



WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE DECEMBER 2022

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ALAMY

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ENGLAND VS. CHAMPAGNE

Can climate change and high quality go together?

Editor's note: To highlight the unusually high quality of sparkling wines featured in this issue, we asked Wine Enthusiast's Champagne expert, Roger Voss, to have a conversation with our reviewer for English sparkling wines, Christina Pickard.

Roger Voss: Champagne is special. The combination of white chalk soil, a cool climate, grape varieties that have—over centuries—been found to perfectly suit the region and produce wines that have a natural desire to sparkle. Add to this natural combination the final element of what the French call terroir—the long tradition of man's involvement in viticulture and winemaking in the region, and you find all the ingredients for great and inimitable wines.

Christina Pickard: English traditional-method sparkling is special, too; remarkably so, considering the region has had mere decades of practice, versus Champagne's centuries. The English bubbles tasted for this issue were so stellar, in fact, that nearly all scored 90 or above, and many made the mid-to-high 90s.

England is blessed with the same chalk and limestone ridges as its more famous French neighbor to the south. The same carefully tended grape varieties dot the southeast corner of the country. And the recent influx of talent, resources and revenue—including from several Champagne houses—has elevated the quality of English sparkling enormously.

But English wine's primary game-changer? Climate change. Until very recently—we're talking just 10 to 15 years ago—England's cool, wet climate struggled to ripen Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. But the

country is warming, and ripeness is much less of a problem than it used to be. The result is world-class bubbles with laser-like natural acidity unique to the British Isles.

RV: Two trends emerge from this issue's reviews of Champagnes. One is that the increasing ripeness of grapes has led to the decreasing dosage—the addition of sugar to increase the alcohol of barely ripe grapes—of many familiar wines. Even some of the largest

brands have become noticeably drier while remaining as immediately attractive as in the past. That is a plus, perhaps temporarily, of climate change and the flip side of what is happening in England.

The other trend has been the appearance of older vintage wines, some very old indeed. Not all have benefited from long

aging, but most prove, yet again, how Champagne has this extraordinary ability to mature almost imperceptibly over many years.

CP: England's track record for long aging may be shorter than Champagne's, but the bubbles tasted for this issue, ranging between 2013–2018, held up beautifully. 2018 was heralded as one of England's finest vintages; it was also its highest yielding, so finding a bottle may be slightly less of an undertaking than in other vintages.

Vintage inconsistency may prove England's biggest challenge. Therefore, nonvintage sparklers—where producers may blend wines from multiple years together—may be the way forward. But English wine is growing at lightning speed (vine plantings have increased by 70% in the last five years alone), and as the nation's reputation for world class bubbles spreads, so, too, will the availability of its wines. Watch this space.

England is blessed with the same chalk and limestone ridges as its more famous French neighbor to the south.

ENGLAND

VINTAGE SPARKLING ROSÉ

95 Gusbourne Estate 2018 Brut Rosé Traditional Method Champagne Blend (England). This sunset-hued vintage rosé demonstrates just how far England has come on the winemaking front. And what the country can achieve in a warm, favorable vintage like 2018. Both complex and highly crowd-pleasing, this opens with ripe raspberry, red apple, cream and spice with floral undertones. There's a lovely depth of fruit on the tangy palate, with bright acidity and a pearl necklace of bubbles flowing seamlessly through to the finish. Delicious drinking now, this is highly food-friendly and hugely classy. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

94 Hattingley Valley Wines 2018 Rosé Sparkling Blend (England). Hattingley's rosé is elegant, fresh and downright delicious. The color of ballerina slippers, it opens with delicate aromas of fresh strawberry, raspberry and grapefruit. They're backed by richer ones like vanilla and baker's yeast. The palate is wonderfully refreshing, with bubbles that prickle and bounce over the whole tongue right through to the tart red berry finish. Valkyrie Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$65

93 Roebuck Estates 2016 Rosé de Noirs Rosé (England). This label is comparatively new to the scene but has come strongly out of the gate with classic, elegant bubbles. The rosé is fruit-driven and perfumed with aromas of strawberry, apple, cherry blossom and cream. There's a toasty, biscuity underbelly. The palate is dry with just a whisper of sweetness, brightened by crisp acidity and very vigorous bubbles. Seriously structured but with oodles of crowd appeal. Martignetti Companies. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

91 Bride Valley Vineyard 2016 Rosé Bella English Sparkling (England). Give this time in the glass to open up. Once aerated, it offers a delicate perfume of peach, strawberry, cherry and cream, with a green herbal edge. The palate is dry and has tangy fruit, a lovely lift of piercing acidity and fine, long-lasting bubbles. Boisset Collection. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

91 Hush Heath Estate 2018 Balfour Winemaker's Collection Saignée Rosé (England). A uniquely herbal nose opens this rosé bubbly, made (unusually for a traditional method fizz) in the saignée method. Reminiscent of mint, fennel, white spice and raspberry hand soap, there's a summer veg garden feel here. On the palate, a burst of bubbles makes for a foamy, persistent mousse, made even fresher by crisp acidity. Those green herbal

Continued on page 24

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. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Tasting Director Anna-Christina Cabrales (Burgundy, Rhone), Senior Editor, Tasting Jim Gordon (Napa, Sonoma), Senior Tasting Coordinator Craig Chamberlain (Virginia), Senior Editor, Print Stacy Briscoe (California), Assistant Editor Jacy Topps (Languedoc-Roussillon, Vin de France) and Writers at Large Michael Alberty (Oregon, Washington, Canada), Mike DeSimone (Spain, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, Georgia, Lebanon, Armenia, Hungary), John Holl (Beer), Matt Kettmann (Central and South Coast California), Kara Newman (Spirits), Christina Pickard (Australia, New Zealand, England, New York), Emily Saladino (Greece), Layla Shlack (Alsace), Jessica Vargas (South America and South Africa), Roger Voss (Portugal, France: Bordeaux, Beaujolais, Champagne, Loire, Provence, Southwest France), Aleks Zecevic (Austria, Germany), Jeff Porter (Piedmont and Northern Italy) and Danielle Callegari (Tuscany and Southern Italy).

If a wine was evaluated by a single reviewer, that taster's initials appear following the note. When no initials appear following a wine review, the wine was evaluated by two or more reviewers and the score and tasting note reflect the input of all tasters. Unless otherwise stated, all spirit reviews are by Kara Newman and all beer reviews are by John Holl.

Each review contains a score, the full name of the product, its suggested national retail price, its alcohol (abv) as reported to us by the submitter and a tasting note. If price or alcohol content cannot be confirmed, NA (not available) will be printed. Prices are for 750-ml bottles unless otherwise indicated.

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. When possible, products considered flawed or uncustomary are retasted.

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.

Best Buys are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$15 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark.

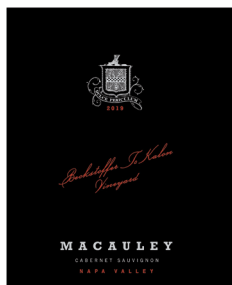
SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via winemag.com/contact-us. Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email tastings@wineenthusiast.net. **There is no charge for submitting products.** We make every effort to taste all products submitted for review, but there is no guarantee that all products submitted will be tasted, or that reviews will appear in the magazine. All samples must be accompanied by the appropriate submission forms, which may be downloaded from our website.

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; fax 866.896.8786; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net

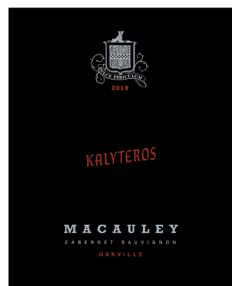
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98 Macauley 2019 Beckstoffer To Kalon Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Generously layered in black fruit and oak spice, this memorably wine from the great site is supple in tannin and plenty rich. Darker undertones of dried herb, crushed rock and cocoa powder play along, adding to the overall complexity and desirability of this wine, which shows well now but should age impeccably. Enjoy best from 2029–2039. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

abv: 15.2%

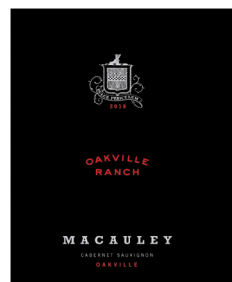
Price: \$250



98 Macauley 2019 Kalyteros Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This is a rich, supple wine with a giving texture, sweetly wrapped in oak that gives off hints of caramel and vanilla. Black fruit dominates on the midpalate, showing a density of blackberry, gamy meat and dark chocolate, finding a balanced finish that shows aging potential. Enjoy best from 2029–2039. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

abv: 15.1%

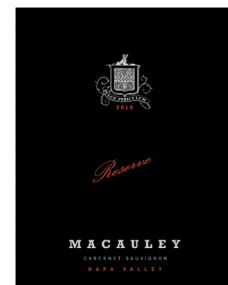
Price: \$175



98 Macauley 2019 Oakville Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). A tremendous bottle from an important mountain site on the eastern edge of the appellation, this shows incredible structure and intensity, with underlying hints of dried herb, sage and toasted oak. The fruit flavors dip into baked plum and blueberry compote, rich and lush yet complex and lengthy. It finishes in iron and flint. Enjoy best 2029–2039. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

abv: 15.4%

Price: \$175



97 Macauley 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With a tremendously impressive opening nose of cassia and mocha, this wine offers a creamy texture that invites and lingers on the palate. Dust, rock and gun flint give it a savory, earthy edge that contrasts well against the lush layers of blue fruit and toasted oak. Enjoy best 2029–2039. **Cellar Selection.** —V.B.

