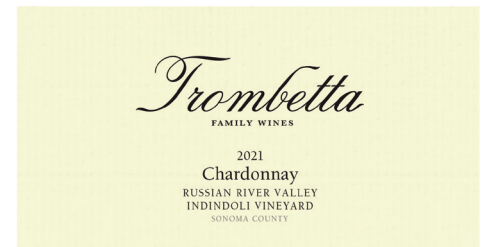
94 Sonoma-Cutrer 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Deep and powerful fruits like black cherries and blueberries fill the aroma before tanginess chimes in on the palate along with blackberries, sour cherries and mint. It's a complex, detailed wine, wonderful to drink soon and through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36



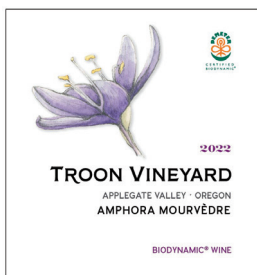
94 Ten Acre 2021 Jenkins Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This complex and solidly built wine shows a structured, full-bodied approach to Pinot Noir. Moderate tannins wrap around blueberries and blackberries. Rather restrained at this stage, the wine will open and gain complexity with time. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75



94 Trombetta 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). Pastry aromas and rich apple pie flavors fill this full-bodied wine with deliciousness on a creamy, viscous texture. Complex aromas and well-blended flavors are nicely buoyed by a touch of lemony acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70



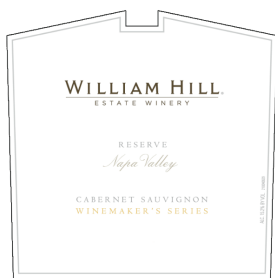
94 Trombetta 2021 Indindoli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This elegant, silky wine opens with well-knit aromas of butter, vanilla and poached pears. On the well-balanced palate, lemon and crisp apples are softened by a creamy, lactic expression that lingers nicely on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



94 Troon 2022 Amphora Mourvèdre (Applegate Valley). With 75% Mourvèdre (35% whole cluster) and 25% Grenache (30% whole cluster), this is a fermented and aged in terra-cotta treat. Tart red fruit is complemented by aromas like sweet hay and crushed brick dust. Blackberries rule the palate, with notes of grilled portobello mushrooms and black tea. The mouthfeel is fresh and invigorating, with brilliant acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65



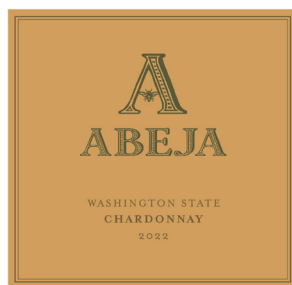
94 V. Sattui 2021 Vangone Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This well-concentrated wine has plenty of power in its black cherry and black currant flavors, yet stays relatively light on its feet. Supple tannins lift the attractive oak spice and black fruit flavors for a seamless palate and finish. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125



94 William Hill Estate 2020 Winemaker's Series Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Enticing cedar, cinnamon, cocoa and graphite aromas convey the new-barrel magic of this wine before abundant black cherries, black currants, vanilla and café latte flavors coat the palate. So well polished and complex that it is enjoyable now, the wine has the fine-grained tannins to help it age, too. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$70



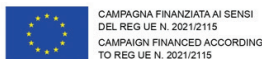
94 Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2020 Le Clos des Quarterons Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). This elegant Saint-Nicholas de Bourgueil basks in concentration. Plump black fruit and sweet baking spice open on the nose and are entrancing. On the palate, fresh pencil shavings and black raspberry interplay lifted by grippy tannins. The organic and biodynamic wine is simply delicious. *Vineyard Brands. Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43



93 Abeja 2022 Chardonnay (Washington). Swoonworthy aromatics of lavender water, earthy/funky daisies and lemon drop hard candies are worth \$48 all by themselves. Then you get brilliant acidity providing a sharp edge to icy lemon granita, candied ginger and mint flavors. Enjoy 2024–2034, perhaps longer. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48



93 Bertani 2021 Original Vintage Edition (Soave). This classy wine shines in the glass with a mix of bright apple aromas that give way to ripe peach, magnolia and orange peel. Vibrant apricot flavors engage the palate then turn to tart green apple skin and lemon zest notes, finishing with length and serious minerality. Drink now–2035. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA



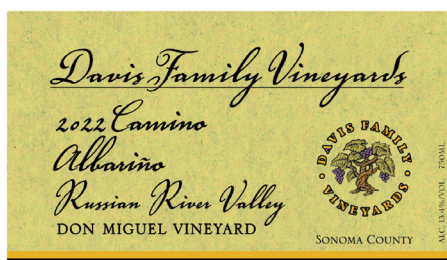
93 Bodegas Piqueras 2019 Los Losares Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). This inky ruby-colored wine offers aromas of purple plums, vanilla and baking spices. It is full textured, with opulent tannins and tastes of black cherry, purple plum, Mission fig, coffee bean, milk chocolate and clove. Soft notes of dried tarragon and thyme make their way into the long-lasting finish. *Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29



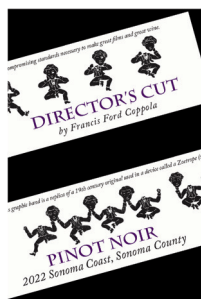
93 Böen 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Very aromatic, very smooth and nicely rich, this suave wine leads with aromas of black tea, rhubarb and cedar followed by plump black cherries, balsam and cassis flavors. The wine is full of spicy, tasty complexity. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35



93 Craggy Range 2022 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). A lucid lift of heady aromas, from blueberry and cherry to pressed rose petals and dried herbs, leads to an elegant palate. There's drive, balance and a crowd-pleasing factor that makes this modern, North Island Pinot an easy sip solo, but also capable of evolving over the next several years. *Kobrand. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



93 Davis Family 2022 Camino Don Miguel Vineyard Albariño (Russian River Valley). Vibrant green apple and Mandarin orange aromas grab your interest before tangy, refreshing citrus, apricot and apple flavors wake up the palate. Great balance comes from good acidity accompanied by a slightly rounded finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38



93 Director's Cut 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Comforting and plush in texture, this full-bodied wine is deep in dried cherries, dark plums and a touch of tangy cranberry. Warm oak spices like cinnamon, clove and cedar come up in the aroma and linger through the flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26



93 Fattoria La Violla 2018 Casal Duro (Toscana). The nose is a blend of sweet, bitter and slightly spicy aromas, which all continue onto the palate, where they encounter a wall of balancing earth tones reinforced by dusty, grippy tannins and ferocious acid pulling at the chain like a guard dog. Haw River Wine Man. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33



93 Finca la Celia 2019 Eugenio Bustos Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). This is well structured, with aromatic berries forming a delicate bouquet. Aged for 24 months, the resulting wine has integrated notes of wood spice and firm tannins. Red fruit is mixed with hints of rosemary on the mid-palate. It has a fine mineral texture and a vibrant character. Enjoy now–2033. VSPT Wine Group. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90



93 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Harmonious, well balanced, exciting in aroma and rich in flavor, this wine seems to have it all. Enticing aromas of winter spices, pine, cedar and black currants give way to layers of black cherries, subtle oak char, black pepper and mint on the palate. Fine-grained tannins set it up for further aging. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



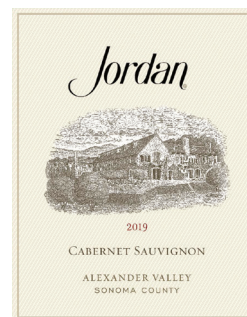
93 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Broad, rich and full of black fruits, this full-bodied and gently tannic wine sports black cherries, blueberries, black figs and cocoa layered on a creamy texture. Drinkable soon with a rich main course, this wine will be best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90



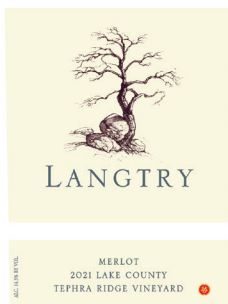
93 Force & Grace 2021 Revelist Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Impressively saturated and deep in black fruits, this firmly structured wine tastes superripe, offering dried plums and dried cherries accented by dark chocolate, mint and blueberries. It is mouthfilling, laced with fine tannins and quite full in body. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125



93 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Reserva (Alentejo). This vast estate, whose boundaries have remained unchanged for 750 years, has produced a rich while elegant wine, very much in its style. It is full of black fruits and concentrated, still young tannins. Wood aging gives the polish. Drink from 2026. Now Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



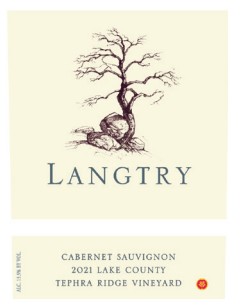
93 Jordan 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Excellent concentration and a classic flavor profile of black cherries, black olives and toasted oak give good reasons to buy and enjoy this Sonoma County icon. Firmly structured with fine-grained tannin, and equally generous in black fruits, the wine is well balanced and trim in body. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60



93 Langtry 2021 Tephra Ridge Vineyard Merlot (Lake County). This wine offers brooding fruit, dried spice, molasses, blackberry and boysenberry. It's super pretty, with mouthwatering tannins that invite you take another sip. With time, the wine will expand and grow. —T.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42



93 Langtry 2021 Tephra Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). This wine offers black and blue fruits, grilled orange and lemon, grilled peach, powdered spice and chewy tannins, with a dry finish. You'll find that patience is a virtue because this wine has lots of longevity. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45



93 Le Ragose 2020 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). This wine shows the beauty of the Ripasso style as aromas of fig and prune, reminiscent of Amarone, lift out of the glass. As the fruits duke it out, tobacco, espresso and wild herbs provide a nudge toward the more savory side of things. The palate pops with cherry and plum jam laced with anise, clove and savory herbs. The elegant palate finishes with well-structured tannins and vibrant acidity on the long finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28



93 Louis Latour 2020 Vignes Franches Premier Cru (Beaune). Black cherry, rhubarb, violets, black mushroom, terracotta and flint balance each other in the glass. Its bright acidity uplifts and highlights its black cherry profile and a fig note that stays long on the finish. Impressive and precise. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

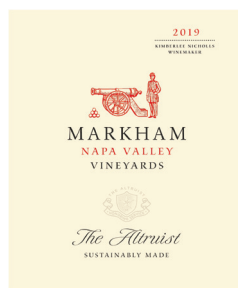
Price: \$125



93 Luigi Bosca 2020 Paraiso Red Blend (Mendoza). Winemaker Pablo Cúneo sources grapes from vineyards in the Uco Valley to make this juicy and bountiful blend of Malbec and Cabernet. The nose offers balanced aromas of strawberry jam and vanilla bean. Flavors of pomegranate, cherry, strawberry, and raspberry mixed with notes of oak spices and hints of linden leaf and rosemary. It has a soft mouthfeel and a long finish. Opici Wines. —J.V.

abv: 15%

Price: \$150



93 Markham 2019 The Altruist Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This classically structured, Merlot-dominant wine wraps velvety tannins around ample black currant, black cherry, mint and dark chocolate flavors. The wine is mouth-filling, vibrant, moderately spiced with oak and so tempting to drink. Best from 2025–2035. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 14.6%

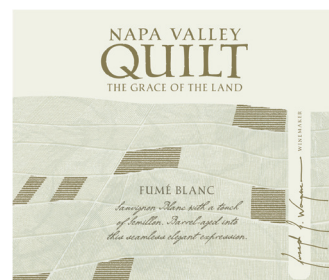
Price: \$29



93 Mattera Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Estate Viognier (Oak Knoll District). This smooth, broad and well-balanced wine is lush and full bodied, packed with Bartlett and Anjou pears but underlain with a crisp apple acidity. While delicious now, the barrel-fermented wine has the structure to age and improve through at least 2028. —J.G.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$34



93 Napa Valley Quilt 2022 The Grace Of The Land Fumé Blanc (Napa Valley). Kiwi and coconut aromas lead to generous vanilla and tropical fruit flavors in this medium-bodied, barrel-aged wine. It would have a strong presence as a pre-dinner drink or paired with seafood or poultry in rich sauces. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$35



93 Orin Swift 2021 Palermo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A luscious, dark-berry center is surrounded by plush tannins and a full body in this broad, rather tannic but soothing wine. Dark chocolate, cocoa and baked blueberries give a lot of mouthfilling satisfaction as you sip. —J.G.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$70



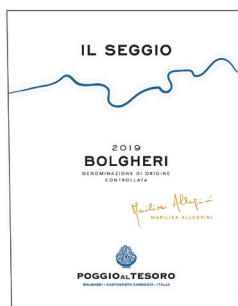
93 Patz & Hall 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This deep and delicious “regular” bottling from Patz & Hall is fragrant in black cherries, pine needles and ground cloves before blackberries, black tea and hints of cinnamon and cedar play across the palate. At once full bodied and well balanced, the wine offers abundant fruits and spices on a moderately tannic texture. Best through 2030. *Editors’ Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45



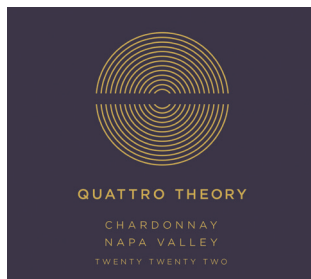
93 Paula Kornell 2020 Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley). Elegant and supple, this finely detailed wine offers lively citrus and raspberry aromas. Refreshing, light and creamy fruit and toast flavors are backed by subtle acidity. A sense of refinement is its hallmark. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50



93 Planeta 2022 Cometa (Menfi). A layered melon element defines the nose, with a lemon undercurrent highlighting the fruit’s subtle tartness, while a handful of raw hazelnuts in the background adds some weight. On the sophisticated, thoughtful palate, the flavors sweeten, but in a measured, admirable way. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA



93 Poggio al Tesoro 2019 Il Seggio (Bolgheri). The nose starts with slightly astringent fruit, then turns more savory with aromas of roasted red pepper, oven-dried tomatoes, soil, herbs and stone. The palate leans into the savory, spicy elements, while tannins provide structure without being too strict, like a good parent. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$53



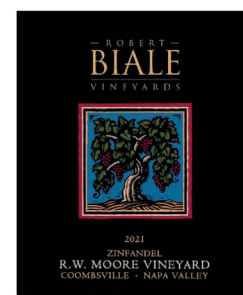
93 Quattro Theory 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Bright, fresh green apples in the nose and tangy, appetizing lemon zest and kiwis on the palate give this lively wine a palate-cleansing expression that will be fantastic for pairing with fish, shellfish and poultry. *Editors’ Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40



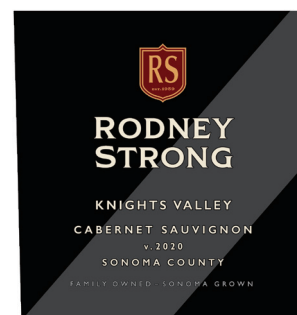
93 Red Bear 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). While as tannic as Cabernet should be, this wine is seamless and friendly. It carries almost-sweet blackberry, black cherry, cedar and graphite tones from the first whiff through a rich palate and lingering finish. Moderate tannins and a not-too-full body give it good balance. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$69



93 Resalte 2020 Lecco Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of black and red berries, olive tapenade and violet lead the way for flavors of black currant, blueberry pie, semisweet chocolate, lavender and fennel pollen. Tannins come on strong and don’t let up until a closing wave of acidity washes over the palate. MC Elite Wines Corp. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28



93 Robert Biale 2021 R.W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel (Coombsville). Broad, soft and plush, this rich and ripe wine from a vineyard planted in 1905 drips blackberries, blueberry syrup and plum-jam flavors. A full body and posh, fine-grained tannins give the mouthfeel good heft. The wine is packed with intense, almost-sweet fruits. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$65



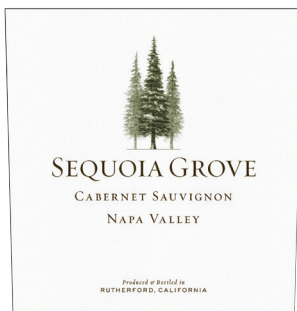
93 Rodney Strong 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Ultraconcentrated aromas of crème de cassis, black cherries and cedar give way to lively, deeply fruity flavors and a tasty array of oak spices from cloves to cinnamon and mint. Great depth and excellent balance will take it a long way. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40



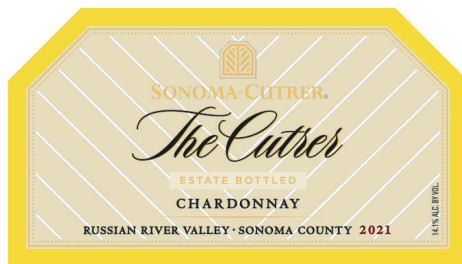
93 **Sea Bird 2019 Aphrodite Broken Rock Vineyard Merlot (Napa Valley).** Rich in flavor, full in body and broad in texture, this blackberry- and blueberry-drenched wine fills the mouth with lush fruit and oak-spice flavors that expand on the palate and linger on the finish. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39



93 **Sea Bird 2020 Broken Rock Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Black currants, cedar and mint aromas lead to chocolate, blackberries and black cherries on the palate of this elegant, well-balanced wine. Moderate to full tannins integrate nicely with the rich black fruits and oak spices. While the wine is full bodied and robust, it's also supple for a young Cabernet. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59



93 **Sequoia Grove 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This velvety, opulent wine is rich in baked cherry and blackberry aromas, with dark chocolate and crème de cassis flavors. Layers of fruit and oak spices fill the palate, shaped gently by fine-grained tannins. Best from 2026–2034. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55



93 **Sonoma-Cutrer 2021 The Cutrer Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Showing an abundance of oaky, buttery qualities, this full-bodied and rather thick-textured wine pours out pear syrup, vanilla, butterscotch and lemon meringue flavors that are delicious. An undercurrent of tangy acidity and touches of oak toast help to balance its richness. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36



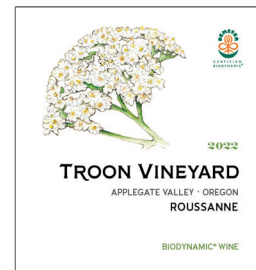
93 **T. Berkley Wines 2021 Big Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Oak Knoll District).** Very aromatic, showing violets, rose petals and pot-pourri, this wine is saturated with dark fruit flavors and rather generous tannins for a full, grippy mouthfeel. Floral, clove and black tea notes add welcome complexity. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



93 **Talley 2021 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast).** This is a brilliant appellation cuvée, starting with aromas of cinnamon, rosewater, red plum and strawberry on the nose. The palate lands with smooth, polished tannins, presenting creamy cherry sorbet, red flower and white pepper flavors, both juicy and restrained. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46



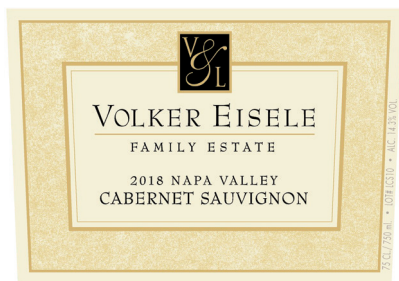
93 **Ten Acre 2021 Earl Stephens Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Vanilla and chocolate overtones give this full-bodied, softly textured wine an almost sweet impression before tasty black cherry and black currant flavors are well balanced by some sour-cherry acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70



93 **Troon 2022 Roussanne (Applegate Valley).** Acidity that causes hairs to stand upright makes this a pretty thrilling sipping experience. Fermented and aged in concrete tanks, this mineral-laden Roussanne hits first with aromas of toasted pumpkin seeds, earth, herbaceous daisies and green tea. Green apple, zesty lemon and yellow grapefruit flavors are as pure as the driven snow. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$45



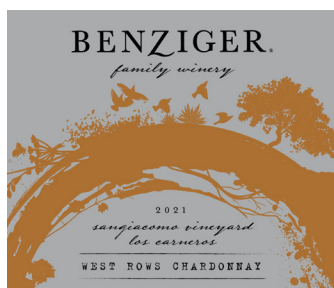
93 **Umani Ronchi 2022 Casal di Serra (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore).** This Verdicchio is a flower shop in a bottle with elegant aromas of mixed flowers, green herbs, lemon oil and white gravel. A wine that is as much of a feeling as it is tasty, with an amazing texture that hugs the palate with a pleasant pithy bitterness and sea-salty finish. Drink now–2035. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21



93 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Black pepper and road-tar aromas lead to potent, superripe blackberries and good, grippy tannins in this full-bodied, generous and concentrated wine made from organic grapes. It combines power with grace as the midpalate and finish lighten up and bring out mint, cloves and cedar nuances. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75



93 William Hill Estate 2020 Benchmark Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Deep, dark and chocolaty, this rich, full-bodied wine is jam-packed with blackberries, blueberries and milk chocolate, all wrapped in a thick blanket of soft tannins. Delicious and layered, the wine is tempting now, and perhaps best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$110



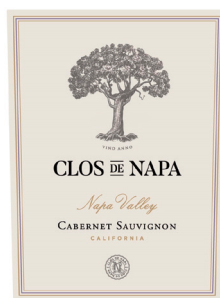
92 Benziger 2021 West Rows Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Los Carneros). While full and rich in texture, this wine, made from organic grapes, offers nimble acidity and complex, oak-spice and baked fruit aromas and flavors. Toast, butter, nutmeg and vanilla fill out the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37



92 Cantina Kurtatsch 2020 Brenntal Gewürztraminer Riserva (Alto Adige). Lime, kaffir leaf, rose and spiced prickly pear aromas slowly open from the glass. The weighted palate is oily with broad shoulders and an expansive array of exotic fruit and floral flavors that keep the synapses engaged for the extended finish. Vineyard Brands. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45



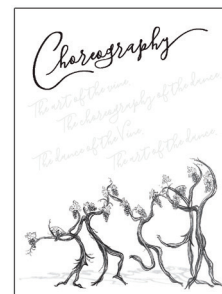
92 Carpineto 2019 Farnito Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The nose is both earthy, with aromas of tar, stone and soil, and warm, with notes of dried fruit and a splash of balsamic. The palate is powerfully saline but also preserves the earth tones, like a meadow atop a hill by the seaside. Acrobatic tannins wriggle through an ocean of acid. Opici Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40



92 Clos de Napa 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deep, dark cherries, blackberries and mint aromas draw you into this full-bodied but elegant wine before ripe, robust black fruits, pine and cocoa flavors carry the palate. It offers a velvety texture and a balance between mild acidity, moderate tannins and tasty ripeness. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55



92 Craggy Range 2021 Te Muna Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). Luscious berry aromas take the lead on this concentrated Pinot from one of New Zealand's best-known red producers. The florals, vanilla and toasty spice notes are just whispers for the moment. The silky palate is rich and primary, with layers of flavor that are still tightly packed in. Drink now with a decanter at hand or hold for another few years. Kobrand. —C.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$47



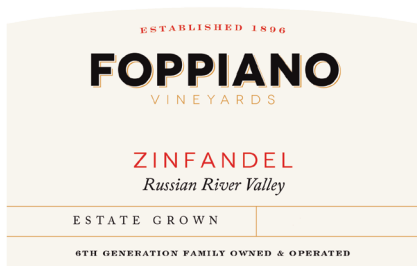
92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Choreography Red Blend (Livermore Valley). This opulent wine is concentrated with blackberries, blueberries, exotic florals, cloves, cardamom and cinnamon, interlaced with chocolate cream, malt chocolate and silky tannins. A great offering from a long time producer. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75



92 Exit West 2021 Estate Red Blend (Red Hills). This concentrated wine offers blackberry, olallieberry, huckleberry and blueberry compote with layers of intense florals, sandalwood, chocolate mint, Katamala olive, dried thyme and dried tomato leaf. The finish is lengthy and the tannins silky. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40



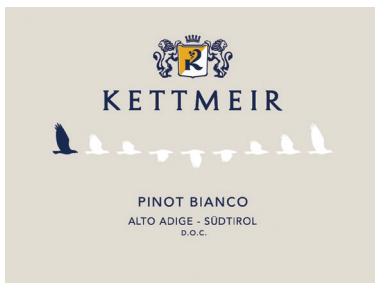
92 Firepit 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). This Darcie Kent offering completely over-delivers. It's super dense with black cherry cola, Spanish paprika, cooked red bell pepper and Himalayan sea salt. With silky tannins, it's the perfect wine with a great cut of ribeye. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



92 Foppiano 2021 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This vibrant, firmly structured wine is built for further aging, as the tangy acidity and firming tannins need time to resolve. Raspberries, red cherries and cranberries are lifted by nervy tannins for a racy version of Zinfandel. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30



92 J Vineyards & Winery 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley). Fragrant lemon blossom aromas lead to a smooth, fruity palate where Anjou pears, tangy apples and orange zest give plenty to savor. Nicely full in body but well balanced by acidity, the wine is versatile for lunch and great as a pre-dinner pour. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36



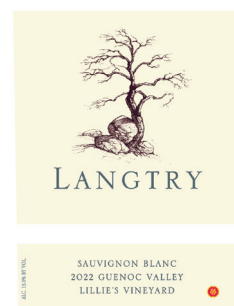
92 Kettmeir 2022 Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). This wine opens with aromas that roll out of a glass as the fog rolls across a mountain pass, subtle and misting notes of Golden Delicious apples, broom and fresh cream. Broad but with tension showing just-baked apples with skins topped with a touch of warm honey leading to a stony minerality. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



92 King Estate 2021 Domaine Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Remarkably light on its feet, the Domaine flashes elevated acidity and a heady aromatic combination of sweet blueberries and a juicy slice of roast beef. Dark raspberry and watermelon fruit flavors are joined by a savory note of sweet corn drizzled with butter. Try serving the Domaine with a nice cup of chili. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70



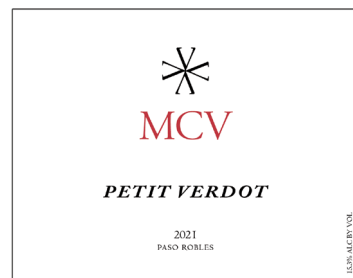
92 La Scolca 2017 Black Label Bianco Secco Limited Edition (Gavi). The limited edition series is aged in the La Scolca cellar to show how Cortese can age. This wine opens with aromas of wet stone, almond and roasted orange peel. The extended aging in steel tanks gives the wine more richness with a fine and firm minerality and bone-dry finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60



92 Langtry 2022 Lillie's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Guenoc Valley). This bottling has concentrated fruit, floral notes on the nose. Creamed corn, cantaloupe, honeydew and white peach create a juicy midpalate lifted by crushed mineral. Although the wine is super elegant, it's one to drink anytime, anywhere. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



92 Louis Latour 2020 (Mercurey). A powerful and concentrated nose of cherry skin and rhubarb meld into a layer of mushroom, violets, thyme and earth. The palate reflects similar notes that remain in balance by bright acidity which also provides levity in the midpalate and length to its savory finish. Enjoyable now. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



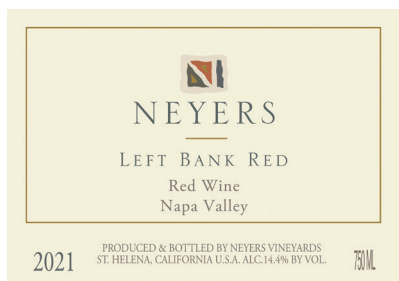
92 MCV 2021 Petit Verdot (Paso Robles). This classically dark variety shows a very inky face in this bottling, which conveys heavy aromas of bourbon-soaked blueberries, elderberry syrup and caramel-laced milk chocolate. The palate falls in line with strong stewed-fruit flavors and a minty kick of bittersweet chocolate, framed by firm tannins that slowly consume the sip. Drink 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$52



92 Michael David 2022 Chardonnay (Lodi). This bottling is sumptuous with baked Fuji apple, Asian pear, apricot, white nectarine and candied peach, woven together with allspice, nutmeg and candied orange. It has good acidity, making for a balanced wine with a silky finish. Enjoy with your favorite roast chicken dish. —T.P.

abv: 14%

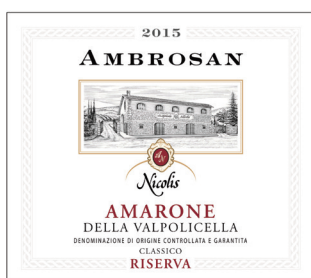
Price: \$24



92 Neyers 2021 Left Bank Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This sturdy, well-concentrated Merlot-based blend offers tempting black and blue fruits, velvety tannins and an almost sweet fruitiness that leads to a lingering finish. Notes of cocoa, vanilla and chocolate cherries give plenty to appreciate. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.4%

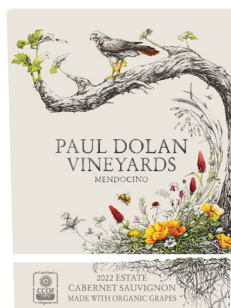
Price: \$55



92 Nicolis 2015 Ambrosan Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). This amped-up Amarone races out of the glass with plum compote, fig, coffee, tobacco and nutmeg aromas. Booming on the palate with dense cassis and black cherry flavors spiked with black pepper, wild thyme and violet candies, finishing with rounded tannins. Drink now–2035. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.

abv: 16%

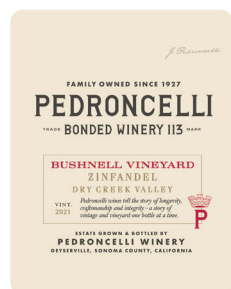
Price: \$130



92 Paul Dolan 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This bottling offers cherry, hoisin sauce, mulberry and caramelized brown sugar, accented by fresh bay leaf and rosemary. It's a classic Mendo Cabernet. Yes, there is such a thing. Especially for those in the know. —T.P.

abv: 13.5%

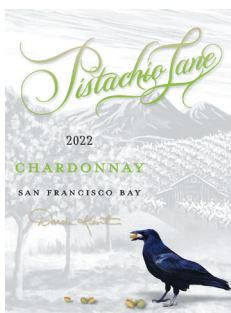
Price: \$30



92 Pedroncelli 2021 Bushnell Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Packed with tasty blackberries and raspberries, and nicely structured with moderate tannins, this full-bodied and bold 100% Zinfandel is a classic from one of Sonoma's oldest wine families. The ripe berries, subtle oak spices and good sense of concentration are easy to enjoy. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 15%

Price: \$45



92 Pistachio Lane 2022 Chardonnay (San Francisco Bay). This wine is classic California Chardonnay, suggesting orchard trees kissed by the sun, fog and cool ocean breezes. It's a mouthwatering wine, but the complexity calls for hearty proteins. —T.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$21



92 Plaimont 2020 Le Faite (Saint Mont). This limited edition Le Faite was chosen by global wine pros tasting five potential blends at the winery in February 2021. The result is a wood-aged blend of Gros Manseng and the rare local Petit Courbu. It is still very young with wood flavors masking the fruit. Expect the wine to develop slowly into balance. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50



92 Planeta 2022 (Vittoria Frappato). Hibiscus tea, freeze-dried strawberry, wild cherries, warm bricks and candied orange peel on the nose meet a subtle earthiness. On the palate, a squeeze of orange and a sprinkle of salt underscore both the sweetness and the astringency of the fruit, while tannins and acid sit back and relax. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

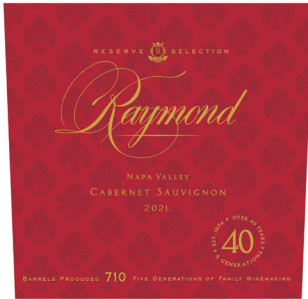
Price: \$NA



92 Precision Wine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Opulence, ripeness and lushness come together nicely in this soothing, concentrated, soft wine from the inky-dark color through mint and dark chocolate aromas to baked blueberry and cocoa flavors. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25



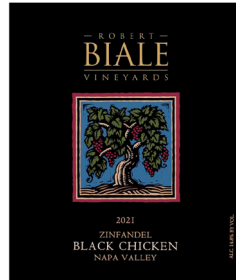
92 Raymond 2021 Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Showing lots of cocoa, brown sugar and espresso in the aroma, this full-bodied wine oozes maple syrup and black cherries over a chalky, tannic texture that smooths out with more sipping. The concentration of black fruits is impressive. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



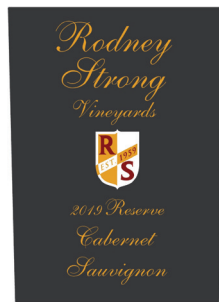
92 Raymond 2021 Reserve Selection Merlot (Napa Valley). Excellent depth, concentrated fruit flavors and a snug wrapping of tannins set this wine up nicely for further improvement with age. A vibrant texture and subtle oak spices in the flavor add to its appeal. Additions of Petite Sirah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec totaling 15% enhance complexity and structure. Best from 2026–2033. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



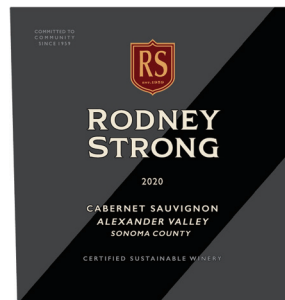
92 Reino de la Viña 2018 Reserva (Rioja). Deep cherry red to the eye, this wine proffers a bouquet of cassis, coffee bean and clove. A nice note of butterscotch underlies flavors of blackberry, cassis, mocha, mint and lavender. Opulent tannins slowly build in volume and then drop away to reveal a bright, fruit-filled finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42



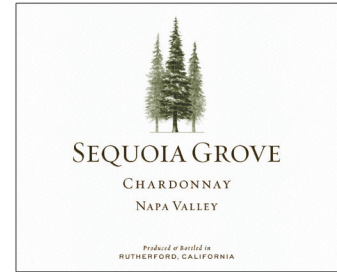
92 Robert Biale 2021 Black Chicken Zinfandel (Napa Valley). A touch of maple sweetness tops boisterous, bright fruit flavors in this full-bodied, smooth and lightly tannic wine from one of Napa's few Zinfandel specialists. Raspberries, strawberries and vanilla taste rich and relaxed as you sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55



92 Rodney Strong 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Quietly powerful, quite oaky and structured for aging, this full-bodied wine wraps firm tannins around delicious red and black fruits and subtle oak accents. It feels tight at this stage yet has the components to develop more complexity and breadth of texture in time. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



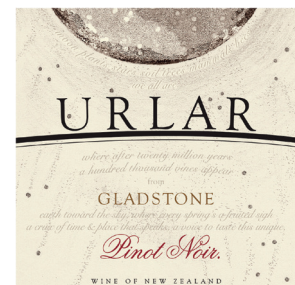
92 Rodney Strong 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Strength comes with finesse in this beautifully molded wine that wraps silky tannins around nicely ripe black cherries, blackberries and mint. The feel is lush yet balanced, and the wine is drinkable now, but better from 2025–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



92 Sequoia Grove 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This warm, broad and easygoing wine pillows subtle poached pears, butter and oak-spice flavors on a soft texture and full body. The wine is very smooth, almost sweet, and delicious. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38



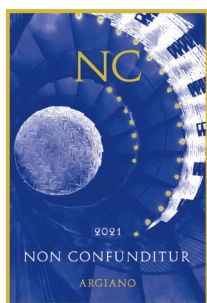
92 Sonoma-Cutrer 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This silky, creamy wine offers subtle layers of vanilla, white peaches and baked apples in the aroma, followed by lush, honeyed peaches and pineapple slices on the palate. Although full bodied, the wine's texture is elegant and light. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25



92 Urlar 2021 Gladstone Pinot Noir (Wairarapa). Martinborough may be the better known subregion of Wairarapa, but Gladstone delivers in quality, too, especially in the hands of talented winemaker Jannine Rickards. This currently offers oodles of primary fruit (think plump blueberries and stewed cherries), with florals, spice and a touch of vanillin oak. The midweight palate is plush with gently spicy, fine tannins supporting it. Still a youngster, this could age well until 2031. Riboli Family Wine Estates. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50



92 Wairau River 2022 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Like the turn of a pepper grinder, this is full of fresh white pepper aromas, laced with pomegranate, red berry and anise, with a cool stone nuance. The palate is vibrant and fresh with a tug of savory tannins and lovely tangy red berries. There's a lightness here that provides ease, and a quiet power that adds complexity, all at an affordable price. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28



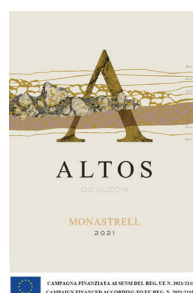
91 Argiano 2021 Non Confunditur (Toscana). The nose is simultaneously earthy and sweet, with notes of cherries, chocolate, tree bark and underbrush. That cherry-chocolate sweetness takes center stage on the palate, before tannins clear through them to resuscitate the earth tones. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



91 Banfi 2020 Aska (Bolgheri). The nose is earthy, vegetal and stony, with undercurrents of both sweetness and spice becoming more powerful with time. The earthiness persists on the palate, but takes a backseat to an emergent, tart florality. Waves of acid wash against austere tannins. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



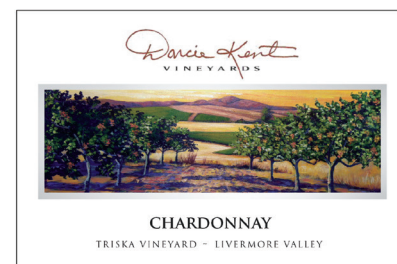
91 Banfi 2022 Stil Novo (Toscana). The nose is defined by dried cherries, blackberries and boysenberries, but earthy, slightly bitter notes of soil, herbs and coffee provide warmth and depth. That balance of tart fruit and earthiness continues onto the palate, before a round, tannic finish where acid bubbles around slabs of dark chocolate. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



91 Bodegas Luzón 2021 Altos de Luzón Monastrell (Jumilla). This deep violet-colored wine has a nose of cassis, blackberry and tar. Black-cherry, raspberry, cocoa-powder and caramel flavors are wrapped in velvety tannins that sail into a lengthy, orange-zest-infused finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22



91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Crown Block Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley). This bottling is bright, lively and generous on the nose and palate. The Petit Verdot varietal can sometimes be super dense; this wine offers suppleness and softness on the midpalate. Red fruits, florals and savory nuances work perfectly together. Aerate for an hour and drink until 2030. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50



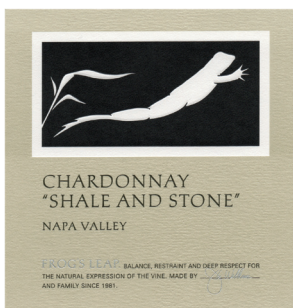
91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 Triska Vineyard Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This wine is bright, crisp and lively. Concentrated Fuji apple, Golden Delicious apple, white nectarine, apricot and orange zest weave into vanilla spice, cinnamon, allspice, dried sage and creamy orange sherbet. This wine shows the best of both worlds, produced in stainless steel and neutral barrel. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35



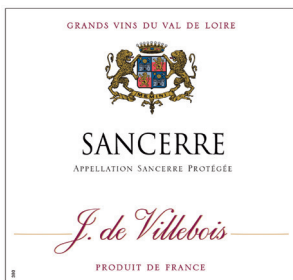
91 Efeste 2020 Upright Estate Merlot (Red Mountain). I thoroughly enjoyed how this Merlot reminded me of summers spent hiking with my family in Central Oregon. Freshly picked Himalayan blackberries and juniper aromas meld seamlessly with the sweet floral scent of high desert wildflowers. Flavors of sweet blueberries and pork fat cruise along a slick, smooth texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



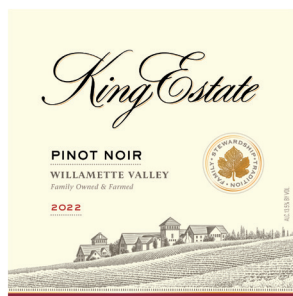
91 Firepit 2021 Pinot Noir (San Francisco Bay). This bottling offers notes of cream soda, summer berry pudding and black cherry. Concentrated freshness in the midpalate plus lingering spice and French vanilla touches make it a great pairing with rich foods. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24



91 Frog's Leap 2021 Shale and Stone Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Aromas of cream, vanilla and apple pie lead to rich fruit and pastry spices on the palate, continuing in baked apples, cinnamon and butter. This soft, mouthfilling, almost sweet wine is big on ripeness but not too full bodied. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42



91 J. de Villebois 2022 (Sancerre). This is a Sancerre for Pinot Noir lovers. The wine opens with bruised red cherry and fresh red raspberry on the nose. The Sancerre is lively with a vibrant acid streak, crushed stones and strawberry that play well together on the palate. Vineyard Brands. *Hidden Gem.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35



91 King Estate 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aged for 10 months in French oak of an undisclosed age, this medium-bodied Pinot Noir feels round and smooth in the mouth, with ample tannins supporting gobs of dark raspberry and sweet mulberry fruit flavors. The wine's aromatics are a wall of dark fruit accented by chalk and orange pekoe tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



91 Les Alliés 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). Beautifully gold in color, this wine opens with mature fruit including ripe Bosc pear, golden apple, white peach, orange marmalade and brioche. The wine is creamy in texture but maintains the vibrancy of the underlying primary fruit. Drink now—2028. Tri-Vin Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



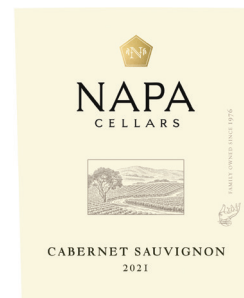
91 Matchbook 2021 The Arsonist Chardonnay (Dunnigan Hills). This wine bursts with baked apple pie, dried apricot and baked pastry crust, woven together with caramel, cardamom, cinnamon, white nectarine, white flowers, white tea, Meyer lemon zest and crème fraîche. Acidity intertwines throughout the wine and the finish is bone dry. Pair with veal saltimbocca or cassoulet. —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22



91 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Shinkan Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This fruity, lightly oaked wine lets concentrated, sunny flavors like Bartlett pears, golden apples and hints of butter wake up the taste buds. An enlivening touch of green-apple crispness keeps it fresh tasting. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27



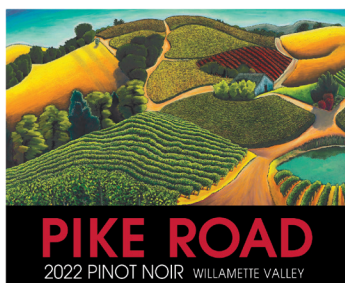
91 Michael David 2021 Earthquake Zinfandel (Lodi). This wine smolders with concentrated blackberries, blueberries and huckleberries that intermingle with orange zest, cinnamon sugar, cardamom and pomegranate. These give way to bittersweet chocolate, black coffee and silky tannins. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2028. —T.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$26



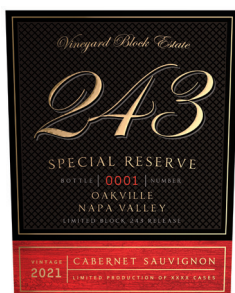
91 Napa Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). This bold, full-bodied wine wraps firm tannins around ample black cherry and black berry flavors, giving it a mouthfilling and tooth-drying texture at this stage. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34



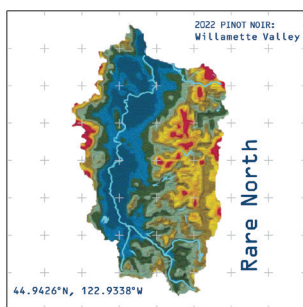
91 Neal Family 2021 Rutherford Dust Vineyard Vermentino (Rutherford). This savory, subtle wine was made from organic grapes that fermented in stainless steel tanks and aged in mostly neutral French barrels. It is scented with green apples and fresh hay, then wraps a rich texture around tempting honeydew melon flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



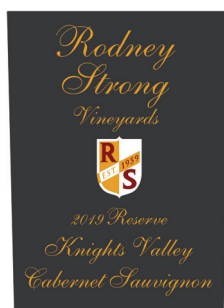
91 Pike Road 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This 100% stainless steel-fermented Pinot Noir is as fresh and crisp as snow melt flooding a mountain stream. Prickly boysenberry and smoked salmon aromas blend into flavors like raspberry lemonade laced with black tea. Citrusy acidity meets silky tannins on Pike Road. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



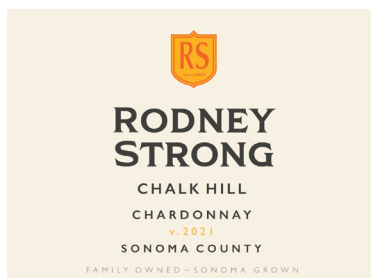
91 Precision Wine 2021 Vineyard Block Estate 243 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Creamy in texture despite its obvious power, this mouthcoating wine oozes blackberry jam, blueberry cobbler and singed cedar flavors on a huge but velvety mouthfeel. Drinkable now with a beefy, fatty entrée but best from 2027. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30



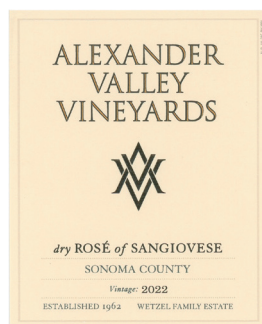
91 Rare North 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Brambly red raspberry, watermelon and sweet clover aromas give the impression of a meadow picnic. Marionberries meld with tangy citrus and rhubarb flavors, with a touch of an herbal tea note in the background. This is a rejuvenating tonic, with a crisp texture, elevated acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29



91 Rodney Strong 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). This broad, generous wine is filled with dark fruit aromas, subtle spices and dried-fruit flavors wrapped in a smooth texture of rather soft tannins. A good choice to drink sooner than later. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



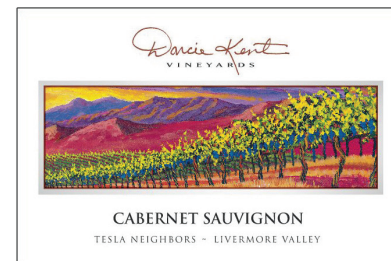
91 Rodney Strong 2021 Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). This big, plush wine is rich in baked apple, vanilla and cream flavors on a viscous texture. It boasts a full body, lavish oak and butter notes, and a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



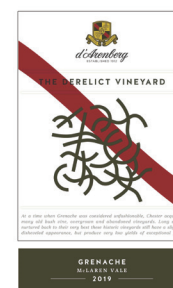
90 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2022 Wetzel Family Estate dry Rosé of Sangiovese (Sonoma County). Fresh strawberry and raspberry aromas grab the attention before nervy, tangy and refreshing red cherry and sour cherry notes pop on the palate. This light-pink tinted wine is a lively, appetizing pour, and isn't that what you want in a rosé? *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22



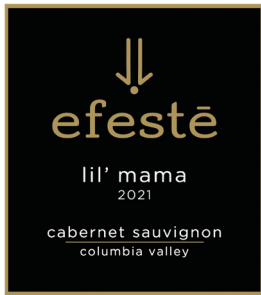
90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Stone Patch Cabernet Franc (San Francisco Bay). This wine offers opulent, concentrated and supple fruit reminiscent of confitured black cherry, black currant and red plums. These interweave with dried spices, dried chicory, chocolate and espresso bean on the way to a long, dry finish. Great with chicken tacos or a holiday meal. —T.P.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50



90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Tesla Neighbors Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This opulent wine offers concentrated black berry, blueberry, black currant and orange zest along with huckleberry compote, olallieberry, cigar and espresso. A mouthwatering and juicy finish brings everything together for a structured wine. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



90 D'Arenberg 2019 The Derelict Vineyard Grenache (McLaren Vale). Though the wine is starting to show a little bottle age, there's still plenty of varietal fruit in the form of cherry and strawberry cordial, with some toasted coconut, spice and violet notes below. Tannins are still prominent and texturally interesting, chiseled and raspy. The juicy fruit is still at the fore. Drink now–2026. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29



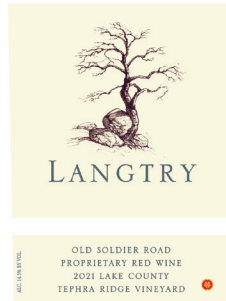
90 Efestē 2021 Lil Mama Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Blackberry and blueberry aromas collide with a leather note that conjures memories of the 1980s and Dr. Martens boots. Rich boysenberry pie and dried cherry flavors are counterpointed by balsa wood and tart orange pith notes. Pair this fruity punk with burgers and anything recorded by Mudhoney. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



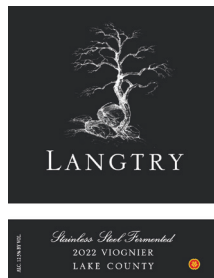
90 Force & Grace 2022 Chardonnay (Carneros). Vivid, ripe apple and pear flavors and good acidity give this wine a frank, fruity expression and a palate-cleansing texture. The wine is straightforward, full bodied and friendly enough to please a crowd. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$33



90 J Vineyards & Winery 2022 Pinot Gris (California). Along with honey, lemon and tangerine, this mineral-driven wine interweaves jasmine, vanilla, buttered toast, green apple, yellow plum and pineapple into each sip. The acidity creates the bridge to all the complexity in the glass. It's great as a sipper or paired with light fare. —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$21



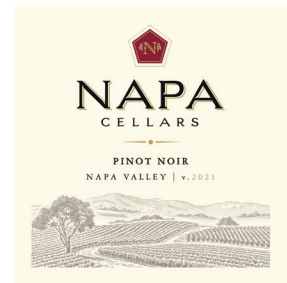
90 Langtry 2021 Old Soldier Road Tephra Ridge Vineyard Red Blend (Lake County). This bottling offers red plum, Bing cherry and Rainer cherry, black tea and florals woven into brown sugar, dark coffee and black licorice, with silky tannins. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2028. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



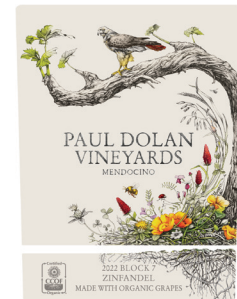
90 Langtry 2022 Viognier (Lake County). This wine is crisp, bright and aromatic with unripe white peach, white nectarine, green papaya and white grapefruit. These come together with white pepper, kaffir lime cream, orange blossom water and cinnamon spice. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32



90 Michael David 2021 Earthquake Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This bottling is concentrated with mixed berries, allspice and citrus zest. These interweave with florals, simmering spices, chicory, molten chocolate and fresh brewed coffee. Tannins are silky. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2028. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26



90 Napa Cellars 2021 Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). Deep in color and deep in black-fruit aromas, this robust wine wraps grippy tannins around blackberries, black cherries, black pepper and black tea on the palate. It is built to pair with rich meat and poultry entrées. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25



90 Paul Dolan 2022 Block 7 Zinfandel (Mendocino). This wine offers youthful fruit. Cranberry-pomegranate, Red Vines candy and all-spice interweave with nutmeg. For pairings, think sweet-sour dishes of the world, like Five Spice pork loin. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25



90 Darcie Kent Pistachio Lane 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (San Francisco Bay). This wine is clean and bright. Green apple, kiwi, pineapple and lemon zest interweave with banana peppers, Key lime pie, white tea and orange zest. It finishes dry, with mouthwatering acidity. An easy-drinking wine to pair with weekday fare. —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$21



90 **The Vice 2020 99 Vices Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** This luscious, rich-tasting wine pours chocolate cherries, vanilla and maple flavors over the palate while velvety tannins make it approachable to drink soon. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$98



90 **The Vice 2019 Tee Time Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** Pick up a bottle or two of this medium-bodied wine for this weekend's lamb chops. Easy and sleek in texture, it is light on tannins and generous with black cherries and raspberries. It doesn't need further aging but will hang in there through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$88



90 **William Hill Estate 2020 Winemaker's Series The Notch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Dark and jammy in flavor, this big wine is also nice and dry. It wraps sandy tannins around blackberries, blueberries and vanilla that are rich enough to round off those tannins for a rather soft mouthfeel. Best now–2027. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$75



89 **Kirkland 2021 Kirkland Signature (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Rich and aromatic, this full-bodied wine has a dense, ripe texture. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, it is generous and will be ready from later this year. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$7

BEST BUYS



93 **Umani Ronchi 2022 Villa Bianchi (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico).** The wine starts with a whisper of fragrant herbs, salted lemons and crushed seashells asking you to be patient and watch the wine evolve. Mouthwatering on the palate with medium body, loads of texture gives the wine weight but it is lifted by the crisp acidity and citrus flavors that bound across the palate. Finishing with fragrant orange blossoms and salty minerality. Calamari is calling this wine. Drink now–2035. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14



92 **Cline 2021 Cashmere Red Blend (California).** This super-smooth blend holds SMG. It's full bodied, offering blackberry–strawberry jam, Red Vine licorice, dried nutmeg, cinnamon bun, sweet cigar and molten chocolate, with a dry, mouthwatering finish. It feels like cashmere on the palate. It's a perfect pairing for mole. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS



92 **Kirkland Signature 2021 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Pure blueberry and blackberry aromas lead to a richly layered palate of baked blueberries, semisweet chocolate, graphite and tobacco nuances. Lavishly tannic, the effect is soothing and velvety, not harsh. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19



92 **Precision Wine 2022 Navigator Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Accents of dried thyme and white pepper enhance the aroma of this well-built, moderately tannic wine, while focused raspberries and red cherries drive the flavors. It's a hearty wine, well balanced for food pairing and complex enough to keep you coming back for more sips. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



92 **Viña Palaciega 2017 Reserva (Rioja).** Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of raspberry and cassis, with a touch of milk chocolate. It is full textured and has muscular tannins and blackberry, pomegranate, licorice and mocha flavors that coalesce in a shimmering, fruit-filled finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS

CRŪ
WINERY

ALBARIÑO
SAN LUIS OBISPO
COAST
2022



91 CRU 2022 Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast). A mix of serrano, nectarine and lime peel aromas converge on the zesty nose of this bottling. The palate is brisk and zippy with caviar, lime and wet cement flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20



91 D'Arenberg 2021 The Stump Jump Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). Lucid aromas of mint, thyme, green peppercorn and pencil shavings are layered onto a core of plump cherry and raspberry fruit. Granular, hulking tannins cinch the tongue, but they leave ample space for the juicy red berry fruit on this unmistakably Aussie Cab. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

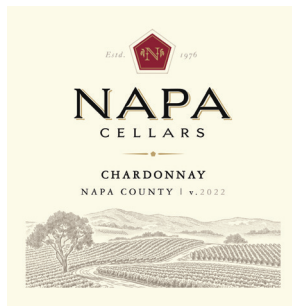


91 Moss Roxx 2021 Reserve Zinfandel (Lodi). This bottling is dark, dense and concentrated with jammy fruits interwoven with red plum, raspberry, and strawberry-rhubarb. Spice and lime zest pull everything together, rounding up with juicy fruit and silky tannins. This is a great start to a cold night or smoked meats anytime. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS

NAPA
CELLARS

CHARDONNAY
NAPA COUNTY | v. 2022



91 Napa Cellars 2022 Chardonnay (Napa County). This well-concentrated, luxuriously textured wine offers ample poached pears, melted butter and vanilla notes that taste almost sweet. The wine lingers on the finish like a Danish pastry. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



91 Nielson 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). This bottling, formerly from a historic site in Santa Barbara County but now 75% from Monterey County, brings a lot to the table for a favorable price. Aromas of citrus sorbet and wet stone lead from the nose into a palate offering brisk apple, more citrus and high acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16



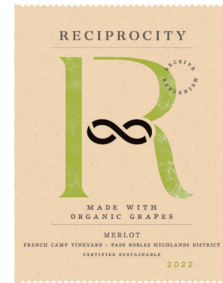
91 Old Soul 2021 Petite Sirah (Lodi). This bottling is concentrated with bramble fruit woven into violets, sweet cigar and dried tobacco leaf. The core is juicy and mouthwatering with silky tannins and a long finish. This one feels like it needs a roaring fire and deep conversation or a great burger to elevate even more. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS

RECIPROCITY

MADE WITH
ORGANIC GRAPES

MERLOT
FRENCH CAMP VINEYARD - PASO ROBLES HIGHLANDS DISTRICT
CERTIFIED ORGANIC
2022



91 Reciprocity 2022 French Camp Vineyard Merlot (Paso Robles Highlands District). Made from organic grapes grown on a historic vineyard in a remote region of southeastern Paso Robles, this is an accessible and pleasing style of Merlot. It opens with fresh strawberry, star anise and oregano aromas. The palate combines cherry, oak and light pepper flavors atop a decently structured frame. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18



90 Banfi 2021 Col Di Sasso Cabernet Sauvignon Sangiovese (Toscana). The nose starts salty and umami, then turns peppery, then finally finishes with the sweetness of black cherries and blackberries. On the palate, the fruit elements flourish, while the sweet and sour of balsamic vinegar and resurgent pepper on the finish maintain the complexity. Acid glitters around supple tannins. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12



90 Cline 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This wine is zesty, crisp and bright with green apple, pear, white grapefruit and white nectarine. The midpalate brings lime zest, green papaya, florals, jalapeño, a burst of blood-orange juice and racy acidity to finish. This will be a brunch favorite. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS



90 D'Arenberg 2021 The Stump Jump White Blend (Adelaide). There's lots happening on this aromatic, crowd-pleasing white blend. Aromas of lamp oil and flint fill the senses first, followed by apricot kernel, waxy lemon and a hint of ground ginger. The palate is slightly waxy in texture, which plays nicely with tongue-tingling acidity. A lemon zest flavor lingers on the finish. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14



90 Duck Pond 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). In need of a great white wine value? Then try a glass of Duck Pond's Chardonnay. You will be treated to yellow apple and lemon cake aromas that are spiced up by a bit of guava and wet pavement. The flavors are a tropical sea breeze featuring grapefruit and Marcona almonds. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Fattoria La Violla 2019 Torbolone (Toscana). The earthy, umami nose is a camping trip, full of aromas of coffee, leather, earth and peppery grilled meat, with a pleasing tartness coming from a blackberry undertone. That tart fruit element headlines the palate, but dense tannins and a warm finish preserve the peppery, meaty note. Haw River Wine Man. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



90 Gratien et Meyer NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Loire). Salmon in color, this wine has a nose of red-cherry skin, bruised red-apple slice, orange citrus and dried white blossom. On the palate, this rosé Crémant is supple in texture with mature acidity that is comfortable riding below the fruit structure. This is a delightful sparkling wine that could be served with all courses of a meal including dessert. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18



90 Gratien et Meyer NV Brut (Crémant de Loire). This is a fulsome Crémant de Loire that has a lot to offer. The sparkling wine opens with baked apple and pear, and a tinge of caramel and white peach. The palate mirrors the nose along with a splash of white cola, lemon-citrus peel and orange blossom. Freixenet Mionetto USA. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18



90 Kirkland Signature 2020 Estate Bottled & Cellared (Toscana). The nose starts heavy, earthy and a tiny bit metallic, then pivots toward aromas of currants and cranberries. The fruit stays sweet and tart on the palate, but a touch of salt and pepper bolsters the enduring earthiness to create a fresh, lively wine that is an indisputable home run at this price point. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

BEST BUYS



90 Le Ragose 2021 (Valpolicella Classico). Fresh cherry aromas combine with turned earth, herbs and tobacco on this old-school styled Valpolicella. Notes of coffee and bitter chocolate meet with crushed cranberry notes on the palate with a savory finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

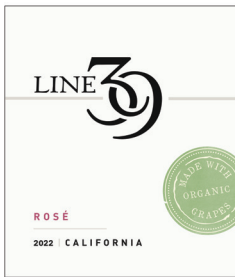


90 Lillie 2022 Feather Boa Pinot Grigio (California). This wine is fresh and zesty with kaffir lime, blood orange, pink grapefruit and Charentais melon. These come together with savory notes of dried herbs, white tea, white flowers, lime meringue, jalapeño and honeyed lemon, leading to a dry finish. This bottling uses top selections from throughout California to produce an outstanding wine. Enjoy with crab Louie, a seafood tower or a lobster roll. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15



90 Lillie 2022 Feather Boa Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This wine is bright, lively and supple. Key lime, green apple, white peach, white flowers, pink grapefruit, fresh ginger, orange blossom water, dried herbs and lemon balm come together to produce a medium-bodied wine. This one can be paired throughout the meal. Enjoy with your favorite fish, poultry and veggie dishes. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

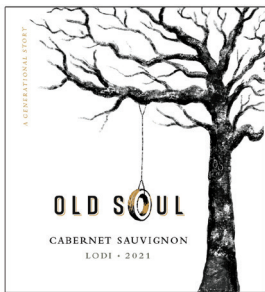
BEST BUYS



90 Line 39 2022 Rosé (California). This wine is warm-weather goodness in a bottle. It's super lush, offering red currant, strawberry, raspberry and basil. These interweave with crème fraîche, dried herbs, watermelon and pink grapefruit. The wine is juicy, with a dry finish. Made with organic grapes and vegan friendly. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

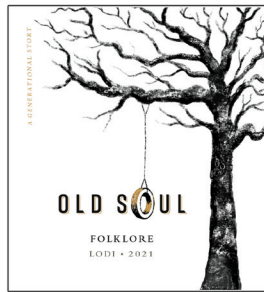


90 Motif 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). This wine conveys boysenberry jam, black-cherry cream soda, espresso, Himalyan salt and dark chocolate, with sweet tannins. Grab some for anytime you want a big, bold CS but at a lower price point. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

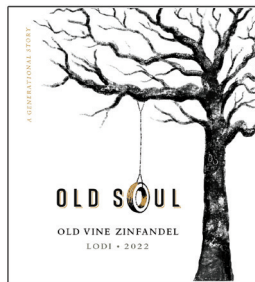


90 Old Soul 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This bottling is fresh and lively, offering concentrated red currant, raspberry, strawberry-pomegranate and dried herbs. Florals, lemon and orange zest in the midpalate create lift, shifting into chicory, Red Vine licorice, earth, mineral and silky tannins. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS



90 Old Soul 2021 Folklore Red Blend (Lodi). This bottling is opulent, with concentrated red and black fruit, blackberry preserves and tobacco leaf. It's juicy midpalate, with orange zest and chewy tannins creating an attractive blend to pair with your weeknight favorites. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16



90 Old Soul 2022 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This fresh wine is filled with crunchy red currant, raspberry and underripe strawberry that come together with orange marmalade, cardamom, cinnamon, vanilla bean and cranberry-pomegranate. It finishes dry. Enjoy with pork chops, duck and your favorite dessert. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16



90 Parducci 2022 Small Lot Merlot (Mendocino County). This bottling is both fresh and concentrated, offering red plum, brandied black cherry, strawberry-rhubarb medley, dark raspberry, orange zest, dried herbs and bittersweet chocolate shavings. It has a juicy core and silky tannins. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

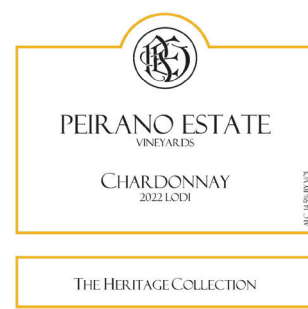
BEST BUYS



90 Parducci 2022 Small Lot Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). Sassy and classy, this bottling is reminiscent of your breakfast berry bowl, with Greek yogurt, bunches of fresh fruit, grated lemon zest, fresh mint and the morning fog. Enjoy with your favorite grilled protein. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18



90 Peirano 2022 Heritage Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This bottling is bright and juicy, with concentrated red fruit on the nose. These notes repeat on the palate intertwined with citrus, potpourri, cracked black peppercorns, vanilla beans, cinnamon spice and chicory. Silky tannins mark the finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$14



90 Peirano 2022 Heritage Collection Chardonnay (Lodi). This wine is supple, lush with baked Bosc pear, baked Fuji apple and baked pastry dough. These intertwine with orange zest, pink grapefruit, white flowers, allspice, vanilla crème fraîche and silky tannins. Enjoy with sautéed fish or pork loin. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

BEST BUYS



90 Shortbread Wine Co. 2022 Buttery Chardonnay (California). This wine has great weight and balance. It is nuanced with baked Golden Delicious apple, honeyed peach and pineapple, all wrapped around Meyer lemon and holiday cooking spices, with a lengthy finish. This one speaks to a lot of flavorful dishes from around the globe. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$17



90 Spinelli 2022 Estate Bottled Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). The nose is a playful mix of lemon candy, saltwater taffy, herbs and stones. The nose is fresh and salty, but in a refreshing, flavorful way, with resurgent lemon and developing white tea notes providing just enough balance. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10



90 Submission 2021 Chardonnay (California). This wine calls to quintessential buttery Chardonnay lovers, offering ripe apple, juicy pear, crème brûlée and just the right amount of oak. It is named appropriately. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

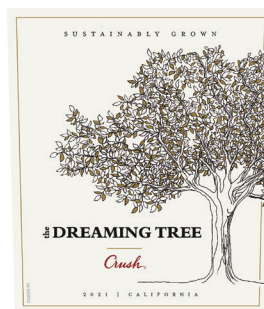
BEST BUYS



90 Submission 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This wine offers strawberry, cranapple, raspberry-red currant compote and pomegrante, alongside basil, dried flowers and cream soda. It has a super-long finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Terra d'Aligi 2022 Zite Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). The nose blends nuanced fruit aromas of peaches, apricots and lemons with pleasing, rich savory undertones of almonds, herbs and butter. The peaches, lemons and almonds continue on the palate, but a blaze of acid cuts through that decadence to provide a bolt of energy. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15



90 The Dreaming Tree 2021 Crush Red Blend (California). This wine offers pink peppercorn, chocolate-covered Maraschino cherry, blackberry, brandied blueberry, orange marmalade, Kalamata olive, grilled rosemary and mocha latte. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

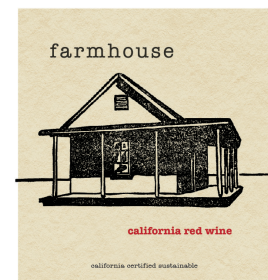
BEST BUYS



90 Valdeorite NV Brut (Cava). Medium straw to the eye and with a persistent stream of bubbles, this wine has a nose of lemon, Bartlett pear and jasmine. Vivid lemon, clementine and green-apple flavors (with a touch of toasted almond on the finish) make for a nice pour. Ventura Selections LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

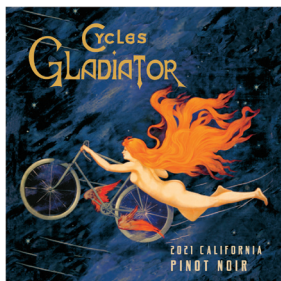


89 Carpineto 2021 Dogajolo Rosso (Toscana). The nose balances sharp, metallic aromas of graphite and lead with a cherry sweetness, while pepper crackles above it all. The cherries star on the palate, but a bitter orange note underscores a lingering metallic tang, before rustic tannins clear out the mouth while acid sings in the background. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

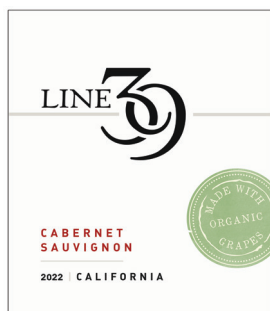


89 Cline 2021 Farmhouse Red Blend (California). A Zin-lovers dream bringing together traditional and new styles, this wine offers boysenberry, blueberry, brandied cherry, Szechuan peppercorn and allspice. It calls out for St. Louis barbecue. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

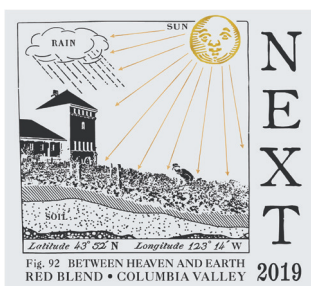
BEST BUYS



89 Cycles Gladiator 2021 Pinot Noir (California). When you think of “cool climate” wine, this has what comes to mind. It offers tart red plum, red-skinned apple, portobello mushroom, fresh bay leaf and rosemary. The wine makes you want to eat light fare, such as soft-rind cheese and cured meats. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13



89 Line 39 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Made from organic grapes, this wine has a core of concentrated blackberry, black currant, black cherry, tobacco, dried bay leaf, fresh pine needle and fresh oregano. The finish is persistent. Enjoy with your favorite burger. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15



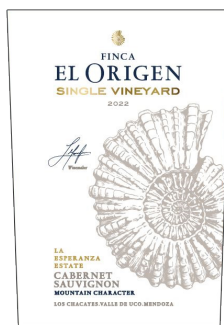
89 Next 2019 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Merlot and Syrah drive this blend that features dark plum, leather, licorice and seared steak aromas. Aging for 10 months in French and American oak, 20% new, provided a healthy dose of cedar flavor. Black cherry and black coffee flavors zip along a silky texture. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



VERDICCHIO DI MATELICA
DENOMINAZIONE DI ORIGINE CONTROLLATA

89 Riva De La Rosa 2022 (Verdicchio di Matelica). Mandarin orange, Meyer lemon and yellow flower aromas open the nose of this fresh white wine. The palate is defined by more citrus pith notes, almonds and pressed white flowers followed by a seashell minerality. Riboli Family Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19



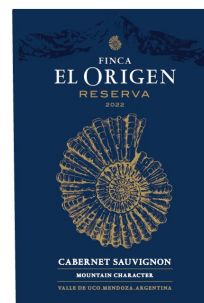
88 Finca El Origen 2022 Single Vineyard La Esperanza Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Dried herbs on the nose are a bit intense and lead to a palate with bell pepper, grass, ripe red berry and prune flavors. This Cabernet features good acidity and gentle tannins. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$18



VERMENTINO
 TOSCANA
INDICAZIONE GEOGRAFICA TIPICA

88 Riva De La Rosa 2022 Vermentino (Toscana). The savory nose features aromas of spices, herbs, lemon and salted almonds, while the palate starts off citrusy and then turns richer with flavors of yellow and green apples, but an almost tannic astringency preserves a feeling of depth and austerity. Riboli Family Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

BEST BUYS



87 Finca El Origen 2022 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). The bouquet of this easy-sipping wine shows herbaceous aromas. Earthy and medium bodied, the palate offers black fruit that lingers in the medium grassy finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

97 Alpha Omega 2021 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Ultrasmooth and densely flavorful, this full-bodied, big but balanced wine opens with spiced apples, toast and butter impressions. The wine then glides across the palate with a mouthfilling, nicely viscous expression, oozing crisp apples, tangy peaches and very ripe, poached-pear flavors. Best 2025–2035. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

97 Alpha Omega 2021 Toyon Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Toasted and buttered baguette aromas waft from the glass as this creamy-textured yet lively wine brings poached pears, candied pineapple, vanilla and white pepper nuances to the palate. Complex and layered, the wine beautifully matches richness with finesse. Best 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$150

96 Cuvaion 2021 Small Lot Hedon Estate Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). A classic reserve-style wine, this poached pear and butter-scotch-scented beauty reveals toasted almonds, peach nectar, honey and vanilla flavors that expand with each sip and linger nicely on the finish. The wine shows excellent concentration, layering and length. Pair it with filet of sole sauteed in butter. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

96 Hartford Court 2021 Three Jacks Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). A brilliant texture laced with vibrant acidity sets this wine apart. Laser-focused lemon, crisp apple and kiwi flavors meld with light butter, cream and almond notes. Fermented and aged in 31% new French barrels, the wine has complexity and bal-

ance that belie its full body. Best from 2025–2030. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

95 Alpha Omega 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This elegant, silky wine is on the low-end in price for Alpha Omega, but performs as well in 2021 as the vineyard designates, giving unusually high quality for a broad Napa Valley appellation. The wine knits together bright lemon and crisp apple notes with tempting vanilla, toast and cream for an indulgent, mouthcoating expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$87

95 Landmark 2021 Lorenzo Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

95 Paul Lato 2021 Goldberg Variations Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). This mouthfilling, creamy and concentrated wine is lavish in vanilla, butter and toasted oak flavors. Poached pears, apple turnovers and croissants come to mind while sipping this soft confection and enjoying its pastry-like, lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

95 Signorello 2022 Hope's Cuvée Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Grand in mouthfeel and broad in flavors, this wine is also nicely balanced. It opens with malted milk and maple oatmeal aromas before buttery baked apples and pear syrup meet toasted almonds on the palate. Aged on the lees in half new French barrels, the wine is a big, opulent bottling for a special occasion. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$100

95 Tongue Dancer 2021 Pratt Vine Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This ripe-tasting, richly textured wine offers a lush array of baked apples, poached pears, melted butter and toasted almond flavors backed by good acidity. Matured in 100% new French barrels, the wine is big, flavorful but also well balanced, suited for sipping by itself or with food. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

94 Alpha Omega 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This seamless wine opens with well-concentrated, poached pears, baked apples and butter. It then soothes the palate with richly textured tones of toast, baking spices and cream. A full body is backed by subtle acidity for good balance and an elegant expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$175

94 Castello di Amorosa 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59

94 Far Niente 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76

94 Gray Randolph 2022 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). Vibrant fruit flavors, vivid acidity and

generous helpings of butter, cream and pineapple give this medium- to full-bodied wine an indulgent, rich expression. The wine nicely balances out with an appetizing and slightly tart midpalate and finish. Quite a discovery from a little-known winery. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

94 Groth 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Vivid golden apple aromas meet baked apples and subtle vanilla, butter and cinnamon flavors in this nicely thick-textured wine from Groth's cool-situation vineyard just north of the city of Napa. Mouthcoating viscosity carries the indulgent ripe fruits through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

94 Hartford Court 2021 Jennifer's Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Ripe and rich, this full-bodied, barrel-fermented wine packs in poached pears, ripe peaches and toasted almond flavors for a big profile and mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$75

94 Matanzas Creek 2021 Cougar Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Alexander Valley). This rich, buttery and toasty wine seems to melt in the mouth. Viscous and soft, the texture coats every millimeter of the palate with buttery, pear-nectar lusciousness. The wine lingers long on the finish, echoing pears, vanilla, cream and coconut. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

94 Pennyroyal Farm 2022 Hammer Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This wine delivers vivacious stone fruit, lemon, white flowers and fresh rosemary along with super-balanced acid, mineral and earth. This is the beginning of a long-lasting relationship. You are going to want climb on board for this one. Hold or drink until 2033. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

94 Samuel Louis Smith 2022 Les Granitiers Chardonnay (Gabilan Mountains). This blend of grapes from the Coastview and Pelio vineyards is vivid and invigorating. Aromas of tangerine, lemon and light pineapple lead from the nose into a mineral-focused palate of chiseled stone, brisk apple, frozen pear and lively citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$37

94 Tongue Dancer 2021 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This fresh-tasting, lively wine boasts sliced apple and lemon zest aromas followed by tangy kiwi fruit, lime and green apple flavors on a medium body. Although fermented in all-new French barrels, the wine is not an oak bomb but a well-balanced beverage that's easy to pair with seafood, poultry and salads. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

94 Trombetta 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

94 Trombetta 2021 Indindoli Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 V. Sattui 2021 Los Carneros Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Salted peanuts, honey and butterscotch waft up from the glass before this full-bodied wine shows equally thick, rich flavors, an opulent texture and lingering finish. The wine swings for the fences in terms of ripeness while retaining a nip of acidity for an appetizing balance. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 VML 2020 Ritchie Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). A sophisticated toasty, spicy aroma gives way to layered and complex flavors of marzipan, croissants, cream and hazelnuts. This enticing, full-bodied wine shows lots of new-oak character that will overcome mild food pairings, so it's best to pair with assertive poultry, veal and pork dishes. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Alpha Omega 2021 Stricker Vineyard Chardonnay (Mount Veeder). Overflowing with hazelnuts, brioche and lemon zest aromas, this generous, layered wine feels broad yet lively. It tastes abundantly fruity while also handsomely accented by butter, vanilla and nutty nuances. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$150

93 Artesa 2021 Selection 92 Estate Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). This gorgeous, medium-bodied and estate-grown wine is deep gold in color and ripe in baked apples, butter and pie crust flavors on a smooth, broad texture. Hints of lemon zest and green apple help balance it out while richness coats the palate. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$65

93 Les Belles Collines 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Well focused and balanced for further aging, this elegant, nicely structured wine lifts ample lemon, crisp apple and light pineapple flavors on good, appetizing acidity. Tempting now but best from 2025 through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

93 MacRostie 2021 The Key Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Green apple and lemon zest aromas lead to lightly buttered toast, baked apples and lemon meringue in this medium-bodied, well-balanced and appetizing wine. It's something fresh and elegant to begin a dinner party. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

93 Matt Parish 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This jazzy, oaky bottling is spicy and lightly charred in aroma and pops on the palate with buttered popcorn, toasted almond and vanilla flavors over poached pears. A great example of a barrel-aged, reserve-style Chardonnay. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$56

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93 Optio 2022 Norgrove Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). Rounded aromas of baked apple and honey butter are enhanced with light herb and crushed rock on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with creamy peach flavors that are cut by citrus peel and crushed stone. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

93 Pahlmeyer 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This effusive, ripe and buttery wine pulls out all the stops to offer a luxurious, creamy texture, tropical fruit flavors and a full body. Pineapples, Fuji apples, buttered toast, blackened oak and cream notes make a rich harmony. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$115

93 Quattro Theory 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Rombauer 2022 Proprietor Selection Chardonnay (Carneros). Bold and buttery in aroma, this full-bodied, creamy-textured wine is made in much smaller quantities than the regular Rombauer Chardonnay. It highlights vanilla, pineapple and candied apple on the palate while a soft, viscous texture leaves a sweet impression on the finish. Aged in 50% new oak barrels. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Sonoma-Cutrer 2021 The Cutrer Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

93 V. Sattui 2020 Reserve Stock Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This woody, toasty-scented wine spreads the oak-spice notes generously in the flavors, too. Butter, butterscotch and baked almond tones turn to a creamy hazelnut finish. It is mouth-coating and viscous in texture, leading to a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

92 Benziger 2021 West Rows Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Los Carneros). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

92 Dunstan 2021 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Smooth and moderately fruity, this wine offers light butter accents over golden apple flavors on a mild, broad texture. A very good, lighter-bodied wine, it will please a lot of people. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Ernest 2021 Freestone Valley Estate Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This buttery but light-bodied wine emphasizes the creamy, spicy side of the grape variety. It offers mild oak notes of vanilla, coconut and butter while keeping overt fruit characteristics in the background. The wine grows on you with each sip. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$52

92 Landmark 2021 Overlook Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Richly textured yet well balanced, this elegant and layered wine deftly combines baked apples, light pastry spices, cream and vanilla flavors on a silky texture lifted by lemon-zest acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$27

92 Les Belles Collines 2019 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Buttery yet balanced, this full-bodied wine offers a lemon-butter aroma with wet stones and mint, followed by a subtle palate of Bosc pears and baked apples on a soothing texture. A late-release item, it spent 18 months in barrels. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Meyer Family Cellars 2022 Elke Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). This wine offers candied apple, baked pear and fresh white nectarine. It's creamy midpalate, with baked cooking spice and good minerality. A crowd pleaser with Chardonnay drinkers, it might also convert a few new fans. Pair with creamed pasta, poultry or your favorite takeout. *Editors' Choice.* —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$39

92 Michael David 2022 Chardonnay (Lodi). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

92 Pistachio Lane 2022 Chardonnay (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$21

92 Rombauer 2022 Chardonnay (Carneros). Butter, oak and vanilla flavors dominate the aroma and flavor of this full-bodied, heavily oaked wine. It has a dessert-like quality that is honeyed on the palate and lingers sweetly on the finish. For fans of this bold style, it's a big win. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Sequoia Grove 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

92 Sonoma-Cutrer 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 20.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 Triska Vineyard Chardonnay (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

91 Frog's Leap 2021 Shale and Stone Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 22.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42

91 Matchbook 2021 The Arsonist Chardonnay (Dunnigan Hills). For full review see page 22.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

91 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Shinkan Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 22.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

91 Napa Cellars 2022 Chardonnay (Napa County). For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

91 Nielson 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$16

91 Rodney Strong 2021 Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). For full review see page 23.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Rusack 2022 El Rancho Escondido Santa Catalina Island Chardonnay (California). These wines, from grapes grown on grown on Catalina Island, are always fascinating. This vintage offers a tightly woven nose with hints of delicate honey, lemon peel, grapefruit zest and verbena. The palate shows a more buttery side, its creamy flavors cut by Meyer lemon zest. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$98

91 Talley 2021 Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). Sharp aromas of lime peel and grapefruit pith introduce the nose to this appellation cuvée. The high-acid palate is very racy and tight, showing brisk apple flesh and squeezed citrus flavors. An ideal Chardonnay for shellfish, and one that will last in the cellar for years. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 DeMayo Vineyards Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This wine is concentrated, with citrus, spiced stonefruit, toasted vanilla spice, cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg. It has a juicy midpalate woven with orange zest, fried banana chips and a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Force & Grace 2022 Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 24.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$33

90 Frey 2022 Sun & Rain Chardonnay (California). This bottling offers caramel-candy apple, apple cider, Orange Julius, orange marmalade, cinnamon sticks and a long finish. If you haven't tried a natural wine, this is for you. It'll be your training wheels. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Jax 2022 Y3 Jax Vineyards Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Attractive rose petal and camellia aromas leads to vivid lychee fruit, Anjou pear and baked apple flavors in this charming, fruit-forward wine that could pass for a Pinot Gris. It is rounded, rather light bodied and shows little oak influence. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$20

90 **Maggio 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** This crisp wine is bright with baked white nectarine, white peach and red-skinned apple. These intertwine with fresh caramel, cinnamon, simmering spices, orange zest and vanilla crème fraîche. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 **Napa Valley Quilt 2022 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Heavy aromas of oak char and toasted almonds lead to a spicy, rich palate of white and black pepper, pineapple and butter in this robust, swaggering wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$35

90 **Nickel & Nickel 2022 Berlenbach Vineyard Chardonnay (Coombsville).** Crisp Pippin apple aromas are followed by fresh apple and light vanilla accents in this medium-bodied, refreshing wine. Well balanced and relatively lean, it will be a great pour with first courses or to start a party. Try aging a few bottles; best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85

90 **Peirano 2022 Heritage Collection Chardonnay (Lodi).** For full review see page 28. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

90 **Shortbread Wine Co. 2022 Buttery Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 29. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$17

90 **Sketchbook 2022 Chardonnay (Mendocino County).** This laser-focused bottling conveys crunchy Pink Lady apple, Fuji apple and baked pear alongside spices of cinnamon, nutmeg and coriander. The finish of the wine is long, strong and dry. The acidity makes this wine more versatile than you'd expect, especially food wise. Bun Mee, anybody? **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Submission 2021 Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 29. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Twisted Cedar 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** This wine is lively and bright. Baked caramel apple, pear, candied peach, orange sherbet and cinnamon interweave with cracked black pepper, allspice and lemon crème fraîche. The wine is buttery midpalate, with a long silky finish. Pair with creamy pasta. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

90 **Wente Vineyards 2021 Nth Degree Chardonnay Chardonnay (Livermore Valley).** This complex bottling offers concentrated baked stone fruit, spiced peach, nectarine, Golden Delicious apple, cinnamon, dried sage, orange-cardamom spice and toasty vanilla. These all intertwine with good acidity and minerality. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

89 **Charles Krug 2022 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Ripe and fruity, this full-bodied wine offers subtle oak and butter accents. It

pours out plenty of ripe pear, peach syrup and apple juice flavors on a crisp and balanced texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$25

89 **Cycles Gladiator 2021 Chardonnay (California).** This bottling is lush and concentrated, with exotic spices, baked Bosc pear, yellow apple, cinnamon, allspice, cardamom, toasted vanilla spice and fresh caramel. It's an easy-drinking wine for any time of day. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 **Dog Day 2022 Chardonnay (Livermore Valley).** This bottling is fresh, bright and lush. Supple baked stone fruits, yellow plums and Satsuma oranges come together with cinnamon, allspice, vanilla cream and a spicy finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

89 **Jordan 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A reduced, flinty aroma persists for 20 minutes, but this otherwise well-balanced and likely age-worthy wine draws on ripe golden apples, vanilla and cinnamon, with everything backed by good acidity. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$42

89 **Member's Mark 2021 Private Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros).** Handsome toast and butter aromas are backed by coconut, vanilla and marzipan flavors in this no-holds-barred wine. It's oaky for sure, with oodles of baking spices adding to the wine's showy richness. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$8

89 **Old Soul 2022 Chardonnay (Lodi).** This wine is crisp and lively with tropical fruit, ripe Golden Delicious apple, caramel apple and brûléed orange. These come together with vanilla from the toasted oak, Grade B maple syrup, Key lime cream, cardamom and a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

89 **Viansa 2019 Chardonnay (Carneros).** A deep gold color to the eye, and buttery-spicy to the nose, this medium-bodied wine is nicely drenched in melted butter, vanilla and clove flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

89 **Vista Del Mirador 2021 Flat Creek Vineyards, MV Miller Vineyards Chardonnay (Fair Play).** This wine is concentrated, with baked stone fruit, candied ginger, candied orange zest and cardamom. These partner with dried herbs and vanilla cream, leading to a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$35

88 **Cline 2022 Hat Strap Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** This good, hearty, full-bodied pour offers rather heavy toasted oak and baked apple flavors on a chunky, slightly grippy texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Ernest 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Aromas of buttered popcorn, chicken stock

and toast lead to a mostly tangy palate of lemon and crisp apple notes sparring with an overlay of milky flavors. The wine's unusually light body helps explain the contrast in this enjoyable, lower-alcohol wine. —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

88 **Ernest 2021 Bohemian Series Joyce Vineyard Chardonnay (West Sonoma Coast).** Light-bodied and acid-driven, this tart and palate-cleansing wine is alive with lemon and green apple flavors. Picture it with herbed goat cheese as an appetizer. —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$85

88 **Francis Coppola 2022 Diamond Collection Appellation Series Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** Buttery, toasty aromas lead to an equally buttery, vanilla- and bread-dough-laden palate and rather soft, thick texture. A good wine for casual occasions. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$19

88 **Grgich Hills 2021 Paris Tasting Commemorative Estate Grown Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** A flinty note of reduction holds back this otherwise excellent, medium-bodied and slightly buttery wine. The wine is enjoyable for its mineral, lemon and green apple flavors and lean, tangy texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$101

88 **Matchbook 2021 Old Head Chardonnay (Dunnigan Hills).** This wine is concentrated with tropical fruit, stone fruit, herb spice, cardamom, nutmeg and mulled orange. The wine has a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