abv: 15.4%

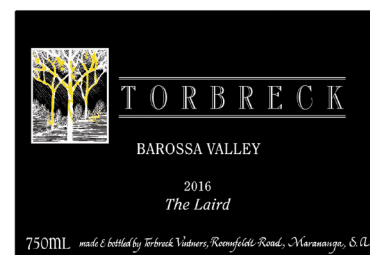
Price: \$175



97 Schramsberg 2013 J. Schram Blancs Sparkling Blend (North Coast). J. Schram releases aromas of fresh and baked green apple, lemon zest, just-cut grass, fresh and dried chamomile flowers, along with notes of pastry and crusty bread. The palate is carried by those leesy tones, whilst always maintaining an aura of fruit and florals. The acidity along with a kiss of sea-salt salinity rounds out the tasting perfectly. All characteristics continue to intertwine elegantly throughout the lingering finish. —S.B.

abv: 12.4%

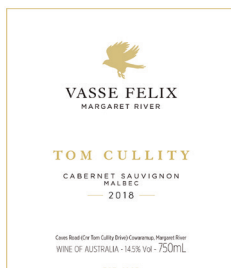
Price: \$130



97 Torbreck 2016 The Laird Red Blend (Barossa Valley). Laird is the epitome of Barossa Shiraz, oozing opulence and power. It's deeply hued with a rich, opulent bouquet of sun-ripened red and black berries, mocha, ground black pepper, warm earth and vanillin oak. The palate is massive, but quietly so, cinched in dusty, spice-filled tannins, with lifted acidity and a good lick of high-end oak. Delicately Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.

abv: 15.5%

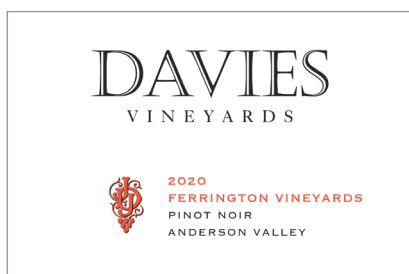
Price: \$700



97 Vasse Felix 2018 Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Margaret River). Reminiscent of Margaret River's towering eucalyptus, marri flowers, dusty red earth and salty Indian Ocean breeze. red currant and black cherry swirl with graphite, iodine, savory spice and dried violets. Powerful and poised, with downright sexy tannins that cradle the fruit rather than cinch it. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$165



96 Bride Valley Vineyard 2017 Brut Reserve (England). Bone-dry and bracing, this wafts summer apple orchard scents alongside lemon oil and toast, with a saline back note. Vivacious bubbles and citrusy acidity add exceptional freshness, which works in harmony with the textural richness. Boisset Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75



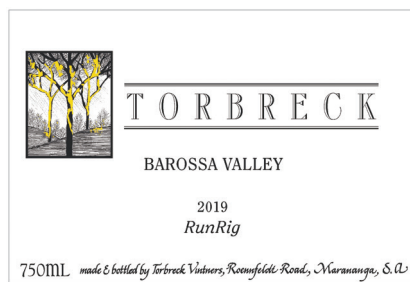
96 Davies 2020 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Aromas of fresh cranberry, raspberry, wild strawberry are complemented by notes of chocolate, nutmeg, dried cardamom and a hint of forest floor. Fine-grained tannins create a smooth, silk-like texture while the acidity provides a refreshing quality that leads toward a long and lively finish. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75



96 Serego Alighieri 2015 Vaio Armaron (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Perfectly ripe aromas of black plums and black cherries, both brooding and elegant, rush out of the glass. Supported by notes of Dutch cocoa, espresso, and a dried bouquet of herbs and flowers. The lush palate is full of dark fruit flavors with fine and firm tannins and a pop of acidity. Vineyard Brands. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$119



96 Solomon Hills Estate 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Muddled mulberry, plum and smoked sagebrush aromas entice the nose on this bottling. Vibrant and lovely purple fruit flavors are layered in oak and chaparral spice, but it's the vibrant acidity that leaves the complex palate wanting more. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75



96 Torbreck 2019 RunRig Syrah (Barossa Valley). This wine opens with heady aromas of concentrated purple and blue fruit framed by cracked pepper, chocolate, menthol and glossy oak. The richly textured palate is supported by powerful, still-youthful tannins. A little alcohol heat and oak can be felt, but both will subside with more time in the bottle. Delicato Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$225



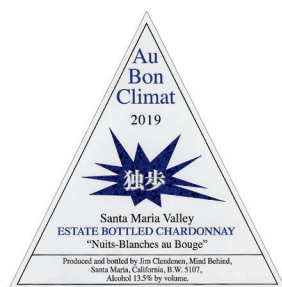
96 Troon 2020 Estate Vineyard Syrah (Applegate Valley). An aromatic combination of blackberry, violet, white pepper, chalk and a trace of earthiness. Ripe, earthy marionberry and white peach fruit flavors fill the mouth, while bits of anise and bittersweet dark chocolate float in the background. Smooth tannins and more than enough acidity to keep things lively. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35



95 Allegrini 2015 Fieramonte Amarone Riserva (Valpolicella Classico). Aromas of blackberries, cherry-pie filling and cooked plums combine with clove, vanilla, freshly turned earth, and dried violets. Framed by fine and polished tannins with hints of dried plum and gingerbread cookies. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$400



95 Alma de Cattleya 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This appellation blend by Bibiana Gonzalez Rave is a tremendously complex and simply delicious wine for a fair price. Aromas of cinnamon, sumac and raspberry paste are juicy yet dark and serious on the nose. There's a firm grip to the sip that frames the rich black raspberry core, with flavors of thyme, sage and cracked pepper adding more nuance. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35



95 Au Bon Climat 2019 Nuits-Blanches au Bouge Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).

Lovely and inviting aromas of sea salt, light butter, lemon zest and toasted almond conspire for a slyly rich nose on this bottling. Those warm elements are cut by a pithy tension on the palate, which frames blanched almond, butter-glazed nectarine and salted citrus flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

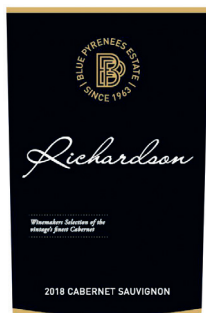


95 Audeant 2019 Seven Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).

Aromas of toasted almonds and beeswax waltz with graphite and lemon zest notes. The wine's firm texture and elevated acidity provide an able structure for flavors of grapefruit sprinkled with cinnamon, lemon verbena tea and toasted filberts. I'd hold off opening bottles until 2023, then enjoy this wine for another decade. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$75



95 Blue Pyrenees 2018 Richardson Cabernet Sauvignon (Pyrenees).

Oodles of juicy blackberry, blueberry, red currant jam and licorice are underpinned by secondary notes of copper penny and the pan scrapings of a roast along with its herbs and spices, all framed in chocolate oak. The silky textured palate is supported by ultrafine tannins. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35



95 Chateau Margene 2019 Cask 4 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Creston District).

This is an elegant and layered blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc and 16% Merlot, starting with aromas of cocoa, coffee cream, scorched earth and blackberry jam on the thick nose. Polished tannins surrounded the coconut husk, dark cocoa and intensely dark fruit flavors of the palate, which finishes with lilac and herb complexity. —M.K.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$210



95 Chateau Margene 2019 Cask 7 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Creston District).

This bold estate bottling blends 52% Merlot and 48% Malbec with 30 months of new French oak, and the results are elegantly smooth. Fresh and ripe aromas of black cherry compote and lilac lean into a palate of cocoa, chalky tannins and more dark, lush fruit. —M.K.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$210



95 Epiphany 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County).

Hearty aromas of black raspberry, boysenberry and wood smoke make for a rich and bold style of Grenache. The palate carries that weighty style forward, offering bold boysenberry, pepper and dark spices, with ample acidity and grippy tannins to balance the richness. —M.K.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$40

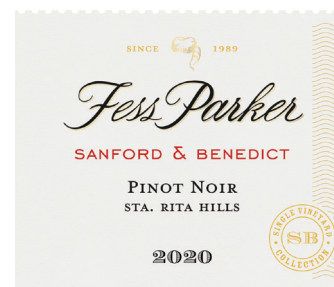


95 Fess Parker 2020 Ashley's Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

Baked mulberry, cracked pepper and smoked meat aromas make for a very complex and inviting nose on this bottling from a vineyard named for the late vintner's daughter. The cohesive character spreads to the sip as well, where cranberry, cherry, dried herb and peppered charcuterie flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$60