88 **Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** This sturdy, clean and balanced wine offers bright apple and lemon aromas, full-bodied green apple and pear flavors, and a mouthfilling liveliness. Quite expressive of the grape variety, it is fresh and appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

88 **Smith-Madrone 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Spring Mountain District).** A deep gold color and mature, Madeira-like qualities give this already four-year-old wine a unique expression that's worth a second look. Toast, brown butter, caramel and roasted peanut flavors are complex and charming, while nervy acidity keeps it lively. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 **Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District).** For full review see page 9. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

93 **Cadre 2022 Stone Blossom Sauvignon Blanc (San Luis Obispo Coast).** This is an extreme

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expression of Sauvignon Blanc, reminiscent of versions from cool areas around the world. Aromas of singed rubber, caviar and yellow grapefruit peel drop into a very tense, stony palate of yuzu peel, lime juice and pear skin flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

93 Groth 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Oakville). This oak-aged wine adds subtle spices and toast to the vibrant citrus and fresh herb flavors of the grapes, for a nicely balanced and deliciously complex expression. The wine works great as a pre-dinner cocktail and will pair well with seafood and fresh-style cheeses. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Lail 2022 Blueprint Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Heady aromas of herbs and spices fill the nose with the first sniff. They continue their dramatic march on the palate, exuding tangy lemon and lime notes laced with ginger, thyme and chives. Good, lively acidity provides the refreshment and palate cleansing that people love in Sauvignon Blanc. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Six Sigma Ranch 2022 Asbil Valley, Michael's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). This Sauvignon Blanc is mouthwatering, fresh and clean. Citrus, orange slice, jalapeño, green bell pepper and white grapefruit skip across the palate. Buy a few bottles to put away in your cellar; this one can be aged. Right now, the only thing missing are fish tacos. "Where's my sandy beach?! Yeah.." —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

92 Crocker & Starr 2022 A.V.A. White Blend of Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Fresh parsley and celery aromas are joined by vivid lemon, thyme and bell pepper flavors in this herbal extravaganza of a wine. Refreshing and palate cleansing, the wine will shine with salads, veggies and seafood. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

92 Groth 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Packed with gooseberries, quince and lemon zest, this lively, well-balanced wine honors Sauvignon's herbaceous side and also offers generous fruits plus light oak spices of vanilla, ginger and toast. The wine shows excellent concentration and a creamy-tangy tension. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Langtry 2022 Lillie's Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Guenoc Valley). For full review see page 18. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Lula 2022 Pine Mountain Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak). This wine is bright and savory. Lemongrass, white grapefruit, Meyer lemon, fresh fennel, fresh bay laurel and crisp green bell pepper come together with yellow apple, white nectarine and wet rock. It offers acidity, minerality and a long finish. —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Waypoint 2021 Grieve Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Toast, new oak and butter top the aromas of this creamy and medium-bodied wine before lemony acidity and crisp apple flavors chime in to balance out the initial richness. With more sips, attractive and light accents of ginger, thyme and mineral come to the fore. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

91 Fly By 2020 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). A handsome, subtle merging of bright citrus with restrained butter and toast notes comes off very well in this light-bodied wine. Tangy lime and grapefruit flavors mingle with touches of vanilla and ginger root for plenty of flavor and a refreshing mouthfeel, too. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

91 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Estate Grown Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Oak Knoll District). This spicy, toasty and oaky wine is packed with white pepper, ginger and dill aromas followed by ample vanilla, celery and shallot flavors. Unabashedly influenced by new oak barrels, the wine is braced by citrus undertones. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

90 Cline 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 Triska Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). This bottling is zesty, crisp and vibrant with juicy citrus, lime zest, pink grapefruit, Pink Lady apple and green apple. These partner with pineapple, nectarine and spiced orange. Pair with papaya salad and crab cakes. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Easton 2022 Natoma Sauvignon Blanc (Sierra Foothills). This supple wine is lush with green apple, white grapefruit, Key lime, cumin, lemon curd, five-spice powder and dried herbs. It is medium weight on the midpalate, with the acidity creating a fuller, more robust wine. The finish is super long and tasty. Enjoy now with your favorite dish. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

90 Lillie 2022 Feather Boa Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

90 Pech Merle 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). This bottling is crisp, bright and zesty with crunchy green bell pepper. The creamy midpalate offers green apple, yellow apple, white nectarine, salinity and a dry finish. Pair with your favorite fried fish snacks. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$27

90 Pech Merle 2022 Big Valley Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). This wine is zesty and fresh, with aromas of stone fruit, Fuji apple and lemon balm. The wine is creamy without conveying vanilla,

the caramel and toasted oak coming together well. It will play well with veggies, fish, poultry or just good conversation. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Pistachio Lane 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 24.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$21

89 The Dreaming Tree 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (California). A classic Sauvignon Blanc, this is crisp and fresh. Aromatics suggest kiwi, green bell pepper, orange zest, pineapple and green papaya. Enjoy on your favorite patio. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Anthem Winery 2022 Riverbound Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). A spicy, buttery and toasty expression in the nose leads to a soft, rich palate packed with butter, vanilla and toast flavors. This oak-aged wine is broad in texture, full in body and somewhat smoky throughout. It's very tasty, yet atypical for the grape variety. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

88 Flanagan 2022 Rileys Rows Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This wine is bright but concentrated with lush white nectarine, apricot, baked apple and quince. These are interwoven with white flowers, vanilla bean, cardamom and lime zest, giving the wine weight, texture and a long finish. Enjoy as your everyday wine. —T.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$26

PINOT GRIGIO

92 J Vineyards & Winery 2022 Estate Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 18. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

90 J Vineyards & Winery 2022 Pinot Gris (California). For full review see page 24.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$21

90 Lillie 2022 Feather Boa Pinot Grigio (California). For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

89 Frey 2022 Pinot Grigio (North Coast). Offering lemon meringue, kaffir lime, apple and cinnamon, this light-bodied wine is crisp and refreshing, with good acidity and minerality. It makes a great pairing with papaya salad, shrimp tacos and grilled white fish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Frey 2022 Chateau Frey Pinot Gris (Men-docino). This wine is driven by Fuji apple, Bosc pear and vanilla spice. Other notes waft through, including Earl Grey tea, lemon, honey, underripe peach, apricot, quince and orange zest. Layers of rocky sediment and minerality bring it all together. This wine is a good example from a region well known for aromatic varieties. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Hayes Valley 2022 Pinot Grigio (California).** Quite pale in the glass with the slightest hint of pink, this bottling starts with clean and crisp pear and red apple flesh aromas. The palate is simple but pleasant in flavors, with crisp apple most prominent. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **J Vineyards & Winery 2022 Pinot Gris (Russian River Valley).** This wine smells tangy and pithy but tastes ripe, lightly sweet and feels soft in texture. It's a charming, rounded wine that even non-wine drinkers will easily warm up to. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

ALBARIÑO

93 **Cadre 2022 Sea Queen Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast).** This fantastic Albariño demonstrates the potential the variety has in this cool coastal region, which is much like the grape's ancestral home in Rias Baixas. Tightly wound aromas of chiseled stone and lime blossom lead into a chalky, zesty texture on the palate, where citrus zest and serrano flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30

93 **Davis Family 2022 Camino Don Miguel Vineyard Albariño (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 13. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38

91 **Cadre 2022 Ode to the Sea Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast).** This bottling shows tart aromas of apple skin but also warmer touches of honeydew as well as a wool element on the nose. The palate picks up briny seashore flavors, with black lime adding an earthy citrus kick. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$42

91 **CRU 2022 Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20

90 **Croma Vera 2022 Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Pear, melon and lime aromas meet with a boisterous white flower on the nose of this bottling. The palate rides a stony streak through stone fruit and ripe apple flavors across a tight texture. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

88 **Belted Vines 2022 Stewart Ranch & Vineyard Albariño (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This very dry, light-bodied, tangy and crisp wine almost vibrates with acidity, making a mouthwatering and mouthcleansing effect that could pair well with shucked oysters and cracked crab. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

VIOGNIER

93 **Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Estate Viognier (Oak Knoll District).** For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$34

92 **Dariouh 2022 Viognier (Napa Valley).** Handsome toasted-oak aromas mingle with subtle honeysuckle and peach nectar notes in this full-bodied, bold and mouthfilling wine. A rounded texture, good viscosity and lingering finish all add to its appeal. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

91 **Terre Rouge 2021 Rice-Mac Donald Vineyard Estate Viognier (Sierra Foothills).** This bottling is rich and concentrated, with lively notes of white nectarine, lemon, lemongrass, pear and red-apple skin. These are woven with floral notes, dried potpourri, white peppercorn and honeydew melon. A mouthwatering, dry finish brings everything together. This wine is a great expression of the Rhône varietal, which is not easy to produce. Enjoy with your favorite pasta with cream sauce. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Langtry 2022 Viognier (Lake County).** For full review see page 24.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Pech Merle 2022 Viognier (Mendocino County).** This wine is lively and lush, with concentrated Pink Lady apple, pear, white peach, green fig and apricot. These interweave with orange blossom honey, lemon curd, allspice and medium acidity to create a snapshot example of Viognier grown in Mendocino County. This wine is one of the great discoveries for aromatic white wines. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$39

89 **CRU 2022 Rancho Arroyo Grande Vineyard Viognier (San Luis Obispo Coast).** A very light hue in the glass, this bottling bursts forth on the nose with jasmine, white melon and lychee aromas. The palate shows similar tropical flavors, from banana to tuberose, as a slightly rocky undertone adds balance. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

90 **Lula 2022 Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley).** This wine is bright, lively and lush with kiwi, pineapple, white nectarine and white peach. These intertwine with white pepper, chili flake, cumin, vanilla and lime zest, bringing a savory yet zippy expression to the finish. Pairings include sushi and curries from across the globe. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Markus Wine Co 2022 Nuvola Gewürztraminer (Clarksburg).** This wine is bright, lush and concentrated with ripe nectarines, white peaches, pineapple and papaya. These join with flo-

ral, simmering spices, cantaloupe and baked apple. Cracked black pepper rounds out the finish. Enjoy on the patio or with your favorite fish dish. —T.P.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$24

90 **Tinto Amorio 2022 Bheeyo Skin-Contact Gewürztraminer (California).** Made with 95% Gewürztraminer from San Luis Obispo County plus 5% Zinfandel from Mendocino and spent 24 days on the skins. The result is a cloudy glass, loaded with ripe melon, passionfruit, plumeria and grapefruit aromas. That complexity carries through the bouncy sip, where white flower and blood orange flavors compete. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$29

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 **Lang & Reed 2022 Chenin Blanc (Napa Valley).** This luxurious, full-bodied wine wafts butter, nutmeg and cider aromas. The rich texture envelops baked apples, vanilla and cinnamon flavors that expand on the palate and linger on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 **Napa Valley Quilt 2022 The Grace Of The Land Fumé Blanc (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

91 **Ernest 2022 Edaphos Rancho Coda Malvasia Bianca (Russian River Valley).** This light-bodied wine smells sweet but tastes dry and appetizing. Honeysuckle, orange zest and lychee fruit aromas give way to tangy, lively lemon, orange and white tea flavors that are fascinating to savor. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$38

91 **Markus Wine Co 2022 Single Source Grüner Veltliner (Lodi).** This wine is driven by kaffir lime, green apple and cracked white pepper. The wine is medium bodied, with nuances of green bell pepper, basil leaves, spearmint, evergreen and wet rock. It is the domestic version of Grüner Veltliner Smaragd. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 **Neal Family 2021 Rutherford Dust Vineyard Vermentino (Rutherford).** For full review see page 22. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

91 **Wine Without Borders 2022 Grüner Veltliner (San Francisco Bay).** This lively, crisp and mineral-driven wine offers fresh white grapefruit, kaffir lime, orange zest, nigella and white pepper, with vibrant acidity weaving throughout. It is a great expression of the varietal grown in an up and coming region. —T.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$23

90 **Ernest 2021 Henry David Vineyard Aligoté (Bennett Valley).** Apple cider and lemon-tea aromas lead to green apples, lemon zest and a

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flinty touch in this lithe, light-bodied wine. Made from Burgundy's lesser-known white grape variety, this bottling will be a treat to pair with raw oysters or sautéed fish. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$38

90 Pack String 2021 Roussanne (El Dorado).

This wine has notes of acacia honey, honeysuckle, sugared mandarin orange and Pink Lady apple. Acidity and minerality waft through the midpalate, creating a lengthy finish. Roussanne is a secret weapon with pairings. It's a great alternative to Chardonnay because of the body and weight. —T.P.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$23

89 Birichino 2022 Yount Mill Vineyard Old Vines Vignes Soixantennaires Sémillon (Yountville).

Restrained fruit and blanched almond aromas are followed by subtle dried herbs, Bosc pears and toasted brioche flavors in this complex, savory-slanted wine. A very light body and good acidity give it a delicate, easy texture. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$28

89 Barton 2022 Le Freak Oliver's Vineyard Fumé Blanc (San Luis Obispo Coast).

Bold aromas of apricot, banana flower and honey show on the nose of this bottling. There's a waxy grip to the palate, where tropical guava flavors meet with ripe nectarine. —M.K.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

89 Old Lodge 2022 Betty's Vineyard Chenin Blanc (St. Helena).

With fresh green and golden apple aromas, a light body and delicate apple skin, floral and honey flavors, this wine is charming and fresh-tasting. Perfect to make a winter day feel like spring. —J.G.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$36

89 Ru's Farm 2022 Mounts Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Dry Creek Valley).

A rich texture and dry, lively flavors make a good mix in this full-bodied wine. It delivers a lot of refreshment value through good acidity and also shows tasty ripeness in its green apple and golden apple flavors. The squat, lightweight bottle is notable, too. —J.G.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$38

88 Fleur de California 2022 Carneros Select Las Brisas Vineyard Vermentino (Carneros).

This light-bodied, tangy and refreshing wine opens with flint and veggie aromas before lemon and grapefruit flavors and crisp acidity dominate the palate. It shows a good, steely, appetizing expression, with a touch of richness for counterbalance. —J.G.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

WHITE BLENDS

91 Cadre 2022 Ode to Fate White Blend (San Luis Obispo Coast).

This is an adventurous blend of 62% Grüner Veltliner, 28% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Albariño. It offers dried Pink Lady apple, melon rind and ripe orange aromas alongside

a damp earth tone. The palate is grippy in texture, offering pear flesh and lemon flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Pennyroyal Farm 2022 Anyhow Blanc White Blend (Anderson Valley).

This unusual combination of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc is super tasty. The wine is crisp and vibrant, with exuberant stone fruit, Meyer lemon, white grapefruit, peach, apricot and crystalized ginger. It offers good acidity, supple fruit and great tension. —T.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Robert Biale 2022 Clementina White Blend (Oak Knoll District).

Hints of butter and vanilla dress up this well-balanced, mouthwatering wine made from Greco di Tufo grapes. Tangy apricot flavors meet richer coconut and toasted almonds on the palate. Medium to full bodied, the wine would be perfect with a crispy-skin roast chicken. —J.G.

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

SPARKLING WINES

93 Paula Kornell 2020 Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).

For full review see page 15.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Schramsberg 2019 Querencia Brut Rosé Méthode Traditionnelle Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).

A tawny-salmon color, full flavors and a hearty, meaty mouthfeel set this wine up for pouring alongside rich seafood and grilled or roasted main courses. A relatively full body and lively mousse add structure to the palate. —J.G.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$75

90 Roederer Estate NV Brut Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

This bottling is crisp, lively and exuberant, with concentrated and youthful fruit. Fuji apple, sweet Bosc pear, ripe white nectarine, white strawberry, Rainier cherry, and buttery brioche intertwine deliciously with lime cream mousse. —T.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Scharffenberger NV Brut Excellence Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).

This sumptuous bottling offers baked stone fruit, Golden Delicious apple, caramelized pear and orange crème fraîche. A firm mousse in midpalate comes together with baked brioche, allspice and buttered toast on the way to a dry finish. Pair with oysters, a seafood tower or anytime. —T.P.

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

90 Scharffenberger NV Brut Rosé Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).

This wine is rich and concentrated with plush red plum, Bing cherry, cantaloupe, red apple skin, baked Pink Lady apple and cranberry, with a firm mousse in midpalate. Candied lemon rind, juicy strawberry and brioche come together in the bone-dry finish. —T.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Scharffenberger NV Crémant Chardonnay-Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).

This bottling is fresh and zesty with melon, lime crème, red and yellow plums, offering a creamy mousse in the midpalate. The finish is broad across the palate with creamy orange mousse and minerality at the close. Pair with stone fruit desserts. —T.P.

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

89 V. Sattui 2021 Prestige Cuvée Brut Sparkling Blend (Napa Valley).

This balanced and well-behaved wine offers light, crisp-apple aromas, along with tangy citrus and green-apple flavors. Good, nervy acidity cleanses the palate. —J.G.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$50

ROSÉS

92 Terre Rouge 2022 Vin Gris d'Amador Grenache-Mourvèdre (Sierra Foothills).

This wine offers lip-smacking cherry, strawberry, watermelon, English cucumber, lemon and kaffir lime. Acidity hits the palate like a spritz of sparkling mineral water. So much complexity is going on in the glass. Enjoy this with friends, family and your favorite nibble. —T.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Fleur de California 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Sonoma Coast).

Rose petal aromas and a brilliant copper color give way to nicely tangy raspberry, cranberry and peach skin flavors in this medium-bodied wine. It achieves a good balance between snappy acidity and plenty of fruitiness. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

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

91 Lula 2022 Day Ranch Vineyard, Anderson Valley Rosé of Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

This bottling is clean, crisp and bright with youthful stone fruit, pear, Fuji apple, kiwi, honeydew melon and pineapple. These weave together with watermelon radish, underripe strawberry, raspberry and pink peppercorn to create a backdrop for serious meals. —T.P.

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

90 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2022 Wetzel Family Estate dry Rosé of Sangiovese (Sonoma County).

For full review see page 23. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

90 Amador Cellars 2022 Primitivo Rosé (Amador County).

This bottling reminds us that rosé is the anytime, anywhere beverage. The wine is developing flavor nuances of fresh citrus, red apple skin, quince, ripe strawberry, pomegranate, red berries and fresh herbs. It's savory, with a dry salty finish. This wine works as everything from a midday sip to a palate pleaser at a holiday meal. —T.P.

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

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2022 Victories Rosé (Livermore Valley).

This quintessential rosé is bright and lush on the nose. Strawberry, cream,

raspberry and pomegranate show on the super-light body, woven with watermelon, citrus and cumin. It's not often you see a rosé of Malbec and done so well. Plus, some of the proceeds go to Breast Cancer research. Drink and support. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Line 39 2022 Rosé (California).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

90 **Pack String 2021 Rosé of Sangiovese (El Dorado).** This wine is light bodied and creamy in the midpalate. Aromas suggest white peach, white nectarine, red apple skin, lemon zest, white pepper, red plum skin and cantaloupe. A mouthwatering squeeze of white grapefruit rounds out the finish. Keep this one poolside. —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$23

90 **Paper Planes 2022 Rosé (Russian River Valley).** Dry, crisp and appetizing, this light-hued and light-bodied wine is just the thing for lunch, appetizers and more delicate dinner dishes. Subtle raspberry and red cherry aromas set you up for refreshing fruit flavors that follow. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Pech Merle 2022 Ivy Addor Vineyards Zinfandel Rosé (Mendocino County).** This wine has concentrated aromas of strawberry, red raspberry, juicy white peach, cantaloupe, watermelon and fresh basil. Creamy midpalate, it finishes with racy acidity. It feels and tastes like summer. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 **Pech Merle 2022 Addor Vineyard Zinfandel Rosé (Mendocino County).** This wine proves rosé is a wine to enjoy throughout the seasons. The core is fresh, with notes suggesting white nectarine, pink grapefruit, guava, lime and savory dried herbs. A juicy midpalate is framed by acidity and a dash of salinity. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

90 **Six Sigma Ranch 2022 Marianne's Vineyard Rosé (Lake County).** This wine is exuberant, concentrated with red plum, strawberry, raspberry, blood orange and dried herbs. These weave together with vanilla crème fraîche, cracked black peppercorn and lemon zest, with a dry finish. This says summer time fun all day long, perfect as a picnic wine. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 **Matt Parish 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** A vivid copper color and openly fruity aromas lead to a lush, soft body and ripe peaches, pears and persimmons in this broad-textured but lighter-alcohol wine. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

89 **The Dreaming Tree 2022 Rosé (California).** Some rosés can connect the dots for many wine drinkers. This wine has those qualities. It couples medium weight with flavors of orange, Pink Lady apple, white grapefruit, grilled watermelon,

bay leaf, earth and mineral, with a lengthy finish. The little bit of bottle age allows different nuances to come through, making this wine versatile with pairings such as flank steak, a seafood medley, banh mi or your favorite sushi roll. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

89 **Wine Without Borders 2022 Rosé of Grenache (San Francisco Bay).** There is a category called breakfast wines. This is definitely one. It is sunshine bright, with aromas of blood orange, strawberry-rhubarb and pink grapefruit on the nose. The palate matches the aromas, combining melon into the mix. A slight spritz wafts across the palate. It sets you dreaming of vacation mornings with fresh melon and a glass of this wine. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 **Vintner's Diary 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Napa Valley).** This soft-textured, broad and mouthfilling wine offers lavish vanilla and coconut aromas that continue on the palate, putting a sweet coating on good red cherry and watermelon flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$36

PINOT NOIR

98 **Patz & Hall 2021 Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

97 **Montagu 2021 Charles Heintz Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This dazzling wine is bright in aromas of red cherries, sour cherries and pine boughs that flow onto the palate where a warm touch of dark plums adds breadth and ripeness. Super well balanced and moderately tannic, the wine lingers on the finish. Best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

97 **Patz & Hall 2021 Chenoweth Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Floral aromas, black fruit flavors and a broad but lively texture make this full-bodied wine impressive and delicious. Rose petals, violets, black cherries and ground cloves all play a role in the flavors, while moderate tannins and good acidity add a palate-cleansing quality. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

97 **Patz & Hall 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

96 **Patz & Hall 2021 Jenkins Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Lively, nervy, appetizing nuances of raspberries and red cherries light up the aroma of this medium-bodied wine before just-ripe black cherries, cinnamon and grated ginger dance across the palate. Finely balanced and fresh with

acidity, it is poised for a good, long life. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

95 **Ancien 2021 Mink Vineyard Pinot Noir (Coombsville).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$62

95 **Ancien 2021 Toyon Farm Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

95 **El Lugar 2021 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Very light-colored in the glass, this bottling manages to be both delicate and vivid. It starts with aromas of pomegranate, crumpled rose petals and shaved fennel bulb on the nose. The palate is bright with pomegranate and watermelon flavors, as anise and white peppercorn touches add subtle depth. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

95 **Patz & Hall 2021 Little Boot Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A taut balance, fresh red and black fruits and tangy tannins give nerve and muscle to this firmly structured, young and age-worthy wine. Concentrated red and black cherries, raspberries, cedar and clove nuances crowd onto the palate. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 **Ancien 2021 Jouissance Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

94 **Ancien 2021 Thornton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 8.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

94 **Belle Glos 2022 Dairyman Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

94 **Cuvaision 2021 small lot Spire Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This smooth, polished and luxuriously fruity wine is steeped in red and black cherries, dark plums and blueberries. Oak spices like cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg add complexity while moderate tannins give just enough traction in the velvety texture. The wine will be best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 **Lula 2021 Maggy Hawk Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This bottling is elegance, swagger and longevity united with a fruit roll of red currant, strawberry, pomegranate and Meyer lemon zest. It also conveys the waft of a cold ocean breeze, sunshine, pebbles and alpine influence. Welcome to the "Deep End." Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

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94 MacRostie 2021 Klopp Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Robust in texture and well concentrated in flavor, this surprisingly light-bodied wine wraps rather firm tannins around black cherries, sour cherries, rhubarb and cloves. Thanks to the tangy restraint in the mouthfeel, it will pair beautifully with roast poultry, venison and the like. Best 2025–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$62

94 Patz & Hall 2021 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A relatively soft bottling for this winery, it offers lush, broad dark plum and cherry aromas. The silky texture and light tannins are well integrated with the luscious fruits and light oak spices. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Patz & Hall 2021 Moses-Hall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Abundant black-fruit flavors meet ample oak spices in this full-bodied and broad-textured wine. It is big and bold but easy to sip and enjoy. Black cherry, cinnamon and clove nuances expand on the palate and linger on the finish. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Sleeping Giant 2021 Dearden Vineyard XV Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$105

94 Sonoma-Cutrer 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

94 Ten Acre 2021 Jenkins Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

93 Böen 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

93 Director's Cut 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

93 El Lugar 2021 Bassi Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). An impressive amount of damp thyme and foggy sagebrush shows on the nose of this bottling alongside dark plum, leather and a hint of oak. The palate is toasty with sandalwood and herbal in eucalyptus and tea leaf flavors, with a solid cherry core leading into a sappy finish. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

93 El Lugar 2021 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Candied raspberry aromas meet with elegant rose petal scents on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tensely structured, showing snappy red-fruit flavors that

are decorated in peppercorn and sharp red-spice elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Lula 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine embarks upon a serious conversation with you. Beautiful framboise, strawberry, black cherry, sarsaparilla, cardamom and dried allspice lead into a long finish and the promise of what's to come. Drink now–2028. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Meyer Family Cellars 2022 The A.V. Way Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). So much is going on in a glass of this wine. The core suggests concentrated, brambly black cherry, blood orange, quince, fresh baking spice, chicory and salted chocolate. It will be exciting to follow the evolution of this bottle. Hold or drink with aeration. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

93 Morét-Brealynn 2022 Stray Dogs Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Good complexity and satisfying, deep fruit flavors make this wine hard to put down. It starts with red currants and basil in the aroma, then pours dark plums and oak spices on the palate. The wine is broad in mouthfeel, soft in tannins and simply delicious. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Patz & Hall 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine offers garnet-colored goodness. It conveys mullied spices, confitured strawberry rhubarb, lingonberry jam, frozen blueberries, grilled oranges, mascarpone and toasted walnut. Baby lamb chops, guinea hen, branzino and vegetable tagine are some prime pairings. Drink now to 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$39

93 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Jeansheep Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine is exuberant with red and yellow plums, cranapple, pomegranate seeds, mullied spices and silky-sweet tannins. The long finish invites you to take another sip. Snacks will be wanted. *Cellar Selection.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$59

93 Rusack 2022 El Rancho Escondido Santa Catalina Island Pinot Noir (California). Pinot Noir seems able to handle the windy, maritime conditions of Catalina Island quite well. Aromas of juicy strawberry, cherry compote and star anise are a bit fruit-punchy on the nose of this bottling. The palate brings a taut texture to the table, with white pepper and thyme enlivening the sour cherry and pomegranate fruits. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$98

93 Samsara 2021 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh and snappy aromas of strawberry, red cherry, red flowers and a pinch of dusty herbs draw the nose into this wine from a

dramatically sloped vineyard near the appellation's coolest western edge. The tightly wound palate offers pomegranate and raspberry flavors balanced by savory tar and a clay-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

93 Talley 2021 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Ten Acre 2021 Earl Stephens Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

93 VML 2021 Mes Filles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Pure, focused fruit aromas and a rich, layered effect on the palate combine in this brilliant, balanced wine. While sleek in mouthfeel, it is also nicely structured in moderate tannins and vibrant acidity. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$66

92 Albatross Ridge 2021 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey). From a mountaintop vineyard with views of the Carmel coast, this wine pops on the nose with pomegranate, cranberry, dusty earth and tarry leather aromas. The medium-bodied palate is tense in structure and brisk in flavor, showing more pomegranate alongside thyme, dust and orange peel. The tension lingers long. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

92 Ernest 2021 Bohemian Series Cleary Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Lovely rose petal and breakfast tea aromas waft from the glass before raspberries, red cherries and a touch of cranberry light up the flavors. A light body and trim tannins give the wine a good, mouthwatering effect. It's a great wine for lunch or to pair with seafood and fowl dinner entrées. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$95

92 Ernest 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Brilliant red cherry and raspberry aromas lead to nicely tangy cherries and cranberries on the palate, as this medium-bodied, snappy wine refreshes the mouth for the next bite. It has a cheery, bright expression that's easy to pair with food. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Landmark 2021 Rayhill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Handsome, spicy oak aromas like balsam, cedar and cinnamon lead to vivid red and black cherries, raspberries and spearmint on the palate. This wine is balanced, lively and yet rich enough to enjoy young. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$27

92 Lula 2021 Lula Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). In this wine, pomegranate, blackberry and Bing cherry come together with citrus, enoki mushroom and espresso crema. The wine has a juicy, dry core and a long finish. Pair with seafood

stew, sushi, poultry and veggie bagna cauda. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 MacRostie 2021 Day Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Charming, fresh and well balanced, this wine exudes crushed raspberries and cherries in the aroma, then candied cherries, red apples and cinnamon on the palate. Light in body and low in tannins, it has a texture that is smooth and easy. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$58

92 MacRostie 2021 Thale's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Good, concentrated cherry flavors and a mouthwatering texture align this medium-bodied wine for myriad food pairings from mushrooms to salmon to roast chicken. Moderate tannins brace the red and black cherries, cranberries and cloves that open up as you sip. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$62

92 Minus Tide 2021 Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge). This bottling is bright with ripe red and black fruit, jellied cranberry, black cherry, citrus rind, blood orange and talcum. It has a long finish. The Pinot Noir you didn't know you needed. **Hidden Gem.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Oceano 2021 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Bay leaf, wild thyme and chaparral herbs meet with dark pomegranate and cherry on the nose of this bottling. The palate is buoyant with plummy fruit flavors that float above the peppery herbs. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Pacific Redwood 2022 Pinot Noir (California). The beauty of Pinot Noir is the multifaceted hues, colors and tastes. This natural wine offers up cranberry, mulberry, spice-studded orange, dried herbs, flowers and fresh caramel cooking on the stove. A long, engaging finish invites you to take another sip. Fatty tuna would work well with this one. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$20

92 Patz & Hall 2021 Burnside Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A charred oak aroma leads to a firm mouthfeel, full tannins and subdued red and black fruits in this super-structured wine. The grippy texture wraps around tight-at-this-age raspberry, red cherry and black cherry flavors that need time to unwind. Best not to pop the cork until 2027 through 2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Eye of the Needle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This alluring bottling offers vibrant cassis and brandied cherry interwoven with orange marmalade and dried bay leaf. It's savory but still youthful. Buy it, decant or cellar it a bit, and watch it go. Drink until 2028. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$59

92 Sean W. McBride 2021 Fiadh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine has super-bright concentrated fruit with notes of kirsch, pomegranate, Satsuma orange, orange blossom honey, red florals, green forest and fresh wet earth after a rain. Enjoy this one when glamping. **Editors' Choice.** —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

92 Sean W. McBride 2021 Old Saint George Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This bright, fresh and aromatic wine offers savory strawberry-rhubarb pie, cherry pie filling, spiced orange marmalade, dried rose petal and dried sage. It's slightly meaty, with a dry finish. Drink or hold until 2030. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

92 Stewart 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Rich, deep and broad, this wine emphasizes fully ripened black-fruit flavors wrapped in velvety tannins and spiced with toasted oak, cinnamon, cloves and cedar. It is big and bold for a Pinot, laced with substantial tannins yet balanced by cherrylike acidity. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Artesa 2021 Block 12 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). This deeply colored, ripe-tasting but not too full-bodied wine takes an indulgent approach. It wafts ultrarich black plum, chocolate and blackberry aromas followed by a softly tannic texture packed with blackberry jam flavors. —J.G.
abv: NA **Price:** \$85

91 Artesa 2021 Selection 91 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Strong toasty, oaky aromas meld with black cherries, iron and graphite flavors in this rather tannic, mouthfilling wine. It needs to be splashed into a decanter if drinking it soon or wait to drink from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Bucher 2021 Bucher Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). A figgy, flinty and reduced aroma quickly gives way to palate-drenching black fruits and lively black-pepper spice, wood smoke and graphite. This wine is full bodied, rather tannic for a Pinot and oaky in its overall expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$52

91 El Lugar 2021 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Cherry paste aromas meet with rose petal, slate and toasted wood on the easygoing nose of this bottling. There is ample tension to the sip, where cherry candy, cinnamon, mace and rose oil flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 Ernest 2021 Freestone Valley Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This fragrant, fruity and exuberant wine is packed with fresh impressions of strawberries, raspberries and red cherries as a medium body and crisp acidity give it a mouth-

cleansing feel. Excellent example of a lower-alcohol, acid-driven wine. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

91 Firepit 2021 Pinot Noir (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24

91 Goldeneye 2020 Confluence Vineyard Hillside Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is a happy wine, exuberant in its expression of fruit—cranberry, cranapple, strawberry-orange, pippin apple, turmeric-cardamom spice, enoki mushroom, dried river brush, and savory with a lengthy finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Goldeneye 2020 Confluence Vineyard Lower Bench Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This bottling is chock-full of concentrated blackberries, mulberries, strawberry-rhubarb compote, Bing cherries and mullied spice. These intertwine with orange bitters, cracked black pepper, gravel and rock on the way to a long finish. It screams cool-climate Pinot Noir and the promise of what's to come. Drink or hold until 2030. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Goldeneye 2020 The Narrows Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This bottling speaks to many lovers of wine. The heady nose suggests concentrated huckleberry, cranapple-pomegranate, sarsaparilla, chicory, florals, white pepper and earth. This is a generous bottling from a longstanding producer in Anderson Valley. Drink or hold until 2030. —T.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$90

91 MacRostie 2021 Walala Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). This sturdy, straightforward wine gets the job done with good red and black cherry flavors, a tangy texture and moderate tannins for pairing with richer dishes. Its pleasures are subtle and its balance is perfect. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$66

91 Nadia 2020 Pinot Noir (Sonoma-San Luis Obispo Coast-Santa Barbara County). This fairly priced blend of Pinot Noir from Sonoma (38%), San Luis Obispo (32%) and Santa Barbara (30%) counties shows red cherry, chaparral herbs and a smoky warmth on the nose. The palate's tense red-plum base is surrounded by savory hints of smoked meat and red spices. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

91 The Pinot Project 2021 Pinot Noir (California). A supple Pinot Noir with beautiful fruit, you can drink it on its own, or pair with your favorite meal and people. This one has aromas of garnet colored ripe strawberry, dark cherry, pomegranate cranberry, Orange Julius goodness and five spice. It has silky tannins and a mouthwatering finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Ancien 2021 Red Dog Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). A lavish blanket of

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oak spices and velvety tannins wraps up the deep blackberry and blueberry flavors of this rugged, richly oaked and full-bodied wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

90 Frey 2022 Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This light-bodied organic wine offers supple fruit, with black raspberry, red plum and strawberry-rhubarb compote along with fresh tobacco leaf and dried herbs. It has a dry finish. A classic cool-climate bottling with good acidity. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Morét-Brealyann 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Ultraripe, plummy aromas and flavors relax in a soft, broad texture in this full-bodied wine. Mild acidity and tannins lead to plush baked cherry, cinnamon and vanilla flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

90 Napa Cellars 2021 Pinot Noir (Napa Valley). For full review see page 24.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

90 Olet'te 2020 King Jay Reserve Cuvée Pinot Noir (California). This crowd-pleasing wine offers sumptuous dark-cherry cola, black currant, and jammy black plum along with dried tomato leaf, balsamic vinegar and chicory root. Cassoulet anyone? —T.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$50

90 Parducci 2022 Small Lot Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). For full review see page 28. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Monty In Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine offers baked raspberry, strawberry and ripe nectarine alongside air-cured beef, pink peppercorns and dried river brush. If you love Pinot Noir but your friends want a bigger wine, this one's for you! —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$59

90 Submission 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 29. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Thomas T Thomas 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This wine offers crunchy red plum, blackberry, caramel, cracked black pepper and savory herbs. Silky tannins and good acidity make it great with hearty fare. Drink or hold until 2028. **Cellar Selection.** —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$85

89 Block Nine 2022 Pinot Noir (California). This could be your Tuesday night Pinot Noir to add to the table. Super dry, it offers unripe cherry, red plum, spice-studded orange and portobello mushroom. The wine is earthy, with a dry finish. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Cycles Gladiator 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 30. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 MacRostie 2021 Olivet Lane Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Cinnamon-sugar aromas and almost sweet flavors of vanilla and cherry jelly give this medium-bodied wine a candied expression appropriate for brunch, picnics and parties. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$66

89 The Dreaming Tree 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This full, concentrated wine combines black and blue fruit with candied orange slices. Aromas of florals, incense and dried herbs are framed by vanilla spice. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Belted Vines 2022 Stewart Ranch & Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Strong rose petal and cedar aromas lead to a palate of spiced cherries, vanilla and ginger in this medium-bodied, dry and lean-textured wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Paper Planes 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This straightforward, light-bodied wine offers red and black cherries with some red-tea nuances in the aroma. These are followed by a light body and moderate tannins that support mild fruit flavors and subtle oak spices. —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$50

88 Signature Reserve 2022 Pinot Noir (Carneros). Strong oak aromas and flavors season this full-bodied wine, revealing cedar and cinnamon in the aroma, and cloves and cooked cherries in the flavor. Moderate tannins give it a light, chewy texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Tongue Dancer 2021 The Sly One Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Unusually ripe, jammy and effusive, this wine is drenched in raspberries, strawberry jam and late-picked plums on a soft, broad texture and full, high-octane body. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$59

86 Nielson 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). Tart cranberry and pomegranate aromas meet with wild herbs and rustic dust on the nose of this bottling. There's a sour, slightly leathery kick to the palate, where tart red fruit and earthy elements converge. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$19

84 Member's Mark 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Extracted and heavily ripe aromas of black cherry sauce and maple syrup make for a candied nose on this bottling. The palate is thick, tasting of oak chips and sugared cherries. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

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98 Alpha Omega 2021 Sacrashe Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This wine shows beautiful depth, balance and poise. Effusive black fruits, handsome oak spices and a beefy note provide complexity and interest. Full bodied and layered with soft tannins, it feels plush, warm and almost ready to drink, but has many years ahead of it. Best from 2026–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$280

98 Alpha Omega 2021 Tench Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Powerful tannins and extra-dark fruit flavors elevate this wine to age-worthy status with the first sip. It is packed with black and blue fruit aromas followed by a saturated palate of dark chocolate, baked black cherries, graphite and espresso. Of all the '21s from Alpha Omega, this may be the biggest. Best from 2030–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$280

98 Lail 2021 J. Daniel Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 3. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$310

98 Stewart 2021 Beckstoffer Las Piedras Vineyard Nomad Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A monumental structure, super-deep and dark fruits, and massive, generous tannins define this young, age-worthy wine at this point in its development. Flavors are infused with dried black cherries, graphite, black pepper, toast and oak char but well grounded in the classic dark-fruit flavors of Cabernet. Best from 2028–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$240

98 Tor 2019 Tierra Roja Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 3. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$195

97 Alpha Omega 2021 Sleeping Lady Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Masses of blueberries, dark plums, cassis and luxurious oak spices saturate this full-bodied, tannic but velvety-textured wine. It has the density, concentration and structure to improve for many years. Best from 2028–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$280

97 Beau Vigne 2021 Juliet Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This sleek but powerful and concentrated wine offers enticing and deep black cherry, graphite and cocoa aromas followed by fine-grained tannins that tighten up as you sip. The wine is built for the long haul, needing time for more complexity to develop and the texture to soften. Best from 2028–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$150

97 Cliff Lede 2021 Rhythm Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% Price: \$125

97 Crocker & Starr 2021 Stone Place Old Vines Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Opening with grilled baguette, dark chocolate and black currants in the aroma, this suave-textured wine is laced with fine-grained tannins. A broad mouthfeel coddles almost sweet and super-condensed black fruits. But the wine is well balanced and a velvety, even silky, texture unfolds after the initial blast of tannins. Best 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$195

97 Cult 2021 13th Anniversary Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.2% Price: \$150

97 Guarachi Family 2021 Meadowrock Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$110

97 Meyer Family Cellars 2019 Le Bon Bon Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$130

97 Neal Family 2019 Rutherford Dust Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$125

97 Nickel & Nickel 2021 John C. Sullenger Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% Price: \$135

97 Signorello 2021 Padrone Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). What a comeback for Signorello after devastating wildfire damage to the winery in recent years. This deep, dark wine is super-concentrated in blackberries, dried blueberries, espresso beans and cacao, while wrapped in a silky texture that belies excellent tannin structure for further aging. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$275

97 Stewart 2021 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Nomad Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). So concentrated and rich that it seems to drip dark chocolate, this full-bodied and impressively tannic wine is powerful, deep and age-worthy. An inky appearance and dark aromas like black pepper, blackberries and espresso lead to intense blueberry, molasses and cocoa flavors. It needs time for the texture to soften and flavors to mature. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.7% Price: \$240

97 Stewart 2021 Beckstoffer Vineyard George III Nomad Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).

This classic version of Napa Cab boasts aromas of bay leaves and black olives along with rich flavors of black cherries, black currants, toasted oak and tobacco. Full bodied but balanced, this elegant wine should be vigorously decanted to drink soon, and will be best from 2026 through 2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$215

96 Alpha Omega 2021 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This massive, monolithic wine needs to be laid down in a cool cellar or wine fridge for at least 10 years. Immense fruit concentration is matched by firm, tight tannins that give an astringent mouthfeel now but should eventually soften with time. Best from 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$280

96 Alpha Omega 2021 Beckstoffer Vineyard George III Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Broad, rich and chocolaty, this full-bodied wine is steeped in red and black fruits, dark chocolate, espresso and mint flavors that expand with each sip and linger long on the finish. Very ripe and concentrated, it needs time to reach a peak for drinking. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$280

96 Alpha Omega 2021 Cordes Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Generous, chocolaty and deep, this big but gentle wine is soothing in soft tannins wrapped around black fruits, dark chocolate and cooked blueberries. Fine-grained tannins are almost imperceptibly woven into the rich fruit and oak-spice flavors for a seamless effect. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$280

96 Alpha Omega 2021 Marston Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). Enticing smoky, toasted aromas waft from the glass before powerful tannins and potent black-fruit flavors take over the palate. Blackberries, black cherries, suave clove and cinnamon accents flood the mouth and linger long on the finish. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$280

96 Beau Vigne 2021 Romeo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). An inviting floral note in the aroma leads to beautiful cherry and berry flavors and an agreeable, moderately tannic texture in this full-bodied but approachable wine. It shows more complexity with each sip, and ends with a lingering finish. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$125

96 Cliff Lede 2021 Poetry Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$375

96 Clos du Val 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Powerful but sleek, this impressive wine boasts a dark color, potent black cherry and dark chocolate aromas, and a slightly restrained palate. Firm tannins cloak the

black fruits, cedar and char flavors. The wine's agile balance and elegant feel will reap rewards with time. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$150

96 Corison 2020 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Deep-seated black fruits and light smoky-spicy oak notes waft from the glass before full tannins and saturated black cherries and black currants wake up the palate. This agile, elegant wine is enjoyable now after decanting, but needs further age to show its full potential. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% Price: \$225

96 Crocker & Starr 2021 1 Post Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). A blackberry pie aroma and intense black-fruit flavors are backed by firm tannins in this concentrated, layered, complex and sophisticated wine. Graphite, espresso and toast accent the blueberry and blackberry impressions while tannins lend a velvety, mouthwatering texture. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$250

96 Emerson Brown 2021 IV Michaels Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Powerful and imposing right now, this beauty will be fascinating to drink in a decade or more. This wine is deep and dark in the glass, full of cloves, oak toast and black currants in the aroma, and packed with flavors of black cherries, wild blackberries and mint. It is well balanced, layered and firmly structured for aging. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$115

96 Matt Parish 2020 The AVA Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Saturated in black fruits, espresso and bitter chocolate, this intense and concentrated wine will need time to come around for optimum drinking. Firm tannins wrap around the blackberries, blueberries and black olives while nuances of sage, wood smoke and cloves develop as you sip. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

96 Meyer Family Cellars 2019 Bonny's Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). A distinctive mint and menthol aroma fills the first sniff of this super-concentrated, individualistic wine before a classic, complex mélange of oak spices, black currants and graphite floods the palate with rich flavors. An agile structure of medium to full tannins and a dash of fresh raspberry acidity support the memorable flavors beautifully. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$160

96 Michael Mondavi Family Estate 2021 Animo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This big, complex, aromatic and concentrated wine has tons going for it. Alluring cedar shavings, graphite, cinnamon and cocoa fill the aroma while lush, deep blueberries, black cherries and dark chocolate fill the mouth with richness. Fine-grained tannins add

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great textural support without any astringency. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$90

96 Neal Family 2019 Howell Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$120

96 Nickel & Nickel 2021 Beatty Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Posh, perfumed oak notes fill the aroma of this full-bodied, suave-textured and ripe wine from mountain-grown fruit. Spices like cinnamon, cedar, cloves and vanilla surround a deep core of black cherries and black currants. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$225

96 Nickel & Nickel 2021 Element 28 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This structured but elegant, well-balanced wine comes from the eastern hills of Napa. It shows a gripping, tannic texture at this stage of its life, and also good complexity and concentration that will only amplify with time. Black currants, spearmint and cocoa are snugly wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$225

96 Ramey 2018 Annum Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A silky texture masks powerful black-fruit and dark-chocolate flavors in this full-bodied but elegant wine. From an aroma of black currants and blackberries it goes to rich, chocolaty, toasty and savory flavors interlaced with fine, powdery tannins. Best from 2025–2035. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$125

96 Red Stitch 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Deep and relaxed, this comforting and comfortable wine is richly saturated in black fruits and enticing oak spices while its supportive, fine-grained tannins are hardly noticeable at first. The wine is broad, concentrated and tempting to drink now, but will likely peak from 2028 through 2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$125

96 Rodney Strong 2019 Alexander's Crown Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

96 Round Pond 2021 Eric Bovet M-Bar Ranch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Beautiful black-fruit aromas lead to a polished texture and deep, delicious black currant, blackberry, cedar and toast in this full-bodied, well-balanced wine. The fruit flavors are stunning and the moderate tannins are palate-cleansing. It's a great example of good balance and poise in a big wine. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$150

96 Sequoia Grove 2019 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$125

95 Alpha Omega 2021 Drew Block Stricker Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Bold and full bodied, this well-concentrated wine boasts big, deep flavors of black cherries and blackberries accented by cocoa and oak char. While rather closed and tight at this point, the wine should open and gain complexity with time. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$280

95 Alpha Omega 2021 Thomas Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Silky around the edges and quietly powerful in the middle, this spicy, smoky and concentrated wine wants aging to show its best stuff. Deep, rich blackberries, blueberries and black olives coat the palate as subtle, layered oak spices like cloves, char and graphite add extra nuances. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$280

95 Baldacci 2018 The Thomas Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$1,000 for 3 pack

95 Chappellet 2021 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$95

95 Cliff Lede 2021 Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14% Price: \$250

95 Nickel & Nickel 2021 C.C. Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$135

95 Ramey 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Aromatic complexity, a velvety texture and deep, dark fruit and oak flavors make this wine compelling, and it has much more to show over time. Its smooth mouthfeel and gently integrated tannins soothe the palate while blackberries, blueberries, espresso and toast notes expand on the sip and linger on the finish. Best 2025 to 2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

95 Spottswoode 2020 Lyndenhurst Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This classic-style, elegant wine is well structured for further aging and so expressive of the Napa Cabernet tradition. Aromas of blackberries, black olives and bay leaves lead to black cherries, dark chocolate and tobacco flavors that are deep and persistent without being heavy. Drink from 2028–2038. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$90

95 Stewart 2021 Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Vineyard Nomad Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Black figs, iron and petrol waft from the

glass as you sniff this rich, ripe and mouthcoating wine. It feels dense, saturated in gorgeous black cherries, blackberries and blueberries with hints of of cocoa, char and graphite. The wine is staunchly tannic at this young age but flavors are vivid enough match its structure. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.7% Price: \$215

95 V. Sattui 2018 Terra Forza Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.7% Price: \$42

94 Alpha Omega 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This densely flavorful, velvety-textured wine goes deep in dark chocolate, toasted oak and blackberry jam flavors for a tempting richness that makes it accessible soon, while built ideally for aging. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$119

94 Alpha Omega 2021 Houyi Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This smooth, broad and generous wine is soaked in blueberry, cocoa and black cherry flavors, all wrapped in velvety tannins for good grip in the mouth without overt astringency. Built for further complexity with age. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$280

94 Alpha Omega 2021 Stricker Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Vivid in dark-fruit flavors, polished in texture and firmly supported by fine-grained tannins, this wine is sure to improve with time. Black cherries, cassis, violets and blueberries are backed by good acidity, too. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$280

94 Alpha Omega 2021 Sunshine Valley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). This captivating wine is tempting to drink now but best for aging. It is densely concentrated with indulgent blueberry and black cherry flavors that are wrapped in soft tannins for a creamy, layered and luxurious expression. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$280

94 Cliff Lede 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$80

94 Cliff Lede 2021 Songbook Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$260

94 Crocker & Starr 2021 RLC Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Robust and ripe tasting, this broad-textured wine shows warm, inviting dried-fruit flavors and a melted mouthfeel despite significant tannins that will help it age. Chocolate, black cherry, dried blueberry and mint notes give it plenty to appreciate on a full body. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$85

94 Crowley 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). Tightly structured and intensely concentrated, this wine will need a long time to unwind for best drinking. A deep, dark color leads to toasted oak, wood char, graphite, cooked blueberries and black cherries. Tightly knit tannins wrap snugly around the otherwise silky texture. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$120

94 Darioush 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Heady floral, spicy and cedary aromas are the first impression of this big wine before deep black fruits hit the palate and the impressive tannic grip takes hold. Tempting cinnamon, cocoa and baked blueberry notes linger long on the finish. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$125

94 Edict 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Although it's best to enjoy the complex aromas, layered flavors and velvety texture of this full-bodied wine after a few years, a glass is difficult to put down now when it's young. Toasted oak, tobacco, cedar, dark plums and black currants fill up the nose and palate while sipping this appealing wine. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$98

94 Eleven Eleven 2020 Estate Mélange Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$90

94 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$100

94 Grimm's Bluff 2018 Tierce Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). There's a tight textural magic to the wines from this biodynamic-by-design estate, whose wines will easily live for a decade-plus. Rounded aromas of strawberry, cherry and earth draw in the nose. The palate is very firm around the savory peppercorn and blackberry flavors, but those tannins and the accompanying acidity only increase into the finish. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

94 Guarachi Family 2021 Meadowrock Estate Heritage Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Delicious, deep and jammy, this black-fruit-drenched wine boasts potent blueberry, tobacco, black pepper, oak char and graphite flavors on a firm, tannic texture. The color is black to the rim, aromas are opulent and chocolaty, and the flavors are dense and super concentrated. Built on the level of a Port but without the sweetness, this beast will need until at least 2030 to come around. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$250

94 Gundlach Bundschu 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Potent, earthy aromas like dried black figs, black truffles and oak char lead to a firm, tannic palate packed with black fruits, dark chocolate, graphite and cedar notes.

The wine is intensely concentrated, showing good potential for aging. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Jax 2021 Block 3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). Dark chocolate and dried blueberry aromas lead to uber-ripe fruits, cocoa and a touch of oak char on the palate of this big, rich wine. Massive tannins are softened by the sweet-seeming flavors and contribute to a full, broad texture. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

94 Joseph Phelps 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This powerful, densely packed wine bursts with aromas of late-picked blackberries, blueberries and cassis that give way to bold black fruit and dark-chocolate flavors accented by cloves, black pepper and cedar. The tannins are full and firm, needing several years to mellow for best enjoyment. Drink from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

94 Lail 2021 Blueprint Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Matt Parish 2020 The AVA Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This dark, opulent and spicy wine is richly laced with blueberries, dark cherries, bitter chocolate and an enticing array of oak nuances from cinnamon and cloves to char and graphite. A full body and dense, fine-grained tannins smoothly support the deep and delicious fruits and spices. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 Fluffy Billows Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Firmly structured with tannins, this deep, black-fruit-driven wine is lavish in texture. It's also ripe (but not overripe) and appealing in flavor and well built for further aging. Black cherries, blueberries and cocoa dominate the palate and linger on the finish. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$66

94 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 Spitfire Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$66

94 Mueller Family Vineyards 2021 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). Brilliant, deep and focused fruit flavors give this bold wine an energized core that's wrapped in bracing, fine-grained tannins for a velvety texture. Dark chocolate, baked blueberries, cinnamon and vanilla nuances hold interest on the palate. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$120

94 Neal Family 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Nickel & Nickel 2021 Fog Break Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$135

94 Nickel & Nickel 2021 Lattice Run Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). This intense, tight and super-concentrated wine wraps thick but fine-grained tannins around dark chocolate, espresso, cedar and clove flavors while the blackberry and blueberry base stays rather hidden at this point. For people with good cellaring conditions, it's a great investment in future enjoyment. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$150

94 Nickel & Nickel 2021 Martin Stelling Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Deep, jammy aromas of blackberries and baked blueberries are followed by superrich, opulent flavors and a mouthfilling texture. The full body and lavish tannins are a bit staggering now, but will serve the wine well over time. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$275

94 Nickel & Nickel 2021 State Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Oozing blueberry richness and chocolaty spices, this full-bodied but relatively soft and plush wine eases onto the palate, soothing the senses and revealing dried cherries, blueberry syrup and cocoa powder on its mouthfilling texture. Deep within are oak char, graphite and espresso flavors that need time to meld with the intense fruits. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$135

94 No Love Lost 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Wafting blueberries, dark chocolate and crème de cassis, this powerful but polished wine slowly reveals abundant black fruits, black figs, espresso and 90% cacao on the palate. Layered and deep, the wine is a classic that needs time to mature. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$75

94 Rodney Strong 2019 Brothers Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Rodney Strong 2019 Rockaway Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Round Pond 2021 Honouren Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Big but balanced, this muscular yet agile wine combines delicious but compact fruit flavors with a good structure of fine-grained tannins. Brilliant red and black fruit flavors intertwine on a vivid, mouthwatering texture that is appetizing and elegant. Best 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$110

94 Round Pond 2021 Louis Bovet Home Ranch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Super concentrated in flavor and plush in texture,

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this soothing but powerful wine coats the palate with baked blueberries, dried black cherries and espresso crema, while ultrafine tannins lend a posh, luxurious expression. Decant if drinking soon. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$128

94 Sequoia Grove 2019 Frediani Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

94 Sequoia Grove 2019 Healy Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). This well-balanced and well-structured wine has the classic Cabernet black fruits and a lightly gripping texture to pair with rich dishes like steaks, chops and roasts. Blueberries, blackberries, mint and balsam notes offer tasty complexity. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$120

94 Signorello 2021 S by Ray Signorello Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.

abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$90

94 Signorello 2021 Signori Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$150

94 Sleeping Giant 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). For full review see page 11.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$140

94 Stewart 2021 Beckstoffer Bourn Vineyard Nomad Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

Lavishly spiced with 90% new oak, this chocolaty wine brings cloves, vanilla, wood char and maple to the nose and equally spicy, oaky flavors to the palate. Milk- and dark-chocolate notes overcome mild black-fruit flavors at this point in its development. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$215

94 Stewart 2021 Beckstoffer Dr. Crane Vineyard Nomad Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This sleek, well-polished wine is smooth as silk on first sip. It firms nicely on the palate as superfine tannins mingle with luscious black cherries, cooked blueberries and dark chocolate flavors. Drinkable soon when decanted, the wine will only improve with time. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.

abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$240

94 Ty Caton 2020 Caton Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Tempting aromas of black figs, dark plums and cocoa lead to rich, layered flavors of black cherries, plums, oak char, cedar and graphite that are well integrated with the firm, fine-grained tannins.

This beautifully concentrated wine should drink best from 2027 to 2037. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$44

94 V. Sattui 2021 Vangone Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

94 William Hill Estate 2020 Winemaker's Series Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

For full review see page 12.

abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$70

93 7 Cellars 2020 Elway's Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Handsome toast and butter aromas are backed by coconut, vanilla and marzipan flavors in this no-holds-barred but well-made wine. It's oaky for sure, with oodles of baking spices, but the wood also adds a good grip to the texture that balances the wine's richness. —J.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$40

93 Emerson Brown 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Indulgent blueberries, deep blackberries and subtle, rich oak accents make this wine concentrated, luxurious and mouthcoating.

Velvety tannins wrap around the relaxed, almost-sweet fruits and enticing toast, baking spice and mint accents. Best from 2025–2033. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Far Niente 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This well-concentrated, deeply flavored wine offers tempting cedar, star anise and clove aromas that lead to nicely saturated flavors of baked blueberries, dark chocolate and spearmint.

Full bodied and richly tannic, it's sure to show more complexity with time. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

93 Faust 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Hefty and grippy, this full-bodied wine is sturdy in tannins, deep in black and blue fruits, and will come around nicely with more aging.

Blackberries, blueberries, cocoa and hints of oak char make a good, complex expression on the palate. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 13.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

93 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Force & Grace 2021 Revelist Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

93 Jordan 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 13.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$60

93 Langtry 2021 Tephra Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). For full review see page 14. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Lorenzi Estate 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Spearmint, pine needle and black cherry aromas lead to well-ripened black currants and dark plum on a palate that is laced with brighter red fruits as well.

This true-to-type and high-octane Cabernet from a Temecula winery boasts moderate tannins, good depth and the likelihood of improving through at least 2028. —J.G.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Mario Bazán 2020 Rama Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The savory, peppery side of this well-built Cabernet gives it a distinctive personality, while its moderate tannins and excellent fruit concentration make it easy to enjoy with roasted or grilled birds and beasts.

Black pepper, charcoal, beef jus and black cherry notes converge on the palate. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Orin Swift 2021 Palermo Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$70

93 Red Bear 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$69

93 Rodney Strong 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Sea Bird 2020 Broken Rock Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59

93 Sequoia Grove 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

93 Sequoia Grove 2019 Christian Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). Deep and dense, this big wine from a cool part of southern Napa Valley is well saturated with fully ripe black fruit flavors.

It's also firmly laced with tannins that will help it age gracefully while more fruit and spice complexity develops. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$120

93 Sequoia Grove 2019 Morisoli Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Fragrant aromas of cedar, tobacco and pine are followed by vivid black cherry flavors and a silky texture in this lithe and delicious wine.

Moderate tannins support the generous black fruits and give an appetizing nip to the mouthfeel. Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$120

93 Sleeping Giant 2020 Inglewood Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Well built and concentrated yet sleek in texture, this wine is nicely focused on dark cherries and blueberries just lightly accented with vanilla, cinnamon and cedar from oak aging.

Best through 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$165

93 Stewart 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). While deep and concentrated, this full-bodied wine is also smooth in texture, not overly tight with tannins, and woos you with ample blueberry, black cherry and mint flavors. Drinkable soon with decanting, but able to age well through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

93 Volker Eisele Family Estate 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

92 Broadbent 2021 Auctioneer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Well-ripened black cherries, black currants and blueberries give a robust fruit core to this full-bodied and rather tannic wine. Violets and roses unfold in the aroma, while black fruits, vanilla, cinnamon and cloves saturate the flavors. Delicious as it is, the wine should drink best from 2027. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Clos de Napa 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

92 Darioush 2020 Caravan Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Very rich and concentrated but also well structured, this wine achieves good balance and an appetizing mouthfeel. Red and black cherries, cinnamon, cedar and toasted oak all contribute to its tasty flavor complexity. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$70

92 Dolum Estates 2021 Cask #28 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). An excellent, typical Northern California Cab, this wine has lots of deep, dark fruit flavors and a tannic texture that pairs well with rich, savory foods. Black cherries, blackberries and oak spices like cinnamon and cocoa build nicely on the palate. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$120

92 Firepit 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Grayson 2022 Lot 10 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Produced from small lots from around California, this wine offers notes of dried rose petals, potpourri and plums. These flavors give way to watermelon and round out to hot-tamale candy and a dry finish. The wine would pair nicely with braised meats. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

92 Groth 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This well-structured, classically styled Cabernet offers black currant and cedar aromas, vivid black cherry and cranberry flavors and supportive, sandy tannins for a grippy texture. It is medium bodied, fresh and lively on the palate. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$75

92 Jax 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Fully ripe, jammy aromas and flavors dominate this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine, giving it a posh, plush mouthfeel and almost sweet finish. The impressions of dried cherries, dried plums and blueberries are generous and delicious. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Kirkland Signature 2021 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

92 Little Giant 2020 Lamonica Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Focused, tight and firmly tannic, this is one to put away for several years before uncorking. Deep blueberry and black cherry aromas segue to super-saturated blackberries and black cherries on the palate, wrapped in Cabernet's usual cloak of tooth-drying tannins. It should be wonderful from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$85

92 Matt Parish 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This densely packed wine is smoky and meaty in aroma, well-saturated with black fruit flavors and wrapped in firm tannins. Cocoa, graphite and charred beef complement the potent blueberry and black cherry flavors. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51

92 Murphy-Goode 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). A big aroma of cloves, cedar and oak char leads to equally bold and deep flavors like black cherries, graphite, tobacco and singed rosemary. A brawny structure of tannins and firm acidity frames the fruit and spice elements. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Paul Dolan 2022 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Precision Wine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Raymond 2021 Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Rodney Strong 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Rodney Strong 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Round Pond 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is a standout in the school of plush, velvety and chocolaty Cabernets. A

dark color and generous dried-fruit aromas lead to milk and dark chocolate, candied cherries and cream on the palate. A soft blanket of tannins wraps them all up loosely. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

92 Sleeping Giant 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This wine is relatively smooth, broad and easy-drinking for a Napa Cab. It's chocolaty, minty and full of baking spices layered between ripe blackberries and black cherries. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$150

92 Smith Devereux 2019 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). This soft, velvety wine seems fat and easy at first sip. It firms on the palate where significant tannins wrap around the blackberry jam and blueberry syrup flavors. It is broad, mouthfilling and rich in style. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$80

92 Starmont 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). This opulent, concentrated wine offers red and black currant, blackberry and huckleberry woven together with green bell pepper, black licorice, tobacco leaf, blueberry compote and lemon zest. The midpalate brings the smouldering spice and fruit together seamlessly. Enjoy with fajitas, prime rib and any kind of burger. —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$34

92 Stewart 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Offering strong cedar, clove and charred oak aromas, this firmly tannic wine adds good dark cherry and dark chocolate flavors on the palate that linger on the finish. Quite oaky from aging in 70 new French barrels, the wine seems tight now and needs time to develop. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Ty Caton 2021 Private Reserve Caton Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Aromatic in cloves, cedar and wood char, this firmly structured wine boasts powerful black cherry, black olive and violet flavors riding a rather tannic texture that can use more time to soften. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

92 Ty Caton 2021 Winemaker's Cuvée Caton Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). This wine is dense but also smooth and polished. It opens with aromas of rich black fruits and enticing oak spices before indulgent, fully ripe black plums, dark cherries, cocoa and mint flavors fill the mouth. The wine should be best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$40

92 V. Sattui 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Spiced aromas of cloves, cedar, toast and cinnamon waft from the glass before rich blackberry cream and slightly tart black cherries impress the palate. Fine-grained tannins provide

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a supportive structure for further aging. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$105

91 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Clone 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This bottling is opulent with concentrated blueberry confiture, blackberry, woven sweet cigar, tobacco leaf and sandalwood. The midpalate is cherry cola, blood orange bitters and maple syrup, finishing with chewy tannins which create a mouthwatering texture. The finish is lengthy. Enjoy with your favorite hearty protein. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

91 Dolum Estates 2021 Cask #3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This well-balanced and velvety-textured wine packs good, ripe blackberries and blueberries on moderate tannins. It will pair well with beef and poultry dishes. Decant and enjoy now, or save through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$140

91 Grimm's Bluff 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Tannins are still quite chalky on this wine despite the age, and it will last quite a bit longer. Aromas of polished oak planks, plummy fruits and ample herbs lead from the nose into a very peppery palate of dark red berries. The acidity is strong too, so enjoy now to 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 Napa Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County). For full review see page 22.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34

91 Precision Wine 2021 Vineyard Block Estate 243 Special Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 23.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

91 Rodney Strong 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Sequoia Grove 2021 Winemaker Series Rutherford Bench Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Potent oak char, cedar and clove aromas yield to mouthfilling, high-octane dried fruit flavors, toasted coconut and smoked beef. To say the least, it's a brawny, tannic, tooth-staining wine with maximum oak character. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

91 Susie Bynum 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This opulent, full-bodied wine is bold in dark plums and dark chocolate aromas. These lead to a weighty palate of dried plums and dried cherries laced with cedar, toast and cinnamon from oak aging. Drink now–2028. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$25

90 Barrelstone 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This youthful wine offers sweet yellow plums, blackberry, mandarin, brûléed orange

rind, green olive and Tangerine Dream (not the musical group). There's buoyancy on the midpalate, and the dry finish lingers. Perfect with tombo tuna or Nicoise salad. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Bings Barn 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). This bottling is the sipper with which to ruminate on life. A weighty wine, it offers minted blackberry, plum sauce, candied orange slices, Red Hot candy, molasses, cured black olive, dried sage and bittersweet chocolate. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Block Nine 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This super-juicy wine offers spiced red and black bramble fruit, a bit like the flavors in a mulled wine. There's also a medley of orange, lemon, black tea, maple syrup and cumin seed, with a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Calluna 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Chalk Hill). Exuberant, jammy aromas and flavors ride moderate tannins in this fresh-tasting wine, lending a friendly, drinkable appeal. Blackberries, raspberries, strawberries and a dash of cocoa fill out the flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

90 Clone 7 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This well-made, sturdy and appetizing wine wraps muscular tannins around blackberries and black cherries for lots of flavor and a structure that will help it age well. Decant and pair with a roast chicken or grilled lamb chop. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Tesla Neighbors Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This bottling is opulent, concentrated with blackberry, blueberry, and black currant and huckleberry preserves. These are interwoven with star anise, black cherry, cracked black pepper, green bell pepper, tobacco leaves and bittersweet chocolate to finish. This wine is one of the special Clone series bottlings that Darcie Kent produces. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 East Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Opulent and concentrated, this bottling offers blueberry, olallieberry, huckleberry and brûlée orange. These partner with sweet cigar, tobacco leaf, chicory, vanilla cream, red currant and pomegranate. There's a midpalate lift and silky tannins to finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 West Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This lavish and concentrated wine offers spiced blackberry, black currant, olallieberry and blueberry interwo-

ven with cardamom, sweet cigar, black peppercorn and orange blossom. The midpalate brings suppleness and silky tannins show on the finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

90 Firepit 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). This full-bodied wine offers spiced berry goodness, with notes of clove, cardamom, black cherry confiture, African violet and white pepper. It has silky tannins and would be perfect with oxtail. —T.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

90 Michael David 2021 Earthquake Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 24.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

90 Motif 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Old Soul 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Peirano 2022 Heritage Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$14

90 Six Bit Ranch 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Dark and intense aromas of cherry, blackberry, cedar and fudge converge on the nose of this bottling. The texture is quite firm and dense on the palate, where savory woodspice and charred meat flavors mix with pleasant violet and dark cherry elements. This fairly priced Cab clicks all the boxes. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$21

90 Sketchbook 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). This toasty wine highlights caramel, rich red fruits, red currant and black cherry. With its bright acidity, it will be long lived. The wine balances fruit, acidity and dried herbs, with a gravel influence that brings out the red fruits and acidity. It comes from super-rocky hillsides with a great exposure. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 The Vice 2020 99 Vices Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 25.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$98

90 The Vice 2019 Tee Time Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville). For full review see page 25.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$88

90 Twisted Cedar 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This bottling is dark, juicy and concentrated with blackberry, boysenberry, tobacco leaf and vanilla spice interwoven with cardamom, black tea and dark chocolate, with a lengthy, silky finish. This could very well be your weekday wine with dinner. Enjoy it with braised meats, rich fish, seafood stews and barbecue. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

89 Cycles Gladiator 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This wine abounds with ripe red berries, strawberry preserves and pomegranate, intertwined with coffee, cinnamon, clove, black olives and dried herbs. It pairs perfectly with hanger steak and grilled sweet onions. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Geyser Peak 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This bottling is over-generous with rich, concentrated red plum, raspberry and cassis interwoven with orange zest, vanilla spice, fresh cream and dark chocolate. It has silky tannins and a lengthy finish. An easy-drinking Cab for any night of the week. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

89 Koehler 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). The 40% new French oak in this bottling amps up the spice factor maybe the tiniest bit too much. Aromas of blackberry, brown sugar and mulling spices lead into a palate that's rich in black cherry flavors, thick in texture and layered in allspice and nutmeg. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

89 Line 39 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 30. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Member's Mark 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This harmonious and approachable wine goes easy on the texture, with light tannins wrapping up tasty blueberry, red cherry and black cherry flavors. Drink through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Michael Mondavi Family Estate 2021 Emblem Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This elegant, velvety and medium-bodied wine offers ample black cherries, oak toast and mineral aromas before dried cherries and dark plums dominate the flavors. Light tannins add to the mouthfeel and make the wine good to drink soon. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

89 Parducci 2021 True Grit Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). This bottling reflects the use of toasted oak, offering brûléed sugar, black cherry and crushed green herbs. From a steep hillside in a cool-climate area, it shows a purity of fruit and sense of place. Aerate it for an hour and drink now–2028. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Paso Highlands 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Highlands District). Well-integrated aromas of strawberry, red cherry, dusty earth and spicy cinnamon draw the nose into this bottling, named after the appellation where its grapes are grown. There is good tension to the young-but-ready palate, where subtle red cherry flavors meet with clay-like minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 The Dreaming Tree 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This bottling is rich with mixed berries, Tahitian vanilla cream, clove and allspice combined with succulent orange chocolate, coffee, crème fraîche and silky tannins. The finish is lengthy and the wine is great as a sipper or paired with a meal. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Paloma 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). Fat, rich and full bodied, this wine oozes dried plums, dried black figs and milk chocolate on a mouthfilling texture of medium tannins and soft acidity. It's the kind of plush, elevated-alcohol wine that matches fatty proteins strength to strength. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$84

88 Precision Wine 2022 Circumference Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). An effusive aroma of blackberry jam, plump blueberry and blackberry flavors, and an almost-sweet mouthfeel tee up this full-bodied and lightly tannic wine for serving with spicy meat dishes and tacos. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Vitesse 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Sturdy and straightforward, this full-bodied wine won't steal the show at dinner time but its full tannins, good black cherries and spices of cedar and vanilla bring it through nicely. The wine will pair well with a steak or chop. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$73

87 Tassajara 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey County). Tarry, a bit reductive aromas of dried meat persist after this twist-top sits open for an hour, but the elderberry and dried berry aromas eventually poke through. There's a lot of herbal influence to the palate, from oregano to anise, and muddled red fruit at the core. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

CABERNET FRANC

94 Clos du Val 2021 Hironnelle Vineyard Estate Cabernet Franc (Stags Leap District). Complex notes of toasted oak, cedar and tobacco fill the aroma of this big, broadly tannic wine. Flavors reveal black currants, toast, blackberries and rosemary for a layered and mouthfilling expression. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$125

94 Crocker & Starr 2021 Estate Cabernet Franc (St. Helena). Super concentrated and also impressively tannic, this wine aged in 70% new oak needs a lot of time to loosen up for optimum drinking. Tempting, vivid aromas of darkest cherries, cocoa powder, espresso, vanilla and cedar are tightly wrapped in tooth-drying tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$120

94 Sequoia Grove 2018 Tonella Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Rutherford). Handsome oak spices meet fully ripe, indulgent black fruits in this

big, well-oaked wine that has the structure and good concentration to age well. Cocoa, black currants and black cherries are accented by cinnamon, cedar and vanilla from first whiff to lingering finish. Best 2027–2037. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Lang & Reed 2019 Two Fourteen Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). Abundant, ripe black-fruit aromas and generous oak spices lead to a mouthfilling richness of dried plums and dried cherries accented in vanilla and cedar. The wine feels broad and full, backed by moderate tannins that don't get in the way. Best through 2029. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 T. Berkley Wines 2021 Big Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Oak Knoll District). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

92 Cobden Wini 2021 Old Federal Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Oakville). Attractive rose petal and mint aromas catch your interest on the first sniff. These lead to concentrated and dark fruit flavors like black cherries and cassis in this not-too-heavy and moderately tannic wine. Can't wait to see how it develops. Best from 2026–2023. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$150

91 Jax 2021 Cabernet Franc (Calistoga). This velvety, rich and ripe-tasting wine floods the palate with dark plums, dried cherries and hints of cocoa that give it an almost-sweet devil's food touch. Delicious to drink now–2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2021 Stone Patch Cabernet Franc (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 23.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$50

90 Peju 2021 Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). Dense and saturated, this bold, weighty wine wraps thick tannins around dark plums, black cherries and blueberries. It needs a juicy, fatty dish to pair with, such as pasta bolognese or a mushroom risotto. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Majuscule 2021 Conn Valley Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). This lithe and lean wine is laced with firm tannins and spiced in toasted oak, ground ginger and white pepper notes over red plums and black cherries. Oak tannins give a tooth-drying effect and need a juicy steak or chop to pair with. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

SYRAH

95 MCV 2021 Syrah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 6.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$52

BUYINGGUIDE

94 Darioush 2021 Shiraz (Napa Valley). Big, bold, fruity and peppery, this wine goes for the limits of ripeness while keeping the signature Syrah spice and smoke qualities. A full body and firm tannins support dried cherries, black plums and black figs, with a hint of beef jus on the finish. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$90

94 Doctor's Orders 2021 Jubilate Syrah (Ventura County). Dense aromas of violet, espresso bean and fresh açai sorbet make for an engaging and unique nose on this bottling. The palate is smooth and creamy with baked blackberry and pie crust flavors, though black plum skin gives a sharper edge and charred meat provides a savory sense. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

94 V. Sattui 2021 Syrah (Napa Valley). Smoked bacon and grilled beef aromas, and immense chocolate, gamy flavors are wrapped in velvety, fine-grained tannins. This wine is saturated, deep and tannic but well balanced. Best from 2026–2036. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

93 El Lugar 2020 Spanish Springs Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo Coast). There's a meaty angle to the nose of this cool-climate Syrah, from beef bouillon to caramelized bacon fat, as well as dark berry and concentrated purple-flower scents. The palate combines flavors of roasted blackberry and vanilla with a refreshing acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

93 Jaffurs 2020 Thompson Vineyard Syrah (Alisos Canyon). This is a very savory style of Syrah from a generally ripe vintage, offering peppercorn, asphalt and sage aromas against the richer elderberry-paste scent. The palate lands with prominent purple-fruit flavors that are immediately balanced by eucalyptus leaf, green sage and sansho pepper elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

93 Terre Rouge 2020 Sentinel Oak Vineyard-Pyramid Block Syrah (Shenandoah Valley). This exuberant and concentrated wine offers blackberry, blueberry and boysenberry confiture. It also conveys a candied fruit element, along with African violet, chocolate-covered orange slices, nutmeg and bittersweet-chocolate-covered espresso bean. The wine has a mineral-driven finish and promises longevity for many years to come. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2038. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Bouchaine 2021 Estate Selection Syrah (Carneros-Napa Valley). Ample ripe, black-fruit flavors back up smoky, meaty complexity in this full-bodied, generous and varietally true wine. Dried plums, baked blackberries and a dash of black pepper bring it to life, while moderate tannins are absorbed by the full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

92 Meyer Family Cellars 2021 Syrah (Yorkville Highlands). This bottling delivers dark rich berries, bruised black fruits, sugared orange slices, cotton candy, chicory and brandied fruits with spearmint. This could your winter medicine, with long life in your cellar. *Hidden Gem.* —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

92 Outward 2022 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). A light color in the glass, this 100% whole-cluster Syrah combines floral tones of lavender with brisk red plum and sansho pepper aromas on the nose. The palate is zippy with pluot flesh and strawberry-top flavors, as eucalyptus leaf adds a terpene kick. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Terre Rouge 2020 Ascent Syrah (Sierra Foothills). This opulent wine is concentrated with black currants, blueberries, bourbon-soaked black cherries, blackberries, bay leaf, espresso cream with clove and spiked orange, with a super-long finish. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2033. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

92 Terre Rouge 2020 High Slopes Syrah (Sierra Foothills). This concentrated wine showcases the joys of extreme cool-climate Syrah. It offers black cherry, strawberry and blackberry along with smoked meat, pink peppercorn, star anise, dried chicory, dried black plum and maple syrup. The juicy core leads up to a long, dry finish. Pair this with grilled meat, sausage and teriyaki-glazed dishes. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Holly's Hill 2022 Fenaughty Syrah (El Dorado). This bottling is a medley of ripe blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry and creamed sherry interwoven with lavender-vanilla cream, orange sherbet and Jolly Rancher cinnamon candy, with a silky tannin finish. Enjoy with great cut of beef or bison, a burger or ahi tuna steak. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

91 Jaffurs 2020 Kimsey Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Blackberry and black plum aromas meet with carob, walnut and Oreo cookie crust on the nose of this bottling. The palate's restrained fruit flavors of elderberry and black plum are lifted by toasted sage leaf and warm pastry. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

91 Terre Rouge 2020 DTR Ranch-Estate Syrah (Fiddletown). This bottling offers dried black cherry, cranberry-pomegranate, red currant and orange pekoe tea intertwined with dried cumin, sweet tobacco leaves, vanilla extract and balsamic reduction. It has a juicy and mouthwatering, but dry finish. Aerate for 30 minutes. Drink now–2030. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Minus Tide 2021 Valenti Vineyard Syrah (Mendocino Ridge). This wine offers deeply concentrated blackberry and blue fruits, along with

lots of texture from earth, clay and mineral. There is so much going on and everything is still developing. Drink or hold until 2030. —T.P.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42

90 Tizona by Bokisch 2021 Sisu Vineyard Syrah (Placer County). This bottling offers dark fruits of strawberry, black raspberry, blueberry, black licorice, fresh pine and florals. The core is stewed with black plum, vanilla cream, dried sage, clove and bittersweet chocolate, with mouthwatering, silky tannins. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2030. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

GRENACHE

93 Doctor's Orders 2021 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Toasted sage and rosemary clippings elevate the juicy blackberry fruit aromas on the nose of this bottling by an Ojai-based brand. The tannins are smooth on the palate, showing just enough bite to balance the broad flavors of baked berry, bay leaf and roasted meats. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

91 Paper Planes 2022 Grenache (Russian River Valley). A relatively light appearance and a brick color on the rim lead to a tangy, moderately tannic palate that yields sour cherry, cranberry and balsam flavors. An earthy, meaty note carries throughout, giving the wine a good, savory expression. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Terre Rouge 2020 L'Autre Grenache (Sierra Foothills). This juicy wine offers cranapple, fresh cranberry juice, black cherry, clove, dried damask rose and vanilla cream intertwined with Szechuan peppercorn. The finish is lengthy. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Amador Cellars 2019 Estate Grenache (Amador County). This wine is concentrated with ripe red currant, red and black plums and blackberry. The midpalate gives way to juicy, supple fruits. Tannins are chewy and cigar leaves, tobacco leaves and confitured fruit round out the finish. —T.P.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Croma Vera 2021 Grenache (San Luis Obispo Coast). Dark strawberry and black cherry flavors meet with French toast spices on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rounded with strawberry cream and fruit-punch flavors that are wrapped in just-enough tannic tension. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

MALBEC

95 Crocker & Starr 2021 Casali 14th Edition Malbec (St. Helena). Dark, deep and spicy, this powerful wine wraps rich tannins around black cherries, blueberries and black olives, studding

them with dark chocolate, cinnamon and roasted poblanos. It is a big, exotic, delicious and mouthfilling wine to pair with a grilled steak or anything in a molé sauce. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$98

93 **Thirty-Seven 2019 Reserve Malbec (Petaluma Gap).** Dark spices, dark fruits and dark chocolate flavors rest in moderate tannins in this full-bodied but suave and velvety wine. It pours out blackberries, cocoa and cooked plums that fill the palate and linger on the finish. Best from 2026–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$58

89 **Stephanie 2018 Malbec (Napa Valley).** Toasted oak, salt and pepper fill the aroma of this big, spicy wine. Firm tannins tighten around the black cherry and cranberry flavors for a mouth-puckering sensation that will need time to resolve. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 **The Vice 2020 The Lucky Money Malbec (Coombsville).** This easy-sipping, generous wine is relaxed in soft acidity, smooth tannins and nicely ripe dark plums and blackberries. It's full bodied but gentle in texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

MERLOT

93 **Langtry 2021 Tehpra Ridge Vineyard Merlot (Lake County).** For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

93 **Sea Bird 2019 Aphrodite Broken Rock Vineyard Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 **Raymond 2021 Reserve Selection Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 20. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

92 **Smith Devereux 2019 IBEX Merlot (Napa Valley).** Concentrated black-fruit flavors are joined by hints of tobacco, minerals and dried herbs in this full-bodied and well-balanced wine. Medium tannins add a good, grippy texture that invites pairing with beef stew or grilled lamb chops. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$60

91 **Reciprocity 2022 French Camp Vineyard Merlot (Paso Robles Highlands District).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Parducci 2022 Small Lot Merlot (Mendocino County).** For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Thacher 2020 Casagrande Vineyards Own-Rooted Merlot (Adelaida District).** The nose

on this bottling of this own-rooted Merlot is a bit tart at first with red plum aromas, lifted by rustic hints of oregano and thyme. The palate's strawberry core is enhanced by toasted herb, prevalent pepper and a hint of cinnamon spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

89 **Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Ghost Vines Merlot (Livermore Valley).** This bottling offers concentrated baked blackberry, black plum, black cherry, black currant and incense, woven through with dark chocolate, espresso crema, vanilla cream and dried fennel. Drink now and enjoy with baked salmon, roasted chicken and baked pasta. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 **Tizona by Bokisch 2021 Terra Alta Vineyard Merlot (Lodi).** This wine offers baked red plum, brandied cherry, mullied spice and caramel red-apple skin, combined with rosemary, red currant, chewy tannins and a dry, long finish. Drink now and enjoy with dinners any night. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

88 **Cycles Gladiator 2022 Cycles Gladiator Merlot (California).** This bottling makes for light, easy drinking. It offers fresh plums, raspberries, dried eucalyptus, black tea and black licorice, with a dry finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

86 **Maroon 2019 Reserve Merlot (Chiles Valley).** Earthy, woody aromas lead to mature, meaty and leathery flavors in this full-bodied, rustic wine. Considerable tannins lend a gripping texture to support the well-aged flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

PETIT VERDOT

95 **V. Sattui 2021 Vittorio's Vineyard Petit Verdot (Napa Valley).** This is a velvety, elegant version of an often tannic and potent grape varietal, coating the mouth with a suede-like texture that hugs deep, dark fruit flavors and ample oak spices. Well concentrated and tannic without overdoing it, the wine is tempting now but has years ahead of it. Best from 2026–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$54

92 **MCV 2021 Petit Verdot (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 18. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$52

91 **Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Crown Block Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley).** For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 **Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Crown Block Petit Verdot (Livermore Valley).** Rich and lively fruits of black currant, red plum and huckleberry are juicy yet tart and mouthwatering. The core offers white-chocolate cream, sugared ginger and

pink peppercorn, beckoning you to take another sip. Aerate for an hour and drink until 2028. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 **Tizona by Bokisch 2021 Petit Verdot (Lodi).** Red plums, black cherry and blackberry are dense but vibrant in this wine. There's lift in the core with bourbon-soaked cherries, maple syrup, lemon zest and dried florals interwoven with the fruits, creating buoyancy and roundness. —T.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

PETITE SIRAH

95 **Robert Biale 2021 Royal Punishers Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

93 **Robert Biale 2021 Palisades Vineyard Petite Sirah (Calistoga).** This wine has a deep, nearly black color. Charred oak and grilled beef aromas lead to black fruits, blackberry jam without the sugar, and super-intense, fine-grained tannins. Don't touch this monster for several years. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$62

92 **Amador Cellars 2019 Petite Sirah (Amador County).** This bottling is opulent with configured blackberry, blueberry, paprika and dried sage, woven with florals and dark chocolate. It has chewy tannins and a lengthy finish. Unfiltered and unfinned, the wine shows off all its goodness. Kosher. —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

92 **Element 79 2020 Estate Petite Sirah (Fair Play).** This bottling is opulent with concentrated blackberry compote and dried herbs. Slight gaminess in the midpalate intertwines with cigar, allspice, vanilla extract and bittersweet chocolate, with a long finish. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2032. —T.P.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

92 **Vista Del Mirador 2018 Violet - Long Leaf Block Petite Sirah (Fair Play).** In this lavish bottling, concentrated olallieberry and huckleberry bring freshness and fullness to the wine without weighing it down. Nutmeg, sage, rose petals, creamy vanilla and sweet chocolate come together with silky tannins. Aerate for 30 minutes and pair with your favorite braised dish. —T.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$36

91 **Firepit 2021 Petite Sirah (San Francisco Bay).** This wine is inky with blue and black fruits, clove and cardamom. In the midpalate, the spice comes together with violets, sumptuous dark chocolate and brûléed orange slices, with a mouthwatering finish. Surprisingly juicy with fresh fruits, it leads to eating something delicious. What will you choose? —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$24

91 Firepit 2020 Petite Sirah (San Francisco Bay). This bottling is concentrated with ripe blue fruit, black plum, black cherry, cured meats, dried herbs and toasted vanilla. These come together with chicory, sandalwood, molten chocolate and a juicy fruit-pie core in the midpalate. The wine invites you sip again. Aerate for 30 minutes and enjoy with your favorite weekday meal. —T.P.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$24

91 Old Soul 2021 Petite Sirah (Lodi). For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Frey 2020 Petite Sirah (Mendocino). Concentrated and opaque, this bottling offers boysenberry, black-cherry cream soda, blood-orange bitters and black licorice interwoven with violets, allspice, crystalized ginger, green chartreuse and dark chocolate. It is a complex offering from a leader in organic and biodynamic winemaking in California. —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

89 Geyser Peak 2021 Petite Sirah (California). This bottling is both floral and mineral. Concentrated black fruit, allspice, clove and lemon-cream pie roll into jammy red fruit, dried herbs, Red Vines licorice and coffee. Weighty midpalate, it has a lengthy finish. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$14