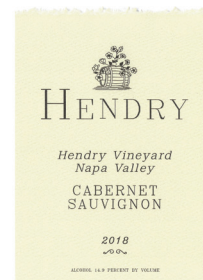


95 Fess Parker 2020 Sanford & Benedict Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

This delicious expression of Pinot Noir from a historic vineyard starts with lovely black cherry, chai, mocha and red flower aromas. Plush and polished tannins wrap palate, framing bold fruit flavors of cherry, strawberry and pomegranate, with elegant waves of hibiscus, sumac and allspice leading into an edgy finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$60



95 Hendry 2018 Hendry Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This deeply colored, extremely ripe and concentrated wine from a cooler part of Napa Valley is powerful but smooth, as a creamy texture carries blueberries, cocoa and anise flavors wrapped in significant fine-grained tannins. The flavors show great depth on the palate and good length on the finish, best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14%

Price: \$68



95 Howard Park 2018 Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Australia). Aroma and flavor: dark berry fruit, chocolate, mint, tobacco leaf, seaweed and earthy spice. Toasty oak is present, too. The tannins are powerful with a lovely talc-like texture, but the juicy fruit remains in the spotlight. Drinking well now but with potential to age gracefully for several decades. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$93



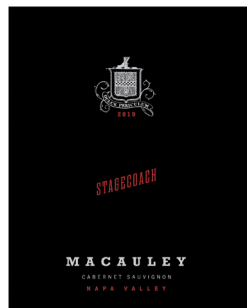
95 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2018 Cabernet Franc (Howell Mountain). Mint, cedar and cinnamon start this complex wine off with great aromas followed by a palate full of black cherries, black currants and dark chocolate. It is well-structured with integrated tannins that encourage a sense of depth and layering. Best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120



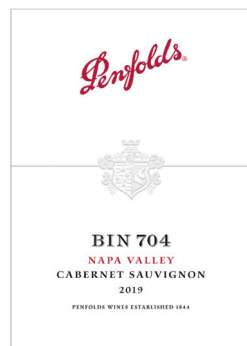
95 Lange 2021 Three Hills Cuvée Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This stunning Chardonnay begins with aromas of Golden Delicious apples, grilled pineapple and a lemon verbena tisane. The wine has a crisp, energetic mouthfeel with enough acidity to brighten up this wine. The flavors of lemon, candied ginger and warm sourdough bread go on for a very long time. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40



95 Luis Duarte 2019 Rubrica Autograph (Alen-tejano). Dominated by dark Alicante Bouschet, this dense wine is rich in every sense. Its black fruits, tannins and succulent acidity are brilliantly vivid. With its great potential, the wine should not be drunk before 2026. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



95 Macauley 2019 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Strong flavors of caramel toffee and vanilla bean dance around the front of the palate in this intensely built, well-structured wine from the great mountain site. Compact tannins and well-integrated oak contribute additionally bold flavor and texture, with a finishing touch of sage and iron. Enjoy best 2029–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$175



95 Penfolds 2019 Bin 704 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This Napa wine from the Australian-based producer over delivers on its price point, offering tremendous flavor, complexity and approachability in its youth. Expansive in dense black and red fruit, cocoa powder and silky tannin, it offers breadth and depth and is intensely compelling. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



95 Rangeland 2019 Limestone Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaide District). Clean lines of pure black raspberry juice are spiced by lilac and white pepper on the refreshing nose of this bottling. That purity extends to the palate, which is loaded with acia, blueberry and violet flavors, proving focused and elegant. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$55



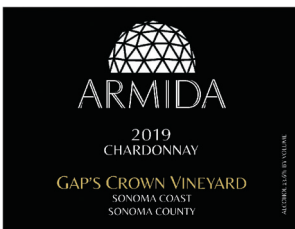
95 Schramsberg 2013 J. Schram Noirs Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Pale salmon in the glass, this wine exudes aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, white strawberries, and just-ripe white nectarines along with classic lees aromas of freshly baked bread and pastry dough. The palate has a consistently fine-bubbled mousse and an elevated acidity that keeps the fresh fruits forward whilst always maintaining the depth, complexity and layers of developed flavors. —S.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$130



95 Vasse Felix 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Open-knit aromas of red currant, cassis and cherry mingle with more savory and characteristics like eucalyptus, seaweed, iodine, graphite, a whiff of smoke and tobacco leaf. Tannins are fine yet powerful, neatly supporting the juicy currant fruit. A line of fresh acidity is particularly lovely on this vintage. Drink now–2032. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45



95 William Hill Estate 2019 Benchmark Red Blend (Napa Valley). This sexy, supple wine exudes rich blueberry, cocoa and cappuccino flavors on an ultrasmooth texture of fine-grained tannins. The creaminess, richness without heaviness, and wonderful length on the finish all contribute to its sophistication. Blended from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, plus Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$105



94 Armida 2019 Gap's Crown Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This handsome, broad-textured wine emphasizes savory, nutty, doughy flavors over outright fruitiness. Barrel fermented and having gone through malolactic, it offers toast, toasted almonds and marzipan on the palate, emphasizing a strong but not overbearing oak effect that gives it a unique profile. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55



94 Atlas Peak 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Great concentration comes with a smooth texture and good balance in this deep, complex and layered wine. Black fruits, dark chocolate, and cassis are wrapped in a velvety texture of fine-grained tannins as this seamless wine soars into a lingering finish. Best 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80



94 Babcock 2020 Born Ready Grenache (California). This is a fascinating and bold blend of Grenache from Peake Ranch in the Sta. Rita Hills and Spanish Springs in the SLO Coast. Dark, plummy aromas meet with concentrated flowers, crushed stone and graphite on the nose. The palate is ripe and rounded with flavors of strawberry, raspberry and more stone, cut by a persistent yet well-integrated acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60



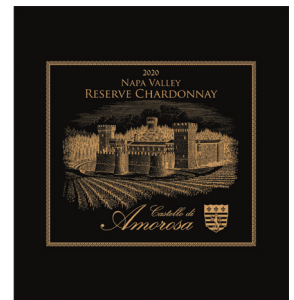
94 Benovia 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Subtle at first but richer with each sip, this deceptively full-bodied wine layers nutmeg, toasted oak and hazelnut nuances between ripe apple and pineapple flavors on a smooth, expansive texture. Excellent depth, good balance and a lingering finish seal the deal. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45



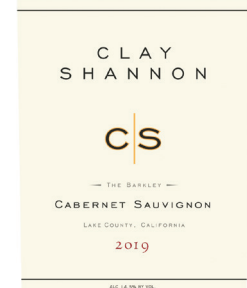
94 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Creamy while detailed aromas of black cherry, loam and slate make for a very inviting and intriguing nose on this bottling. The palate lands with a bold richness, carrying fresh and vibrant flavors of black cherry and blackberry in a hedonistic vintage for this estate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75



94 Castello di Amorosa 2017 Il Barone Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This big, plush, black-fruited wine is the top of the line for Napa Valley's "castle winery." It has a soft power, wrapping superfine tannins around deep, dark blueberries and black-currant flavors that saturate the palate with ripeness. Tempting oak spices from cinnamon and nutmeg to toast and graphite come up in the aroma and coast all the way through the finish. Best through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$105



94 Castello di Amorosa 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). A deft touch on the oak and great underlying fruit flavors make this wine a standout. It offers layers of nutmeg, vanilla, ginger and hazelnut atop vivid Pippin apples and white peaches for a seamless complexity that's delicious to taste. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59



94 Clay Shannon 2019 The Barkley Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). This deep and delicious wine holds its black-cherry and black-currant flavors firmly with fine-grained tannins as the wine seeps into every corner of the palate, exuding richness tempered only by lightly restraining acidity and the soft tannins. Best from 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



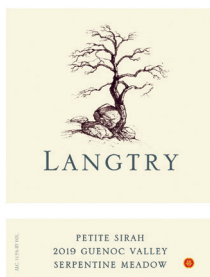
94 Donnachadh 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This new appellation-level bottling is pure joy in the glass, starting with aromas of strawberry, red apple, hibiscus and Red Hot cinnamon candies. The palate sizzles with eminently drinkable, super-fresh flavors of crisp red fruit and hibiscus, as a peppery acidity pumps into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40



94 Glunz 2019 White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara). Fresh aromas of cassis, lilac and lavender meet with a charred and raw meat scent on the dynamic nose of this bottling from the Los Alamos area. The palate is uniquely crisp and vivid, with bright fruit flavors that are layered in graphite, pepper and smoky game. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40



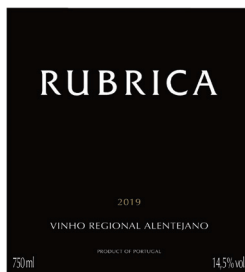
94 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2018 Petit Verdot (Howell Mountain). This delicious but tight and youthful-tasting wine practically bursts with bright cherry, raspberry and black-currant aromas, followed by a firmly tannic palate that is up to the task of balancing all that fruit. Its best is yet to come. Drink from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85



94 Langtry 2019 Serpentine Meadow Petite Sirah (Guenoc Valley). This massive, powerful wine offers intensely concentrated blackberry and dark chocolate flavors on a firm fabric of fine-grained tannins. It is something serious to enjoy with braised or grilled lamb, beef or pork, and will continue to improve through at least 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



94 Lawer 2018 Barrel Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Not super showy at first, this beautifully balanced and fruit-focused wine really delivers varietal character. Moderate tannins frame red and black cherries while deft accents of cedar and clove from 50% new oak add unobtrusive complexity. It's a wine that grows on you with each sip. Best from 2025–2033. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$115



94 Luis Duarte 2019 Rubrica (Alentejano). Fermented in open tanks and then aged in wood, this wine is dense. The rich structure and concentration are sustained by black-plum flavors and textured tannins. Ripe and full, the wine will be ready from 2025. *Specialty Cellars. Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



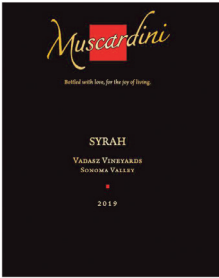
94 Macauley 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Earthy, ethereal and softly tannic, this appellation wine over delivers in waves of integrated tannin and oak that let the mix of savory and fruity components speak. Cassis, crushed rock, sage and cedar play well with one another, ending in subtle baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$80



94 Mahoney 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Carneros). This wine, from a pioneer in Carneros Pinot, is complex and vivid in flavor. Beautiful, bold black cherries and raspberries in the aroma lead to a full palate crowded with black and red fruits, spearmint and red-tea nuances on a bracing texture of good acidity and light tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30



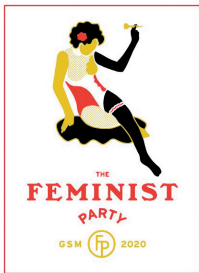
94 McGrail 2019 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This potent, inky-dark wine is one of Livermore Valley's best Cabs. It shows classic black currant, black olive and mint aromas followed by well-concentrated black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate on a firm texture of fine-grained tannins. It's McGrail's first vintage using Clone 30 from the Lucky 8 property. With great complexity, depth and structure, it seems poised for improvement with aging. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55



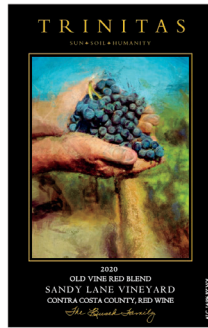
94 Muscardini 2019 Vadasz Vineyards Syrah (Sonoma Valley). Power with finesse is a good way to describe this deeply flavorful yet well-polished wine. Gorgeous black fruits and dark chocolate develop nicely on the palate, while supportive, velvety tannins give it a plush mouthfeel and will help it age gracefully. Best through at least 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$48



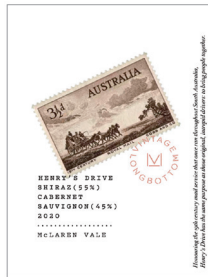
94 Real Companhia Velha 2016 Quinta dos Aciprestes Grande Reserva (Douro). Aged in a mix of new and old barrels, this powerfully dense wine is now at its peak. Secondary flavors, hints of undergrowth and truffle have developed from the still-present black fruits. It is ready to drink. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$75



94 The Feminist Party 2020 G-S-M (Santa Barbara County). Sonja Magdevski's spirit is captured expertly in this bottling, which simultaneously expresses hedonism, complexity and progress from the label to the finish. Aromas of strawberry, raspberry, crushed rock and earthy hibiscus lead into a crisp, tightly woven palate of joyous red currant, crumpled flower and white-pepper spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$40



94 Trinitas 2020 Sandy Lane Vineyard Old Vine Red Blend (Contra Costa County). A deep, dark color, powerful black fruits and vivid smoky, oaky, peppery accents give this blend of California heritage grape varieties a big impact. A full body and firm tannins bolster blackberries, dark chocolate, tobacco and black cherries on the palate, leading to a lingering finish. Best from 2025–2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50



94 Vintage Longbottom 2020 Henry's Drive Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). This wine is quite sappy and herbal overall, aromas are open knit. There's menthol and licorice amid pure plum and black currant fruit along a chocolaty oak spine. Silky fruit on the palate is neatly balanced by savory, powdery tannins. A touch of alcohol heat can be felt. A winter warmer now, or cellar until 2036. Quintessential Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$50



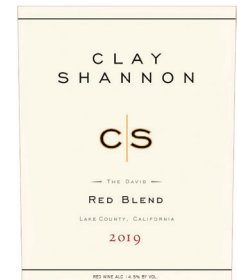
94 William Hill Estate 2019 Winemaker's Series The Notch Red Blend (Napa Valley). This flavorful nicely polished wine offers power with good balance, as moderate tannins and a touch of red-fruit acidity counterpoint luscious black fruits that are deftly layered into the silky but substantial tannins. Based on 61% Merlot, this wine will drink best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$75



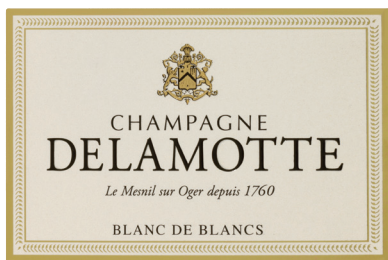
93 Brandlin 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Very ripe, lush, jammy fruit flavors give a lot of pleasure to this full-bodied wine as moderate tannins add good structure to the palate, firming up black cherries, cranberries and blueberries that show excellent depth. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90



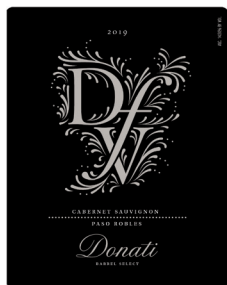
93 Clay Pigeon 2016 "Jura" Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Following a native fermentation in stainless steel, the wine was allowed to slowly evaporate in neutral barrels that remained unopened for four years. No sulfur was added, and the wine was bottled without added sulfur or filtration. The resulting is like a quality fino Sherry with aromas and flavors of saline, green olives, almond cookies, leathery tannins and a spice note similar to turmeric. The "Jura" is a worthy homage and a brilliant aperitif. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$25



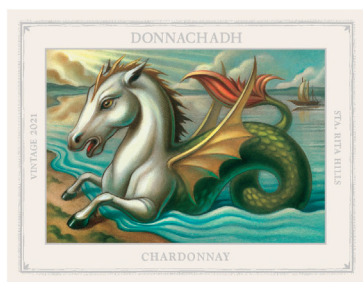
93 Clay Shannon 2019 The David Red Blend (Lake County). This concentrated, deep and firmly textured wine should have a long life. It starts with a tempting, savory aroma of tobacco, toasted oak and beef jus, followed by black cherries and dried blueberries strong enough to match the significant tannins. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40



93 Delamotte NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Based on the Côte des Blancs, the Champagne home of Chardonnay, it's logical that this producer should make a fine Blanc de Blancs. This wine has all the attributes, with crisp apple and a mineral texture that is tightly prominent. This is a fine wine, just hinting at toastiness. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$91



93 Donati Family Vineyard 2019 Barrel Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Aromas of blackberry and violet are expertly restrained on the nose, while the palate packs black cherry, cola and caramel atop sandy, polished tannins, with a walnut kick on the finish. That frame ensures a long life, so drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95



93 Donnachadh 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This brand's new appellation bottling satisfies in both Old and New World ways. Clean, chalky aromas of bright Meyer lemon flesh and pith meet with a briny note on the mineral-laden nose. The palate is wrapped in chiseled-stone tannins, loaded with acidity and yet generous on flavors of white melon, lychee, nectarine and honeysuckle. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



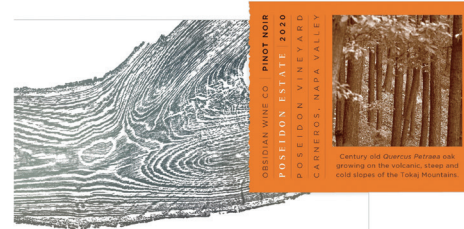
93 Glunz 2019 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with fresh strawberry, red flowers, sumac and black-tea aromas, combining fruit with earthy complexity. The palate is loaded with strawberry gummy candy flavors alongside dusty chaparral brush, proving satisfying on multiple fronts. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40



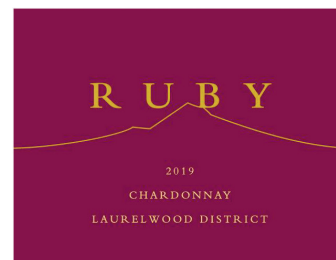
93 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Well balanced and firmly structured, this potent and full-bodied wine boasts concentrated black cherry and blackberry flavors, a juicy, lively mouthfeel and snappy, somewhat tannic finish. It has the structure and depth to age well. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



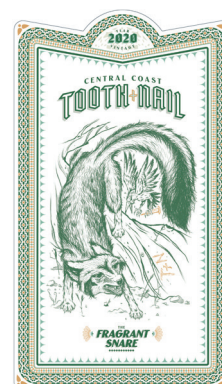
93 Luigi Bosca 2019 Paraiso Malbec Blend (Luján de Cuyo). Red-berry aromas intertwined with spices show on the enticing nose of this blend of 71% Malbec and 29% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's fruit-focused, offering honest plum and cherry flavors. Hints of oak are well integrated. Vibrant acidity and moderate tannins makes the wine very approachable and elegant. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150