ZINFANDEL

96 Bartholomew Estate 2021 Garden Block Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). Huge fruity, peppery aromas and generous, concentrated flavors are wrapped in hearty tannins in this impressive, firmly structured 100% Zinfandel. Wild blackberries, sage and boysenberries fill out the flavors, while a full body carries them through a lingering finish. Best from 2026–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

95 Robert Biale 2021 Morisoli Vineyard Zinfandel (Rutherford). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$68

94 Bartholomew Estate 2021 Estate Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). While powerful and concentrated, this wine also shows a good polish. Fine-grained tannins integrate elegantly with the pure, ripe blackberries, blueberries and wild herb flavors. Subtle oak spices add layering on the palate and extended finish. Best from 2026–2034. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

94 Robert Biale 2021 Grande Vineyard Zinfandel (Napa Valley). This big but velvety wine is all polish and poise despite its high octane and superripe blackberries and raspberries. Smooth on the sip, concentrated in the middle and long-lasting on the finish, it's a memorable wine to savor. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

94 Robert Biale 2021 Old Kraft Vineyard Zinfandel (St. Helena). Handsome, dry and well structured, this wine goes deep in wild berry, black pepper and smoky, sage-y flavors. A full body and moderate tannins add nice grip on the palate. Excellent balance and refreshing acidity set it up for pairings from grilled chicken to prime rib. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

94 Robert Biale 2021 Stagecoach Vineyard Zinfandel (Napa Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

94 Robert Biale 2021 Varozza Vineyard Zinfandel (St. Helena). Tempting, and superripe dried-fruit aromas lead to saturated, plummy flavors in this soft but full-bodied wine. With raspberry jam, blackberry syrup and strawberries flooding the palate, the wine can be savored on its own or like a Port with aged cheese and toasted nuts. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

93 Easton 2020 Rinaldi Vineyard-Old Vine Zinfandel (Fiddletown). A classic old-vine Zinfandel, this wine offers a core of confitured red currant, cranberry, raspberry, strawberry jam, black cherry, baked rhubarb, mulled spice, chicory and dark chocolate shavings. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2032. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Robert Biale 2021 Aldo's Vineyard Estate Zinfandel (Oak Knoll District). So fruity that it tastes sweet, this blackberry- and strawberry-soaked wine is broad and effusive, lifting jammy aromas to the nose and pumping crushed berries across the palate. Mild tannins and high octane give it a powerful, lingering and saturated finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$95

93 Robert Biale 2021 R.W. Moore Vineyard Zinfandel (Coombsville). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$65

93 Truett Hurst 2021 Red Rooster Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Complexity and power come together beautifully in this full-bodied, deeply flavored and moderately tannic wine. Black pepper, cloves and cedar waft from the glass before generous blackberries and dark plums fill the palate. A good, slightly grippy texture will help it pair well with grilled meats and cheesy pastas. —J.G.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$49

93 V. Sattui 2021 Ramazzotti Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This balanced and full-bodied wine deftly fits together ripe berry flavors with savory nuances of black pepper and bay leaf. This complexity comes with moderate tannins and good acidity that make the mouth water. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

92 Easton 2020 Zinfandel (Fiddletown). This opulent wine is concentrated, with dried black and blue fruits, dried herbs, potpourri, orange

acacia honey, black molasses, fines herbes, mocha, chocolate and chewy tannins. This classic high-elevation Zinfandel can age forever. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2040. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Foppiano 2021 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30

92 Girard 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Napa Valley). Opulent oak spices are seamlessly woven with dried-fruit richness in this ultrasmooth and mouthcoating wine. Dried black figs, blackberry jam and a touch of maple syrup merge with vanilla, cinnamon and cedar notes for a banquet of indulgences. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

92 Pedroncelli 2021 Bushnell Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

92 Precision Wine 2022 Navigator Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Robert Biale 2021 Black Chicken Zinfandel (Napa Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

92 Valravn 2022 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). This sleek, elegant wine holds a surprising amount of concentrated blackberries, raspberries and strawberries on a silky texture soothed by light tannins. Layers of fruit keep revealing more black fruits, mint and black pepper notes. Best from 2025–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

91 David Clinton 2019 Teldeschi Vineyard Ancient Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fully ripe black-fruit aromas and lovely strawberry, chocolate and blackberry flavors give plenty of juicy substance to this easygoing, full-bodied wine. A generous mouthfeel and light tannins keep it smooth through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Michael David 2021 Earthquake Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 22.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Moss Roxx 2021 Reserve Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Rusack 2021 El Rancho Escondido Santa Catalina Island Zinfandel (California). Grown from nearly forgotten vines that survived for a century on Santa Cruz Island, this Catalina Island bottling is always worth collecting. It's light in the glass, offering aromas of tart, fresh red fruit and toasted wood with a hint of underlying earth. The palate is brisk

and snappy with red plum and carnation flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$98

91 V. Sattui 2021 Gilsson Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). Jammy fruit aromas and generous, ripe flavors make this full-bodied wine appealing while moderate tannins and a broad mouthfeel continue a smooth expression. Strawberries, blackberries and a splash of red cherry are fun to pick out. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

90 Easton 2021 Zinfandel (Amador County). This wine from a longstanding producer is plush on the nose, with generous red plum, red currant and bright raspberry. The palate continues that theme with cinnamon, allspice, orange zest and juicy fruit, finishing dry. There are so many expressions of Zinfandel and this is a classic one. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Element 79 2019 Estate Zinfandel (Fair Play). This big, concentrated wine is loaded with blackberry, black cherry, black raspberry, star anise, lemon meringue, basil, spearmint, molasses and creamy dark-chocolate sauce. Pairs well with mole and berry desserts. —T.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$33

90 Frey 2021 Zinfandel (Mendocino). This wine is concentrated with expressive fruit, black currant jam, blueberry, cinnamon and fresh caramel. Super bright and juicy, it offers balanced acidity that lifts the midpalate. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Old Soul 2022 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). For full review see page 28. **Best Buy.**
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

90 Paul Dolan 2022 Zinfandel (Mendocino). For full review see page 24.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Pech Merle 2022 Reserve Zinfandel (Mendocino County). This wine offers juicy brambled fruit. Black currant, blackberry and blueberry come together with pink peppercorn, cardamom, crushed bay leaf and dark chocolate. This is old vine Zinfandel at its best. —T.P.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$33

89 Cline 2021 Farmhouse Red Blend (California). For full review see page 29. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 David Clinton 2019 Mounts Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Aromas of cedar and balsam wood set a spicy tone for this mellow, cinnamon- and nutmeg-influenced wine that recalls strawberry pie. A relatively soft texture and light tannins add to the comforting expression of this broadly textured wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

89 Grayson 2022 Lot 12 Zinfandel (California). This big but gentle wine is concentrated with juicy fruit. Jellied cranberry, strawberry jam and orange glycerine mingle with paprika, cardamom and vanilla cream. The easy-drinking wine will be great with barbecued chicken. **Best Buy.** —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Maroon 2019 Reserve Zinfandel (Chiles Valley). Rich aromas of blackberry jam and cloves lead to opulent, almost syrupy black cherry and black fig flavors. This full-bodied wine feels broad and viscous, nearly carrying the weight of a Port. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$66

89 Truett Hurst 2021 Luci Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Opulent, superripe fruit flavors and a full body are backed by light tannins and low acidity in this big, broad wine. Blueberry syrup and blackberry jam dominate the flavors while a sweet impression carries the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$49

89 Truett Hurst 2021 Single Vineyard Collection Tzabaco Rancho Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Ripe strawberry, blackberry and oak-spice aromas lead to luscious, dried-fruit flavors of black plums and raisins in this high-alcohol, smooth-textured wine. It is plump and easygoing, almost sweet in its juicy ripeness. —J.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$66

88 Director's Cut 2021 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh-crushed berries and spicy cocoa aromas from new-oak barrels vie for attention before rich chocolate, maple and vanilla notes layer over blackberries on the palate. A bit heavy on the oak but still a very good, chunky wine for beefy dishes. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

88 Zialena 2020 Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Sweet, jammy aromas are matched by generous, ripe and seemingly sweet flavors of raspberries, boysenberries and strawberries. This wine has a smooth texture and full, high-octane body. Pair with barbecue or chunks of parmigiana. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$42

87 Grgich Hills 2019 Miljenko's Old Vine Estate Grown Zinfandel (Calistoga). Dominated by flinty, black pepper aromas and earthy, iron-like flavors, this hearty, moderately tannic wine takes a little getting used. It will pair well with big, fatty dishes like risotto and cheesy pasta. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

87 Kanpai 2022 Aozora Armor Plate Vineyard Old Vine Field Blend Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). This tangy, tightly wound and light-bodied wine takes a rarely trodden path for the grape variety. Raspberry and cranberry aromas lead to a crisp, tart texture and lean, dried cherry and raspberry flavors. Recommended for acid-lovers and adventure seekers. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

BARBERA

90 Pack String 2021 Barbera (El Dorado). This bottling is bright and juicy. Cranberry, pomegranate, brûléed orange slices and cumin are interwoven with pink peppercorn, tobacco leaf, dried violets and black tea. It's weighty midpalate and a lingering, dry finish promises longevity. Aerate for 30 minutes. Enjoy with steak, poultry and hearty vegetable stew. —T.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$23

90 Vista Del Mirador 2019 La Grand Vineyards Reserve Barbera (Fair Play). This bottling offers concentrated red and black fruits interwoven with cooking spices, bacon fat, cured meat, orange zest and coffee liqueur. Silky tannins mark the finish. Aerate for 30 minutes then enjoy with hearty dishes. —T.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$32

89 Amador Cellars 2020 Barbera (Amador County). This generous bottling offers concentrated red and black fruits, spice and florals woven together with bacon fat, confitured black currants, blackberry jam, sarsaparilla and cream. The finish is juicy, mouthwatering and dry. Enjoy with a hearty protein. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

CARMENERE

91 Cuda Ridge 2021 Little Dog Vineyard Carmenera (Livermore Valley). This lavish bottling offers concentrated and jammy red and black currant, red and black plum, and potpourri intertwined with bacon fat, chicory, cigar, strawberry-rhubarb compote and boysenberry. It's a full-bodied Carmenera with lots of fruit, tension and a long finish. Enjoy with braised beef cheek —T.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

90 Cuda Ridge 2021 Casa de Vinas Vineyard Carmenera (Livermore Valley). This wine is opulent, offering concentrated blueberry, olalliberry and huckleberry intertwined with paprika, chocolate, cigar, blackberry jam and Szechuan peppercorn. Fresh berries midpalate create a bridge to a juicy, fruit-filled and silky finish. —T.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Cuda Ridge 2021 Insel Family Vineyard Carmenera (Livermore Valley). This bottling is dense and concentrated with confitured red currant, red plum and savory dried herbs. These interweave with underripe blackberry, boysenberry, Earl Grey tea, dried tobacco leaf, orange zest and bittersweet chocolate on the way to a lengthy, dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

OTHER RED WINES

93 Saint K 2021 Dial Tone Mourvèdre (Paso Robles Highlands District). The sci-fi comic

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book label on this bottle is worth the price alone, but the juice inside is just as engaging. Aromas of dark fruit and flower meet with bubbly caramel and soy on the nose. The palate is tense in structure, as young tannins frame bright and boisterous plum flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Markus Wine Co 2021 Nicolini Ranch Carignane (Lodi). Spiced with mulberry, black cherry and sarsaparilla, this wine offers concentrated, juicy fruit in the midpalate, all interlaced with fresh-ground coffee, dried bay leaf, black molasses and vanilla bean. Aerate for an hour before enjoying. Drink or hold until 2028. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$41

91 Ramey 2019 Claret (North Coast). This lush bottling delivers concentrated aromas of red, black and blue fruits, along with cigar, tobacco leaf and chicory. The palate repeats those notes and interweaves cumin, dried sage, orange zest, bitter-sweet chocolate and espresso bean. The finish is dry and lengthy. Pay attention—this one will be in your cellar and on your table often. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Tizona by Bokisch 2021 Old Vine-Mule Plane Vineyard Carignane (Lodi). This bright, tart wine shows great concentration and complex red-fruit flavors without being at all heavy. A core of red currant, pomegranate, red licorice and candied red apple combines with Asian five spice and cranberry juice cocktail, giving way to a higher acidity. The midpalate is juicy. This wine shows the pleasure of drinking old-vine Carignan. —T.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$36

91 Wine Without Borders 2021 Grand Durif (San Francisco Bay). This wine is concentrated with boysenberry, olallieberry, blackberry and oolong tea interwoven with dried chicory, black licorice, blueberry, sweet cigar, mint chocolate, lemon crème and espresso. The finish is long and supple. Aerate for an hour. Enjoy with a burger or simply with friends. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Amador Cellars 2019 Ottimista Sangiovese (Amador County). This bottling is lively with red currant, red plum and strawberry-rhubarb interwoven with Red Vines licorice, dried herbs, potpourri, chicory, lime marmalade and espresso crema. It has a mouthwatering dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Holly's Hill 2022 Classique Mourvèdre (El Dorado). This fresh and bright wine offers red currant, red plum skin, strawberry-rhubarb and ripe watermelon interwoven with lemon zest, star anise, chicory and dried sage. The juicy midpalate repeats the fruit and freshness. Enjoy with duck breast, croque monsieur or a Reuben. —T.P.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

90 Tizona by Bokisch 2022 Bechtold Vineyard-Cinsaut Cinsaut (Lodi). This wine is fresh,

crunchy and chewy. Baked red plum, black cherry and raspberry interweave with strawberry, orange zest, cinnamon, brown sugar, chicory, bittersweet chocolate and fresh coffee. It has a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Wine Without Borders 2021 Primitivo (San Francisco Bay). This bottling is concentrated with red plum, black cherry, blueberry, cardamom and allspice. These team up with brûléed orange slices, huckleberry compote, cured meat, ginger spice, toasted vanilla and silky tannins. —T.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$23

89 Esperanza 2020 Estate Durif (Contra Costa County). This wine is rich and dense, with red currant, red plum and strawberry-rhubarb interwoven with savory notes of dried herbs, tobacco leaf, confitured black cherry and red plum, finishing with juicy brambled red fruit. Durif is very much like Petite Sirah but the tannins are drier. Enjoy with grilled meats. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

88 Matchbook 2021 Tinto Rey Tempranillo (Dunnigan Hills). This bottling offers dried black cherry, cranapple-pomegranate, mulberry, black currant, blackberry, lemon zest, orange and spiced vanilla, with a dry finish. —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

RED BLENDS

98 Alpha Omega 2021 Era Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Black to the rim, where the color shows ruby-purple, this layered and complex wine is opulent in black cherries, cocoa, pencil lead and baked blueberries. Unusual for a red wine, it was barrel fermented. Fine-grained tannins saturate the deep flavors and bode well for extended aging. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$320

96 Alpha Omega 2021 Proprietary Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This massive wine is as intense in black fruits and dark chocolate as it is in tannins and body. Built for mid- to long-term aging, it boasts heady aromas of dried blueberries, dried cherries, violets and oak char followed by equally rich and concentrated flavors. The tannins are dense but fine-grained, ready to preserve the wine as it develops more complexity with time. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$119

96 Pym-Rae 2019 Tesserón Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This mountain-grown wine blended from Cabernet Sauvignon with 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Merlot is firmly structured, super-concentrated and heading for a long life. Aromas of dried plums, sunbaked black figs and black cherries are followed by a harmonious array of black cherries, blackberries, dark chocolate and subtle oak spice like tobacco and oak char. Expect this wine from the Tesserón family of Bor-

deaux to develop beautifully over time. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$390

95 Groth 2020 Oakcross Proprietary Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Oakville). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$99

95 Guarachi Family 2021 G by Alex Guarachi Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Atlas Peak). A great structure for aging and concentrated, complex flavors make a fantastic combination in this deep, dark and delicious wine from the mountain-top Meadowrock Vineyard. The saturated blackberry, blueberry and mocha flavors are tempting to drink now, but will become more complex with time. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

94 Baldacci 2021 Fraternity Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Cliff Lede 2021 High Fidelity Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$100

94 Cliff Lede 2021 Rock Block Series Diamond Sky Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stags Leap District). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$115

94 Clos du Val 2021 Yettalil Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stags Leap District). Warm, chocolaty flavors and a broad texture give this wine a suave, drinkable texture based on velvety tannins baked into the mix. It's easy to love the cocoa, blackberry, graphite and boysenberry jam notes. Made from mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, with minor portions of Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$200

94 Matt Parish 2020 Tino Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Delicious black currant and dark cherry aromas lead to a juicy, elegant palate of fresh black fruits and hints of oak toast, black pepper and olives. The wine is very flavorful and well balanced. Moderate tannins make it approachable now, yet best from 2026 to 2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

94 MCV 2021 1105 Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$55

94 Ramey 2019 Claret Red Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Ty Caton 2021 Tytanium Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Toast, salt and pepper aromas meet deep black cherry and baked blueberry flavors in this structured, rather

tannic and nicely concentrated wine. Good depth of fruit and a velvety texture make it tempting to drink soon. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.

abv: 15.2% Price: \$80

93 Ashes & Diamonds 2019 V.1 No. 1 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). A bouquet of red roses, violets and basil gives an exotic entry to this full-bodied and richly tannic wine before gorgeous black currants, blueberries and dark chocolate coat the palate. Pair this wine with a roast rack of lamb, ribeye or beef stew. Best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$135

93 Bartholomew Estate 2021 Press Release Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). Cedar, toast and tobacco notes fill the aroma of this firmly tannic and full-bodied wine before concentrated black cherries, black currants and mint take over the flavors. The wine is big but balanced, tempting to drink soon and best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

93 Crocker & Starr 2021 A.V.A. Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This lavish, indulgent blend based on Cabernet Franc woos you with dark- and milk-chocolate aromas. These are followed by deep, broad and delicious flavors of black cherries, black currants, mocha, vanilla and cinnamon that won't quit. Moderate tannins are well integrated, so drink it now to 2030. —J.G.

abv: 14.6% Price: \$75

93 Edict 2021 Proprietary Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). A floral, rose-petal aroma leads to hearty dark plum and dark cherry flavors in this deep and layered wine. A full body matches moderate tannins while the texture stays sleek and polished. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

93 Markham 2019 The Altruist Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.6% Price: \$29

93 Smith Devereux NV Setta Red Blend (Napa Valley). Opening with toasted oak and graphite aromas, this big, Merlot-dominant blend is deep in dark chocolate, black currants, cedar and oak-char flavors that show good concentration. It boasts a full body, moderate to full tannins and will develop with age. Best from 2027–2033. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$74

93 The Fugitive 2020 Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley). Fresh herbs like parsley and basil add a nice twist to the aroma of this rich and mouthfilling bottling before a flood of dried plums, dark cherries and dark chocolate coats the palate. Firmly tannic and well balanced for its size, this robust wine should drink best from 2027. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$30

93 William Hill Estate 2020 Benchmark Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17.

abv: 15.4% Price: \$110

92 Charger 2019 Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This rich and ultimately quite satisfying Rhône blend is hitting its prime drinking window right now, so enjoy soon. Warm aromas of vanilla, caramel and baked berry are cut by asphalt and black pepper on the nose. Those lush spices carry through the gingerbread-laced palate, where cinnamon-spiked pastry flavors are awash in black-berry syrup and milk chocolate. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

92 Clif Family 2021 Bici Rhône-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). A light color, aromas of grilled meat, milk chocolate and star anise segue to complex savory-fruity flavors and a medium body in this smooth, likable blend of Grenache and Syrah. Made with organic grapes. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$42

92 Cline 2021 Cashmere Red Blend (California). For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

92 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Choreography Red Blend (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 17.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$75

92 Exit West 2021 Estate Red Blend (Red Hills). For full review see page 17.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$40

92 Lions Head Collection 2021 Lion Tamer Red Blend (Napa Valley). Rich blackberry jam aromas lead to deep chocolate, baked plums and cocoa on the palate, where a wave of sandy tannins gives plenty of grip to the texture. It's a quiet giant of wine that needs a lot of time or a juicy steak to pair with now. Best from 2027. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

92 Markus Wine Co 2021 Single Source Finion Red Blend (Lodi). This concentrated, black-fruit-driven wine offers cardamom, allspice, cumin, potpourri, bittersweet chocolate, tobacco leaf and leather. It has dusty tannins and a dry finish. Aerate for an hour. Drink or hold until 2032. —T.P.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$34

92 Matanzas Creek 2019 Desvelado Red Blend (Bennett Valley). Packed with jammy black fruits, this bold, full-bodied wine dominated by Malbec and Merlot grapes shows plenty of ripeness in black cherries, dark plums and black figs. Moderate tannins don't dominate, so the texture is sleek and easy. Best through 2029. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$65

92 Neyers 2021 Left Bank Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 19.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$55

91 Bon Ton 2021 Red Blend (Napa Valley). This supple, suave wine wraps a velvety texture of fine-grained tannins around generous, ripe red and black fruits for a satisfying and appetizing expression. It's great for serving with everything from roast chicken to pasta bolognese and moussaka. Best through 2027. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$36

90 Cedarville 2020 The Rules of Fair Play Red Blend (Fair Play). This wine is opulent, with concentrated black berry, boysenberry, brûléed orange zest and African violet. These are interwoven with black truffle, mushroom, cardamom, star anise, vanilla bean and espresso, with silky tannins to finish. Aerate for one hour and pair with your favorite cut of meat. —T.P.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$45

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2020 Red Blend (San Francisco Bay). This lavish wine is concentrated with mulberry, cassis, black currant and strawberry-pomegranate, intertwined with florals, cardamom, clove, salted caramel and molasses. It's super balanced, with a dry finish. —T.P.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$40

90 Element 79 2020 Estate Alloy Red Blend (Fair Play). This wine is concentrated with ripe, confitured black berry, olallieberry, blueberry and molasses. These interweave with bacon fat, vanilla-bean cream, violets, cumin, cardamom, black tea and simmering spices. Mole sauce and a burst of orange zest round out the finish. Aerate for an hour and enjoy with a hearty meal. —T.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

90 Gigli's Blend 2021 Estate Red Blend (Contra Costa County). This bottling offers jammy red and black plum, bourbon-soaked cherry, blood orange bitters, dried chicory and vanilla, all wrapped around layers of clove, cinnamon, chocolate cream and espresso crema. Great paired with grilled meats or dessert. —T.P.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$44

90 Langtry 2021 Old Soldier Road Tephra Ridge Vineyard Red Blend (Lake County). For full review see page 24.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

90 Old Soul 2021 Red Blend (Lodi). This lively wine offers concentrated red currant, raspberry, strawberry-pomegranate, dried herbs, florals and lemon. Orange zest lifts the midpalate, which shifts into chicory, Red Vine licorice, earth and mineral, with silky tannins. *Best Buy.* —T.P.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

90 Old Soul 2021 Folklore Red Blend (Lodi). For full review see page 28. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

90 Six Sigma Ranch 2020 Diamond Mine Red Blend (Lake County). This youthful wine shows concentration on the midpalate, with dark berry fruit and pink peppercorn. Dusty, sweet and

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chewy tannins lead to a dry, long finish. Hold and drink until 2032. —T.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

90 Terre Rouge 2020 Les Cotes de L'Ouest Red Blend (California). This bottling offers jammy boysenberry, black cherry and black plum interwoven with cracked black pepper, red-pepper jam, savory spice and molten chocolate, heading into a smooth finish. Enjoy with braised dishes. —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 The Dreaming Tree 2021 Crush Red Blend (California). For full review see page 29. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

90 The Vice NV Red Blend (Napa Valley). This semisweet wine based on Petite Sirah tastes like a Port, offering dark raisins, dried plums and chocolaty spices that are mouthfilling, concentrated and lingering. Moderate tannins are softened by the jammy sweetness. Good to pair with spicy meats or sip neat by a fire. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$32

90 Twisted Cedar 2021 Red Blend (California). This bottling is rich with mixed black berries, florals, spices and sarsaparilla woven into bittersweet chocolate, toasted vanilla and five spice. The core offers sweet fruit, sweet cigar and spiced chocolate, with a lengthy finish. Pair with barbecue, grilled meat or a hearty stew. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 William Hill Estate 2020 Winemaker's Series The Notch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 25.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$75

89 Educated Guess 2021 EG Red Blend (Napa Valley). A superdark color and intense blackberry jam aromas are followed by fresh-crushed blackberry and raspberry flavors, moderate tannins and a potent, jammy expression in this porch-pounder of a wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Ghostrunner 2022 Red Blend (California). Light and juicy, this wine offers brambled red fruit, pomegranate-cranberry, Cinnamon Fire candy, chocolate peppermint and rose petal. Super-pretty fruit and soft silky tannins make it a weekday treat with roasted chicken. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 The Smith 2019 Red Blend (California). Crunchy black plum aromas meet with wet slate, loamy soil and a hint of wool on the nose of this bottling. The palate is layered in wild berry, fennel pollen and dried herb-stalk flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$33

88 One Acre 2019 Warner's Blend Frediani Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Calistoga). Smoky and peppery oak-char aromas lead to ample

blackberry, black cherry and dark chocolate flavors. This lavishly oaked wine tracks cedar, cinnamon and espresso notes from first whiff to a firm finish. Full, somewhat drying tannins mean it's not for sipping alone, but needs food. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

86 Smashberry 2022 Red Blend (California). Fruity aromas of strawberry sauce are cut by anise on the nose of this blend of Zinfandel, Malbec, Petite Sirah and Lagrein. The palate shows a sweeter side, with more strawberry and licorice as well as an annatto flavor. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

DESSERT WINES

95 Dolce 2017 Late Harvest White Blend (Napa Valley). More sweet and candied than the last release, this now-classic wine made from grapes shriveled by noble rot is lavish in honey, candied orange, toasted peanuts, peach syrup and butter-scotch flavors. The color is golden amber, mouthfeel is unctuous, texture beyond creamy and yet backed by a touch of apricot brightness. Time is its friend; best from 2025–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100/375 ml

94 Kanpai 2020 Estate Grown Dessert Wine Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This Port-style wine aged in Cognac barrels has all the delicious black fruits and dark chocolate of a high-end Napa red, but with elevated alcohol and a moderate level of sweetness. It doesn't go over the top, however, and would be fun to pair with foie gras or filet mignon in addition to blue cheese and toasted walnuts. Best through 2033 or beyond. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$45/375 ml

90 Salt of the Earth 2022 Flore de Moscato (California). This fresh and supple wine boasts aromas of canned peach, white nectarine and honeysuckle blossoms. The midpalate offers flavors of orange blossom honey, Bosc pear, pink grapefruit zest and powered sugar. Layers of honeyed fruit and minerality bring everything together for a dry long finish. Pair with spicy pad thai, hard cheese or your favorite dessert. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Moscato Rubino 2022 Sweet Red Muscat Muscat (California). Sometimes, there are roses which connect with many sections of a meal. The lively aromas of cream Cherry soda, ripe Strawberry and Orange Marmalade, fresh herbs and the zippy acidity traverses our food pairings. Think savory spice or dessert. *Best Buy.* —T.P.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2022 Amabile Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Floral and fruity in aroma, and lightly sweet in flavor, this light-bodied wine offers citrus blossoms, white peaches and pear nectar notes. It's rich

enough for a simple dessert like biscotti, but will be great with mild cheeses as well. —J.G.
abv: 10.2% **Price:** \$68/375 ml

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

95 Irvine & Roberts 2021 Convergence Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50

94 Arabilis 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Sniffing this wine is like going for a walk outside on a snowy day, complete with scents of pine needles, loamy soil, wet and mossy garden path stones and an icy lemon snow cone. Steely acidity guides the wine's lemon butter on biscuits, thyme and rosemary flavors. This is comfort Chardonnay, brilliantly executed. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

94 Lange 2022 Lange Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Visions of Damson plums dance in my head, with accompanying aromas of butter, sage and cool earth. Yellow apple and lemon butter flavors do a slow dance with a nice bit of zesty lime tree honey. The wine's rich texture is complemented by crisp acidity. Enjoy this wine on a back porch with any Utah Phillips album. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$65

94 Lavinea 2021 Elton Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This is my favorite Elton since John. Incredibly racy acidity casts a spotlight on aromas and flavors of orange blossoms, slices of Mandarin orange, green apples, lemon icing and saline. It is unabashedly tart and svelte, with a crisp mouthfeel. It's only showing a glimpse of its potential. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$62

93 Irvine & Roberts 2021 Ascendance Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). An almost perfect balance between weight and crisp acidity sets the stage for aromas and flavors of pear, browned butter, lime zest, olive oil and seared scallops. There's also a mineral quality here that makes me want to make chalk art on the sidewalk. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 Red Electric 2021 Evening Primrose Armstrong Vineyard Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge). I have never sniffed an evening primrose, but if it smells like this wine, put me down for a bouquet. We're talking tangerines and Meyer lemons backed by a chalky talc-like note. Jolting acidity then escorts flavors like strawberry tea, peaches, beeswax and a hint of mint to the part of the brain that regulates pleasure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$35

93 Satyr Fire 2021 Legacy of Myr Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Myr's legacy is searing acidity and hunger-pang-inspiring flavors. The journey begins with melon, straw and musky beeswax aromas. Then, a combination of flavors that tastes like roasted chicken with a lemon-almond sauce and rice pilaf on the side brings it home. I've never had a Chardonnay like this. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Tumwater 2022 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Resisting the wine's roasted pear drizzled with browned butter aromas is difficult. Notes of toasted hazelnuts and gunflint add even more appeal. The flavors are similar, with chilled pear slices, butter, orange zest and cinnamon holding court. There's some weight here to accompany elevated acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

92 Arabilis 2021 Pearlstad Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). After fermenting and aging in French oak, 15% new, for one year, this Chardonnay is eager to make your acquaintance. An impressive aromatic combination of Meyer lemon, butter, lavender and the tang of salt-and-vinegar potato chips leads the way. Flavors like lemon, pine nuts and a spicy bite of paprika seal the deal. It's on the lighter-bodied side, with great acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

92 Lange 2022 Classique Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Fermented and aged in a combination of French oak, stainless steel and concrete, the Classique delivers quality for a modest price. Passion fruit, honeysuckle and toasted hazelnut aromas are a great start. Then, when the pear, lemongrass and lime zest flavors take over, you are prepared to invest in a case. This is a medium-bodied wine with gentle acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

92 Satyr Fire 2021 Oath of the Grove Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Green apple and crushed walnut aromas are punctuated by traces of chamomile and talc. The Oath's texture edges toward creamy, with gentle acidity shepherding flavors like lemon drop hard candies and chilled Golden Delicious apple slices. I can't wait to try this with fresh Dungeness crab. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 The Setting 2021 Chehalem Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). Think about a baked yellow apple accompanied by a scoop of olive oil ice cream sprinkled with a smidgen of sea salt. Sound good? Then buy this wine. The wine's equally appealing coconut butter, pear and lime zest flavors are joined by bright acidity and a lengthy finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$65

92 Tumwater 2021 Black Label Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A distinct apple aroma is joined by chamomile, lavender and earthy buckwheat honey notes. The medium-bodied wine offers

rich butter and caramelized green apple flavors that are balanced by a surprisingly crisp jolt of acidity. The thought of serving this wine with mac and cheese is comforting. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$70

92 Wetzel Estate 2019 Chardonnay (Van Duzer Corridor). Behold a dazzling Chardonnay that offers great value at \$26. Dandelion tea and chamomile aromas meld with notes of peach and juniper berries. The peach is more pronounced on the palate, where it is joined by woody flavors of cedar and fennel. While light in body, this Chardonnay features bold acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Lange 2022 Three Hills Cuvée Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The aromas of Ginger Gold apples and wet straw are positively fall harvest-like. The apple flavor on the palate is tarter, suggesting a Granny Smith to go along with kiwi and olive oil flavors. You can expect some body here, with a lush mouthfeel and modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

91 Sun Break 2022 J Marie Royer Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Straw warming in the sunshine provides the aromatic backdrop for notes of buttered popcorn and lemon bars. More citrus coats the palate with a lemony sheen, followed by bits of toasted almond and arugula. I also love the shivery quality of the J Marie's acidity. It will give the person sitting next to you goose bumps. —M.A.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$38

90 Duck Pond 2022 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 La Crema 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A tropical experience awaits, as aromas of pineapple, lime and orange blossom honey drift up from the glass. The islands theme continues on the lean palate, as ginger, coconut, grilled pineapple and ice-cold mineral water flavors wash up on the beach. Who's ready to limbo? —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Lavinea 2022 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). A classic set of yellow apple, smoky toasted hazelnut, lime and chalk aromas lead into flavors like tart lemon zest, mint tea and Italian basil. The wine's lean and light texture accompanies mouthpuckering acidity. I'd let this acid cut a swath through fatty tuna sushi. —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

90 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Aged in a combination of stainless steel and French oak, this medium-bodied estate wine leads with tart green apple, freshly mowed grass, basil and chamomile tea aromas. Crushed walnut and thyme flavors collide on the palate with a pronounced peach presence. There's modest acidity and a soft texture. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Winter's Hill NV Estate Grown Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Having a bag of Dundee Hills Chardonnay in the refrigerator is a devilishly tasty temptation. A Golden Delicious apple note melds with aromas of toasted hazelnuts and popcorn garnished with melted soy butter. Modest acidity and an elegant mouthfeel accompany the flavor of a baked apple laced with butter and cinnamon. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50/1.5 L

89 Arabilis 2022 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Butter and warm tortilla aromas unite with ripe cantaloupe in a pleasing fashion. Then, flavors like dill butter, green tea and grilled lemons glide along the wine's smooth texture. Medium-bodied with soft acidity, the wine was fermented and aged in second-fill Louis Latour barrels. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$38

PINOT GRIS

89 Chateau Bianca 2022 Pinot Gris (Van Duzer Corridor). Mildly sweet aromas of Golden Delicious apple flesh and gardenias are punctuated by a bit of blueberry. The wine's modest acidity and lithe texture flank tropical flavors ranging from coconut water and macadamia nuts to tangerine and matcha tea. I'd try this with grilled halibut. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Winter's Hill NV Estate Grown Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills). This 1.5 L eco-pack of Pinot Gris is portable fun personified, from its aromas of green papayas and crushed peanuts to flavors like sour green apples and wet slate. It is a light-bodied white with a pleasingly soft texture and acidity. The producer says the wine will remain fresh up to a month after opening. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$50/1.5 L

87 Duck Pond 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). A salt-and-vinegar aroma stuck me as positively pepperoncino like. This Pinot Gris also serves aromas of guava and freshly cut grass. Guava and saline repeat on the palate as flavors. You can expect a wispy mouthfeel and modest acidity. I'd try this wine with an order of Crab Rangoon. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

RIESLING

96 Ovum 2021 Memorista Riesling (Elkton Oregon). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$25

94 Satyr Fire 2022 Crystal Dagger Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$40

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93 Ovum 2022 Off the Grid Riesling (Rogue Valley). A Southern Oregon Riesling that sees time in acacia and concrete is definitely off the grid. It smells as crunchy and fresh as powder snow, with bonus scents like brioche and sweet yellow apples. Flavors like poached pears, sugar cookies and grapefruit brûlée are backed by crisp acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

91 Chateau Bianca 2022 Riesling (Van Duzer Corridor). This excellent off-dry Riesling reminds me of hanging out in the kitchen as my grandmother bakes Christmas treats. Lemon shortbread, talc and almond aromas transition to ripe Golden Delicious apple, powdered sugar and cinnamon spice flavors. There's more than enough acidity to keep things lively. Superb value. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

90 Satyr Fire 2022 Glacial Age Riesling (Yamhill-Carlton). Freshness personified here, with the kind of acidity that may require a restraining order. Aromas of lavender, Meyer lemon, chamomile and shea butter lead into brisk flavors like lemon peels, peach skins, saline and white pepper. A mild metallic note hovers in the background. —M.A.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$40

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Troon 2022 Roussanne (Applegate Valley). For full review see page 16. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 11.5% Price: \$45

92 Ovum 2022 Aligoté (Elkton Oregon). Ovum's take on Aligoté shows restraint in terms of alcohol but not flavor. White grapefruit and wet granite aromas in no way prepare you for the wine's savory green olive, white button mushroom and lemon butter flavors. Look for softer acidity, with a rich mouthfeel. Try this wine with a plate of freshly shucked Yaquina Bay oysters. —M.A.
abv: 11% Price: \$25

92 Ovum 2021 Cedar Ranch Vineyard Pinot Blanc (Rogue Valley). While a small portion of the grapes used to make this wine had botrytis, it was fermented dry in 1,000 L chestnut casks. Grilled pineapple, rosemary and olive oil aromas are followed by flavors of yellow apples poached with butter, wet stones and a trace of fennel and citrus. Soft acidity makes for easy sipping. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

92 Ovum 2022 Love O' Love Gewürztraminer (Rogue Valley). What's not to love o'love about lime, lavender and rose-scented bathwater aromas? The Gewürztraminer's lychee fruit and ginger flavors are backed by modest acidity. Made with fruit plucked from 47-year-old vines, the wine was fermented and aged in a combination of cement egg, acacia puncheon and 1000 L Austrian cask. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 Ricochet 2022 Yamhill Valley Vineyards Pinot Blanc (McMinnville). This wine reminds me why I can never give up on Pinot Blanc. The enticing aromas range from yellow apple skins and lemon butter to sage tea and peonies. Then, crunchy acidity highlights flavors like a Bosc pear drizzled with butterscotch. Pinot Blanc still matters. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$35

92 Tumwater 2022 White Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). You will feel like you are dipping a toe in a mountain stream after inhaling this wine's crisp, fresh aromas of icy cold pear slices, honeysuckle and a bit of cinnamon. Flavors of red cherries, apples, chamomile tea with honey and cardamom are backed by lip-smacking acidity. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$55

91 Satyr Fire 2022 Darkmoon Lotus Viognier (Eola-Amity Hills). I enjoy a Viognier that's on the lighter-bodied side, with a crisp mouthfeel and nice acidity. The Darkmoon Lotus ticks those boxes. Its peach pie and cinnamon aromas are joined by a wet slate note, followed by fresh flavors of sliced peaches, olive oil and a hint of saline. Thai takeout, prepare to meet a new friend. —M.A.
abv: 12% Price: \$35

SPARKLING WINES

98 Roco 2013 RMS Brut Delayed Disorgement 10-Year Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$110

96 Adelsheim 2017 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Chehalem Mountains). A strawberry tart with a graham cracker crust gets the aroma party started, followed by a bit of lemon zest. The flavors are a touch tangier, with cranberries and rose hip tea holding court. Toast your happiest moments with this *methode traditionnelle* blend of 53% Pinot Noir and 47% Chardonnay. Disgorged on March 15, 2022. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% Price: \$75

96 Irvine & Roberts 2018 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$120

94 Adelsheim 2019 Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Chehalem Mountains). A splash of mineral water with a high calcium content blends with tangerine jam on a brioche to create a welcoming set of aromas. Flavors like lemon, marzipan and red cherry float on a creamy texture. This *methode traditionnelle* blend of 57% Pinot Noir and 43% Chardonnay was disgorged on May 23, 2023. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

93 Adelsheim 2016 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). A warm croissant drizzled with red clover honey only begins to

describe this *methode traditionnelle* sparkling wine's aromatics. You can also expect notes of yellow apples and a trace of talc. Flavors like lime zest and honeycomb bounce, buoyed by a crisp, fresh mouthfeel and rollicking acidity. Disgorged on March 15, 2022. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% Price: \$100

93 Argyle 2019 Spirit Hill Vineyard Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Blend (Eola-Amity Hills). This 85% Pinot Noir and 15% Pinot Meunier blend offers orange pith, butterscotch and warm croissant aromas that make you feel like you are hanging out in a cozy bakery café. A healthy amount of acidity and lively bubbles propel flavors like lime, kumquat and saline. An elegant mouthfeel is the cherry on top. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA Price: \$60

92 Chehalem 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Dundee Hills). This Pinot Noir-driven sparkling wine spent three years en tirage before its disgorgement in 2023. The wine's aromas include roasted pears, hazelnuts and a healthy dose of minerals. Flavors ranging from lemon verbena and ginger to brioche and honey glide to a long creamy mouthfeel. One sip will have you whipping up scrambled eggs on toast. —M.A.
abv: 12% Price: \$65

92 Pet Matt 2022 Sunnyside Vineyard Riesling (Willamette Valley). Matt Berson of Love & Squalor is a skilled Riesling practitioner, so I was excited to try his *pétillant-naturel*-style sekt. It did not disappoint. Green papaya, peach fuzz, hazelnuts and yeasty brioche aromas segue into flavors of a mineral-laden tonic water garnished with lemon. This wine is bone-dry and ready to dance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

91 Argyle 2018 Spirit Hill Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Argyle never disappoints with wines that sparkle. This 100% Chardonnay bubbly first persuades with apple, freshly baked bread and honeysuckle aromas. The closing argument features lemon zest, pink grapefruit, crushed walnut and honey flavors that are elevated by zingy acidity. You may surrender now. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

91 Pet Matt 2022 Sams Vineyard Sparkling Rosé Cabernet Franc (Southern Oregon). This pink-hued *pétillant-naturel* wine with brash acidity is more fun than we deserve. Crushed strawberries and sunflowers paint an aromatic picture made even more irresistible by notes of thyme and rose petals. Flavors of candied nectarines, saline and juniper berries rub up against a chalky texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

90 Wetzel Estate NV Cuvée Blanc Sparkling Blend (Van Duzer Corridor). Good sekt is hard to find in Oregon, but Wetzel's dry sparkling blend of 97% Riesling and 3% Muscat hits the

spot. Peach and mint aromas blend with a mild petrol note to make a nice first impression. Tangerine is the dominant flavor, with traces of lavender and cotton candy tagging along. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Adelsheim 2019 Demi-Sec Sparkling Blend (Chehalem Mountains). Wet slate and spicy Meyer lemon rind aromas lead to flavors like marzipan, melon and a piece of lemon shortbread. The wine's texture is rich and creamy, with a whisper of Moscato-like sweetness. This traditional blend of 57% Pinot Noir and 43% Chardonnay was disgorged on May 23, 2023. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

ROSÉ

90 Winter's Hill NV Estate Grown Pinot Noir Rosé (Dundee Hills). What's not to love about a liter of lovely rosé in a bag with a handle? Take this portable pink Pinot to the nearest beach or zoo concert to enjoy aromas and flavors of ripe peaches and cherries. In support of the fruit, a savory burst of prosciutto-cheese gougères hovers in the background. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50/1.5 L

PINOT NOIR

96 Élevée Winegrowers 2021 Departure Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Wherever this wine is departing to, I'm on board. A dazzling aromatic set of crushed pomegranate seeds, strawberries and sweet pea flowers start the journey off right. Then, a lightning bolt of acidity propels sweet red cherry and bergamot tea flavors that last for a good long while. You need to be on this Pinot train. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

95 Domaine Divio 2022 Hyland Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Bright and tangy boysenberries anchor an aromatic set that includes black tea, earthy oregano and salmon grilling on a cedar plank over coals. Tart blackberries dominate the sinewy palate, joined by traces of lemongrass tea and ripe Oregon white truffles. Great acidity matches leathery tannins. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$65

94 Adelsheim 2021 Laurel Leaf Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). This perfume of sweet, powdery violets, muddled raspberries and pine needles is difficult to resist. So why not surrender—especially given the wine's tangy blackberry, citrus and balsam wood flavors? Your reward is energizing acidity and a Pinot Noir worthy of special moments. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

94 Anam Cara 2022 Nicholas Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Fans of acidity that provides the thrills and chills of a scary

roller coaster ride need to line up for this wine. Lilacs and dark raspberries dominate an aromatic set that includes a touch of pork fat. Look for tart cranberry and citrus flavors that are backlit by electric acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Talk about a holiday flashback. It starts with aromas of cranberry, beeswax and a note similar to glazed ham. A sweet blackberry flavor is counterpointed by traces of orange zest, pomegranate and nutmeg. It's like standing in my mom's kitchen at Christmas. Bright acidity and sturdy tannins are a bonus. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

94 Domaine Divio 2022 Gregory Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). An aroma of burnt blackberry pie filling picked from the edge of the pie tin is warm and comforting. It is joined by notes of violets and cedar. There's more blackberry on the palate, along with flavors of espresso, orange peel and anise. This balanced beauty conjures memories of baking in my grandmother's kitchen at Christmas. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

94 Élevée Winegrowers 2021 Meredith Mitchell Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Meredith Mitchell's aromatic perfume features bright red cherries, sweet clover and just the tiniest bit of earthiness. The wine's tart red cherry flavor is accented by white walnuts and crushed walnut notes. A rich, creamy texture makes this the perfect wine to enjoy while cuddling by a fireplace on a snowy night. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

94 Irvine & Roberts 2021 Convergence Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$50

94 Lavinea 2021 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Raspberry and lavender aromas make me happy. When a third aroma reminds me of warm ginger cookies, I'm over the moon. The wine's texture is rough like a pair of new corduroys, with grippy tannins making their presence felt. Flavors of tangy cranberries and bold black tea dominate the palate. Drink 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$77

94 Love & Squalor 2019 Reserved Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). It's always the quiet ones. The winemaker named this wine "Reserved" because he thinks it only hints at its potential. Trust me, it is already excellent. Dark raspberry, orange peel, basil and clove aromas lead to flavors of white tea and red cherries. Lemony acidity matches with brawny tannins. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

94 Red Electric 2021 TGV Armstrong Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Looking for a good long-term investment? Go long on the TGV. Its raspberry, brown sugar and chalky slate aromas are mesmerizing, while the wine's acidity will snap you out of the trance. The flavors range from black cherry and strong black tea to a burst of orange zest, all hanging on leathery tannins. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$70

94 Satyr Fire 2022 Stormcrow Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). Lovers of restrained alcohol and acidity that soars as high as any corvid should flock to this wine. Tart red raspberry, orange zest and pine needle aromas join an icy freshness akin to newly fallen snow. Suede-like tannins support crisp cranberry and orange flavors, along with traces of white tea, juniper berries and thyme. Drink at either dusk or dawn. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Tumwater 2021 Black Label Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aromas of a saline ocean breeze, wild blackberries, pine needles and earthy humus are like a hike in an Oregon Coast Range forest. Flavors like black cherry jam, black tea and bittersweet dark chocolate are equally pleasurable. Lemony acidity and silky tannins provide a sense of balance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Adelsheim 2021 Grand Oak Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District). Inhaling these aromas of blackcap raspberries, violets, shortbread and crushed walnuts made me happy. There's a nice balance here between elevated acidity and firm tannins, with granola-like flavors of cranberries, oats and a bit of brown sugar. I can't wait to try this wine again in a few years. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

93 Adelsheim 2021 Quarter Mile Lane Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Red fruit aromas arrive with a bit of coaxing, quickly followed by earthy notes of fresh hops and melting beeswax. The wine's acidity induces shivers, while mixed berry, orange zest and smoky Lapsang souchong tea flavors offer comfort. This wine is light on its feet, dancing toward the ethereal texture zone. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

93 Adelsheim 2021 Winderlea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). With the balance of a caffeinated high-wire artist, this wine boasts acidity that soars, matched by sturdy tannins holding down the fort. Dried cranberries and strawberries dominate, with a trace of toasted oats giving the wine's aromas a granola vibe. Orange pekoe tea and cherry jam on toast flavors keep the breakfast theme going. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

93 Arabilis 2018 Willamette Valley Reserve Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). What a spec-

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tacular blend of fruit from two great vineyards—Sojeau and Cristom's Eileen. This producer does that 100% whole cluster fruit justice, beginning with aromas of dark raspberries, tart rose hips and a trace of blueberries. Thanks to brawny tannins, the wine's Bing cherry and bergamot tea flavors feel mildly chewy. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection*. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$55

93 **Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton)**. The wine's aromatic combination of raspberries, oats and vanilla made me yearn for my favorite Scottish dessert—cranachan. Raspberries reappear on the palate, along with flavors of black tea and orange zest. This is a lighter-bodied Pinot Noir with a graceful texture and crisp acidity. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$60

93 **Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills)**. Aged for 10 months in French oak, 40% new, this young but precocious wine is already giving glimpses of its potential. A bright red cherry aroma is complemented by contrasting notes of blueberry soda and the saline of a freshly shucked oyster. Lavender lemonade and blackberry flavors are spotlighted by bright acidity. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$60

93 **Élevée Winegrowers 2021 Björnson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills)**. Lively acidity equivalent to a mild slap to the face woke my olfactory system up for beautiful aromas of marionberries, sourdough bread, sea salt and freshly picked pansies. The wine's raspberry jam flavor is counterpointed by lemon zest and a mild bitter arugula note. The tannins are silky smooth. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$58

93 **Lavinea 2021 Elton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills)**. A spicy aroma of blackberries laced with cumin is joined by a warm graphite scent that conjures memories of Fourth of July sparklers. Elevated acidity and firm tannins are in harmony, with flavors like blackberries and blueberries, grated ginger and white tea holding sway. Graceful and elegant. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.

abv: NA

Price: \$77

93 **The Setting 2021 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)**. A sweet floral perfume of dried rose petals and lavender greets the nose, followed by dark raspberry and saline aromas. There's balance here, with lemony acidity and sturdy tannins supporting jammy linzer cookie and orange pekoe tea flavors. Skip high tea and drink this instead. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$85

93 **Tumwater 2022 Clone 95 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)**. Tumwater's take on the rare 95 clone leads with aromas of black cherry and powdery violets, followed by a scent similar to cedar planks heating up over hot coals. Pie cherry

and tangerine flavors are accented by fresh basil and green tea notes. It's beautifully balanced, with silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$70

93 **Winter's Hill NV Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills)**. If you are only going to buy one bag of wine, let it be this 1.5 L eco-pack of joy. Cherry and chocolate ganache aromas are accented by wee bits of toasted coconut and earth. The wine's creamy texture hosts flavors like dried cherries and the coffee-and-cream combo of a rejuvenating latte. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$50/1.5 L

92 **Adelsheim 2021 Bryan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)**. I'm not sure where Bryan Creek is, but it must flow with raspberry juice and peach skins, with violets growing along its banks. Zingy acidity and tannins like coiled steel provide ample support to rich plum, sarsaparilla and black tea flavors. This is a creek I want to dip my toes in. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$85

92 **Anam Cara 2022 Nicholas Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)**. Fresh and zingy aromas of lemon zest and wet grass lead to blackberry and leather notes that get stronger with each swirl of the glass. Icy acidity enlivens flavors like black cherry, thyme and cedar. There's even a hint of blackstrap molasses on the finish. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$44

92 **Arabilis 2019 Willamette Valley Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)**. If you love great Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, Arabilis is a name you need to get to know better. Its 2019 Pinot Noir shows a deft hand, with an elegant texture, silky tannins and restrained alcohol. Raspberries and violets fill the air, followed by flavors of dark red raspberries and a dark chocolate ganache. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50

92 **Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)**. Raspberry and strawberry aromas unite with dried hay and red clover notes to replicate a hike in the Willamette Valley countryside. Dark plum and strawberry fruit leather flavors are spiced up by cacao and orange zest, with chewy tannins and elevated acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

92 **Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills)**. After 10 months in lightly toasted French oak, 40% new, this Pinot Noir hits the ground running with briary, earthy aromas of boysenberries, violets and freshly turned earth. Blackberry, anise, saline and cedar flavors are supported by zippy acidity and sturdy fine-grained tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$60

92 **Domaine Divio 2022 Cedar Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills)**. Aromatically, the wine is a Saturday in the park, with aromas of raspberry ice cream, lemon and a savory bit of a

Chicago hot dog. Bing cherry, cocoa and cedar flavors scoot along a slippery texture, with mild acidity and silky tannins. Pair with a man singing Italian songs. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$60

92 **Domaine Divio 2022 Clos Gallia Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge)**. Wild blackberries fill the air with each swirl of the glass, along with a smoky/savory note similar to smoked Gouda. The wine's firm tannins support Bing cherry, allspice and bacon fat flavors. Try this wine with skewers of cubed beef dipped in fondue. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$65

92 **Domaine Divio 2022 Legacy of the Pioneers Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge)**. A sweet red raspberry aroma that tiptoes up to Chambord territory is tempered by notes of lemon peel and dried rose petals. The Legacy is balanced, with zesty acidity seeing eye-to-eye on the teeter-totter with fine-grained tannins. Tart red cherry and crushed walnut flavors bring it home. O Pioneers! —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$85

92 **Élevée Winegrowers 2021 Madrona Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains)**. The powdery aroma of violets rules the roost, flanked by notes of black fruit and damp modeling clay. The lighter-bodied wine possesses hunger-pang-inducing cherry pie and white chocolate flavors. The wine's restrained acidity is matched by velvety tannins. Pair with blackened salmon and a Michael Bubl  album. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$58

92 **Irvine & Roberts 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley)**. Dark cherries, black olives and rosemary unite in a holy aromatic trinity that matches perfectly with the savory whisper of roasted pork shoulder. The wine's sturdy tannins suggest a cup of Assam tea to go along with flavors like cherry and basil. —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$40

92 **King Estate 2021 Domaine Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)**. For full review see page 18.

abv: 13%

Price: \$70

92 **La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)**. What an elegant, light-bodied wine, with its vanilla-boysenberry scone aroma complemented by cacao and anise notes. The flavors of cherry and chocolate blend easily with shots of espresso and almond to simulate Cherry Garcia ice cream. This spent six months in French oak, 20% new. The acidity is brisk, and the tannins are plush. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

92 **Lange 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)**. A rich blackberry aroma forms a blissful union with a meaty note similar to a seared steak rubbed with paprika. The wine's dark raspberry and dark chocolate flavors are pierced by a burst of blood orange juice and searing acidity. The

texture of the wine is as silky as its tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Lavinea 2021 Tualatin Estate Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills). Aromas of aged balsamic, blackberries, anise and violets would make a fine topping for a microgreens salad. The wine's tart blackcap raspberry and earthy oregano flavors are counterpointed by a touch of sweet caramel. Modest tannins and velvety tannins are equally matched. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$77

92 Shumaker 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills). Looking for a single-minded Pinot Noir? This Reserve wine represents one clone—Pommard—one vineyard and one barrel. Aged entirely in neutral French oak, it is light on its feet, with nice acidity and silky tannins. It is also packed with aromas and flavors of blackcap raspberries, tangerines, Thai basil and bergamot tea. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$44

92 Siduri 2021 Gran Moraine Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). What a thoroughly enjoyable hedonistic treat. The decadence begins with cinnamon roll, blackberry and anise aromas that get you in the mood for flavors like blackberry jam on a biscuit. Silky tannins and medium acidity provide the wine with a nice sense of balance. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$70

92 Siduri 2021 Zena Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The smoked cherry, thyme and crushed brick dust aromas this wine offers up are wildly tempting. Tart raspberry, cranberry and lemon flavors slide along the wine's glossy palate, where frisky acidity rules the roost. I'd love to pair this light-bodied Pinot with my next batch of Dungeness crab cakes. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$70

92 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). There's nothing reserved about this beautiful wine. A wild blackberry aroma is accented by a saline note reminiscent of sea spray and a freshly shucked oyster shell lining. Leathery tannins provide ample support for the wine's rich black cherry and dark chocolate flavors, with a wee bit of orange zest in the background. Enjoy with a Tito Puente record and lamb. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

92 Tumwater 2022 Pommard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The first aroma to hit is freshly chopped cedar logs, followed by an appealing blackberry pie and vanilla combination. This is lighter-bodied fare, with a silky texture and flavors of smoked cherries, lemon zest and Marcona almonds. Try it with venison or a lamb burger. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

91 Adelsheim 2021 Calkins Lane Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is my favor-

ite Lane since Penny. It opens with sweet and earthy aromas of hyacinth and tomato leaf, with oodles of blackcap raspberries. The fruit is a bit darker on the palate, with black cherry and lemon flavors dancing on a lithe and lean texture. Nice acidity and modest tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

91 Chehalem 2022 Chehalem Mountains Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Strawberry jam spread on a warm scone is a nice aromatic introduction to this wine. A powdery lilac scent floats in the background. This is a fuller-bodied wine compared with the previous vintage, with blackberries battling dark chocolate-covered espresso beans for flavor supremacy. Brawny tannins provide ample support. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Élevée Winegrowers 2021 Élevée Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The fruit is Dundee Hills, but the wine's aromas of wild blackberries and the briny scent of a freshly shucked Yaquina Bay oysters take me straight to the Oregon Coast. Strawberry pie and thyme flavors are backed by shivery acidity and velvety tannins. I can't wait to pour this next to smoked haddock. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58

91 Erath 2022 Resplendent Pinot Noir (Oregon). This is an aromatic trip to Grandma's house at the holidays, with aromas of a roast in the oven flanked by sweet red cherries, orange peel and cinnamon. This is nicely balanced, with flavors of dried cherries, plums and a hint of bacon fat. Resplendent, indeed. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$19

91 Garageland 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). In Garageland, the wine is always a great value, and The Clash is always playing. The latest Garageland Pinot Noir offers dark raspberry and pine needle aromas accompanied by a trace of cranberry. Boisterous acidity backs flavors like cherry, dark chocolate, cedar and coriander. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 King Estate 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 22.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Lavinea 2022 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The sweetest red raspberries you ever did sniff are contrasted by the fresh aromas of recently cut grass and lemon peel. The palate showcases a wall of cherries, more citrus and a dazzling one-two punch of brisk acidity and chewy tannins. Drink now–2034. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

91 Love & Squalor 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). While the wine's aromas of ripe blackberries and freshly cut grass are nice, the show really begins with the first sip. Rich boysenberry sorbet and dark chocolate flavors glide on a palate as smooth as silk and the Fine Young Cannibals.

This is a fuller-bodied Pinot Noir with gentle acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

91 Pike Road 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Rare North 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 23.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

91 Red Electric 2021 Armstrong Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This is a fantastic value. What begins as a fog of smoked cherries and violets soon enough transforms into darker blackberry fruit leather aromas. The flavors are a mix of blackberries and burnt caramel, with flecks of clove and marjoram. The wine's acidity is bright and lemony, with plush tannins and a smooth texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

90 Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Prepare to decant or exercise patience, as this wine is tightly wound at the moment. Dried rose petals, red raspberries and rhubarb mix it up with a sweet scent similar to vanilla French toast. Restrained red fruit notes are almost overwhelmed for now by ginger and bulgur flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Lange 2022 Classique Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Aromatically, this is a bowl of mixed fruit that includes strawberry, blueberry and watermelon. Hiding behind the fruit are aromas of balsa wood and loamy soil. Flavors like blackberry, lemongrass and cedar fill the mouth. The acidity is bright, but the tannins are still grippy. Enjoy with a banh mi sandwich. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Tumwater 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A dark raspberry perfume joins notes of peach and earth and violets. Bright acidity and velvety tannins highlight the flavors of Bing cherries and espresso along with oaky notes of caramel and clove. Pair with the equally smooth song stylings of Nat King Cole. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$48

89 Ancien 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon). There's dark fruit galore here, with aromas of blackberries and dark plums mixing it up with a note that combines wet slate with a pencil's pink eraser. The dominant fruit on the palate is a sweet and lemony dried Italian plum flavor, with traces of black tea and spruce needles. The acidity is bright, with plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$70

89 Chateau Bianca 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The fruit aromas are a wild combination of boysenberry and pomegranate. Additional chalkboard dust and spicy tiger lily aromas remain in the background. The wine is young and rough around the edges still, with stern tannins and fla-

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vors like cranberries, salty soda crackers and seared ahi tuna steaks. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Erath 2021 Resplendent Pinot Noir (Oregon). The Resplendent's grape popsicle and boysenberry aromas meld with a note that I love—the smell of an LP being removed from its album jacket for the first time. The flavors are a one-two punch of smoked cherries and seared steak, with a touch of citrus. The wine's acidity is aggressive, its tannins shy. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Hazel Wine Co. 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is one smooth and creamy Pinot Noir experience. Blackberries and crunchy cacao nib aromas match nicely with a touch of wet slate. Plush tannins and soft acidity are in play here, with rich blackberry gelato and strong black tea flavors. This wine is the perfect antidote to a rainy Saturday. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

89 Shumaker 2021 Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills). A salty maritime breeze aroma wraps itself around notes of blueberry fruit leather and pine needles. The wine feels round in the mouth, with plush tannins backing dark chocolate and pomegranate cocktail flavors. I would have loved just a touch more acidity to liven things up. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

89 Wetzel Estate 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). I think a Willamette Valley Pinot Noir aged in 75% new German oak is a first for me. A woody cedar aroma is joined by notes of blackberries, violets and spicy Sweet Flag cattails. Flavors like black cherries and smoky roasted almonds are supported by leathery tannins and mild acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Duck Pond 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Fresh red cherry and lemon zest aromas are trailed by a smoky note suggesting a sage smudge pot. The wine's mouthfeel is lean and thin, with restrained apricot and wild strawberry flavors. The tannins feel integrated already, but the wine's acidity is a highlight. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$19

SYRAH

93 Saviah 2021 The Stones Speak Estate Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). These stones say, "Drink me." You should listen. The cherry and citrus aromas are tart, with a potpourri of lavender, rose petals and pine cones bringing the herbal notes. Blackberry gelato and spicy gingerbread flavors make another compelling argument. This is a balanced wine, with an elegant texture. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

92 Saviah 2021 The Funk Estate Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). A bowl of blueberries burst from the glass with the first swirl, followed by notes of freshly cut trumpet lilies and a childhood favorite—melting crayons. The flavors are rich and feel full in the mouth, with lots of plum, freshly grated ginger and barbecued beef flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

91 Ovum 2021 Syrah (Columbia Gorge). While this producer is best known for its brilliant whites, it's not too shabby at making red wines, either. This is a lighter-bodied, balanced wine in which silky tannins are the equal of crisp acidity. Aromas and flavors of marionberry tarts, black pepper, pork fat and cocoa powder make for a happy union. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Saviah 2021 Reserve Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). Plum and orange zest aromas lead the way, followed by espresso shots and the sweet funkiness of freshly baked limpa, a Swedish rye bread. That should be enough for anyone, but in case it isn't, you can also expect flavors like bacon fat, balsa wood and chocolate-covered cherries. Don't worry, the wine's tannins are up for the job. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

OTHER RED WINES

95 Love & Squalor 2022 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley). This is one of the best reds I tasted in 2023. It is a 100% whole cluster, partial carbonic maceration wine that aged in neutral oak for 11 months. It's Tootsie Roll and bergamot aromas remind me of the Terry's Chocolate Orange I'd get in my stocking as a kid. Cranberry-orange and raspberry pastille flavors meld with green tea and thyme notes. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

94 Troon 2022 Amphora Mourvèdre (Applegate Valley). For full review see page 12. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Irvine & Roberts 2021 Estate Pinot Meunier (Rogue Valley). A 100% Pinot Meunier is a rare thing in these parts, much less a nimble, high-acidity beauty made with high elevation fruit. The nose features a big tart raspberry aroma accented by puffs of burnt sugar, chalk and thyme. There's more bright red fruit on the palate, where it's joined by traces of loamy soil and a mushroom tart. Yes, please. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Saviah 2020 The Funk Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). Brace for a 100% Cabernet Sauvignon that is full-bodied and packing enough tannic structure to build a tiny house. The Funk launches a blueberry compote aroma you will swear you could spread on

toast. Then aromas of spicy gingerbread and seared steak scramble for cover. The wine's predominant marionberry flavor is thick as a shake. Yum. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

91 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Malbec (Rogue Valley). Aged for 19 months in French and American oak, 25% new, this medium-bodied Malbec features firm tannins and lip-smacking acidity. Cranberry, orange peel and espresso aromas lead to mouthfilling black cherry and chocolate fondant flavors that are accented by a touch of cedar. Southern Oregon Malbec is a rising star. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

RED BLENDS

94 Saviah 2021 Hunt & Gather Estate Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater). The savory meatiness of a cottage pie is accented by touches of bay leaves, sweet red cherries and a woody scent similar to what you'd smell if you were to stick your head inside a new chest of cedar drawers. The balanced 60-40 Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah blend's flavors include blueberries and lemon zest, with crisp acidity. Hunt, then gather this wine. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Ovum 2022 Old Vine Red Blend (Columbia Gorge). Made with Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Syrah plucked from vines a half-century old, this wine rested in neutral French oak for a year. The balanced, medium-bodied Old Vine possesses muscular tannins, jangly acidity and a chalky texture. Aromas and flavors of blackberry jam, orange zest, earthy beeswax and cumin seed make for a joyous experience. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Next 2019 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 30. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

WASHINGTON

CHARDONNAY

93 Abeja 2022 Chardonnay (Washington). For full review see page 12. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Arabilis 2021 Dampier Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). I love my Sleepytime tea, so I was overjoyed by this Chardonnay's aromas of chamomile tea accented by a big lemon wedge. Citrus flavors dominate the palate, with a mix of orange and tangerine overshadowing tonic water and toasted hazelnuts notes. Brilliant acidity ties it all up in a nice bow. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$42

92 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2020 Ethos Reserve Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This is a superb value that fills the air with aromas of Meyer

lemons, Earl Grey tea and a touch of wet slate. Tart grapefruit and lemon zest flavors are joined by a wee bit of coriander. This is a lighter-bodied wine with acidity that lights up the palate. The perfect après-snowball fight wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

92 Dunham 2022 Shirley Mays Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Surely it would be difficult to find a better bang for the Chardonnay buck than the Mays. Tropical papaya, macadamia nut and grass skirt aromas sway in the air, followed by flavors of ripe mango, butter, coriander and honey. The wine's rich, almost creamy texture is balanced by zippy acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

90 Efeste 2021 Lola Chardonnay (Ancient Lakes). Shy aromas of peach, toffee and chalkboard dust need to be coaxed out with enthusiastic swirling. It is the exact opposite on the palate, where flavors like brioche slathered with lemon curd surf a creamy texture that is downright decadent. This is dessert unto itself. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2020 Cold Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Cut up a Golden Delicious apple, then hit the slices with lemon juice and a bit of honey to get an idea of this Chardonnay's aromas. The wine's texture is rich and smooth, with pillow-soft acidity, amplified alcohol and flavors of grilled lemons, melting beeswax and almonds. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Aquilini 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Red Mountain). This French oak-fermented Sauvignon Blanc has a nice combination of weight and acidity. The wine leads with lychee and musk melon fruit aromas, followed by rose water, balsa wood and tart/tangy sour green apple flavors. Pair it with a plate of Greek chicken meatballs while watching an episode of Baywatch. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

91 Matthews 2022 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This barrel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc delivered a jolt of acidity that made my lips smirk like Bruce Willis. There's a wee lanolin scent here that accompanies aromas of lemon and banana. The medium-bodied wine tastes like a cantaloupe served with the clove, ginger and cinnamon flavors of chai tea. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$85

90 Matthews 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Cue up the yacht rock because it is Sauvignon Blanc boat drinks for everybody. With a creamy texture and crisp acidity, this wine delivers tropical aromas and flavors of lime, guava, lychee and a Pina Colada one-two punch of coconut and pineapple. Ultimate fun and refreshment. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

RIESLING

93 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2020 Eroica XLC Dry Riesling (Columbia Valley). The XLC stands for extended lees contact and this little number should be paired with a fresh snowfall and even fresher goat cheese. A mildly earthy nose features aromas of thyme, grilled lemons and freshly cut grass. A crisp mouthfeel and frisky acidity accompany flavors like tart pineapple, chamomile tea and fresh hops. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

92 Chateau Ste. Michelle & Dr. Loosen 2022 Eroica Riesling (Columbia Valley). The Eroica's aromas of peach, guava and freshly cut grass make a nice introduction to flavors like lemon-flavored Jolly Rancher candies, wet stones and a wisp of red cherry. The wine's mouthfeel is as plush as its acidity is soft. Serve with a plate of tuna sashimi and call it a day. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Cold Creek Vineyard Riesling (Columbia Valley). It makes me happy to find a wine like this for \$16. The fun begins with really ripe Golden Delicious apple aromas that are accompanied by bursts of red raspberries and the icing one might lick off of a glazed doughnut. Flavors like lime sorbet and honey feel at home with an almost creamy mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Riesling (Columbia Valley). A warm brioche stuffed with orange crème defines this Riesling's aromatic set. Sweet tea with lemonade flavors then conjure Arnold Palmer memories—the beverage, not the golfer—while an interesting cardamom note frolics in the background. A bit more acidity would be most welcome. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

OTHER WHITE WINE

88 Rascal 2022 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). Peaches laced with fresh mint lazily float from the glass, followed by a small butterscotch note. This lean and light-bodied Pinot Gris offers orchard fruit flavors like Golden Delicious apples and peach Jell-O. Need a party wine? This wine scores an 88 and you can dance to it. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

ROSÉ

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2022 Rosé (Columbia Valley). Looking for a nice pink wine for a nice hot day that won't break the bank? Look no further than this Columbia Valley rosé that is a majority Syrah. It delivers all the apricot, melon and lemon aromas and flavors you can handle, with an

icy crisp mouthfeel and more than enough acidity to match the fruit. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Abeja 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

95 Matthews 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). After an initial tannic attack, the wine settled down to offer a heaping aromatic helping of blueberries, graphite, cedar and violets in potting soil. Dark cherry and even darker chocolate flavors coat the palate, while shots of espresso keep the show going. Prepare accordingly for grippy tannins. Drink 2025–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$185

93 Foolhardy 2020 Red Willow Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). It's had to go wrong with fruit from one of Washington's "grand cru" vineyards. The Foolhardy hits first with ripe blackberry and red currant aromas, then cinnamon and violets get in on the act. Blackberry, black pepper and aged balsamic vinegar flavors hang on a wall of sturdy tannins, with juicy acidity. Drink 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

92 Efeste 2021 Taylor Mag Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Taylor Mag appeals to hedonistic instincts with its soft texture and velvety tannins. Persimmon and dark plum aromas are punctuated by wisps of lilac and straw. The wine's black cherry and lavender flavors fill the mouth, while traces of cedar and grilled meat hover in the background. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Luke 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). The black currant and raspberry aromas are so rich, this wine tiptoes up to cassis territory. Its viscous texture makes the blueberry, poached pear and cinnamon flavors feel like they are careening down a backyard Slip 'N Slide. You can expect plush tannins, medium acidity and a touch of cedar on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$28

91 Luke 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). I was surprised by this wine's almost ethereal texture and velvet-glove tannins. You can expect mouthwatering acidity accompanying flavors like boysenberries, almonds and a touch of citrus and matcha tea. The aromas of this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon combine blueberries and cinnamon toast in a pleasing fashion. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

91 Matthews 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). A very spring-like cherry blossom and raspberry aroma combination is counter-

BUYINGGUIDE

pointed by notes of leather and bone broth. Cherries are again on the palate, where they are joined by dark chocolate and balsa wood flavors. The tannins are currently a bit grippy, with a medium amount of acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$50

90 **Efeste 2021 Lil Mama Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 24.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

90 **Saviah 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** There's a caffè latte and orange aroma here that takes me back to sipping a Cafe Nico at my favorite Seattle espresso house. Those nostalgic aromas are joined by blueberries and lilacs. Massive tannins support rich blueberry, cherry and powdered cocoa flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

89 **Chateau Ste. Michelle 2020 Ethos Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).**

Overly ripe black fruit pushes the wine's aromatics to the edge of crème de cassis territory. Aromas of black coffee and violets temper that sweetness. Marionberry and balsa wood flavors hold court on the palate, supported by modest acidity and plush tannins. The wine's texture is as creamy as chocolate pudding. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$48

89 **Mercer Bros. 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** Talk about comfort-

ing. The wine's buttery chocolate chip and coconut cookie aromas are joined by notes of dark raspberry and almonds. The equally rich palate features flavors of black cherries, bittersweet dark chocolate and a woody note similar to freshly planed cedar. Surprisingly crisp acidity provides a sense of balance. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

89 **Saviah 2021 The Jack Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** A blackberries and leather combination on the nose is spiced up by a bit of bergamot orange and the scent of meat fat dripping down onto hot coals. The wine's black cherry and bacon fat flavors are backed by grippy, somewhat astringent tannins. Dare to air this one before serving. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$18

89 **Waterbrook 2021 Icon Waterbrook Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Black cherry, dark chocolate and vanilla aromas unite to form a pleasing perfume. The wine's creamy texture, plush tannins and soft acidity make it easy to contemplate a second glass. The wine's candied cherry, cinnamon and challah flavors may remind some of a holiday fruitcake. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

SYRAH

94 **Dunham 2020 Syrah (Columbia Valley).**

Raspberries as dark as night join with aromas of granola oats, bacon fat and sweet white trillium flowers to create a heady perfume. This is a full-bodied Syrah in which the flavor of blackberry pie juice oozing over the edge of the pie tin to harden around the edge of the crust dominates. The tannins are still a bit chewy. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

93 **Ricochet 2022 Vin d'Evelyn Syrah (White Bluffs).** There are Northern Rhône vibes here, with aromas of blackberries and boysenberries carousing with notes of violets and pork fat.

Crisp acidity adds a bite to flavors like orange zest, blackberries and candied rose petals. Sturdy tannins will help you enjoy this from 2024 to 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$35

92 **Efeste 2020 Ceidleigh Angela's Vineyard Estate Syrah (Red Mountain).** A savory perfume awaits, with blackberries and blueberries joined at the hip with thyme, wet slate and roasted pork shoulder aromas. Black cherries hold court on the palate, along with black coffee, saline and a trace of blackstrap molasses. A bit grippy at the moment, the Ceidleigh would be best decanted or held for another decade. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49

91 **Furion 2020 Les Parfums Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** Made with fruit from Freewater

Rocks Vineyard in The Rocks District, this is a new Syrah for me. The Les Parfums, appropriately, opens with a powerful black cherry aroma that is flanked by bone broth, violets and a spicy touch of cumin. I look forward to trying this wine again. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$32

90 **Saviah 2020 The Jack Syrah (Columbia Valley).** It's hard to beat an aromatic introduction that includes bacon fat, dark raspberries and a bouquet of lavender. Smoked cherry and coconut

butter flavors combine with a meat note similar to a slice of finocchiona salami. Leathery tannins and crisp acidity provide ample support. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$18

89 **Luke 2021 Syrah (Wahluke Slope).** The scent of a blackberry pie, complete with a buttery crust, cooling on a windowsill is all this Syrah is offering aromatically at the moment. Ripe boysenberries collide with flavors like blood oranges and sourdough bread. The tannins are plush, with a need for more acidity. —M.A.

abv: 15.6%

Price: \$28

87 **Chateau Ste. Michelle 2021 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** Here's a light-bodied Syrah with acidity that edges up to the line of being too brisk.

The wine's aromatics feature bowls of blackberries spiced up by red chili peppers and a mole-like choc-

olate. Flavors include tart black fruit, black pepper and mouthpuckering lemon zest. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

86 **Furion 2021 Black Dahlia Syrah (Candy Mountain).** Black cherry and black currant

aromas erupt from the glass, followed by dollops of coconut and chocolate. Other than a healthy dose of cedar, the Black Dahlia's flavors match its aromas. The wine's texture is viscous, with plush tannins and a bit of heat showing from the alcohol. —M.A.

abv: NA

Price: \$35

MERLOT

94 **Abeja 2021 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** If I

could mix up a batch of blueberry fruit leather with violets and bits of blood orange, it would smell just like this dazzling Merlot. Flavors of blackcap raspberries, anise and bone marrow are backed by firm, ripe fine-grained tannins and lively acidity. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

93 **Luke 2021 Merlot (Wahluke Slope).** A powerful blueberry scent blazes a path for aromas of loamy soil and rose petals dried between the pages of an old book. The wine's flavor combination of black tea, marionberry muffins and oatcakes is like breakfast breaking out—only this meal includes tannins so muscular, they grab you by the lapels and steal your milk money. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: NA

Price: \$28

92 **Matthews 2021 Reserve Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Dark raspberry and black currant

aromas drifting into cassis territory unite with interesting bursts of chocolate ganache and paprika. The wine's black cherry sorbet and clove flavors explode on the palate, with a touch of black coffee hiding in the background. A massive wall of tannins dwarfs the wine's modest acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$185

91 **Efeste 2020 Upright Estate Merlot (Red Mountain).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50

OTHER RED WINES

94 **Matthews 2021 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** Fans of hedonism unite; this reserve wine delivers maximum Cabernet Franc

pleasure when opened. It begins with aromas of blackberries, freshly turned earth, Thai basil and patio slate after a good rain. Then chocolate-covered black cherries, espresso and coconut flavors take over on the creamy palate. —M.A.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$185

91 **Waterbrook 2021 Icon Canyon Vineyard Ranch Carmenere (Columbia Valley).** An interesting aromatic combination of blueberry fruit leather and

pink pencil eraser is laced with a tangy pomegranate note. The wine is medium-bodied, with rich ripe blackberry, tobacco and mint tea flavors hanging on a wall of grippy tannins. Try it with beef or pork empanadas. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Waterbrook 2021 Icon Wittenberg Vineyard Dolcetto (Columbia Valley). Energetic acidity, a fresh mouthfeel and a modest 12% abv—what's not to love? The Icon offers raspberry and macadamia nut aromas that unite with a potpourri of fragrant dried flowers. The flavors are similar, with raspberry, lemon and almond flavors joined by bittersweet dark chocolate. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

90 Waterbrook 2021 Icon Wittenberg Vineyard Barbera (Columbia Valley). Dark raspberry, orange peel and cinnamon aromas give the Icon a whiff of Christmas season spirit. This is a lighter-bodied wine with brisk acidity and mild tannins. The palate shows off a lot of red cherry and candied rose petal flavors. I'd recommend this wine with a pasta and tomato sauce dish. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

RED BLENDS

95 Matthews 2021 Reserve Cuvée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Blueberries, violets, graphite and potting soil make a dazzling first impression. The Merlot and Cabernet Franc-driven blend makes friends for life with its juicy acidity, fine-grained tannins and blackberry pastille, coffee, dark chocolate and nutmeg flavors. Save this wine for proposals, business and otherwise. Drink now–2036 *Cellar Selection*. —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$195

94 Matthews 2021 Reserve Claret Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This is a claret that would make Rumpole of the Bailey weak in the knees. It starts with ripe black fruit aromas and bursts of dark chocolate, bitter pine and wet pavement. Blackberries and English breakfast tea flavors are big and round in the mouth, with mouth-drying tannins and a bit of orange zest on the wine's lengthy finish. *Editors' Choice*. —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$195

93 Matthews 2021 Claret Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). A delightfully ripe blackberry aroma joins notes of grilled portobello mushrooms, mint and wood smoke in an effort to convince you to break out the backyard grill. The flavors are similar, with blackberries and blueberries laced with traces of vanilla and a caffè mocha. Pair this claret with a fire in the fireplace. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55

92 Matthews 2021 Columbia Valley Cuvée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The sweet aroma of a Santa Rosa plum unites on the cuvée's nose with boysenberries and a chalky calcium note. Ripe Bing cherries are muddled together

with flavors like chocolate ganache and a cedar-like bit of Sichuan peppercorns. The wine's soft acidity is currently eclipsed by a massive tannic structure. —M.A.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Saviah 2021 G.S.M. G-S-M (Walla Walla Valley). A pleasant bacon fat aroma unites pleasingly with black cherries and a hint of paprika. Jammy blackberries dominate the palate, and a meaty note suggests barbecue ribs with a rich sauce. The wine's acidity is restrained, and its tannins are plush. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Furion 2020 Wicces Basium "Witches Kiss" Rhône-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley). I have never, to my knowledge, been kissed by a witch. But after sipping this Grenache-driven blend, I'm inclined to accept future opportunities. With the twitch of Samantha's nose, aromas like blackberries, anise and brisket turn to flavors like black cherries, cranberries and Tootsie Roll chocolate. Plush tannins are buoyed by surprisingly brisk acidity. —M.A.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$35

90 Luke 2021 The Companion Red Blend (Wahluke Slope). There is a lot of bang for the buck in this Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend. Blackberry and tangerine aromas are joined by an earthy/smoky scent that is similar to a lit sage smudge stick. The wine's cherry, fig and nocino-like walnut flavors are rich and full, well-supported by grippy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Saviah 2022 The Jack Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The Jack's aromas have it all, with sweet blackberries and violets melding with earth and the mild bitterness of espresso lungo shots. The wine's flavors of cherries, dark chocolate and crushed walnuts may remind you of a slice of Black Forest cake. Crisp acidity holds it all together. *Best Buy*. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2020 Artist Series Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Sweet and fruity mulberry and freesia aromas intersect with a savory note similar to a nice marinara sauce. The aromatics of this Merlot-driven blend are almost a Billy Joel song. Black cherry, black tea and dark chocolate flavors are supported by mild acidity and chewy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

89 History 2020 Red Blend Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Columbia Valley). This 70-30 blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec is a meaty, tannic beast in need of decanting. Its aromas feature freshly turned earth, the pure essence of violets and roast beef. Cherries and grilled pork flavors tumble across a leathery texture. A bowl of polenta smothered in boar ragu might have a chance with this blend. —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

ARGENTINA CHARDONNAY

89 Pascual Toso 2022 Alta Barrancas Vineyards Chardonnay (Mendoza). Aromas of Key lime and vanilla are intense on the nose of this oaked Chardonnay. The palate has weight and offers notes of ripe lime and melon, with oaky flavors. It finishes long and citrusy. Quintessential. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Terrazas de Los Andes 2022 Reserva Chardonnay (Mendoza). Aged nine months in oak barrels, this Chardonnay offers intense aromas of lime and hints of cedar. The palate shows ripeness and oak flavors, offering lime, peach and grapefruit. It finishes with comforting notes of chamomile. Moët Hennessy USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Bodega Norton 2023 Reserva Blend de Terroirs Chardonnay (Mendoza). Lightly oaked, this Chardonnay has a nose of white flowers and lime. It's citrusy and fresh, offering pears, grapefruits and herbs on the palate. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Finca El Origen 2022 Reserva Unoaked Chardonnay (Uco Valley). The nose shows herbs and lemon followed by a hint of flint. It has a tropical palate with notes of apricot, mango and lime extending into the fresh finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$15

87 Artes del Sur 2022 Reserva Chardonnay (Uco Valley). A subtle note of stone fruit is mixed with pineapple in this easygoing Chardonnay. Backed by sharp acidity, the palate offers peach, mango and lime. It's light bodied and shows a hint of turmeric in the finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$13

87 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Gran Made with Organic Grapes Chardonnay (Uco Valley). This wine starts with candied lemons on the nose. Moderate acidity provides support to a ripe creamy palate that shows limes and a light note of toasted oak. WISD LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

ROSÉS

87 Finca la Celia 2023 Rosé (Uco Valley). Made with 80% Pinot Noir and 20% Pinot Grigio, this is a fruity rosé with bright notes of berries and citrus zest on the nose. The palate is slightly more austere, showing subtle flavors of stone fruit, strawberry and lime. It has gentle acidity and a brief finish. Misa Imports. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

86 Finca El Origen 2022 Mountain Character Malbec Rosé (Uco Valley). A restrained nose leads to a simple palate. Mild notes of red fruit and red apples are backed by moderate acidity in this light-bodied rosé. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$12

MALBEC

95 Bodega y Viñedos Catena 2020 Adrianna Vineyard River Malbec (Gualtallary). This vintage exhibits a ripe character, but preserves its elegant attributes. A peppery nose shows light aromas of berries and herbs in the background. After a few minutes in the glass, savory notes give way to fruity flavors of sour cherry, red plum and cranberry. Oak spices softly mark the finish of this velvety Malbec. Drink now through 2035. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$240

93 Antigal 2019 One La Dolores Single Vineyard Malbec (Uco Valley). Coming from Gualtallary, one of the top subregions in Uco Valley, this red starts with aromas of dried herbs, and peppercorn followed by pomegranate. It has a savory palate, where flavors of thyme and rosemary are followed by dark-chocolate shavings and prunes. Cork Alliance. —J.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$100

93 Antigal 2018 One Doña Angeles Vineyard Malbec (Mendoza). Fresh berries join notes of cinnamon and cedar in the inviting nose of this single-vineyard Malbec. Polished, firm tannins and optimal acidity frame a well-balanced blend of nutmeg and plums that fills the mouth. Layers of herbs, black pepper and chocolate complement the silky palate. Drink now through 2033. Cork Alliance. —J.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Salentein 2019 Single Vineyard La Pampa '97 Vineyard San Pablo Malbec (Uco Valley). Delicate aromas of violet are followed by bright red-fruit aromas on this structured Malbec. Lively acidity and a chalky texture contribute to the wine's vibrant character. It has tart berry flavors accompanied by black pepper and a hint of nutmeg. The finish is fruity forward, with a touch of oregano in the aftertaste. Palm Bay International. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Salentein 2018 Single Vineyard Los Cerezos Vineyard Gualtallary Malbec (Gualtallary). Violets and pink pepper accentuate the aromatic character of this vibrant Malbec. It features an elegant texture and firm palate. Rich flavors of nutmeg, mulberries, strawberries and rosemary feel integrated and fresh. Enjoy now through 2033. Palm Bay International. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

92 Kaiken 2020 Mai Malbec (Mendoza). Aromas of Jarilla, thyme and chalk serve as an introduction to this Malbec from high-altitude

vineyards in Luján de Cuyo. Full-bodied, it features a solid structure holding fresh fruit flavors of blackberries. The palate is deep and smooth and includes hints of dried herbs, chocolate truffles, black pepper and nutmeg. Arano LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

92 Salentein 2018 Single Vineyard El Tomillo Vineyard Paraje Altamira Malbec (Uco Valley). Fine aromas of sour cherries rise from the glass of this structured red. Herbal, blueberry and red-plum flavors are backed by tight tannins. The palate is ample and fruity, with a fresh note of thyme enhancing the finish. Palm Bay International. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Terrazas de Los Andes 2018 Parcel N°10W Los Cerezos Las Compuertas Malbec (Mendoza). From vines planted in 1929 in Las Compuertas, one of the top subregions in Luján de Cuyo, comes this Malbec that captivates with a nose of cassis and violets. Well-balanced flavors of thyme, rosemary, blackberries and plums are dusted with prominent but integrated oak spices. It's an enjoyable and silky Malbec. Moët Hennessy USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Clos d'Argentine 2020 Winemaker's Selection Gran Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This wine offers dried cherries on the nose. It's a juicy Malbec, with a fruit-forward and well-structured palate. Supported by ripe tannins, chocolate and dried herbs add an extra layer of flavors that lengthen the enjoyable finish. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

91 Durigutti 2022 Proyecto Las Compuertas Cinco Suelos Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Made by brothers and winemakers Hector and Pablo Durigutti, this is a blend of grapes from five soil types found in Las Compuertas, Luján de Cuyo. The nose shows notes of ripe cherry and licorice. Berry-jam flavors alongside balancing acidity are featured in the delicious palate. It has soft tannins and sweet fruity notes in the finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

91 Durigutti 2021 HD Old Vines Reserva Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Made of grapes sourced from the Geographical Indication Paraje Altamira, this Malbec offers a nose of chalk and violets. The wine's mineral texture and fruit concentration shape its lively character. It's vibrant and full of intense black-fruit flavors. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

91 Estancia Los Cardones 2020 Tigerstone Malbec (Salta). This Malbec from rocky soils in Salta has fine tannins and excellent acidity complementing its lively character. Wines from this region are usually more ripe and round, but this one is fresh. It starts with a nose of mulberry and graphite. Intense black fruit (with hints of cherry) fills the mouth and extends into the lasting finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

90 Bodegas Caro 2022 Aruma Malbec (Mendoza). A fragrant nose of cassis prepares the palate for flavors of black fruit. Plums and blackberries show ripeness and mix with chocolate notes. This is a full-bodied red, with tight tannins. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Gaia Earth Goddess Limited Edition Nouveau Made with Organic Grapes Malbec (Tupungato). With a nose of violets and red berries, this wine introduces a fruit-forward palate. It offers spices that enhance the bright raspberry and blackberry flavors. Drink chilled on its own or pair it with pepperoni pizza. WISD LLC. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Durigutti 2022 Carmela Las Compuertas Single Vineyard Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This is an unoaked Malbec that has an aromatic nose. Juicy berry flavors blend with hints of cassis, herbs and black pepper. A smooth texture and good acidity support the full-bodied palate. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

90 Manos Negras 2021 Stone Soil Malbec (Paraje Altamira). The nose is austere and leads to a chalky palate with a good amount of fruit and herbal flavors. This fresh Malbec is a good introduction to the wines of Paraje Altamira. It has light notes of thyme that linger in the finish. Uva Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$24

90 Mendel 2021 Finca Mendel Malbec (Mendoza). Winemaker Roberto de la Mota sources grapes from vines planted in 1928 in Luján de Cuyo to make this enjoyable Malbec. More austere than the previous year, the 2021 vintage gained in freshness. Black pepper on the nose leads to a lively palate with gentle black-fruit flavors and fine tannins. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Salentein 2022 Reserve Malbec (Uco Valley). A smart use of oak barrels adds baking spices to the profile of this Malbec while preserving freshness. It has aromas of cinnamon and black fruit. The palate is full of ripe plum and mulberry flavors that extend into the aftertaste along with sweet spices. Palm Bay International. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Sur de los Andes 2020 Las Compuertas Gran Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). Coming from Luján de Cuyo, this Malbec has a restrained nose with light notes of herbs. The wine's textured palate holds flavors of cumin, bell pepper and plum. Good acidity injects freshness and balance. W. Direct. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

90 Susana Balbo 2022 Crios Malbec (Uco Valley). Subtle aromas of cinnamon, black and red fruit form an attractive bouquet. This is a

smooth wine, with a desirable tannin structure. Mulberry and blackberry flavors are enhanced by a touch of oak spices and extend into an enjoyable finish. A classic Malbec at an affordable price that will pair perfectly with grilled meats. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Tikal 2021 Amorío Malbec (Paraje Altamira).

A meaty nose introduces a subtly fruit-focused palate. Mulberry and blackberry flavors are soft and fade slowly in the medium finish. This is an austere expression of Paraje Altamira, where the wine's freshness and mineral texture steal the show. Vine Connections. —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Ánimal 2022 Made with Organic Grapes Malbec (Mendoza).

This wine shows Malbec's classic bouquet, with aromatic black fruit. Honest cranberry and blackberry flavors fill the mouth and extend into a medium finish. It's an enjoyable red with a smooth texture. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.

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

89 Estancia Los Cardones 2021 Anko Malbec (Salta).

The nose has notes of blackberry jam. Plums and figs dance on the full-bodied palate, while earthy notes lead to a finish of spices and bay leaf. Drink now. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.

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

89 Estancia Los Cardones 2021 Flor de Cardón Malbec (Salta).

A delicate nose shows light notes of grass. This Malbec has an austere character and soft tannins. The palate offers subtle flavors of herbs and black fruit that lead to a medium finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

89 La Posta 2022 Fazzio Malbec (Mendoza).

The grapes were sourced from high-altitude vineyards in the Uco Valley. This Malbec has an inviting bouquet that includes wild berries and violets. Earthy black-fruit flavors and smoky notes fill the palate. It's full bodied and has tight tannins. Enjoy with a Spanish chorizo and potato stew. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 La Posta 2022 Pizzella Malbec (Mendoza).

The wine's aromatic nose delivers raspberry and dried herbs. A ripe palate offers intense berry flavors followed by leafy notes. Good acidity and medium tannins support this full-bodied and enjoyable Malbec. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Lamadrid 2022 Single Vineyard Malbec (Agrelo).

Aromas of violets and plums show the character of a classic Malbec from Luján de Cuyo. Fruit-forward, the full-bodied palate offers bay leaf, peppercorn and plums. This is perfect for BBQ. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

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

89 Mendoza Vineyards 2021 Gran Reserva by Richard Bonvin Malbec (Mendoza).

The nose has light aromas of plums. A touch of black pepper adds spice to black-fruit and leafy flavors. Tight tannins framed this full-bodied red that shows herbs in the aftertaste. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Sur de los Andes 2021 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza).

Inviting mulberry and blackberry aromas show on the nose. This is an easy-drinking Malbec that displays bright red- and black-fruit flavors with hints of vanilla. The medium-bodied palate is supported by slightly drying tannins. W. Direct. —J.V.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

88 Areyna 2022 Estate Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).

The nose offers flinty aromas and introduces a fresh palate, with notes of black fruit and smoke. Good acidity makes the wine a good choice to pour on a weekday night. Vine Connections. —J.V.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

88 Bodega Renacer 2022 Punto Final Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).

The wine comes from grapes sourced in Luján de Cuyo and showcases ripe aromas of black fruit. Light notes of licorice enhance the flavors of ripe plums that echo the nose. It has a soft texture and is easy to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Finca La Anita 2022 de Finca La Anita Malbec (Agrelo).

An attractive and fruit-forward nose introduces a full-bodied palate that features concentrated black-fruit and leafy notes. Enough acidity leads the flavors into a herbal finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Finca la Celia 2022 Reserva Malbec (Uco Valley).

Aromas of ripe plum and fig along with earthy notes perfume the nose. This is a red with good acidity and a mix of stewed berries, plums, grass and bell pepper on the palate and peppery notes in the finish. Enjoy now. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

88 Los Gauchos 2022 Malbec (Mendoza).

This wine opens with graphite notes on the nose that repeat on the palate. It's austere, with gentle flavors of cherry over a chalky texture. Enjoy now. Gaucho Wines LLC. —J.V.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

88 Mendel 2022 Lunta Malbec (Mendoza).

The nose of this wine is austere, but as the wine breathes, hints of black fruit show in the glass. A generous palate delivers intense flavors of blackberries joined by earthy notes that extend into the finish. Vine Connections. —J.V.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$NA

88 Mil Suelos 2022 Sobre Salta Malbec (Salta).

Blueberry perfumes the nose of this fruit-

forward Malbec. Lean and soft, the palate offers black fruit and hints of bell pepper that linger in a medium finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

88 Mosquita Muerta 2022 Condero con Piel de Lobo Malbec (Mendoza).

The nose of this easy-drinking Malbec is austere. Leafy notes, peppercorn and subtle fruit flavors fill the generous palate. It's fresh and has soft tannins, making the wine a perfect choice for Margherita pizza. Enjoy now. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$17

87 Anko 2022 Malbec (Salta).

Coming from sunny vineyards in Salta, this Malbec displays aromas of spices and herbs followed by light notes of black fruit. It's an easy-drinking wine, with a rich blend of cumin, grass and ripe plums on the palate. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Pampa 2022 Reserve Malbec (Mendoza).

A herbaceous character can be perceived in the nose and palate of this easy-going Malbec. It features light acidity and thin tannins, supporting mild black-fruit flavors, black pepper and grassy notes that fade away in the finish. Pampa Beverages LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Ruta 22 2022 Malbec (Mendoza).

Aromas of overripe berries are mild and introduce a fruity palate. This easy-drinking wine has ripe berry flavors, a soft texture and light acidity. Drink now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

87 Siete Fincas 2022 Lola Mora Malbec (Mendoza).

A light note of pink pepper mixes with grass on the nose of this unoaked Malbec. Mild black-fruit flavors and hints of herbs show on the palate. Ripe tannins and enough acidity lead the flavors to a medium and earthy finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$15

87 Viña Cobos 2022 Felino Malbec (Mendoza).

More than half of the fruit for this easy-sipping wine was sourced from Uco Valley and the rest from Luján de Cuyo. Only a small percentage of the wine was aged in new oak barrels for nine months, resulting in an easygoing red that offers black fruit flavors and a touch of vanilla. Paul Hobbs Wines. —J.V.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$NA

86 Alpamanta 2022 Campal Malbec (Mendoza).

The grapes for this light-bodied Malbec were sourced from the winery's biodynamic and organically farm vineyards in Luján de Cuyo. The fruity nose is aromatic, showing cherry notes. High acidity and soft tannins back mild berry flavors on the palate. Drink it slightly chilled. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

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86 Bodegas Bianchi 2022 L10 Malbec (Mendoza). The nose is aromatic, with berries and violets leading to a palate of soft tannins and mild black-fruit flavors. It's an easygoing and lightly structured Malbec. Quintessential. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

86 Pampa 2021 Pampa Estate Malbec (Mendoza). The fruit-forward character of this red is reflected on both the nose and palate. Flavors of pomegranate and raspberry are framed by gentle acidity and thin tannins. Drink now. Pampa Beverages LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$11

85 San Pedro 2023 Gato Negro Malbec (Argentina). The nose offers light aromas of red berries. Gentle acidity and thin tannins frame stewed cherries that mix with hints of pepper in the finish. Park Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$6

84 Corbeau Wines 2021 Little Mad Bird Malbec (Mendoza). This wine starts with candied black-fruit aromas that introduce a palate of stewed berries and earthy notes. It's an everyday red that's lightly structured and easy to drink. HB Wine Merchants. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$11

84 Member's Mark 2022 Malbec (Mendoza). The nose of this everyday Malbec exhibits red berries. Light bodied, the palate shows candied cherries that vanish in a brief finish. Mack & Schuhle Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

84 Tercos 2022 Malbec (Mendoza). The nose shows fruit aromas that lean towards over-ripe. It has a thin structure and mild flavors of over-ripe berries alongside light acidity. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$15

83 Lo Ca 2022 Malbec (Uco Valley). The nose delivers mild aromas of berries. This wine is unoaked and has low alcohol levels, only 9.5 percent. The palate is lean and austere, with a hint of black fruit. Drink now. Domaine Bousquet USA. —J.V.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

93 Finca la Celia 2019 Eugenio Bustos Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). This is well structured, with aromatic berries forming a delicate bouquet. Aged for 24 months, the resulting wine has integrated notes of wood spice and firm tannins. Red fruit is mixed with hints of rosemary on the midpalate. It has a fine mineral texture and a vibrant character. Enjoy now—2033. Misa Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$90

90 Achaval-Ferrer 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Enough freshness on the palate

lifts the spirit of this ripe Cabernet. The nose offers raspberry jam and cocoa powder. A mix of prune, cherry and cinnamon extends into the chocolate finish. Stoli Group USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 Bressia 2019 Montegrelo Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This is a tasty Cabernet from Luján de Cuyo. It has a fruity nose and a ripe palate, offering sweet baking spices and red berries. Good acidity and soft tannins lead the flavors through an enjoyable finish, with notes of dried herbs. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$34

90 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Gaia Earth Goddess Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Gualtallary). Lively acidity balances this fruit-forward and full-bodied red. The aromatic nose shows bright notes of spices and berries. Peppercorn, strawberry and mulberry flavors linger in a smooth finish. Origins Organic Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

90 Salentein 2022 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). Subtle aromas of oak spice emerge from the glass. There is ripeness and intensity of fruit on the palate, exhibiting raspberries and cherries. This Cabernet has soft tannins and lovely notes of baking spices in the medium finish. Palm Bay International. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

89 Tango Select 2018 Premium Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). A nose of light black-fruit aromas leads to a full-bodied palate, with spices and berries. This Cabernet exhibits flavors of smoke, black pepper, raspberry and plum that lengthen the ripe finish. Argentine Specialties. —J.V.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$22

88 Finca El Origen 2022 Single Vineyard La Esperanza Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). For full review see page 30. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.3% Price: \$18

88 Rancho Campo 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Soft notes of red and black fruit shape the nose. These translate on the palate, where ripe plum and blackberry flavors extend into the medium finish. Drink now. Penrose Hill. —J.V.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

87 Bodega Renacer 2022 Punto Final Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). A nose of ripe berries gives away the ripe character of this Cabernet. It has soft tannins supporting dried cherries, bell peppers and black fruit. It's a good wine to pair with lentil soup. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

87 Bodega Renacer 2022 Punto Final Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). This wine is unoaked and aromatic, with notes of dried cherry on the nose. It's soft and lean, with mild ripe black-fruit flavors and earthy

notes in the medium finish. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$17

87 Finca El Origen 2022 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). For full review see page 30. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% Price: \$15

86 Areyna 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). Graphite notes on the nose are followed by hints of wild berries. It's lightly structured and has dried cherry and prune flavors that disappear in a medium finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

86 Casa de Campo 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). A light note of candied red berries shapes the bouquet on this lean Cabernet. Notes of berry jam show on the palate and disappear in a brief finish. Indigo Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

86 Qaramy 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). A nose of bell pepper introduces flavors of stewed berries on the palate. This is an easy-sipping red with light tannins and gentle acidity. Vinovia Wine Group. —J.V.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$NA

85 Graffigna 2022 Genuine Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Argentina). This is an everyday red that has an austere nose. A lean palate exhibits hints of smoke and stewed berries that fade in a short finish. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$9

BONARDA

92 El Enemigo 2019 El Barranco Bonarda (Mendoza). It starts with an enticing nose of raspberries and black cherries dusted with baking spices. This is a balanced and tasty Bonarda, with solid tannins and a smooth texture. Integrated notes of nutmeg and cedar enhance the berry flavors and lengthen the finish. Winebow Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

88 La Posta 2022 Armando Bonarda (Mendoza). The nose is full of candied berry aromas that are inviting. Concentrated red-fruit flavors are framed by moderate acidity and mixed with spicy notes in the finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 Lamadrid 2022 Single Vineyard Bonarda (Agrelo). This Bonarda is aromatic, showing floral notes. Moderate acidity and light tannins frame the fruity and easygoing palate. It has cherry and raspberry flavors followed by a touch of herbs that shape the finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

88 **Lamadrid 2020 Reserva Bonarda (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo).** The nose is austere and only shows gentle aromas of red berries. Firm tannins and enough acidity provide support to ripe cherry and plum flavors. A hint of grass dance in the after-taste. *Vino Del Sol.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

RED BLENDS

95 **El Enemigo 2019 Gran Enemigo Red Blend (Mendoza).** This is an elegant Cabernet Franc with 15% Malbec. Coming from Gualtallary's limestone soils, it has a fine chalky texture and saline notes. Delicate aromas of rosemary, graphite and wild berries dance on the nose. The fresh palate exhibits a blend of herbs, blackberries and a hint of balsamic. Sip it slowly, as it continues to evolve in the glass. Drink this red now through 2035. *Winebow Imports. Cellar Selection.* —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 **Bodegas Caro 2021 Domaines Barons de Rothschild Lafite and Nicolas Catena Red Blend (Mendoza).** Aged 18 months in barrels, this Malbec-based blend has a balanced character and displays notes of mint and thyme on the nose. It has layers of fruit and herbs, with notes of chocolate. Firm tannins and good acidity drive flavors of plum, blackberry, thyme and peppercorn through a delicious finish. *Taub Family Selections.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

93 **Bodegas López 2007 Montchenot 15 Años Gran Reserva Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza).** After being aged in oak casks and then stored in stainless steel tanks, this wine was aged for six years in the bottle before being released. The result is a delicate nose of red berries, dried linden leaves and cedar that introduce a firm and still vigorous palate. Light notes of thyme and chocolate join cherry, raspberry, dates and hints of coffee bean, adding depth. *Polaner Selections.* —J.V.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$60

93 **Bodegas López 2002 Montchenot 20 Años Gran Reserva Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza).** A nose of subtle aromas of spices, aniseed and licorice lead to a delicate palate, showing that after twenty-one years this wine is still alive. Framed by soft tannins, it expresses a fruity character. Strawberry sauce and chocolate-covered dried cherries meet on the palate and are driven through the long finish by moderate acidity. *Polaner Selections.* —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Luigi Bosca 2020 Paraiso Red Blend (Mendoza).** For full review see page 14. *Opici Wines.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

93 **Salentein 2019 Numina Spirit Vineyard Gran Corte Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Uco Valley).** A delicate nose of rose petals, peppercorn, cherry and cinnamon introduces an equally generous and

balanced palate. Baking spices and black- and red-fruit flavors are well integrated after 16 months of oak aging. It has a fine chalky texture and lively acidity. Enjoy now through 2030. *Palm Bay International.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$41

93 **Zuccardi 2019 José Zuccardi Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** This is a Malbec from the Uco Valley that showcases abundant fruit on the nose and palate. Polished tannins and optimal acidity provide a good frame for cherry, hibiscus and peppery notes. It's fresh and well-structured, offering a delicious lasting finish. *Winesellers, Ltd.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Bodegas Caro 2020 Domaines Barons de Rothschild Lafite and Nicolas Catena Red Blend (Mendoza).** This wine needs a few minutes to open up and show its aromatic nose and generous palate. Well-integrated notes of oak spice, thyme and ripe mulberry fill the mouth and lead to a pleasant smoky finish. It's balanced and sleek, with fine tannins. *Taub Family Selections.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

92 **Durigutti 2019 Victoria Corte De Finca Red Blend (Mendoza).** Aromatic and full bodied, this blend exhibits the intense character of wines from Las Compuertas in Luján de Cuyo. Juicy black- and red-fruit flavors invade the palate and join thyme and other dried herbs. It has fine tannins and finishes with a touch of toasted oak. *Hidalgo Imports, LLC.* —J.V.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$69

91 **Bodegas López 2012 Montchenot 10 Años Gran Reserva Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza).** Bodegas López was founded in 1898 and today owns vineyards all over Mendoza. This Cabernet-based blend is aromatic and has a fair amount of fruit and spices on the palate. Earthy notes meet marmalade and cardamon. It has soft ripe tannins and a lasting finish. Allow the wine to breathe before serving. *Polaner Selections.* —J.V.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$30

91 **Mendel 2021 Unus Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza).** The nose of this smooth blend of 65% Malbec, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot is rich in aromas of maraschino cherry and cinnamon, along with other baking spices. Oaky notes are integrated on the palate, where a fair amount of red and black berries contribute to the balance of flavors. *Vine Connections.* —J.V.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

91 **Monteviejo 2020 Petite Fleur Red Blend (Uco Valley).** Blackberry and thyme intertwined in the beautifully perfumed nose. This wine is well balanced and has fruity and savory flavors. Ripe notes of plums meet dark chocolate and dried herbs, adding depth to the structured palate. *Taub Family Selections.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Clos de los Siete 2020 By Michel Rolland Red Blend (Uco Valley).** This vintage had many challenges, including the pandemic lockdown. However, the winemaker managed to make this wine as smooth and friendly as previous years's bottlings. Red fruit (with a hint of black pepper and green bell pepper) marks the bouquet. The palate exhibits ripe dark cherry with a touch of cinnamon and vanilla. *Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Monteviejo 2019 Petite Fleur Red Blend (Uco Valley).** This is a blend made with 56% Malbec, 32% Cabernet Franc and 12% Syrah that opens with traces of rosemary and cherries on the nose. It's medium-to-full bodied, with peppercorn, vanilla beans and red berries lifted by elegant acidity. *Go Wine LLC.* —J.V.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

90 **Sur de los Andes 2021 Premium Blend Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This blend was made with equal parts of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon and then aged in oak barrels. The resulting wine is fruit-forward, with soft tannins and an aromatic nose of berries. Ripe notes of strawberry and dark chocolate add layers to the flavorful palate and extend into a fruity finish. *W. Direct.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

89 **Casa Natal 2020 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This was a warm vintage and as a result, the wine shows ripeness. It's fruit-forward, with a nose of berry jam. Soft tannins frame ripe black-fruit flavors in this medium-bodied blend. *W. Direct.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

89 **Clos de los Siete 2019 By Michel Rolland Red Blend (Uco Valley).** A nose of green bell pepper leads to a flavorful palate. Ripe berries mixed with herbs, vanilla and smoky notes. This is an enjoyable red with prominent leafy notes in the finish. *Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Infinito 2021 Winemaker's Selection Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Mendoza).** Plums and dried herbs are subtle on the nose. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec, this is medium-bodied with light blueberry and cherry notes mixed with herbs and spices. It has gentle tannins and a brief finish. *Tri-Vin Imports.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

89 **Tikal 2019 Júbilo Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** The nose is austere and leads to a restrained palate, with subtle leafy and fruity flavors. It has tangy acidity and soft tannins framing plums and red berries that extend into a medium-long finish. *Vine Connections.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Zolo 2021 Signature Red Sustainably Farmed Estate Grown and Bottled Red Blend (Mendoza).** Bonarda, Merlot and Syrah were blended to make this easy-drinking red that starts

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with floral aromas. It's fruit-focused on the lean palate and exhibits hints of pink pepper, leading to a short finish. VINO DEL SOL. —J.V.

abv: NA

Price: \$NA

CHILE

CHARDONNAY

92 Viña Tabalí 2022 Talinay Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). This Chardonnay comes from coastal vineyards in one of Chile's northernmost wine regions, Limarí. It has a delicate nose of white flower and citrus aromas that are more than inviting. The mineral-textured palate is fresh due to its vibrant acidity. Flavors of apricot, ripe lemon and baking spices are balanced and lengthen the finish. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$33

91 Concha y Toro 2022 Amelia Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). This is creamy and lemony with mouthwatering acidity. The nose offers ginger, lemon and mango. Balanced flavors of chamomile, citrus fruit and baking spices appear on the tasty palate and extend into a fresh finish. Viña Concha y Toro USA. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$60

89 Viña Tabalí 2022 Vetás Blancas Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). This Chardonnay has an austere nose. After a few minutes in the glass, light flavors of melon and chamomile flowers slowly take over the palate. It has good acidity and a lemony finish. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

88 Carmen 2022 Gran Reserva Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). Subtle citrus notes on the nose introduce a balanced palate, with chamomile tea and lime flavors. Peach and red apple mark the finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

86 San Pedro 2022 1865 Selected Vineyards Chardonnay (Limarí Valley). Celery and other green notes shape the nose. The palate is herbaceous, featuring subtle flavors of orange and grapefruit. It finishes with hints of lemon and sharp acidity. Park Street Imports. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

URUGUAY

TANNAT

90 Bouza 2019 Parcela Única A8 Tannat (Montevideo). The nose is a bit restrained, but after a few minutes, notes of wild berries rise from the glass. Fresh and fruit-forward, the palate offers balanced flavors of mulberry and cranberry. Subtle notes of baking spices, black pepper and thyme add to the wine's complexity. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$49

89 Bouza 2020 Parcela Única A6 Tannat (Montevideo). This is a big, full-bodied Tannat that starts with a nose of intense ripe black fruit aromas and light notes of oak spice. Cherries, plums and blueberries meet smoky notes on the firm and slightly warm palate. Moderate acidity is enough to drive the flavors through the oaky finish. Allow this wine to breathe before drinking. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.

abv: 16%

Price: \$49

89 Marichal 2022 Tannat (Canelones). This unoaked Tannat hails from Canelones, home to over 70% of Uruguay's vineyards. It's fruit-forward and offers ripe berries on the nose. Soft tannins hold flavors of strawberry and cherries alongside balancing acidity. It's easy to drink and enjoyable. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

89 Marichal 2020 Reserve Collection Tannat (Canelones). A subtle mix of red fruit, herbs and tobacco perfume the nose. The palate shows intense berry flavors and a light note of peppercorn. Smooth tannins provide support, making the wine approachable. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

88 Bouza 2020 Tannat (Canelones). Earthy, with pronounced toasted oak notes, this Tannat opens with cranberry sauce and leafy aromas. Rich flavors of baking spices are followed by mild berry notes on the sturdy palate. A touch of vanilla marks the finish. Drink now. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$25

ALSACE

RIESLING

93 Bechtold 2019 Engelberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This shows some body, but its great acidity tightens it around the waist, while white raspberry, quinine, jasmine and papaya mingle at the core. Its spiciness characterizes the long finish. It's a wine that is still very intense and alive, so I would recommend keeping it in the cellar for a few more years, although you won't regret opening a bottle now. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

93 Hugel 2012 Grossi Laüe Riesling (Alsace). Lovely aromas of singed lemon peel, star anise and incense waft through the flavors of singed lemon peel, honeycomb, durian and flint in this complex, beautifully developed Riesling. It is finely knit with a suave texture, but well cut and intense just enough to keep echoing on the finish. Drink now–2032. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

93 Hugel 2012 Schoelhammer Riesling (Alsace). The velvety texture of this Riesling belies the elegance of this white, as the great, ripe acid-

ity flows through, linking the elements of orchard fruit, paraffin, medicinal herbs, Asian spices and wet stone. It shows an impressive range and depth, and remarkable vivaciousness for its age. At a great spot now, but it would be interesting to track its further development. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$NA

93 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2020 Furstentum Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). Intense white, with a hint of matchstick up front, followed by quince, white raspberry, verbena and green almond flavors supported by the vibrant acidity piercing through the suave texture. Wet stone and quinine accents linger on the tactile finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$48

92 Bechtold 2020 Nef des Folles Riesling (Alsace). This shows a slightly oxidative, nutty note, but still, its yellow plum, goldenberry, mineral saltiness and a very stony character are super focused and inviting. The texture is quite tactile, lending a pleasant crunch on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

92 Mure 2021 Clos Saint Landelin Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This opens up with notes of flint and quinine, while the mineral texture adds a tactile first impression. It is finely meshed, medium bodied and it shows flavors of white peach, lemon candy, matchstick and tarragon that echo on the mouth-watering finish. H2 VINO. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$50

91 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2020 Kaefferkopf Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). There is a light petrol note, but also a lot of exotic and tropical fruit that reveals itself midpalate, leaving the aftertaste of singed lemon peel and heather. This is long and persistent. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

91 Mure 2021 Côte De Rouffach Riesling (Alsace). A juicy and silky Riesling with bright acidity, this shows an expressive mix of nectarine, guava, roasted pineapple, wet stone, sea salt and bergamot. It is focused, delivering a mouth-watering finish. H2 VINO. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50

90 Frédéric Mallo 2018 Rosacker Vieilles Vignes Riesling (Alsace). This is developing, with shy hints of toasted hazelnut behind the juicy core, featuring bright acidity and an expressive mix of yellow peach, tropical guava, wet stone and Mandarin orange. Focused, delivering a well-knit finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$36

90 Joseph Cattin 2022 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace). This is marked by its bright acidity, which sets it apart from the group today. It features peach, mango, blood orange and

anise, with a lip-smacking, mineral-tinged finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2021 Riesling (Alsace). This is a slightly leaner style with intense, but juicy acidity and lots of orchard fruit and ginger spice. A bit direct, but it shows length and character on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Frédéric Mallo 2019 Riesling (Alsace). This shows a restrained mineral character, but it expands on the palate, with peach and floral notes, and finishes clean. Moderate length. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Hugel 2022 Classic Riesling (Alsace). This is crunchy and very tactile overall. It is pretty linear in flavor though, featuring zesty lemon and green apple. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Hugel 2021 Classic Riesling (Alsace). Leaner style, with racy acidity and lots of salt and lemon zest. Crisp apple and spices warm up the vibe midpalate. Moderate length. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Gustave Lorentz 2022 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Steely and flirting with austerity, but is expressive enough to show plum and physalis notes on the moderate finish. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

PINOT GRIS

92 Hugel 2013 Grossi Laüe Pinot Gris (Alsace). A stony note underscores fleshy white peach, durian and quince-blossom notes in this sleek white, framed by juicy acidity. A spicy undercurrent and honeyed chamomile tea notes linger on the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Mure 2020 Clos Saint Landelin Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace). A spiced, medium-bodied version with a lively and well-balanced profile, featuring a subtle mesh of lentil, blanched almond, melon and stony mineral. Offers a clean finish. H2 Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

89 Gustave Lorentz 2011 Altenberg de Bergheim Grand Cru Vendanges Tardives Pinot Gris (Alsace). This round and open late harvest wine offers honey and almond flavors with ripe apple, plenty of spice on a broad profile. It features a long, but monotone finish. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

89 Joseph Cattin 2022 Hatschbourg Grand Cru Pinot Gris (Alsace). This shows ripeness to

the off-dry notes of fleshy white peach and star fruit flavors packed into a sleek profile, framed by juicy acidity. There is a spicy undercurrent lingering on the finish. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Joseph Cattin 2022 Orange Pinot Gris (Alsace). Copper tinged, with ground ginger, baking spice and anise notes, this medium-bodied wine crackles with juicy acidity and shows hints of apricot. Moderate length. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Frédéric Mallo 2020 Pinot Gris (Alsace). A distinctive scent of hop and butter, followed by peach flavors highlights this dry, light-bodied Pinot Gris. It finishes with accents of apple and white pepper. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2021 Pinot Gris (Alsace). Straightforward, with tangy acidity enlivening light notes of lemon candy, tarragon and spice. Moderate finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

86 Gustave Lorentz 2022 Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace). Dry and elegant, showing floral and pear notes with a lively structure. It ends with a hint of grapefruit peel. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

PINOT BLANC

89 Hugel 2022 Cuvée Les Amours Pinot Blanc (Alsace). This is filled with notes of warm phyllo dough, ground spice and Turkish delight notes. Subtle hints of pear emerge on the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2021 Côtes d'Ammerschwihl Pinot Blanc (Alsace). A taut, relatively lean white, with supporting flavors of apple and ginger. This is racy and focused, with moderate length. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

84 Gustave Lorentz 2022 Réserve Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Direct, with modest aromas of lemon and lime, which also mark the fresh-tasting palate. Quick finish. Quintessential. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

GEWURZTRAMINER

90 Joseph Cattin 2022 Hatschbourg Grand Cru Gewurztraminer (Alsace). This is thick and creamy, lending exotic, honey and spice accents to the floral and citrus flavors. Full bodied and lush,

but nicely balanced thanks to its juicy acidity. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Frédéric Mallo 2020 Cuvée Saint-Jacques Gewurztraminer (Alsace). A medium-bodied, easy-drinking white, with light orange peel acidity, a base of floral and spice notes combined with lychee, lemon and vanilla bean. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Mure 2022 Orchidées Sauvages Gewurztraminer (Alsace). Hints of spice, honey and ginger mingle in this subtle, medium-bodied white. Well-cut acidity forms a lively frame for the notes of melon, quince, quinine and candied ginger. H2 Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2021 Vielle Vigne Pinot Auxerois (Alsace). A delicious, bone-dry white, with an enticing nose of ginger powder that extends on the palate. Electric acidity runs through, with quinine, white raspberry and green almond, tied to a crunchy texture. Earthy mineral marks the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

90 Maurice Schoech & Fils 2021 Kaysersberg Sylvaner (Alsace). Notes of sweet corn and an enticing mix of stone fruit and orchard blossom are the hallmarks of this white. There is a pleasant zest on the long, mouth-watering finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

87 Hugel 2022 Gentil White Blend (Alsace). Quite creamy, with a smoky base note and flavors of salted butter, blanched almond and white pepper. Soft with a moderately long finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

PINOT NOIR

90 Bechtold 2019 S Pinot Noir (Alsace). Floral, herb and leather notes accent this Pinot Noir, as well as flavors of dried plum, blackberry coulis and rich wood smoke. A direct style, but refined and well balanced, with a smoky finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Mure 2021 V Pinot Noir (Alsace). A juicy, vibrant Pinot with plenty of floral notes and flavors, which underscore the wild cherry, strawberry, and dried herbs. This shows a lovely harmony, while the pure fruit flavors linger on the finish. H2 Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Hugel 2020 Classic Pinot Noir (Alsace). This offers great energy, with fresh acidity backing the black cherry and plum sauce. Silky tannins add to the experience and mark the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

CHAMPAGNE

99 Pol Roger 2015 Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill Brut (Champagne). There is a wonderful biscuity aroma to this Pinot Noir-dominated Champagne. Named after the British war-time prime minister and an avid consumer of Champagne, the wine is mature, full of ripe yeasty flavors and concentration. The wine, from a great vintage, is at a perfect stage and ready to be drunk. But the wine will also age for many years, certainly until 2030. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$260

95 Pol Roger 2016 Millésime Brut (Champagne). From a fine vintage for Champagne, particularly the Pinot Noir favored by this producer, this wine is still young, while suggesting great maturity and further aging to come. It is a great, balanced wine, with an edge of minerality. Drink now, but also age for many years. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$139

92 B. Stuyvesant NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). There is a fine touch of maturity in this crisp, mineral-textured Champagne. It has a layer of acidity under the tightness and great balance between fruit and bottle age. Drink now. Golden Vines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

90 B. Stuyvesant NV Réserve Brut (Champagne). Full of fruit, with a crisp texture and fresh acidity, this Champagne is just beginning to get some bottle age. At this stage, it is full of fruit, with apples and citrus to the fore. Drink this bottling now. Golden Vines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$59

LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES

95 Clau de Nell 2020 Chenin Blanc (Val de Loire). Chenin Blanc was meant to be this good. Gold in color, this wine has an alluring nose of candied golden apple, quince, baked pear, honey and orange marmalade. Creamy in texture, this biodynamic wine is fulsome and curvaceous with a generous midpalate that salons in plump, rich fruit. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Roc de l'Abbaye 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire). Classic Loire Sauvignon Blanc. This wine has a well-integrated nose of white peach, green apple, orange and lemon citrus, wild thyme

and honeysuckle. Red apple slice and dried grass add depth and complexity along with minerality on the finish. Demeine Estates. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Jérôme Choblet 2022 Le Chant Baron Grolleau Gris (Val de Loire). This wine has an aromatic nose of green apple, end-of-fall dried herbs, white peach, ripe Asian pear, white blossom and lemon-citrus shavings. Bright with stoniness, the wine is slightly reserved on the palate but with a lively undercurrent of minerality that uplifts. Serge Doré Selections. —R.S.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

89 Véronique Günther-Chereau 2021 Aurore Chardonnay (Val de Loire). Bruised golden apple, white peach stonefruit, blossom and ripe-ate-summer pear jump out on the nose. This Chardonnay has a bolt of acidity running through to the finish. Drink now and pair with seafood and white-meat dishes. AP Wine Imports. —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Fournier Père et Fils 2020 MMM Sauvignon Blanc (Loire). Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of fresh green and red apple, white nectarine, honeysuckle and lemon-citrus shavings. Orchard fruit rides on top of and complements the acid structure. This wine would pair well with white-meat dishes as well as roasted vegetables. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

POUILLY-FUMÉ

96 Château de Tracy 2019 101 Rang (Pouilly-Fumé). Pouilly Fumé can be multifaceted and complex, and this wine is a perfect example. Gold in color with a decidedly herbal nose, this wine immediately dives into overripe green pear, dried summer field grass, white nectarine, orange marmalade and forest floor, while flirting with brioche. Inklings of chalkiness revel on the midpalate along with notes of thyme and dill. Drink now, but this elegant wine can continue to develop through 2029. Baron Francois Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$130

95 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Indigène (Pouilly-Fumé). This is a delicious, mature, grown-up Pouilly Fumé. Gold in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of dried orange zest, caramelized golden apple, vanilla and clove baking spice topped with cream fraiche and a dollop of ripe Asian pear. The wine is slightly creamy in texture, yet retains a vibrant streak of acidity that runs through to the lingering finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$111

95 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Les Griottes (Pouilly-Fumé). This flavor-rich Pouilly Fumé shines. Tangerine, peach stone fruit, orange blossom, celery leaf and dried mango leap out of your glass on the nose. On the palate, ripe orchard fruit

combines with a bale of nearly dried hay and provides the wine with a supportive herbal structure that is multifaceted. Drink now, but this wine can continue to improve with age. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

93 Domaine des Berthiers 2020 Jean-Claude Dagueneau Cuvée d'Eve (Pouilly-Fumé). This wine is a mature blend of summer fruit and dried field grass. The wine opens with bruised green pear, dried grass, lemon zest, and sliced green apple. Soft creamy notes and firm acidity are in balance and impart structure. This Pouilly-Fumé offers great value for the price. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Château de Tracy 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). Pouilly Fumé is the underdog in the Loire Valley compared to Sancerre, but don't sleep on it and bottles like this. The wine opens with a nose of chalk followed by ripe golden apple, dried dill and thyme, white nectarine and dried lemon zest. Mature fruit reveals itself on the palate and is comfortable in its strength. Baron Francois Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Domaine des Berthiers 2022 Jean-Claude Dagueneau Saint-Andelain (Pouilly-Fumé). This wine has a delightfully mineral-driven underbelly. The wine has a nose of fall green pear, golden apple, forest floor, hay and dried-lemon-peel shavings. Acidity enlivens the wine and combines with chalkiness on the midpalate and ballroom dances with lemon peel through to the finish. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 J. de Villebois 2022 Les Silex Blancs (Pouilly-Fumé). Grown on flint soil, this elegant wine has a layered nose of white peach, golden apple, honeysuckle perfume and lemon citrus. Slightly creamy in texture, the wine is imbued with a stony, mineral character and completes with a silky finish. This wine could be served by the glass and enjoyed by itself or paired with more complex dishes. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Blanc Fumé (Pouilly-Fumé). This Pouilly-Fumé challenges the notion that all the Loire Sauvignon Blanc action is in Sancerre. Gold in color, this wine opens with ripe golden apple, fall Bosc pear, brioche, quince and candied lemon peel. The wine is vibrant with some creaminess emerging on the attack followed by subtle baking spice and dried white blossom. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

91 J. de Villebois 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). This Pouilly-Fumé has a fresh character at the outset and becomes more complex on the finish. The wine has a perfumed nose of fresh green apple, quince, honey and Bosc pear. Softly textured on the

midpalate, the wine is dominated by green fruit and dried white blossom. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

91 Les Alliés 2022 (Pouilly-Fumé). For full review see page 22. Tri-Vin Imports. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Henri Bourgeois 2022 En Travertin (Pouilly-Fumé). Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of chalk-frosted, fresh green apple, white nectarine, quince and lemon zest. The palate has lively acidity that refreshes and continues through to the end of the taste along with a tinge of field herbs. Pair with quiche, scrambled eggs, poultry and other white meats. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

SANCERRE

94 Laporte 2022 Le Grand Rochoy (Sancerre). This elegant Sancerre is confident in its own skin. Golden apple, freshly cut grass, sage brush and dried white blossom open on the perfumed nose along with subtle hints of vanilla baking spice. The wine saunters across your midpalate with well-integrated flavors that are in chorus with the nose. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

93 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Sauvage (Sancerre). Instead of white Burgundy, serve this Sancerre. A nose of golden fruit greets you on the nose, along with restrained sweet baking spice, golden apple, ripe Bosc pear and hints of caramelized quince and brioche. The creamy palate delivers acidity that enlivens the entire length of the taste. Drink now–2028. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$111

92 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Le Grand Chemarin (Sancerre). This Sancerre is the one you pull out on a late afternoon to get ready for a sunset or a day that ends with warm sunlight on your skin. A perfumed, complex wine greets you on the nose that is bathed in orchard fruit, including golden apple, white nectarine, ripe Bosc pear, dried orange blossom and starfruit. A creamy texture ensues on the palate and is supple like a velvety glove brushing your cheek. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Patient Cottat 2022 Anciennes Vignes (Sancerre). If you're looking for a grown-up Sancerre with lively acidity and body, you've found it. This wine has a nose of golden apple, bruised quince, white blossom and Asian pear. Somewhat steely in texture, the wine has an undercurrent of lemon citrus that surfs under just-ripened orchard fruit that rides to shore on your back palate. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Les Bouffants (Sancerre). This wine is the brighter, fresher side of Sancerre. Lemon-gold in color, it has a rich nose of white-peach stone fruit, quince, lemon zest, nectarine and Fuji apple. The palate has a steely and creamy texture mix with a supportive acid structure. This versatile wine would pair with many a meal. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

89 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Clos du Roy (Sancerre). This is a fresh Sancerre with vibrant green fruit. Lemon in color, this wine opens with fresh apple slice, green pear and white blossom. Steely in texture, the wine has a heart of green fruit with inklings of fresh lemon peel and hints of brioche. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Le Chêne Marchand (Sancerre). This is a solid Sancerre. Fresh green apple opens on the nose of this wine along with lemon peel, green apple and orange pith. Steely in texture with chalky moments, lemon citrus reveals itself on the palate through to the finish. The acid structure would complement spicy and vegetable dishes. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

89 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Les Cailottes (Sancerre). This wine opens with orange marmalade, roasted green apple, quince slice, Korean pear and grated lemon peel. Chalkiness reveals itself on the palate, followed by lively acidity that races through to the long finish. Pair this wine with foods and after courses that crave a palate cleanser. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

MENETOU-SALON

91 Steve Millet 2022 (Menetou-Salon). This wine has a nose of bruised golden apple, Sweethearts candy, honeydew melon and just-ripened white peach stonefruit. On the palate, it reveals some chalkiness that follows through to a lemon-citrus tinged finish. Drink now–2025. Cape Classics. *Hidden Gem.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 Côtes de Morogues (Menetou-Salon). If you're getting to know Sauvignon Blanc from Menetou-Salon, start here. This wine has a nose of golden apple, white blossom and dried lemon peel. Lemon citrus rides underneath orchard fruit on the palate and intermingles with chalkiness, imparting clarity buttressed by notes of honey on the finish. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 J. de Villebois 2022 (Menetou-Salon). This wine is understated, yet layered. The wine is a mix of green and red apple, and dried hay on the

nose with hints of dill and white blossom. It delivers orchard fruit on the palate, with whiffs of mineral-ity that undergirds the last 60% of the taste. Drink now–2026. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

CRÉMANT DE LOIRE

90 Gratien et Meyer NV Brut (Crémant de Loire). For full review see page 27. Freixenet Mionnetto USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Gratien et Meyer NV Brut Rosé (Crémant de Loire). For full review see page 27. Freixenet Mionnetto USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Obvious Wines NV No. 5 French & Bubbly Blanc de Blancs (Val de Loire). A honeyed nose of caramelized apple, baked pear, orange marmalade and white peach jump out on the nose of this sparkling wine. The creamy-textured wine made from 100% Chardonnay has a smile-inducing mouthfeel and an equally supple finish. Whether served by the glass or paired with a meal, this wine shows well. Obvious Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Domaine Philippe Delesvaux 2011 Passerillé (Coteaux du Layon Saint Aubin). Amber in color, this aged, unfiltered, small-production Chenin Blanc has an aromatic nose of caramel, honey, ripe peach and baked apple. Dried apricot, white raisin and orange marmalade join on the palate and continue through to a long finish. This is a mature wine. Drink now–2030. Guarachi Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Mary Taylor 2021 Alice Berthier (Coteaux du Giennois). Made from 30-year-old vines, this wine embodies the best of the Loire. Gold in color, the wine has a perfumed yet vibrant nose of pear, white blossom and forest floor with curious cedar hints. Red apple, dried grass and summer field herbs show beautifully on the palate and crescendo into a long finish. Mary Taylor Wine. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

93 Pascal Jolivet 2022 Édition No 2 (Coteaux du Giennois). This gold-colored wine has an aromatic nose of pureed apple, clove and vanilla baking spice, quince, brioche, toasted walnuts, ginger and orange peel. The creamy-textured wine is fruit forward with an underlying baking spice that imparts depth and focus. As with many things that get better with age, you can drink now, but this wine will continue to improve in the bottle until 2029. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

BUYINGGUIDE

90 J. de Villebois 2022 (Quincy). This wine is dripping with beautiful green and golden fruit. Soft lemon citrus and just-ripened green apple open on the nose. Firm acidity asserts itself on the palate buttressed by minerality and orchard fruit. Drink now–2026. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 La Berrière 2022 Sur Lie (Muscadet Côtes de Grandlieu). This mineral-driven Muscadet delivers. Yellow apple, Asian pear, jasmine blossom and lemon zest open on the nose of this wine. The midpalate is flinty with residual chalkiness that gives way to pleasing stoniness. Drink now–2026. David Milligan Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES

92 Clau de Nell 2020 Grolleau (Val de Loire). Fermented with native yeast, this wine has a nose of red currant, black cherry and violet blossom. Concentration dominates on the midpalate with velvety tannins that revel in black cherry, chalk and dried mushroom on the finish. This wine begs for dishes that match it in complexity and depth. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Paul Buisse 2022 Petit Buisse (Val de Loire). This wine has a restrained nose of just-ripened summer red cherry, forest floor, strawberry and a handful of white-flower-blossom petals. The midpalate resolves in red fruit and finishes likewise. Pair this wine with delicate dishes including fish, roasted poultry or thin slices of lightly sautéed beef. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

SANCERRE

92 Nicolas Millet 2022 Les Rimbardes (Sancerre). If you haven't experienced Sancerre Rouge, this is a bottle to educate your palate on Pinot Noir from the Loire. A perfumed nose greets you with black cherry, black raspberry and red currant from fruit made from vines that are more than 60 years old. Grippy tannins show up on the palate and ride atop of the fruit structure until you reach the end of the taste where red fruit rises and takes reign. T. Elenteny Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

91 J. de Villebois 2022 (Sancerre). For full review see page 22. Vineyard Brands. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Laporte 2022 Les Grandmontains (Sancerre). Ruby in color, this wine has a reserved nose of red cherry and black raspberry. A layer of chalk rides underneath red and black fruit on the palate, and imparts added texture. Enjoy this earthy Pinot

Noir with food to reveal its full expressiveness. Martine's Wines. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

ANJOU

91 Domaine de la Petite Roche 2021 (Anjou). This is a beautiful, classically styled, Loire Cabernet Franc. A bouquet of black raspberry, pencil shavings, dried violet blossom, hay and black tea jumps out of your glass and creates first-sip anticipation. On the palate, young cedar combines with delicate black-fruit concentration and well-integrated tannins, and completes with a long finish. T. Elenteny Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Clau de Nell 2020 Violette (Anjou). This blend of 65% Cabernet Franc and 35% Cabernet Sauvignon opens with crushed stone, red plum, rhubarb, black cherry and red currant. Forest floor, dried porcini mushroom and red plum emerge on the palate and dominate the length of the taste. The wine is reserved, yet comfortable being in sync with its earthiness. Pair with vegetables, white-meat dishes and any mushroom-based sauces. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

90 Mary Taylor 2022 Pascal Biotteau (Anjou). The wine opens with black cherry, a sub-layer of blueberry and then jumps to pomegranate and raspberry in your glass. Black tea chimes in on the midpalate briefly before resting in a pile of limestone and pencil shavings soaked in delicious black fruit. Give this wine 30 minutes to open in your glass before drinking to get the best of it. Drink now–2026. Mary Taylor Wine. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

OTHER RED WINES

94 Xavier et Agnès Amirault 2020 Le Clos des Quarterons Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). For full review see page 12. Vineyard Brands. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

93 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 Côtes de Morogues (Menetou-Salon). This is a supple, elegant wine that lingers on the palate and begs a second glass and then another. The wine has a perfumed nose of red cherry, forest floor, black tea and hibiscus. The Menetou-Salon has a silky mouthfeel with additional notes of pencil shavings and field herbs. David Milligan Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Domaine les Pins 2022 (Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil). This wine has a nose of black raspberry, pencil shavings, violet blossom, pomegranate and hibiscus. Your lips will pucker into a smile, not because of the acidity but because of the balance between the acidity and tannic structure that pulls you in, while in perfect balance with the

faintest herbal undertones that push the wine into the heavenly zone. T. Elenteny Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

92 Domaine les Pins 2021 Le Clos (Bourgueil). This is a confident wine that knows its value—and you should too. Joyful aromas of red raspberry, pencil shavings, dried herbs, rhubarb and fresh strawberries jump out on the nose of the wine. On the palate, black tea and rosehip dance with dried violet blossom and dried hay. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine les Pins 2022 Les Rochettes (Bourgueil). This Bourgueil is like a slow kiss at the end of a Friday night. The wine has a nose of blackberry, sweet baking spices, strawberry, red raspberry and rosehip. A concentrated midpalate rewards your senses and encourages you to lean in further into a wine that finishes with a soothing finish. T. Elenteny Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 J. de Villebois 2022 (Menetou-Salon). This is a delicate Pinot Noir with red-fruit sensibility. Plump red cherry, bruised strawberry and dried white blossom infuse the perfumed nose of the wine. On the palate, dried vine stem lends structure with ripe, well-integrated tannins surfing through to the red cherry oriented finish. Drink now, but the wine can also improve with age. Vineyard Brands. **Editors' Choice.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Mary Taylor 2022 Sophie Siadou (Valençay). The Loire is famous for producing wines with an herbal and fruity quality, and this bottle captures that profile in a 35% Gamay, 35% Malbec and 30% Pinot Noir blend. Ruby in color, the wine has a savory nose of red raspberry, black cherry, dried field grass, sage brush and violet blossom. On the palate, just-ripened red fruit is at the lead of the taste with slightly grippy tannins providing thrust on the finish, laced with pleasing chalk and limestone. Mary Taylor Wine. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Mary Taylor 2019 Alice Berthier (Coteaux du Giennois). This wine has an energetic fruit streak. Ruby in color with some garnet around the edges, the wine has a savory nose of dried black cherry, fall field herbs, black plum, dried fig and fresh cranberry. It is somewhat steely in texture with supportive velvety tannins that lend structure and body, and raise the fruit. Mary Taylor Wine. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Webster Barnes Selection 2020 Domaine du Haut Morlu Malbec (Touraine). You've likely never had Malbec from the Loire and this bottle proves why you should seek out more. Deep purple in color, this wine opens with blackberry, warm baking spice, black cherry, black raspberry, black plum and white pepper. The wine is concentrated

and inky on the midpalate with dried orange peel and rhubarb skin supported by a solid acid structure and grippy tannins that lend depth and body. Webster Barnes LLC. —R.S.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

CHABLIS

92 **Domaine Fourrey 2021 Cuvée Héritage (Chablis)**. A bright presentation of lemon verbena, English pea, hay and chalk aromas awaken the senses. The palate is harmonious and focused, with an intense minerality that makes this enjoyable in its youth. A wonderful pairing across various shellfish. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$35

92 **Domaine Jean Dauvissat Père et Fils 2021 Les Terroirs de Milly (Chablis)**. Fresh verbena lemon, ginger, lemongrass, white flower, rose and hay make for a complex and alluring nose. This wine is round with a mineral-laden midpalate that gives lift to honeysuckle and white tea-leaf notes in its long and elegant finish. Enjoyable now with a bit of aeration. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.C.C.

abv: NA

Price: \$45

92 **Simonnet-Febvre 2021 (Chablis)**. An elegant expression with overripe lemons, Anjou pear, white mushroom and wet stone on the nose. The palate is refined with soft minerality that perfectly balances its citrus profile. Delicious and enjoyable now. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

91 **Domaine L. Chatelain 2021 (Chablis)**. Fresh Meyer lemon, Bosc pear, lemongrass, straw and wet stone on the nose. The palate is intensely mineral-laden with crisp acidity that highlights soft citrus and hay notes on the finish. A beautiful accompaniment with shellfish. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$25

89 **Les Alliés 2021 (Chablis)**. Aromas of over-ripe lemon, white peach, melon, lemongrass and chalk meld in the glass. The palate is linear with bright acidity that highlights pithy citrus, melon and wet clay on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

POUILLY-FUISSÉ

94 **Château de Fuissé 2020 Tête de Cuvée (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. A bright nose resembling a Chablisien profile, find light aromas of fresh lemon peel, pear, hay and lemongrass. With aeration, find more depth from more pithy fruit, orange blossom brioche and a saline finish. Elegant and hard to resist now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

93 **Château de Fuissé 2020 Le Clos Monopole Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. A brilliant wine full of Meyer lemon, acacia, sweet butter, vanilla and flaky salt aromas. The palate offers a beautiful melding of ripe lemon skins, honeysuckle, sweet spices and brown butter. Uplifting acidity elongate these notes through the finish, creating an elegant expression for this textured wine. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$100

93 **Domaine du Roc des Boutires 2020 Premier Cru Aux Chailloux (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. Ripe lemons, pink lady apple, Bosc pear, honeysuckle and salty sweet butter come together in the glass. Round and focused with brisk acidity that refreshes and provides lift especially to its intense mineral midpalate. Wonderful to enjoy now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$75

93 **Louis Jadot 2020 Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. Aromas of both tart and ripe Meyer lemon, Gala apple and honeysuckle are framed by note of light brioche with brown butter. The palate is elegant and energetic with refreshing acidity that accentuates the toasted brioche note, adding depth to its fruit profile. Enjoyable now. Kobrand. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

92 **Château de Fuissé 2020 Famille Vincent Marie-Antoinette (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. Fresh aromas of ripe Meyer lemon, Anjou pear, lemongrass and hay meld in the glass. Round and opulent, prominent warm baking spices and vanilla notes coat the palate and give way to pear along the midpalate, which stays long through its saline finish. Enjoyable now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

92 **Château de Fuissé 2020 Les Brulés Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. An opulent yet harmonious expression with profuse aromas of Meyer lemon, pear, white peach, lilac and creamy butter on brioche. The palate is bright with refreshing acidity that accentuates tropical fruit high tones, lemongrass, stone and sweet baking spices. Enjoyable now with a proper decant or cellar further through 2028+ for further integration. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

92 **Château Vitallis 2020 Pouilly Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. A beautifully balanced wine with fresh lemon, Anjou pear, dandelion, vanilla and brioche notes. Mouth-watering acidity brightens the palate, illuminating white peach, Gala apple, delicate wild white flower and a soft stone finish. Delicious and enjoyable now. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$65

92 **Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2020 Aux Bouthières Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. This wine offers plenty of fresh aromas of Gala apple, Korean pear, lilies, lemongrass, ginger and

sweet vanilla. The palate mirrors these same notes, but its mouth-coating acidity adds brightness and highlights its saline edge. A delicious pairing with for various goat cheeses or spicy chicken vermicelli noodles. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$65

92 **Domaine Trouillet 2020 Les Vignes de Jules Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. On the nose are profuse aromas of baked lemons, golden apple, lemongrass, honeysuckle and stone. Round on the palate, its brisk acidity accentuates its salinity on the palate along with baking spices felt along the finish. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

91 **Domaine Pascal et Mireille Renaud 2020 Aux Chailloux Premier Cru (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. This wine has refreshing aromas of Meyer lemons sprinkled with salt, acacia and hay. The palate is round with sweet baking spices that currently dominate the fruit. This should be a wonderful pairing with dishes in a brown butter sauce. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$65

91 **Fabrice Larochette 2020 Les Plessys (Pouilly-Fuissé)**. Refreshing aromas of lemon slices, peonies, wet soil and flaky salt make for an elegant nose. The palate is focused with bright acidity, accentuating lemon peel and golden apples. A straight forward yet elegant expression. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 **Prosper Maufoux 2021 Domaine Vigne au Roy (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits)**. Lush aromatics of Amarena cherry, rhubarb, white strawberry and green peppercorn draw in the nose. The palate offers soft tannins that elegantly frame notes of Bing cherry, orange oil and white tea leaf flavors along the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

BURGUNDY RED WINES

GEVREY-CHAMBERTIN

94 **Domaine Henri Rebourseau 2018 La Brunelle (Gevrey-Chambertin)**. Aromas of concentrated black cherry, a touch of cassis, rose and thyme currently present on the quiet side. The palate is bold with a persistence of ripe black cherry and wild strawberry. Round grippy tannins cling onto its cherry core that lingers into its long finish. Approachable now. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$125

93 **Domaine Henri Rebourseau 2018 (Gevrey-Chambertin)**. A decadent nose with concen-

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trated fresh black cherry, rhubarb, violets and a hint of sweet vanilla bean meld in the glass. The palate is harmonious and focuses on a perfectly ripe presentation of black cherries. Delicious and approachable now. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 **Domaine Henri Rebourseau 2018 Aux Corvées (Gevrey-Chambertin).** A beautiful terroir expression offering a bouquet of wild strawberry, red cherry, meatiness and fresh earth. The textured palate offers prominent floral tones with rose petals that sit atop of red berries and thyme woven through its gentle vanilla finish. Beautiful. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 **Maison Stéphane Brocard 2020 Closerie Des Alisiers Les Estournelles Saint-Jacques Premier Cru (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Profuse aromatics of crushed cherries, rose petal and thyme delight the nose. The palate offers a bit of tartness balanced by bright acidity that gives life to dark cherries, beef bouillon and thyme that stays long on the palate. Enjoyable now. J & J Winery. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Pierre Mayeul 2018 (Gevrey-Chambertin).** Aromatic layers of crushed strawberry, cherry skin and violets are followed by beef bouillon, thyme and green peppercorn. Ripe and rich, the palate is coated by youthful tannins that heighten its savory notes and moves to black cherry, rose and finishes with a fine iodine and vanilla note. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$120

HAUTES CÔTES DE NUITS

92 **Domaine Nudant 2021 (Hautes Côtes de Nuits).** A core of raspberry aromas encapsulates cherry skin with light wafts of strawberries tossed in fresh earth. The wine is textured with grippy tannins, which effortlessly frames white strawberry and white peppercorn tones well through its finish. Delicious to enjoy now. T. Eleny Imports. —A.C.C.

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

92 **Nuiton-Beauvois 2021 Le Prieuré (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Nuits).** A profuse bouquet of violets immediately captivates the nose, followed by a core of cherry skin, rosehip, fresh thyme and green peppercorn. This wine is fresh with great texture and has plenty of energy that has yet to be released. Additional time in bottle should allow its pure red-fruit core to become even more expressive. Winedom LLC. —A.C.C.

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

91 **FSP 2021 DMOG Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Hautes Côtes de Nuits).** Complex aromas of Amarena cherry, blackberry, mushroom, roasted veal and thyme meld in the glass. The palate offers more juicy blackberry, clove and black peppercorn. Tannins gently coat the palate while the acidity

softens any sense of bitterness and also releases notes of cherry skin and fresh soil on the finish. Ventura Selections LLC. —A.C.C.

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

PERNAND-VERGELESSES

93 **Domaine Jean-Baptiste Boudier 2020 Les Vignes Blanches (Pernand-Vergelesses).**

Aromas of black cherry, wild strawberry and freshly picked mushroom make for a rich nose. The palate is harmonious with round tannins that draw out the juiciness of the blackberry along with white tea that trails through the finish. Enjoyable now or revisit after 2025+ Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

93 **Moillard-Grivot 2020 Les Fichots (Pernand-Vergelesses).** Energetic and fresh with aromas of red cherries, rhubarb, rose petal, beach mushroom and sweet cinnamon stick in this wine. The palate is opulent and complex delivering more rose petal and sweet spice in the midpalate. Allow for additional time in bottle or decant to appreciate its nuances. Advantage International. —A.C.C.

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

92 **Chanson Père et Fils 2021 Les Vergelesses Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses).** Fresh strawberries mixed with violets, cumin and coriander spice, and a slight vegetal edge make for an interesting nose. The palate is complex, presenting more white strawberries balanced by earth and a saline finish. Enjoyable now. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$74

92 **Domaine Chanson 2020 Les Vergelesses Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses).** A fresh expression loaded with ripe strawberries and a touch of vegetal and cumin spice on the nose. The palate is refreshing with additional layers of white strawberry, red cherry, tossed earth and a saline finish. Enjoyable now. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

92 **Domaine Jean-Baptiste Boudier 2020 Les Fichots Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses).** Amarena cherries, blackberry, wild thyme and green peppercorn aromas. The palate is ripe and round, with more black cherries washed away by brisk acidity and trails into a fresh soil and saline finish. While approachable now, additional cellaring should allow its full expression to blossom. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 **Maison André Goichot 2021 Les Fichots Premier Cru (Pernand-Vergelesses).** Wild strawberries are framed by alluring spices and pink peppercorns that keep the nose intrigued. The palate is delectable with cherries balanced with a perfect amount of vanilla to add some sweetness in the midpalate. Tannins are well integrated and balanced by brisk acidity making this wine approachable now. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$66

BEAUNE

94 **Chartron et Trébuchet 2020 Les Epenottes Premier Cru (Beaune).** This wine offers a luxurious core of black cherry nestled in wild strawberry, boysenberry and a touch of smoke. The palate is dense and silky with spice intricacies and, after some time in the glass, a presentation of pure black cherry and raspberry appears. This wine is precise and satisfying. Cellar through 2030+ or aerate to maximize enjoyment. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 **Domaine Chanson 2020 Clos des Fèves Monopole Premier Cru (Beaune).** Energetic aromas of dark fruits, but with high tones of tangerine peel, wild berries, rose, limestone and peppercorn on the nose. The palate is incredibly floral with profuse rose and black cherries. Tannins slowly crawl and coat the roof and front of the palate, leaving traces of a black tea leaf that gently coats with what feels like boysenberry. Delicious with a bit of aeration. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

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

93 **Domaine Chanson 2020 Clos du Roi Premier Cru (Beaune).** A complex nose of blackberry, rhubarb and rose high tones and a sprinkling of wild thyme and black peppercorn. The palate is refreshing with acidity that highlights its core of black fruits and dried herbs. While it is enjoyable to drink now, additional cellaring well through 2030 before revisiting should be beneficial. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

93 **Louis Latour 2020 Vignes Franches Premier Cru (Beaune).** For full review see page 14. Louis Latour Inc.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

92 **Louis Latour 2020 (Beaune).** Focused aromas of black cherry, rhubarb, wild mint and turned earth come together in the glass for a complex nose. The palate offers deep red cherries beautifully balanced by mushroom, thyme and black tea notes. Drying tannins are balanced by brisk acidity that provides lift to this dark-fruited profile. Approachable now. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.

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

92 **Xavier Monnot 2020 Les Toussaints Premier Cru (Beaune).** On the nose, a core of blackberry is gently framed by mushroom, thyme, turned earth and flaky salt, making for a complex nose. This is a straightforward but refined expression with dark fruit that stays long through the midpalate and finishes with turned earth and spice. Enjoyable now, but additional cellaring should be beneficial. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

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

BOURGOGNE HAUTES CÔTES DE BEAUNE

93 Charles Père et Fille 2021 La Combotte (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). Refreshing aromas of raspberry, red-cherry skin, orange marmalade with a sprig of wild thyme tantalize the nose. The palate is silky with juicy strawberries balanced by mushroom and white peppercorn. The finish is satisfying with a light bitter tea-leaf note that offsets the ripeness of its red fruits. Enjoyable now. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

93 Charles Père et Fille 2021 Terracotta (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). Aromas of freshly pressed cherry skin, thyme leaves and a sprinkling of confectioners sugar. The palate is round with persistent tannins that cling onto notes of clove and black peppercorn. Its brisk acidity gives poise to black cherry, mushroom and potting soil along the midpalate, while soft tea-leaf notes linger along the finish. This should make a wonderful pairing with tender braised meats. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

92 Blason de Bourgogne 2020 (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). On the nose, a fresh youthful core of red-cherry skin, rhubarb and wild strawberries are sprinkled with clove. This wine offers plenty of energy and nuance. The palate offers more black cherry, brown mushroom with bitter tea-leaf notes along the finish. Aerate before enjoying this wine now. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Charles Père et Fille 2021 Cuvée du Menhir (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). Sanguine and sweet spice aromas sit atop of orange peels and cherry skins on the nose. This wine offers great texture and body with pure and concentrated wild strawberries and cherry flesh on the palate. It transitions to notes of clove, wet clay and a stony finish, with a bit of black peppercorn on the finish. Enjoyable now. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

89 Louis Latour 2020 (Bourgogne Hautes Côtes de Beaune). Aromas of ripe rhubarb and Amarena cherry meld with warm baking spices in the glass. The palate is a bit quiet at the moment, but starts to reveal itself after a bit of aeration. This wine should benefit from additional bottle aging before revisiting. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

89 Moillard 2020 Les Alouettes (Hautes Cotes de Beaune). This wine offers a complex nose of Gala apple, tangerine skin, rhubarb, violet, green peppercorn and sanguine qualities. The palate offers more rose petal and a quiet whisper of red fruit. Round tannins gently coat the tongue and are

washed away by its mouth-watering acidity. Enjoy now. Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

89 Ropiteau 2020 (Hautes Cotes de Beaune). This wine is focused and offers an intense dark-fruit profile. A core of ripe black cherries is balanced by sweet spices and vanilla bean. While the finish is a bit abrupt, its fruit profile is quite delightful. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

POMMARD

93 Château de Pommard 2020 Clos Marey-Monge Nicolas-Joseph (Pommard). Fresh cherry mixed with bramble fruit and preserves meld into a nice touch of spice and vanilla tones in the glass. The palate is deliciously ripe, with lush red fruits that are supported by fine-grained tannins and refreshing acidity. While delicious now, another year or two of cellaring in bottle should prove to be rewarding. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Domaine Coste Caumartin 2020 Les Premiers Premier Cru (Pommard). Seductive aromas of wild strawberry, ripe black cherries and rose are balanced by green peppercorn and fresh mushrooms. The palate is silky in texture with tannins that sneak up and cling onto the blackberries, keeping them long through its white tea leaf and saline finish. Mouth-watering acidity provides balance and makes it so easy to drink now. Vivino. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$89

93 Louis Latour 2020 Epenots Premier Cru (Pommard). An enticing crush of cherries and violets meld into a layer of sweet spices and brown mushrooms, offering a complex nose. The palate is focused on the black cherries and spice, which persist long through the finish and meet its rose and oak spice finish. Precise and delicious. Drink from 2025+ Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Moillard 2020 Les Grands Epenots Premier Cru (Pommard). This wine is loaded primarily with blackberry aromas gently framed by black peppercorn, violets, thyme and pink salt. Violets immediately coat the tongue, giving a runway for the blackberries to shine along the midpalate. Its salty black tea finish and silty tannins are balanced by gentle acidity. This would make for a wonderful pairing for various izakaya dishes. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

91 Louis Latour 2020 (Pommard). A balanced expression with savory aromas of picked mushroom, wild thyme come to the forefront followed by a layer of juicy blackberry. Round tannins provide texture and cling onto notes of red cherry skin, a touch of cassis, black pepper corn and tossed

earth which persist through its delicate black tea leaf finish. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

MERCUREY

94 Laurent Dufouleur 2022 Coeur de Village Premier Cru (Mercurey). An intense expression that offers luxurious aromas of concentrated Amarena cherry and strawberry up front, framed beautifully by baking spices. It is as equally linear and focused on the palate, but blossoms harmoniously with a proper decant. Its firm tannin structure suggests cellaring well through 2030+ before revisiting. Total Wine & More. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Château de Chamilly 2020 Au Pied du Mont Morin (Mercurey). Aromas of fresh earth and a handful of ripe cherries and wild strawberries sprinkled with wild mint. The palate concentrates these notes and finishes with a balanced mushroom and stone note. Textured and with good balance, this wine is approachable in its youth. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Domaine de Suremain 2021 La Bondue Premier Cru (Mercurey). The nose of this wine offers freshness and concentrated blackberry, Amarena cherry, rose complemented with a perfect amount of oak spice for depth. The palate offers similar concentration with mouth-watering acidity that provides energetic lift. Hard not to enjoy now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 Louis Latour 2020 (Mercurey). For full review see page 18. Louis Latour Inc.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Maison Chanzy 2020 Les Bussières (Mercurey). This is a serious wine with focused aromas of blackberry, cherry skin, cassis, wild thyme and black peppercorn. Rustic tannins overwhelm the palate, but the brisk acidity provides balance overall and lift to its fruits. Cellar through 2030+ before revisiting. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine de Suremain 2021 En Sazenay Premier Cru (Mercurey). This wine offers ripe and concentrated aromas of black cherry, rhubarb, rose and alluvial stone. The palate echoes this profile and is framed by soft tannins that accentuate its fruit concentration well through its long finish that ends with a gorgeous rose note. Drinkable now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

91 Famille Picard 2020 Domaine Levert-Barault L'Automne (Mercurey). Crisp cherries and ripe strawberries are balanced by a meatiness and fresh-earth aromas. The palate offers prominent black cherries with a touch of iodine along its stony finish. Round tannins and gentle acidity support its

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dark-fruited nature beautifully. Drinking well now. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Famille Picard 2020 Domaine Levert-Barault Le Printemps (Mercurey). An abundance of fresh strawberries and cherries is sprinkled with saffron, coriander and crushed green peppercorn. Fresh earth and vanilla pod add depth and perfume to the nose. Rose petals immediately greet the palate, while sanguine and stone fill the midpalate. Mouth-coating tannins frame this wine beautifully, adding depth and texture. David Milligan Selections. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Maison André Goichot 2021 Les Byots Premier Cru (Mercurey). With a bit of aeration, this wine blossoms in the glass with aromas of white strawberry and baked rhubarb wrapped in wild thyme, clove and white peppercorn. The palate is a bit wound but presents a core of black cherry, clove, saffron and green peppercorn. While enjoyable now, an additional year or two in bottle should be beneficial. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

90 Albert Bichot 2021 Champs Martin Premier Cru (Mercurey). Fresh aromas of red fruits meld with white mushrooms, violets and clove in the glass. The palate offers more savory tones and rose bouquet with a sprinkling of white peppercorn and flaky salt. Soft tannins balanced by bright acidity make this wine approachable now. Albert Bichot USA. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine de Suremain 2021 (Mercurey). Wild aromas akin to walking through a field of tall grass and finding beautiful ripe wild strawberries. The palate is round with silty tannins that support a mushroom midpalate and a saline finish. Mouth-watering acidity softens this wine's earthy profile and makes it approachable now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 Domaine de Suremain 2021 Les Croichots Premier Cru (Mercurey). Tahitian vanilla and baking-spice aromas dominate in the glass and envelope a core of black-cherry skin and peppercorn aromas. The palate offers a deep crush of cherries mixed with baking and oak spice. Puckering tannins are balanced by bright acidity that keeps the fruit lively and long on the finish. Enjoy now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

90 Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2021 Clos des Grands Voyens Monopole Premier Cru (Mercurey). Aromas of Bing cherry, tangerine skin, rose petal, white peppercorn and earth make for a complex nose. The palate presents a stony core wrapped in cherry skin. The finish is long and earthy with brown mushroom and touch of iodine. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$64

90 Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2021 Le Clos L'Évêque Premier Cru (Mercurey). An elegant expression of the vintage, this wine offers deep black-cherry tones balanced by minerality and oak spice adding depth. Enjoyable in its youth, it is drinking well now. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$69

90 Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Mercurey). An immediate layer of wild mint, saffron, pink peppercorn and vanilla greets the nose, and ripe cherries eventually blossom in the glass. The palate is earthy with prominent mushroom and stone notes, but is softened by a good wash of acidity. Its saline finish makes this a great pairing with dishes such as rabbit ragu or roasted boar. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$49

89 Domaine Jeannin-Naltet 2021 Les Naugues Premier Cru (Mercurey). Ripe cherry with wild strawberry high tones meld with green peppercorn, wild mint and violet in the glass. The palate presents a savory profile with thyme stems and brown mushroom and moves toward black cherry, iodine and pulverized stone. Fine sandy tannins provide great texture and should pair beautifully with a rare steak au poivre. Approachable now. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$69

OTHER RED WINES

96 Domaine Henri Rebourseau 2018 Grand Cru (Clos de Vougeot). A bold expression with scintillating waves of black cherry and violets comes to the forefront with an abundance of oak spice in the backdrop. Its dark-fruited nature eventually gives way to a quiet core of red fruit, underbrush and smoke. Tannins are starting to integrate, providing a velvety texture and finish. Refreshing and powerful, cellar through 2030+ before revisiting. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$300

96 Edouard Delaunay 2021 Grand Cru (Charmes-Chambertin). Accessible in its youth, this wine is a charming expression for the vintage. It is a blend of two plots of old and young vines, exuding an abundance of rosehip that sits atop concentrated cherries and cranberries, black pepper, fresh herbs and flint. It is finely structured with tannins that gently coat the back of the mouth, leaving traces of soft bitterness that frame its perfumed and red fruit profile. Balanced by well-integrated acidity, its finish carries an elegant delivery of licorice and oak spices. Enjoy now or cellar through 2030 before revisiting. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$400

94 Edouard Delaunay 2021 Les Crots Premier Cru (Nuits-St.-Georges). The senses are immediately captivated by lively aromatics of rhubarb and wild strawberry high tones against a backdrop of rose and fines herbs. It exudes purity with a silky texture, well-integrated tannins and

acidity that support a gentle stone and vanilla finish. Refreshing and salinic, this expression would pair beautifully with grilled octopus or quail dishes. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$140

93 Domaine Nudant 2019 La Corvée Premier Cru (Ladoix). This wine is brilliant and immediately offers captivating floral tones against a backdrop of white pepper and wild thyme. It is enjoyable now with soft tannins and a gentle tea-leaf finish that complements its red-fruit profile. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 Domaine Nudant 2019 La Coutière Premier Cru (Aloxe-Corton). This wine is an elegant expression with a deep savory core wrapped in fresh black cherries and red currants. On the palate, black pepper and pulverized stone lay atop of this red fruit and add depth to its long and delicious finish. While tannins are persistent, with a bit of aeration, this wine is hard to resist. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Jaffelin 2020 Les Dureses Premier Cru (Auxey-Dureses). Expressive aromatics of wild strawberries gently framed by oak spice meld in the glass. With good tension and acidity on the palate, its youthful tannins provide just enough texture and help carry brown mushroom and earthy tones along the finish. Matinicus Wines, LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Maison André Goichot 2021 Les Clos Rousots Premier Cru (Maranges). While this wine needs a bit of aeration, it blossoms with prominent floral aromatics, good balance and acidity in the glass. A solid expression that can be regularly enjoyed any day of the week. Integrity Wines LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

93 Moillard 2021 Aux Brûlées Premier Cru (Vosne-Romanée). This wine embodies a bold and pure fruit profile, exuding concentrated cherries, plums and rosehip up front with plenty of orange peel and white pepper in the midpalate. Fine bitter tannins coat the palate and draw out dry herbs along the finish. Drink now or revisit after 2025+ Advantage International. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

93 Xavier Monnot 2020 Clos de la Fussièrre Premier Cru Monopole (Maranges). Showcasing concentrated Morello cherry, black fruits and mushroom, this wine exudes purity with good structural balance and finesse in its mineral finish. Give it a good decant before enjoying it with mushroom risotto with a sprinkle of thyme. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Jean-Baptiste Jessiaume 2021 La Fosse Premier Cru (Rully). A rose bouquet is delicately framed by sour cherry, wild strawberry, rhubarb

and baking spice on the nose. Youthful tannins support fresh thyme, clove and vanilla on the palate that dominate its cherry core, hinting for additional cellaring or a proper decant. Independence Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

BEAUJOLAIS WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES

90 **Château de Pizay 2021 (Beaujolais Blanc).** If you enjoy a light touch of oak on your Chardonnay, you'll enjoy this Beaujolais Blanc. Gold in color, this wine has a nose of golden apple, honey, vanilla baking spice and lemon preserves. Creamy in texture, the wine has a touch of yogurt that gives welcome weightiness and verve. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Georges Duboeuf 2023 Nouveau Rosé (Beaujolais).** This Beaujolais Nouveau rosé has an aromatic nose of dried red cherry, pencil shavings, strawberry, orange citrus peel and white blossom. The wine is layered on the nose and the palate with red fruit and dried herbs playing in mutually supportive roles. Pair this wine with a salad to open a meal or enjoy by the glass on its own. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Collonges Chardonnay (Beaujolais Blanc).** Chardonnay from Beaujolais is new to most people, so this is a great bottle to experience yourself and help educate a friend. Grown on 25-year-old vines, this wine has a nose of golden delicious apple, Bosc pear and lemon citrus. On the palate, the wine is bright with well integrated, lifted, green-fruit flavors. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Griottes Rosé (Beaujolais).** Pink-salmon in color, this rosé has a nose of orange zest, strawberry and red cherry. The wine is steely in texture with fresh fruit flavors suggested on the nose. This is a good, straightforward rosé that is perfect for a midweek meal with friends or to enjoy for yourself on a summer afternoon. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

91 **Georges Duboeuf 2023 Nouveau (Beaujolais Villages).** This wine will bring a smile to your face as you taste the first-released, French vintage of 2023. Fresh black plum and strawberry dance on the nose along with pitted red cherry and macerated red raspberry. Produced in a semicarbonic style, the

wine is youthful, juicy and lively. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

90 **Cave du Château des Loges 2022 Les 3 Madones (Beaujolais-Villages).** Dark fruit swims in your glass and will make you want to go down the Beaujolais rabbit hole. Deep purple in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of dried violet blossom, black raspberry, black tea and black cherry with an inkling of forest floor and macerated boysenberry. Concentration on the palate is supported by lively acidity. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 **Domaine Pral 2022 Cuvée Terroir (Beaujolais).** This wine has a nose of black raspberry, hibiscus, celery leaf and blackberry with a smattering of dried orange peel and black cherry. Plush and somewhat restrained on the palate, the wine presents a fluffy pillow of plump red and black fruit, and black tea that crescendos through to a medium finish. Pair this wine with dishes you'd enjoy with Pinot Noir that beg for a delicate pairing partner. JP Bourgeois. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 **Georges Duboeuf 2023 Nouveau (Beaujolais).** Georges Duboeuf continues its dominance with this year's Beaujolais Nouveau release. This wine opens with rich black raspberry, rosehip and black cherry. The wine is plush in texture with black fruit continuing through to the finish along with hints of cassis. There is good weight and body to the wine that could well complement grilled salmon and roasted vegetables or simply be enjoyed by the glass on its own. Quintessential. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

90 **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Origine Vieilles Vignes (Beaujolais).** Grown on 35- to 100-year-old vines, this is a reserved Beaujolais that will draw you into it. On the nose, the wine boasts strawberry, cherry cola and herbal tea. Slightly grippy tannin takes the lead on the midpalate followed by supple black fruit that is a supportive partner. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 **Vignerons des Pierres Dorées 2022 La Rose Pourpre (Beaujolais).** A smile-inducing wine that is deep purple in color, it's a vortex of black fruit that begins with boysenberry, black raspberry and blackberry and decrescendos into dried hay, young cedar and Darjeeling tea. Black fruit is joined by orange citrus peel, Alpine strawberry and just-ripened red cherry on the palate and completes with a finish that is mulled-wine reminiscent. W. Direct. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Griottes (Beaujolais).** This is an easy-going Beaujolais that you can open and enjoy without hesitation. Purple in color, this wine has a nose of dried black raspberry, forest floor and black cherry. There is

black-fruit persistence throughout the length of the taste that is slightly velvety in texture. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 **Stéphane Aviron 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages).** This is a hearty Beaujolais Villages that is brimming with end-of-summer fruit. The wine opens with cranberry, dried red cherry, strawberry and red currant. Wet stone rides under ripe red fruit with grippy tannins holding court through to the finish. Drink now or hold as the wine could continue to develop with more time in bottle. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

SAINT-AMOUR

94 **Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Saint-Amour).** This wine opens with crushed-dried red rose petal, raspberry, red cherry and just-ripened red plum along with whisps of graphite. Lively acidity dances with red fruit on the palate undergirded by youthful tannins. The wine has pleasing structure and depth. You can confidently drink now or let the wine continue to develop with more time in bottle. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Fabrice Larochette 2020 Clos du Chapitre (Saint-Amour).** This aged Saint-Amour is a perfect opener for a meal that demands complexity from the start. Ruby in color with some garnet around the edges, this wine has concentrated aromas of strawberry, dried red cherry and red currant. The wine is medium bodied and delivers flavors suggested on the nose supported velvety tannins that ride above the fruit. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Les Champs-Grillés (Saint-Amour).** This Saint-Amour hits you with black red cherry, black plum and cassis on the nose that resolves itself similarly on the palate. The wine is concentrated and textured with mineral notes that uplift. Drink now—2027. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

MOULIN-À-VENT

93 **Cave du Château de Chénas 2022 Coeur de Granit (Moulin-à-Vent).** This juicy Moulin-à-Vent is a crowd pleaser. Aromatic, plump black fruit opens on the nose of the wine along with fresh blueberry, boysenberry, black tea, crème-de-cassis, apricot skin, rose petal, dried cranberry and strawberry. This fulsome wine channels fun, swims in ripe fruit and bathes in fruit punch with additional flavors of tangerine peel and pomegranate. W. Direct. —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Château des Jacques 2021 Clos des Thorins (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine has a nose of black cherry, black olive, strawberry and rosehip. The midpalate echoes the nose with bright acidity, damp earth and chalk dust. The cool-vintage Moulin-à-Vent is angular, concentrated and shows depth. Additional age in bottle would tame youthful tannins. Kobrand. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Château des Jacques 2021 Clos du Grand Carquelin (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine opens with black cherry, wet stone, fresh cranberry and hibiscus. Tight, chalky, red fruit on the palate is supported by a persistent streak of acidity and firm tannins. This cool-vintage Moulin-à-Vent would pair well with sautéed meats and vegetables dishes that crave a wine partner with acidity and depth. Kobrand. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

90 Château des Jacques 2021 (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine pairs concentration and minerality. Black fruit predominates on the nose with raspberry, blackberry, umami and dried black cherry. The wine is grippy in texture and is supported by taut tannins through to the long finish. Drink now and from 2026 onwards to see the wine benefit from age in bottle. Kobrand. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Château des Jacques 2021 Clos de Rochegrès (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine has a reserved nose of pomegranate, red and black cherry, rhubarb, forest floor and black plum with hints of dried hay. Streaks of granite and wet river stone emerge on the palate and run in parallel with tart red fruit. The wine is still young and would benefit from further aging. Drink from 2026 onwards. Kobrand. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine has a nose of black tea, pencil shavings, black cherry, peanut brittle, black plum and hay with a handful of dried field herbs. Firm acidity on the midpalate rides under tart black fruit and lifts the wine. This palate-cleansing wine would benefit from pairing with fattier dishes. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

FLEURIE

92 Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Les Garants (Fleurie). Grown on pink granitic soil, this wine exudes minerality with a nose of rosehip, rhubarb and crushed stones. Red cherry and cranberry breakdance on the midpalate with a cup of hibiscus tea adding to the mix. This wine is firm, robust yet floral. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Poncié (Fleurie). This Fleurie has oomph and stamina. Deep purple in color, the wine has a nose of black raspberry, black plum and dried red cherry. Con-

centrated black fruit reveals itself on the midpalate followed by a sprinkling of red fruit. Drink now, but it will continue to improve with age through 2028. Weygandt-Metzler. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Fleurie). Experience the savory side of Fleurie. This wine presents a bouquet of blackberry, sage brush and dill, roasted coffee beans, black cherry, forest floor and red currant. Black fruit takes the lead on the palate with pleasing herbal tea notes running underneath along with dried mushroom and violet blossom. Pair with simply prepared meats and savory dishes. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Château des Jacques 2021 (Fleurie). This wine opens with black cherry, red currant, field herbs and dried white flowers on the nose. On the palate taut, floral-laced black fruit takes center stage while revealing an underlying structure of grippy tannins buttressed by a handful of red fruit. This wine would benefit from more time in the bottle. Drink from 2025 onwards. Kobrand. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

MORGON

93 Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Morgon Côte du Py). Aromatics on the nose expand on the palate. A fragrant nose welcomes you along with rich black fruit and blackberry, boysenberry puree, blueberry, black raspberry compote, apricot, white blossom and red plum. The wine is joyful on the palate with black tea and forest floor lending added depth. If you are a black-tea drinker who enjoys plump red wines, this bottle is your jam. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Château des Jacques 2021 Côte du Py (Morgon). This wine opens with muddled rose petal, black cherry, hibiscus and boysenberry. Velvety in texture, it bathes in concentrated black fruit on the midpalate with an undercurrent of grippy tannins. The wine reveals the subtleties that a cool vintage can provide. Put this wine down and revisit after 2026. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

92 Domaine du Petit Pérou 2021 Tradition (Morgon). Lovely floral notes greet you on the nose of this perfumed Morgon that boasts blackberry, wild herbs and black cherry. Earthy, forest floor elements emerge on the palate along with dried mushroom and umami. This wine was built to last. Drink through 2029. Wines Unlimited. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Domaine du Petit Pérou 2020 Côte du Py Indigène (Morgon). This wine is the silky black dress of Morgon. Reserved black fruit includ-

ing blackberry and black raspberry with hints of black olive are in quiet conversation on the nose and resolve in equal proportion on the palate. The wine is understated yet powerful. Enjoy now or cellar as the wine can improve with age. Wines Unlimited. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Domaine du Petit Pérou 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Morgon). Ruby in color with garnet around the edges, this wine has a nose of black plum, macerated black raspberry and baking spices. The wine is structured and chiseled, with red fruit in the lead and ultimately completing with a long, sultry finish. A vibrancy imbues this aged wine and gives it attractive legs and depth. Wines Unlimited. —R.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château des Jacques 2021 (Morgon). Black raspberry, black olive, dried red cherry, cranberry and white blossom fill out the nose of this wine. The midpalate is chalky with tart red fruit that persists through to the long finish. Acidity enlivens the palate experience. Pair with rich and creamy dishes. Kobrand. —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

OTHER RED WINES

93 Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Chénas). This Chénas does its job even in a cooler vintage. Red raspberry, black tea, black plum, blackberry and strawberry open on the nose. On the palate concentrated fruit combines with dried field grass and reveals layers of flavor imparting depth. This is an elegant, layered wine. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

93 Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Côte de Brouilly). Depth and layered complexity are this wine's calling card. The wine has a nose of dried cranberry, Darjeeling tea, white peach, strawberry and red cherry. On the palate, the Côte de Brouilly has a core of just-ripened fruit and velvety tannin. Give the wine 30 minutes to open in your glass if you're drinking now. The bottle will continue to improve with age. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

93 Stéphane Aviron 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Julié-nas). Cooler vintages like 2021 can reveal a wine's complexity more than a warmer vintage, and so does this bottle, with an intoxicating nose of red and black cherry, forest floor, cedar plank, black plum and hay with a hint of mint and fennel. The wine has a concentrated, granitic midpalate with a mix of tart and ripe fruit and some chalkiness on the long finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Château de Fuissé 2021 (Julié-nas). This wine shows the 2021 vintage well. Ruby in color with some garnet around the edges, this is filled

with dried raspberry dust, strawberry, hay, rosehip, cherry cola and black plum on the nose. It's tight yet plush in texture and lifted by velvety tannins that impart depth and lend concentration. It would pair well with white meats and sauteed vegetables. Fred-erick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

90 Pascal Aufranc 2022 En Rémont (Chénas). This wine opens with black cherry, black plum and huckleberry, and finishes with dried violet blossom. Grippy tannin on the midpalate rides under a persistent layer of black fruit and black tea. You can pair this Chénas with heavier dishes and roasted meats. New Wave Wine Co.. **Best Buy.** —R.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

SOUTHWEST FRANCE WHITE WINES

JURANÇON SEC

94 Domaine Cauhapé 2020 C de Cauhapé (Jurançon Sec). This is a powerful wine made from selected fermentations. Its wood aging has given it a smooth texture alongside the tropical fruits, freshened with kiwi. An impressive wine, it is full, rich and likely to age further. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Lapeyre 2018 Mantoulan (Jurançon Sec). This is an impressively ripe wine that has great tropical fruits and a light touch of honey. It is densely textured with spice from wood aging and touches of maturity. Drink this great wine from 2025. Charles Neal Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Domaine Cauhapé 2020 Le Canopée (Jurançon Sec). Harvested in November and fermented dry, this wine is overwhelmingly intense. There are definite honey touches from the presence of Petit Manseng. The wine has weight and richness and is now ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

92 Domaine Cauhapé 2021 Quatre Temps (Jurançon Sec). Aged for eight months in wood, this spicy wine is made richer by the dry honey and acidity that gives it great intensity. It is a full-bodied wine hinting at pepper on alcohol. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Lapeyre 2020 Vitatge Vielh (Jurançon Sec). This rich, dense, bone dry wine is a blend of the two Mansengs with a touch of Petit Courbu. It has ripe tropical-fruit flavors that bring in spice and a bite of pepper. Drink this powerful wine from 2025. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Domaine Cauhapé 2020 Quatre Temps (Jurançon Sec). This powerful wine is a rich blend of Petit Manseng and Gros Manseng. It is dense, its citrus and apple flavors balanced by acidity. The wine has weight and layers of yellow fruits and minerality. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

87 Château Jolys 2020 Les Cigognes de Jolys (Jurançon Sec). This vivid wine is fresh with a fine white fruitiness. It is rich and dense full in the mouth; its acidity is forward and succulent. Drink now. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

PACHERENC DU VIC BILH

92 Domaine Laougué 2022 L'Orée (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). Petit Courbu is a native Southwest grape that was nurtured from near extinction. When bottled at 100%, it is rare. This wine is ripe, dry and dense. The fine acidity is balanced by tropical fruits and layers of spice. The wine will be ready from 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Plaimont 2021 Maestria (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). This sweet wine is rich, balancing intensity and acidity. It is a late harvest blend of Gros and Petit Manseng with sweetness and great freshness in the background. Drink this totally balanced wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Domaine Laougué 2019 Talion (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). Petrol aromas and oxidative flavors are signs that the Southwest's unique sweet wine is mature. It is rich and textured with a touch of orange peel at the end. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

88 Plaimont 2021 Lou Blanc (Pacherenc du Vic Bilh). Often made in a sweet style, this is a dry Pacherenc. At the same time, it has a honey edge from the Gros Manseng in the blend with Petit Manseng. It is perfumed and fresh and ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

CÔTES DE GASCOGNE

88 Domaine de Ménard 2022 (Côtes de Gascogne). Crisp, light and fresh, this attractive wine is refreshing. Citrus and green-apple flavors are right up front. Drink now. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

88 Domaine de Ménard 2022 Cuvée Marine (Côtes de Gascogne). Colombard and Gros Manseng are among the varieties included in this blend. It is soft, with succulent acidity. The wine

has a light touch of freshness. Drink now. Paul M. Young Fine Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

88 Domaine Laffitte 2023 (Côtes de Gascogne). This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard is ripe and fruity. It has a light touch of acidity and a grassy back taste. Drink this attractive wine now. Final Port Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Domaine Laffitte 2023 (Côtes de Gascogne). Lightly honeyed, this ripe wine is just off dry. It has spice and tropical fruits to bring out its perfumed nature. The wine is young and will be better from 2024. Final Port Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Domaine de Ménard 2022 (Côtes de Gascogne). The two grapes, Colombard and Ugni Blanc are typical of the region. Vivacious and acidity of this wine come through with green apple and kiwi flavors. Drink now. Advantage Wine Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$12

87 Domaine Laffitte 2023 Les Frères Laffitte Le Petit Gascon (Côtes de Gascogne). A light touch of apricot fruits and honey give this soft wine freshness. It is a gentle wine that is ready to drink. Final Port Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Domaine de Ménard 2022 La Marina Cuvée Océane (Côtes de Gascogne). This is a fruity wine, a blend of Gros Manseng, Colombard and Sauvignon Blanc. It is fresh and tangy, a vivid wine that is ready to drink. Elite Wines Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

86 Domaine Laffitte 2023 Les Frères Laffitte Le Petit Gascon (Côtes de Gascogne). Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard, a classic Southwest blend, give this wine a fresh, herbal character. It is light, fruity and ready to drink. Final Port Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Plaimont 2022 Colombelle Caprice (Côtes de Gascogne). A light, fruity wine with bright acidity and fresh grapefruit flavor. It is tangy with a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Gabriella Importers Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

JURANÇON

95 Domaine Cauhapé 2018 Noblesse du Temps (Jurançon). The most intense of the Cauhapé sweet Jurançons, the wine shows concentrated flavors. It has the essence of honey coming from the glass, a rich power of spice and toffee apple flavors.