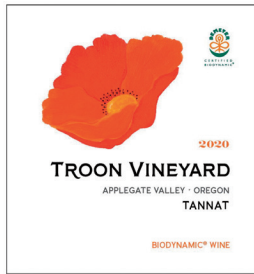
93 Obsidian 2020 Poseidon Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). Spearmint, raspberries and red tea give this medium-bodied wine a fresh, lively expression backed by good acidity and light tannins for just a hint of grip in the texture. Those add up to great balance and a refreshing, lip-smacking quality. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38



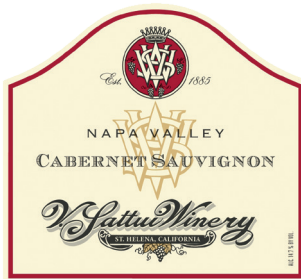
93 Ruby 2019 Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). Aromas of Golden Delicious apples and peaches explode from the glass, followed by a slightly sweet and buttery note that unleashes an intense craving for lemon shortbread cookies. The wine feels crisp and fresh in the mouth, with flavors like lemon shaved ice, cinnamon and a hint of coconut oil. Great acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



93 Tooth & Nail 2020 Fragrant Snare White Blend (Central Coast). The usually solo star Chardonnay gets an intriguing boost from 11% Viognier and 3% Albarino in this bottling, which offer light aromas of peach, lemon and white flower on the nose. The palate is tense in structure, showing peach and pineapple flavors that are cut by sea salt and a persistent acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36



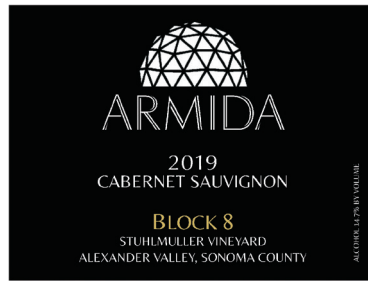
93 Troon 2020 Estate Vineyard Tannat (Applegate Valley). This blend of 76% Tannat and 24% Malbec begins with scents of dusty roadside blackberries, leather and a note reminiscent of wet river rocks. Flavors such as black cherry, leather and balsa wood surf a medium-bodied palate with nicely integrated tannins and elevated acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45



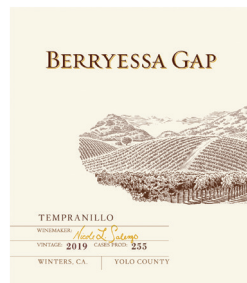
93 V. Sattui 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This voluptuous, tempting and well-polished wine is one you don't have to wait to enjoy. It offers lavish cinnamon and clove-scented blackberries and black cherries on a supersmooth mouthfeel created by tannins that are resolved and plush. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58



92 Allegrini 2018 Amarone (Valpolicella Classico). Macerated black cherries bathed in a mixture of cloves, cinnamon, thyme and pepper waft out of the glass, inviting you to delve deeper. The silky-smooth palate is full of plums and cherries, cocoa powder and freshly ground coffee. The wine is balanced with fine tannins and enough acidity to keep the palate fresh for the next glass. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$99



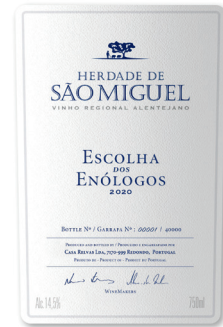
92 Armida 2019 Block 8 Stuhlmuller Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Deep fruit flavors and a velvety texture give this wine a quiet, well-composed expression, not grasping for attention but nicely doing its job of pleasing your palate. It offers an appetizing texture, moderately rich black fruits and light oak spices. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$75



92 Berryessa Gap 2019 Tempranillo (Yolo County). Polished tannins wrap around dark chocolate and blueberry flavors in this full-bodied, mouth-filling wine. Nicely oaky, spicy aromas and a hint of nutty maturity make it easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28



92 Burtech Family 2019 The Beginning Private Family Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). This hold, hearty, ripe-tasting wine blended from 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon is packed with blackberries, cedar and sun-dried tomato flavors on a moderately tannic frame. A full body and mouth-filling texture make it good to drink through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$200



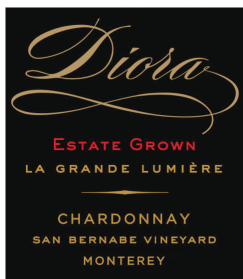
92 Casa Relvas 2020 Herdade de São Miguel Escolha dos Enólogos (Alentejano). Ripe and generous Alicante Bouschet dominates this powerful, dark-colored wine. The black-plum fruits and solid tannins will take time to integrate. Drink this rich wine from 2024. Quintessential Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



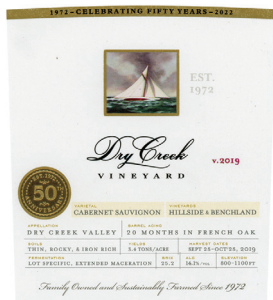
92 Crū 2019 Sarmiento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Sour cherry, wet clay, dried thyme and fresh sage show on the earthy nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the sip, framing the muddy earth, tart cranberry, light herb and peppercorn flavors. These elements will further coalesce with time, so drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35



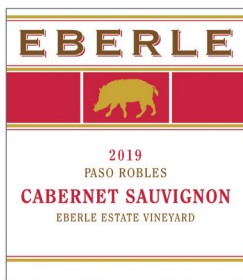
92 De Bortoli 2018 Noble One Botrytis Semillon (New South Wales). Aromas of baked pear and lemon verbena are backed by spicier ones like nutmeg, vanilla and butterscotch, with flickers of green herbs like mint and fennel. The mouthfeel is rich and tongue-coating. It's intense but has just enough acidity to keep it from being cloying. The honeyed sweetness dominates the palate, and the more subtle aromas get lost, but drink this chilled from a sherry glass with a salty cheese and it will be a delight. PH Importing. —C.P.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$40



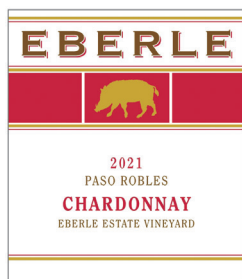
92 Diora 2020 La Grande Lumière San Bernabe Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). The nose on this single-vineyard expression is lively with an electric, lime-like acidity that amplifies the crisp aromas of salted apricot and lemon juice alongside an ashy minerality. That energy zips through the palate as well, cutting through the almond pastry and lemon-curd flavors, with a sea salt savory note hanging through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



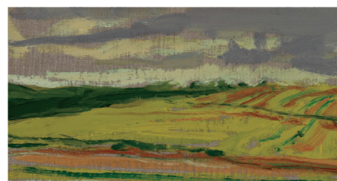
92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). This smooth, broad and spicy wine is difficult to resist for its easy drinkability and tempting, complex clove, tobacco and cedar notes on top of ample black cherries. Light to moderate tannins are well integrated in a medium to full body. Enjoy through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32



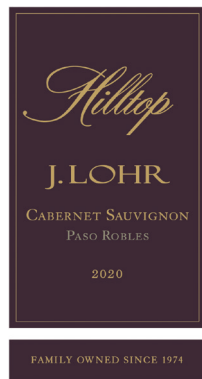
92 Eberle 2019 Eberle Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Wild blackberry, light pepper spice, mace and red flower aromas weave into a rather complex nose on this estate bottling. The palate is thick in weight, offering dark-red and black-fruit flavors as well as licorice and pepper spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$52



92 Eberle 2021 Eberle Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Paso Robles). This is a solid Chardonnay for the warmer Paso Robles climate. Aromas of yellow flower and lemon play against sharper lines of grapefruit and chalk on the nose. The palate is tightly wound and brisk with acidity, showing chalk, nut, lemon and shiso-leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30



92 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Esporão Reserva (Alentejo). This wine has intense brightness to sustain the beautifully clear fruit. Acidity and a toasty edge show well. Drink from 2024. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24



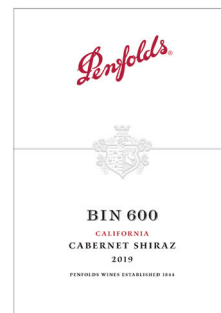
92 J. Lohr 2020 Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dried berry paste and light oak aromas show on the restrained nose of this always popular bottling. Smoothly integrated tannins surround the sip, where steadily rising flavors of blackberry and strawberry are dusted in milk chocolate and herb elements. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$35



92 Lanson NV Le Black Label Brut (Champagne). Lanson's famed nonvintage cuvée is back on form, giving a ripe style dominated by Pinot Noir. It has weight and already a fine balance between the fruits and touches of toast from four years on the lees. This bottling of this Champagne is very ready to drink. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55



92 Michael David 2020 Petite Petite Sirah (Lodi). This intense, inky, extra-ripe wine takes concentration to the next level. It is saturated with dried plum, black raisin and blackberry jam flavors on a tannic but still smooth texture, and drinks almost like a Port. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

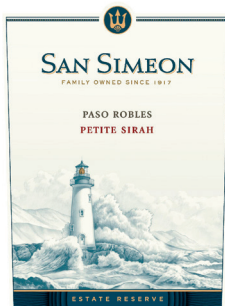


92 Penfolds 2019 Bin 600 Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (California). Sourcing 83% Cabernet Sauvignon from the Napa Valley and 17% Shiraz from Paso Robles, this imaginative blend is structured and meaty, showing notes of cigar box, toasted oak and wild game. Red fruit-dominant, it unfurls layers of cassis and red cherry with ease, finishing in creamy mocha. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50



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92 Rotari 2022 Rosé Sparkling (Trento). Consistently one of the best tasting and best values in the world of wine. This rosé has aromas of red currants, wild strawberries, blood orange zest and roses. The palate is vibrant and fresh with a touch of tart cherries that makes one grab for the second glass immediately after the first. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16



92 San Simeon 2019 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Cassis, cola cream and black cherry sauce aromas make for a rich entry to the nose of this bottling. There is ample firmness on the palate, where a grippy frame upholds flavors of violet, cassis, light pepper and dried herb. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30



92 Schug 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This moody, dusky, flavorful wine offers rich black tea, forest duff and black-cherry notes on a full body framed by light tannins. Complexity without noticeable oak, length and a supple mouthfeel make it especially enjoyable. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$32



92 Sean Minor 2021 Signature Series Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This vivid, fruity, rambunctious wine bursts with sweet cherries, black plums and piney accents on a snappy texture of tangy acidity and light tannins. It's brilliant, lively and packed with fruit. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28



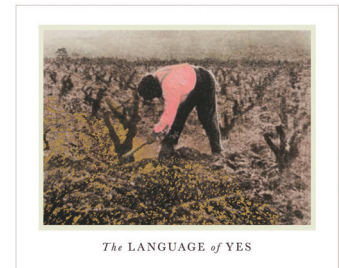
92 Smith & Hook 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). This widely available Cab is always hedonistically satisfying, clicking all the rich and delicious buttons for a reliably enjoyable experience. Aromas of cassis, caramel and black cherry cola on the nose lead into a creamy palate where polished tannins present hefty blackberry flavors, with marjoram, wood smoke and sagebrush elements adding complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25



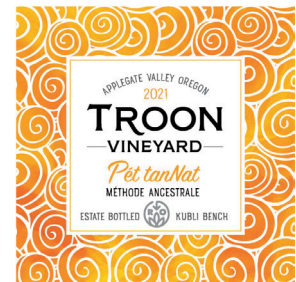
92 TeHo 2019 Zaha Toko Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Paraje Altamira). Aromas of green bell pepper, plum, and flowers are followed by hints of peppercorn. On the palate, it displays plum and herbal flavors. A mineral character and lively acidity keep the wine fresh and persistent in the glass, with notes of smoke. *Vino Del Sol.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



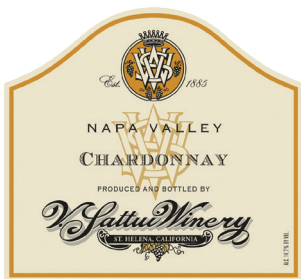
92 TeHo 2019 Zaha Toko Vineyard El Corte Malbec Blend (Paraje Altamira). Blackberry and cranberry mingle with subtle eucalyptus over a mineral texture. This Malbec has a herbal character and vibrant acidity balancing out the smooth palate. It finishes long with hints of mint. *Vino Del Sol.* —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



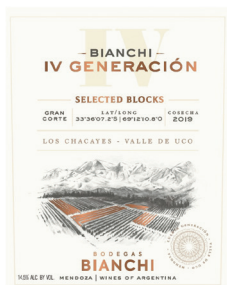
92 The Language of Yes 2021 Pink Wine Le Cerisier Rosé (Central Coast). Legendary winemaker Randall Grahm breaks ground yet again on this pink blend of 65% Tibouren, 17.5% Cinsaut and 17.5% Mourvèdre. A pale, yellowish pink in the glass, the wine offers aromas of cantaloupe rind, chilled plum flesh and glacial wash on the nose. The chalky palate presents rounded melon and crisp pear flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35



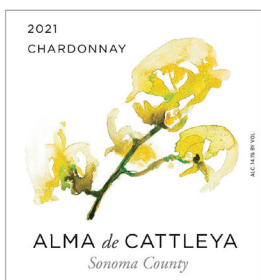
92 Troon 2021 Pét tanNat Tannat (Applegate Valley). Winemaker Nate Wall impresses by making a bone-dry ultrabrut style *méthode ancestrale* wine with Tannat from Troon's biodynamically farmed estate vineyard. The first wave of aromas includes blood orange slices, flowering tobacco and red brick dust. Flavors include Granny Smith apple vinegar, raw filberts and green tea with a touch of honey. So get ready to pop the crown cap and have some fun. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$35



92 V. Sattui 2020 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Buttery and oaky in a good way, this full-blown wine has rich aromas and ripe flavors that emphasize baking spices, light wood char and poached pears. It is very smooth in texture and long on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$38



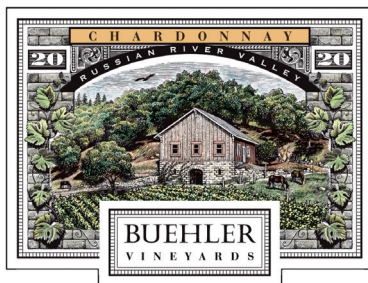
92 Valentín Bianchi 2019 IV Generación Selected Blocks Gran Corte Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Los Chacayes). Green bell pepper and dried herb aromas are followed by subtle notes of cherry. The rounded palate offers concentrated fruit flavors and peppercorn, with hints of oregano framed by chalky tannins. It's full bodied and finishes with notes of tobacco. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55



91 Alma de Cattleya 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Both baked and fresh apple aromas show on the nose of this bottling, as do lemon pith and wet-earth elements. The palate is zippy and lively, with zesty citrus and richer tropical fruit flavors in alignment. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28



91 Belle Glos 2021 Clark & Telephone Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This is a very bold style of Pinot Noir, so much that it's not very reflective of the grape but would work well paired with a juicy grilled steak. Concentrated aromas of blackberry, maple syrup and hot pancakes lead into a viscous, thick palate of berry jam, clove and cardamom flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$55



91 Buehler 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Nicely concentrated fruit flavors, subtle oak spices and a good sense of layering all help to make this well-balanced and well-proportioned wine something special. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.



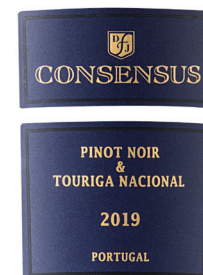
91 Burtech Family 2021 Maile Burtech Family Vineyard Rosé (Central Coast). Clean and crisp watermelon, rose petal and wet-stone aromas make for a brisk and appealing nose on this Grenache-led bottling. The tightly wound palate pops with pure pink fruit and flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$36



91 Casa Relvas 2020 Herdade de São Miguel Reserva (Alentejano). This ripe, wood-aged wine is well textured. Rich black fruits are concentrated and solid with spice and pepper. The wine is weighty, with a future ahead. Drink from 2025. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38



91 D'Arenberg 2017 The Galvo Garage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (McLaren Vale). This is, like most in the vast D'Arenberg red wine stable, a sturdy, rich and concentrated wine. But this bottling also finds balance, freshness and a lovely spicy complexity, the fruit components melding with notes of eucalyptus, bay leaf, iodine and a subtly charred, chocolaty oak character. The palate is full-figured but linear, with raspy, well-placed tannins counterbalanced by plush fruit. It finishes a little dry and oaky. Would be a cracker with a lamb or beef roast. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29



91 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Consensus (Lisboa). The consensus in the name is between Pinot Noir and Touriga Nacional, a blend that produced a ripe, cherry-flavored wine. It is perfumed and softly textured, with bright fruits as well as acidity. Drink the wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

v. 2021
GRAND ASSEMBLAGE
CHARDONNAY
Willamette Valley



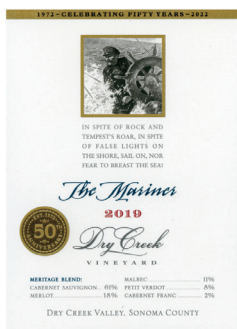
DOBBES
FAMILY ESTATE

91 Dobbes Family Estate 2021 Grand Assemblage Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).

With aromas of burnt sugar cake, pineapple and the white powder from a stick of Juicy Fruit gum, I didn't know whether to eat or drink this wine. The wine's rich mouthfeel and copious amounts of tropical and orchard fruits calls out for just a bit more acidity. The enjoyable icy note on the finish reminded me of a lemon granita with a swig of fresh mint. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$34

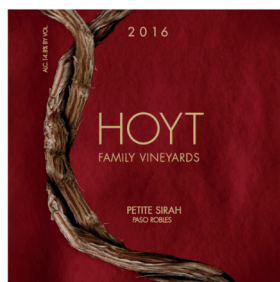


91 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 The Mariner Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley).