BUYINGGUIDE

The wine is impressive, now mature and ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

93 **Domaine Cauhapé 2021 Symphonie de Novembre (Jurançon)**. Plenty of honey aromas mark this late harvest wine for its richness. That sweetness is balanced by the acidity that drives a fine Jurançon. Mango and peaches add richness. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$41

92 **Domaine Cauhapé 2020 Boléro (Jurançon)**. Aged in wood for eight months, the wine is rich, layering honey, spice and intense white fruits. Mango flavors go with white peach in this ripe, late harvest wine. Its light texture suggests it should age further, so drink from 2026. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$34

92 **Lapeyre 2021 Domaine de Nays (Jurançon)**. An intensely sweet late harvest wine whose richness is balanced against fine acidity. It is ripe, full of both wild honey and tropical fruits with pineapple and apricot flavors prominent. Drink this rich wine now. Charles Neal Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$27

90 **Château Jolys 2019 Doux (Jurançon)**. Petit Manseng is dominant in this sweet and fresh wine. Honey and acidity give flavors of that are both juicy and ripe. The wine's balance is impeccable, giving a wine that is light and intense at the same time. Drink now. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

90 **Clos Lapeyre 2020 La Magendia (Jurançon)**. Harvested in four separate passes through the vineyard, this wine is sweet but so light. Its acidity and honey give both ripeness and freshness. It is now mature and ready to drink. Organic. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

89 **Domaine Cauhapé 2020 Ballet d'Octobre (Jurançon)**. The lightest in the Cauhapé range of Jurançons, the wine shows sweetness with ripe tropical fruits. They are lifted by fine acidity and fresh sliced apple flavors. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

89 **Lapeyre 2022 (Jurançon)**. This is a softly sweet wine with its touches of honey and ripe apricot-fruit flavors. It is fresh, acidity appearing against the sweetness. Drink the wine now. Organic. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 **Plaimont 2020 Le Faire (Saint Mont)**. For full review see page 19. Serge Doré Selections.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

91 **Domaine Albert de Conti 2022 Le Bois de Vie (Périgord)**. Chenin Blanc has a history of being planted in the Southwest. As this wine shows, it produces a rich wine, pulling out generous juicy white fruit and spice flavors. The wine is made for early drinking, but wait until later this year. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

90 **Domaine Albert de Conti 2022 Conti-Ne Périgourdine (Bergerac Sec)**. This wine, full of perfumed Muscadelle, is ripe and spicy. It has a rich character, tangy and packed with white fruits. Layers of kiwi and apricot provide a more tropical perspective. Drink the wine from 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 **Plaimont 2021 Vignes Retrouvées (Saint Mont)**. This blend of Gros Manseng, Petit Courbu and Arrufiac celebrates the wide varieties of ancient vines in the Southwest. It is a fruity wine, perfumed with pear skins and lit by spice and tangy acidity. Hints of tropical fruits complete the picture. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

89 **Château Marie Plaisance 2022 Le Brin (Bergerac Sec)**. This rich, grassy wine, mainly made from Sauvignon Blanc, is ripe with spicy, creamy fruit. It has plenty of acidity contrasting with the weight of the vintage. Drink from 2024. Vintage '59 Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

89 **Plaimont 2021 Les Cépages Préservés (Saint Mont)**. Gros Manseng and Petit Courbu are blended together in this crisp, fruity wine. It has acidity, apple and spice fruits with a touch of honey. Drink later this year. August Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$19

89 **Plaimont 2020 Vignobles Marie Maria Novel (Madiran)**. The ripeness of this blend of Gros and Petit Manseng is full, perfumed with honey and lifted with grapefruit and lemon acidity. Zesty and full off fruit, this wine is now ready to drink. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

88 **Château Tour des Gendres 2021 Le Vif (Périgord)**. Made from Savagnin, the white variety usually found in Jura to make Vin Jaune, made here, this wine instead shoes freshness and a rich texture. It is a big wine that contrasts with ripe acidity. Drink the wine now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$48

ROSÉ

87 **Domaine Laffitte 2023 Les Frères Laffitte Le Petit Gascon (Côtes de Gascogne)**. A blend of Merlot and Marselan, the wine is bright and fruity, with a label to match. It is fresh and crisp, a lively wine that is young and ready to drink. Final Port Imports LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$15

SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES

CAHORS

94 **Château Eugénie 2019 Haute Collection (Cahors)**. Pure Malbec was aged for 18 months in wood and amphorae. The result is a powerful, dense and concentrated wine. The black fruits are firm, dry and structured, offering further aging. Drink this rich wine from 2026. The Wine Company. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

94 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Prieuré de Cénac (Cahors)**. This is a full-bodied wine from a cool vineyard on the heights of Cahors at the northern edge of Southwest France. Aged in wood, it is structured with tannins and a solid, dense texture. This impressive wine will age well, drink from 2027. Vinovia Wine Group. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

93 **Château Eugénie 2021 Réserve de l'Aïeul (Cahors)**. The 10% Tannat in this blend gives the wine structure and density. Spice and toast from wood aging give the wine density and bring out the black fruits. It is balanced, still aging. Drink from 2025. The Wine Company. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

93 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Calo Grande Réserve (Cahors)**. A spicy, smoky wine, named after the stony terroir of Cahors, is full and seriously structured. Tannins and a solid core, alongside black fruits, give a wine with great potential. Drink from 2027. Fleet Street Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

93 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Château du Perry (Cahors)**. An impressively rich wine, this is a dense, spicy wine packed with black fruits. The wood aging for 12 months has polished the tannins and brightened the acidity. Drink the wine from 2027. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

92 **Château de Gaudou 2020 Réserve Caillou (Cahors)**. Aged in wood for two years, the wine is dense and structured. It is spicy, the tannins softened by the wood. Black fruits and rich tannins

presage wood aging. Drink from 2026. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

92 **Château du Cèdre 2021 Extra Libre Le Cèdre (Cahors).** A rich, dense wine with a light touch, this is full of layers of black fruits and ripe tannins. Bottled without added sulfur, the fruit is right up front, backed by wood aging and structured. Drink the wine from 2026. Organic. Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 **Château de Gaudou 2020 Caillou Fauve (Cahors).** Mint and spice aromas introduce a rich wine with solid tannins. It is young, the black fruits bringing acidity, set against a firm structure. The wine is one in a series vinified the same way, only the vineyard terroirs are different. Drink from 2026. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 **Château de Gaudou 2020 Chemin d'Orgueil (Cahors).** From a series of individual vineyard wines, vinified and aged the same way, this wine is concentrated and structured. Its black fruit aroma are echoed in the wine's rich palate. With wood aging, it is firm and dense. Drink from 2026. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 **Château Eugénie 2021 Coeur de Malbec (Cahors).** Wood aging and rich tannins give the wine its power and density. At the same time, there is a light touch of acidity that brings in freshness. The wine, the latest addition to the Eugénie portfolio should age further, so drink from 2025. The Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Domaine du Théron 2015 Prestige (Cahors).** The wine is now at its peak, with rich tannins supporting the wine's layers of black-plum fruits. It is concentrated while also balanced, fruit and structure going comfortably together. Drink now. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Calos Réserve (Cahors).** This juicy wine with its generous black fruits is named after the stony terroir of Cahors. Its black currant and succulent berry flavors present a fine wine to drink from 2027. Fleet Street Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château de Gaudou 2020 Chemin de Gaudou (Cahors).** One of a range of Gaudou single-vineyard wines, this is solid and dense. Its firm structure is backed by tannins and rich black fruits. The wine finishes with succulent blackberry flavors. Drink from 2026. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Château du Cèdre 2020 Chatons de Cèdre (Cahors).** Chatons, meaning kittens, is like

a second wine from Cèdre. Produced from selected parcels, the wine is ripe, smoky with soft black fruits. The wine's structure gives the backbone, while the juicy aftertaste brings freshness. Drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château les Bouysses 2019 (Cahors).** Lightly structured with a fine core of tannins, this wine is rich in black fruits. It is dense, generous and spicy. Drink this almost mature, ripe wine from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Château de Grézels Cuvée Prestige (Cahors).** Matured in tank, this wine emphasizes fruit. Its tannins are firm, the structure still surrounding the layers of black fruits. Drink from 2027. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Les Latis Grande Réserve (Cahors).** Aged in wood for 12 months, this ripe and smoothly textured wine is also rich. There are tannins in the background supporting the wine's generous black fruits. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Château Eugénie 2021 Tsar Pierre le Grand (Cahors).** A fruity blend of 85% Malbec with 15% Merlot, this was aged in tank, preserving the red-fruit flavors and acidity, with partial wood aging smoothing the structure. Named after 18th century Russian emperor Peter the Great, the wine is modern, ripe and ready to drink. The Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Mission de Cénac (Cahors).** From a high altitude vineyard, the wine is fresh with acidity and black currant fruits. It has some light tannins and plenty of spice from partial wood aging. The wine will soften and will be ready from 2027. Vinovia Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château de Gaudou 2020 Caillou Blanc (Cahors).** Pure Malbec, from a single white gravel parcel (*caillou blanc*), this wine is structured and firm. That contrasts with a juicy character from red fruits and acidity. The wine needs aging further. Drink from 2026. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 **Château du Cèdre 2021 Extra Libre (Cahors).** Bottled without added sulfur, this is a stylish wine, dominated by black, juicy fruits. Acidity keeps the freshness in place, offering gentle tannins and a succulent aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

88 **Château Eugénie 2021 Tradition (Cahors).** The name "Tradition" in Cahors means a

wine that has been aged only in tanks. Black fruits and rich tannins are still young, giving density as well as layers of succulent acidity. Drink the wine later this year. The Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 **Domaine du Théron 2015 (Cahors).** A mature wine, but one still laden with black fruits as well as secondary flavors. It is ripe, acidity restrained with with age. Drink now. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Latis Réserve (Cahors).** Fruity with generous tannins and ripe black fruits. Its structure supports juicy black-currant flavors with acidity at the end. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Mayne de Beauregard (Cahors).** A young, fruity Merlot-Malbec wine with flavors of wood aging already well integrated. It has black fruits that are filled with light tannins. Drink the wine from 2025. Wood Wines Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 **Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2022 Mission de Picpus (Cahors).** A tank-aged wine with juicy blackberry flavors, the wine is also structured and full of fruit. The wine's spice gives a fine edge of pepper. Drink from 2026. Vinovia Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château du Cèdre 2021 Juvéniles (Cahors).** Made to drink young, the wine is juicy, and fruity, with a soft, open character. It is full of red berry flavors and layers of fresh acidity. Drink now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

SAINT MONT

93 **Plaimont 2020 Château de Sabazan (Saint Mont).** The wine comes from one of the estates managed by Plaimont. It is a structured and elegant blend of Tannat, Pinenc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Tannins and a firm core are surrounded by black fruits that need further time to develop. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Plaimont 2020 Château de la Roque (Saint Mont).** Château de la Roque, one of the estates managed by Plaimont, has produced a powerful, rich wine. Its structure is dense with a polished feel to its tannins. The ripeness of the wine will propel it forward, so that it is ready from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Plaimont 2020 Château Saint-Go (Saint Mont).** This 116-acre estate offers a richly

BUYINGGUIDE

structured wine. With a core of solid, young tannins, the wine has richness and concentration. It's one for aging, bringing out black fruits and layers of spice and acidity. Drink the wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Plaimont 2020 Les Vieilles Vignes (Saint Mont). From selected parcels of vines more than 30-years-old, the wine has rich tannins and concentrated black fruits. It is a firm wine, still young with a solid core. Spice and ripeness will stand it in good stead as it matures. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

MADIRAN

94 Château Peyros 2020 Cuvée 100 (Madiran). From vines planted in 1972 on a steep slope overlooking the distant Pyrenees mountains, this impressive wine is seriously rich. Dense tannins and succulent spice lie behind a wine that will age for many years. Drink from 2027. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Château Peyros 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Madiran). This massive wine, a blend of Tannat and Cabernet Franc, is rich and dense. Acidity gives freshness to the black-plum fruits and layers of spice from wood aging. Produced from old vines, the wine will age further. Drink from 2027. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

94 Château Peyros 2019 43N Greenwich (Madiran). Long fermentation, this wine is dense and full of black fruits. Named after the Greenwich meridian that runs through the vineyard, the wine is juicy and rich with potential. Drink this impressive wine from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Château Peyros 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Madiran). Big and rich fruit, and structure give this wine its weight and intensity. Black fruits and smooth tannins from wood aging are generous and maturing well. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Plaimont 2019 Géoglyphe (Madiran). Named after a massive design on the ground often made with stones, this Tannat-Cabernet comes from some of the top sector old vines of Madiran. This is a rich, impressive wine, packed with tannins and the potential of black fruits. Its structure is still prominent and needs more time. Drink from 2026. Knows Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Domaine Laougué 2019 Arbison (Madiran). This spicy wine, rich in both tannins and succulent blackberry fruits, is structured and age-

worthy. It is a solid wine, pure Tannat, showing concentration and spice with a touch of pepper at the end. Drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Plaimont 2020 Château Laroche Bergan (Madiran). The estate in the north of the Madiran appellation has produced a rich, dense wine from Tannat and Cabernet. Structure and firm tannins are poised between concentration with black fruits developing underneath. Drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Plaimont 2020 Maestria (Madiran). A blend with Tannat and the two Cabernets, this is a smoky, lightly chocolate wine. It has spice and a tannic edge that give the wine its structure. Its dense black fruits are already impressive and promise more. Drink this wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Domaine Laougué 2021 Cuvée 19.10 (Madiran). Named after birth dates of the owners of this estate, it is a rich wine with black fruits and structure. The blend of Tannat and Cabernet Franc is ripe, dense and full of potential. Drink from 2026. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

91 Plaimont 2020 Seigneurie de Crouzeilles (Madiran). Tannat and Cabernet Sauvignon give both richness and structure. The wine's spice comes from wood aging. Ripe black plum fruits fill out the scaffolding of the tannins to give it completeness. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Peyros 2020 Marie Blanque Edition 4 (Madiran). Dominant black fruits give this wine a fresher edge to the tannins. It is juicy with ripe acidity and structured tannins. The wine is promising with potential. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Plaimont 2020 Grèvière (Madiran). This single-vineyard wine gives richness and generosity. It has acidity and spice along with firm tannins. Concentrated Tannat and Cabernet fruits are right up front. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Toulton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Château Peyros 2020 Héritage (Madiran). The blend of Tannat and Cabernet Franc moves easily from juicy rich black fruits to structure and spicy wood flavors. The wine is smoky and ready to age further. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 Domaine Laougué 2022 Les Passionnés (Madiran). Big and spicy, with soft tannins

and ripe black fruits, this is an open wine. Tannat and Cabernet France jointly bring richness, spice and black-plum flavors with just a light perfume. Drink from 2025. DHI Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

OTHER RED WINES

92 Château Tour des Gendres 2020 Les Gendres Parcelle A 298 (Côtes de Bergerac). One of a range of single-parcel wines made by this producer, this is a dense and rich bottling. The structure of this still-young, smoky wine is powerful, showing power and concentration. As the black fruits calm down, the wine should develop a smooth character. Drink from 2026. Organic. Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

88 Les Vignobles Saint Didier Parnac 2023 Les Pépites by H.J. Fabre (Comté Tolosan). This ripe Southwest wine, with its hint of the Rhône Valley in the touch of Syrah, is warm and spicy with final acidity. Lionstone International. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

94 Château d'Yquem 2021 Y d'Yquem (Bordeaux Blanc). From the same vines as its parent d'Yquem, the wine is fresh and full of ripe yellow fruits. Ripe apricots and honey come together with the beautiful texture in this rich, but dry, wine. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$173

91 Château Langoiran 2022 ODYSSEA (Bordeaux Blanc). The high proportion of Sémillon in this wine gives it great richness. It is a full wine, lemon acidity matching wood aging and white fruits. It certainly needs to age, drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Clos des Lunes 2021 Lune d'Argent (Bordeaux Blanc). Full of crisp fruit, this wine from an estate in the Sauternes region is perfumed and tangy. Citrus flavors are lively and will fill out. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Château la Castillonne 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). A soft style of Sauvignon Blanc with flavors of kiwi and ripe red apples, this is fruity and perfumed. Drink now. Wine Circle Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

86 Caves de Rauzan 2023 Grangeneuve (Bordeaux Blanc). The wine has ripe, rich fruit. It is a crisp, green fruit providing a tropical touch.

Drink this attractive wine from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Caves de Rauzan 2023 Le Noble Cuvée Reserve (Bordeaux Blanc). Herbal and crisp, this is a green-fruit and citrus-flavored wine. Fruity and tangy, it will be ready from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

96 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). A full, rich wine from the Bonnie family, this is textured and packed with white fruits and spice. Judiciously wood aged, the wine is ripe and robust. It will certainly age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$63

96 Domaine de Chevalier 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). This grand Bernard family estate in Léognan is legendary for its white wine. This is a ripe, spicily wood-aged wine. Its background of young acidity brings out a tangy edge that will soften and fill out into a long-lived wine. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$110

95 Château Carbonnieux 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). This estate, particularly well known for its white wines, has lived up to its reputation in this new release. The wine is rich while also taut, young and textured. Spice from wood aging comes in at the end. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

95 Château la Louvière 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). For full review see page 6. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Château Latour-Martillac 2020 (Pessac-Léognan). This Graves classed growth offers richness and great aging potential. Its acidity from the dominant Sauvignon Blanc is balanced by the creamed-apple flavors of Sémillon. Together they give the wine density, richness and a fine future. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$46

95 Château Pape Clément 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). This rich wine from a legendary Bordeaux estate is full of spice and toast, with a backing of ripe white-fruit acidity. It has depth and concentration, a full-bodied wine that will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$160

94 Château Bouscaut 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). One of the classed growths of the region, this estate has produced a ripe, spicy wine—dense and full bodied, it deserves aging. Its richness shows with the acidity at the end. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 Château Couhins 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). A taut and nervy wine, its steely edge still young, the wine is crisp. It has a touch of spice from wood aging that fills out the wine, giving a ripe aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

94 Château Couhins-Lurton 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). From a gravel soil vineyard on this Lurton estate, this wine has a fine minerality along with citrus freshness. Wood aged, this fine wine is toasty and still young. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Château la Garde 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). A classically textured white wine, crisp with citrus and spice. It has a mineral edge that gives a fine structure to the wine that will age well. Drink from 2025. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 Château Latour-Martillac 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). From the Kressmann family, this is packed with ripe fruits and textured acidity. It is still young, with its edge of yeastiness and spice from the wood aging. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

94 Château Olivier 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). From the secluded Bethmann family estate surrounded by woods and dominated by its medieval castle, this wine is richly textured with spice and full tropical-fruit flavors. It is a ripe wine that will be ready from 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château Brown 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). This estate in the Bordeaux suburbs has produced a warm, ripe wine with layers of acidity to bring out freshness. The apple flavors are in the background of this generous wine. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Château de Cruzeau 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). A ripe citrus wine with acidity also hints of tropical fruits. It is a smoothly textured wine that comes from a Lurton-owned estate. Drink this fresh wine from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Château de France 2022 (Pessac-Léognan). Crisp with white fruits and fresh acidity, the wine also has a toasty element from wood aging.

There is a touch of honey in the background from the full body of this wine. Ready to drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Château de Rochemorin 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). This 100% Sauvignon Blanc is crisp yet with a fine tendency to tropical fruits. The wine is bright, touched by spice from wood aging. Drink from 2025. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Château Latour-Martillac 2022 Lacroix-Martillac (Pessac-Léognan). This comfortable blend of half and half Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon is rich, with a creamy texture set against a vivacious citrus and acidity. The toast from wood aging underlines and encourages the fruit, likely to meld well as the wine matures. Drink from 2025. Republic National Distributing Co. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Château Luchey-Halde 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). Full and rich, the wine is textured and tight. It is a young wine, showing white fruits and layers of yeasty acidity. It needs to age, drink from 2025. Millennial Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Château Roche-Lalande 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). The wine is smooth with ripe apple and touches of toast from wood aging. It is a young wine, needing aging and spice. Acidity joins the tangy aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Wine Care Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Domaine de la Solitude 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). Based around a religious abbey and run by Domaine de Chevalier, this wine is packed with white fruits and touches of orange peel. With a majority of Sauvignon Blanc in the blend, the wine has a herbal edge. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Château d'Eck 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). Bought by the Gonet family, in 1999, the small estate surrounds a medieval building that was once just a facade. The wine is fruity, fragrant and will be ready to drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Château Pont Saint-Martin 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). Crisp and creamy, the wine is spicy, rich and rounded. It has green apples and toast flavors along with intense bright acidity. One of four Rodrigues-Lalande estates, drink from 2025. Wine Care Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Château Ferran 2021 (Pessac-Léognan). Crisp and herbal, the wine is light and fruity. It is textured and packed with green and citrus fruits. Drink later this year. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

GRAVES

92 Château de Chantegrive 2022 (Graves). This textured wine is ripe and packed with white and citrus fruits. Its richness is impressive, giving density to a lightly spicy wine. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Château de Chantegrive 2022 Cuvée Caroline (Graves). This fine ripe, wood-aged wine is full of white fruits, rich apples and spice. Its toasty edge mingles with the wrought minerality and density. Drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Rahoul 2022 (Graves). This ripe, rich wine is also taut and crisp. With minerality, the wine is textured and full of citrus flavors. It is lightly spicy with acidity running through to the end. Drink from 2025. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Clos Floridène 2022 (Graves). This estate, whose name is a portmanteau of creators Florence and Denis Dubourdieu (1982), is rich and barrel fermented. The wine is full of ripe white fruits, enshrined in minerality and ripe fruit flavors. Drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Château de Portets 2022 (Graves). Fruity and crisp, this is still a tight wine. Acidity and fresh citrus flavors from the 60% Sémillon dominate with just a touch of spice and creaminess. Drink this bright wine from 2025. Sommailier. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Château Ferrande 2022 (Graves). This wood-aged wine is spicy and rich. It has a fine balance between white and citrus wood flavors, bringing out the richness of the vintage. Drink this wine from 2025. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 Chateau Caillivet 2022 (Graves). A ripe, light wine with plenty of acidity and a pronounced texture that comes from barrel fermentation. Rich with tangy acidity and a taut feel, it needs a little time. Drink from 2025. Anecwines Corp. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Château Calvimont 2022 (Graves). Under the same ownership as Château de Cérons, this estate has produced a well-crafted wine. Its light, fresh acidity and green fruits with a touch of minerality from the limestone subsoil. Drink from 2025. Opici Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Château de la Brède 2022 (Graves). This estate is where the 18th century French

philosopher and well-known Bordeaux vigneron Montesquieu was born and lived. This wine is both fruity and ripe, shot with acidity. It has a light tang that gives it shape and a fine future. Drink from 2025. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 Vieux Château Gaubert 2022 (Graves). Ripe and rich white fruits flavors come together with bright acidity. There is a fine tang to this young wine that is seductive. Drink now. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Château Cazebonne 2022 Argile Ocre (Graves). Jean-Baptiste Duquesne, the owner of this estate, is on a mission to replant 70 varieties that were once in Bordeaux. Until then, this wine stays with classics: Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris. Bright, and fruity, this is an attractive wine, with a fresh character and ripe fruits. It is still maturing. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terra Firma USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Château Haut Selve 2022 (Graves). This is a straight wine touched by wood aging with fruit and textured acidity showing the potential for further aging. It is crisp and vivacious. Drink this blend of half Sémillon and half Sauvignon Blanc from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Domaine du Salut 2022 (Graves). There is a light touch of honey in this fresh wine from the village of Cérons. Apple and kiwi flavors have come together in a bright crispness that is attractive. Drink from 2025. JAE Wine Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$17

88 Château Arzac 2022 Cuvée Léa (Graves). The wine has great fruit, along with a warm and crisp acidity. A touch of minerality gives structure to this light blend perfumed with Sauvignon Gris. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

88 Château Crabitey 2022 (Graves). Full of crisp, herbal fruits with a fresh undertow, this is a bright wine. Its acidity and tangy character are balanced with spice from the short wood aging. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Château du Seuil 2022 (Graves). A fresh style of wine with acidity and a light herbal edge. It is a bright wine, full of green fruits. Drink from 2025. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Château La Rose Sarron 2022 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves). A green wine with strong citrus flavors. It is fruity and still young,

needing to calm down. Drink from 2025. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Château Lassalle 2022 (Graves). Half Sémillon and half Sauvignon Blanc, the wine is fruity and bright. Its acidity is a light counterpoint to its freshness and texture. Drink this balanced wine now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Château le Bonnat 2022 (Graves). Still young, this is a tight wine with minerality and freshness. It is taut and will be lively and fruity as it ages. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Château Peyrat 2022 (Graves). A fruity wine with acidity and tangy citrus flavors from the young Sémillon that dominates the blend. With a light touch, the wine will move forward. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

87 Château de Cérons 2022 (Graves). A lively, tangy and young wine, this is full of citrus flavors. It is fresh, fruity and light in texture. Drink now. Alain Junguenet Selection. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Château de Respide 2022 Callipyge (Graves). A grassy and herbal wine fermented in wood with a ripe backdrop to the green fruits. It is taut and steely with a yeasty component. Drink from 2025. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

87 Château La Rose Sarron 2022 La Magine Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves). Tangy, brightly fruity, this is a crisp wine. It has a direct character of fresh citrus and green fruits. Drink now. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Château Pont de Brion 2022 (Graves). Herbal and crisp, this is a grassy style of wine that is dominated by Sémillon. Its lemon acidity shows strongly against its texture. Drink now. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

86 Château Trébiac 2022 (Graves). Light, crisp and with bright acidity, this is a green wine from a six-hectare white-wine vineyard, lightly herbal and with a pure, tight texture. Drink now. LVDH. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 Grand Enclos du Château de Cérons 2022 (Graves). This is a rich, yeasty wine. It has a vegetal edge set against the wine's ripe fruits, all of which need to soften. Drink from 2025. The Wine Source. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

85 Vignobles Gonfrier 2022 Marquis de Bern (Graves). Fruity and fresh, the wine from the Gonfrier brothers who manage the largest range of vines in Bordeaux, is crisp with light acidity and green fruits. Sémillon at 60% and Sauvignon Blanc at 40% are herbal and creamy. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

SAUTERNES

97 Château d'Yquem 2020 (Sauternes). The floral wine has great intensity, dominated at this stage by the concentrated botrytis. It is powerful, rich, balancing acidity and sweetness. This of course is a great wine that will age, but it is almost ready now. Drink from 2027 and for many years. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$384

95 Château Guiraud 2020 (Sauternes). A dense and seriously ripe wine, this has concentration without intense botrytis. It is a rich wine with great yellow fruits and lovely acidity to balance at the end. Drink this weighty wine from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Château la Tour Blanche 2020 (Sauternes). The wine's ripeness and concentration come from the dense yellow fruits and powerful botrytis. It has fine spice with almost dry honey, giving a wine that still needs time to open up fully. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château d'Arche 2020 (Sauternes). With dryness as well as spice and acidity, this wine is still closed up. Its richness is palpable, beautifully concentrated. Tropical fruits come through at the end. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château Filhot 2020 (Sauternes). This greatly improved estate has produced a beautifully delicate wine. Its spice and sweetness are balanced by lovely acidity. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château Rabaud-Promis 2020 (Sauternes). A rich wine, full in the mouth with ripe spice. It is concentrated with a fine white peach and wild-flower honey character. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Château de Myrat 2020 (Sauternes). This is a rich wine, still young. Its ripe fruits and sweetness are concentrated, showing a poise between simplicity and fine tropical fruits. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Lamothe Guignard 2020 (Sauternes). The wine is ripe and dense with concentrated tropical fruits and honey in the background. It has sweet apricot juice and a touch of spice. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Laribotte 2022 (Sauternes). Jasmine and honey give this aromatic wine a fine start. Apricots and ripe white fruits are cut with acidity to balance the wine. It is rich, fragrant and still young. Drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40/375 ml

BARSAC

96 Château Coutet 2020 (Barsac). A beautifully perfumed wine, this is richly textured and full of spice. Its acidity and light poise come through strongly with acidity to give a wine both rich and light. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

94 Château Doisy-Daëne 2020 (Barsac). A dense wine, rich and full of ripe fruits, this has intense honey and young spice and tropical fruits. Its balance is completed by the wine's acidity and fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Château Doisy-Védrières 2020 (Barsac). Beautifully textured, the wine is rich and full of ripe yellow fruits. Ripe apricots and honey come together with textured botrytis in this rich wine. Drink from 2027. Joanne Bordeaux USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

OTHER WHITE WINE

91 Château Puyanché 2022 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux). Aged for seven months in wood, this ripe wine has power as well as richness. Its spicy character chimes with the dense white fruits from old Sémillon. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Château du Cèdre 2022 Les Grèzes (Côtes du Lot). This blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle is perfumed with white fruits as much as acidity. Lightness and a fine fresh aftertaste give a fine tang. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Château Landonnet 2023 (Entre-Deux-Mers). A light blend dominated by Sauvignon Blanc, the wine is full of tangy fruit. It has forward acidity that goes with citrus. Drink later this year. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

BORDEAUX ROSÉ WINES

88 Château de la Dauphine 2022 Rosé (Bordeaux Rosé). Crisp, full of bright citrus and red fruits, this is lively and fresh. Its fine balance and fruitiness are just right. Drink now. Wine VIP. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 Château Goudichaud 2022 Rosé (Bordeaux Rosé). Pale in color, this is equally pale in the mouth. Light fruit and acidity contrast with layers of caramel flavors. Drink now. Serendipity Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Château Landonnet 2023 Jaubert Rosé (Bordeaux Rosé). Fresh and fruity, this ripe wine is young, lightly yeasty but bright and light. Drink from later this year. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

BORDEAUX RED WINES

91 Château du Rocher 2020 (Bordeaux). The 30% each of the two Cabernets in the blend gives this wine a fine, firm structure. It is juicy, still full of potential. The wine has a rich core and layers of fine smoky black fruits. Drink from 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Château le Mayne-Cabanot 2020 (Bordeaux). Aged in wood, this spicy wine with its rich tannins and structure is full and dense. Its ripe Merlot is jammy and open. Drink the wine from 2025. W. Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 Château Barreyre 2020 (Bordeaux). From a Langorian estate dating back to the 16th century, this wine has fine black fruits and tannins that are maturing well. It still has a structure that comes through the ripe fruits. Drink from 2025. Duclot La Vinicole. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Château Reynaud Lacoste 2021 (Bordeaux). A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is young, full of fresh black fruits. It is a fruity wine with a core of firm tannins. It will be ready from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Château le Sabley 2022 (Bordeaux). A soft, spicy wine, rich in black fruits. The tannins are gentle, fitting comfortably into the generous fruits and acidity. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Château Tassin 2021 (Bordeaux). A ripe, juicy wine with some firm tannins and ripe black fruits. It is a fine wine, full of fresh fruits and light tannins. Drink from 2025. Wineberry America LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Famille Rochet 2022 C'est la Vie (Bordeaux). A soft, open wine that has a gentle Merlot texture and black fruits. It is ripe, juicy full of berry flavors, freshened with acidity. Drink from later this year. Wines Unlimited. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

90 Château Haut Landon 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). This full, rich wine is dense and structured. The 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and small amount of Malbec in the blend give the weight and tannins. Black-currant fruits and acidity are developing well. The wine will be ready to drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Château Malbat 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). A rich blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a dense wine. Its black fruits have a smoky edge along with spice and a sense of power. This is a big wine that needs more aging. Drink from 2026. Wines Unlimited. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Château Mallard les Rousseaux 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). This structured wine with ripe tannins and dense black fruits is a blend of four grapes, including Malbec. It is juicy with a core of dryness. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Château Taussin 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). A spicy, polished wine with ripe tannins, this is full and concentrated. Its dark black berry flavors have a toasty edge with wood flavors still showing. So this rich wine needs time. Drink from 2026. Wines Unlimited. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Château de Ribebon 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). This ripe wine, from a well-established estate run by Vignobles Aubert, is full while also restrained and stylish. Black-currant fruits dominate with a core of tannins to give shape. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Château Luchey 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur). The simple blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon is ripe, with developing softness. Its backdrop of firm, dry tannins is still very present so more aging is needed. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Château Malbat 2021 Mademoiselle Malbat (Bordeaux Supérieur). Pure Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a rich and structured wine. It has bold tannins and juicy black-currant fruits. They are underlined by the wine's smoky texture and dry core. The wine needs time to soften; drink from 2026. Wines Unlimited. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Kirkland 2021 Kirkland Signature (Bordeaux Supérieur). For full review see page 25. Misa Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$7

88 Château David Beaulieu 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). This juicy wine with black fruits and firm tannins is structured and set for aging. With a dry core, it needs time to soften. Drink from 2026. Cru Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Château de Cursol 2021 Cuvée Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur). The wine, aged in stainless steel tanks, is ripe and fruity. With soft tannins and layers of red fruits, the blend with 70% Merlot and the two Cabernets will be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Château de Macard 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). With 80% Merlot, the wine is ripe and generous. One of the estates in the Alain Aubert collection, it has produced a full, blackberry fruit-flavored wine that will be ready from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Château Larquey 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). From vineyards in eastern Bordeaux, this wine offers ripe black fruits. Generous tannins lie under this spicy blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a dry edge that will shortly soften. Drink this succulent wine from 2025. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Château le Gardera 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). This wine has generous ripe Merlot and structured Cabernet Sauvignon and a touch of Cabernet Franc. It has density and firm, young tannins, blackberry fruits and finishing acidity. Drink from 2026. Organic. Wineberry America LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Château Petit Freydon 2021 Cuvée Sarah (Bordeaux Supérieur). The wine is rich and dense, its tannins already soft. Black-currant fruits and light spice give it freshness and an aromatic edge. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Famille Rochet 2021 Le Paon (Bordeaux Supérieur). This 100% Malbec is dense and rich. Its spice, dark tannins are full and rounded, already well developed. There is a peppery edge and spice flavors that gives extra complexity to this very

approachable wine. Drink later this year. Wines Unlimited. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Haut Vigny 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). A straightforward blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is still young. Its black fruits are firmly enclosed in tannins via American oak. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Jean-François Reaud 2022 La Rose du Mascaret (Bordeaux Supérieur). A fruity wine with ripe, warm tannins, this is rich and solid. It has weight and dense black fruits and a soft, full aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Château Jalousie Beaulieu 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur). With ripe, red fruit and soft tannins, this is an generous wine. Its fresh acidity provides a welcome contrast and lift. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Château les Reuilles 2022 Todesco (Bordeaux Supérieur). The wine is juicy, full of black currant fruits. It has a fresh character that is bright and succulent. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Jean-François Reaud 2022 Petit Gibertin (Bordeaux Supérieur). The ripe 84% Merlot in this wine is generous and full bodied. Black plums and open tannins are spicy and softening now. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 Château German 2022 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux). This wine, with its rich young fruit, is finely balanced. Spice from wood aging lends its polish to the wine's weight. Backed by acidity, the wine will age well. Drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Tour d'Horable 2022 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux). The richness of this wine is full and concentrated. It has dark tannins and spice as well as ripe black-plum flavors. A powerful wine, this will be ready from 2026. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Château de Laville 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux). Situated at a high point of Castillon overlooking the Garonne river, this vineyard has given a wine with solid tannins that currently dominate the texture. There is weight that indicates

the black fruits are there, ready to develop. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 **Château Hyot 2022 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A bold, juicy wine with a core of solid tannins, this is still young with a dry structure that needs to soften. With 70% Merlot in the blend, the wine is sure to age well. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Roc du Pin 2022 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Structured, concentrated and full of black fruits. With balancing acidity, it is a promising young wine. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 **Château Lagrange Monbadon 2016 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. With 70% Merlot in the blend, backed by the two Cabernets, the wine is ripe and juicy. Rich tannins and a jammy core are now fully formed. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

POMEROL

92 **Château de Valois 2020 (Pomerol)**. This blend of 72% Merlot plus Cabernet Franc, is young. It has plenty of potential with the rich tannins and concentrated blackberry fruits. Aromatic and ripe, let it age further and drink from 2026. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Château de Valois 2019 (Pomerol)**. A full, ripe wine dominated by Merlot, this is dense and generous. Its black fruits are concentrated with a firm structure that has almost matured. Valois, paired with neighboring Leydet-Valentin in Saint-Emilion, offers a wine with further potential. Drink from 2025. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$69

91 **Château Gouprie 2021 (Pomerol)**. This richly textured Pomerol, dominated by Merlot, is solid and dense. Its black fruits and tannins are both young, giving the wine a firm structure. Drink the wine from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$81

90 **Château Lafleur du Roy 2022 Noir de Merlot (Pomerol)**. Ripe and juicy black fruits show this wine's generous Merlot flavors. Coming from cool clay soils, it has a fresh element that contrasts with the wine's richness. It will be ready from 2026. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

MÉDOC

92 **Château Haut-Maurac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. Owned by Olivier Decelle, proprietor of Mas Amiel in Maury and Château Jean

Faure in Saint-Emilion, this is a richly dense wine with firm black tannins and fruit. It comes from a 59-acre estate and is certainly a wine to age. Drink from 2027. Misa Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 **Château la Roque de By 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. Situated to the north of Saint-Estèphe, this estate is part of the holdings of the Pagès family. It is a structured wine, rich with tannins and black fruits. It is still young; drink from 2027. DJK Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château Blaignan 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the wine has a fine, ripe character with some solid tannins under the blackberry flavors. It is both fruity and structured, giving a rich aftertaste. Drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 **Château Castéra 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. This Merlot-dominant blend is ripe and jammy, full of black fruits and concentrated tannins. Juicy and succulent, the wine is set for aging. Drink from 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 **Château Fontis 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. On an outcrop of gravel at the dizzying height (for the Médoc) of 128 feet, this vineyard has produced a ripe, juicy wine. Aged for 20 months in wood, the wine is still full of rich fruits to balance the toasty spice. Drink the wine from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Château le Temple 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. This is a rich, smoky wine with solid ripe black fruits and dense tannins. The wine has a smooth character with acidity and a fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Château Pierre de Montignac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. The 61-acre estate north of the town of Lesparre has produced a generous, ripe wine with solid tannins and layers of warm black fruits. Its structure is cushioned by the open fruits, while the wine is finished by acidity. Drink from 2027. Saranty Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Château Saint-Hilaire 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. A ripe, smoky wine, this has solid tannins as a balance to the generous black fruits. From a 74-acre estate with a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine's black-currant fruits are going to develop well and deliciously. Drink from 2027. Tru Wines LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château de la Croix 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. A solid wine, with equal amounts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot in the blend, this is a rich, dark chocolate flavored wine. It is dense and full, set for aging. Drink from 2027. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 **Château de Panigon 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. Aged in wood for a year, the wine is perfumed, ripe and spicy. Layers of tannins are still up front, with concentration and rich black fruits behind. Drink this wine from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château de Tourteyron 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. This rich wine is structured and dense. From an estate whose history goes back to medieval times, the vineyard is located close to the Gironde estuary. It is a ripe, juicy wine that will be ready from 2027. Leonard Kreuzsch, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château Géméillan 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. From an estate also known for its Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle, this wine is ripe with a fine elegant texture. Balanced between the black fruits, acidity and a core of young tannins, it needs to age further. Drink from 2026. Tru Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château Ladignac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. In the west of the Médoc, close to the forest, this estate has produced a ripe wine dominated by Merlot. There is a smoky quality to this, with its generous tannins and blackberry-fruit flavors. Drink from 2026. Winedom LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Moulin de l'Abbaye 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. A bold, fruity wine with blackberry flavors and ripe tannins, this is a wine for further aging. Its structure and density are dominant and need time to soften. Drink from 2027. Jandell Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Patache d'Aux 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. Named after a stagecoach stop at the Aux property on the way up the Médoc. With vineyards beginning in 1720, the estate is now producing typical ripe wines of Antonin Moueix properties. This latest release follows the pattern: rich, structured, but also open and juicy. Drink from 2026. Cannon Wines Limited. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

90 **Château Ricaudet 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc)**. Owned by fourth-generation Sébastien Couthures, this 20-acre property has produced a succulent ripe wine with layers of black fruits and acidity. Structure and concentration are

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present and promise aging. Drink from 2027. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

89 Château Bournac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). A year in wood has given this wine a ripe smoothness. It is balanced and fruity, exhibiting the freshness of the vintage and promising some fine aging. Drink from 2026. Joanne Bordeaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Château Carcanieux 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Juicy and full of fruit, the wine is ripe and perfumed. With 18 months wood aging the wine, from a 90-acre vineyard, is spicy and structured. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Escot 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). With nearly 60% of Merlot in the blend, this wine shows a jammy, spicy quality. It has blackberry fruits and plenty of succulent acidity to balance the richness of the wine. Drink from 2026. Mr. Wine & Spirits USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Château Tour Prignac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Big juicy fruit and ripe tannins are right to the fore in this fresh wine. It is worth aging with its structure and black-fruit concentration. Drink from 2027. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Château la Chandelière 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). The mainly clay soil of the vineyard has given a cool wine, rich in tannins. In the background, ripe juicy fruits are still young and need time. Drink the wine from 2027. Joanne Bordeaux USA. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Château la France Delhomme 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). An unusual blend for the Médoc of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the wine is full of ripe, fragrant black fruits. Soft and rounded, it will develop quickly. Drink from 2026. Quintessential. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Château la Valière 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). This boldly structured wine is rich with layers of firmness and dry tannins. With 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, it is structured and full of juicy black-currant fruits. It has a good future; drink from 2026. DJK Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Château Le Bourdieu 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). This rich wine is packed with black-currant fruits that give it fine potential. From a 93-acre estate close to the Gironde estuary, it is dominated by the fruit, the structure acting as a backup. Drink from 2026. Cutting Edge Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Château Pey de Pont 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). With 12 months in wood, the wine is structured while also smoothly textured. Acidity and plenty of black-currant flavors give a fresher element in the background. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Château Bellerive 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Juicy black fruits are right forward in this balanced wine. Acidity and a layer of tannins give it the possibility for further aging. Drink the wine from 2027. Marlin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Château La Branne 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Black-fruit aromas lead on to a spicy, structured and juicy wine with open fruitiness and tannins. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

87 Château le Vieux Fort 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Dark-chocolate flavors and juicy acidity and berry bring out ripeness and a jammy character. It will be ready from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

87 Château Troussas 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Produced by the local cooperative, this wine is balanced and fruity. With fine acidity and black-currant fruits, it has richness from the predominance of Merlot. The wine will be ready from 2026. Ventura Selections LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

86 Webster Barnes Selection 2022 (Médoc). This pure Cabernet Sauvignon is light and gently structured. There is a dry core that comes through the fresh black-currant fruit. Drink from 2025. Webster Barnes LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

93 Château Le Crock 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Saint-Estèphe). Under the same ownership as Château Léoville Poyferré in Saint-Julien, this estate is named after the depression below the vineyard. This is ripe and concentrated, rich in tannins and structure. It is an impressive wine, beautifully textured and ready to drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$71

92 Château Tour de Pez 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Saint-Estèphe). One of the many estates that are situated on the Pez plateau, this is a 47-acre estate where Cabernet Sauvignon rules. It is structured and stylish, the tannins smooth and rich. Black fruits are developing well. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

91 Château Laffitte Carcasset 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Saint-Estèphe). Dating back to 1759, this estate was named after Jean Laffitte, the king's Bordeaux wine buyer. The wine is structured with firm tannins and a solid base for the blackberry fruits. Drink this fine wine from 2027. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

HAUT-MÉDOC

93 Château d'Agassac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). The 800-year-old chateau is surrounded by a fine vineyard. Its latest release is a firm, structured wine with solid tannins. In the background are black-plum fruits with acidity. Drink the wine from 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

93 Château de Malleret 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). This grand chateau surrounded by horse paddocks has a vineyard that produces some of the best wines in the Haut-Médoc. This latest release is dense and rich with firm tannins set against the freshness of black-currant fruits. Drink from 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Château du Taillan 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Five sisters representing the fourth generation of this Cruse family estate are producing fine wines. This is rich, dense and well balanced. The black fruits and juicy acidity are already in place. Drink this wine from 2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Arnauld 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Based around the remains of a Templar Knights medieval priory, the vat room and cellars were renovated between 2017 and 2020. The wine is solid and structured. It is a rich wine with wood aging and black fruits. It is concentrated and worth aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

92 Château Bel Air Gloria 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Under the same ownership as Château Gloria in Saint-Julien, this wine is richly structured. With a predominance of Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine has juicy black-currant fruits backed by ripe tannins. Drink from 2027. T. Elen-teny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

92 Château Chasse-Spleen 2019 Héritage de Chasse-Spleen (Haut-Médoc). This second wine of Moulis estate Chasse-Spleen is rich and packed with welcoming black fruits and tannins. It has a generous, spicy character from wood aging. The texture brings out the wine's Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot blend. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 Château Cissac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). The chateau, built on a Gallo-Roman site and owned by the Vialard family since 1895, brings history to the bottle. Descendant Marie Vialard's latest release, with its 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, is modern, with fine aging potential. It is structured and the tannins are softening under the black fruits. Drink from 2027. Elite Wines Import. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Corconnac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). A 21-acre vineyard with a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot, this is a ripe, while also succulent, wine. Black-currant flavors dominate the open tannins. It is likely to be ready from 2026. MS Walker. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 Château Larose-Trintaudon 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). This massive 437-acre estate has, as always, produced a very fine wine. It is structured, while also full of berry flavors and a dense texture. The wine, which has almost equal quantities of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, is generous and will be ready from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

92 Château Le Boscq 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). This 44-acre estate is dominated by its rich Merlot. This new release is dense and solid with tannins that will need time. It is a full, ripe, finely chiseled wine that should be ready from 2027. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Château Le Monteil d'Arsac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). This wine comes from Château d'Arsac's Haut-Médoc portion of Margaux. It is a ripe, supple wine, rich and also packed with black fruits. The tannins and structure promise aging. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Château Beaumont 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). With a majority of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, the wine from this estate in the heart of the Haut-Médoc is rich and full of spicy black-currant fruits. Drink from 2027. Barrière Frères USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Château de Braude 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). This gravelly 20-acre vineyard, just west of Margaux, delivered a structured wine full of both tannins and black fruits. It has density and richness. The blend with 60% Cabernet Sauvignon is balanced and ready to age further. Drink from 2027. Milton's Distributing Co., Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Doyac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Unusually for the Médoc, this wine

is dominated by Merlot. It is a rich wine with black-berry fruits, acidity and backed up by structure. The wine is balanced, young and fruity at the moment, but sure to deepen as it matures. Drink from 2026. L_No Submitting Co. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 Château du Cartillon 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Situated in the riverside town of Lamarque, this grand 108-acre estate is a powerhouse of tannins and solid black fruits. The acidity provides the contrast to this richness and helps the promise of further aging. Drink from 2027. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Malescasse 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Aged for 12 months in wood, the wine is classified as a Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel. This is a juicy wine full of black fruits and solid tannins that is set for aging. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Ruby Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Reysson 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Almost entirely Merlot, this is a ripe, juicy wine that has solid tannins in the background. Owned by negociant Dourthe, it has a firm structure that will age well. Drink from 2027. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Saint Ahon 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). The wine is structured and dense with ripe tannins and juicy black fruits that are dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink from 2027. Elixirs du Monde. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Château Vieux Landat 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). This 29-acre vineyard in the north of the Haut-Médoc presents juicy, ripe and full fresh berry fruits. Light tannins are soft and perfumed with a richness and an aging ability. Drink from 2026. Pier 71 Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

90 Château du Retout 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). In the village of Cussac Fort-Médoc in the central Haut-Médoc, this 77-acre estate is producing well. This new release is dense with some solid tannins, enhanced by the ripe, juicy Merlot fruits and structure. Drink from 2026. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Château Lamothe-Bergeron 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). From Cussac Fort-Médoc in the heart of the Haut-Médoc, this wine is dense and ripe. It has layers of black fruits, acidity and juicy freshness in the background. Drink from 2026. EU. Family Estates. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Château Larose Perganson 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Associated with Larose-Trintaudon, this estate has produced a

rich and dense wine. It is a half-and-half blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, certainly worth aging. Drink this fine wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Château Pontoise Cabarrus 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Gravel soil and the 60% Cabernet Sauvignon have given this wine a rich structure. Fine tannins and black-currant fruits have come together in a blend that is ripe and ageworthy. Drink from 2027. L_No Submitting Co. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

89 Château Chasse-Spleen 2021 Héritage de Chasse-Spleen (Haut-Médoc). From a 49-acre vineyard close to Moulis-based Chasse-Spleen, this second wine, aged in new wood, is packed with bright fruit. Still young, the tannins are firm and ready to age further. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Château d'Arcins 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). The biggest chateau in the center of the tiny Arcins village has produced a soft, ripe wine that is easy to drink. Juicy and layered with black fruits. Part of the Castel family's holdings, the wine is ripe and likely to be ready from 2025. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 Château Lacour Jacquet 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). In the heart of the Haut-Médoc, the wine is full of black fruits and layers of tannins underneath. The wine is equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It is likely to be ready from 2026. LBV Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Château Lestage Simon 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). A densely planted vineyard has given a dense wine. It has solid black fruits, rich tannins and a concentrated structure. With its firm character and ripe berry flavors, it should age well. Drink from 2027. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Château Liversan 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Dating from the 18th century, this estate has produced a richly structured wine. Blackberry fruits have a succulent character that is backed by some young, firm tannins. Drink from 2026. Cannon Wines Limited. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Château Ramage la Batisse 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). The wood still shows strongly in this newly released wine. Some firm tannins give it shape and density. With its black-currant fruits and solid structure, the wine can age. Drink from 2026. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

88 Château Barreyres 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc). Owned by the Castel family,

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this wine is full with soft tannins and juicy black fruits. It is likely to mature quickly. Drink from 2025. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

88 **Château Haut Beyzac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This is a ripe, juicy wine with soft tannins and layers of black fruits and acidity. It is fresh and crisp, its structure already soft. Drink from 2026. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 **Château Meyre 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** The estate has produced a ripe wine with generous black fruits and rich tannins. It has a fine juicy character that will develop well. Drink from 2026. Organic. BBR Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

90 **Château Biston-Brillette 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Moulis-en-Médoc).** This 64-acre estate in the center of Moulis brings a wine of rich tannins and smooth texture. It is wood aged, the spices and toast still showing at this stage. The black fruits are a fine contrast. Drink from 2027. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 **Château Pomeys 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Moulis-en-Médoc).** With a history dating back to the 15th century, this estate offers a new release that is full of juicy black fruits and gentle tannins. It is a fragrant wine, fresh and likely to be ready from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

88 **Château Lalaudey 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Moulis-en-Médoc).** Aged in wood, partially new, the wine from this 42-acre estate is smooth and perfumed. Its ripe tannins are lit by acidity and black-currant fruit. Drink from 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 **Château Lauduc 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This estate, close to Bordeaux city, has produced a ripe, black-currant and spice wine. It has youthful juiciness and acidity that need to soften. Coming from a single parcel, it is a wine for aging further. Drink from 2026. Lanterna Distributors Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château Haut Bigord 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A wine bottled without added sulfur, this is balanced, textured with ripe tannins. At this young stage, the wine is juicy with layers of acidity that will mingle with the texture as it

matures. Drink from 2026. Organic. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Château Haut Colombier 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aged for six months in wood, this wine is richly structured. It has a fresher element, fitting the vintage. Ripe fruit flavors bring out the full nature of the wine. Drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Haut-Lalande 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Aged on its lees, the wine is generous, warm with spice and acidity. It has a fine, elegant structure that oozes succulent acidity. Black fruits will need further time. Drink from 2027. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château le Grand Moulin 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a rich wine, packed with black fruits and dark-chocolate flavors. It is a structured wine, with a super-ripe character that is leavened by final freshness. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château Canteloup Lestage 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** While the wine is young, it is promising. It is rich, solid with tannins and layered with black fruits and acidity. Worth aging, drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 **Château Cazeaux 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The tannins are still firm in this rich wine, with its blackberry fruits underneath. It is full of fresh acidity to lift the fruitiness of the wine. Drink from 2026. Continent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château les Aubiers 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A ripe, full-bodied wine, rich in black fruits, this is textured and still full of acidity. It has a succulent freshness that will soften out. Drink from 2026. Organic. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Beaumont Les Pierrières 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A blend of 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, this structured wine has a dry core surrounded by juicy blackberry fruits and ripe tannins. The wine is still young, likely to be ready from 2026. Continent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château les Garelles 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Bottled without added sulfur and organic, a signature of the estate since brothers Adrien and Thomas Novoa took over the family estate, this wine has clear and open black fruits. It still has a youthful structure that will soften and

integrate. Drink this full, textured wine from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 **Château Haut Canteloup 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A perfumed wine, this is structured with tannins and full of black fruits. With layers of acidity, typical of the vintage, the wine is likely to be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Petit Mazeyrat (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Mainly Merlot, the wine is rich and dense. It has a jammy character with bright red fruits and backing tannins. The wine will be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

CÔTES DE BOURG

91 **Château Baron Bellevue 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** With a significant amount of the two Cabernets in the blend, this is a structured, smoky wine. It does also have juicy black fruits that give a fresher edge to the structure. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château du Luc 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** Already smooth, this structured wine is dense and ripe. Dark chocolate and spice go with rich black-plum fruits. It is a juicy wine, likely to develop well. Drink from 2026. Organic. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 **Château Moulin des Blais 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** This is young, full of ripe black fruits. It has structure and tannins that are in the background. Drink this rich wine from 2025. Organic. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 **Château Plaizirs 2022 Cuvée Prestige (Côtes de Bourg).** Merlot and Malbec are the base of this juicy, black-fruited wine. It is a balanced wine with acidity and a succulent core. It is rich without the weight. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Moulin de Gauriac 2022 (Côtes de Bourg).** Malbec that grows well in Bourg makes an appearance in this wine. It is a dark-hued ripe wine, black fruits and tannins prominent, and with a succulent quality. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

86 **Jean-François Reaud 2022 Les Hauts de Villebourbon (Côtes de Bourg).** A Merlot-dominated wine, this is full of ripe blackberry fruits. The generous tannins and juicy acidity give the wine

a solid structure and freshness. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

90 **Château de Lestiac 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** From clay and gravel soil, the wine has an edge of minerality as well as ripe tannins. Blackberry fruits bring out the light touch of the vintage. It will show well from 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 **Château Lataste 2022 Prestige (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Firm tannins from this wine foreshadow fine potential. It comes from vines on the slopes above the town of Langoiran just south of Bordeaux. The wine is rich, full of tannins and black fruits. Drink this full-bodied wine from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 **Château Tanesse 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** From the hills above the small river town of Cadillac, the wine shows rich tannins. Its acidity and ripe blackberry fruits bring out the freshness of the vintage. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château du Grand Bern 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is a still very young Merlot-dominated wine with some firm tannins and black fruits. There is a juicy element to the wine that brings out freshness through the wine's structure. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

SAINT-ÉMILION

92 **Château Haut Gravet 2021 (Saint-Émilien).** With its 30% of the two Cabernets, this wine is firmly structured. It is full of potential with a spice character from wood aging. Tannins and a dry edge encourage the aging. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

90 **Château Leydet-Valentin 2020 (Saint-Émilien).** Located in the east of Saint-Émilien, bordering Pomerol, this 22-acre estate shows a wine with layers of succulent Merlot. Ripe black fruits and spice from oak aging dominate. Drink this rich, still structured wine from 2026. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51

90 **Château Trianon 2021 (Saint-Émilien).** A 35-acre vineyard has produced a wine whose glory is the Cabernet Franc in the blend. It is a ripe, juicy and structured wine, full of black fruits

and tannins that are just beginning to soften. Drink from 2026. The Wine Source. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$59

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

95 **Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This is a large 150-acre estate that has produced a balanced, spicy wine with rich tannins and generous black fruits. It is a dense wine, its tannins and solid structure coming from the high proportion (81%) of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Drink this fine wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

95 **Château Malartic-Lagravière 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** For full review see page 6. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

95 **Château Pape Clément 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This legendary estate, created by Pope Clément V, who was from the Bordeaux region, has produced a fine, densely textured wine. Its ripe tannins are typical of this estate, laced in this vintage by acidity and black-currant fruits. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

95 **Domaine de Chevalier 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate, owned by the Bernard family, has produced a ripe, elegant wine. It shows great black fruits and some solid tannins that will stand the wine in good stead as it ages. An impressive wine for the vintage. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 **Château Carbonnieux 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** Owned by the Perrin family, this grand estate has produced an impeccable, impressive wine. Rich tannins and dense black fruits are marked by ripe, juicy acidity and spice from the wood aging. It needs aging, drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Château Couhins-Lurton 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** The core estate of the Lurton family in Pessac-Léognan has produced a powerfully ripe and rich wine. Reflecting the vintage, the wine has fresh fruits along with a touch of minerality. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

94 **Château la Louvière 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate, owned by the Lurton family, was first planted with vines in the 13th century. The blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon gives ripe black-currant flavors as well as juicy acidity. Spice comes from the wood aging for 12 months. Drink from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 **Château Latour-Martillac 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate, on the edge of the village of Martillac, has produced a fine, structured wine. The wood aging has lent its polish, giving the wine richness alongside the acidity as well as good potential. Drink from 2027. Republic National Distributing Co. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

94 **Château Latour-Martillac 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** This Graves Grand Cru Classé has produced an elegantly rich wine. Still very young, its powerful tannins mask the black fruits and acidity. As the wine matures, fruit and richness will come forward. The wine is worth aging for many years. Drink from 2028. Cognac One, LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

94 **Château Olivier 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate owned by the Berthmann family and surrounding their medieval castle, has produced a finely textured, juicy wine. It shows the freshness of the vintage while having a fine backbone of tannins. The wine needs time, drink from 2027. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 **Château Bouscaut 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** Big and juicy, this wood-aged wine is ripe with a solid core of tannins. It comes from an estate that continues to improve and impress and is well worth aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 **Château Brown 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** A fruity wine, showing the freshness of the vintage, this is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot and a touch of Petit Verdot. It is a dense wine, shot through with acidity and layered with some firm tannins. Drink from 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 **Château Couhins 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** Produced at the estate owned by the French government agriculture research institute, this wine shows the enormous improvement of this vineyard. It has juicy black fruits and ripe tannins. It is a very young wine, its spice and structure still prominent. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Château de Cruzeau 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate in the Lurton portfolio has produced a richly textured wine. It has a firm core of black tannins, surrounded by concentrated black fruits. The wine, an almost equal blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, will be ready from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 **Château de France 3032 (Pessac-Léognan).** This is a finely textured wine, rich in both black fruits and supporting tannins. It is dense with

BUYINGGUIDE

ripe berry flavors and a dry core set for aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

93 **Château de Rochemorin 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** From one of several estates in Pessac-Léognan owned by the André Lurton family, this wine is richly textured. The wine aging provides texture more than flavors. It needs to be aged, so begin to drink this wine from 2027. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 **Château la Garde 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** A structured wine, firm with solid tannins, this needs aging. Its blackberry fruits and acidity give a succulent character to the wine, endowing it with potential richness. Drink from 2027. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Château Lespault-Martillac 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** Run by the Bernard family of Domaine de Chevalier, this estate on the edge of Martillac has produced a wine that is dominated by juicy Merlot with a high 13% of Petit Verdot. The wine is rich, structured and likely to age well. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Château Lamothe-Bouscaut 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** The wine comes from vineyards close to Château Bouscaut and is under the same ownership. It is a ripe wine, generously textured, aged in wood for 14 months. It is finely judged and will obviously age. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

92 **Château Latour-Martillac 2020 Lagrave-Martillac (Pessac-Léognan).** The second wine of Graves cru classé Latour-Martillac, this is structured and finely dense. With ripe tannins and black-currant flavors, this Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blend has fine potential. Its richness and density will soften as it matures. Drink from 2026. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 **Château d'Eck 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This wine comes from a small 12-acre estate. Aged for a year in wood, it offers generous Merlot spice and acidity. This combines with gentle tannins and a succulent texture. Drink this fresh wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

90 **Château Laroche-Lalande 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** Under the same ownership as Château Pont Saint-Martin, this Rodrigues-Lalande estate has produced a dense, structured wine. Beneath the structure are juicy black fruits that reveal potential. Drink from 2027. Wine Care Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château Ferran 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** Juicy and softly textured, the wine is ripe and full of blackberry fruits. Its core, still dry, does promise aging. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château Pont Saint-Martin 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** This 14-acre vineyard, one of four Rodrigues-Lalande estates, has produced a solid wine with rich black fruits and some firm tannins. The blend is almost equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, giving a ripe, balanced wine. Drink from 2026. Wine Care Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château Bardins 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** From the fifth generation on a 23-acre estate, this wine is fruity, soft and succulent. Acidity and light tannins give some aging potential. The wine will age relatively quickly. Drink from 2026. Organic. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

GRAVES

92 **Château Langlet 2021 (Graves).** Under the same ownership as Château Latour-Martillac in Pessac-Léognan, this estate has produced a generous, rich wine, soft on the tannins and full on the black fruits. It is a lightly structured blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, aging well and likely to be ready from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château de Chantegrive 2021 (Graves).** With its high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, this structured fruity wine offers layers of ripe acidity and a firm core. With its freshness balancing the texture, it should develop well. Drink from 2026. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 **Château de la Brède 2021 (Graves).** This is a chewy wine with the tannins showing strongly. All is not lost because layers of black fruits and acidity are in contrast. These will develop to bring out richness from this estate where 17th century French philosopher Montesquieu was born and, when not working with the America's Founding Fathers, was a vigneron. Drink from 2026. SAWM Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$49

91 **Château de Portets 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** Red fruits and soft tannins mark this wine as a fast developer. It's already showing balance, bringing freshness and acidity together with ripe spice. Drink from 2025. Sommailier. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Château Doms 2019 Cuvée Amélie (Graves).** With 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, the wine is a solid blend with red fruits and juicy

acidity. It is named after the owner's great-grandmother. Drink this ripe wine from 2025. Lanterna Distributors. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 **Château Ferrande 2021 (Graves).** A firm wine that has fine potential. Its black Merlot fruits, mingled with the tannins are promising, giving both richness and structure. Drink from 2026. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 **Château Haura 2021 (Graves).** The tannins behind the black fruits are firm, promising aging. This is a fine, succulent wine from an estate managed by the Dubourdieu family. It is already balanced and should be ready to drink from 2026. Saranty Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

91 **Château Pontet la Gravière 2021 Cuvée Rubis (Graves).** Structured and with firm tannins, this is a wine with a good future. It has acidity, black currant flavors and an open ripeness. Drink this from 2026. Knows Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

91 **Château Rahoul 2021 (Graves).** Black-currant fruit freshness dominates the aroma of this structured wine. With some firm tannins and 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, it needs a good time to soften. Drink from 2026. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Clos Floridène 2021 (Graves).** A spicy, fruity wine, this is both fresh and structured. It is juicy with fine acidity and light tannins. This is going to be an attractive wine as it matures. Drink from 2026. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Caillivet 2021 (Graves).** A structured, spicy wine, this is young and packed with fruit. It has a good future, sure to develop over the next few years into a polished wine. Drink from 2025. Anecwines Corp.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Camus 2021 (Graves).** Both fruity and properly structured, the wine is ripe and with promise. It is rich, black plums vying with acidity. Drink this promising wine from 2026. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château de Castres 2021 (Graves).** A succulent wine, full of black fruits, this is balanced and forward. It is a ripe wine, its tannins and structure sitting comfortably behind the fruits. Drink from 2026. Horizon Beverage. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château des Gravières 2021 Grand Vin (Graves).** This fruity wine, from a 50-acre estate, is already balanced. Black fruits are to the fore, spice and acidity in the background. It is ready

to age further. Drink from 2026. Knows Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château du Seuil 2021 (Graves).** A juicy, fresh wine with bright red fruits, this is crisp and packed with acidity. It has a light texture, the fruit dominant, giving the possibility of early development. Drink from 2025. DB Wine Selection. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château La Rose Sarron 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** Potentially rich, the wine is structured and firm. With half-and-half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, it has ripe tannins and some concentration that promise well for the future. Drink from 2026. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 **Château le Bonnat 2021 (Graves).** The tannins and the black fruits mingle already in this fresh wine. With the structure still well in place, it needs time. Drink from 2026. Baron Francois Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château Lugaud 2021 (Graves).** The wine is structured and smoky. Its tannins, well integrated with the fruits, are showing well through the wood aging flavors. A mix of spice and acidity promise aging. Drink from 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Lusseau 2021 (Graves).** Contrasting brightness and plenty of succulent berry fruits, the wine is also structured and solid. The 12 months in wood give it a fine polish that will age well. Drink from 2026. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 **Château de Cérons 2021 (Graves).** From a 74-acre vineyard, this is a tightly wrought wine with layers of acidity. A cool character gives freshness. It is juicy with black-currant fruits and an open, fruity aftertaste. Drink from 2026. Alain Junguenet Selection. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château des Places 2021 (Graves).** This wine is toasty, structured with layers of spice and ripe black tannins. The wine needs time as its firm structure needs to soften. Drink from 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

89 **Château Pontet la Gravière 2021 Collection Prestige (Graves).** The wine is structured with some solid tannins and concentrated black fruits. It is attractive already with acidity and softness balancing with coffee flavors. Drink from 2026. Knows Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Cazebonne 2021 Grand Vin (Graves).** Tense acidity and black fruits are prominent in this wine. With layers of tannins in the background, it needs to soften. Drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Terra Firma USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château de Respide 2021 (Graves).** Fresh black fruits give a crisp edge to this fresh wine. Tannins are still present and need to soften. Drink from 2025. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 **Château Haut Selve 2021 (Graves).** Lightly structured with perfumed fresh fruit, this is juicy and full of balanced acidity. It is bright, fresh and likely to be ready from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château Lagrange 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** Blackberry fruits form a fine core to this lightly structured wine. With acidity giving freshness and backed by toast, the wine reflects the vintage well. Drink from 2025. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 **Château Martignac 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** A solid, structured wine, this is dense with tannins. Its juicy freshness is in the background. Drink from 2025. Knows Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

88 **Château Peyreblanque 2021 (Graves).** The wine is softly textured with open tannins. The black fruits are showing well, giving both freshness and structure. Drink from 2026. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

88 **Château Puy Boyrein 2021 (Graves).** A fresh and fruity wine with a soft texture, this is light and fresh. The estate is reputed to have been the hunting lodge of Pope Clement V in the 14th century. Its bright acidity is backed by black-currant flavors and acidity, all of which will come together well. Drink from 2025. AP Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Vieux Château Gaubert 2021 (Graves).** Smoky, toasty aromas suggests an enthusiastic use of wood aging. That shows on the palate, dominating the black fruits. Wait to drink after this 50/50 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon integrates better from 2026. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

88 **Vignobles Gonfrier 2020 Marquis de Bern (Graves).** The Gonfrier family's home brand is named after a medieval lord who ruled over the greater Rion area. Acidity and red-berry fruits mark out the wine that comes from a gravel terraced vine-

yard on the right bank of the Garonne river, once the Grand Bern island. With solid tannins, the wine will age well. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Château d'Arche 2021 A de Château d'Arche (Graves).** Juicy and with fresh black fruits, the wine is young and full of potential. With its gentle tannins, it will develop well. Drink from 2025. Solstars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Château des Places 2021 Agora (Graves).** A firm style of wine, with tannins and spice dominant. It does have some juicy freshness in the background that will develop well. Drink from 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 **Château du Mouret 2021 (Graves).** This is a fruity wine with fresh acidity and soft tannins. It is light, packed with berry flavors, already aging well. Drink from 2025. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

87 **Château Les Hauts de Palette 2021 (Graves).** Full of acidity, the wine shows freshness through the black-fruit flavors. A fast developer, drink from 2025. The Wine Trust. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 **Château Méjean 2021 (Graves).** The wine is spicy with a core of tannins. It has a fine structure that gives succulence and weight. Ready to age further, drink from 2025. Planet Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

87 **Château Peyrat 2021 (Graves).** A fragrant wine with bright red fruits and light tannins, this is developing well. Its soft texture gives a cushion for the structure. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

86 **Château La Grave d'Arzac 2021 (Graves).** The wine is fresh with fine acidity and a balance of black fruits and a light structure. Drink from 2026. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

86 **Domaine du Salut 2021 (Graves).** This succulent wine is full of acidity and fresh black fruits. It is a a fruity wine, likely ready to drink from 2025. JAE Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

85 **Château Massereau 2021 (Graves).** Lightly vegetal at this stage. The wine needs further freshness to show at its best. Wait until 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

OTHER RED WINES

93 **Château d'Arsac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Margaux).** In its modern form, this estate is the creation of the late Philippe Raoux who populated the property with massive modern art installations. This wine is a fine testament to the proprietor, ripe, structured and dense. It is set for long-term aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 **Château Indépendance 2021 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** It is the Cabernet Franc in the blend that gives this perfumed wine its real character. Juicy, structured and smoky, the wine is finely balanced. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Château la Fortune 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Margaux).** Associated with Château du Cartillon in the Haut-Médoc, this estate in northern Margaux has produced a richly structured wine. Blackberry fruits are up front, backed by tannins and a layer of spice from wood aging. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Plantey 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Pauillac).** This polished wood-aged wine with its Cabernet Sauvignon to the fore is full and concentrated. Succulent black fruits and a layer of firm tannins promise plenty of aging. Drink from 2027. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château Rocher Gardat 2021 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** With consulting by Hubert de Bouard whose family owns Château Angélus in Saint-Émilion, the wine is richly powerful from concentrated black fruits and a year's wood aging. It is ripe and certainly worth aging further. Drink from 2026. Plume Ridge. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

91 **Château Apogée 2021 (Lalande de Pomerol).** This generous wine from vineyards close to Pomerol is rich, dense and packed with black fruits. Its core is still structured, concentrated, needing time. Drink this ripe wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 **Château Lestage 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Lustrac-Médoc).** This smoky wine comes from one of the estates of the Chanfreau family in Lustrac. It is a full, obviously wood-aged wine with spice up front and layers of black fruits behind. Drink from 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château Bellevue Peycharneau 2021 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** A young wine that needs time to bring out its ripeness. Black-currant fruits shine along with the acidity.