Warm, ripe aromas, a full body and moderate tannins give this wine quite a bit of power. Dark chocolate and espresso flavors join very ripe black cherries and blackberries on the rich palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$50



91 Hoyt Family Vineyards 2016 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).

Delicately stewed boysenberry and black fruit jam aromas are spiced with cracked pepper on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich and viscous, wrapped in suave tannins and loaded with voluptuous cassis and caramel flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$55

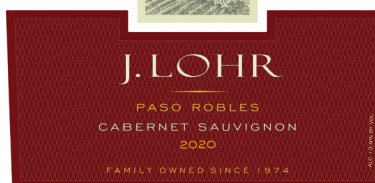


91 J. Lohr 2020 Los Osos Merlot (Paso Robles).

J. Lohr steadily produces wines that outperform much more expensive bottlings, and this cellar-worthy Merlot is a classic example. Easy-to-like aromas of red-cherry compote, loam and dark caramel lead into a polished palate of cherry, rose petal and wood spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$15



91 J. Lohr 2020 Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).

For about a million cases, this is a reliable stud of a wine. Deep, dark blackberry and light wood aromas on the nose lead into berry jam, wood spice and caramel flavors, with amplified tannins promising at least a few years of freshness. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$17



91 Lucas & Lewellen 2018 Cote del Sol Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).

This is a classic style of Santa Ynez Valley Cab, a bit lighter bodied but quite complex and easily quaffable. Co-fermented with a touch of Syrah, this bottling offers aromas of pencil shavings, smoke and cherry on the nose. The medium-bodied palate packs cranberry and strawberry flavors with layers of dried herb. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

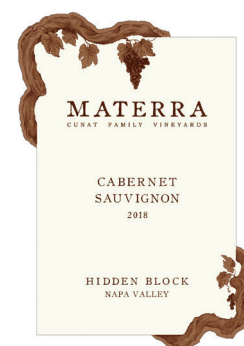


91 Luigi Bosca 2020 De Sangre Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).

This well-structured wine shows varietal typicity. The grapes were sourced from Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley. It offers aromas of green bell pepper, mint, peppercorn, and cherry. Full bodied, the palate delivers juicy red-fruit flavors followed by green bell pepper and hints of dark chocolate. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$29

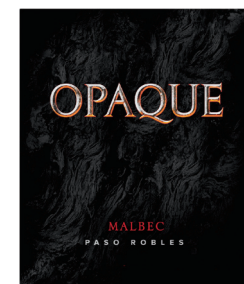


91 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2018 Hidden Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

Mouthfilling and smooth for a Cabernet, this full-bodied wine offers generous dark plum and blackberry flavors on a gently tannic texture. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$72



91 Opaque 2019 Malbec (Paso Robles).

Baked plum, toasty oak, caramel and cola aromas make for a rich entry to the nose of this bottling. Polished tannins still hold a sticky edge on the palate, where red and black berry flavors pair with savory hints of smoked meat. —M.K.

abv: 14.9%

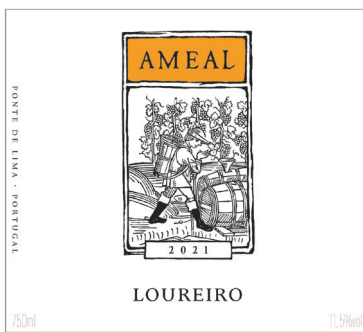
Price: \$35



91 Piattelli 2019 Single Parcel La Isla Cabernet Sauvignon (Cafayate). This red has a nose of tobacco and berries, with light notes of green bell pepper. Smooth, firm tannins and balanced acidity provide a good structure. Herbaceous flavors blend with juicy red fruit, leading to a finish with hints of cigar box. Vinocopia. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80



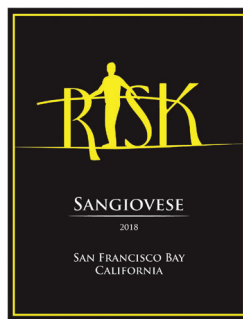
91 Quinta das Carvalhas 2020 Reserva (Douro). Aged for a year in wood, this wine is still young but has great promise. A blend dominated by Touriga Nacional gives perfumed flavors, ripe tannins and black-currant fruitiness. The wine will age further. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



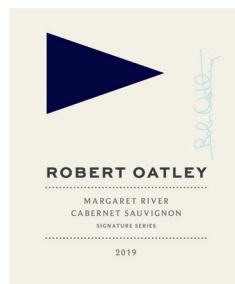
91 Quinta do Ameal 2021 Loureiro (Vinho Verde). The signature wine from the Ameal estate, this features the Lima Valley's Loureiro. The wine has softness as well as well-textured acidity and minerality. Citrus gives a tangy character, fresh and full of fruit. Drink the wine now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18



91 Real Companhia Velha 2019 Quinta dos Aciprestes Reserva (Douro). This vineyard, well sited on the south bank of the Douro, has produced a solid, concentrated wine. Blackberry fruits show well against the young tannins and juicy acidity. Still developing, it will be best from 2025. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



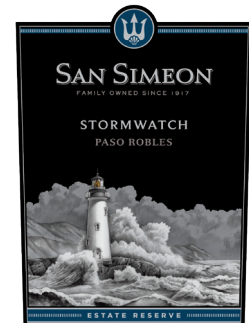
91 Risk 2018 Sangiovese (San Francisco Bay). This distinctly mineral wine shows vivid iron aromas, broad beef jus and cranberry flavors and a moderately tannic texture. Its complexity and non-fruit character helps it to stand out. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



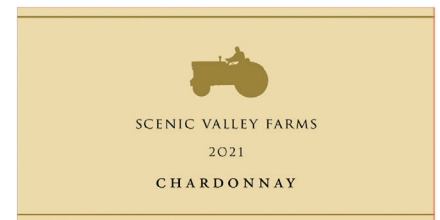
91 Robert Oatley 2019 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Vivid regional and varietal characters of cherry, blackberry, seaweed, beet, eucalyptus and black olive brine open the nose of this savory Cabernet. The palate is powerful while still being linear, focused and fresh. Savory tannins frame juicy, brambly red fruit and spice, and a gently charred oak note can be felt, too. Drinking well now, especially at slightly below room temperature, but also could cellar until around 2030, at least. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$18



91 Rotari 2022 Brut (Trento). Pale gold in color with aromas of roasted golden apples, Bosc pear, white flowers, ginger and freshly baked bread. The wine is medium in body with loads of ripe apple and pear notes. The palate finishes with roasted hazelnuts and acacia honey with a kiss of acidity, keeping the wine in balance. Prestige Wine Imports Corp. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16



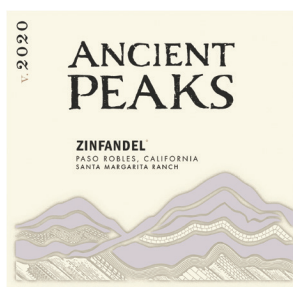
91 San Simeon 2019 Stormwatch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This is a rich, lush and yet still quite firm blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Petit Verdot, 15% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 11% Malbec. Aromas of blackberry preserves, cocoa and oak smoke on the nose lead into a waxy texture on the palate, where light licorice and blackberry flavors will coalesce even more with time. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70



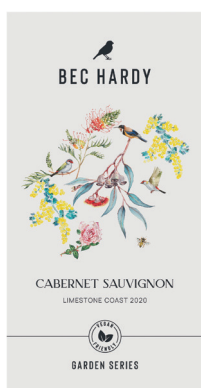
91 Scenic Valley Farms 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). This rather exotic Chardonnay was aged for a brief six months in estate-made Oregon oak barrels. Aromas of sweet alyssum flowers, pine needles and cantaloupe let you know you are in for something on the wild side. Flavors of lemon hard candies, spearmint and chalk do little to dispel that notion. The wine's brisk acidity will awaken the most jaded palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$20



91 Sofia NV Sofia Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Monterey County). This widely available and fairly priced bubbly is a solid sipper, starting with a fine perlage that shows aromas of melon rind, lime peel and wet chalk on the nose. There's a pillowy mousse on the palate, where cucumber, melon and lime flavors coalesce. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19



90 Ancient Peaks 2020 Zinfandel (Santa Margarita Ranch). Rugged aromas of barbecued berry, roasted fennel bulb and light soil show on the nose of this bottling. There's a licorice kick to the palate, where soft herbal flavors enliven the wild berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22



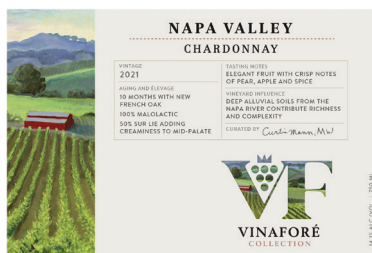
90 Bec Hardy 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Limestone Coast). A straightforward but crowd-pleasing Cab from South Australia's Limestone Coast, luscious black currant, cherry, violet, licorice and dusty, warm earth characters are framed in vanilla-cola oak. The palate is full-figured but restrained, with somewhat drying, chewy tannins and silky, tangy berry fruit. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