Some firm tannins come through at the end. Drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Cap Léon Veyrin 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Lustrac-Médoc).** This 37-acre estate in Lustrac, inland from the Gironde estuary, has produced a solid, ripe wine, full of both tannins and dense black fruit. It is rich with some powerful structure, ready to drink from 2027. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Puisseguin la Rigodrie 2021 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** The 90% Merlot in this blend gives a ripe, jammy wine. Its spice and structure are fine contrasts to the generous black fruits. It is full, ready to drink from 2026. Organic. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

89 **Château la Grange des Mauberts 2022 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** With a good proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, this is full and dense. Acidity and spice back juicy black fruits to bring weight and a fresher aftertaste. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

86 **Château la Freynelle 2022 (Bordeaux Clairet).** A balanced Cabernet Sauvignon Clairet, texture and tannins contrasting easily with red cherries and spice. The wine has a touch of tannin and finishing acidity. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

CORSICA WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES ILE DE BEAUTÉ

89 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2023 Pinia (Ile de Beauté).** The wine has total freshness with crisp fruit and bright acidity. Tangy citrus and green apple flavors are right up front giving a vivid aftertaste. Drink from later this year. JP Bourgeois. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2023 Casanova Rosé (Ile de Beauté).** A blend of five varieties gives a wine of spice, ripe red fruits and a fine line of acidity. The wine's dominant Sciaccarellu gives the final freshness and perfume. Drink now. TAP Wines. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

87 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2023 Casanova (Ile de Beauté).** Vermentinu and Biancu Gentile are blended in this ripe, fruity and young wine. It has a vivacious character that brings fine citrus fruits. The wine is ready to drink. TAP Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

87 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2023 Pinia Rosé (Ile de Beauté).** Produced from grapes harvested at night to preserve freshness, this crisp, fruity wine is light and refreshing. A touch of acidity and red-currant flavors enhance the wine's brightness. Drink from later this year. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

CORSICA RED WINES ILE DE BEAUTÉ

88 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2023 Casanova (Ile de Beauté).** While the wine is young at this stage, its ripe Niellucciu (Sangiovese) and Syrah blend give the potential for richness and rounded tannins. Let the wine develop and drink from 2025. TAP Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2022 Pinia (Ile de Beauté).** Layers of black fruits and ripe tannins give this wine its weight and density. Berry flavors are prominent along with a dry core and spice. Drink from later this year. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

VIN DE FRANCE WHITE WINES

90 **Lapeyre 2022 Evidencia (Vin de France).** A ripe blend of the two Mansengs with the local Petit Courbu and the even rarer Camaralet, this wine has dense spice and rich white fruits and acidity. It is still young, but developing. Drink from 2026. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **Château du Cèdre 2022 Cèdre Héritage (Vin de France).** This is a soft wine with freshness in the background. Its white fruit and citrus flavors are ripe and crisp. It is likely to develop quickly. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Château du Cèdre 2022 Cèdre Héritage (Vin de France).** Cahors's appellation allows only red wines, so this fresh, light Chardonnay from the same area is bottled as a Vin de France. Green apples have added a creamy character to the wine. Drink later this year. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Les Vignerons d'Aghione 2023 Pinia (Vin de France).** Bright and fruity, this orange wine is ripe and textured. Its orange color is an outward sign of the light oxidation and mineral acidity. Drink this wine now. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

VIN DE FRANCE RED WINES

89 **Domaine Laougué 2022 Tannat (Vin de France)**. A light colored, soft wine. Its light tannins are juicy and full of plum-jelly flavors. The wine is all fruit, ready to drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château des Cèdres 2022 L'Improbable Malbec (Vin de France)**. This is a light colored, almost rosé, wine made from Malbec. It is soft and juicy with gentle tannins and acidity. It is likely to be ready from 2025. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 **Château du Cèdre 2022 Camille Malbec (Vin de France)**. Soft, full of black fruits, this wine is made to be drunk young. Its acidity and gentle tannins are balanced with succulent fruit. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

86 **Château du Cèdre 2022 Marcel Malbec (Vin de France)**. A fine forward-fruited wine with acidity and attractive red fruits. It is soft and ready to drink. Martine's Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

OTHER FRENCH WINES

90 **Château Cavalier 2022 Cuvée Marafiance Rosé (Côtes de Provence)**. Fruity, fresh and lightly textured, the wine is delicious, bright and crisp, full of citrus flavors and acidity. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 **Plaimont 2020 Vignobles Marie Maria Novel Tannat (Minervois)**. Pure Tannat, bottled without added sulfur, this wine is rich and dense. Black fruits and spice give the wine weight and concentration. It has acidity underneath that gives freshness at the end. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Château du Cèdre 2018 Sweet Malbec (Vin de Liqueur)**. Formerly known as Le Cèdre Malbec Vintage, this wine is fortified and created to make a Port-style wine in Cahors. Malbec lends itself to this style and the wine is clearly a success. Drink now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$40

NORTHEAST ITALY WHITE WINES

ALTO ADIGE

92 **Andriano 2022 Andrius Sauvignon Blanc Riserva (Alto Adige)**. Reserved at first, as if needing time to wake up, this Sauvignon Blanc is serious. Each aroma has a purity and place that shines in the glass with mandarin orange, lime, grapefruit, fresh mountain herbs and a flinty minerality. The palate is bright and vivid with a focus on mixed citrus flavors that are complemented by savory notes and mouthwatering acidity on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 **Cantina Kurtatsch 2020 Brenntal Gewürztraminer Riserva (Alto Adige)**. For full review see page 17. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Kettmeir 2022 Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige)**. For full review see page 18. Santa Margherita USA.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 **Cantina Terlano 2022 Winkl Sauvignon (Alto Adige)**. The Winkl Sauvignon Blanc shines out of the glass with scents of magnolia, passion fruit, lime leaf and mixed citrus. Very bright on the palate with a lifted nature that pops with ripe grapefruit flavors topped with crunchy sea salt on the electric and nervy finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

91 **Englar 2021 Fumé Sauvignon Blanc (Alto Adige)**. This Sauvignon Blanc lifts from the glass with aromas of grapefruit, fresh herbs and crushed stone. Bright and finely textured, as flavors of lime and lemon zip across the crunchy palate, finishing with a crushed stone minerality. Bizou Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Englar 2020 St. Sebastian Pinot Blanc Riserva (Alto Adige)**. Aromas of spiced pears with cinnamon, clove and vanilla jump from the glass. Rich and full in body with new oak spice leading the way while orchard fruits and roasted citrus peel wait in the wings for time to do its magic on this wine. Drink now–2035. Bizou Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 **Peter Zemmer 2022 Chardonnay (Alto Adige)**. This Alpine Chardonnay shows the beauty of bright sun and cool nights opening with aromas of lemon curd and baked apple with subtle notes of crushed stone and pressed flowers. The layered palate offers quince, pear and a flinty minerality yielding a textural complexity to the wine. A wine suited

for the main stage of the dinner table. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Andriano 2022 Floreado Sauvignon Blanc (Alto Adige)**. This wine screams out of the glass with its bright and fresh grapefruit, lime, parsley and white flower aromas. Fresh and crunchy on the palate with zippy acidity, showing passion fruit, star fruit and lime blossom flavors finishing with a bitter orange and salty note. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 **Cantina Terlano 2021 Quarz Sauvignon (Alto Adige)**. Heady aromas of orange, grapefruit and peach lift from the glass, quickly followed by fresh mountain flowers and a hint of flint. The palate is a roller coaster of flavors that span from mixed citrus zest to fresh green herbs to caramelized pineapple and then back again. Textured and layered, each sip shows another depth to the wine with a chiseled rocky finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

DELLE VENEZIE

93 **Italo Cescon 2020 TesiRare GrigioRamato Skin Contact Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie)**. Copper in color due to the slight maceration, this Pinot Grigio pops with aromas of wild cherries, lemon, apple and wildflowers. The palate has an energy that makes you want to dig deeper into the wine with hints of rose and flint that entice finishing with fine tannins. A versatile food wine ... challenge yourself. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

92 **Italo Cescon 2022 Il Tralcetto Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie)**. Pinot Grigio as it should be: layered, aromatic, interesting and inviting. The wine shows aromas of white peach, lemon, pressed yellow flowers and sea salt. Elegant on the palate with a creamy, leesy texture that pops with lemon curd and candied lime zest on the stony mineral finish. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. *Best Buy*. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

92 **Italo Cescon 2021 TesiRare BiancoGrigio Integro (Delle Venezie)**. This organically grown wine opens with aromas of lemon and lime zest, citrus blossom and sea salt. The tart sour lemon palate pops with verve and electricity as the creamy texture balances the wine. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 **Cantina de Pra 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie)**. Aromas of fresh laundry with lemon and lime spritzed on top pop out of the glass of this lively white wine. The palate is forward and fruity with a ripe fruit salad flavor finishing dry

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with an almond note. Copa Fina Imports CA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Guinigi 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Gentle aromas of white flowers, orchard fruit and lemon zest open the nose of this Pinot Grigio. Bone dry on the palate with a rounded texture with flavors of Bosc pear and an oyster shell minerality. 3 Badge Beverage. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Ruffino 2022 Lumina Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Freshly cut apples with a touch of lemon and yellow flowers define the nose of this Pinot Grigio. Crunchy on the palate with a steely minerality on the finish. Ruffino Import Company. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

86 Primaterra 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie). Lifted and bright aromas of fresh lemons and limes with fresh white flowers. Light and crisp on the palate showing flavors of fresh and dried apples finishing with a slight almond note. Kinda sweet on the finish. Oracles Craft Brands. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Falkenstein 2019 Alte Rebe Riesling (Südtirol Vinschgau). Aromas of quince, apricot preserves, petrol and chiseled stone define the nose of this archetype of a Riesling. The well-structured palate shows how serious this estate takes their old-vine Riesling. The fruit is there but as an accent, not the lead. Mouthwatering acidity and a mineral edge drive the palate with a firmness and energy that is refreshing to both the palate and mind. Drink now–2040. Polaner Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 I Feudi di Romans 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli Isonzo). The nose of this Pinot Grigio is driven by a crushed stone minerality with fresh orchard fruit and preserved lemon peel. Rounded on the palate with savory herbs and a beautiful structure that shows the savory side of Pinot Grigio. Perfect with roast chicken, pork or swordfish! Brand Italia. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castelfeder 2021 Mont Mès Gewürztraminer (Mitterberg). Rosewater, lychee and bergamot pour from the glass of this deeply aromatic and exotic wine. The palate and the nose are in lockstep with a hint of spice that sneaks up on you. Perfect for your spicy meal or with some sort of coconut accent. Volio Vino. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Vigneti Le Monde 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). This golden Pinot Grigio wafts out of the glass with aromas of fresh apples, pressed jasmine, a hint of ginger and flint. A wine that strikes a pose

on the palate with dried orchard fruits, lemon peel and peach pit with a crushed stone minerality on the dry finish. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Bollini 2022 Barricato 40 Chardonnay (Trentino). Opening with aromas of baked lemon, Fuji apple and a touch of cream, this mountain Chardonnay aims to please. A solid core of orchard fruit is balanced by a vibrant vein of acidity keeping the palate fresh and the wine electric with each sip. A good aperitivo or great with a fresh composed salad or grilled white fish. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Castelfeder 2022 Raif (Vigneti delle Dolomiti). Opening with aromas of orange peel, tarragon and aromatic white flowers, this Sauvignon Blanc is screaming for attention. Crunchy and zippy on the palate with loads of mixed citrus notes, passion fruit and a slight bitter herbal note finishing with a salty minerality. Volio Vino. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Cesarini Sforza NV Brut Rosé (Trento). Aromas of fresh mixed red berries, strawberry leaf and roses waft from the glass of this sparkler. Electric on the palate with a tart cherry core that finishes with a flinty minerality, zippy acidity and tight bubbles. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

NORTHEAST ITALY RED WINES

ALTO ADIGE

93 Andriano 2020 Anrar Pinot Noir Riserva (Alto Adige). Expressive from the start, this Pinot Noir opens with aromas of fresh red berries, sweet baking spices and forest floor. The wine takes shape on the palate with an elegance that belies its youthfulness, as the flavors of cherry, clove, vanilla and fresh earth all work in harmony on the vibrant finish. Banville Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

93 Cantina Terlano 2020 Porphyriserva Lagrein (Alto Adige). This wine is an expressive and great example of Lagrein. The wine opens with aromas of macerated black plums, wildflowers, licorice and black pepper. Savory spices wrap around a core of black- and blue-hued fruit compote on the palate; the wine coats the entire mouth. Elegant tannins and fresh acidity keep the wine in balance and ready for the next glass. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$94

92 Cantina Terlano 2021 Monticcol Riserva Pinot Noir (Alto Adige). Cranberry, tea leaf and savory herbs swirl in the glass of this serious Pinot Noir. Crunch and tart red-fruit flavors pop at the

top of the palate as a rush of earthy and savory notes give great depth and seriousness to the wine. Well-structured and built to last. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Cantina Terlano 2021 Siebeneich Riserva Merlot (Alto Adige). This Mountain Merlot shows its dedication to Bordeaux while holding on to its innate Alto Adige identity. As the wine opens, aromas of black plum, herbal tea, tobacco and mixed spices lift from the glass. Elegant and balanced, the wine shines with restrained fruit and balanced tannins, finishing with a crushed stone minerality. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Castelfeder 2021 Mazon Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). Cran-apple, dried porcini, cinnamon and black tea aromas waft from the glass of this classy Pinot Noir. The palate is rounded and mouthfilling with ample red cherry notes that are balanced by dried leaves, savory spice and fine tannins. Volio Vino. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 Andriano 2022 Tradition Pinot Noir (Alto Adige). Warmed Bing cherry aromas leap from the glass as rosewood, sage and fresh flowers follow. The wine shows a playful side on the palate with vibrant acidity that lifts the red berry flavors while the earthy notes provide well-timed bass notes that make this wine ripe for any number of dishes. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Castelfeder 2021 Glen Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). The Glen bottling showcases the art of balancing fruit and savory opening with aromas of spiced dried cherries, chai spices and turned earth. Well-structured with pristine red fruits, the palate pops with zippy acidity and finishes with elegant tannins. Volio Vino. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Andriano 2022 Bocado (Alto Adige). Fresh floral aromas swoon around the glass as sour red-berry notes mingle with black tea notes on the nose of this pretty wine. Mouthwatering and crunchy, the palate is loaded with raspberry, cherry and wild herbs. Add a chill and try this with your next plate of cured meats or pan-roasted fish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Andriano 2020 Gant Merlot Riserva (Alto Adige). Aromas of blackberry jam, cinnamon, clove and blackberry waft from the glass of this savory wine. This wine shows how Alto Adige's cool nights give the wines an elegant side as the palate's fine tannins frame the rounded plum flavors alongside baking spice, graphite and crushed stone minerality. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

90 Cantina Terlano 2022 Pinot Noir (Alto Adige). This classic Alpine Pinot Noir lifts from the glass with aromas of cherry, cranberry, drying leaves and herbs. The palate is well-integrated with each sip exploring earthy notes with vibrant fresh red berries all woven together by elegant tannins and electric acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Cantina Terlano 2021 Gries Riserva Lagrein (Alto Adige). Big, bold and beautiful, this wine states its case plainly with forward aromas of blackberry, violets, licorice and crushed stone. Seemingly hedonistic, the wine restrains itself on the palate with gamy and savory flavors that draw the attention deeper into the wine as it continues to develop with each minute in the glass finishing with a firm stamp of tannins on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castelfeder 2022 Mont Mès Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). This wine shows why warm days and cool nights are exactly what grapes love. Aromas of cranberry, sour cherry, fresh herbs and crushed stones lift from the glass of this wine. The crunchy palate is mouthwatering with a purity of fruit that finishes with a savory and earthy note that screams for mushrooms, game or cheese. Volio Vino. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Andriano 2022 Rubeno Lagrein (Alto Adige). As the wine is poured the aromas immediately lift out showing black plum, dried cherry, candied violet and white pepper. A classic take on the grape, the wine showcases the round and plush nature of the grape on the palate with the piquant flavor that gives the wine its verve. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Andriano 2020 Tor di Lupo Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). This wine needs a bit of time in the glass to fully express itself but if you show patience the wine will reward. It opens with aromas of spiced black plums, macerated blueberries, dried violets and amaro-like herbs. Plump and forward, the palate aims to please with juicy mixed berry flavors alongside anise and bitter herbs that provide a contrast to the rich fruitiness finishing just a tad hot. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

89 Bozen 2018 Thalman Pinot Nero Riserva (Alto Adige). This wine shows aromas of savory spices, turned earth and aged balsamic drizzled on strawberries. Macerated cherries, sweet spice and black tea flavors shine on the lush and rounded palate. MatchVino LLC. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Caldaro 2022 Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). This Pinot Noir shows the more earth-driven side of the grape with aromas of turned earth, dried herbs, leaves and porcini with hints of dried cher-

ries in the background. Elegant with a rounded texture on the palate, the wine gives a masterclass on umami. Paired with earthy and savory flavors, your meal will be complete. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). Crushed strawberry and cranberry aromas lift from the glass as hints of dried leaf, wild thyme and rosebud reveal themselves with some air. Fine tannins and vibrant acidity frame the tart red fruit and savory flavors that define the palate. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Bozen 2022 Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). Aromas of fresh mixed wild berries, baking spices and wildflowers open the nose of this fresh Pinot Noir. Mouthfilling and very forward with juicy cherry and raspberry flavors that pop on the palate as subtle earthy notes give balance. MatchVino LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Castelfeder 2021 Buchholz Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). High-toned aromas of sour cherry, medicinal herbs and savory spice slowly lift from the glass of this Pinot Noir. Light, refreshing and vibrant on the palate, the wine shines with a balanced mix of subtle earthiness and forward ripe red fruits. Volio Vino. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2022 Lagrein (Alto Adige). This heavily spiced Lagrein leaps out of the glass with aromas of black plum, tobacco, clove, white pepper and anise. The lush palate yields flavors of game, forest floor and macerated black cherries with a hint of cinnamon on the rounded finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

VENEZIA GIULIA

92 I Clivi 2020 Schioppettino (Venezia Giulia). Not the easiest grape to say, but it sure is tasty. This lifted and aromatic red from Friuli pops from the glass with aromas of wild brambly berries, fresh purple flowers and a kiss of peppercorn. Medium in body giving flavors of cranberry and dried herbs finishing with a solid tannic structure that begs to be paired with a fondue or braised pork on polenta. Oliver McCrum Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Schiopetto 2021 Merlot (Venezia Giulia). Aromas of plum, blackberries, dried leaves and espresso all dusted with sweet baking spices define the nose of this well-made Merlot. Rich fruit with a taut structure and firm tannins keeps the wine from being too much, finishing with savory and sweet baking spices. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Volpe Pasini 2022 Cabernet (Venezia Giulia). Forward aromas of dripping ripe plums, macerated blueberries, wild herbs and blue violets lift from the glass of this wine. A Cabernet for now, its lifted palate pops with a freshness of fruit and sweet baking spices making this a wine for today or tonight! Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER RED WINES

90 Castelvechio 2021 Cabernet Franc (Carso). This wine opens with aromas of a campfire that crescendos into roasted cherries, grilled bell peppers and dried violets. Savory, with flavors that feel warm and worn, like a perfect leather coat as dark plum notes give the wine a plushness to offset all the savory elements. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Castelvechio 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carso). The Carso is one of the most singular places in the world of wine. This Cabernet Sauvignon shines in this terroir with aromas of baked blackberries, freshly sharpened pencils, woody herbs and crushed stone. Concentrated and rich on the palate, there is a welcomed rush of acidity that freshens the palate as cassis, leather and tobacco dance together. A wine for those looking for savory and earthy. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Primaterra 2022 Pinot Nero (Trevenezie). A bowl of fresh cherries, strawberry leaf and spiced tea aromas pop out of the glass of this fresh and easy wine. Crunch and tart red fruits lead the palate as this Pinot offers a lot of fun on the elegant and soft finish. Oracles Craft Brands. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

88 Vigneti Le Monde 2020 (Friuli). This wine's aromas trigger images of a pipe tobacco store, spiced with dried fruits, herbs and worn leather. Velvety with turned earth flavors, well-integrated tannins and a gamy finish. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

VENETO WHITE WINES

93 Italo Cescon 2020 Madre (Veneto). Preserved lemon, lemon verbena and crushed stone aromas define the nose of this extremely intriguing wine. A wine driven by texture that is more akin to well-worn corduroy, it feels at home. Flavors of peach, lemon rind and a salty minerality finish off this complete and deserving wine. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Gianni Tessari 2022 Chardonnay (Veneto). This golden-hued Chardonnay hints at its

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richness the moment it is poured with aromas of roasted hazelnut, baked apples, tropical fruits and baking spices. The zippy palate pops with flavors of mixed citrus, both fresh and preserved. The wine finishes with a pithy bitterness that is very pleasant alongside roast chicken or curried cauliflower. Grapes to Glass. —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Tenuta Santa Maria 2021 Torre Pieve Chardonnay (Veronese). Baked apples, lemon curd, oak spice and pressed yellow flower aromas bound out of the glass of this forward Chardonnay. Medium-bodied with flavors of spiced pear, honey and a roasted almond note on the finish. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

SOAVE

93 Bertani 2021 (Soave). For full review see page 12. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

93 Gianni Tessari 2021 Perinato Cru Pigno (Soave Classico). A shining example of the volcanic soils of Soave Classico as this wine erupts, pun intended, with smoky aromas that lure you into a fresh basket of ripe apricots, candied citrus peel, fresh herbs and pressed yellow flowers. The rounded palate maintains the mineral edge as mandarin orange and dried peach flavors lead to a savory and salty finish. Drink now–2033. Grapes to Glass. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Acinum 2022 (Soave Classico). Wafting aromas of Bosc pear, pressed white flowers and golden honey lift from the glass of this pretty Soave Classico. A tantalizing combination of orchard and stone fruit greets the palate as tufts of crushed stone and salty minerality show the serious side of this wine, finishing with a pleasant almond finish. Vias Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.

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

88 Tenuta Santa Maria 2022 Lepiga (Soave). Fresh apple aromas combine with hints of white flowers on the nose of this gentle Soave. Fleshy orchard and stone fruit flavors drive the palate as subtle notes of lemon pith and balanced almond are found on the finish. Fresh and tasty. Indigenous Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

PROSECCO

90 BiancaVigna 2022 Brut (Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). Aromas of apple blossom, orange peel and pear glide out of the glass of this pretty Prosecco. Light on the palate with a pop of acidity showing flavors of mixed citrus

and a hint of saline with a vibrant and persistent perlage. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Fidora NV Tenuta Cirvanetta Spumante Brut (Prosecco). Bright green apple aromas surrounded by light white floral aromas and peach pop out of the glass of this fresh sparkler. Candied lemon and nectarine shine on the palate with a hint of flint on the finish. Baron Francois Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$22

89 Loredan Gasparini NV Brut (Asolo Prosecco Superiore). This Prosecco exudes elegance, with bright notes of green apple, pear and a hint of white flowers wafting from the glass. Its refreshing, lively and energetic palate gives lemon zest, white peach and a flinty minerality on the zippy finish. Vinity Wine Company. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

88 Canella NV (Prosecco). The aromas of a bushel of apples and fresh wildflowers give this wine its vivacious character. The bright and refreshing palate pops with fresh and candied lemon zest finishing with a crunchy acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

88 Valdo NV Floral Rosé Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco). Delicate and floral, this Prosecco delivers a bouquet of wildflowers and strawberries. It's lively and crisp, offering a refreshing palate of red berries and a hint of citrus zest finishing with a soft and gentle perlage. C. Mondavi and Family. —J.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Villa Sandi NV Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). This Prosecco is a lively and effervescent delight, offering notes of green apple, pear and delicate white flowers. It's refreshing and crisp on the palate with candied lemon and tart apricot with an invigorating finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

87 Canella NV Lido Brut (Prosecco). As the name suggests, this wine is meant for the beach. It is fresh, fragrant and easy, loaded with ripe apples and lemon candy. The light palate keeps it clean and easy with a touch of sweetness on the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

87 Gabbiano NV Cavaliere d'Oro (Prosecco). Light aromas of green apple, lemon blossom and wet stone pop out of the glass of this festive sparkler. Bright and fresh on the palate with tart orchard fruits and lemon peel finishing with a soft and gentle perlage. Foster's Wine Estates Americas. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

87 Valdo NV Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore). An aromatic delight with a bright apple and a hint of pear opening the nose of

this Prosecco. Vibrant notes of white flowers and citrus on the crisp and lively finish. C. Mondavi and Family. —J.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Caposaldo NV Brut (Prosecco). Crisp green apple aromas pour from the glass as notes of ginger and jasmine chase the fruity freshness of this Prosecco. Light and bright with the Prosecco charm most are looking for with loads of orchard fruits and a touch of citrus. Kobrand. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

86 Piccini NV Extra Dry (Prosecco). Ripe red apples, white peach and lemon blossoms shimmy out of the glass of this Prosecco. The soft palate with gentle bubbles shows more candied citrus and preserved peaches on the slightly sweet finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

85 Bellafina NV (Prosecco). Fresh, fruity and forward, this Prosecco opens with aromas of mixed apples, lemon zest and a faint hint of white flowers. The soft palate shows more fizzy than bubbly with flavors of McIntosh apples on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$13

84 Kim Crawford NV (Prosecco). Light aromas of fresh laundry mixed with waxed red apples and lemon pith define the nose of this easy sparkler. The palate is loaded with candied lemon and lime notes finishing with a creamy perlage. LaForce. —J.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉ

92 Monte del Frà 2022 (Bardolino). Tart strawberry, strawberry leaf and white rose aromas rise from the glass of this pretty wine. Vibrant and more expressive on the palate with a mix of cherry and other red-driven fruit mixed with a hint of orange peel and oil finishing vibrant and refreshing acidity. Vision Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

VENETO RED WINES

89 Gianni Tessari 2022 Pinot Noir (Veneto). Macerated cherries, black tea, fresh mulch and mushrooms waft out of the glass of this Pinot Noir. Driven more by savory elements on the palate, the wine shows flavors of rooibos tea, cinnamon stick and dried hibiscus on the finish. Grapes to Glass. —J.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

VALPOLICELLA

93 Le Ragose 2020 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). For full review see page 14. Carolina Wine Brands USA.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Ilatium Morini 2022 (Valpolicella). As a Valpolicella should be, this wine opens with a mixture of tart red-berried fruits and intense savory herbs and spice. The palate is fresh and vibrant with an energetic acidity that lifts with flavors of sour cherries, dried chilies and flowers, ending with soft tannins. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Prà 2021 Morandina (Valpolicella). Fresh cherry aromas fill the bowl of the glass as hints of dried leaves, dried herbs and savory spice punctuate the lifted nature of this wine. Crunchy red fruits pop on the palate as tobacco and pepper counterbalance the fruit, finishing with an earthy note and vibrant acidity. Polaner Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Castellani Michele & Figli 2022 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). This juicy wine pops out of the glass with aromas of wild plums, fresh violets and tobacco leaf. Fun and fresh with mixed fruits both tart and plump on the palate with savory dried herbs and turned earth on the soft finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Marchesi Fumanelli 2019 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore). This wine opens with aromas of warmed black plum preserves, star anise, bay leaf, tobacco and espresso bean. The palate is lush and rich with notes of black cherry compote, dried sage, cocoa powder and finishing with fine tannins and dark earth tones. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Speri 2022 (Valpolicella Classico). Intense aromas of macerated raspberry, tart plum, fresh herbs and violets bound out of the glass with the eagerness of a new puppy. Savory herbs with grilled cherries and black tea flavors make this wine a great pairing for an earth-driven dish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Zonin 2020 (Valpolicella Ripasso Superiore). Plum, cherry and sweet spice pop out of the glass of this pretty and fresh wine. Rounded on the palate with notes of fig, black raspberry jam, coffee and black tea. The finish is super intriguing with loads of savory notes that make you rush for a plate of roast/braised meat or earthy veggies. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Castellani Michele & Figli 2019 San Michele (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). This wine opens with an interesting mix of aromas,

with dried cherry, cacao, espresso, rosemary and wild mushrooms. The wine shows a good core of red fruits but the spotlight is on the savory and earthy tones that drive the wine to the mouthwatering finish. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Le Ragose 2021 (Valpolicella Classico). For full review see page 27. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 SalvaTerra 2020 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). Aromas of candied cherry, cocoa powder and espresso mix with dried rosemary and sage on the nose of this wine. The bright palate shines with sour cherry, cola nut and toasted hazelnuts finishing with a tobacco earthiness, fine tannins and zippy acidity. Salvaterra USA. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tedeschi 2022 Lucchine (Valpolicella). Driven by aromas of fresh rose and violet with hints of strawberry and cranberry in the background, this wine shines on the nose. The tart red berries shine on the palate finishing with a hint of pepper and freshly turned earth. Tedeschi USA. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Bottega 2022 (Valpolicella Classico). Plum, mulberry, dried leaves and wild mushroom aromas spread across the glass as the wine takes shape on the nose. Lush and rounded on the palate but with the acidity to back it up. The wine is loaded with mixed blue and purple fruits and enough herbal and roasted coffee notes to give it more dimension. Palm Bay International. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Dal Cero 2021 (Valpolicella). Crushed cherries, thyme and turned earth aromas define the nose of this classic Valpolicella. Easy and forward on the palate with tart red fruits and fresh pops of acidity that freshen the palate with each sip. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Santi 2018 Ventale (Valpolicella Superiore). Smoked and roasted plum with sage and black tea lift from the glass of this red wine. Spiced cake notes mixed with tart red berries bounce between earthy and herbal flavors finishing with fine tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Tenuta Santa Maria 2019 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso). Aromas of wild forest berry jam, violets and rosemary open the nose of this spiced red wine. The palate shows more tart fruits with savory and camphor notes, finishing with soft tannins. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

87 Giuliano Rosati 2021 (Valpolicella). Aromas of cherries and tart blueberries leap out of the glass with savory and sweet spices following as the wine begins to open. The palate shows a balance between tart red fruits and earthy elements, finishing with fine tannins and slight tobacco leaf note. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

92 Monte del Frà 2018 Tenuta Lena di Mezzo (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Lifted aromas of black cherry, spiced cake, cocoa powder, fresh violets and freshly roasted coffee lift from the glass. The well-structured palate has fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity that balance the ripe plum compote flavors finishing with savory herb and dark earthy notes. Drink 2026–2040. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Nicolis 2015 Ambrosan Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). For full review see page 19. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 16% **Price:** \$130

91 Fidora 2015 Monte Tabor (Amarone della Valpolicella). Aromas of mocha, black cherry, dried violets and sandalwood lift from the glass of this pretty Amarone. The wine strikes a balance between savory and fruity flavors, giving the wine depth and complexity with dried leaf, anise and black plum notes framed by elegant tannins. Drink now–2035. Baron Francois Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$75

91 Monte del Frà 2017 Scarnocchio Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Upfront aromas cascade out of the glass with preserved strawberries and black cherry leading the way while hints of candied violet, cedar and tobacco follow. Full-bodied with gentle tannins and a massive core of plum and fig yielding to notes of forest floor and sweet baking spices on the finish. Drink now–2035. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$100

90 Monte Faustino 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Explosive aromas of black plum, violet, baking spices and espresso open the nose of this intense Amarone. The wine coats the palate with preserved black cherries dusted in licorice and white pepper with forest floor notes finishing with elegant tannins. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$75

90 Nicolis 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Blackberries macerated in spirits spiced with thyme, clove and candied violets all leap from the glass of this lush Amarone. At first sip the wine is all about concentrated black-skinned fruits but black pepper, star anise, sage and espresso notes

BUYINGGUIDE

take command on the well-balanced finish. Drink now–2035. Ethica Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$90

90 Rubinelli Vajol 2016 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). A combination of sweet spices and blueberry preserves opens the nose of this expressive Amarone. Hints of cocoa powder, blue flowers and tobacco emerge as the wine opens. Well-balanced with fine-grained tannins, the palate gives plump plums, bay leaf, white pepper and roasted coffee flavors on the extended finish. Drink now–2035. Village Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 16% Price: \$75

88 Montesor 2019 (Amarone della Valpolicella). This Amarone opens with intense violet aromas, forest floor, tobacco and blackberry compote. Drinkable now, the palate is lush with balanced and bright acidity that showcases the spiced black cherry flavors, finishing with soft tannins. Drink now–2035. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

88 Tenuta Santa Maria 2017 Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). This Amarone opens with aromas of plum jam, sweet spices and candied violets. Fruit-forward with a savory mid-palate that gives a good balance to the blue and black fruit flavors. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 16% Price: \$89

LOMBARDY

89 Conte Vistarino 2022 Ries Riesling (Oltrepò Pavese). Fleshy aromas of white peach and lemon open the nose of this Riesling with subtle floral hints slow-walking their way out of the glass. Tart citrus flavors drive the palate to the leaner side while having a texture that evokes a dusty gravel road. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

89 Ferghettina 2019 Rosé Brut (Franciacorta). This elegant sparkling wine opens with aromas of strawberry, cranberry and fresh flowers. Crunchy with vibrant acidity, the palate is bright with tart cherries and an elegant perlage. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

PAVIA

93 Cordero San Giorgio 2020 Partù Pinot Nero (Pavia). Oak spices interlaced with dried cherries, sage and wet stone lift from the glass of this spicy Pinot Noir. Firm and structured, the wine's palate is a study in how Pinot Noir can be chiseled, as if sculpted from the limestone from where it was grown. As the wine develops, more generous fruit notes perk up as the vibrant acidity lifts the palate on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$47

93 Cordero San Giorgio 2019 SG '67 Pinot Nero (Pavia). Planted in 1967, this old-vine Pinot Noir shows its class from the first drop with aromas of macerated cherries, black tea, dried rose and a turned earth with hints of chalk. Medium in body, the wine's elegance and texture steal the show. Flavors of mixed berries, spice and earth play their part but then draw it to the essence of the wine, which captivates more and more as the wine develops. Drink now–2035. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

90 Cordero San Giorgio 2021 Tiamat Pinot Nero (Pavia). Vibrant aromas of cranberry, sour cherry, savory spice and an intense floral note that steals the show, define the nose of this pretty Pinot Noir. As the wine flows across the palate, the deft balance between crunchy red fruits and fresh herbs imbues the wine with an energy that drives to the elegant finish that yearns to be served with roast duck, grilled salmon or roasted mushrooms. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

ALTA LANGA

92 Fontanafredda 2017 Contessa Rosa Brut Rosé (Alta Langa). Zesty aromas of blood orange, lemon, wild strawberry and Alpine herbs lift out of the glass. Layered with a creamy texture and superfine bubbles all supporting the tart red berry and crushed stone minerality. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$59

92 Tenuta Rocca 2019 Extra Brut (Alta Langa). Piercing aromas of green apple, lemon zest, crushed stone, pressed white flowers and freshly baked bread drive the nose of this sparkling wine. Well-balanced with a vibrant pop of acidity that gives lift to the wine while the extended lees time broadens the palate. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

88 Banfi 2018 Cuvée Aurora Extra Brut Metodo Classico (Alta Langa). Roasted apples, lemon curd and baking spice aromas lift from this pretty wine. The soft palate shows notes of hazelnut, cream and roasted citrus finishing with a soft perlage. Banfi Vintners. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

88 Cuvage 2019 Millesimato Brut (Alta Langa). Bright aromas of Bartlett pears, cider spice, lemon peel and white flowers waft out of the glass. Rounded on the palate with loads of orchard fruits both fresh and baked finishing with a crushed stone minerality. Cardinal Wine Group. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

88 Guasti Clemente 2019 Clemente Brut (Alta Langa). This refreshing sparkler opens with

aromas of cured lemon peel, fresh green apple, ginger and jasmine. Light on the palate with a stony minerality and crisp apples and lemon zest. Vintage Wine Marketing. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$23

LANGHE

92 Pecchenino 2022 Maestro Chardonnay (Langhe). Pretty and lifted aromas of preserved lemons, white flowers and spice delicately welcome you to this Chardonnay. Driven by mixed orchard fruit on the palate with an impressive texture that is not creamy but gives the wine weight and structure while remaining bright and crisp. A balancing act that is worth your time. Drink now–2033. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Monchiero 2022 (Langhe). Aromas of freshly picked pears, white and yellow flowers and a touch of honey lead the way on this pretty wine. A wine that has weight but enough acidity to not make it feel flabby with white peach, almond and bitter orange on the finish. The Marchetti Co. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

89 Damilano 2020 Chardonnay (Langhe). Golden in color with aromas of roasted apple, baked lemon, cream and warmed honey all dusted with sweet baking spices lifts from the glass of this rich Chardonnay. The broad palate has zippy acidity that keeps the wine fresh among the rich red apple skin, pineapple and hazelnut notes, finishing with a roasted citrus pop. Winebow Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 Malvirà 2015 Treuve (Langhe). This Arneis slowly opens in the glass revealing aromas of lemon peel, pressed yellow flowers, jasmine and pink ginger. Medium in the body, the palate gives notes of orange and light honey and finishes with a slight beeswax note. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

88 Marrone 2022 Tre Fie Arneis (Langhe). This Arneis leaps from the glass with upfront aromas of ripe peaches, candied orange peel and a hint of herbs. The palate is fresh and vibrant, keeping the stone fruit flavors throughout as the wine finishes with a salty minerality and blanched almond note. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

GAVI

93 La Scolca 2009 D'Antan (Gavi). This wine is a selection of the best cuvée of the cellar, blended and then aged longer in the cellar. Golden in color with aromas of baked pear, pressed yellow flowers, roasted almond and gravel. The palate is textured and layered with citrus, mixed nut

and flinty minerality on the long finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$100

92 La Scolca 2017 Black Label Bianco Secco Limited Edition (Gavi). For full review see page 18. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

90 La Scolca 2022 Black Label Bianco Secco (Gavi). Wafting and inviting aromas of citrus blossom, almond and orchard fruits lift from the glass of this classic Piedmontese white. Dry as a bone, the palate is bright but elegant with a flinty minerality and hazelnut-like finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$42

88 Binè 2021 (Gavi). Orange zest with citrus blossom aromas open the nose of this light white. Generous on the palate with a pear skin texture and hints of drying flowers on the easy finish. Wine Icons. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 La Scolca 2021 White Label Bianco Secco (Gavi). Green apple, hay and white flowers subtly define the nose of this classic Gavi. The palate is light and fresh with an orange blossom and citrus peel flavor finishing with a slightly chalky finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Giacosa Fratelli 2022 (Gavi). Light aromas of fresh green pear, lilac and almond breeze out of the glass. The palate is equally as light with green apple skin, crushed green herbs and a hint of seashell minerality. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Icardi 2022 L'Aurora Cortese (Piemonte). Aromas of fresh white flowers, almonds and orange bitters lift from the glass of this delicate white. Exuberant on the palate in contrast to the nose with flavors of stone fruit and candied lemon finishing with a mouthwatering seashell minerality. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Cantine Povero 2022 Il Canapo (Roero Arneis). Floral and peach aromas define the nose of this refreshing Arneis. The palate shows a balance between fleshy and ripe stone fruit and tart citrus flavors giving the wine a unique personality that keeps the palate engaged throughout the entire bottle. Volio Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Giacosa Fratelli 2022 (Roero Arneis). Pale gold in color, this wine opens with aromas of acacia honey, pine, roasted peach and citrus blossom. Pithy citrus notes give the wine a pleasant bit-

terness as dried apricot and a flinty minerality add contrast to the soft finish. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

86 Cuvage 2019 Millesimato Rosé Brut (Nebbiolo d'Alba). Candied strawberries, cotton candy and fresh flowers lead the way on the nose of this wine. Fresh, fruity and fun, the wine is light and crisp with an easy simplicity to it. Cardinal Wine Group. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

PIEDMONT RED WINES

92 Cantine Garrone 2020 Prùnent Dicibente Valli Ossolane (Piedmont). Earth-driven aromas and savory herbs open the nose of this wine. Dried red cherry, spiced tea and crushed stone create a meditative experience on the palate that deserves to be alongside roasted savory dishes. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Cantine Garrone 2021 Prùnent Valli Ossolane (Piedmont). Earth-driven aromas and savory herbs open the nose of this wine. Dried red cherry, spiced tea and crushed stone create a meditative experience on the palate that deserves to be alongside roasted dishes with savory herbs and mushrooms. Polaner Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Cantine Garrone 2022 Munaloss (Piedmont). This intensely floral wine leaps from the glass as a fresh bouquet of blue and purple flowers followed by plum and savory spice. Medium in body showcasing mixed blue and purple fruits and supple tannins. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 La Scolca 2019 Pinot Nero (Piemonte). Candied sour cherry, medicinal herbs and star anise aromas open the nose of this easy Pinot Noir. Supple and elegant, the wine shines with dried red fruits and roasted mushrooms on the earthy finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

86 La Raia 2022 Barbera (Piemonte). The wine instantly stains that glass an inky purple as heady aromas of cooked black plum, vanilla, violets and anise spill from the glass. The palate shifts gears with sour plum flavors complemented by dried rosemary, sage and thyme as dusty earthy notes and fine tannins complete the wine. OPC International. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 Marengo 2017 Albarossa (Piemonte). Opaque and extremely concentrated in color, this wine has aromas of baked cherries and plums with licorice. Intense, the palate is rich and full-bodied with notes of fig jam, warmed spices

and dried roses with fine tannins on the finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

84 Sansilvestro 2021 Appassimento Passito Barbera (Piemonte). This Barbera is unique in that the grapes are dried prior to fermentation. This process produced an intensely rich and concentrated wine with aromas of candied plum, cherry jam and candied violets. Blackberry pie filling and sweet spices drive the overt and overextracted palate. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

GATTINARA

92 Travaglini 2018 Riserva (Gattinara). Aromas of dark spiced cherries combine with tea leaves and strawberry top on this wine worth dwelling on. Elegant on the palate with a refined but firm tannic structure that holds the candied cherry fruit in balance while the savory and herbal elements give more nuance on the mouthwatering finish. Drink 2025–2040. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Travaglini 2020 (Gattinara). This classic Gattinara opens with aromas of dried sour cherries, rosebud, sweet and savory spices and a hint of dried herbs. Well-balanced between savory and fruity elements, the wine's mouthwatering acidity and fine tannins build the framework for the wine to be enjoyable today and into the future. Drink now–2040. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

91 Travaglini 2017 Riserva (Gattinara). Crushed strawberries, wild berries and wild herbs define the aromas of this northern Piedmont red from Gattinara. Mouthfilling with a bold tannic structure shaping the palate to yield fewer dried cherry flavors and more savory herbs and spiced tea on the lifted and earthy finish. Drink 2025–2040. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Travaglini 2019 Il Sogno (Gattinara). Candied and macerated raspberry and sweet spice aromas drive the nose of this wine. Lush and forward on the palate, the wine shows liquored cherries, baking spices and fine oak tannins on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$137

87 Il Chiosso 2019 (Gattinara). Dark earthy aromas with intense mushroom and wet stone open the nose of this wine. As it develops in the glass hints of dried flowers and macerated cherries emerge. The structured palate is savory with roasted herb flavors and smoked plums finishing with a smoky minerality. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

LANGHE

90 Pelassa 2020 Corte Enrichetta (Langhe). This blend of Nebbiolo and Barbera wafts out of the glass, showcasing the fresh aromas of high-toned red fruits with hints of rose and violets and incense on the nose. The palate is crunchy and fruit-forward with fine tannins and crunchy acidity. RGB Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2010 Virtus (Langhe). Macerated and roasted plums, blackberry jam and sweet baking spices combine in the glass to open the nose of the Barbera and Cabernet Sauvignon Blend. Lush and rich on the palate with a creamy chocolate-covered cherry flavor followed by notes of espresso, tobacco and worn leather with savory herbs on the fine-crafted finish. Drink now–2030. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

88 Rocca Giovanni 2021 Rucat (Langhe). A 50/50 blend of Barbera and Nebbiolo, this wine lifts out of the glass with fresh floral aromas that quickly grab the attention, as tart red fruits and subtle earthy notes develop over time. Lush and rounded on the palate with hints of plum, preserved cherries with soft and fine tannins. Monsieur Tonton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

BARBERA D'ASTI

91 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2022 (Barbera d'Asti). This fully loaded Barbera pops out of the glass with aromas of ripe and tart plum, cherry, violets, turned earth and savory herbs. The palate continues the expressiveness found on the nose with the addition of a spiced tea and bay leaf finishing with zippy acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Marchesi Alfieri 2021 La Tota (Barbera d'Asti). Black plums, mixed spices and violets combine like a supergroup in this classy Barbera. The wine presents a forward fruitiness at first but then a cascade of savory and earth tones show up bringing the wine into balance. Crunchy acidity and fine tannins play their parts while not stealing the show. Terra Madre Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Mauro Molino 2022 Leradici (Barbera d'Asti). Intense in color, this Barbera wafts out of the glass with aromas of plum jam, dried violets and savory spices. A firm backbone on the palate provides space for poached plums, cherries and mulling spice finishing with polished tannins and vibrant acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Cantine Sant'Agata 2021 Altea (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Aiming to make friends, this Barbera opens with aromas of blackberries macerated in spirits, violet candy and sweet spices. Broad across the palate with the needed acidity to balance the rich plum and black cherry flavors, while savory herbs and dried wild herbs give a nudge of complexity to the wine. Canon de Colorado. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Marchesi Alfieri 2020 Alfiera (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Roasted black plums with grilled herbs and black pepper define the nose of this heady Barbera. A wine that is out to impress with every note turned up and wanting to be noticed, yielding a fruity, forward and rich wine that is a crowd-pleaser. Terra Madre Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

87 Guasti Clemente 2019 Boschetto Vecchio (Barbera d'Asti Superiore). Lifted and pretty aromas of sweet cherries, clove, cola, anise and violets swirl in the glass of this Barbera. The polished palate shines with juicy plums, sweet tea and warmed baking spices with a dusty earth-driven finish. Vintage Wine Marketing. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Cantine Povero 2022 Contrada Maestra (Barbera d'Asti). A wine that wants to be noticed, this Barbera showcases intense aromas of black plum, anise and blue flowers. Firm, with a distinct oak note, black cherry flavors drive the palate alongside the intense baking spice that dries out the palate. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Guasti Clemente 2022 Desideria (Barbera d'Asti). Cherry jam, confected sour berries and vanilla aromas lead the way on this forward Barbera. The rounded palate has a creamy texture with crushed wild berries finishing with a kiss of acidity. Vintage Wine Marketing. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

84 Franco Roero 2021 Carbone (Barbera d'Asti). Black cherry compote and sweet spices rise from the glass of this easy Barbera. The palate mirrors the nose with the addition of a heavy hand of perceptible alcohol on the astringent finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

NIZZA

89 Guasti Clemente 2019 Barcarato Riserva (Nizza). This Barbera leaps out of the glass with intense violet aromas that are supported by grilled cherry, roasted herbs and turned earth notes. The wine balances the heady aromas with dark red berry flavors and brooding earthy notes with a mouthwatering finish. Vintage Wine Marketing. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Aresca 2020 San Luigi (Nizza). This Barbera jumps from the glass with plum compote, baking spice, cedar and dried violets. Juicy and very forward on the palate, the wine has a deep core of lush blue and black fruits and a subtle earthiness. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Guasti Clemente 2020 Laficaia (Nizza). This super-concentrated Barbera opens with fig and plum jam, baking spices and violet extract. Lush and round on the palate with a creamy texture and hints of black cherry pie filling finishing with a dusty chalky minerality. Vintage Wine Marketing. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

BARBARESCO

99 Produttori del Barbaresco 2016 Riserva Don Fiorino (Barbaresco). For full review see page 3. Vias Imports. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140

97 Gaja 2020 Sorì Tildin (Barbaresco). First produced in 1970, the 50th vintage of Sorì Tildin shows the grace and magic of this vineyard alongside the dedication of the Gaja family to sheer excellence. Savory aromas and dark-skinned fruits define the nose of the wine with hints of warmed spices, dried orange peel and iron as the wine develops in the glass. A wine that is exact and focused with vibrant plum flavors at the center with notes of forest floor, anise and dried rose. Fine elegant tannins provide a foundation that will carry this wine well into the future. Drink 2026–2050. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$960

96 Gaja 2020 Costa Russi (Barbaresco). Dynamic and lifted, the Costa Russi's nose is layered in floral aromas of dried rose, lavender and purple lily that coast over the glass. As the wine develops, notes of strawberry, licorice and forest floor slowly surface. This vintage shines with elegant tannins and lifted acidity that keeps the palate bright with vibrant tart red fruits, savory spice and wild herbs on the elegant finish. Drink 2026–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$877

96 Gaja 2020 Sorì San Lorenzo (Barbaresco). The Sorì San Lorenzo vineyard, first produced in 1967, proves itself to be the boldest and most forward of the 2020 single crus. Aromas of black cherry, macerated raspberries, incense and black tea define the nose. Mouthfilling, the wine's palate shines with preserved red berries, savory herbs, dried flowers and cedar that seamlessly coalesce around the ripe tannins and elegant finish. Drink 2025–2050. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$1056

96 Rizzi 2020 Rizzi (Barbaresco). The aromas of this Barbaresco are like a softly focused

black and white photo that has you doing double takes, as dried cherry, black tea and dried herbs entice you into the glass. Tart red-berried fruits that are perfectly ripe shine on the palate while savory spices and forest floor-like notes elevate the wine to the next level as supple tannins dance across the palate. Drink now–2035. The Sorting Table. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

95 **Produttori del Barbaresco 2019 (Barbaresco)**. For full review see page 7. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

95 **Rizzi 2020 Pajorè (Barbaresco)**. The wines of Rizzi are crafted with elegance and finesse; this wine's aromas capture that intent with black cherry, star anise, fresh bay leaf and sandalwood. Mixed berries both dried and preserved wrap around savory spices, black tea and an earthiness that plays in the background giving a darker finish. Fine tannins provide enough grip to hold the wine back enough so it does not get ahead of itself before it is ready. Drink 2026–2040. The Sorting Table. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 **Ceretto 2020 Asili (Barbaresco)**. For full review see page 8. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 **Gaja 2020 (Barbaresco)**. Blended across 14 vineyards, this wine shows the class, beauty and vitality of the noble Nebbiolo grown in the soils of Barbaresco. The wine opens with aromas of ripe cherries, warmed strawberries in sweet spices, fresh herbs and mixed flowers. The palate is lifted and vibrant with a verve that electrifies the palate as flavors of boysenberry, dried blood orange and black tea saunter about alongside well-integrated tannins, making this wine drinkable now but ready for the cellar. Drink now–2045. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$367

94 **Michele Chiarlo 2020 Asili (Barbaresco)**. The beauty of the Chiarlo Barbarescos is how they coax such beautiful aromas out of their wines, and this wine is no exception with captivating aromas of Marasca cherries, macerated raspberries, wild rose and bay leaf. Pristine flavors of wild red-berry preserves, sweet tea and cedar finishing with elegant tannins and crisp acidity. Drink now–2040. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$91

94 **Michele Chiarlo 2020 Faset (Barbaresco)**. Pure and vibrant aromas of cranberry and wild strawberry lift from the glass as hints of thyme, forest floor and crushed chalk slowly surface. The palate's core is defined by the electric and vivid wild red-fruit flavors that zoom in and out of focus as savory and earth elements provide counterbalance while superfine tannins hold the wine together, fin-

ishing with a charm and finesse. Drink now–2035. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

94 **Rizzi 2020 Nervo (Barbaresco)**. Aromas of macerated raspberries waft from the glass of this beautiful wine with drying rose petals, orange peel and sweet spices following. A near masterpiece on the palate with an ebb and flow of tart red fruits, flowers, savory herbs and dried leaves all melding together finishing with soft tannins and lifted acidity. Drink now–2035. The Sorting Table. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 **Rizzi 2018 Vigna Boito Riserva (Barbaresco)**. Vigna Boito sits at the top of the Rizzi cru and shows depth, intensity and power. This wine opens with candied plum, violet, licorice and cedar aromas. Concentrated on the palate with a balance between power and elegance, showing flavors of macerated plums with anise and clove with oolong tea and dark earthy notes on the long and firm finish. Drink 2025–2045. The Sorting Table. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$125

93 **Vietti 2019 Roncaglie Masseria (Barbaresco)**. Alluring aromas of warmed strawberries, bay leaf, mint and crushed chalk lift from the glass of this pretty Barbaresco. Tart red-berried fruits pop and sprint across the palate as savory and earthy elements slowly emerge as the fine tannins and vibrant acidity lift the wine on the finish. Drink now–2040. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 **La Ganghija 2018 (Barbaresco)**. Penetrating aromas of warmed cherries soaked with cinnamon, clove and anise that develop into dried rose petals, forest floor. The palate has a core of savory spice wrapped around drying wild red berries and Alpine herbs framed by well-placed tannins and electric acidity. A wine worthy of the cellar. Drink now–2040. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Icardi 2020 Montubert (Barbaresco)**. This sweetly spiced Barbaresco is charming and vibrant, showing aromas of candied cherries, all-spice, cedar and mixed wild herbs. Elegant tannins create a path for flavors of dried cranberries and dried orange peel to meet with an umami note that ties the wine together. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Pelissero 2019 Tulin (Barbaresco)**. Aromas of cherry and plum pie with sweet baking spices fill the glass as balsam, cedar and sandalwood emerge with more air. Rounded on the palate with juicy mixed berry preserves combined with licorice and turned earth finishing with fine tannins and a long roasted coffee bean note. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

90 **Franco Serra 2020 (Barbaresco)**. Aromas of tart plum jam and spiced cherries open the nose of this pretty Barbaresco developing well with savory herbs and dried mixed floral hints. Classically styled on the palate with flavors of red fruits, blood orange and a crushed stone minerality yielding to fine tannins and crunchy acidity. Drink now–2035. The Marchetti Co. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

89 **Pelissero 2019 Nubiola (Barbaresco)**. Roasted and grilled cherry aromas open the nose of this Barbaresco while sage, rosemary, camphor and dried violets follow suit as the wine opens. Cherry compote takes the stage on the palate as toasted oak spice along with espresso and black tea notes provide a counter to the plump fruitiness, finishing with dusty tannins. Drink 2025–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

88 **Guasti Clemente 2020 San Giuliano (Barbaresco)**. Aromas of forest floor, truffle and black tea dominate the nose of this Barbaresco. The palate showcases flavors of wild sour cherries as woody notes mixed with incense provide a welcomed contrast, while dusty tannins scream for a warm bowl of pasta. Drink now–2035. Vintage Wine Marketing. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 **Pelissero 2019 Vanotu (Barbaresco)**. Aromas of toasted coconut, sweet spices, cherry pie and cedar all swirl in the glass of this forward and plush Barbaresco. Tart Bing cherries pop on the palate with a dusting of espresso, cinnamon and vanilla that are framed by fine oak tannins. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$101

88 **Villadoria 2020 (Barbaresco)**. Aromas of macerated cherry, rosebud jam and wild thyme drive the nose of this pretty Barbaresco. Flavors of cranberry, spiced orange peel and dried leaves create a balanced palate. Drink now–2035. WinesU. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

91 **Monchiero 2021 (Nebbiolo d'Alba)**. Pressed roses and wild raspberry aromas help define the aromas of this charming Nebbiolo. Tart cherry and cranberry flavors open the palate as hints of wild thyme and dried leaf offer savory notes on the easy finish. This is a delightful wine. The Marchetti Co. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

88 **Sansilvestro 2022 Brumo (Nebbiolo d'Alba)**. This Nebbiolo lifts from the glass with elegant aromas of fresh cherries, savory herbs and crushed stone. Dusty earth notes drive the palate while tart red fruits take a backseat and more

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savory elements evolve on the finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Giacosa Fratelli 2021 (Nebbiolo d'Alba). This wine hits all the notes: tart red fruits, savory herbs and chalky minerality. The somewhat astringent palate showcases the wine's tannic nature while dried sour cherry flavors perk up the finish. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

BARBERA D'ALBA

94 Vietti 2021 Vigna Vecchia Scarrone (Barbera d'Alba). As if staring into a purple void, this deep Barbera draws the attention immediately open with aromas of framboise liquor, dried violets and baking spice. Forward, fun and serious at the same time, the wine pops with tart cherry jam and wild herb flavors with vibrant acidity keeping the palate fresh. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Vietti 2021 Vigna Scarrone (Barbera d'Alba). This single-vineyard Barbera pops out of the glass with tart blueberry and boysenberry jam aromas accented by candied violets and savory spices. Round and giving, the wine aims to please while still being serious. Ripe mixed berries combine with dried herbs and finish with such great structure and acidity you might do a double take. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

91 Mauro Molino 2022 (Barbera d'Alba). An array of blue and purple floral aromas leaps from the glass quickly followed by sour plum and mixed spices on this plump and juicy Barbera. Round and plush on the palate with notes of black cherry and dried currants finishing with savory herbs and spices. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Enrico Serafino 2021 Pajena (Barbera d'Alba). A classic Barbera with aromas of wild plum, wildflowers and a subtle earthiness on the nose. Vibrant and fresh on the palate showcasing the ripe black-hued fruit flavors that feel as though they are fresh and crunch due to the electric acidity. The wine finishes with a savory herbal and subtle earthiness. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

88 Giacosa Fratelli 2022 Bussia (Barbera d'Alba). Opening with aromas of spiced cherries, wild plum and dried thyme, this Barbera yields all the classic notes of this grape. Savory at first, unmistakable tart purple-hued fruits pop on the lip-smacking and easy finish. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

87 Poderi Vaiot 2022 Lupestre (Barbera d'Alba). Raspberry jam and sour cherry aromas lift

from the glass as a hint of wildflowers swirl about, lifting the wine even higher. Medium in body with red currant and cranberry flavors finishing with bright acidity. Fresh and supremely drinkable. Soil-air Selection. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

86 Costa di Bussia 2022 Tenuta Arnulfo (Barbera d'Alba). Plum preserve, dried herbs and tree bark aromas drive the nose of this old-school Barbera. Medium in body with a fruit of the forest jam concentration that dominates the palate. Siena Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

BAROLO

98 Vietti 2015 Riserva (Barolo). This vintage is the first time Vietti has made a “best of the best” Riserva only making 5,000 bottles. The wine opens with aromas of dried cherries being reconstituted with sweet spice as hints of truffle, dried violets and bay leaf swirl around. Dynamic and energized on the palate, the wine lifts off with higher-toned red fruits, savory herbs and spices that all genuflect the mineral and earth-driven finish where fine tannins shape this wine for the future. Drink 2025–2050. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

97 Gaja 2019 Sperss (Barolo). A Serralunga powerhouse, this Barolo leaps from the glass with aromas of dark cherries, raspberry preserves, truffle, star anise and fresh wildflowers. A study in both power and elegance, the wine heaves with firm and refined tannins while elegant flavors of plum, dried herbs and pressed roses grace the palate. Drink 2026–2050. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$595

96 Brezza 2019 Cannubi (Barolo). Coming from the heart of the original part of Cannubi, this wine lifts from the glass with such elegance that it automatically sets you on your heels. Aromas of fresh cherries, pink roses, sweet spices, new leather and incense all combine in the glass. The purity of the palate is remarkable with flavors of crushed red fruits, dried violets, wild herbs and dried earth. Superfine tannins hide their seriousness as this wine will go the distance. Drink now–2050. Coeur Wine Co. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 Michele Chiarlo 2019 Cerequio (Barolo). Cerequio is an iconic cru and does not disappoint. Immediately aromas of warmed cherries, mint, eucalyptus and mixed spices breeze in and out of the wine while savory and earth notes try their best to be noticed. Tannins are so well-crafted, they provide a strong foundation but feel light as a feather while fruit, herbs and earth flavors create a triumvirate that would make ancient Rome

blush. Drink 2025–2040. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$134

96 Michele Chiarlo 2016 Cerequio Riserva (Barolo). Enchanting aromas of spiced cherry preserves, baking spices and rosewood just scratch the surface of what can and will emerge from this stunning Barolo. The palate strikes a firm tone with a foundation of tannins and acidity built for the cellar while tart red berries, aged tea and herbal flavors give an alluring aura to this wine. Drink 2026–2045. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$248

96 Vietti 2019 Brunate (Barolo). This wine opens with a wave of aromas that makes you take a seat. Wild cherries, plum, orange peel, clove, violets and rosewood are just a few of the scents that define this beautiful wine. Taut and firm, the palate whelps for a bit more time as the primary fruits are pleasing, the combination of fruit, savory and earth need just a bit more time to shine to their highest. This is a great wine; take your time. Drink 2026–2048. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Brezza 2019 Sarmassa (Barolo). This Barolo offers a prime example of power and elegance wrapped together. It opens with aromas of macerated black cherries, menthol, star anise, clove and dried leaves. The lush palate is exuberant and giving with its fruit, but the savory elements of the wine hold their hand as if to bring the wine back to balance, knowing there are many years to come. This is a stellar wine. Drink 2025–2045. Coeur Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Gaja 2019 Conteisa (Barolo). Located within the Cerequio cru with vines averaging 60 years, the wine opens with aromas of warmed cherries, wild thyme, rose and mixed spices. Forward on the palate with preserved mixed berries, pu'er tea, anise and a crushed stone minerality. Well-balanced with fine, yet firm tannins and a vivid acidity that keeps that palate fresh and mouthwatering. Drink 2026–2050. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$536

95 Michele Chiarlo 2016 Cannubi Riserva (Barolo). Deep and dark aromas of plum, dried blackberries and tobacco meld with a deep umami note that runs in the veins of the wine. The future of the wine is wrapped around a beautiful core of preserved cherry with cedar, rose and savory herbs gliding in and out of the wine as firm tannins stake their claim for the next few years. Drink 2026–2045. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$248

94 Borgogno 2019 (Barolo). For full review see page 8. Ethica Wines. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

94 Brezza 2019 Castellero (Barolo). This wine slowly lifts out of the glass with aromas of mixed red and dark-hued berries, balsam, wild mint and sweet spice. Mouthfilling and somewhat imposing, the wine shows cherry and blackberry with an aged tobacco and tea note on the smoldering finish. Drink 2026–2050. Coeur Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Chionetti 2019 Bussia Vigna Pianpolvere (Barolo). Macerated black cherry aromas lead the way on this forward and rich Barolo. As the wine develops hints of clove, anise, chai spice and dried roses begin to show. Broad and expansive on the palate with concentrated fruits at the core with a touch of worn leather, forest floor and bitter chocolate on the elegant finish. Drink 2025–2045. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Chionetti 2019 Roncaglie (Barolo). Pristine aromas of fresh cherries lift from the bowl of the glass as if on wings while wild roses swirl around them. The wine sucks you in with each sniff. The vibrant palate continues the lift of the nose with high-toned red berries commanding your attention as subtle hints of savory spice, herb, leather and truffle develop. Supple tannins and classic Nebbiolo acidity steer the wine to the finish. Drink now–2040. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Monchiero 2019 Rocche di Castiglione (Barolo). Dark cherry and dried blackberry aromas set the stage for this dense Barolo. As the wine opens, notes of wild mint, underbrush, turned earth and sea salt lift from the glass. Brambly flavors of black fruits both fresh and preserved open the palate as amaro-like botanicals offer a counterpoint to the forward fruit, finishing with chewy tannins and mouthwatering acidity. Drink 2025–2040. Artisan Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Pecchenino 2018 Le Coste di Monforte (Barolo). High-toned aromas waft from the glass of this Barolo with notes of currant, crushed raspberries, pressed rose petals and sandalwood. Ripe strawberry and cherry pop on the palate with sweet spices that give way to roasted coffee and black tea finishing with a dark savory spice and fine elegant tannins. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Pecchenino 2018 San Giuseppe (Barolo). Savory aromas lift from the glass with dried herbs, violets and prunes slowly emerging from the glass. Elegant with a wink at the power that is held within the wine core has flavors of dark cherries, mixed spices and fresh truffles with a long savory finish and firm tannins. Drink 2025–2040. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Vietti 2019 Cerequio (Barolo). This Barolo opens with forward aromas of freshly halved cherries about to be added to a mix of clove, allspice and vanilla while fresh roses waft closely by. Concentrated and lush plum and mixed berries lead the way as black tea, licorice and subtle earthy flavors bide their time. Prominent tannins hold court in the midpalate but with some time all parts will be in balance. Drink 2025–2050. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Vietti 2019 Ravera (Barolo). Aromas of macerated raspberries, roasted plums and candied cherries all combine with wild thyme, star anise and aged tea on this cru Barolo. Firm and well-structured with plum, dried leaves and a very earthy finish that pops on with a crisp acidity. Drink 2025–2040. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Broccardo 2017 San Giovanni Riserva (Barolo). Sumptuous aromas of cherry jam spiced with clove, anise, thyme and wild roses. Despite the hot and dry vintage, the palate remains lifted with loads of mixed tart red fruits balanced by savory spice and a forest floor earth note finishing with fine tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2026–2045. Caput Mundi Wine Import. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Chionetti 2019 Parussi (Barolo). Slightly reserved on the nose, this wine needs a bit more time in the bottle to really show its stuffing. As it opens, aromas of candied cherries, anise, wild herbs and sweet spices waft from the glass. The firm palate shows the more savory side of the wine with medicinal herbs, dried leaves and black tea as raspberry and red plum flavors weave their way into the glass. Drink 2026–2045. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Marrone 2019 (Barolo). The Marrone family are fourth-generation farmers and today are making the best wine they have ever made. Their 2019 Barolo shows their dedication to their craft and legacy. Opening aromas of dark cherry, showing both dried and preserved, followed by an elegant earthy note of roasted mushrooms, savory herbs and spice. The wine shines in the glass with ample fruit, but the savory flavors and balanced tannins steal the show. Good now but some extra years in the bottle will bring smiles to those who can wait. Drink now–2045. The Sorting Table. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Vietti 2019 Rocche Di Castiglione (Barolo). Aromas of warmed and spiced cherries and red plums waft from the glass of this attractive wine developing into aromas of sandalwood, dried rose and dried roots. The generous palate opens with mixed forest berry jam, allspice, licorice and a hint of vanilla with a tea-like earthiness on the moder-

ately tannic finish. Drink 2025–2040. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Cascina Chicco 2016 Ginestra Riserva (Barolo). Reticent and wanting more time in the cellar, aromas of dried cherries, leather, savory spice and dark earth slowly open in the glass. Firm and structured, the palate gives enough hints of what is to come with notes of plum, cranberry and pepper. Drink 2026–2045. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

92 Monchiero 2019 Del Commune di Castiglione Falletto (Barolo). This wine is an excellent example of a classically styled Barolo opening with aromas of preserved cherries, sweet and savory spices, rosebud and wild herbs. The noble palate showcases the structure and purity of Nebbiolo with flavors of dark-berried fruits quickly yielding to earthy notes of tar, truffle and charred earth finishing with fine yet firm tannins. Drink 2025–2040. Artisan Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 Vietti 2019 Castiglione (Barolo). Truly a classic example of the historic Barolo blend, this wine opens with a basket full of dark-hued fruits supported by more subtle elements of forest floor, truffle, dried wildflowers and wild herbs. The giving palate shows that young Nebbiolo is not just destined to rest in the cellar as plump cherries, layers of spice and supple tannins define the palate, finishing with refreshing acidity. Drink now–2040. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Arnaldo Rivera 2019 Ravera Nebbiolo (Barolo). Raspberry and red currant jam mixed with baking spices and dried thyme waft from the glass of this Barolo. Intense floral flavors drive the palate while tart red fruits slowly emerge with a touch of dried orange zest finishing with elegant tannins. Drink 2025–2038. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 Icardi 2019 Parej Organic (Barolo). Roasted cherries, warmed clove and star anise aromas waft from the glass as dried floral hints and wild thyme rise as the wine opens. Mouthfilling with loads of mixed wild berries fresh, dried and preserved all combined with oak spice finishing with subtle earth and superfine tannins. Drink now–2040. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Monchiero 2019 Del Comune di la Morra (Barolo). This Barolo sourced from the estate's vineyards within the commune of La Morra opens with aromas of dried strawberries, incense and wild herbs. Savory on the palate, hibiscus and black tea notes blend with dried cherry flavors on the supple finish. Drink now–2035. Artisan Wines, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2019 Terlo Vigna Costa Grimaldi (Barolo). Aromas of roasted cherries, burnt sage and dried roses lift from the glass of this classy Barolo. The well-balanced palate opens to sour red fruit, medicinal herbs and rosewood finishing with superfine tannins that seem soft but sneak up on you, giving the wine more power on the bright finish. Drink 2025–2040. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$117

91 Tenuta Cucco 2019 Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo). Lifted aromas of sour cherries and fresh thyme open the nose of this pretty Barolo. Subtle flavors of tea, forest floor and pine add to the complexity of the wine as its balanced tannins and vibrant acidity show off its ability to age. Drink 2026–2038. OPC International. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Arnaldo Rivera 2019 Bussia (Barolo). This cru Barolo leaps from the glass with aromas of candied cherries and macerated raspberries all layered with clove, anise and cinnamon. Elegant and pretty, the palate vacillates between its core of vibrant cherry with anise and dried roses and leaves finishing with fine yet firm tannins. Drink 2025–2038. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Cascina Chicco 2019 Rocche di Castelletto (Barolo). Pretty and lifted, this Barolo opens with aromas of fresh raspberry jam, white pepper, dried rose and sandalwood. Gentle on its approach, the wine builds with a crescendo with wild red berries giving way to savory herbs, tree bark and coffee finishing with fine, yet drying tannins. Drink 2025–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Tenuta Cucco 2019 Bricco Voghera (Barolo). As if autumn were captured in a glass, the Barolo highlights the herbal, black tea and forest floor aromas Barolo can show. Tightly wound on the palate with dried cherry flavors dusted with licorice and chinoa bark finishing with a deeply earthy note. Drink now–2035. OPC International. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tenuta Cucco 2019 Cerrati (Barolo). Spiced cherry jam with confectioned rose petals all spiked with fresh cloves waft from the glass of this Barolo. More herbal than fruity on the palate with firm tannins finishing with coffee bean, tar and truffle. Drink 2025–2036. OPC International. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Arnaldo Rivera 2019 Monvigliero Nebbiolo (Barolo). This Barolo opens with mixed macerated red berry aromas that waft from the glass as dried floral and savory herbs quickly follow suit. The wine is well-structured with fine tannins that buttress the spiced cherry preserve flavors that evolve into mushroom and forest floor on the drying

finish. Drink 2025–2035. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

89 Covalli 2019 (Barolo). Spiced cherry jam aromas define the nose of this forward Barolo. Notes of sandalwood, mint and tea show themselves after a bit of air in the glass. The classic palate yields mixed dried red berries, savory spices, coffee and turned earth finishing with rounded tannins, making this an easy Barolo to drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 Luca Bosio 2019 Boschi dei Signori (Barolo). This Barolo shows the darker side of Nebbiolo with deep earthy notes, dried leaves, wild mushrooms and incense. Behind all the savory notes lies macerated mixed berries with clove and cinnamon while on the palate ripe cherries come forward with warmed spices and black tea finishing with fine tannins and crunchy acidity. Quintessential. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 Giacosa Fratelli 2018 Bussia (Barolo). Crushed raspberry, wild thyme and sweet spices lift from the glass of this single-cru Barolo. Roasted sliced plums with anise and clove meld with dusty earthy notes on the pretty and fine palate. Drink now–2035. Geo Vino. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Giacosa Fratelli 2013 Scarrone Vigna Mandorlo Riserva (Barolo). This Barolo opens with savory and sanguine aromas that lead to hints of dried cherry and plum. The palate is coated in fine-grained tannins with high-toned wild red berries, tobacco and oolong tea with vibrant acidity on the very dry finish. Drink now–2045. Vine Connections. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$101

88 Guasti Clemente 2019 Ginestra (Barolo). This Barolo spills out of the glass with aromas of macerated strawberries, black tea, dried rose and mint. Polished on the palate with a balance between red fruit and earthy flavors with mouthwatering acidity, finishing with supple and easy tannins. Drink now–2035. Vintage Wine Marketing. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

OTHER RED WINE

86 Il Chiosso 2019 (Ghemme). Grown in Alto Piemonte, this unique wine opens with aromas of dried cherries, rosewater and dried leaves. The firm palate commands attention with its dense concentrated spiced plum notes, black tea and turned-earth flavors, begging for pot roast or root veggies. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

VERDICCHIO DEI

CASTELLI DI JESI CLASSICO

95 Umani Ronchi 2021 Vecchie Vigne (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore). For full review see page 7. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 Umani Ronchi 2022 Casal di Serra (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico Superiore). For full review see page 16. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

93 Umani Ronchi 2022 Villa Bianchi (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). For full review see page 25. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

92 Casalfarneto 2019 Crisio Riserva (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). Pressed white and yellow floral aromas combine with lemon and orange peel and acacia honey on the elegant nose. The palate shows the richness of the extra hang time but the vibrant acid keeps the palate fresh. Roasted and preserved citrus flavors abound, finishing with an almond and fresh green herbal note. Drink now–2033. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Velenosi 2022 Querciantica Verdicchio (Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico). This wine leaps out of the glass with white grapefruit and passion fruit aromas with a note of asparagus. Zippy and bright with punchy acidity and tart tropical and citrus fruit flavors. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

TERRE DI CHIETI

90 Spinelli 2022 Estate Bottled Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). For full review see page 29. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

90 Terra d'Aligi 2022 Zite Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). For full review see page 29. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Umani Ronchi 2022 Vellodoro Pecorino (Terre di Chieti). The nose is melon cubes accompanied by a glass of lemon-peach iced tea on the porch, looking out on an expansive, freshly cut lawn. The balance between succulent melon and sour lemon continues on the palate, creating a round, creamy mouthfeel, but savory, salty under-

tones bring texture and weight. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

LAMBRUSCO DI SORBARA

95 Paltrinieri 2022 Radice (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This lightning bolt of a wine opens with aromas of tart red berries, ruby red grapefruit and fresh rose that pour out of the glass. The zippy palate continues the energy of the nose with flavors of sour cherry, pickled watermelon, wild mint and thyme all leading to a finish that seems to never end. Delish! Polaner Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$24

94 Medici Ermete 2022 Phermento Lambrusco Rifermentato in Bottiglia Lambrusco di Sorbara (Lambrusco di Sorbara). A wine of history and pure joy, this watermelon Jolly Rancher-colored sparkling wine bursts out of the glass with aromas of wild strawberry, green herbs and candied rose petals. The bracing palate pops with electric acidity, tart lime, watermelon and saline. A bottle for all occasions. Kobrand. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$27

94 Paltrinieri 2022 Sant'Agata Bio (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Organically grown, this wine showcases aromas that immediately perk up the senses: crushed cherries, watermelon candy, violets and bay leaf. The driven palate with electric acidity pops with cranberry, lemon and strawberry tops finishing with a mouthwatering salty minerality. Polaner Selections. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$21

93 Cleto Chiarli 2022 Lambrusco Del Fondatore (Lambrusco di Sorbara). This zippy sparkler opens with aromas of freshly squeezed cherries that envelop the senses as floral and herbal aromas slowly come into frame providing contrast to the bright fruit notes. Plump mixed berries jump on the palate as the creamy texture and soft bubbles transport the palate to the next level. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$21

93 Paltrinieri 2022 Leclisse (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Delicate aromas of fresh flowers, cherries, McIntosh apple and green herbs open the nose of this elegant sparkling wine. Tart strawberries, cranberries and a hint of vanilla crème give shape to the palate as the gentle perlage acts like silk on the palate. Polaner Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$25

92 Paltrinieri 2022 Piria (Lambrusco di Sorbara). Imagine taking a perfect apple, distilling that aroma then adding lily and rose. These are the aromas of this wine. Light and fresh on the palate with a delicate perlage, the wine shows flavors of mixed citrus, tart strawberry and a flinty

minerality on the finish. Polaner Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Umani Ronchi 2021 Centovie Pecorino (Colli Aprutini). A nose like a sea breeze wafting through a grove of lemon and peach trees, while an herbaceous undertone provides a subtle solemnity that continues on the palate. Acid further underscores the already potent salinity. Vineyard Brands. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

89 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2022 Cavaceppo (Offida Passerina). Aromas of peach gums mixed with mint and wild sage pop out of the glass of this wine. Fleshy stone fruit drives the palate as the texture is reminiscent of the skin of a white peach dusted with sea salt and finishing with bright acidity. Orvino Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

89 Riva De La Rosa 2022 (Verdicchio di Matelica). For full review see page 30. Riboli Family Wine Estates. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

CENTRAL ITALY ROSÉ WINES

CERASUOLO D'ABRUZZO

91 Talamonti 2022 Rosè (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo). Tart, saline aromas of green watermelon and pink salt turn sweeter and lusher on the strawberry-cherry palate, but that saline freshness is preserved and even bolstered by lively acid, creating a wine that is simply delightful all the way through. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: NA Price: \$17

90 Briganti 2022 Ciuccolo (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo). The nose is savory, metallic, earthy and ever so slightly astringent, with wet slate and tomato leaf that makes the cherry sweetness of the palate surprising yet welcome. Acid surrounds smooth tannins, like a creek running over stones. A great deal to watch for. Briganti. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 La Valentina 2022 Spelt (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo). The nose is fresh yet salty, as notes of watermelon and cherry are balanced by subtle undertones of tar and leather. The fruit notes define the palate, but plentiful acid and prominent tannins emphasize the saltiness to maintain balance. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$14

90 Masciarelli 2022 Villa Gemma Superiore (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo). The nose balances

sweet aromas of cherry and strawberry with umami notes of leather and warm brick, while the lively palate fizzes with acid and more astringent fruit flavors, and a light dusting of chili powder covers it all. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$24

90 Paride d'Angelo 2022 (Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo). Gentle fruit aromas and a fresh stoniness define the nose, while the palate leans into the sweetness of strawberries and draws balance from sour flavors of cherry and rhubarb. Vibrant acid and unavoidable tannins do their job keeping the fruit in line. Panebianco. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

OTHER ROSÉ WINES

92 Garofoli 2022 Kòmaros (Marche). Fresh watermelon with bruised mint and savory herbs all work in concert to draw your attention to the fresh and vibrant palate. Tart and crisp with mixed red fruits, dried wildflowers and sea salt on the mouthwatering palate. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

91 Castello di Titignano 2022 (Umbria). Jolly Rancher pink in color, this joyful rosato pops out of the bottle with aromas of cherry, cranberry and wild herbs. The dry palate is well-structured with tart red fruits and a texture showing a touch of tannins. A rosato for those looking for more substance. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

CENTRAL ITALY RED WINES

MONTEFALCO ROSSO

91 Antonelli 2020 (Montefalco Rosso). Organically grown, this wine opens with aromas of Bing cherry, crushed raspberries, wildflowers, stemmy herbs and dusty earth. The fine-grained tannins give the palate a solid foundation with juicy plums and tart red fruits at its core, while sweet spices grace the background finishing with zippy acidity and well-tailored tannins. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

90 Còlpetrone 2020 (Montefalco Rosso). Aromas of macerated cherries, orange zest, clove and wildflowers flow from the glass. Bright and fresh on the palate with crunchy red fruits both fresh and dried, and savory herbs with fine tannins make this a perfect weekday pasta night wine. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

90 Perticaia 2018 (Montefalco Rosso). Bright aromas of tart cherries, dried leaves and baking spices open the nose of this red wine. Giving

BUYINGGUIDE

on the palate and loaded with flavors of macerated wild berries, mint and cedar that wind around fine and firm tannins. Drink now–2035. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

90 Tabarrini 2018 Bocatone (Montefalco Rosso). Macerated raspberries, dried roses, wild thyme and dried hay aromas all converge in the glass of this red wine. The bold palate rushes forward with juicy red cherries then dives right into a bowl of warm sweet and savory spices finishing with fine tannins and zippy acidity. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —J.P.

abv: 16%

Price: \$25

88 Adanti 2018 Arquata (Montefalco Rosso). Wild red berries, fresh herbs and rosebud aromas open the nose of this very drinkable red wine. The bright palate pops with zesty acidity and fresh cherries and finishes with a baked earth note. Drink now. Impero Wine Dist. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

88 Adanti 2016 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso). Savory and black pepper aromas lift from the glass of this wine as notes of dried cherry, sage and charred earth slowly follow. Firm and taut on the palate with dark earth notes, grilled plums and a striking tannic structure that leads to an astringent finish. Impero Wine Dist. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

88 Montioni 2020 (Montefalco Rosso). This spicy red doubles down on plump red and black fruits while dried floral notes sneak their way out of the glass. Medium-bodied with fine tannins and a core of juicy red cherries finishing with zippy acidity. NG Wine Services. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$28

88 Moretti Omero 2021 (Montefalco Rosso). Wild plum aromas punctuated by sweet spices and fresh flowers flow from the glass of this vibrant red wine. Cherry compote, licorice, cedar and espresso flavors drive the palate as fine, yet firm tannins define the finish. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$34

MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

91 Masciarelli 2019 Marina Cvetic Iskra Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose balances an earthy herbaceousness with fruit undertones of strawberries, candied cherries and dried cranberries. On the palate, dense, taut tannins and formidable acid provide framing for a powerful, salty dark chocolate note, but lingering dried red berries provide some levity. Vintus LLC. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$61

90 Castorani 2019 Casauria Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The umami, gamy nose features aromas of leather and herbs, while an undertone of sweet and sour cherry provides balance. That cherry element grows in confidence on

the palate, before a spicy earthiness ushers in a hot finish full of acid and sticky tannins. Monsieur Tou-ton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

90 Masciarelli 2019 Marina Cvetic Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The nose is gamy and herbal, yet also subtly astringent, like a lamb steak garnished with herbs and accompanied by plum chutney. On the palate, that plum element swells and draws strength from an emergent current of blackberry jam, but firm tannins and notable acid bolster a latent pepperiness. Vintus LLC. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$38

CONERO

91 Umani Ronchi 2019 Campo San Giorgio (Conero Riserva). Reserved aromas of black plum, anise and dried flowers waft up from the glass. Dense and concentrated, the palate has a core of darkly hued fruits, both fresh and macerated, sandalwood, dried herbs and star anise finishing with firm youthful tannins. Drink 2026–2040. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

90 Umani Ronchi 2019 Cúmaro (Conero Riserva). Aromas of roasted plums, burnt sage and oak spice fill the glass of this charming wine. Cherry pie filling and plum compote steal the show as fine tannins, baking spices and savory herbs provide balance on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

89 Garofoli 2019 Grosso Agontano (Conero). Sweet spice and plum aromas spill from the glass with subtle floral and spice notes developing as the wine opens. Blackberry pie filling, dried fig and licorice flavors give this wine its start on the bold palate, but sweet spice and firm tannins shove past on the finish. Drink now–2033. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

89 Umani Ronchi 2021 San Lorenzo (Rosso Conero). Aromas of spiced blackberry jam, black tea and roasted rosemary lift from the glass of this darkly hued wine. Structured with firm, yet balanced tannins, with flavors of black cherry, licorice, clove and cedar on the lingering and giving finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

88 Garofoli 2020 Piancarda (Rosso Conero). This wine charges out of the glass with aromas of black cherry compote and sweet and savory spices alongside candied violets and wild herbs. Rich and intense on the palate, the wine coats the mouth as plums macerated in spirits take the spotlight as more savory elements play second fiddle. A bold, intense and well-made wine. Drink 2025–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$17

OTHER RED WINES

95 Noelia Ricci 2021 Predappio Godenza (Romagna). Brooding and almost reticent at first, this deeply hued wine shows the beauty, power and depth that Sangiovese from Predappio, in Emilia-Romagna, possesses. Aromas of baked plums dusted with sweet and savory spice, dried wild herbs, roasted game and forest floor. Mouth-coating with firm tannins that balance the richness of dark-berried fruits coated with licorice and candied violets finishing with grace and elegance. Drink now (with a decant)–2035. Artisanal Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$49

94 Noelia Ricci 2022 Il Sangiovese (Sangiovese di Romagna Superiore). Woodsy aromas of fall alongside spiced cherries and dried roses lift from the glass of this elegant wine. Savory with seemingly endless flavors of black tea, rosemary, dried blackberry and underbrush that meld into the fine and elegant tannins that frame the wine so well that each note of the wine is in harmony. Perfect with your next roasted or earth-driven meal. Drink now–2035. Artisanal Cellars. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$27

93 Montinore 2022 La Messe Sangiovese Made With Organic Grapes (Romagna). Perfumed aromas of blue iris, macerated cherries and savory herbs waft around the glass of this elegant Sangiovese from Romagna. Stunningly balanced showcasing tart wild berries alongside notes of plum, rose, thyme and game with silky tannins and crunchy mouthwatering acidity. A joy to drink! Montinore Estates. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

92 Ambrogio e Giovanni Folonari 2019 Torcalvano (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano). A fresh, herbaceous nose brings notes of eucalyptus, mint, fennel and a light woodiness, with a spark of cherry in the background. That spark becomes a blaze on the palate, but the herbal notes also continue developing into a peppery spiciness which is spotlighted by solid, polished tannins and tingly acid. Kobrand. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

90 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2020 IX Prandone (Marche). Intense aromas of black plums, blue and purple flowers and new oak spices explode from the glass of this wine. Round on the palate with a velvet glove as plush fruits collide with hints of tobacco, leather and anise as integrated tannins form the backbone of the wine. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

90 Velenosi 2020 Ludi (Offida Rosso). A blend of Montepulciano, Cabernet and Merlot, this wine combines the best of each grape. Opening with aromas of plum, blackberry, tobacco, graphite and leather, the concentrated and firm palate amplifies the nose and adds flavors of cassis and savory

herbs finishing with polished tannins. Drink now—2035. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

89 Spinelli 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Terre di Chieti). The nose is heavily sanguine and umami, with earthy aromas of mushrooms, soil, leather and the last sip of coffee, before notes of cranberries and currants. On the palate, snarling tannins and ferocious acid ignite those astringent fruit notes, creating a blaze of tartness. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

88 Velenosi 2020 Roggio del Filare (Rosso Piceno). If an aroma were purple, this would be it. Aromas of plum, boysenberry, violet, licorice and oak spice define the nose. Firm and structured with a tannic edge that can be balanced by rich foods, the wine showcases dark-hued fruit flavors, roasted herbs and oak notes on the brooding finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Velenosi 2021 Brecciarolo (Rosso Piceno Superiore). Reserved at first, this wine develops with time and shines with aromas of black plum, anise, clove and pressed blue flowers. Dense and concentrated on the palate, a wine that defines the term bold with flavors of black cherry compote, warmed spices and fine and polished tannins. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Velenosi 2021 Ninfa (Marche). Deeply purple with concentrated aromas of blackberries topped by vanilla cream and candied violets. Rich and bold on the palate with sweet plums, candied black cherries and a soft creamy finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Velenosi 2022 (Lacrime di Morro d'Alba). Heady aromas of distilled flowers, rosewater, candied plums and sage bowl out of the glass. A wine not for the faint of heart, the palate is lush and almost thick with a creamy texture with flavors of candied violets, rose and plums. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

TUSCANY WHITE WINES

96 Fattoria Le Pupille 2020 Piemme (Toscana). For full review see page 4. Ethica Wines. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 15% **Price:** \$110

92 Terenzuola 2022 Permano (Costa Toscana). The nose is fruit-forward, with aromas of yellow apple, pear and lemon curd, but a taut rubbery undertone provides balance. The palate leans into the savoriness with notes of stone, salt and

pepper, while vibrant acid underscores the tartness of the citrus element. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Carpineto 2021 Chardonnay (Toscana). The nose is full of tart fruit, from pineapple to yellow apple to lemon, but balance comes from undertones of rubber, stone and salt, along with a latent spiciness. The citrus and salt notes headline the palate, with a bitter element creating a sense of sophistication, before the spice returns to usher in a warm finish. Opici Wines. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Cabreo 2020 La Pietra (Toscana). On the nose, bright, sparkling aromas of lemon, lime and yellow apple are balanced by the warm woodsiness of a summer camping trip. The palate turns sweeter and slightly floral, creating a round mouthfeel, but acid and the astringency of a faint tea leaf undertone create equilibrium. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Lecci e Brocchi 2020 Sangiò Rinascimento (Toscana). The nose is both savory and floral, like the sun warming the stone wall surrounding an orchard of cherry and citrus blossoms. The palate turns juicier, but undertones of salt and stone, along with a blast of acid, preserve the savory element. Arborway Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Terenzi 2022 Montedonico Viognier (Toscana). On the nose, light, almost sparkling aromas of yellow apple, pear and lemon drift above slightly weightier notes of earth and herbs. On the palate, the apple and lemon elements deepen and sweeten, but a sprinkling of salt bolsters that earthy, herbal undertone to maintain balance. MS Walker. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

90 Terre di Talamo 2022 Vento Teso Viognier (Toscana). The nose is rubbery, stony and grassy, with a glitter of citrus above it all, like a glass of lemonade after a tennis match. That citrus element blooms on the palate, but nuance comes from emergent flavors of honey and nuts, creating a wine that both fills and refreshes the mouth. Michelangelo Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 La Maialina 2022 Gilfredo (Vermentino di Toscana). The nose is alluringly Mediterranean, with notes of saffron, wild herbs, sea air, citrus blossoms and apricot. The equally joyous palate features more stone fruit and citrus, while balance is preserved by an enduring salinity that is bolstered by a bolt of acid. Oracles Craft Brands. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

88 Banfi 2022 Cantine Pinot Grigio (Toscana). The nose is crisp yet textured, with tart notes of lemon and yellow apple pushing back against savory aromas of rubber and herbs. The

fruit elements swell on the palate, but an emergent, salty nuttiness preserves that layered feeling. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 Banfi 2022 La Pettegola (Toscana). The nose balances the tartness of limes and green apples with the warm savory elements of petrol and hot pavement. The palate brings out slightly sweeter fruit flavors, while a dusting of salt and pepper and lively acid provide both depth and sparkle. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Riva De La Rosa 2022 Vermentino (Toscana). For full review see page 30. Riboli Family Wine Estates. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Badia al Colle 2021 Vermentino (Toscana). The nose is a fresh, lightly floral blend of pear and apple aromas, floating above a salty undertone. On the palate, a touch of lemon curd bolsters the sweetness of those fruit notes, creating a round texture. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

TUSCANY ROSÉ WINES

92 Salcheto 2022 Obvius (Toscana). An alluring shade of deep pink in the glass, this unfiltered, barely touched wine offers aromas of warm bricks, tilled soil, crushed peonies and rhubarb before a lightning bolt of acid on the palate brings out a saline sanguinity and a berry undertone. The smoky savoriness returns to create a warm finish. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Tenuta Monteti 2022 TM (Toscana). The nose starts savory and umami, with herbs growing in a rocky field, before developing aromas of grapefruit and cherry. That balance between cherry, citrus and herbs continues on the savory, salty palate, where acid bubbles through an otherwise slippery mouthfeel. Bommarito Wines & Spirits in Missouri. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 Usiglian del Vescovo 2022 Il Sangiosé (Toscana). An extremely herbaceous, savory, almost metallic nose draws depth from undertones of rich brown butter and cranberry. On the palate, a current of wild cherries bolsters the cranberry element, but the savoriness endures overall. Acid sparkles around present, but not showy, tannins. Offredo Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Banfi 2022 Cantine Sangiovese Merlot (Toscana). The nose is full of citrus and peach aromas, with undertones of herbs and sprinkled with salt and pepper. On the palate, a wave of cherries crashes against the enduring peach note, while

a burst of citrus provides a sour, savory balance. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

TUSCANY RED WINES

96 Bibi Graetz 2021 Colore (Toscana). The nose asserts aromas of dark fruit and berries, with rubbery, slightly smoky notes drifting around the edges. A juicier, denser berry streak defines the satiny palate, while bitter undertones of orange and chocolate provide structure. Firm, taut tannins emerge on a warm finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$300

96 Petrolo 2021 Bòggina A (Toscana). Sanguine, earthy and alive on the nose, with the warm density of dried cherries and dried cranberries shot through with tang of gunpowder and black pepper. Orange zest and more pepper and metal lift red cherries and red plum skin off the palate, which seems to vibrate with energy and acid. Immediately delicious, with the promise of yet more elegance to come. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$83

96 Pietro Beconcini 2016 Vigna le Nicchie Prephylloxera (Toscana). The nose expertly blends deep, heavy aromas of dark chocolate and tar with more incisive notes of black cherry and anise, creating a feeling of brightness while still showing off the wine's age. The palate is equally layered, but more intense and nuanced, yet also simultaneously fresher, as a gentle tide of acid laps against towering tannic cliffs. This wine achieves both the harmony of an older wine and the sparkle of a newer one, making it an extremely promising sign for pre-phylloxera experiments in Tuscany. Savorian Inc. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80

96 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2018 Vigna dell Impero Est 1935 (Toscana). Warm earth greets the nose at first, then gives way to Bing cherries, orange zest, licorice candy and just a momentary hint of vanilla. Cherries that still have snap in their skin and bitter orange jam on the palate, then dark chocolate and spices, before the metallic tang of coffee corrected by Sambuca on the finish. Tannins and acid are like perfect valets—almost invisible but immediately there when called upon. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$89

95 Bibi Graetz 2021 Testamatta (Toscana). The nose starts light and sweet, with aromas of vanilla and cedar, before getting richer with notes of cherries and candied orange. An undertone of fresh soil blooms on the palate, beneath a starburst of cherries and strawberries. Silky tannins invite you in now, while lively acid suggests you should also return in a few years for more fun. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Cantalici 2018 Tangano (Toscana). The nose is waking up on a holiday trip home to the aromas of fresh coffee and warm berry pastries, but undertones of tar and soil provide a savory balance. The palate sharpens with flavors of barely ripe cherries, espresso and orange liqueur, while gravitas comes from polished yet firm tannins and reverberating acid. Saranty Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Fattoria Le Pupille 2019 (Toscana). For full review see page 6. Ethica Wines.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$199

95 La Casaccia Di Franceschi 2020 San Leopoldo Cabernet-Merlot (Rosso di Toscana). A deeply spicy, earthy nose draws levity from hints of vanilla and cedar, along with emergent aromas of black cherries and dried figs. More astringent fruit, from cranberries to orange peels, headlines the high-toned palate, where the acid pushes past lurking tannins. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

95 La Casaccia Di Franceschi 2020 San Leopoldo Merlot (Rosso di Toscana). On the nose aromas of tar, earth and spice can't completely mask a delicate floral element that endures like a flower in a gale. The palate is gentler, but still slightly astringent, with cherries, figs and plums leading the way, before an emerging, peppery herbaceousness brings a warm, savory balance. Acid soars around imperious tannins, like gulls riding the wind past a sheer cliff. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

95 Tenuta Monteti 2018 (Toscana). The nose starts with a soft-serve swirl of vanilla and milk chocolate, then deepens into the richer sweetness of dark cherry syrup, which is balanced by the crackling sharpness of pepper and graphite. The palate turns tart and bitter, while tannins bend in the hot wind created by a blaze of acid. Bommarito Wines & Spirits in Missouri. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

95 Tenuta Monteti 2018 Caburnio (Toscana). For full review see page 7. Bommarito Wines & Spirits in Missouri.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

95 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2019 Vigna Dell Impero Est 1935 Sangiovese (Toscana). The nose intertwines delicately floral aromas with bright, tart fruit and a dense, savory earthiness. The palate is decisively fruit-forward, but undertones of coffee and dark chocolate maintain a feeling of versatility. A current of acid flows down a cobblestone path of polished, round tannins, before eventually pooling into a warm, luxurious finish. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$111

94 Avignonesi 2018 In Grandi Annate Sangiovese (Toscana). The comforting blend of candied cherry, vanilla bean and medicinal roots of a Vanilla-Cherry Dr. Pepper on the nose, with brooding earthy aromas pushing through after a

moment. Cherry candy lights up the palate but then there's more bitterness—brambles again—but also a gently peppery heat for balance. Tannins still very firm indeed and acid bright. Avignonesi USA. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Banfi 2021 Magna Cum Laude (Toscana). For full review see page 8. Banfi Vintners.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Bertinga 2017 Punta di Adine (Toscana). Aromas of black cherry and blackberry soar on the nose, above balancing undertones of soil, leaves, mint and a soft sea breeze. This tension between juicy fruit and earth tones persists on the palate, which is ensnared in a tight web of tannins, while radiant acid throws everything into sharp definition. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

94 Capezzana 2020 Ghaie della Furba (Toscana). The nose is a garden after a storm, as a fresh floral quality mingles with the stoniness of still-damp air. On the palate, that stony element persists, while a blast of pepper, a flash of astringent red fruit and lively acid sparkle above grippy, persistent tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Castelvechi 2017 Solana (Toscana). The nose blends the sophisticated, slight chalkiness of dried fruit and dark chocolate with a warm, slightly spicy herbaceousness, before a palate that features fresher fruit and sweeter chocolate, along with a crackle of citrus and salt. Tannins are polished yet powerful, like a modern skyscraper. Serendipity Wine Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$56

94 Luiano 2020 Lui (Rosso di Toscana). A sweet, pleasing nose of cherries and roses draws balance from savory aromas of coffee, soil, graphite and pepper. On the palate, a cascade of cranberries injects astringency into the fruit notes, before a finish of pepper and acid crackles around stoic tannins. Opici Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Mazzei 2020 Phillip (Toscana). A layered nose leads with salt and pepper, then turns earthy, vegetal and woody, before finishing with black cherries and blackberries. On the synthesizing palate, a smudge of earth keeps the berries' freshness in check, before a swirling mocha finish ties everything up with a bow. Tannins and acid are harmonious throughout. Demeine Estates. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

94 Pianirossi 2019 (Toscana). The nose starts woody and earthy, then turns bitter and astringent with notes of balsamic, boysenberries and dark chocolate. That tension between earth and bitter astringency continues on the palate, while acid sparks off powerful, almost ominous tannins. Tavolo Vigneto. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Pietro Beconcini 2017 Vigna Le Nicchie Prephilloxera Tempranillo (Toscana). The nose is a fresh, bubbly, slightly medicinal blend of vanilla, cola and mint, with glistening undertones of berry and metal. On the palate, cherries dipped in chocolate bolster the vanilla sweetness, while also setting up a warm, satisfying finish. Acid languishes alongside poised yet relaxed tannins. Bevi-amo International. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Querceto di Castellina 2020 Podalirio (Toscana). The nose is full of festive fruit, from dark berries and candied figs to Luxardo cherries and bitter orange jam, while undertones of spices and earth provide balance. On the palate, a swirl of chocolate and vanilla bolsters the sweetness of the fruit, but the earthiness also endures through a bitter espresso finish. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Querceto di Castellina 2020 Venti (Toscana). The textured yet subtle nose is a road trip pit stop, as sharp aromas of petrol and hot tar mingle with the sundry assortment of convenience store offerings, from coffee to licorice candy. On the bright palate, electric acid underscores tart fruit flavors, creating a wine that is restrained but expressive. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Riecine 2020 Riecine di Riecine (Toscana). The nose is a textured blend of astringent fruit, stone, herbs and metal, with a sprinkle of salt and pepper rounding everything out. The salt and pepper are strong on the palate, but notes of hibiscus and cranberry continue to mix and mingle as well, creating a savory, lively atmosphere. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

94 Rocca di Montegrossi 2017 Geremia (Toscana). The nose is a thicket of bushes dotted with dark berries, whose sweetness pierces the damp aromas of soil and stone after a rain. On the palate, acid elevates that tension between tart fruit and earthiness, before a mocha finish glides through clingy tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Ruffino 2019 Modus Primo (Toscana). A very savory nose of tar, leather and cigar smoke draws levity from undertones of vanilla, baking spices and dark berries. On the palate, the fruit brightens, but things stay savory overall, through a dark, bitter chocolate finish. Acid bubbles around big, chewy tannins. Constellation Brands, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$90

94 San Felice 2019 (Toscana). The nose starts intensely sanguine and almost metallic, like meat fresh off the grill, then lightens into sweet aromas of vanilla and gentler savory notes of earth and herbs. On the palate, a current of astringent fruit ties together the herbaceousness with that metallic

quality, while a peppery heat blazes around unrelenting tannins. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

94 Tenuta Buon Tempo 2022 La Furba (Toscana). The nose is bubbly and layered, with notes of vanilla cherry cola, cherry candy and coffee. On the palate, mixed berries accentuate the enduring prominent cherry streak, but undertones of soil, spice, orange pith and more coffee provide balance. Rigid yet textured tannins and notable acid bring a developing astringency. Matchvino. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Volpaia 2020 Balifico (Toscana). The nose is primarily savory and textured with aromas of graphite and tea leaves, but a floral element and notes of cranberries and fig provide buoyancy. On the palate, a mix of dried and fresh berries is lifted by a sea breeze on the finish, that blows past a blaze of accident and a careful tapestry of tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$116

93 Arillo in Terrabianca 2020 Campaccio (Toscana). The savory nose of damp earth, mixed herbs and rocks draws nuance from an undertone of dried tomato, which sweetens on the palate to push back more forcefully on an enduring savoriness. A sprinkling of tart currants sets up a bitter chocolate finish, where tannins glide past crackling acid like ice skaters past a glittering Christmas tree. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

93 Fattoria La Violla 2018 Casal Duro (Toscana). For full review see page 13. Haw River Wine Man.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

93 Fattoria Poggio Capponi 2019 Tinorso (Toscana). The nose starts sweet and floral, with notes of cherry blossoms, rose petals, strawberry and orange jam, before a hint of soil and a crack of pepper wake things up. The fruit dominates the pleasing palate, but firm tannins and bright acid provide depth and weight. Wine Wine Situation. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Pietro Beconcini 2019 IXE Campi Nuovo (Toscana). The nose is a roadside diner, where the slick aromas of cherry cola and fresh coffee mingle with wafts of herbs and dirt blowing in from outside. The cherry element absolutely crackles on the palate alongside relentless tannins, while the acid looks on from a distance. A fantastic introduction to something unusual for Tuscany. Savorian Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Poggio La Noce 2019 Gigìo (Toscana). The nose begins with a folksy whisper of vanilla and cedar, but immediately darkens to a forest full of crushed dark berries, fresh earth, spices, tar and stones. The berries blaze on the palate, but an

enduring earthiness, fierce tannins and bright acid keep the sweetness in check. Matchvino. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 San Felice 2020 Pugnitelto (Toscana). The nose starts gently floral, with aromas of vanilla, cherry and roses, then turns warm and savory with notes of soil, balsamic, coffee and tar. On the palate, a smear of raspberry underscores the cherry element, with dark chocolate and coffee for balance. Simultaneously friendly, warm and refined. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2020 Poggio al Lupo Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). A rich nose of black cherries, blackberries and dark chocolate gets some levity from softer, slightly bitter aromas of pencil shavings, coffee and herbs. This balance between the sweetness of berries and chocolate and the earthier elements continues on the palate, while acid blazes around austere tannins. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Villa Mangiacane 2019 Aleah (Toscana). The decadently sweet nose features cherries, dried fruit and milk chocolate with undertones of earth, stone and smoke. On the palate, the sweetness evolves into an equally refined bitterness, which swirls around a developing tension between rich fruit and earthy meatiness. Acid lifts a dark chocolate finish. David Vincent Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Argentiera 2022 Poggio ai Ginepri (Toscana). The extremely sanguine, earthy nose is a winter feast of peppery grilled meat, mushrooms browned in butter and stewed plums and figs. On the palate, an emergent salinity works with a persistent pepperiness to push back on more powerful fruit notes, before everything goes up in flames on a hot, acidic, astringent finish. Volio Vino. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$31

92 Arillo in Terrabianca 2019 Campaccio Collezione (Toscana). The nose is journaling in the garden, as supple aromas of pencils and leather mingle with more pungent notes of soil and herbs. On the palate, strong yet pliable tannins frame more fruit-forward flavors, while jubilant acid provides a bolt of energy. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Bindi Sergardi 2018 Tenuta Mocenni 91 (Toscana). The dark, brooding nose features both dusty, bitter notes of cocoa and graphite and warm, richer aromas of warm tar and dark berries. The palate turns sweeter and more floral, but lithe, strong tannins frame an enduring sanguine, peppery undertone. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$93

92 Carpineto 2019 Farnito Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). For full review see page 17. Opici Wines.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Guinigi 2018 (Toscana). The nose is defined by a bitter, slightly astringent earthiness, but a sprinkling of rose petals brings levity and nuance. The palate stays earthy, with undertones of stone and herbs creating a more textured savoriness, before a blast of acid and a salt and pepper finish lights up a forest of dense tannins. 3 Badge Beverage. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Le Masse 2020 Timeo (Toscana). The nose is woody and slightly spicy, with notes of tree bark, soil, leaves and mixed herbs, with cranberry and pomegranate popping through. The palate leans into the herbaceous quality, bringing out a meatiness that complements the enduring tart fruit. A sprinkle of salt and pepper rounds out a lively, energetic wine. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

92 Riecine 2020 La Gioia (Toscana). The nose is an umami kaleidoscope, with balsamic and plums and the freshness of earth and stones push back on the richness of mushroom and grilled meat. A stunning sweetness emerges on the palate, but an enduring astringent plum-skin note, along with assertive acid and tannins, provide balance. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Tua Rita 2021 Rosso dei Notri (Toscana). The textured, umami nose features notes of balsamic, mushrooms, coffee and graphite, while an undertone of a medicinal cherry quality provides some freshness. On the palate, a streak of salinity lifts up the cherry element to create a contagious feeling of joy that lasts through the warm finish, like a sleigh ride that ends with hot cocoa. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Argiano 2021 Non Confunditur (Toscana). For full review see page 21. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Banfi 2022 Stil Novo (Toscana). For full review see page 21. Banfi Vintners.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Col d'Orcia 2021 Spezieri (Toscana). The nose balances savory, slightly astringent aromas of coffee, soil, pepper and balsamic with sweeter notes of cherries and blackberries. That berry element glows on the palate, but an enduring peppery earthiness preserves the balance. Firm tannins usher the acid into a sophisticated, salty finish. Taub Family Selections. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Roberto Cipresso 2019 La Quadratura Del Cerchio (Toscana). The nose starts light and faintly floral, before the sudden emergence of umami aromas of earth and balsamic. On the palate, cherries and strawberries push back on that almost medicinal umami quality, while chewy tannins and

sparkling acid lift up a dark chocolate undertone. Barone Trading. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Ruffino 2019 Alauda (Toscana). On the nose decadent aromas of vanilla, coconut, black cherries and blackberries waltz with woody, earthy notes of dill and mixed spices. That balance continues on the palate, while rigid yet polished tannins attentively supervise, like purebred guard dogs. Constellation Brands, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$150

90 Banfi 2021 Col Di Sasso Cabernet Sauvignon Sangiovese (Toscana). For full review see page 26. Banfi Vintners. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

90 Carpineto 2020 Farnito Valcolomba Merlot (Toscana). The nose is a rich swirl of dark chocolate and black cherries, with earthy, slightly medicinal undertones of dirt, roots and herbs providing a savory balance. The palate brightens with fresh cherries, but an astringent balance comes from a spicier, more bitter earthiness, which is underscored by lively acid through the finish. Opici Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Castello di Bossi 2020 Corbaia (Toscana). The nose is sweet, warm and woody, like a sauna, before you return to the main spa and are greeted by sweeter, more floral aromas of vanilla, cherry and strawberry. The cherries and strawberries star on the palate, before the woodiness returns for a warm, almost earthy finish. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Fattoria La Vialla 2019 Torbolone (Toscana). For full review see page 27. Haw River Wine Man. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Kirkland Signature 2020 Estate Bottled & Cellared (Toscana). For full review see page 27. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

90 Martoccia 2022 Poggio Apricale (Toscana). The nose is a spiced berry pie cooling on the windowsill, with earthy aromas wafting in from the garden. Berries star on the palate as well, but with a shake of salt and pepper. Agreeable tannins and acid contribute to the overall sense of balance. August Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Pianirossi 2019 Solus (Toscana). The nose is primarily savory, with aromas of dirt, stone, coffee, tart fruit and mushrooms, but a powerful current of milk chocolate brings a gentle, comforting feeling. The palate leads with that tart fruit note, before giving way to a fresh earthiness that slithers over slick yet simultaneously sticky tannins. Tavolo Vigneto. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Piazzano 2022 Ventoso (Toscana). On the predominantly savory nose, aromas of tar, wood and underbrush are balanced by rich fruit notes of black cherries and plums. On the palate, berries underscore the cherry elements, while an undertone of sun-warmed stone creates a smooth, velvety palate, but with plenty of acid to maintain balance. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Piccini 2021 Solco Appassite (Toscana). The nose leads with succulent fruit aromas of figs, cherries and raspberry jam, then turns umami and herbaceous. The juicy, easygoing palate returns to the fig and cherry elements, while tannins cling to boisterous acid. Winesellers, Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Riecine 2019 La Gioia (Toscana). The nose is primarily earthy and herbaceous, but with balancing fruit aromas of cherries, strawberries and orange zest and the freshness of a quick blast of fennel. The fruit notes headline the lively, bright palate, while precise acid pirouettes through a crowd of firm yet approachable tannins. Soilair Selection. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Roberto Cipresso 2020 Pigreco (Toscana). The nose is smoky, sanguine and deeply umami, like a slab of meat ready to be carved, with rich fruit undertones of plums and figs providing balance. The palate leans into those fruit notes, but a dusting of bitter cocoa preserves the sanguinity. Barone Trading. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Tenuta Montauto 2021 Silio Ciliegiole (Toscana). The nose is a blend of earth and fruit aromas, with the sharpness of balsamic and a sprinkle of salt and pepper providing some crackle. The satiny palate is defined by rich, astringent fruit flavors, which eventually deepen into a dark chocolate finish, while balance comes from a quick bolt of acid. Vino Veritas. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Tenuta San Vito 2021 Poggio Alto (Toscana). The nose starts earthy, spicy and almost metallic, before softening into medicinal aromas of cherry cough drops and root beer. The tension between the earthiness and the cherries continues on the palate, before a bitter finish of espresso and orange peel. Slick yet firm tannins create a round, structured mouthfeel. Good Earth Wines. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Terenzuola 2022 Vermentino Nero (Toscana). The nose is both warm and astringent, with notes of bricks, soil, herbs, cherries and bright red cranberries and strawberries. That berry medley sweetens on the palate, but an enduring, lightly metallic earthiness keeps the fruit in equilibrium. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Terenzuola 2021 La Merla (Toscana). The nose balances savory aromas of leather, soil, espresso and graphite with fruit notes of cherry and wild strawberry. Raspberries cascade onto the palate to underscore that fruit dimension, while firm tannins and pointed acid provide just enough structure for an otherwise sweet, light and floral wine. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

90 Tommasi 2020 Poggio al Tufo Rompicollo Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana). The powerfully umami nose draws balance from a strawberry undertone and a dash of salt and pepper. That combination of earthiness, salt and strawberries continues on the palate, with an acidic fizziness adding some playfulness. Vintus LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Usiglian del Vescovo 2020 Mora del Roveto (Toscana). The primarily sanguine, umami nose features aromas of soil, warm tar and herbs, but draws balance from a lightly metallic sweetness and aromas of sour cherry and dried cranberry. That balance between tart, metallic and earthy continues on the palate, while acid takes a moment to find its feet but then blazes around enticing tannins. Offredo Selections. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 Villa Puccini 2019 (Toscana). The nose features sweet yet slightly astringent aromas of fruit, which are balanced by savory notes of coffee, pepper and earth. The palate turns toward darker fruit, but a lighter, almost candied cherry element persists, while firm tannins and a wave of acid accentuate an enduring earthiness. WinesU.
Best Buy. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Banfi 2021 Belnero (Toscana). The dark nose leans savory, with aromas of soil, roots, tar and bitter chocolate, but a swell of black cherries and blackberries provides some tart fruit while still keeping a sense of restraint. The earthiness persists on the palate, but the sweetness of cherries slowly blossoms all the way through a peppery finish. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Carpineto 2021 Dogajolo Rosso (Toscana). For full review see page 29. Opici Wines.
Best Buy.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

89 Fattoria Rodano 2021 Mon Nené (Toscana). The nose is a walk in the woods, over damp soil and through brambles, bushes and fields of flowers. On the palate, that gentle interplay between earth, herbs and berries glows beneath fizzy acid. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

89 Rascioni e Ceconello 2021 Poggio Ciliegio Ciliegio (Toscana). The nose is primarily savory and earthy, but lightly medicinal aromas of cherry syrup and cola provide balance. On the pal-

ate, strawberries underscore that cherry element, further bringing out the refreshing, medicinal salinity. Acid glints off tannins which are as round and polished as marbles. Verve Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Banfi 2021 Centine Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Sangiovese (Toscana). The sweet, ice cream sundae nose features decadent aromas of vanilla and chocolate drizzled over Luxardo cherries, with mature figs and plums for depth. Tart fruit and indulgent chocolate continues on the palate, before a textured, candied orange peel finish. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Castello di Meleto 2019 Camboi Malvasia Nera (Toscana). The nose mixes dark berries and black cherries with savory, almost medicinal aromas of soil, mint and fennel. Dark fruit and savoriness continue on the palate, while taut tannins provide framing and plentiful acid throws everything into definition. Golden Ram Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Rascioni e Ceconello 2022 Rotulaia Ciliegio (Toscana). The nose is a forest clearing full of damp earth, leaves, bark and berries crushed under the feet of wildlife. A bouncy, almost fizzy wild cherry element defines the palate, but forceful tannins keep the sweetness in check. Verve Imports.
Best Buy. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Aregone 2020 (Toscana). The nose is primarily sweet and playful, with notes of vanilla, milk chocolate, roses and Luxardo cherries, but an espresso drizzle provides balance. The cherries and chocolate preen on the palate, creating a sweet, lush feeling overall. Harvest Importing. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

96 Col d'Orcia 2016 Poggio al Vento (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is primarily savory, with aromas of old leather, dirt and mixed spices, like a general store in the Old West with cherry and licorice candy in bins. The palate is more fruit-forward, with notes of cherries and figs, with currents of coffee and sambuca mingling to create a subtle sense of edginess. Tannins and acid oversee affairs without intruding, like a good party host. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

94 Lisini 2017 Ugolaia (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose takes you to a forest cabin, full of savory, umami aromas of damp earth, leather and mushrooms, with sharper notes of balsamic and Luxardo cherries coming through. On the palate, the cherry element freshens and brightens, and is lifted by undertones of orange and anise, along with

springy tannins and buoyant acid. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Terralsole 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The smoky, woody, slightly metallic nose recalls the melancholy of a bonfire in late fall, while developing aromas of figs and cherries provide some levity. That balance between fruit and deep, dusty earthiness continues on the palate, with bitter citrus notes boosting the fruit and a dark chocolate element bringing depth. A river of acid flows around steady tannins. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98

BOLGHERI

94 Campo al Mare 2020 Baia al Vento (Bolgheri). The nose is primarily warm, meaty and sanguine, but also saline, herbaceous and slightly tart, with a dash of salt and pepper tying the fresh to the savory. The palate strikes a similar balance between the levity of mint and berries and the dusty warmth of coffee and chocolate. Kobrand. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Podere Prospero 2020 (Bolgheri). The nose has a fresh, concentrated floral quality at first, but a weighty, almost earthy sanguinity soon emerges to create an overall metallic, warm feel. The equally nuanced palate brings more earth, but also fruit, pepper and a slightly bitter, herbal quality. Bright acid glints off soft, polished tannins like firelight off a velvet jacket. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Poggio al Tesoro 2019 Il Seggio (Bolgheri). For full review see page 15. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

92 Campo alle Comete 2021 Stupore (Bolgheri). The nose balances the depth of dark chocolate, earth and espresso with the fresh levity of mint. A burst of berries comes through on the palate, but continuing notes of mint and earth create balance. Acid prances around firm yet restrained tannins. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Banfi 2020 Aska (Bolgheri). For full review see page 21. Banfi Vintners.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

OTHER RED WINES

91 Palazzo 2021 (Rosso di Montalcino). The nose offers black cherry, dried cranberries and lots of wet slate and potting soil before orange zest and wild herbs. Cranberry and soil continue on a bright and earthy palate, lifted by a hint of spicy chili heat and then finishing with coffee, dark chocolate and

BUYINGGUIDE

more orange peel, held together by tightly coiled tannins. Vine Connections. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

90 La Mozza 2020 Ciliegiole (Maremma Toscana). A primarily savory nose of herbs, dried tomatoes and cured meat draws balance from the astringency of wild strawberries and plum skins. On the palate, the fruit sweetens and pushes back more forcefully on the savory elements, before a refreshing, slightly tannic finish of mint, herbs and salt, which is underscored by quiet acid. Dark Star Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

90 Tenuta Aquilaia 2021 Ciliegiole (Maremma Toscana). A primarily savory, umami nose features aromas of pencil shavings, soil, coffee and herbs, with a fruit balance coming from a cherry undercurrent. That undercurrent becomes more powerful on the palate, but an enduring earthiness and a bitter, minty finish, along with harmonious tannins and acid, maintain balance. DiVino International. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

SOUTHERN ITALY WHITE AND ROSÉ WINES

91 Leonardo Bussoletti 2022 Ciliegiole (Narni). Aromas of sour cherries and dried wildflowers open the nose of this pretty rosato. Fresh and bright on the palate with mixed wild berry notes and hints of savory green herbs all wrapped up with mouthwatering acidity and a salty finish. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

90 Amastuola 2021 Dolce Vitae Organic (Puglia). On the nose, a sprinkling of salt underscores succulent yet crisp aromas of melon, pear and lime. Honeydew and tangerines star on the palate, before a savory finish of grass, nuts and more salt. Great bang for your buck. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$30/500 ml

90 Di Meo 2004 Erminia (Fiano di Avellino). The savory yet crisp nose calls to mind new shoes, a doctor's white coat and green melon, all elements that are underscored by a salinity on the palate, while overtones of nuts create a mouthfilling, curious sensation. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$165

90 Morasini 2019 Tratturello (Puglia). The nose is savory and salty, but also incorporates the pleasing sweetness of peach tea and honey, while the palate both centers those notes of stone fruit and honey and preserves the agreeable balance that defined the nose. Wine For The World. —D.C.
abv: 12% Price: \$28

90 Terre Stregate 2022 Attimo (Benevento). The astringent, slightly herbal nose

features aromas of cranberry, hibiscus, rose and strawberry. That strawberry note sweetens and intensifies on the palate, but a saline backbone and a slightly spicy finish keep the fruit in check. More Than Grapes. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

89 Cantina di Venosa 2021 Terre di Orazio Dry (Basilicata). The nose is sweet and citrusy, with a touch of tea leaves providing an astringent balance. That tension between citrus and light bitterness continues on the palate, before a finish that both underscores the fruit notes and leads to a salty finish, with a pleasantly surprising burst of acid. Bacchanal Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

PUGLIA

90 Indigenous 2020 Nero Di Troia (Puglia). The nose balances an astringent fruit element with earthy, umami, slightly spicy aromas of balsamic, herbs and pepper. The savory palate also features both warmth and astringency, before a spicy, salty, citrusy current flows into a bittersweet finish. Rigid yet enticing tannins provide depth. Indigenous Selections. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

89 Azienda Agricola Rocca 2021 Podere don Cataldo Nero Di Troia (Puglia). The nose is dense with fruit and earth but also light and bright, with aromas of strawberry, raspberry, fig, soil and coffee. Those notes all reappear on the palate, while dusty yet chewy tannins create a round, luxurious mouthfeel, before a spicy current of acid provides balance. Lanval Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$12

89 Botromagno 2020 Nero di Troia (Puglia). The primarily floral nose features notes of roses and violets, then plums and black cherries, with undertones of leather and soil providing balance. The lush, warm palate is defined by a denser fruit quality, which is framed by thick, chewy tannins. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

SICILY AND SARDINIA WHITE WINES

MENFI

94 Planeta 2021 Didacus (Menfi). The nose balances the sweetness of homemade whipped cream with the smokiness of toasted almonds and the tartness of lemons and yellow apples. On the palate, honey emphasizes the sweetness in the fruit and nut elements, but the lemons also feature prominently and are underscored by a potent salin-

ity and a strong current of acid. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13% Price: \$128

93 Planeta 2022 Cometa (Menfi). For full review see page 15. Taub Family Selections.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Planeta 2022 Chardonnay (Menfi). The nose is savory but also floral, with undertones of herbs and of syrupy yet tart fruit, from cooked apples to dried pineapple. On the palate, rich flavors of lemon and almond paste both bolster and balance a more potent note of pineapple, before a lightly bitter finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Bentu Luna 2022 Unda (Vermentino di Sardegna). The nose is simultaneously tart, floral and grassy, creating a textured feel that continues onto the palate, where the tartness runs wild until a slightly bittersweet finish of almond skin underscored by acid takes the reins. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

90 Planeta 2021 Allemanda (Noto). The nose is full of citrus notes that oscillate between sweeter and more conventionally sour, before a stoniness comes through as an anchor. The palate adds a floral, almost soapy element to the wave of citrus that has yet to break, and then finally gives way to a bitter, nutty finish, reinforced with acid. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

SICILY RED WINES

93 MandraRossa 2019 Terre del Sommacco (Sicilia). The nose leads with delicate strawberry and cherry aromas, which gradually give way to more umami notes of balsamic, herbs, grilled meat and pepper. The palate deftly balances a more syrupy fruit element with an enduring earthy meatiness, while acid slithers through smooth, solid tannins like a snake looking for a sunning rock. Palm Bay International. —D.C.
abv: 14% Price: \$49

92 Feudo Montoni 2021 Core Perricone (Terre Siciliane). The nose begins with sophisticated fruit notes of figs, plums and cherries, then turns intensely earthy and vegetal. That balance between fruit and earth, sweet and astringent continues on the palate, before a dark chocolate finish that is structured by firm, reliable tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 Planeta 2022 Nocera (Sicilia). The fresh, cool nose features notes of slate, white pep-

per, crunchy cherries and licorice. On the palate, acid electrifies the cherries and that faint medicinal quality, while firm, austere tannins and a deep, primitive earthiness quietly announce more serious intentions. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —D.C.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Donnafugata 2021 La Bella Sedàra (Sicilia).

The nose is primarily savory, with dominant aromas of dirt and coffee, but some pop comes from a black cherry undertone and a crackle of pepper. The palate is more buoyant, with more pronounced fruit and the perkiness of orange jam and wild fennel. Tannins are polished yet structured, like a well-tailored suit. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 MandraRossa 2021 Timperosse (Terre Siciliane).

The sweet, floral nose features both light notes of vanilla and cherry blossom and richer aromas of milk chocolate and strawberry jam. That richness swells on the palate, but astringent undertones of cranberry and orange zest do just enough to keep the decadence in check. Acid languishes around chewy tannins. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Planeta 2020 Controddanza (Sicilia).

The nose leads with a balanced blend of vanilla and herbs, then turns slightly sharper, yet stays balanced with aromas of pepper, pencil shavings and black cherries. The tension between fruit and earth continues on the palate, as the cherries soar above vegetal, umami undertones. Acid prances past chewy tannins. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Principi di Butera 2021 Amira Nero d'Avola (Sicilia).

The nose leads with layered fruit aromas of strawberries, raspberries and orange peel, but the sun soon sets and darker notes of slate, damp earth and bitter coffee emerge. On the palate, a serious astringency underscores the earthiness, but the fruit stays quietly present. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Cantine Colosi 2022 Nero D'Avola (Sicilia).

The primarily savory, slightly bitter nose features notes of tar, soil, coffee and dark chocolate, but with a splash of cherries and raspberries. The palate goes further with that sweet and sour dynamic, as a tarter fruit element emerges and a drizzle of milk chocolate adds sweetness, while acid dances around affectionate tannins. Vias Imports. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

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

88 Mary Taylor 2022 Annamaria Sala (Sicilia).

The nose is sanguine, earthy and even metallic, with aromas of soil, pepper and graphite, with shining, fresh black cherries on top. All of those dark, glistening notes continue mingling on the palate, as fizzy yet tameable acid sparks around

benevolent tannins. Mary Taylor Wine. *Best Buy*. —D.C.

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

ETNA

95 Pietradolce 2019 Barbagalli (Etna).

The nose starts with a hint of vanilla, then quickly dives into deeper, richer aromas of soil, tar and graphite, but also the lively sweetness of cherries and raspberries. On the palate, the fruit element turns more astringent, while enduring currents of dirt and metal flow together to create a sophisticated bitterness that suggests ageability. Tannins are firm enough to stand strong against searing, invigorating acid. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145

95 Tascante 2020 Contrada Rampante (Etna).

The nose is precise and fresh, with aromas of fennel, orange peel and tart cherries, and a latent earthiness acts as a steadying presence. The juicy, energetic palate brings out the sweetness of the orange and cherry notes, with an initial blast of acid giving way to gentle tannins. A highly pleasurable wine. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

95 Tascante 2020 Contrada Sciaranuova (Etna).

For full review see page 7. Dalla Terra Winery Direct.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$62

94 Tascante 2020 Contrada Pianodario (Etna).

The nose is lively and cheeky, with tart yet playful aromas of pink grapefruit, cherry and strawberry. The palate brings out the sweetness of the strawberries with a splash of cream, but textured, toothsome tannins and acid you can feel on your teeth make for a polished, synthesized wine. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

93 Pietradolce 2020 Feudo di Mezzo (Etna).

A primarily sanguine, umami nose features aromas of soil, tar, underbrush and soy sauce, but undertones of tart fruit provide a spark. On the palate, a sprinkle of salt and pepper, along with fierce tannins and acid, help develop both the slightly metallic earthiness and the astringent fruit element into a layered tapestry. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Pietradolce 2020 Rampante (Etna).

The nose is simultaneously delicate and earthy, with aromas of dirt, stone and herbs, but also cherry blossoms and cranberries. The palate is defined by a richer, fuller cherry element, but undertones of salt and citrus, along with a powerful electric current of acid, elicit excitement. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

OTHER RED WINES

94 Planeta 2020 Santa Cecilia (Noto).

For full review see page 10. Taub Family Selections.

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

94 Planeta 2018 Burdese (Menfi).

The nose is dark and rich, yet also layered and subtle, with both heavy aromas of petrol and tar and juicier notes of blackberries, figs and dark chocolate. The figs and chocolate carry the palate, though wild herbs and bitter orange give buoyancy. Tannins are unyielding, while acid is more discreet but still perceptible. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

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

92 Donnafugata 2021 Bell'Assai (Vittoria).

The warm, floral nose features delicate notes of roses and cherry blossoms, as well as more provocatively sweet aromas of strawberries and cream. The palate takes a bitter turn, which is underscored by a latent earthiness, while acid bounces around polished, firm tannins. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.

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

92 Planeta 2022 (Vittoria Frappato).

For full review see page 19. Taub Family Selections.

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

92 Planeta 2020 Dorilli (Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico).

Earthy and umami at first on the nose, with hot tar and soil, before tart cranberry and rose petals slowly blossom. The palate is more fruit-forward but continues leaning into that astringency, while sergeant-like acid and taut, wiry tannins provide a deeper, more serious element. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Planeta 2017 Maroccoli (Menfi).

The nose starts light and almost tropical, with notes of vanilla, coconut and cedar, before suddenly diving into much richer aromas of hot tar, blueberries and balsamic drizzled over strawberries. The berries headline the palate, while dense, imposing tannins and invigorating acid bolster a latent spiciness. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

OTHER ITALIAN WHITES

88 Vigneti Le Monde NV Ribolla Gialla (Italy).

Fresh wildflowers, peach blossom and apricots open the nose of this aromatic sparkling wine made from Ribolla Gialla. A distinct roasted nut and marzipan note immediately opens the palate as green apple skin adds bite finishing with salty minerality. The Sorting Table. —J.P.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$23

85 Primaterra 2022 Chardonnay (Italy).

This Chardonnay opens with aromas of fresh apples, lemon peel and slate. Light and fresh on the palate with a crisp vibrancy with flavors leaning

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toward green apple skin and Bosc pear on the finish. Oracles Craft Brands. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$11

SPARKLING WINES

93 Cantine Lunae Bosoni 2019 Cuvée Lunae Metodo Classico Brut (Vino Spumante). The moment you raise the glass to your nose you are instantly transported to Liguria. Made from Albarola and Vermentino, the wine opens with aromas of wild herbs and flowers of the hills and sea salt and cured lemons from the beach. The crisp palate is mouthwatering and brings you even closer to the sea with its seashell minerality finishing with mixed citrus flavors and verve. Banville Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$93

91 Cascina Chicco 2019 Cuvée Zero Rosé Metodo Classico Extra Brut (Vino Spumante). Fresh strawberry and cherry aromas grab the attention as subtle hints of dried orange, rose and sweet spice peek out of glass. Radiant on the palate with tart red fruits followed by savory notes that add contrast and depth to the vibrant and mouthwatering. Vinifera Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

90 Cascina Chicco 2019 Cuvée Zero Metodo Classico Extra Brut (Vino Spumante). This exciting 100% Nebbiolo sparkler from Piemonte leaps out of the glass with aromas of wild cherry, Fuji apple and white flowers. Aged on the lees for 36 months, this extra time gives the palate a rounded texture showing more orchard fruits with hints of sweet spices on the vibrant and fruity finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

88 Vigneti Le Monde NV Rosé Pinot Nero (Italy). Crushed cherries, rose and peach aromas open the nose of this easy sparkler. Bright and fresh on the palate with tart red fruits and a soft gentle perlage. The Sorting Table. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$23

87 Bottega NV Rose Gold Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante). A blend of Glera and Pinot Noir, this light rosé sparkler opens with aromas of strawberry, peach, crushed rose and white flowers. Fresh on the palate with flavors of apricot, jasmine tea and ginger, finishing with a creamy texture and light perlage. Palm Bay International. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$33

84 Bottega NV Petalo Il Vino Dell'amore Moscato (Vino Spumante). Stone fruit and intensely aromatic white flowers drive the nose of this light fizzy wine. Canned peaches and preserved pears lead the way on the palate with a candied lemon peel note on the sweet finish. Palm Bay International. —J.P.
abv: 7% Price: \$17

OTHER ITALIAN ROSÉS

89 Cà dei Frati 2022 Rosa dei Frati (Italy). Passion fruit, tart tropical fruits and fresh herbs leap from the glass of this intensely aromatic rosato. The sharp palate pops with mouthwatering acidity with notes of lemon, lemon thyme and ruby red grapefruit. Ethica Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

88 Costaripa 2022 Rosa Mara (Valtènesi). Subtle aromas of wild strawberries, cranberries and mint open the nose of this elegant rosato. Crushed rose petals and sour cherries drive the palate; a touch of tannin on the finish gives a firmer structure that one might expect. MatchVino LLC. —J.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$33

86 Ottella 2022 Roses Roses (Italy). This wine opens up with intense aromas of mixed citrus with loads of juicy ruby red grapefruit. Crushed sweet-tart notes with a citrus overtone drive the palate as the pithy bitterness offers balance. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

SPAIN

WHITE WINES

RÍAS BAÍXAS

95 Pazo de Barrantes 2018 La Comtesse (Rías Baixas). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of Gala apple, butterscotch and slivered almond. It is full textured and offers a complex balance of citrus-fruit flavors, acidity and notes of toasted hazelnut. Brilliant orange and lemon flavors linger on the palate with just a kiss of vanilla. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$110

93 Adegas Tollodouro 2022 Pontellón Albariño (Rías Baixas). A bouquet of peach pie and rose petal paves the way for Bartlett pear, nectarine, apricot jam and Turkish delight flavors. This well-textured wine features dazzling acidity that endures into a bright stone-fruit finish. I wished I had a dozen oysters with mignonette to enjoy with it. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

93 Pazo de Barrantes 2020 Pazo Barrantes (Rías Baixas). Aromas of mango, lemon zest and orange blossom waft from the glass. Striking pineapple and grapefruit flavors are joined by touches of vanilla and almond blossom that linger into the vivid finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

92 La Caña 2021 Navia (Rías Baixas). Pale straw in color, this wine has a bouquet of mango and honeysuckle. It is crisp and clean in the mouth

and features peach, passion fruit and Granny Smith apple flavor with a touch of nutmeg on the brilliant closing note. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

92 Marqués de Cáceres 2022 Deusa Nai Albariño (Rías Baixas). Light straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of grapefruit and orange blossom. It is bright on entry, offering flavors of pineapple, lemon zest and dried apricot alongside shimmering acidity and a hint of chalky minerality. Vineyard Brands. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Pazo De Villarei 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This pale-yellow wine has a nose of peach and orange blossom. Both of these transition to the palate, where they are joined by clementine, lemon zest and marjoram flavors. Vibrant acidity and palpable minerality glide neck and neck into a zesty finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

91 Pazo De Villarei 2022 Abadia Do Seixo (Rías Baixas). Aromas of Valencia orange, yuzu and sage leaf set the scene for caramelized pineapple, tangerine, candied orange-peel and dried Mediterranean herb flavors. This opens and closes on a bright note, while brilliant acidity evaporates into a sophisticated savory finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

91 Vieira de Plata 2022 Silver Scallop (Rías Baixas). Light-yellow in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of Bartlett pear and lavender. It is pleasantly floral on the taste buds, offering lavender and honeysuckle flavors alongside Gala apple and white peach. This is a much more floral style of Albariño than usual that will appeal to fans of Viognier or Gewürztraminer. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

90 Astrid 2022 (Rías Baixas). The scent of apricot preserves, nectarine and carnations rises from the glass. A strong note of grapefruit hits the taste buds first, followed by flavors of Granny Smith apple, jasmine and dried thyme. Vivid acidity lights up the palate from first sip and lingers for a bit. The Marchetti Co.. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

90 Vieira de Plata 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas). This light-straw colored wine offers aromas of Bartlett pear, lemon-lime and rose water. A rose note continues to the taste buds, where it is met by peach and apricot flavors with a soft touch of dried Mediterranean herbs. The floral note continues into the bright finish. Vinamericas, Inc.. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

RIOJA

95 Vinícola Real 2009 200 Monges Gran Reserva (Rioja). Made with 100% Viura, this Gran Reserva white Rioja has a nose of tangerine, lemon

zest, jasmine and ground ginger. Flavors of bergamot, pineapple, rose water with a hint of nuttiness are set into a full-textured wine whose vivid acidity is evident from first sip through the enduring finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

94 Valenciso 2021 Fermentado en Barrica (Rioja). A blend of Viura and Garnacha Blanca, this wine has a nose of Bartlett pear, apple tart, and a touch of fennel pollen. It offers a gorgeous combination of bright lemon and pineapple flavors alongside soft notes of cocoa butter, fennel bulb and rose petal. The Sorting Table. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Vinicola Real 2010 200 Monges Blanco Reserva (Rioja). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of Valencia orange and petrol. It is full on the palate, offering brilliant acidity and flavors of clementine, lemon, fresh ginger, slivered almonds and honeysuckle. A slightly nutty, saline finish is marked with a splash of fresh lemon. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 El Pacto 2021 El Pacto del Alto Najerilla (-Rioja). A bouquet of green apple, lemon zest and white flowers leads the way for passion fruit, lemon-lime and jasmine flavors. Bright from the first sip, this wine offers full mouthfeel and a lingering orange-splashed finish. Vintae USA, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 Urbina 2014 Viura Crianza (Rioja). Deep straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of green apple, slivered ginger and toast. Oak aging is evident on the palate, lending notes of vanilla and clove to baked apple and pear flavors with an underlying sense of brightness. Soft spice lingers on the gentle finish. Vinamericas, Inc.. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Bodegas Lozano 2021 Viñas Viejas (Rioja). This medium-straw-colored wine offers aromas of mango, guava and peach. This wine has a slightly oxidized, Sherry-like quality, with flavors of pineapple, apricot, toasted hazelnut and a touch of pie crust. It is full textured with bright acidity that lingers on the palate. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

91 Familia Montaña 2019 Crianza (Rioja). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of Granny Smith apple, lemon zest and honeysuckle. It has vivid acidity and a light floral note wrapped around passion fruit, Bartlett pear and lemon zest flavors. A touch of salted almond graces the finish. The Sorting Table. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Baron De Ley 2020 Tres Viñas Blanco Reserva (Rioja). Deep straw to the eye, this wine offers aromas of Granny Smith Apple and a touch of cocoa butter. It is well textured and has flavors of Golden Delicious apple, passion fruit, pie crust and

eucalyptus. The zesty finish is marked with a note of grapefruit. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Bodegas Riojanas 2022 Monte Real Tempranillo Blanco (Rioja). Made with a white mutation of Tempranillo, this wine has a bouquet of apricot, nectarine and crumbled lavender. It lights up the palate with flavors of apple pie, toasted pineapple, rose petal and a dusting of ground clove that endures on the taste buds. Bodegas Riojanas. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Ostatu 2022 Blanco (Rioja). Aromas of lemon, mango and jasmine emanate from the glass. Bright at first sip, this wine features brilliant acidity and enduring flavors of Bartlett pear, Valencia orange, crumbled sage leaf and rose petal. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Montebuena 2021 Estate Bottled (Rioja). Aromas of green apple, Bartlett pear and a whiff of white flowers pave the way for Gala apple, lemon-lime, white chocolate and honeysuckle flavors. A nice level of acidity washes over the palate. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER WHITE WINES

95 Mixtura NV Gold Label (Spain). This golden-yellow-colored wine has a bouquet of peach, passion fruit and Turkish delight. It simultaneously offers vivid acidity and a sense of weight in the mouth. Ripe summer peach, apricot, honeysuckle, sage-leaf and lemon-zest flavors skate into a brilliant Valencia orange finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$87

93 Campo Eliseo 2022 Cuvée Alegre (Rueda). Aromas of pineapple, wet stone and thyme waft from the glass. Pineapple transitions to the palate and is joined by mango, honeysuckle and vanilla flavors, with a hint of flint. This full-textured wine offers twin veins of acidity and minerality. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

93 Mixtura NV Blanco (Spain). Light yellow to the eye, this wine offers a nose of orange blossom, tangerine and dried mountainside herbs. It is full bodied, with a creamy texture and flavors of lemon curd, custard, and white peach. Lemon-zest and jasmine notes linger on the palate alongside brilliant acidity. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

93 Viña Mein 2020 O Gran Blanco (Ribeiro). This medium-straw-colored wine has aromas of pineapple, honeysuckle and slivered ginger. It is bright from the first sip, offering flavors of grapefruit, passion fruit, rose petal and a hint of oyster

shell. Vivid floral and tropical-fruit and flavors linger on the taste buds. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Volver 2021 Triga Chardonnay (Alicante). A bouquet of citrus fruit, jasmine and marzipan paves the way for clementine, bergamot, slivered almond, and orange-blossom flavors. This wine offers a sense of brightness from first sip that is accompanied by soft notes of mint leaf and nutmeg that endure on the taste buds. Add in a creamy texture and a closing note of slivered ginger and you've got a beautiful pour. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Finca Albret 2022 El Alba Chardonnay (Navarra). This medium-yellow-colored wine has aromas of white peach, pineapple and freesia. It has a full texture and a nice mix of citrus and spice flavors including lemon, tangerine, nutmeg and fennel seed. Touches of almond and spice mingle with bright fruit flavors and endure on the palate. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Godevito 2021 Limited Edition (Ribeiro). Medium-straw-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of nectarine, Bartlett pear and *herbes de Provence*. Nectarine transitions to the palate and is joined by pineapple, honeysuckle, pineapple, lemon thyme, white-chocolate and ginger flavors. The full texture is well matched by striking acidity. The Spanish Acquisition. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$153

90 Valdeorite NV Brut (Cava). For full review see page 29. Ventura Selections LLC. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Otazu 2022 (Navarra). Light yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of peach, apricot, and lemon sorbet. It is bright on entry, offering flavors of lemon-lime, Granny Smith apple and citrus blossom bound up in a creamy texture joined by vivid acidity. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Bodegas Aragonesas 2022 Coto de Hayas Chardonnay (Campo de Borja). Medium straw in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of mango and passion fruit. It has brilliant acidity and flavors of Valencia orange, yuzu and honeysuckle that stay aloft on the palate after the last sip. The Marchetti Co.. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Laus 2022 (Somontano). This pale-straw-colored wine has aromas of pineapple and Bartlett pear. Pear and pineapple continue on the taste buds and are joined by flavors of pie crust and orange blossom. A soft note of lemon zest lingers on the palate. Vinamericas, Inc.. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

93 Vizcarra 2021 Rosado (Ribera del Duero). This deep-hued rosé has a nose of mango, dried apricot and slivered almonds. It has full mouthfeel and peach, passion fruit, rose water, dried almond and orange-zest flavors. There is a sophistication in both the texture and the flavor profile that many rosés lack. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Yuntero 2022 Mundo de Yuntero Tempranillo Organic Bio Rosado (La Mancha). The color of a ballet slipper, this wine has aromas of honeydew melon, clementine and *herbes de Provence*. Strawberry, peach, honeysuckle and apricot flavors mingle with a pleasant level of acidity and a lingering hint of rose petal. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

86 Baron De Ley 2021 Rosado de Lágrima (Rioja). This medium-blush-colored rosé has aromas of peach, red currant and dried thyme. It offers nectarine, apricot, strawberry and vanilla flavors that coalesce in a zesty finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy*. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Felix Solis NV Mucho Más Rosé (Spain). Medium-salmon-colored, this wine offers a bouquet of pineapple and tangerine. It has a full texture and raspberry, peach, and mango flavors with a closing note of fresh tarragon. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. *Best Buy*. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

85 Raimat 2021 Abadia Tempranillo Cabernet Sauvignon Rosé (Costers del Segre). This pale-pink rosé has a nose of cantaloupe and peach, with a touch of sage leaf. A dried Mediterranean herb note transitions to the palate where it is joined by apricot, yellow-currant and Valencia orange flavors. A bright note reigns on the palate from first sip. Raventos Codorniu. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

SPAIN RED WINES

RIOJA

97 Muga 2019 Torre Muga (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$140

95 Bodegas Escudero 2011 Solar de Becquer Gran Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 5. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

95 Bodegas Faustino 2011 Faustino I Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of dark fruits of the wood and

herbes de Provence. Muscular tannins offer a backdrop to well-integrated acidity and Mission fig, black-cherry, mocha and marjoram flavors. The enduring finish is noted for a burst of cranberry. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

95 Bodegas Valdemar 2019 Balcón De Pilatos Edición Limitada (Rioja). Made with a grape that is normally used for blending and not as a single varietal, this wine has a bouquet of black cherry, leather, mocha, and cedar block. It is softer on the palate than the nose and offers black-currant, raspberry, clove, anisette and orange-zest flavors. Its complex flavors and elegant texture culminate in a slightly spicy finish. Cru Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Federico Paternina 2013 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of black cherry, mocha, and a hint of cured ham. Bold tannins coat the palate and slowly peel away to show off cherry-preserve, cassis, crumbled sage-leaf, chocolate-covered-espresso-bean and mint-tea flavors. As tannins smooth themselves out they leave a pleasant lasting impression. Drink through 2033. The Haciendas Company. *Cellar Selection*. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Marqués de Vargas 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, butterscotch and marjoram. Velvety tannins and pleasant acidity support black-cherry, mocha, and anisette flavors that culminate in a cranberry-splashed finish. Torgar Group. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

95 Puente del Ea 2019 Coraz (Rioja). This dark-ruby-colored wine offers aromas of cassis, coffee beans and smoke. A smoky note continues on the palate and is joined by black-cherry, blackberry, olive-tapenade, dark-chocolate and violet flavors. Although tannins pile on the palate and linger, a constant sense of brightness keeps them from becoming overpowering. That said, a grilled porterhouse or tomahawk steak would cut the tannins with equal vigor. Vinaio Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

94 Altanza 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep-garnet-colored wine proffers a bouquet of cassis, caramel and lavender. Raspberry, pomegranate, milk-chocolate, toffee and fennel flavors are supported by opulent tannins and well-matched acidity. The bright finish is marked with a soft note of mint tea. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

94 Anciano 2016 No.10 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This deep-ruby-colored wine has a nose of blackberry and salted almond toffee. Bright at first sip, it has luxurious tannins that support black-cherry, Mission fig, chocolate-covered-caramel, roast fennel-bulb and orange-zest flavors. Pleasant acidity and luxurious tannins stroll arm and

arm into a lasting, dark-chocolate-infused finish. Well-Oiled Wine Company. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

94 Bodegas Murua 2015 Reserva (Rioja). This deeply hued wine offers a bouquet of black currant, fig and cocoa butter. Black-cherry, black-plum, mocha and aniseed flavors are set into plush tannins which mingle with bright acidity on the palate. The finish is marked with notes of cranberry. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$34

94 Bodegas Ugalde 2018 Felipe Ugalde Reserva (Rioja). This deep-violet-red colored wine has a nose of black cherry, cocoa powder and butterscotch. Dark berry flavors are backed by bold notes of clove, mint, milk chocolate, caramel and violet. Elegant tannins and well-integrated acidity glide into a long-lasting finish. Drink through 2033. Turquoise Life. *Cellar Selection*. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Bodegas Valdemar 2019 La Gargantilla Garnacha (Rioja). This dark-ruby-colored wine has a nose of cassis, chocolate-covered espresso bean and caramel. It opens on the taste buds with dark-chocolate and caramel flavors wrapped in muscular tannins that are rapidly joined by brilliant acidity and pomegranate, blackberry and orange-zest flavors. The enduring finish is marked with notes of both dark chocolate and cedar block. Cru Selections. *Hidden Gem*. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

94 Finca Los Principes 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Purple-plum, crumbled sage-leaf and black-olive-paste aromas emanate from the glass. This violet-red-colored wine features blackberry, black-currant, dried Mediterranean herb, milk-chocolate and violet flavors wrapped in a sheath of sumptuous tannins. Notes of butterscotch and orange-zest linger on the taste buds. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Ostatu 2015 Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep purple to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, black plum, white chocolate and dried thyme. Plush tannins are wrapped around black-currant, raspberry, dark-chocolate and *herbes de Provence* flavors that presage an anisette-splashed finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$94

93 Aspaldi 2015 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of raspberry, strawberry and caramel set the stage for blackberry, black-cherry, cocoa-powder, lavender and clove flavors set into rigid tannins. As tannins back off a bit, a note of eucalyptus joins the action alongside cranberry-laced acidity that endures on the tongue and gums. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

93 Bodegas Ondarre 2020 Varietal de Ondarre Mazuelo (Rioja). Made with a variety that is usually used in small amounts in blends, this

wine has a bouquet of black currant, caramel and Mediterranean herbs. It has a slightly earthy quality underlying black-plum, Mission fig, mocha and marjoram flavors. Muscular tannins that endure on the palate are replaced with a note of cranberry as they fade away. Vine Street Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

93 Bodegas Ondarre 2017 Mayor de Ondarre Reserva (Rioja). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, caramel and cherry pipe tobacco. It offers an interesting mix of bright and dark fruit flavors including cranberry, pomegranate and cassis mingling with notes of dark chocolate, clove, eucalyptus and a touch of green bell pepper. Polished tannins and vibrant acidity make for a pleasing pour. Vine Street Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Bodegas Tobía 2019 Tobía Selección de Autor (Rioja). Dark ruby to the eye, this wine offers aromas of blackberry, baking spice and toasted hazelnut. Bold tannins are wrapped around black-cherry, plum, anisette, vanilla-bean and cocoa-powder flavors. As tannins drift away deep fruit flavors remain on the taste buds. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.

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

93 Cosme Palacio y Hermanos 2016 Glorioso Gran Reserva (Rioja). The scent of cassis, mocha and black-olive paste wafts from the glass. This wine offers a nice interplay of fruit and spice notes, in particular cherry, raspberry, mint leaf, anise seed and eucalyptus. Plush tannins are joined by vivid acidity, and together they endure into a lengthy finish. USA Wine West. —M.D.

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

93 Federico Paternina 2015 Reserva (Rioja). This inky garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry and dark chocolate with a whiff of smoke. Rigid tannins offer support to black currant, black cherry, *herbes de Provence* and mocha flavors. There is a light touch of eucalyptus on the enduring finish. The Haciendas Company. —M.D.

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

93 Finca Valpiedra 2016 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of blackberry, cassis, mocha and black-olive paste waft from the glass. Rigid tannins coat the tongue and gums and support cherry-pie, eucalyptus, licorice, dark-chocolate and hillside herb flavors that evaporate into an enduring finish. Winebow Imports. —M.D.

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

93 Hacienda Urbión 2015 Reserva (Rioja). A nose of dried cherry, dark plum and violet paves the way for cassis, ripe summer cherry, lavender, anisette and sage-leaf flavors. Tannins come on strong at first and then drift away to reveal a closing note of dark chocolate. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

93 Hammeken Cellars 2018 Beloki Reserva (Rioja). This garnet-colored wine has a bou-

quet of black plums, cocoa powder and lavender. It is brighter and softer than expected, with velvety tannins and a good level of acidity. A slightly earthy quality lends a hand to black-cherry, blackberry, dried thyme, milk-chocolate and caramel flavors. MHW, Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

93 Livius 2013 Garnacha Estate Bottled (Rioja). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of cassis, juniper berry and a hint of green bell pepper. It offers a nice balance of fruit, spice and savory flavors, with notes of black currant, purple plum, clove, eucalyptus, dried thyme and a lingering bit of bell pepper. Slightly grippy tannins coat the palate and are washed away by vibrant acidity. D'Vine. —M.D.

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

93 Loriñon 2015 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of purple plum, licorice and a touch of black-olive paste waft from the glass. A nice balance of opulent tannins and bold acidity play host to blackberry, Mission fig, orange-zest, fennel-pollen, milk-chocolate and dried thyme flavors. A silky sensation and hint of aniseed linger on the palate. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

93 Montecillo 2012 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This dark-garnet-colored wine has a nose of Mission fig and caramel. Bright at first sip, it offers blackberry, red-plum, mocha and butterscotch flavors that are backed by opulent tannins and well-integrated acidity. A touch of smoke lingers on the palate. Evaton, Inc. —M.D.

abv: NA **Price:** \$35

93 Sierra Cantabria 2016 Reserva (Rioja). This deep-garnet wine has a bouquet of black currant, raspberry, and cocoa powder, with a hint of anisette. Opulent tannins and a well-integrated acidity ply the palate, bringing dark-plum, mocha, anisette and violet flavors that endure in the mouth. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Zinio 2018 Terroir de Zinio Reserva Tempranillo (Rioja). Aromas of cherry pie, nutmeg and caramel set the scene for cassis, purple-plum, eucalyptus, caramel and baking-spice flavors. This wine is full textured, with plush tannins that endure on the tongue and gums. It would be perfect alongside a grilled, well-marbled steak. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Aspaldi 2016 Reserva (Rioja). Deep red-violet in color, this wine has a nose of black currant, raspberry and mocha. A framework of muscular tannins supports blackberry-jam, dark-chocolate and lavender flavors, with a hint of charcuterie that lingers into the brilliant finish. Saranty Imports. —M.D.

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

92 Bodegas Berceo 2020 Gonzalo de Berceo Crianza (Rioja). A bouquet of cassis, tobacco

leaf and cocoa powder paves the way for black-cherry, purple-fig, milk-chocolate, clove and violet flavors, with the slightest hint of black truffle. Brawny tannins coat the tongue and gums but they are well matched by a closing volley of vivid acidity. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

92 Diez-Caballero 2020 Crianza Tempranillo (Rioja). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has blackberry and lavender aromas. A floral note transitions to the palate and underlies black-cherry, pomegranate, dark-chocolate, fennel-bulb and black-olive-paste flavors. Grippy tannins fill the mouth and linger there for a while, dropping off to showcase touches of raspberry and violet. V&N Cellars. —M.D.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

92 Larchago 2016 Pagos de Tahola Selección de Martin (Rioja). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of purple plum, bittersweet chocolate and a hint of black truffle. It is unexpectedly bright on the palate, with opening flavors of cranberry and pomegranate that are joined by black cherry, cocoa powder, crumbled sage leaf, orange zest and lavender. Sinewy tannins coat the tongue and gums and stay a while. Assa Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Ostatu 2016 Reserva (Rioja). A bouquet of black currant, cocoa butter, and lavender wafts from the glass. A layer of silky tannins supports well-integrated acidity and flavors of red and black berries, milk chocolate, licorice and marjoram that coalesce in a brighter-than-expected finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.

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

92 Reino de la Viña 2018 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 20. W. Direct.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Torres 2016 Altos Ibéricos Reserva (Rioja). Black-cherry, dried thyme and dark-chocolate aromas rise from the glass. Touches of aniseed and eucalyptus open on the palate and are joined by polished tannins and cassis and Mission fig flavors, with a hint of earthiness that lingers on the taste buds. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.

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

92 Viña Palaciega 2017 Reserva (Rioja). For full review see page 25. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy*.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Bodegas Hidalgo 2016 Tradición H Gran Reserva (Rioja). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has aromas of blackberry, butterscotch and thyme. Clove, nutmeg, bittersweet chocolate and dried sage flavors outweigh blackberry and cassis notes. Muscular tannins ply the palate and stay a while before a splash of cranberry makes an appearance on the close. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Ramirez de la Piscina 2019 Crianza (Rioja). Aromas of black currant and sauteed portobello mushroom lead the way for cassis, blackberry, charcuterie, black-olive paste, smoke, dried thyme and caramel flavors. While the flavor profile leans towards savory rather than fruit-dominant, sturdy tannins and well-balanced acidity make for a nice pour. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Aspaldi 2020 Crianza (Rioja). A bouquet of blackberry, cassis and chocolate-covered espresso bean paves the way for flavors of black-cherry preserves, Dutch cocoa, violet and smoked bacon. Rigid tannins settled in on the palate and stayed a while. While the tannins are well matched by bright acidity, this wine would be best alongside a grilled, well-marbled steak. Saranty Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Chatxo 2020 (Rioja). Medium-cherry colored, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry and violet talc. It is rather soft and lightweight for a Rioja red, offering polished tannins and black-cherry, raspberry, white-chocolate, lavender and eucalyptus flavors with a touch of thyme in the smooth finish. Vinos Libres. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Federico Paternina 2020 Tempranillo (Rioja). Aromas of black currant, charcuterie and bittersweet chocolate waft from the glass. A nice level of acidity keeps the palate bright while muscular tannins mingle with blackberry, cassis, cocoa-powder, dried Mediterranean herb and mint flavors. The chewy finish is marked with a soft floral note. The Haciendas Company. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Valdelacierva 2018 Cantogordo Tempranillo (Rioja). Aromas of cassis, dark chocolate and black truffle prepare the palate for flavors of black cherry, purple plum, bittersweet chocolate, mint tea and green bell pepper. Tannins come on stiff at first and slowly drift away to reveal a savory dried herb finish. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Anciano 2020 No.5 Tempranillo Crianza (-Rioja). Bright red-violet in the glass, this wine has a nose of cherry, purple plum and black-olive tapenade. Black-currant and blackberry flavors are joined by notes of dried thyme and sage, milk chocolate and rose petal. Tannins are a touch stiff at first but are washed away by well-integrated acidity. Well-Oiled Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 Eguren Ugarte 2020 Crianza (Rioja). This violet-colored wine has a nose of dark fruits of the wood, bittersweet chocolate and black truffle. It is quite earthy and savory, offering robust tannins and cranberry, pomegranate, sauteed Portobello mushroom, black-tea and olive-tapenade flavors. While its tannins are a bit strong to drink on its own, this wine would be a good match for a well-

marbled steak or juicy burger. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Lopez de Haro 2020 Crianza (Rioja). This garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, caramel and sage leaf. It's a little spicy up front, with clove, anisette and eucalyptus flavors dominating over cassis and black cherry. Dark-chocolate notes and midweight tannins sail into a smooth finish. Vintae USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Bodegas Bilbainas 2019 Viña Pomal Crianza (Rioja). Aromas of purple plum, cocoa powder and a hint of summer farm stand waft from the glass. Pomegranate, black-cherry, milk-chocolate, dried thyme and lavender flavors are wrapped in layer of vigorous tannins that slowly dissipate into a chocolate and cherry finish. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

87 Anciano 2021 Garnacha (Rioja). This ruby-colored wine has a nose of purple plum, black pepper and dried hillside herbs. Lightweight tannins and soft but noticeable acidity play backup to blackberry, ripe summer cherry, nutmeg, clove and violet flavors. Well-Oiled Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Lopez de Haro 2020 Vino de San Vicente de la Sonsierra (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of Mission fig and butterscotch. Cocoa powder, eucalyptus and aniseed flavors overpower dark berry notes. It has soft tannins and a nice flavor profile, but I can't help wishing it had a little more acidity to balance out the spice notes. Vintae USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

RIBERA DEL DUERO

97 Vizcarra 2020 Celia (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 4. Olé & Obrigado.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$165

95 Balbas 2018 Ardal Reserva (Ribera del Duero). A blend of Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has aromas of black cherry, dark chocolate and violet candy. Flavors of blackberry, Mission fig, mint tea, anise and lavender are intertwined with velvety tannins and a pleasant level of acidity that evaporate into a drawn-out and slightly spicy finish. Drink through 2033. Votto Vines Importing. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

95 Conde D San Cristobal 2018 Reserva Especial (Ribera del Duero). This bright ruby-colored wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood, cherry cola and juniper berry. A note of cherry cola continues to the taste buds and meets up with powerful tannins, soft acidity and black-cherry, eucalyptus, dried Mediterranean herb, orange-zest and rose-petal flavors. This is drinking beautifully right now

but tannins will soften with a few years of bottle rest. Drink through 2033. Torgar Group. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Bodegas Milvus 2018 Fuenconcejo Reserva Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Dark violet in the glass, this wine proffers a bouquet of black currant, butterscotch and aniseed. It is slightly spicy, offering licorice and eucalyptus flavors alongside dark plum, black cherry, milk chocolate and lavender encased in plush tannins. The enduring finished is marked with a note of chocolate. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$155

94 Dominio de Atauta 2020 (Ribera del Duero). This deep-ruby colored wine has aromas of blackberry, violet and cocoa powder. Black-cherry, raspberry, coffee-bean, cocoa-nib, licorice and rose-petal flavors are set into fine-grained tannins. A sense of fruit-filled brightness and chocolate covered mint flavors endure on the palate. Aviva Vino. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Emilio Moro 2021 La Felisa Organic (Ribera del Duero). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry, fennel seed and chocolate-covered espresso bean. It opens with slightly stiff tannins that back off to showcase raspberry, Mission fig, milk-chocolate and butterscotch flavors. The finish is marked with pleasant notes of orange zest and vanilla. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

94 Matarromera 2018 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of cassis, cocoa powder and dried thyme set the scene for purple-plum, blackberry, caramel, violet, anisette and sage-leaf flavors. Opulent tannins and well-integrated acidity ply the palate and linger for a while. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Neo 2020 Sentido Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, cedar chest and dark chocolate. Dark fruit flavors fill the palate alongside notes of licorice, mocha, sage leaf and eucalyptus. It is full in the mouth with robust tannins that linger into a long-lasting finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

94 Tamaral 2018 Finca Velia (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of black cherry, eucalyptus and lavender along with the faintest touch of green bell pepper. Brawny tannins play host to pomegranate, purple-fig, cocoa-bean, menthol and crumbled sage flavors. A lingering vein of acidity brightens up persistent, gum-drying tannins. Trapical Wine Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Vizcarra 2020 Torralvo (Ribera del Duero). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of black currant, caramel and crumbled sage. Plush tannins encase blackberry, pomegran-

ate, clove and vanilla flavors that drift away into a berry-infused finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$96

93 Bodega Y Viñedos Milénico 2020 Dos Mundos De Milénico Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine offers black-cherry, marjoram and smoke aromas. Robust tannins support black-currant, dark-chocolate, smoked cedar-plank and espresso-bean flavors. The grippy finish is marked with a note of violet. Jeff Welburn Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Bodegas Castillejo De Robledo 2021 Valcozar Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). This dark-garnet-colored wine has aromas of black cherry, anisette and dried thyme. Bold tannins are kept in check by a sense of brightness and Mission fig, pomegranate, mocha, sage-leaf and licorice-root flavors. Zesty fruit flavors linger on the tongue and gums. Vine Street Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

93 Cillar de Silos 2020 Torresilo (Ribera del Duero). This dark-ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, black truffle and lavender. Cassis and black-cherry flavors open on the palate and are joined by butterscotch, clove and a touch of mocha. Polished tannins coat the tongue and gums and endure on the palate. Alt Wines. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Conde D San Cristobal 2020 Conde De San Cristobal (Ribera del Duero). This deeply hued wine has a nose of dark plums, dried thyme and purple flowers. It is bright at first sip, offering flavors of pomegranate, raspberry, chocolate-covered caramel and *herbes de Provence*. Velvety tannins ply the palate and evaporate into an orange-zest finish. Torgar Group. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Finca Rodma 2020 Avizor Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry and *herbes de Provence*. Bold tannins offer a framework to nicely integrated acidity and cherry-pie, cassis and eucalyptus flavors. The lingering finish offers a hint of mint tea. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 López Cristóbal 2020 La Colorada (Ribera del Duero). Inky violet in the glass, this wine has a nose of Mission fig, black plum and tobacco leaf. Velour-like tannins provide a framework for raspberry, cassis, mocha and lavender flavors. A closing note of cocoa bean endures on the taste buds. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Martín Berdugo 2018 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). This deep-garnet-colored wine has a nose of blackberry and dark chocolate. A web of polished tannins supports black-cherry, Mission fig, mocha and violet flavors. Touches of bak-

ing spice endure into the smooth finish. Rabelais Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

93 Resalte 2020 Lecco Crianza (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 15. MC Elite Wines Corp.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Aventino 2020 200 Barrels (Ribera del Duero). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of raspberry, cedar chest and carob. The flavor profile leans towards savory, with charcuterie, dried hillside herb, smoke and black-olive flavors dominating over pomegranate and cherry. Well-modulated acidity and powerful tannins are a good match for one another, but ultimately tannins win over the palate. Hammeken Cellars USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Bardos 2020 Suprema (Ribera del Duero). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, butterscotch and lavender. Tannins hit hard and heavy and peel away to divulge a sense of silkiness on the tongue and blackberry, purple-fig, dried thyme and mocha flavors. A hint of earthiness endures on the palate. Vintae USA, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Malcaracter 2021 Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of cranberry, raspberry and milk chocolate. There are soft touches of smoke underlying cherry, Mission fig, cocoa-powder, dried thyme and violet flavors. Silky tannins ply the palate and linger into a soft, minty finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Valderivero 2021 Roble (Ribera del Duero). The scent of red plums, cocoa powder and violet sets the stage for Mission fig, black-plum, mocha, fennel-pollen and hillside herb flavors. Tannins come on a little strong at first and then recede to reveal a bright, cranberry-splashed finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Tamaral 2021 Roble Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, charcuterie and summer farm stand. It is bright on entry, with downy tannins and flavors of black cherry, purple fig, mint, licorice and a hint of green bell pepper that fade into a soft finish. Tropical Wine Imports. *Best Buy*. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

BIERZO

94 Godelia 2017 Selección Mencía (Bierzo). Deep garnet in color, this wine has a bouquet of cherry preserves, plum tart and caramel. Elegant tannins and well-moderated acidity play host to black-cherry, cassis, violet, candied orange peel and milk-chocolate flavors with a whiff of just-

cut ginger and freshly ground nutmeg on the drawn-out finish. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

94 Jose Antonio García 2020 Valtuille de Abajo Vino de Villa (Bierzo). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has a nose of black currant, purple plum and nutmeg. It is full textured and offers slightly grippy tannins alongside bold acidity and flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, sage, black-olive paste, dark chocolate and clove. A soft note of dried hillside herbs meanders into the luxurious finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$53

93 Godelia 2018 Mencía (Bierzo). This inky ruby-colored wine has aromas of black cherry, black currant and black-olive paste. It has a nice balance of velvety tannins and brilliant acidity that supports blackberry, cherry, dried thyme, mocha and freshly cut ginger flavors that endure on the palate. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 Jose Antonio García 2020 Unculín Vino de Villa (Bierzo). Aromas of cassis, purple fig and soft baking spice leads the way for Luxardo cherry, blackberry-pie, dried thyme, grated ginger and bittersweet-chocolate flavors. Tannins come on strong and then drift off into a finish marked with a whiff of smoke. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Godelia 2022 Viernes (Bierzo). Bright cherry-red in the glass, this wine offers a nose of raspberry, honeysuckle and lemon thyme. Lightweight tannins wrap around cherry-pie, nutmeg, and oregano flavors with a hint of flint on the bright finish. This is an easy-drinking, entry-level Mencía. Europvin USA. *Best Buy*. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

92 Alvarez de Toledo 2022 Colección de Familia Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Inky garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis and clove with a touch of flint. Plush tannins are wrapped around black-currant, raspberry, crumbled sage-leaf and black-olive-tapenade flavors. A touch of smoke joins the vibrant finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

92 Palacio de Arganza 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine offers aromas of cassis, aniseed and orange zest. Bold tannins are well matched by vivid acidity, both of which play backup to black-currant, blackberry, crumbled sage-leaf and chocolate-covered-espresso-bean flavors. A soft coffee note endures on the palate. Massanois Imports. *Hidden Gem*. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Palacio de Arganza 2022 Encanto Selección Mencía (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). Aromas of Chambord and eucalyptus waft from the glass. Bold tannins encase flavors of pomegranate, red plum, cocoa, ginger and mint tea that evaporate into a vivid and long-lasting finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

90 Palacio de Arganza 2022 Lagar de Robla Mencía Premium (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This deeply hued wine proffers a bouquet of Mission fig, sauteed Portobello mushroom and smoke. Blackberry, raspberry, jasmine and mocha flavors (along with a hint of summer farm stand) are framed by rigid tannins. Dried thyme and marjoram notes endure on the taste buds. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

ALMANSA

94 Venta la Vega 2017 Ternario 10 Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). This black-cherry-colored wine has a fruit-forward bouquet of red currant and raspberry. Berry notes on the palate are met by notes of eucalyptus, butterscotch, clove and crumbled sage leaf encased in a sheath of plush tannins. The finish is marked with an enduring note of violet. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Volver 2020 Quinta del 67 (Almansa). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, fennel pollen and lavender. Flavors of blackberry, cherry, clove, dark chocolate and rose petals are wrapped in a layer of plush tannins. Touches of chocolate and aniseed endure on the palate. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

93 Bodegas Piqueras 2019 Los Losares Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). For full review see page 12. Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Abrigo 2021 Edad de Bronce Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). Deep violet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, cherry pipe tobacco and black-olive tapenade. It is full on the palate and offers black-cherry, cassis, lavender and clove flavors wrapped in downy tannins. There is a whiff of smoke on the lasting finish. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

92 Aljibes 2022 Pava Garnacha Tintorera Organic (Almansa). This dark-ruby colored wine has a nose of cassis, blackberry and clove, with a hint of cured ham. Berry flavors transition to the palate and are accompanied by midweight tannins and notes of black pepper, licorice and a touch of candied violet that dominates the smooth finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

92 Aljibes 2020 Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). Aromas of black cherry, cranberry and lavender waft from the glass. This wine is bright on entry, with flavors of cherry, raspberry, anisette and dried thyme. Satiny tannins slowly evaporate into a lasting finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Venta la Vega 2018 Ternario 2 Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). A nose of black cherry, dried hillside herbs and a hint of smoke leads the way for Mission fig, raspberry, aniseed, clove, dried thyme and cocoa flavors. Opulent tannins peel away to reveal a bright, cranberry-splashed finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Venta la Vega 2019 Ternario 1 Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). The scent of raspberry, rose petal and flint emanates from the glass. Bright cherry and pomegranate flavors encased in soft and silky tannins are accompanied by roasted fennel-bulb, white-pepper, lavender and marjoram flavors. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

90 Terramagna 2017 Sillares (Almansa). With a nose of black cherry and licorice, this wine offers blackberry, black-currant, clove, mint and lavender flavors. Glossy tannins and well-integrated acidity linger on the tongue and gums alongside a note of candied orange. Las Arribes LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Bodegas Piqueras 2019 Piqueras Old Vines Garnacha Tintorera (Almansa). This deeply hued wine offers a bouquet of black currant, Mission fig, violet and a hint of pine needle. It is bright at first sip, with cherry and pomegranate flavors joined by velvety tannins and milk-chocolate, licorice and black-olive flavors that linger on the tongue. Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

JUMILLA

93 Bodegas Luzón 2021 Por Ti (Jumilla). Dark cherry red in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, Mediterranean herbs and smoke. Plush tannins play host to Mission fig, blackberry, cocoa-butter, caramel and violet flavors. The lengthy finish is marked with a note of marjoram. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 Creencia 2021 con Juventud Dry Farmed Monastrell (Jumilla). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, mocha and dried thyme and sage. It is bright on entry with flavors of raspberry, black cherry, espresso, bitter-sweet chocolate and mountainside herb. Polished tannins and vivid acidity stroll hand and hand into a candied orange-peel finish. Hammeken Cellars USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

92 Ego Bodegas 2020 Pirapu (Jumilla). This deep violet-red-colored wine offers aromas of Mission fig, mocha and dried thyme. Vivid berry flavors are followed by notes of caramel, anisette and dried Mediterranean herbs. Rigid tannins slowly peel away to reveal a raspberry and blackberry finish infused with a note of rose petal. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Bodegas Luzón 2021 Altos de Luzón (Jumilla). For full review see page 21. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Casa de la Ermita 2020 Crianza (Jumilla). Bright cherry red in the glass, this wine has a nose of pomegranate, cocoa butter and eucalyptus. It is juicy on entry, offering cranberry, cherry, milk-chocolate, fennel-pollen and lavender flavors wrapped in a cloak of silky tannins. Aligned Beverage Solutions. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Alceño 2021 Alceño 4 Meses Roble Monastrell (Jumilla). Deep violet in the glass, this wine proffers a bouquet of cassis, espresso bean and a touch of smoke. It has plum, raspberry, eucalyptus and milk-chocolate flavors, with slightly brusque tannins and a lively finish. Viñedos Distribution LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Juan Gil 2020 Red Blend (Jumilla). Aromas of black cherry, vanilla and dried thyme pave the way for cassis, Mission fig, milk-chocolate and baking-spice flavors. Midweight tannins and well-matched acidity make for a pleasant pour. Gil Family Estates. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$16

86 Brumita 2021 Monastrell (Jumilla). This bright cherry-red wine has a bouquet of blackberry jam and cherry pie. It is soft on the palate and offers raspberry, ripe summer cherry, white-chocolate and fennel flavors with a zesty finish. The Spanish Acquisition. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Pata Negra NV Apasionado (Jumilla). This deep red-violet-colored wine has aromas of blackberry and butterscotch. It is bright on entry, with lightweight tannins and pomegranate, blackberry, dried sage and thyme flavors. A hint of rose petal livens up the finish. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

86 Pata Negra NV Apasionado Organic Monastrell (Jumilla). A bouquet of black cherry, purple plum and caramel wafts from the glass. Downy tannins provide a framework for cranberry, cassis, black-olive and lemon-thyme flavors. A hint of jasmine lingers on the palate after the last sip of this easy-drinking red wine. CIV/USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

OTHER RED WINES

91 Rectoral de Amandi 2022 Matilda Nieves Mencía (Ribeira Sacra). The scent of ripe summer cherry, dark chocolate and caramel rises from the glass. Raspberry, caramel and dried thyme and sage flavors are supported by downy tannins that slowly drift away to reveal a satisfying coffee-bean finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

87 Borsao 2022 Viña Borgia Made with Organic Garnacha (Spain). Cherry red in the glass, this wine has aromas of raspberry, vanilla and sage leaf. It is soft in the mouth and offers touches of baking spices and vanilla mingling with black cherry, caramel and lavender. This easy-drinking has soft tannins and a lingering hint of milk chocolate. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$10

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES VINHO VERDE

90 Aveleda 2021 Parcela do Convento (Vinho Verde). From a single vineyard, this is a ripe wine that has a fine fresh character. Vivid white fruits run right through the wine, with crisp acidity giving providing freshness. Drink now. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

90 Casa de Vila Verde 2023 (Vinho Verde). A rich Vinho Verde that's creamy and has light acidity, the wine is ripe, full of fruit and textured with a mineral edge. It is full and still young. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Provam 2021 Vinha Antiga (Vinho Verde). Alvarinho from the northern Monção and Melgaço region of Vinho Verde, this wine is ripe and creamy. It has ripe acidity and wood flavors from barrel aging, and a final tangy crispness. Drink now. Dionysos Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

90 Wine Attitude 2022 Avesso (Vinho Verde). Avesso is the variety of the southern part of the Vinho Verde region. While it has weight, it also has the freshness of this northern part of Portugal. So apple and kiwi fruits are crispened by lime right at the end. Drink from late 2024. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$31

DÃO

92 Seacampo 2021 Encruzado (Dão). Beautifully textured, with Encruzado's ripe apple flavors and balanced acidity, the wine is rich and

has a fine tang of freshness and a touch of spice. It's ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

90 Pedra Cancela 2021 Reserva (Dão). Mainly Encruzado with a touch of perfumed Malvasia, this is fresh while also ripe and packed with fruit. The wine profits from some wood aging that broadens its texture. It's ready to drink. Lusovini USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$27

DOURO

92 Quinta dos Avidagos 2021 Grande Reserva (Douro). Long barrel aging—an unusual 16 months—has given this wine a strong toasty character. The fruit is still muted. Cool freshness and citrus acidity in the fruit will balance with the toast, so just wait and drink from 2026. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$75

91 Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 Extinto (Douro). The versatility of the Alvarelhão grape is shown in this white wine made from a red variety. It does show some structure and a touch of tannins, but also ripe white fruits and plenty of acidity. Drink from 2025. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

91 Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 Reserva Branco (Douro). This wood-aged wine, with its edge of toast and spice, is balanced with green fruits and a touch of citrus to bring freshness behind the wine's textures. This is a fine wine that needs some more aging. Drink from 2025. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

90 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2022 Reserva Blanc de Noir (Douro). This is a white wine made from red grapes, just using the juice and not the color from the skins. It is a new wine from this quinta, with citrus flavors and acidity filled out with white fruits. Drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

TEJO

89 Quinta da Alorna 2021 Alvarinho-Viognier Reserva (Tejo). A touch of wood aging has broadened and softened this ripe wine. The acidity creeps in behind, adding freshness to the wine's toasty character. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

88 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Fernão Pires (Tejo). The wine is rich, while also light. It has a light mineral texture underlined by white fruits and kiwi flavors. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

86 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo). There is a light tropical touch to this wine. Its ripe fruit is cut with acidity and an herbal texture. It's a fresh and refreshing wine that is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

85 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Ombu (Tejo). Fernão Pires and Verdelho are blended to create this fresh, light wine. It is full of fruit with a light green touch of acidity. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$9

ALENTEJANO

90 Rosa Santos 2019 Explicit X (Alentejano). Rich with layers of toast and spice, this wood-aged wine is ripe but still young. It needs to soften and bring out the fruit. Drink from 2025. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$34

89 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Quid pro Quo Reserva (Alentejano). Arinto and Antão Vaz create bright acidity and fresh grapefruit flavors. This wine is light and fruity. Oak aged for six months, it has softened. Acidity at the end gives crispness. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

88 Rosa Santos 2022 Implicit (Alentejano). This is a light, fruity wine with bright acidity over a creamy texture. White fruits come through strongly, freshened by pink grapefruit. Drink now. NLC Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

ALENTEJO

93 Herdade do Esporão 2022 Vinho da Talha (Alentejo). From an old, ungrafted vineyard planted in sandy soil, this blend of traditional Alentejo grapes is ripe with a soft texture from the amphora aging. Green fruits and perfumed acidity come together in this rounded, finely structured wine. Drink from 2025. Now Wine Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2023 Marqués de Borba (Alentejo). Light, fruity and fresh, this crisp wine is full of brightness. With a touch of Viognier to add a tropical edge, the wine is well-balanced and refreshing. Drink from late 2024. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Aveleda 2021 Parcela do Roseiral (Minho). This single vineyard wine is powerful and ripe. It is packed with spiced white fruits and generous acidity. The wine should be at its peak in 2025.

BUYINGGUIDE

Suitable for vegans. Aveleda Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

88 Aveleda 2014 Quinta d'Aguieira Bruto (Bairrada). With a hint of toast, this sparkling wine is mature, the fruit melding into richness and touches of spice. Drink now. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

87 Casa Santos Lima 2023 (Lisboa). This attractively perfumed wine has acidity and the freshest fruit. The crisp green fruits give tangy acidity and a light mineral touch. Drink from late 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

87 Wine Attitude 2021 Quinta das Mares (Alenquer). Portugal has so many unique grapes, and they are all always worth a taste. This wine from the Lisboa region is a blend Jampal and Vital. Fruity and crisp, the wine is fresh and light, with citrus and white fruits. Drink now. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$31

PORTUGAL ROSÉ WINES

90 Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 Quase Tinto (Douro). Made from the Alvarelhão grape, a local variety grown mainly in the Douro and Dão regions, this is an unusual rosé. The wine is rich and full with a touch of structure and with tense acidity. Drink now. Vino Vero. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

87 Rosa Santos 2022 Implicit (Alentejano). This is a ripe wine with red fruits and acidity. It has a crisp edge that brings freshness at the end. Drink now. NLC Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

86 Quinta dos Avidagos 2022 (Douro). The fruit is rounded with red fruits and soft acidity. The wine has a fresh and red currant acidity at the end. Drink now. Vino Vero. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DÃO

93 Pedra Cancela 2018 Vinha do Fidalga (Dão). This single-vineyard wine aged in wood is rich and impressive. The Alfocheiro and Touriga Nacional blend has weight and layers of black fruits, underlined by tannins, and is full-bodied and solid. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Lusovini USA. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

91 Pedra Cancela 2019 Reserva (Dão). Wood aging marks this solid wine with rich, full black fruits and a strong texture of tannins. The wine is still young, with acidity and texture still to finally come together. Drink from 2025. Lusovini USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

91 Seacampo 2019 Casa Américo (Dão). The dense wine with its tannins and bold flavors comes from Jaen, one of the local grapes of the Dão. Its dark fruits, black plums and spice are still developing. Drink from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

89 Seacampo 2018 Casa Américo (Dão). This ripe black fruit-flavored wine from the Alfocheiro grape is dense and packed with tannins and acidity. The wine is unoaked, bringing out the freshness of the smoky fruit. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 Pedra Cancela 2019 Seleção do Enólogo (Dão). Fruit dominates this blend of Touriga Nacional, Alfocheiro and Tinta Roriz. It has light wood aging with acidity and black currant fruits. Fresh and fruity, the wine is ready to drink. Lusovini USA. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

DOURO

94 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Reserva Terroir (Douro). Blended to reflect the terroir of the vineyard, this wine is richly textured and firmly structured. It is still young, its underlying acidity giving a lift to the dense black fruits. Drink this concentrated wine from 2027. Wein Bauer Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

94 Ramos-Pinto 2019 Quinta de Ervamoira (Douro). Located in the World Heritage Site of Foz Côa, this vineyard makes impressively structured wines and Ports. This new release is still intensely young, full of black fruits with richness from foot treading during fermentation. Drink this powerful wine from 2027. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$125

93 Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 (Douro). Mainly made from a field blend of grapes from old vines and aged for 22 months in wood, this rich, dense wine is a powerful example of ripe fruit and texture from the Douro. The alcohol is well-handled, and the wine is still young. It'll be better from at least 2025. Vino Vero. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$45

93 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Reserva (Douro). This bold red wine with its ripe tannins comes from a single quinta in the Douro. It has a dense texture that brings con-

centration as well as layers of black fruits. This is a powerful wine, ready to drink from 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

93 Ramos-Pinto 2021 Duas Quintas Reserva (Douro). Seriously wood aged, the Duas Quintas Reserva—the reserve version of one of the Douro's most famous wines—is rich and firmly structured. Bold tannins are a full backdrop to this solid, ageworthy wine. Drink from 2026. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

92 Duorum 2020 Duorum Reserva Field Blend (Douro). From a field blend of grapes from old vines, this wine has impressive structure and density. A touch of minerality, typical of the schist soils of the Douro, gives texture to the solid tannins and ripe black fruits. Drink from 2026. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$46

91 Quinta Dona Matilde 2021 Vinha do Pinto (Douro). This is a blockbuster wine, big on tannins and structure. It is rich, with layers of acidity as well as black fruits. At the wine's heart is a dry core that needs to soften. Drink from 2026. Vin de Terra Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$59

90 Ramos-Pinto 2021 Duas Quintas (Douro). One of the flagship wine brands from the Douro, this latest iteration of Duas Quintas is ripe, spicy and wood aged, with generous tannins. There are flavorsome black fruits shot through with acidity. Drink from 2025. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2021 Douro Superior (Douro). An open, ripe wine that is stylish and spicy, it has acidity and a fine balance between fruit and structure. Drink from 2025. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 Quinta de Porrais 2021 Signature (Douro). From a vineyard on the northern edge of the Douro region, this wine is richly textured with a layer of tannins as well as plenty of blackberry fruits. With its blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Sousão and Tinta Barroca, it is a typical Douro style of wine. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

88 Quinta dos Avidagos 2021 Tinto (Douro). All fruit and no wood aging, the wine is full of black plum flavors and soft tannins. It is a young wine, one that should be ready to drink soon, certainly from 2025. Vino Vero. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

87 Quinta Dona Matilde 2020 Boavida (Douro). The good life is the name of this wine, whose label celebrates a sybaritic day in the Douro. It is a

ripe, soft and fruity wine with gentle tannins and a bright texture. Drink now. Elixir Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

LISBOA

90 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Stones & Bones (Lisboa). With a spicy edge of Syrah, this wine is rich and full-bodied. It has ripe black fruits that are backed by tannins and filled out with acidity and spice. Drink from 2025. Lionstone International. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Colossal (Lisboa). The name of the wine comes from the weight of the wine in the mouth and the Alicante Bouschet variety that brings out richness and deepens the wine's color. It is lightly spicy with a freshening touch of acidity at the end. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

89 Casa Santos Lima 2020 Confidencial Reserva (Lisboa). More than 10 varieties (Portugal is a cornucopia of grape varieties) go into this wine. It is fruity and smoky, with attractive red fruits. The wine is lightly structured with fine acidity at the end. Drink now. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Espiga (Lisboa). Concentrated fruit and a layer of tannins give this fresh fruit-flavored wine a balance and richness. The wine will be ready from late 2024. Casa Bruno. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Portuga (Lisboa). Light oak aging gives this wine spicy and rich fruit. It has a smoky character with fresh acidity and red fruits that means it will soon be ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

TEJO

90 Fiiza 2022 Ducado do Infante Reserva (Tejo). A rich, smooth wine, this is full of black fruits and ripe background tannins. With its structure softening and its black plum flavors coming to the fore, the wine is developing well. It is certainly worth aging further and will be ready to drink from 2025. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Fiiza 2022 Canto do Pedro Reserva (Tejo). Normally found in blends, the Sousão is originally from the Douro, but here in Tejo it forms a full wine with ripe, fruity tannins. There is fine acidity and blackberry flavors to enhance the wine's fruitiness. Drink from 2025. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Quinta da Alorna 2020 Tinto Colheita (Tejo). Blending Syrah and Alicante Bouschet along with Castelão and a seasoning of Tinta Roriz, this is a spicy wine, dark in color and dense. The red fruits and tannins are softening so the wine is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Ombu (Tejo). The wine is young, fruity and soft. Red berry flavors are underlined by light tannins. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

ALENTEJANO

90 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Vila Santa Reserva (Alentejano). Aged in wood for 12 months, the wine is still structured with bright red fruits. It has a core of concentration that gives it extra richness. Drink from 2025. Organic. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Rosa Santos 2020 Implicit (Alentejano). This dense blend of Touriga Nacional, Alicante Bouschet and Aragonez is full of black fruits. It has a touch of spice from wood aging along with rich tannins that form a core. Drink this concentrated wine from 2025. NLC Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Quid pro Quo (Alentejano). Light wood aging has already smoothed out this wine. It is now ripe, featuring black fruits and balanced acidity. It has richness and is packed with fruits. Drink from 2025. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Rosa Santos 2019 Familia (Alentejano). This is concentrated, rich and showing its alcohol through the big tannins. The wine is massive and not for the fainthearted. Redemption comes with the acidity at the end. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

ALENTEJO

94 J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Vinha do Lado Vinha Catada (Alentejo). From a single parcel, this is powerful and concentrated. Its dense black fruits are powerful and show total richness. This is an impressive wine from the Tinta Caida variety that still has further aging. Drink from 2026. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

93 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Reserva (Alentejo). For full review see page 13. Now Wine Imports. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Rosa Santos 2020 Explicit X (Alentejo). One of the star varieties of the Alentejo gives

its typical density and dark color. Bold tannins are an element of this rich wine that will soften as it matures further. Drink from 2026. NLC Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$34

89 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Vinho da Talha (Alentejo). Aged in amphorae (*talha* is the Portuguese word), the wine is light in color and full of red cherry flavors. Acidity and a soft texture are the wine's hallmarks. It is ripe and structured and will be ready from 2025. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Rosa Santos 2021 Explicit X (Alentejo). Aged in amphorae, this ripe wine is open, already softening. The rich black fruits are dominant with just a touch of dryness at the core. It should be ready from 2025. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

87 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Monte Velho Reserva (Alentejo). This popular red wine is full of fresh fruit. Lightly oak aged, it is gently textured with acidity and fresh berry fruits. Drink late this 2024. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Marquês de Borba (Alentejo). A blend of six varieties, the wine is ripe and perfumed. Light oak aging has given a polish that softens the tannins. It is a fruity wine that will be ready to drink from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINES

90 Quinta de Foz de Arouce 2020 (Beira Atlantico). A blend of Baga and Touriga Nacional, the wine comes from slopes facing the Atlantic Ocean. It is juicy, structured and still packed with young black fruits. Drink this juicy wine from 2025. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Wine Attitude 2020 Vinhas Velhas (Trás-os-Montes). Trás-os-Montes, the region across the mountains in northeast Portugal, produces a typically hearty wine. This dense, rich example is packed with solid black fruits and ripe tannins. The alcohol does show in the final pepper edge but does not detract from the wine's density. Drink from 2025. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$31

PORT

92 Ramos-Pinto 2018 RPLBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port). Now well matured, this Port has depth and a good balance between a dry core and sweet dried fruits. The wine is ready to drink but will also age at least until 2028. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$26

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2017 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port). A fine LBV Port, this has structure as well as some serious black, spicy fruits. The wine's dried fruits and balanced sweetness are just right. The wine could age for many years but is also drinkable now. Aveleda Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$30

GERMANY RIESLING

95 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This is not so obvious at this stage, but what a beauty! Suave and seamless with beautiful integration of acidity and fruit, texture and mineral, spice and floral notes. So pure and graceful, the apricot, citrus and pineapple flavors melt in the mouth, with its richness offset by vibrant structure. It ends with a tangy, mineral note. A wine you could enjoy now, but this will give much more to those who are patient. Best after 2032. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$55/375 ml

94 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2022 Graacher Himmelreich Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This is lush, velvety sweet Riesling, but with mouthwatering acidity creating an elegant feel. This delivers flavors of orange blossom, elderberry, fresh quince and candied lime. The vibrant structure imparts focus and length and provides backbone for aging. It finishes with a mineral-inflected aftertaste. Best after 2030. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$95

93 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2022 Graacher Himmelreich Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This shows brilliant aromas and flavors of green pear, white raspberry, citrus, vanilla and hints of earthy notes. The wet stone highlights the elegance of this youthful sweet wine, while the acidity gives it great vibrancy, which resonates through the finish. Best after 2027. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$80

93 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). This is quite round and very supple, with a vibrant structure supporting the flat peach, bergamot and sage honey flavors. It shows great clarity and expression with a subtle, yet long, kaleidoscope aftertaste. It is firm and remains like that even with plenty of air, so this is another one for the cellar. Best after 2030. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$88

93 Nik Weis 2021 Ockfener Bockstein GG Dry Riesling (Mosel). There is some grace to this rather intense version, with piercing acidity that is precisely crafted. It shows notes of star anise and lavender framing the core of prickly pear and tangerine flavors. The acidity builds up, so it needs a bit more

time, but will also serve as a backbone for many years to come. Best after 2027. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$76

92 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2022 Graacher Himmelreich Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This is a bit more dry, with precise flavors of white cherry, red peach and white raspberry that are flanked by plenty of creamy notes. On the palate this dances, but in an inarticulate way, full of character, as its bursting with youthful energy. Give it some time to fully integrate. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$75

92 Joh. Jos. Prüm 2022 Wehlener Sonnenuhr Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Elegant kabinett, delivering freshness, and complexity with a subtle fruit appeal. This features pear and grapefruit mid-palate, with ground ginger and elderflower that are well supported by the vibrant acidity and mineral elements, imparting balance. This will open up its bouquet even more with some age. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$80

90 Julius Treis 2020 Alte Reben Trocken Riesling (Mosel). There is a flinty note that opens up this Riesling, with hints of jasmine and white raspberry that follow, while crunchy acidity connects it all and brings it to a lingering spice-infused aftertaste. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Schloss Vollrads 2021 Estate Schlossberg GG Riesling (Rheingau). This is light and intense, even a bit austere at this point, but a wave of quince, green peach, grapefruit and ginger intervene midpalate to create harmony. The finish is bone-dry and begs for food. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$68

88 Julius Treis 2021 Trocken Riesling (Mosel). This is rather light, with subtle notes of physalis, lemon parfait and ginger. It is a direct style, but with enough balance to stand on its own, although food would help. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Lucashof 2022 Riesling (Pfalz). This shows some complexity with fruit and mineral elements interchanging midpalate. There is ginger, candied apple and quince, but it fades away on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Riffel 2022 Leliy Binger Kirchberg Kabinett Riesling (Rheinhausen). This white is showing a light paraffin note that sneaks behind direct flavors of yellow apple and roasted pineapple. It is nicely balanced, but loses intensity on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Schloss Vollrads 2022 Estate Qualitätswein Dry Riesling (Rheingau). A light-bodied, dry Riesling, this has nuanced flavors of apple and

lime, but there is a certain spice quality that adds pleasure to the overall experience. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$28

88 Schloss Vollrads 2022 Estate Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). This is made in the silky, sweet style with acidity in the front row, backed by slightly sweet notes of kiwi and apple. It's a restrained style that will find its fans. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$45

87 Schloss Vollrads 2022 Volratz Qualitätswein Dry Riesling (Rheingau). Intense acidity brings out the mouthwatering sensation of this white, with zesty notes of grapefruit and lemon. Find its balance towards the moderate finish. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 St. Christopher 2022 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This is a bit softer and much sweeter than its peers, with lots of tropical and floral notes. Moderate length. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$12

86 Julius Treis 2020 Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). This flirts with oxidation, but comes with nicely integrated and very subtle hints of petrol and umami, which are in the shadow of light pear and peach flavors. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Raimund Prüm 2022 Solitär Trocken Riesling (Mosel). Here's a straightforward example of the grape, with a crunchy texture decorated with hints of baking spice and orchard blossom. Taub Family Selections. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Schloss Vollrads 2022 Estate Qualitätswein Riesling (Rheingau). This off-dry version balances acidity and sweetness, while showing subtle notes of orchard and stone fruit. Medium length. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$28

85 Schlink Haus 2022 Auslese Riesling (Nahe). A bit syrupy, this has notes of pineapple and currant. This one doesn't have the intensity of other auslesen, but many will find it friendly. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Schloss Vollrads 2022 Estate Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Super light in both color and body, this makes you dig for flavors, but once you find them, it shows tasty citrus and orchard-fruit notes. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$35

84 Schlink Haus 2022 Kabinett Riesling (Nahe). A soft version of Riesling, it delivers direct

notes of orchard fruit and elderflower syrup. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 9% Price: \$12

84 Schlink Haus 2022 Spätlese Riesling (Nahe). This is silky, with lanolin hints behind ripe guava and kiwi fruit. Modest finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% Price: \$13

83 Raimund Prüm 2022 Essence Riesling (Mosel). Here's a light and subtle white, with notes of lemon and ginger, paired with sharp acidity. Taub Family Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$16

OTHER WHITE WINES

82 St. Christopher 2022 Gewürztraminer (Rheinessen). This sports faint floral and fruit flavors which accent the sweetness. Quick finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$12

ROSÉ

86 Von Schleinitz 2022 Baseline VS Pinot Noir Dry Rosé (Mosel). An easy-drinking rosé, this has notes of white cherry and rose water. Moderate length. The Marchetti Co. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11% Price: \$16

PINOT NOIR

91 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2019 Hansjörg Rebholz R Spätburgunder (Pfalz). This is aromatic, featuring floral notes that make room for cherry and blackberry flavors, matched to a plush texture. Vibrant and focused, with a long, detailed aftertaste of fruit, spice and mineral. It shows great freshness and length. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$57

88 Lucashof 2021 Pinot Noir (Pfalz). There is lots of cedar and cinnamon here, with cherry and violet underneath and enough acidity for balance. The finish is moderately long. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

AUSTRIA

GRÜNER VELTLINER

95 Claus Preisinger 2020 Erdeluftgrasundreiben Grüner Veltliner (Weinland Österreich). This starts off with a subtle note of quinine, opening up in the glass, while the palate reveals the chalky minerality which glides along, picking up lime, chrysanthemum and white peach flecked by flinty notes. Light, yet very expressive, with different layers of flavor emerging with each sip. The finish prevents you from ever putting down your glass. This can age,

but is at a beautiful spot now. Volker Wine Company. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$59

93 Bernhard Ott 2021 Ried Stein Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This shows great complexity in the classic style, with a racy feel to the heather, chamomile, yellow-apple and green-melon notes. There's a touch of creaminess to the texture, but the mouthwatering acidity keeps this medium-bodied in feel and very fresh. Spice notes stretch out on the toned finish with a stony echo. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$78

93 Johannes Zillinger 2020 Numen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is very lively and seductive, with a slightly cloudy appearance, showing plenty of cream and spice framing the core of orchard fruit and white raspberry. This is rather silky texturally, but there is a soft grip, which gives it an extra dimension on the finish. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$55

93 Schloss Gobelsburg 2021 Ried Renner Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is ripe, with verbena, citrus-oil, white-peach and Jonagold apple flavors seamlessly layered, but there's firm acidity to keep this balanced. Spice details are carrying through a long, floral finish. Still a bit tight, but this unfurls nicely with air. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$57

92 Fischer 2019 Ried Kreuzberg R Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). Very rich and lush, this features notes of candied papaya and mango, which flirt with sweetness, but all that is offset by firm acidity, which gives it an edge for this style. Very approachable and attractive, this winds up with a crescendo of spice on the lengthy finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

92 Hiedler 2021 Ried Käferberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is medium-bodied and richly spiced, with touches of cedar and hominy framing the core of ripe peach, glazed apricot, lemon and cream. The long, well-structured finish is dominated by lemon zest and echoes of smoke. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

92 Hiedler 2021 Ried Kittmannsberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is floral, with notes of elderflower and physalis, backed by vibrant acidity, fueling the lentil, apple and white-pepper midpalate. The velvety texture captures the profile nicely, while the finish surprises with hints of sea salt. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$42

92 Steininger 2021 Ried Kittmannsberg Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Round and rich, this also comes with good clarity, exhibiting peach, lanolin and grapefruit notes on a creamy, well-defined structure. The wine shows plenty of spice

and power, as it flows to a long, pepper-infused finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

91 Bernhard Ott 2021 Ried Rosenberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram). There is intense acidity behind the notes of ginger, yellow apple, cardamom and bitter lemon, but this somehow finds its balance midpalate, as more of the texture comes in the first plan. The finish is long and detailed, featuring a very salty echo. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$85

91 Fischer 2020 Smaragd Privat Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). An elegant, silky version of Veltliner, this bottling offers a lot of earth and mineral framing the core of crunchy apple, yellow plum and grapefruit notes. The citrusy finish is persistent and well balanced. This is precisely made for the fresher style. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$48

91 Johannes Zillinger 2022 JZ Velue 2.0 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Light, yet round in feel, this is a well-meshed wine, with vivid acidity, redolent of grapefruit, which provides the backbone, but also the vibrancy. This is more on the nuanced, textural side, than flashy, fruity side. Yet, notes of orchard fruit and spice will not leave you disappointed. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$25

90 Bründlmayer 2022 Ried Langenloiser Loiserberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is very spicy, with a mineral feel upfront, followed by savory notes of smoked sage and salt. Only at mid-palate apple and peach flavors emerge. This is leaner and lighter overall, with crunchy acidity. It finishes pure and precise. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

90 Fischer 2020 Ried Frauenweingärten Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This has easily put a belt around its waist, with its mouth-watering acidity serving as the proof. Notes of chamomile, white peach and physalis decorate the suit, and is all tied into a bow of silky texture flecked with a pinch of white pepper. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

90 Fischer 2018 Ried Kreuzberg Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). Round and full bodied, this is superripe with its acidity completely integrated in the balance and structure. It is tasty and full of spice, but is really a wine for those who like the bigger style of Grüner Veltliner. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

90 Hirsch 2021 Ried Gaisberg Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This is subtle and nuanced, showing notes of blanched almond, lentil and singed lemon. Its acidity although prominent, is nicely integrated, and helps lift this up as hints of

BUYINGGUIDE

quinine and sage emerge and linger on the broad finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

90 Nigl 2021 Ried Herzstück vom Kirchberg Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This is powerful and rich, with intense apricot, honey, peach and spice. It is quite creamy as well and builds up to the finish that's loaded with spice and butterscotch notes. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Steinger 2020 Grand Grü Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Spicy, with concentrated, this delivers pure-tasting flavors of apple, lemongrass, and gooseberry. Everything is in balance, and backed up by a juicy acidity. Salty accents mark the finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

88 Fischer 2022 Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This light- to medium-bodied white is backed by mouthwatering acidity. It is bright, with an earthy note and subtle flavors of grapefruit sorbet and light herb. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21

88 Stadlmann 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is an easy Grüner, with lentil, white-peach, smoke and milled pepper notes. Light and nuanced, it has mouthwatering acidity. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Esterházy 2022 Estoras Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Light bodied, this shows citrus and orchard-fruit flavors and subtle notes of spice in the background. Medium length. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Felix 2022 Bio Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). A softer, friendlier version of Veltliner, this features creamed apple and white-pepper flavors mingling at the core. Crunchy acidity marks the finish. Winemonger. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

85 Helenental Kellerei 2022 GVLAT Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Light and crunchy, it offers notes of green pear and lime, flecked with hints of white pepper. Moderate length. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13/1L

RIESLING

93 Schloss Gobelsburg 2021 Ried Gaisberg Riesling (Kamptal). This starts out rather ripe and languid, with honeysuckle and heather accents draping over the creamed apple, and white-raspberry notes. A light echo of quinine lingers on the well-defined finish. The acidity is the spine that

adds extra length as this keeps rolling. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Bründlmayer 2022 Ried Zöbinger Heiligenstein Riesling (Kamptal). Crunchy up front, this white is layered with juicy energy and is full of orchard-blossom, peach and lemon-lime flavors that are finely textured and well structured, thanks to the mouthwatering acidity. Savory mineral notes are accented by hints of smoke on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

92 Fischer 2020 Ried Kreuzberg Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). A vivid, intense example of the grape, this serves concentrated green-peach, quince and white-cherry flavors, accented by sage and shaved ginger notes. Its silkiness is interrupted only by the mineral crunch, as this goes for long on the linear finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Hager Matthias 2022 Terrassen Riesling (Kamptal). Finely knit and vibrant, this sleek white Riesling is expressive and layered, showing flavors of Meyer lemon, fresh tarragon, nectarine and elderflower. Long and lithe, it has an enticing mineral character that brings you back for more. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Schloss Gobelsburg 2021 Ried Heiligenstein Riesling (Kamptal). A very bright, classical style of Riesling from Lower Austria, this displays a range of aromas and flavors, with lime, coriander, green-almond, yellow-apple, fennel-seed and sea-salt notes racing along, fueled by vivid acidity. The finish shows definition and depth. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Weinhofmeisterei Mathias Hirtzberger 2022 Zier Federspiel Riesling (Wachau). Lean and linear, this is a vibrant version of the grape, with apple, lemon and savory mineral. The acidity is prominent, while the flavors persist through the long finish. It doesn't need time to settle down, but the intensity is there. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Fischer 2021 Federspiel Rossatz Riesling (Wachau). Superfresh and floral, with a salty edge lending this delivers a vivacious feel. Crunchy apple and nectarine flavors match its prominent acidity, marking the core of this bright white. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Fischer 2020 Ried Steiger Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). Classic Riesling, this comes with a glossy feel featuring citrus and peach highlighted by mineral, herb and cardamom accents. The clean, persistent finish is thanks to its high-toned acidity

and flashes of floral details. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Stadlmann 2021 Riesling (Thermenregion). There's a pleasant saltiness to this wine, with some secondary aromas and flavors, but grapefruit, gooseberry and stone mark the core. Clean and well defined by the firm acidity, yet well-meshed and elegant overall, it lands with a mouthwatering finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Waldschütz 2022 Strass Riesling (Kamptal). The very clean and straightforward style are paired with vivid acidity and lots of ripe orchard- and stone-fruit aromas and flavors. It is pretty long for this level of complexity. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Johannes Zillinger 2021 Numen Fumé Blanc Sauvignon Blanc (Niederösterreich). Notes of sea salt, myrrh, prickly pear and orange blossoms run along a medium-bodied frame and plush texture, underscored by mouthwatering acidity that belies its expressive manner. The notes of heather and straw emerge on the backdrop, leaving an herbal-tinged note on the finish. Drink now through 2031. Field Blend Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

93 Neumeister 2020 Ried Moarfeitl Sauvignon Blanc (Vulkanland Steiermark). The flintiness and saltiness represent a remarkable beginning of this white, while its seductive texture really pulls you in. The zesty, high-pitched acidity flows through acting as the perfect vehicle for the lime, thistle-tea, lemon-verbena and chamomile notes. The long, stony finish glides effortlessly. Drink now through 2035. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$72

92 Neumeister 2021 Ried Klausen Sauvignon Blanc (Vulkanland Steiermark). The quinine and matchstick aromas belie the nature of this wine, as the medium-bodied frame boasts a broad swath of singed lemon, heather, yellow-apple and gooseberry notes that glide through the lengthy, well-defined finish. A mouthwatering edge lingers underneath, luring you back. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$53

91 Neumeister 2022 Straden Sauvignon Blanc (Vulkanland Steiermark). Lovely focus to the straw, peach, lemon-peel and sea-salt notes here, offset by fine acidity. This impressively shows elegance with concentration and energy. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Hager Matthias 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Niederösterreich). Crunchy and floral, with

subtle stone fruit, layered with prominent white tea, jasmine and cardamom. Gentle on the palate, this is elegant, with a cleansing wave of mouthwatering acidity on the finish. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

ROTGIPFLER

90 Stadlmann 2020 Ried Pfaffstättner Tagelsteiner Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). This is subtle, but notes of hominy and lentil stand firmly, backed by vibrant acidity and firm structure. It builds up midpalate to show some richness with flashes of orange zest, almond and sage. Savory mineral marks the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

89 Stadlmann 2021 Annig Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). This racy white has fresh acidity behind the well-spiced flavors of freshly cut apple, quince and kumquat. The finish shows hints of mineral and dried savory herb. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23

89 Stadlmann 2021 Gumpoldskirchen Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). This glistens with physalis, lemon-peel and chamomile-tea flavors. Its texture is soft, caressing the palate, while dried mint and savory herb details fill the crunchy finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$37

ZIERFANDLER

91 Stadlmann 2020 Ried Traiskirchner Mandelhöh Zierfandler (Thermenregion). This supple white has fresh, tangy acidity backing up its orange-zest, apricot, brine and stone notes. The savoriness is really giving the character to this wine, while the medium body and suave texture add to it. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$66

90 Stadlmann 2021 Traiskirchen Zierfandler (Thermenregion). There are plenty of spice and cream notes to this white, with cardamom and heather framing the core of apple and citrus. Its suave texture contributes to the charm, while the mineral-tinged finish lures you in for another sip. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$37

90 Stadlmann 2019 Traiskirchen Auslese Zierfandler (Thermenregion). Rich and sweet, yet with a bright and round profile. This features jammy notes and plenty of candied spice on a soft, yet balanced structure. This is a best to enjoyed with some mountain cheese. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$48

89 Stadlmann 2021 Anning Zierfandler (Thermenregion). A light-bodied white framed by succulent acidity, with hints of beeswax, smoke and lemon peel enriching a well-cut mix of persimmons and salted almonds. There is a good edge on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Lichtenberger González 2022 Tres Cuartos Welschriesling (Burgenland). This is distinct and enchanting, with an incredible array of flavors that come up in layers, packed in a medium-bodied frame. It offers flavors of ginger-snap biscuit that perfectly match the peach and roasted almond. There is a singed lemon-peel note that adds more character and flavor, but it is the suave texture and originality of this white that doesn't let you put down the glass. Winemonger. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$35

92 Neumeister 2021 Ried Klausen Weissburgunder (Vulkanland Steiermark). This firm, medium-bodied white has a tangy acidity building the structure around flavors of bergamot, persimmon, elderflower and sea salt. Rich, but not heavy, quinine and stony accents keep it on the fresh side, concluding with a well-spiced finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$48

91 Neumeister 2021 Straden Grauburgunder (Vulkanland Steiermark). Clementine acidity underlines the notes of vanilla spice, quince and physalis in this rather elegant and classy white. It is silky in texture and caresses the mouth. Its charming finish shows a slight grip. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

90 Neumeister 2022 Straden Weissburgunder (Vulkanland Steiermark). Focused and pure, this shows notes of chive flower, quinine, flint and lime which are carried nicely through the detailed finish with admirable length. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$29

WHITE BLENDS

93 Christoph Heiss 2021 Vogel und Meer Malinga White Blend (Weinland Österreich). Very exotic and distinct, this is light and graceful, but packed with flavor, exhibiting tangerine, quince, tarragon and persimmon, fueled by the zesty acidity. Crunchy minerality adds to the complexity, while a subtle green-tea note extends on the finish. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$38

91 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2021 Kalk & Schiefer White White Blend (Weinland Österreich). This is harmonious, with racy acidity flowing through, linking the quinine, white-raspberry and

lemon-verbena notes with the salted butter—and oyster shell that marks the savory finish. Excellent length and precision at this level. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

91 Waldschütz NV Steinvision White Blend (Kamptal). Bracing acidity highlights the pure notes of white raspberry, ginger, quinine and heather in this intriguing white. Its velvety texture adds to the character, as this stays focused through the long, mouthwatering finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 13%

Price: \$70

90 Christoph Heiss 2022 Heissweiss Malinga White Blend (Weinland Österreich). There is a slight fizz that dissipates with air, and then this shows plush tannins and obvious skin contact. This is more nuanced and about the texture—with hints of baking spice and almond oil. Volker Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

90 Neumeister 2022 Samat Gemischter Satz White Blend (Steiermark). This shows a slight, flinty reduction at first, but then it dissipates to reveal notes of quince blossom, dandelion and ripe citrus. Crunchy minerality marks the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

abv: 12%

Price: \$24

90 Straka NV Little Big Mash White Blend (Eisenberg). This is super charming for lovers of light and vibrant whites in an alternative style. It features prominent acidity, with a beautiful flinty note that drapes over the flavors of nectarine, citrus oil and wet straw. The inviting finish features a lingering saline hint. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23/L

SPARKLING WINES

92 Claus Preisinger 2022 Ordinaire Sparkling Blend (Weinland Österreich). The intriguing nose of ground spices and aromatic herbs lures you in for the experience of this vibrant, harmonious, and rather hedonistic sparkler, underscoring flavors of ripe raspberry and red licorice that ride the delicate mousse. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.

abv: 11%

Price: \$41

90 Johannes Zillinger NV Revolution Ancestral Sparkling Blend (Niederösterreich). There is a pinch of *fleur de sel*, that accents the yellow-peach flavors in this tangy and sleek sparkler. Hints of smoke, honeyed almond, chalk and lemon zest ride the lively bead. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 11%

Price: \$30

89 Gruber Röschitz NV By Nature Sparkling Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This features a beautiful mousse, with very nice, elegant texture rolling over the palate gently, matched with beautiful vanilla spice and even some creamed apple and custard. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 11%

Price: \$22

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Hager Matthias 2021 Pet Nat Zweigelt (Weinland Österreich). Dry and refreshing, with flavors of wild strawberry, rose hip and violet. This is well meshed, offering subtle, juicy acidity and a creamy finish. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$27

ROSÉS

91 Claus Preisinger 2022 Dope Rosé (Weinland Österreich). This is on the darker side of the spectrum for rosé, with really nice, juicy, cranberry acidity and some red-currant notes. This is so charming and easy to enjoy that one bottle might not be enough for your dinner party. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$43

90 Wenzel 2022 Wild + Free Voodoo Child Pinot Gris (Weinland Österreich). This is a skin-macerated version that appears like a murky rosé, but it is rather complete and dark in feel. It sports notes of rose hip and hibiscus tea, with some Amaro qualities and sloe berry. It drinks like a light red, with a vibrant feel. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

92 Claus Preisinger 2022 Bonsai Blaufränkisch (Weinland Österreich). This is almost ethereal, but it is also expressive and easy to like, featuring notes of tea rose, ground spice and forest floor up front. It is delicate and very light at the core with layered flavors of crème de cassis, raspberry coulis, and some gamy and smoke notes. It is all backed by ultrafine tannins and bright acidity. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$43

92 Gassner 2017 Freilegen Rusterberg Reserve Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). Made in a dark, muscular style, this features roasted chestnut, bay leaf and tobacco notes followed by blackberry and black-cherry fruit. The velvety texture matches the medium body, giving the wine a smooth feel with a tarry edge emerging on the fresh finish. This is pretty classic and has developed nicely. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2020 Kalk & Schiefer Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). A blockbuster Blaufränkisch, this offers dark tea, mulled blackberry and plum fruit and warmed anise notes, backed by plush tannins and nicely integrated acidity. The finish delivers a velvety feel in a generous, alluring style. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Straka 2020 Greenschist Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This bottling is an enticing red, with corduroy-like tannins and mouthwatering acidity constructing the frame. The core starts off with juniper notes leading the way to wild cherry

and damson plum fruit. The long, iron-edged finish presents a firm conclusion to the experience. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Hillinger 2019 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This shows appealing, pure notes of plum and blackberry, backed by well-integrated, ripe tannins. It is well defined and friendly, with an inviting, floral-infused finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Esterházy 2020 Estoras Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This medium-bodied red is packed with notes of blackberry and currant, as well as baking spice, all supported by well-integrated tannins and vibrant acidity. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

88 Felix NV Blau Blaufränkisch (Mittelburgenland). This offers a mix of damson plum and blood orange framed by a note of loamy earth. Light tannins add support and depth to the finish. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

PINOT NOIR

93 Claus Preisinger 2022 Pinot Noir (Weinland Österreich). This will stir you to free your mind from all your preconceptions and present to you a gamy, outside-of-the-box, example of Pinot Noir. Ultralight and juicy, it delivers bright red-fruit and loamy earth details. Fine-grained tannins show the intent behind the style, as this unfurls with bright spices on the finish. Volker Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$57

90 Stadlmann 2019 Pinot Noir (Thermenregion). A waft of pepper underscores the spiced range of plumped cherry, mandarin orange peel, graphite and Mediterranean herb flavors in this elegant, lighter-bodied Pinot. Well-integrated, fine tannins mark the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

88 Esterházy 2021 Estoras Pinot Noir (Burgenland). The wine is silky red, with pleasant freshness to the notes of black cherry and violet. The tannins are light, but add some character to the overall experience. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

91 Rosi Schuster 2021 Sankt Laurent St. Laurent (Burgenland). Light and almost ethereal, the blood orange complements ripe plum and raspberry flavors in this juicy red. The acidity keeps this running elegantly, wrapping up with a pure finish marked by the soft tannins that emerge in the end:

a textbook example of Sankt Laurent's elegance. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2020 Blauer Zweigelt (Burgenland). This is a bit gamy but has an incredible range of berry fruit and lots of spice and mineral elements. It sports a corduroy-like texture that is pleasant and tannins and acid that will give it some longevity. DNS Wines. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

89 Johannes Zillinger 2022 JZ Velue 2.0 Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Fresh-tasting, this wine has a fruity profile displaying raspberry, violet and cassis notes. With a slight chill this would be a blockbuster at a party. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

RED BLENDS

91 Johannes Zillinger 2020 Parcellaire Rouge #1 Red Blend (Niederösterreich). Expressive and graceful, this delivers exotic spice and earthy notes weaving through the lush raspberry and cranberry flavors. The long, silky, detailed finish holds your attention and invites you for more. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

91 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2018 Anita Red Blend (Burgenland). Medium bodied, with notes of game and loam, there also plenty of spices and charming ripe berry aromas and flavors. It is a really nice wine, with great length and smooth, suave tannins on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Christoph Heiss 2022 Hotrot Malinga Red Blend (Weinland Österreich). Great acidity is giving energy to this very glou-glou style. Although gulpable, it does show some complexity and has enough substance to be a great companion to food. Volker Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

90 Moric NV Hausmarke Rot Red Blend (Burgenland). Made in a classic, friendly style, this shows lots of perfumy violet and lavender notes, with a touch of game adding to the character—all offset by its mouthwatering acidity. There is a juicy core of mulberry and cherry, which lingers on the finish. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Felix NV R&B Red Blend (Mittelburgenland). This reveals a juicy profile, giving way to subtle black-cherry and mulled strawberry flavors. It is a nice combination of light tannins, acidity and fruit. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

AUSTRALIA

CHARDONNAY

97 Xanadu 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Margaret River). A margarita-style Chardonnay if ever there was one, this feels like you're standing at the edge of the Indian Ocean (less than four miles from where these grapes are grown) on a brisk day, the salty sea air whipping, the sand between your toes, a lemon twist martini in hand. As delicious as it is evocative, it pings in the mouth with a lightly creamy texture and mouthwatering, laser-like, lemon zest acidity that lingers long on the finish, making it impossible to put down. Rathbone Wine Group. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$100

96 Cullen 2021 Kevin John Chardonnay (Margaret River). Vibrant, concentrated aromas of just-sliced pineapple and lemon bounce from the glass of this premium Margaret River Chardonnay, from one of the region's most long-standing and progressive producers. There's a gingery, salted rock undertow. The palate shows creaminess and fruit weight but remains juicy and bright thanks to a beautiful thread of vibrant acidity that ends long and citrusy. Delicious now, this could age until 2033, at least. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$125

94 Tyrrell's 2021 HVD Chardonnay (Hunter Valley). From one of the oldest Chardonnay vineyards in the world (planted in 1908), this Hunter Valley bottling opens with a flinty, cashew and nougat combo that weaves between white peach and melon rind characters. There's weight, texture and concentration on the palate and lovely acidity. Classy and food-friendly. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$140

91 Yeringberg 2019 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley). Rich aromas of nougat, pineapple, lemon and warm, toasty oak lead on this pale gold-hued Chardonnay, from one of the Yarra Valley's most historic producers. The palate is concentrated and full-figured, with a good lick of oak and a slippery texture. Pour beside risotto and other buttery carb-and-veg filled dishes. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 Kirkton Estate 2021 The Matilda Chardonnay (Hunter Valley). A sunshine-filled bottling from the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, this delivers just-struck match aromas at first pour, which, with aeration, make room for heady florals, ripe tropical and stone fruit, coconut flakes and ground ginger. The viscosity and weight in the mouth is brightened by tangy citrus and stone fruit, with coconut oak on the finish. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Penfolds 2022 Bin 311 Chardonnay (South Australia). There's quite a lot of buttery,

vanillin oak showing at first sniff. The melon and peach aromas hold their own, though. The palate is full-throttle with a lovely freshness that counters the toasty, lactic oak and lees characters. Still young, this should be drunk between 2024 and 2030. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Penfolds 2022 Max's Chardonnay (South Australia). Delicate floral, white peach and tangerine aromas lead to a textural, full-figured palate that's sliced with mouthwatering acidity. Flavor is a bit muted, but there's nevertheless a gentle flower-and-fruit appeal that makes for a modern, crowd-pleasing white. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Angove 2021 Family Crest Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). Intense aromas of grilled nuts and flint dominate the nose, followed by creamed corn and peach nuances. The mid-weight palate offers textural interest, lively acidity and sweet, toasty oak to the long finish. Trincherro Family Estates. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Schild Estate 2021 Unoaked Chardonnay (Barossa Valley). A bright and bouncy perfume of pink grapefruit, lemon-lime and white florals kicks off this wine. There's a similar vibrancy to the light-to-mid-weight palate. Acidity is a touch forced, but there's just enough texture and fruit weight to temper it. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 D'Arenberg 2022 The Olive Grove Chardonnay (McLaren Vale-Adelaide Hills). Gentle aromas of pineapple rind, candied peach and lemon—with a slight toasty underbelly—lead to a rich, rounded palate. Intense peach and stone fruit flavors feel rich and heavy due to the lactic influence, but overall it's a balanced, straightforward bottling. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Yalumba 2022 GEN Organic Chardonnay (South Australia). Gentle toast, cream and seashell aromas frame soft lemon and peach notes. There's a long, fresh line of bright acidity on the palate that counters the mouthfilling texture, and a drive of stone fruit flavor to the finish. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

86 Ocean Road 2023 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). This is an ultrafruity Chardonnay that, while crowd-pleasing, drinks more like a Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Gris than a Chard. There's punchy candied peach and green apple Jolly Rancher. The vibrant palate shows perhaps a touch of residual sugar with plenty of tangy, green apple and lime acidity to counter it. Vino Logics. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

86 Thorn Clarke 2020 Chardonnay (Eden Valley). Aromas of pineapple and grapefruit rind are tangled up with the spiced vanilla oak characters. There's a rich creaminess to the palate, a good lick of oak and lifted acidity, and quite subtle flavor. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 Yalumba 2022 The Y Series Chardonnay (South Australia). Give this time in glass or decanter for the reductive Band-Aid aromas to make room for the lemon, pineapple rind and toast characters. The palate is full-figured with richness, a big lift of rather forced-feeling acidity and a buttery, toasty underbelly. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 The Hidden Sea 2021 Chardonnay (South Australia). A heady, oh-so-Aussie-Chardonnay combo of seashell, lemon rind, peach and ginger—with a toasty, lactic underbelly—take the lead. The palate is rich and round and lacking in some of the vibrancy and flavor suggested by the aromas. Precept Wine. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

85 Yellow Tail 2022 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). Perky, fruity aromas of peach, melon and lemon dominate, with a butterscotch woody note tucked behind. The palate is rich and concentrated with more lactic, woody influence and peachy flavor on the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Yellow Tail 2022 Pure Bright Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). Rich, musty aromas of lemon furniture polish, peach cobbler and wood lead to a full-bodied, intense palate that you could take a bite out of. There's a synthetic furniture polish note that somewhat obscures the fruit. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 9.6% **Price:** \$NA

RIESLING

93 Fowles Wine 2021 Ladies Who Shoot Their Lunch Riesling (Victoria). This is a strong vintage of this cool-climate Central Victorian wine. Intense and evenly stitched aromas of lime, white grapefruit, florals and a damp wool character open. The palate is dry and pithy with crisp—but not searing—acidity, chalky texture and a limy finish. It could age for several more years to gain more honeyed complexity, but it's also a food-friendly drop right now. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$35

93 Walsh & Sons 2021 Westside Riesling (Margaret River). A small batch bottling from one of Australia's premier Riesling regions, Frankland River in Western Australia, this skin-contact wine is a pale golden hue with aromas and flavors of beeswax, honeysuckle, lime blossom and wool. In true orange wine style, it's intensely pithy on

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the palate, but it never feels overworked. It's fresh, food-friendly and bursting with personality. Yum. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$29

92 Alkoomi 2022 Riesling (Frankland River). Classic Aussie Riesling aromas of lemon-lime, guava, lavender, talcum powder and lamp oil open on this bottling, from a premier Riesling-producing region in the country's southwest. In the mouth, it's bright and fruity while still being delicate and fresh. A dollop of textural weight works nicely with the mouthwatering acidity. Little Peacock Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Leeuwin Estate 2022 Art Series Riesling (Margaret River). Fruity crowd-pleasing aromas of pink grapefruit juice, lemon furniture polish and lime blossom arrive first on this southern Margaret River Riesling. There's some texture to the palate and heaps of lemony, mouthpuckering acidity. Still an infant, the best years are ahead of this. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

86 Frisk 2022 Prickly Riesling (Victoria). Bombastic aromas of lemon-lime and lavender baby powder open. The palate is sweet—almost surprisingly so—with plenty of acidity, and (hence the name) a prickle of fizz to counter the sugar. At 10% alcohol, you can drink this well chilled, even over ice. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$11

WHITE BLENDS

94 Unico Zelo 2021 Esoterico White Blend (South Australia). This is a vibrant snap, crackle and pop wine, from its electric orange color to its bombastic, musky aromas of ginger, florals, honeycomb, candied citrus and peach. It doesn't disappoint in the mouth, with well-placed skins-y tannins and tingly, spicy acidity. There's a botanical garden feel and an orange peel note to end. For those more adventurous drinkers—and for those seeking highly ethical winemakers—this won't disappoint. Epicurean Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$28

92 John Duval Wines 2020 Plexus Rhône-style White Blend (Barossa). Pronounced characters of gun smoke and struck match sulfides dominate this pale gold white Rhône blend. There's a lemon oil and Amaretto note, too. The palate is round, rich and gingery with citrus acidity and stone fruit pit to the long finish. This full-throttle white could be a fun Chardonnay alternative. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Yangarra 2021 Ovitelli Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (McLaren Vale). A subdued but nicely textural Rhône white blend from one of Australia's texture masters, this opens with quiet notes

of white peach, grapefruit rind and green apple. The palate is round and satiny with just enough acidity to add mouthwatering refreshment. Drink with a wide variety of cuisine, and close to room temperature. It'll hold up several days open in bottle. Sovereign Wine Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

90 D'Arenberg 2021 The Stump Jump White Blend (Adelaide). For full review see page 27. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

88 Bremerton 2020 Matilda Plains White Blend (Langhorne Creek). Flinty, reductive notes are at the fore, the stone and citrus fruit tucked below until aerated, whether by swirling in the glass or decanter, and then the fruit is more in the spotlight. Bright acidity lifts the slippery texture. A food-friendly drop. Epicurean Wines. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

PINOT NOIR

93 Karatta 2021 Gold Miner's Trek Tenison Vineyard Pinot Noir (Robe). Heady aromas of blueberry and wild strawberry preserves, dried floral, white pepper and herbal characters commence, with a mineral, terra-cotta core. There's a well-placed frame of cat's tongue tannins, which give structure to the delicate, succulent fruit. Lightweight and easy-drinking, this that could be, for the price, a classy weeknight staple. Little Peacock Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

93 Ochota Barrels 2022 A Forest Pinot Noir (Adelaide Hills). A delicate spice and wild herb combo perches atop juicy strawberry, raspberry and flower stem aromas. The palate is lightweight and nervy, tugged by taut, gently spiced tannins that envelop the cherry liquor flavors. This is a raw beauty made in small quantities from one of the most gorgeous pockets of the Adelaide Hills. Vine Street Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Paringa Estate 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Mornington Peninsula). The maritime climes of this sea-swept region are on display—as well as a touch of bottle age—via notes of plum jelly, black cherry, strawberry, vanilla and spice. The mouthfeel is luscious but fresh and the red fruit plump and tart thanks to lovely crunchy acidity and a spine of fine, well-integrated tannins. A Pinot of length and elegance. Fox Beverages USA. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 The Hare & The Tortoise 2022 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). This is a bright and bouncy wine with crowd-pleasing aromas of primary red fruit, spice, vanilla and florals. It's silky in the mouth with tangy acidity, nice length and drive, and a frame of spicy, chalky tannins. For the price,

this should be a weeknight staple. Little Peacock Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

92 Happs 2021 Pinot Noir (Margaret River). From Karridale, a cool southern Margaret River subregion, this needs some aeration before the reductive damp earth and jerky notes integrate with the raspberry cordial, fresh violets and herbal notes. When they do, aromatics are lovely. The palate shows some richness and roundness, by Pinot standards, but with welcome freshness, chalky tannins and a cocktail bitters flavor to the finish. Drink now—2030. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Karatta 2022 Gold Miner's Trek Tenison Vineyard Pinot Noir (Robe). Blueberry coulis flecked in herbs and licorice root comprise the nose of this appealing Pinot. It's light- to medium-bodied with succulent fruit along a spine of chalky, spice-sprinkled tannins that add some power and food friendliness. This is a tasty drop now and will continue to be over the next several years. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Moorooduc 2019 Pinot Noir (Mornington Peninsula). This vintage, from an always-top Mornington producer, is drinking nicely now, but don't leave it lying around for too much longer. A perfume of cherry and raspberry jelly is lifted by a touch of volatility that gives the herb and spice characters an amaro-like quality. Tannins are spicy and chalky textured. Lifted acidity gives freshness to the gentle fruit that still remains. Drink up. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Moss Wood 2018 Wilyabrup Pinot Noir (Margaret River). Heady candied red berry and orange aromas, woven with mint, dried herb and chocolate oak, commence this dry Pinot from a region more known for Cabernet. The palate is in a good place now. With nearly six years of bottle age at tasting, it's still fresh with the start of some tertiary characters showing and well-integrated tannins. Drink now or over the next few years. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$61

90 Paringa Estate 2019 The Paringa Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mornington Peninsula). Currently in a quiet place, and showing some age, too, this whispers minty herbs, plump cherry, vanilla and toasty oak spice on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with a taut tannin structure and plenty of acidity. Give this time in decanter if drinking now, but it might be worth waiting until 2025 or so. Then, drink up. Fox Beverages USA. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Worlds Apart 2022 Mountain Tops Pinot Noir (Piccadilly Valley). Bold and fruity, this pops with red berries, florals and savory spice, with a mushroomy note beneath. There's some heft to the

palate, a viscous textural quality and tart astringency, but it has a hands-off appeal that makes it an easy drop with or without food. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$50

85 Yellow Tail 2022 Pinot Noir (South Eastern Australia). There's lots of minty oak showing at first sniff, making it hard to get to the plum and raspberry fruit and spice beneath. The palate is mid-weight with some juicy red fruit. Again, the oak is on display, particularly on the tongue-drying tannins. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Stella Bella 2022 Luminosa Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Plump dark berry, graphite and dried herbal aromas float gently from the glass. The chiseled power of the variety is there but it's reined in, focused with excellent acidity and sculpted, savory spiced tannins. The fruit is concentrated and still tightly wound, but this shows heaps of promise for the future. Drink now with decanter and protein at hand, until 2039, at least. M Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$65

95 Walsh & Sons 2021 Roi Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a lovely fruity lightness to this, in comparison to the density of some Margaret River Cabs, with an elegant perfume of red currant, bay leaf and savory spice. The succulent, silky fruit washes over the tongue first, the fine, spicy tannins creeping in later. A focused, food-friendly drop that's deliciously drinkable right now. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$50

95 Xanadu 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Classic Margaret River Cab aromas of black cherry, currants, tobacco leaf, vanilla and toasty, mocha-like oak leads to a full-figured palate that's wrapped in muscular tannins but with a lovely freshness and fruit density. Still young, primary and somewhat austere, this will evolve over the next several decades. Rathbone Wine Group. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$100

93 Stella Bella 2021 Suckfizzle Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Cherry and red currant lead on this Southern Margaret River Cab, followed by subtle aromas of baking spices, licorice and a seaweed-like nuance that adds an intriguing umami touch. Acidity first stands out on the palate. It's mouthpuckering at the moment. A powerful tannin structure, when combined with mouthpuckering acidity, makes for an austere wine now, but one that should mellow with time. Drink 2026–2036. M Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$55

92 Penfolds 2021 Bin 407 Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). There's a polished gloss of chocolate oak on this multi-regional Cab, alongside plush blackberry and currant fruit, ground black pepper and a hint of anise that, all up, evokes a wintertime dessert. The palate is concentrated and muscly, with luscious fruit and powerful tannins. Still in its infancy, with a good lick of oak at the fore, this has a long cellaring life ahead. Drink 2026–2041. Treasury Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

91 D'Arenberg 2021 The Stump Jump Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). For full review see page 26. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$14

90 Ashbrook Estate 2019 Wilyabrup Single Vineyard & Hand Picked Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). There's a bouncy, lucid perfume of cherry, red currant, vanilla, beef jerky and a good lick of chocolate oak showing at the moment, with a flicker of herbs still present. Acidity is pronounced amid the rich fruit, and the powerful, austere tannins dry the mouth out a little at the finish, but this is nevertheless a solid example of West Coast Aussie Cab. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

90 Bec Hardy 2021 Pertaringa Understudy Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). Ripe, bright plum and currants, laced with dark chocolate, savory spice and earthy herbs form a comforting, crowd-pleasing red that, while full-bodied and quite tannic, is still fresh and tangy with a wintertime dinner party appeal. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$32

89 Dandelion 2020 Pride of the Fleurieu Cabernet Sauvignon (Southern Fleurieu). Spiced cherry chutney, plum preserves, dried tobacco, cedar and a chocolate oak influence lead on this expressive Cab. Powerful, drying tannins dominate the palate, but the plump fruit's there, too. Rich protein is a requirement if drinking now. Could cellar until 2030. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

87 De Bortoli 2021 17 Trees Cabernet Sauvignon (Langhorne Creek). Cherry cola, licorice and peppery and savory herbs are first sniffed on this rich Cab. It's densely packed with red and black berry fruit and framed in hulking, raspy tannins. PH Importing. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

SHIRAZ

97 Giaconda 2019 Estate Vineyard Shiraz (Beechworth). From one of the world's most underrated fine wine regions, Beechworth, this estate enjoys icon status Down Under, selling out in a matter of minutes. Here in the U.S., it's still a well-kept secret (for now). While the estate is known more for its Chardonnay, this Shiraz bottling

is downright gorgeous. With a perfume worthy of slathering all over oneself, it billows notes of macerated blueberry and red berry fruit, a potpourri dish of dried florals and spices, licorice, chocolate and terra-cotta. It's silky and slinky, soft around the edges like melted chocolate, but lifted by alpine freshness. Supple, sexy and drinking well now, this could continue to evolve until 2030 or so. Legend Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$135

97 John Duval Wines 2018 Eligo Shiraz (Barossa). For full review see page 3. Old Bridge Cellars.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$100

97 Penfolds 2019 Grange Shiraz (South Australia). Arguably Australia's most famous wine, the 2019 vintage of Grange, a multi-regional blend from top vineyards around South Australia, is a dense yet aromatic bottling that unpeels over time in a glass or decanter. Raspberry and blackberry compote, cedar, licorice and winter warming spice are on deck, with seaweed-like umami nuances and a good lick of mocha-like oak. The palate is plush and plump like a favorite armchair, but framed in powerful, beautifully integrated tannins, with enough stuffing to last the ages. It should cellar beautifully until 2050, at least. Treasury Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$850

95 Hickinbotham 2019 Brooks Road Shiraz (Clarendon). A broodier bottling than the more gregarious 2020, this vintage still offers oodles of concentrated dark fruit, a slightly charred veg note, toasty spice and a frame of fine, cola-like oak influence. Constructed for the long haul, with intensity and focus, a lift of acidity and muscular, chiseled tannins woven between the supple fruit and spice, this should continue to evolve until 2038, at least. Majestic Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

95 Penfolds 2021 RWT Bin 798 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). In true Penfolds style, this is a dense, tightly coiled bottling of RWT that's made for tomorrow. A dark chocolate and toasted spice oak note is threaded between rich, concentrated blackberry and black plum, licorice and bay leaf aromas. The mouthfeel is equally powerful, packed with dark fruit flavors and fine, chiseled tannins. It could age for decades. Just don't touch it until at least 2026. Treasury Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$150

94 John Duval Wines 2021 Entity Shiraz (Barossa). Plump blood plum and juicy blackberry aromas are underscored with bay leaf and peppery spice. The succulent dark berry fruit takes front and center on the palate, creating a luscious mouthfeel that's tightened by a gentle tug of spicy tannins and fresh acidity. Classic South Aus-

BUYINGGUIDE

sie Shiraz sprinkled with Duval style. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Torbreck 2018 The Liard Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Heady aromas of baked spiced fruit (think fruitcake and chocolate-covered cherries) present in equal measure with sweet vanillin oak on this full-throttle-yet-crowd-pleasing ultrapremium Shiraz. Certainly a ripe and currently oak-driven bottling, there's also heaps of crowd appeal via lovely fruit succulence and silky texture, plus enough structure to lead this into the future, until 2034, at least. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$700

93 Elderton 2016 Neil Ashmead Grand Tourer Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Like the pungent whiff of campfire smoke, this wine—housed in an unfortunately heavy bottle—really gets up into your nostrils with aromas of charcoal, tar, leather, black plum, earthy spice and a dark chocolaty oak. Densely packed on the palate, there's fresh acidity, particularly for its age, and mealy, savory spiced tannins. Drink now–2033. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$32

93 Fourth Wave 2021 Little Brute Shiraz (Barossa). Just squeezed blackberry, dark cherry and currant juice flow between violets, graphite and savory, peppery spices on this lucid Grenache-Cab blend. There's lovely vibrancy and shape to the sculpted palate, with a juicy, fresh-run dark berry juice tang. It walks a tightrope between hand-off “glou glou” imbibing and food-friendly sipping, and it's a bargain to boot. Liquid Innovation. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

93 OG de Négoce 2018 Lot 344 Shiraz (Barossa). This nearly six-year-old wine (at the time of tasting) is in a happy place presently. It gives up the goods straight away, requiring little swirling or decanting. Ripe, concentrated aromas of dark berry, bay leaf, ground pepper, licorice and clove give a winter warming appeal. The same richness continues on the plush, polished palate, where blackberry jam is framed in spice and fine tannins. Drink now–2033. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

89 Barossa Valley Estate 2021 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Give this some air to unlock the black olive tapenade, currant preserves, licorice and earthy spice aromas. The full-figured palate is rich with density of flavor and gauzy, hefty tannins. It's a concentrated, primary bottling for drinking with protein. Deleat USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

GRENACHE

93 Cirillo 2022 The Vincent Centenarian Vine Grenache (Barossa Valley). Stewards of the oldest Grenache vines on the planet, Cirillo makes The Vincent from vines 50 years older (planted in 1901 and 1906) than its ancestors. Enticing aromas of strawberry and raspberry notes mingle with vanilla bean and subtle clove and cinnamon notes on the nose. The palate is succulent and silky, with bright acidity and supple, fine tannins supporting the primary fruit. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

90 D'Arenberg 2019 The Derelict Vineyard Grenache (McLaren Vale). For full review see page 23. Old Bridge Cellars.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Organic Hill 2022 Founders Release Grenache (McLaren Vale). The color of grape jelly, this McLaren Vale Grenache takes its time opening, but with some swirling in glass it offers subtle aromas of tart cherry and blackberry with a chocolaty underbelly. Brisk acidity and chiseled tannins give structure and power to the palate, making it somewhat austere, but the plump fruit still comes through. Cordelina Wine Company. —C.P.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$NA

88 Schwarz Wine Company 2021 The Grower Grenache (Barossa Valley). Sweet strawberry and grape jelly aromas open this modern, aromatic, dry Aussie Grenache. The palate is satiny, round and supple. Acidity is a little pointy-edged, and the finish is on the short side, but there's still plenty to like here. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

OTHER RED WINE

95 Ochota Barrels 2022 The Price of Silence Gamay (Adelaide Hills). Since the untimely death of Taras Ochota, who was one of Australia's modern winemaker rock stars, his wife, Amber, has taken the reins, and wine quality hasn't suffered. This small-batch Gamay is oh-so-delicious with enticing plump berry fruit and spice aromas and a spicy, herbal, stony mineral underlay. Piercing acidity and chiseled tannins create linearity and drive. There's an ease and transparency to this that comes from minimal winemaking, and a drinkability that belies solid winemaking and varietal and site expression. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$60

RED BLENDS

94 Angove 2021 G-S-M (McLaren Vale). There's a distinctive gravelly, terra-cotta note that adds a gravitas to the black cherry, ground pepper and tobacco leaf aromas. A similarly distinctive

spine of stony, dried herb textural tannins traverses the palate. The wine strikes a balance between austere and approachable; juicy, upfront drinking (with protein) and ageworthiness. Drink now–2030. Trinchero Family Estates. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

94 Ricca Terra 2021 Bullets Before Cannonballs Red Blend (Riverland). Ashley Ratcliff has almost single-handedly infused new life into the Riverland region. This big blend of varieties (including Tempranillo, Lagrein and Lambrusco) transmits the region's hot, dry climate while also demonstrating the fresh, modern approach of its winemaker. Myriad flavors, from dark berries and dried herbs to pressed violets and black olives, are oh-so-supple and juicy. They're cinched by firm, skins (not oak) derived tannins. Drink now with a plate of protein and over the next several years. Vine Street Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Frederick Stevenson 2021 Piñata Red Blend (Barossa Valley). Crunchy tart red berries, pressed flower petals, spice and cool stone vibes start on the vibrant, rustic nose. The palate is mid-weight with a lovely tug of savory, sinewy tannins and that brambly red berry al dente crunch right to the finish. A lip-smacking “vin de soif” tipple for drinking young. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$37

93 Gentle Folk 2021 Vin De Sofa Red Blend (Adelaide Hills). This is a bright and bouncy red blend from Gareth Belton in the Basket Range of Adelaide Hills. Like a raspberry and strawberry sorbet, with a red floral freshness and spice and vanilla undertones, it's light on its feet with a touch of fizz but with plump, succulent red berry fruit adding roundness. There's tangy, mouthwatering acidity and herb-flecked, cat's tongue tannins tightening. A great example of a natural wine made with focus, structure and, most importantly, deliciousness. Jenny and François Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

92 OG de Négoce 2021 Lot 348 G-S-M (Barossa Valley). A plump and fruity wine, the Grenache in this classic Aussie blend really shows here via ripe raspberry and blueberry aromas, with a gentle spice behind. Silky and succulent on the palate, with a quiet, supple frame of tannins, this is in a modern, approachable style. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 The Half Full Wine Company 2022 It Wasn't Me Red Blend (South Australia). A vibrant cherry juice color, this succulent, easy-drinking red blend comes with red fruit, a hint of florals, heaps of spice and a satiny texture, framed in subtle, supple tannins. There's a crunchy vibrancy that come through thanks to hands-off winemaking. Liquid Innovation. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Bink 2021 The Little Red Blend (South Australia). The slight hazy color of cranberry juice, there's a whizbang pop of strawberries and cream, with a slightly volatile lift and a flower stem underbelly. There's a punch of tangy acidity on the featherlight palate, and a tug of raw, skiny tannins. With feet firmly in the natural camp, this is a little funky and a lot easy to plug. Knock it back. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$35

90 OG de Négoce 2017 Lot 342 GTM Red Blend (Clare Valley). Supple and aromatic, this is showing signs of bottle age via notes of dried cherry and potpourri-like herbs and spices, with a slight charred meat vibe alongside the toasty, vanillin oak influence. It's mid-weight with a lovely silky texture and freshness to the red fruit. Drink now–2027. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

NEW ZEALAND CHARDONNAY

95 Kumeu River 2022 Hunting Hill Chardonnay (Kumeu). Lifted aromas of lemon, lime blossom, white peach and nougat lend brightness and charm to this creamy bottling from one of New Zealand's Chardonnay leaders. There's lovely acidity on the palate that brightens and freshens amid the toasty oak and lactic characters, driving to a citrusy finish. Drinking deliciously now (try with mushroom risotto), it's capable of aging until 2032. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Dog Point 2021 Chardonnay (Marlborough). Subtle struck match and grilled nut aromas perch just above the lemon and toast aromas without overpowering them; a salty, seashell vibe is present, too. There's vibrant, citrusy acidity on the palate—a welcome counterweight to the richness of the oak and cream—pulsing to a long finish. Vintus LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

92 Elephant Hill 2020 Sea Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay). Intense aromas of grilled peach, white grapefruit, oyster shell and flint envelop the senses. The palate is concentrated but not weighty. The acidity is in the driver's seat, steering through the textural richness and toasty characters and landing in a balanced and food-friendly place. Smith Wine & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 Villa Maria 2022 Keltern Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay). This premium Chardonnay, from a well-known Kiwi brand, is a creamy, rich wine with aromas of peach, lemon custard, ginger cookie and toast. The palate is almost surprisingly fresh, with the acidity adding welcome freshness to the oaky, lactic intensity. It drives fruit flavors through to a long finish. Still young, this should cel-

lar nicely until 2033, at least. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Greywacke 2021 Chardonnay (Marlborough). In typical Greywacke style, this is an intensely reductive Chardonnay with heady aromas of struck match, roasted cashew, grilled citrus and seashell. The palate is more poised and fruit-forward than the nose suggests, while still being toasty, concentrated and intense, with textural weight and lovely acidity to the harmonious finish. Drink now–2031. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$41

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 Dog Point 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Still very young, this could use another year in the bottle before it's cracked open. If drinking now, leave time for aeration in the glass or decanter for the struck match reductive notes to blow off and be replaced by white grapefruit, lime, passion fruit and dried herbs. Its complexity really lies in the palate, which is poised with lovely texture, crystalline acidity and a long, tangy citrus fruit finish. Vintus LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Eradus 2023 Poppy Isobel Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A fireworks display of citrus, peach and passion fruit crackles and pops from the glass, with the greener notes of grass and jalapeño just behind. The palate is slippery and fresh, with similar zingy flavors and mouthwatering acidity that make another sip an easy endeavor. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Huia 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Peach, citrus, ginger and a baker's yeast note billow from the glass. The palate is fresh and crisp with heaps of fruit, a slightly pithy texture and a long limy finish. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Villa Maria 2023 Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This strikes a pleasant balance between fruit and veg in the aroma department. There's vibrant lemon-lime, passion fruit and pineapple alongside subtle bell pepper, snap pea and grass. The palate zings along on a line of citrus acidity, and a gently creamy texture rounds things out. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Mount Fishtail 2023 Sur Lie Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Pungent and punchy with crowd-pleasing aromas of lime blossom, tangerine and pineapple, this is a fresh, lightweight and gently textural drop for sipping waterside. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Off-Piste 2023 Elmstone Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). There's ripeness and a floral

character to this Sauvignon Blanc that shows in the form of lemongrass, honeysuckle, lime leaf and passion fruit. It's young and fresh with bouncy acidity and tart citrus fruit to the finish. W. Direct. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

87 Kim Crawford 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Intense aromas of peach, lime, guava and tomato leaf are followed by a dry, zippy palate with a ping of bright acidity and a slight creaminess to the mouthfeel. Constellation Brands, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Kuranui 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). With some aeration in a glass, aromas of guava, lime, blossom and dried green herbs emerge, followed by a palate that's fresh and fruity with a slippery texture and lovely acidity. This makes for easy summer sipping. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Summerhouse 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Pungent aromas of grass, onion skin, lime and passion fruit are out in full force on the nose. There's a hint of sweetness at first sip, but overall it's dry, crisp, bright and zingy. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Rapaura Springs 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Pungent flint and onion reductive aromas perch atop bell pepper and citrus and notes. The palate is young, fresh and vegetal, with a touch of residual sugar showing toward the finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

WHITE BLEND

90 Huia 2022 Tangle White Blend (Marlborough). A blend of Grüner Veltliner, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris, this opens with a perfume of somewhat bitter lemon rind, damp hay, baker's yeast and pungent botanicals. It's a somewhat odd although fairly pleasant nose. The palate is really where this shines. There's lovely textural weight, buoyed by a tangy, citrusy acidity and a slight skiny grip at the end. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

PINOT NOIR

95 Quartz Reef 2021 Bendigo Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Evocative aromas of cranberry, strawberry, dried herb, violet and warm stone lead, with a chocolaty underbelly. There's lovely freshness and fruit-forwardness on the palate, and a fine, herb-flecked tannin structure that adds density and power. This is elegant, ageworthy and highly expressive of its Otago subregion. Drink now–2031. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

94 Craggy Range 2021 Aroha Te Muna Pinot Noir (Martinborough). Enticing aromas of cherry and blueberry liqueur are laced with mocha, cedar and subtle floral and herb aromas. Though the wine is still quite primary and plush, there's excellent acidity and fine-boned tannins that suggest that, while a lovely tippie now, it should evolve quite beautifully until around 2031. Kobrand. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$107

94 Dog Point 2021 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Lovely layers of lucid aromas are on show from first sniff: black cherry and red berry cordial, cocktail bitters-like herbs and spices and a dark chocolate nuance. There's a distinctive kitten's tongue texture to the tannins that adds structure to the plush fruit. While still quite primary and young, there's lovely concentration and harmony here that makes this a solid cellaring choice (until around 2030) or a food-friendly drop now with some aeration. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Hans Family Estate 2018 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). There's lots to like right off the bat here: violets, fresh berries, white pepper, anise and dark chocolate converge to beautiful effect. There's power to the palate, derived from the raspy tannins and subtly toasty oak. Tangy acidity lifts, and a spice-and-floral combo flows to the finish. Characterful and ageworthy. Drink now—2028. Cape Ardor LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Quartz Reef 2022 Loop Road Pinot Noir (Central Otago). A lovely, expressive nose of brambly berries, plum, warm stones and subtle herbs and florals open this instantly appealing wine from one of Otago's top producers. The palate is light on its feet with succulent fruit and a line of fine, savory tannins that creeps up toward the finish. Elegant, long and still youthful, this could be drunk until around 2030. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

94 Seresin 2022 Leah Pinot Noir (Marlborough). From one of Marlborough's leading organic and biodynamic wineries, this cranberry-colored Pinot is instantly appealing, with heady aromas of plump red berries and ground pepper, with dried flower and meaty undertones. It's lightweight and ultrafresh, with crunchy acidity, savory tannins and a medicinal, cocktail bitters-like edge to the fruit. A highly classy drop with autumnal vibes. Drink now—2030. The Sorting Table. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

94 The Boneline 2019 Waimanu Pinot Noir (Waipara). Distinctive forest berry aromas of wild blueberry, cranberry and strawberry—with subtle florals, baking spices and warm earth—open this Pinot, from a geologically fascinating site in New Zealand's Waipara region, north of Christchurch. Several years in bottle has unraveled the palate into something silky and poised. There's a

plushness here, and no shortage of fruit, with beautiful freshness and fine tannin structure. It should continue on a graceful path until 2030 or so. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$53

93 Coal Pit 2021 Tiwha Pinot Noir (Central Otago). This is a distinctive and fruit-forward bottling from a rising star producer at lofty heights in Gibbston, Otago's highness subregion. Heady, succulent aromas of blueberry and strawberry jam are met with a potpourri-like undertone. It's tangy and slippery in the mouth with oodles of juicy fruit, lovely freshness and savory tannins woven seamlessly throughout. Drink now—2031. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Craggy Range 2022 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). For full review see page 12. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

93 Folium 2020 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Japanese expat Takaki is the one-man band in this small-batch label. Previously employed at the progressive biodynamic winery Clos Henri, Takaki similarly focuses on environment and transparency, which transmits through this wine. Though the wine is still young and fairly tightly wound, it's clear the plum, dark berry, savory spice and floral notes—along with the fine, taut tannins—will evolve with time. Harmonious, poised and complex. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Kumeu River 2021 Kumeu Village Pinot Noir (Kumeu). The "village" label from this renowned Auckland-based estate is open and perfumed with aromas of plump berries, plum, dried herbs and floral soap. Tangy blue and black fruit leads on the palate. It's quietly powerful with taut, fine tannins. Succulent enough to drink now, it's structured to age until 2028, at least. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Mt. Beautiful 2020 Pinot Noir (North Canterbury). There's a radiance to this wine that reflects its unique, ultra-cool-climate region. A gravelly, stony mineral note appears at first sniff, but give it some aeration in glass and it fleshes out with plump red berries, white pepper and potpourri. Tart cherry acidity adds tang to the midweight palate. It's tightened up by herby, distinctively textured tannins that conjure the sensation of licking gravel. The red fruit wins out, though, lingering on the finish. Drink now—2028. Mt. Beautiful USA. —C.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$31

92 Cloudy Bay 2021 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Intense, rich aromas of blackberry and cherry jam, dark chocolate and toasted coffee beans open this heady, concentrated Marlborough Pinot. The palate is equally dense, with oodles of fruit, powerful, sinewy tannins and a blueberry jelly note

to finish. Made for tomorrow, this should drink best 2025–2031. Moët Hennessy USA. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

92 Craggy Range 2021 Te Muna Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Martinborough). For full review see page 17. Kobrand.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$47

92 Elephant Hill 2022 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). There's a mingling of fresh berries, plum, savory spice and florals on the perfumed nose of this blend of three Otago subregions. The palate is poised, with lovely freshness, succulent fruit and fine, spiced tannins. It really captures the Otago Pinot style. Smith Wine & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Urlar 2021 Gladstone Pinot Noir (Wairarapa). For full review see page 20. Riboli Family Wine Estates. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 Wairau River 2022 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). For full review see page 21. Terlato Wines International.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Huia 2019 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). There's simple pleasure to be had from this wine, from a quality-focused organic Marlborough estate. It takes some aeration before revealing its charms, but a few sniffs of the plump plum and black cherry fruit, violet, black pepper and chocolate aromas and you're hooked. There's plushness on the palate, but it's lifted by lovely acidity that brightens the blueberry and blackberry fruit. Drink now with pish pizza until around 2030. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Jules Taylor 2021 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Succulent blackberry and blueberry mingle with toasted chocolate and spiced oak. There's a lovely vibrancy in the mouth thanks to juicy acidity. A chalky, powerful line of spice-flecked tannins frames it all. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Villa Maria 2021 Taylors Pass Pinot Noir (Marlborough). A rich, high-octane Marlborough Pinot, this offers oodles of ripe berry fruit, a touch of meaty savoriness and a sweet oak note from the get-go. A full-figured, luscious palate is lifted by nice acidity and tightened by muscular tannins. Still a baby, this is best drunk 2025–2031. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Moroki 2022 Pinot Noir (Nelson). This brick-tinted wine from the Nelson region, at the top of the South Island, needs some aeration when first poured. Once the reductive aromas blow off, it offers aromas of pomegranate and raspberry cordial, white pepper, mushrooms and hoisin sauce. While lightweight overall, there's some creaminess

to the mouthfeel, with herb-flecked, cat's tongue tannins. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Lobster Reef 2022 Pinot Noir (Waipara Valley). A cool, minty note opens and, after some swirling in glass, makes way for a cocktail bit-
ters-like combo of dried red and orange fruit, spices
and herbs. The palate is lightweight with tongue-
tingling acidity and a chalky tannic backbone. Vino
Logics. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Momo 2022 Made with Organic Grapes Pinot
Noir (Marlborough).** Give this some time in
a glass or decanter for the reductive mushroom and
beef jerky notes to make room for raspberry, cherry
cordial, floral and spice characters. The palate is
light with a gently slippery texture, crunchy acidity
and grippy, raspy tannins. The Sorting Table. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

SOUTH AFRICA

PINOT NOIR

93 Lismore 2018 Pinot Noir (Cape South Coast).
Black tea and spices shape the nose. The
palate has depth and varietal expression, delivering
mushrooms, berries and herbal notes. It features
delicate and supportive tannins along with great
acidity, showing strength. This is a delicious and
earthy Pinot Noir. Drink now–2028. Kysela Père et
Fils. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$61

**93 Storm 2020 Vrede Pinot Noir (Upper Hemel-
en-Aarde Valley).** This wine was born in
the cool-climate Hemel-en-Aarde Valley near the
Atlantic Ocean. Delicate aromas of dried herbs and
roses form the bouquet. It has excellent acidity
and a savory character, with a good dose of spices
enhancing flavors of ripe cherry and mulberry.
Earthy notes appear in the lasting finish. Broadbent
Selections, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Hamilton Russell 2022 Pinot Noir (Hemel-
en-Aarde Valley).** The Hamilton Russell
winery is a pioneer in the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley
and offers an elegant and spicy Pinot Noir. The nose
opens with white pepper and nutmeg. An energized
palate and tight tannins provide a good frame for
strawberries, cherries and subtle dried herbs. Hints
of cardamom appear in the aftertaste. Vineyard
Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53

91 Lothian Vineyards 2020 Pinot Noir (Elgin).
Coming from Elgin, this wine has an aromatic
nose, showing graphite and spices. Strawberries
dusted with cinnamon powder are lifted by vigor-
ous acidity. Traces of orange mark the finish. It's a
flavorful Pinot Noir that can be enjoyed now–2028.
Multiple U.S. importers. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 The Valley 2021 Pinot Noir (Elgin). The
meaty nose includes notes of clove. This
wine has a subtle character, with gentle fruit fla-
vors. A light note of balsamic vinegar adds to its
complexity. It's an enjoyable fresh Pinot Noir.
Meridian Prime Inc. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Over The Mountain 2015 Pinot Noir (Over-
berg).** Aromas of black pepper introduce a
spicy palate with light notes of black tea and hints
of clove and peppercorn. It's an enjoyable Pinot Noir
with subtle fruit flavors. Stellies Wines. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

SPIRITS



95 Chazalettes & Co. Rosso della Regina Sweet Vermouth (Italy; Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA). Look for a bright garnet hue and bold red fruit and dried herb aromas. Each sip opens with a brief burst of dried cherry, leading into bracingly bitter grapefruit peel and pith, bitter orange peel and dried herbs. Sip over ice with a curl of citrus peel.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$30



94 9diDante Purgatorio Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Monsieur Touton Selection, New York, NY). Just right for dry martinis, this golden vermouth entices with fresh apple and pear aromas. The zesty, zingy palate shows lemon peel and green apple, plus hints of dried thyme and sage, finishing bracing and fresh. A faint vanilla waft offsets the mouthwatering acidity.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35



94 Clonakilty Port Cask Finish Irish Whiskey (Ireland; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Golden and bright in the glass, this whiskey offers mild pear and beeswax aromas. Overall, expect a relatively sweet sipper tinged with honey and almond. A splash of water brings out a floral note. A brush of vanilla fades into the long, gently spiced finish.
abv: 43.6% **Price:** \$53

VERMOUTH

”It’s like a cocktail in a bottle”

If there’s one bottle that instantly transforms cocktails, it’s vermouth. Without it, a Martini is just a glass of cold gin; a Manhattan just a glass of chilled whiskey.

Increasingly, vermouth is taking center stage on its own. Taking cues from Spain’s “hora del vermut” (vermouth hour) and Italy’s apero culture, as well as increased demand for low-alcohol options, America is coming around to vermouth.

For example, NYC’s Rosevale Cocktail Room offers a staggering selection of more than 200 vermouth bottlings—the largest collection on the planet, the bar claims—housed in a giant glass refrigerator case set to a gentle range of 52 to 59 degrees. Take a page from Rosevale: for longest shelf life, promptly refrigerate any opened bottles of vermouth.

“It’s like a cocktail in a bottle,” says Rosevale beverage director, Alec Kass. “It’s wine fortified to a higher proof, plus flavorings and sugar.”

While most people are inclined to think of

vermouth as part of a cocktail, Kass is adamant that vermouth is more than just an ingredient.

“Vermouth is not simply meant to be an additive to a drink, but a drink itself,” he insists. “We just noticed it made drinks taste better, so we added it.”

Today, the ever-widening range of vermouth styles merits attention. Look to the increasing range of Spanish vermouths made with sherry as the base, or an exciting vermouth from a California producer made with cult-favorite orange wine. Italy’s coffee vermouth, a relative newcomer to U.S. shelves, has now entered the chat.

While new vermouths are part of the landscape, Kass notes that many vermouths are the product of generations. People have dedicated their lives to making excellent bottles of vermouth, from extra-dry to sweet, and everything in between.

“They do all the hard work,” he says. “All we have to do is drink them.” —*Kara Newman*

”Vermouth is not simply meant to be an additive to a drink, but a drink itself.”



94 Hakata Whisky Aged 18 Years Sherry Cask (Japan; Impex Beverages, San Francisco, CA). Look for a deep amber hue and aromas of oak, dried cherry and maple. The rich palate includes dried fig, raisin and prune drizzled with molasses, and finishing with hints of almond and clove.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$190/700 ml



94 Lustau Dry Vermouth (Spain; Europvin USA, Van Nuys, CA). Made with a base of manzanilla sherry, this faintly briny, bone-dry vermouth is ideal for the driest of dry martinis. Bold and savory dried-herb aromas lead into a tart, puckery palate with a faint bitter edge. Green apple mixes with thyme, chamomile and a hint of tarragon freshness.
Best Buy.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24



94 **Roe & Co Blended Irish Whiskey (Ireland; Diageo, Norwalk, CT).** Rich caramel on nose and palate leads to a mellow, easy-sipping whiskey with robust vanilla and tarte tatin flavors. Sip or mix.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$35



93 **9diDante Inferno Rosso Vermouth (Italy; Monsieur Touton Selection, New York, NY).** This garnet-hued vermouth opens on the sweeter side, showing vanilla, cocoa and hints of black cherry, prune and fresh raspberry. It finishes slightly tannic and drying, with a teasingly savory hint on the exhale. Botanicals include cardamom, cumin, fennel and caraway.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$33



93 **Vermut Flores Red Vermouth (Uruguay; Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA).** Expect a deep plum hue and restrained herbal aroma. The bright palate opens with plum skin, raspberry jam and cherry pie filling. It finishes dry and slightly tannic, with a pleasing fresh rosemary and thyme exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 18% **Price:** \$19



92 **Four Walls Irish American Whiskey (Ireland/USA; Four Walls Whiskey, Posen, IL).** Sip or mix this blend of Irish whiskeys and American rye whiskey, bottled in the U.S. The pleasant fresh apple scent suggests Irish, but the palate veers more toward American-style whiskey, bringing vanilla, cocoa and golden raisin, finishing long and lightly sweet.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$32



90 **Dublin Ink Warrior's Gold Irish Whiskey (Ireland; Terlato, Lake Bluff, IL).** This sherry-cask-finished whiskey opens with mild vanilla and fresh apple aromas. The flavor veers closer to fresh pear, coupled with almond and ginger heat, leading into a tingly, even fiery finish.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$55

VERMOUTH

97 **Navazos Palazzi Vermut Rojo (Spain; PM Spirits, Brooklyn, NY).** Made with an oloroso sherry base, this red vermouth has a deep ruddy hue and mild dried cherry on nose and palate. Initial sweetness swiftly transforms to a lightly nutty, drying exhale. A slightly savory note teases, suggesting dried thyme and a hint of black olive. This would be especially good in a Manhattan, or other stirred-style whiskey cocktails.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$35

96 **Vermut Sospeso (Italy; Grapejuice Group, Denver, CO).** This is one of just a handful of coffee vermouths available in the U.S. There's no mistaking the distinct coffee aroma, framed by dried oregano and other savory herbs in the background. The palate echoes an espresso note, coupling it with nuanced red fruit and finishing long and lush with

plenty of baking spice. Try it in an espresso martini riff, or to add complexity to a Manhattan.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$30

95 **Chazalettes & Co. Rosso della Regina Sweet Vermouth (Italy; Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA).** For full review see page 138.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$30

95 **Rockwell Native Amber Vermouth (USA; Rockwell Vermouth, Santa Rosa, CA).** Look for a burnished gold hue and honeyed aroma. The soft, plush palate opens with caramelized pineapple and baked pear, moving to a rich, honeyed midpalate and finishing with a brush of vanilla sweetness. Made with an orange-wine base flavored with indigenous botanicals and agave nectar. The producer recommends mixing this versatile vermouth with tequila, mezcal and other agave-based spirits. Lot #1, BTL-1575. *Best Buy.*
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$15

94 **9diDante Purgatorio Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Monsieur Touton Selection, New York, NY).** For full review see page 138.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35

94 **Lustau Dry Vermouth (Spain; Europvin USA, Van Nuys, CA).** For full review see page 138.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

94 **Xalar Vermouth (Spain; Bottle Diplomacy, Gaithersburg, MD).** Made from fortified white Grenache, this bianco-style vermouth has an amber hue and herbaceous scent, with hints of mint, vanilla and allspice. The richly spiced palate shows sarsaparilla, nutmeg and cardamom, leading into a complex, bittersweet finish that mixes candied grapefruit peel, chamomile and bitter orange.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$28

93 **9diDante Inferno Rosso Vermouth (Italy; Monsieur Touton Selection, New York, NY).** For full review see page 139.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$33

93 **CasalFarneto Vermouth Bianco (Italy; Enotec Imports, Greenwood Village, CO).** This vermouth offers a golden hue and bracingly mentholated aroma, plus a hint of dried herbs. At first, the minty note is echoed on the palate, leading into candied pineapple, a touch of vanilla and a dried herb hint. Mint returns on the cooling exhale.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$42

93 **Chazalettes & Co. Bianco Vermouth (Italy; (Italy; Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA).** Expect a bright, pale-straw appearance and mild pear and white floral aromas. The slightly sweet palate echoes the floral note, finishing long with vanilla, orchard fruit and a suggestion of candied lemon peel.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$30

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Chazalettes & Co. Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Italy; Broadbent Selections, Richmond, VA). With a pale-straw hue and mild orchard fruit aroma, this vermouth opens with bright fruit, including lemon and juicy green apple. A breeze of fresh tarragon adds to the light, refreshing finish.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$30

93 Vermut Flores Red Vermouth (Uruguay; Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA). For full review see page 139. *Best Buy.*
abv: 18% **Price:** \$19

92 Dalton Extra Dry Vermouth (Israel; Allied Importers, Brooklyn, NY). This breezy, light-bodied vermouth offers a pale gold hue and mild green apple on nose and palate. It finishes with gentle savory herbs and a subtle hint of Bosc pear. Botanicals include wormwood, myrtle, myrrh and wild thyme. Kosher and Kosher for Passover.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$49

92 Silvio Carta Rosso Vermouth (Italy; Hotaling & Co, San Francisco, CA). Think fruitcake in liquid form. This amber-hued vermouth is redolent with dried apricot, dried apple and sticky maple syrup, finishing nutty, rounded and bold. Would play well with whiskey or aged rum. Aged for 12 years in small Sardinian chestnut barrels.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$40

92 Winestillery Tuscan Red Vermouth (Italy; Lyra, Benicia, CA). Look for a deep, concentrated plum hue and distinctly medicinal aroma that suggests menthol and a hint of dried fruit. The drying palate echoes those tones, with spearmint, tarragon and eucalyptus taking the lead, followed by tart dried cranberry.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$55

91 Guerin Dry White Vermouth (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Made with a base of white wine and Pineau des Charentes, and finished in Cognac casks, this vermouth has a burnished gold hue and rich apple cider scent. The palate echoes a baked apple note tinged with vanilla richness. The drying finish includes a hint of baking spice. *Best Buy.*
abv: 17% **Price:** \$22

91 Silvio Carta Servito Bianco Vermouth (Italy; Hotaling & Co, San Francisco, CA). This Sardinian vermouth has a straw hue and bold tropical fruit aromas. The palate opens and closes with toasted coconut and vanilla sweetness, plus a pineapple hint midpalate.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$40

90 Starfield Vineyards Virgo Sweet Vermouth (USA; Starfield Vineyards, Placerville, CA). Consider mixing this bright rosé-style vermouth with white spirits or lighten it into a spritz. The deep rosy hue in the glass and white grape and peach aromas entice. Light, sweet and fruity on the palate, it suggests a white cranberry cocktail, lead-

ing to a mildly drying finish with fleeting grapefruit and rhubarb hints. Grenache based.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

90 Vermut Flores Blanc Vermouth (Uruguay; Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA). This bittersweet blanc has a light gold hue and pear and vanilla aromas, plus a bit of overripe-fruit funk. The palate opens with pineapple and juicy red apple, leading to a finish tinged with lingering vanilla and creamy caramel. *Best Buy.*
abv: 16% **Price:** \$19

89 Guerin Dry Red Vermouth (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA). Yes, this is a dry vermouth with a deep ruddy hue. It's made with Pineau des Charentes, a Cognac-fortified French aperitif that can be either red or white. Each sip opens with refreshing spearmint, leading to a fleeting red fruit note that suggests cherry compote, then quickly dissipates into the drying, puckery finish. *Best Buy.*
abv: 17% **Price:** \$22

89 Winestillery Tuscan Dry Vermouth (Italy; Lyra LLC, Benicia, CA). Look for a burnished gold hue and ripe pear aroma plus a hint of vanilla. The palate opens quite bitter, softened by a honeyed hint in the background, and finishes with orchard fruit and grapefruit pith. Made from a base of Trebbiano wine.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$55

87 Starfield Vineyards Ursa Major Sweet Vermouth (USA; Starfield Vineyards, Placerville, CA). This vermouth has a plum-skin hue and bold grape and cherry juice aromas. The palate opens sweet and juicy, showing Concord grape and blackberry. It finishes with a minty, herbal lilt.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

JAPANESE WHISKEY

94 Hakata Whisky Aged 18 Years Sherry Cask (Japan; Impex Beverages, San Francisco, CA). For full review see page 138.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$190/700 ml

93 Kojiki Blended Whisky (Japan; Mr Wine & Spirits, Miami, FL). Look for a pale gold hue and delicate coconut and peach aromas. A hint of coconut sweetness shows on the first pleasing sips, winding into a smoky note. It finishes with juicy, lemony tones. Made in Kansai; aged three years in bourbon barrels.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

92 Hakata Whisky Aged 16 Years Sherry Cask (Japan; Impex Beverages, San Francisco, CA). Chestnut, dried date and a hint of red fruit lead the nose. The palate opens with dried cranberry and lemon peel acidity, leading into a long finish showing cocoa powder, raspberry compote and plum-skin pucker.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$150/700 ml

IRISH & BLENDED IRISH WHISKEY

94 Clonakilty Port Cask Finish Irish Whiskey (Ireland; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). For full review see page 138.
abv: 43.6% **Price:** \$53

94 Keeper's Heart Whiskey Irish + Bourbon Cask Strength (Ireland/USA; O'Shaughnessy Distilling, Minneapolis, MN). What's in the bottle: a blend of high-proof Irish whiskeys and American bourbon. Look for a burnished gold hue and pronounced vanilla and coconut aromas, followed by a red apple note. The brisk, warming palate shows robust baked apple and butterscotch. Adding water softens the heat, and coaxes forward a white floral note plus a ginger-spiked finish.
abv: 59% **Price:** \$50/700 ml

94 Roe & Co. Blended Irish Whiskey (Ireland; Diageo, Norwalk, CT). For full review see page 138.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$35

92 Four Walls Irish American Whiskey (Ireland/USA; Four Walls Whiskey, Posen, IL). For full review see page 139.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$32

92 Keeper's Heart Whiskey Irish + American 110 Proof (Ireland/USA; O'Shaughnessy Distilling, Minneapolis, MN). A blend of high-proof Irish whiskeys and American rye, this presents a warm, welcoming mix of honey, vanilla and baked apple. Add a splash of water to cool the overproof heat. The complex finish offers hints of oak and dried date, plus lots of clove and cayenne sizzle.
abv: 55% **Price:** \$45/700 ml

90 Dublin Ink Warrior's Gold Irish Whiskey (Ireland; Terlato, Lake Bluff, IL). For full review see page 139.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$55