90 Bec Hardy 2020 Time Flies When You're Having Fun Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). A succulent, juicy fruited Cab with oodles of cherry and plum fruit, backed by savory spice, tobacco and mint. Medium-bodied, the focus on the palate is again on the fresh primary fruit. It's tugged gently by spicy tannins, and a peppery note lingers on the finish. Easy, everyday drinking, particularly by Cabernet standards. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



90 Daou 2020 Pessimist Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dense elderberry, charred meat and smoky wood aromas combine on the nose of this always enjoyable and attention-grabbing bottling. Black plum and roasted blackberry flavors meet with a stemmy herb touch on the ripe palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$30



90 DC Flynt MW Selections 2021 Vinaforé Collection Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This concentrated, moderately oaky wine offers buttery, toasty aromas, good ripe Bartlett pear and lemon flavors and a smooth texture that was enhanced with full malolactic fermentation and partial aging on the lees. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20



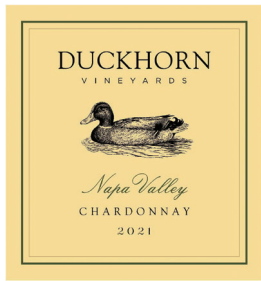
90 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Escada Reserva (Lisboa). The background structure of this wine gives it good shape. Black-currant fruits and a juicy texture offer ripeness and accessibility. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19



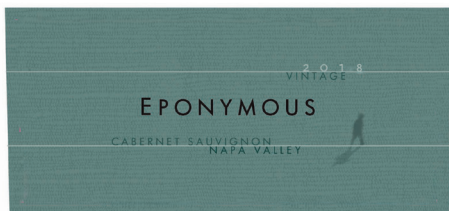
90 Diora 2020 La Splendeur du Soleil Chardonnay (Monterey). Baked apple, toasted nuts and oak aromas make for a familiar nose on this bottling. The palate is creamy in texture and loaded with butter and sea-salt richness, as a lemony apple fruit character holds the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20



90 Domäne Wachau 2020 Ried Achleiten Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This is a bit austere at first, but it does have the body to help balance it out. A very typical white pepper, orchard and citrus fruit mix marks the palate. Overall well-made, but missing the spark of its Smaragd peers. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$51



90 Duckhorn 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Abundant fruit-bowl aromas and lavish butter and vanilla flavors make this full-bodied wine generous and showy. A tasty toasty quality emerges on the sip and lingers on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38



90 Eponymous 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Potent black cherry and blackberry flavors are wrapped in firm tannins and vibrant acidity in this well-structured, nicely concentrated wine. It feels tight and restrained now, but should ease in texture by 2026 or later. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60



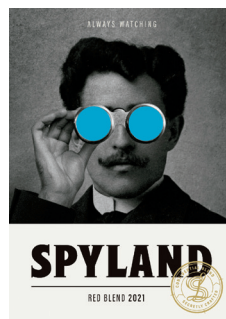
90 Finca la Celia 2019 Elite Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Dried herbs and smoke are followed by fresh red plum and blackberry. Hints of thyme add to the moderate complexity of this lively Malbec. It has firm tannins and a persistent finish. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26



90 Flamingo Estate 2021 Pink Moon Rosé (San Luis Obispo County). Cherry and dried strawberry aromas meet with hints of stone on the nose of this bottling. There's a stony texture to the palate, where rounded cherry and orange-rind flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$30



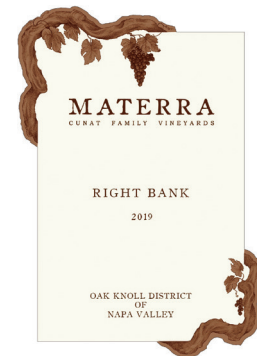
90 Fourth Wave 2020 Bumblebee Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). Deliciousness from first sniff, this modern drink-now Cab offers heady aromas of fresh cherry, strawberry and blueberry, alongside more peppery, savory and floral ones. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh fruit and spice flavors tugged by nicely textured tannins. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17



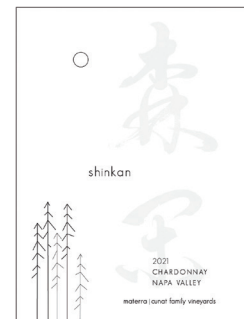
90 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Spyland (Portuguese Table Wine). This wine comes with a story of spying and a game behind it. With a dense texture, this is a very accessible wine, offering soft tannins and spice from wood aging. It is open, the black fruits soaring from the glass. Drink now for its vibrant fruits and generous structure. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



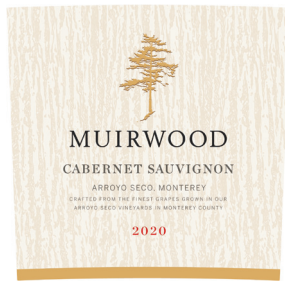
90 Luigi Bosca 2019 De Sangre Malbec (Uco Valley). Rosemary and cinnamon notes are followed by concentrated plum and black cherry on the nose. This fruit-forward wine has moderate complexity delivering juicy black-fruit and baking-spice flavors. Slightly rough tannins and fresh acidity provide a good structure. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$29



90 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2019 Right Bank Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Oak Knoll District). This Merlot-based blend feels lighter and smoother than many, offering easy drinkability, light tannins and enjoyable plum, cherry and blackberry flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60



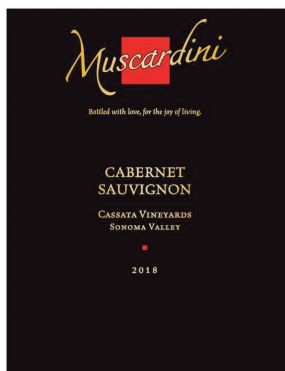
90 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2021 Shinkan Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Fresh Bartlett and Bosc pears dominate the flavors of this decidedly fruity, pure-tasting wine. Very light butter and baking spice elements take a back seat to the tasty fruits and good, appetizing texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$27



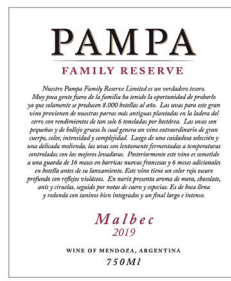
90 Muirwood 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Arroyo Seco). Wood spice and smoke weave through the berry core on the nose of this bottling. The oak and smoke streaks work well on the palate, giving some savory spice to the stewed blackberry and cracked-pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18



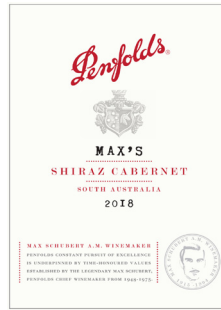
90 Muscardini 2017 Fortuna Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). Oodles of blackberry and black-cherry flavors and a good dash of oak spice grab your attention in this full-bodied, lightly tannic and well-concentrated wine. Toasted wood, and black and white pepper add subtle accents of complexity. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72



90 Muscardini 2018 Cassata Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Funky, spicy, oaky aromas and rather tight flavors of black cherries and black currants give this full-bodied wine a complex and mouth-watering profile along with good balance for potential aging. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60



90 Pampa 2019 Pampa Family Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). Black olives and prunes open the nose of this ripe and full-bodied wine. Good acidity supports concentrated black-fruit flavors blended with notes of chocolate and hints of cinnamon. It's well balanced. Pampa Beverages LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



90 Penfolds 2018 Max's Shiraz-Cabernet (South Australia). In the vast range of Penfolds reds, this is an affordable option that offers all the power, plushness and polish of the upper tier wines, with a drink-now factor. Ripe red and black berry fruit and pepper spice is framed in glossy, milk chocolate oak. The palate is mouthfilling, with but not lacking in freshness. Tannins are chewy and on the oaky side. A distinctly Aussie blend to pair with a slab of protein. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



90 Penley Estate 2020 Phoenix Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). This is a rich, somewhat oak-forward vintage of Phoenix. The plush blackberry, mint and peppery spice is overlain by the vanilla-chocolate barrel influence. Tannins are powerful but fine and spice laden, adding gravitas to an otherwise easy-drinking, tangy Cab with regional and varietal expression. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



90 Quinta da Raza 2021 Alvarinho Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde). This ripe, creamy wine offers richness alongside a mineral texture. Apple and spice flavors balance well with the citrus acidity. It will be ready to drink from 2023. OZ Wine Company. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18



90 Quinta das Carvalhas 2017 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port). With a good sense of structure, this ripe and generous Port is rich. Dried fruits and acidity balance each other over a backdrop of tannins. Drink the wine now. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$22



90 Quinta dos Murças 2019 Minas (Douro). Wood aged and structured, this wine is still developing. Dense black fruits and ripe tannins are full of promise. Succulent acidity at the end fits into the balance. Drink the wine from 2024. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25



90 Real Companhia Velha 2018 Porca de Murça Reserva (Douro). Wood aging of this wine has enriched the black fruits and smoothed the tannins. It is a generous wine, rich with a still-youthful balance of fruit and structure. Let it age further and drink from 2024. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19



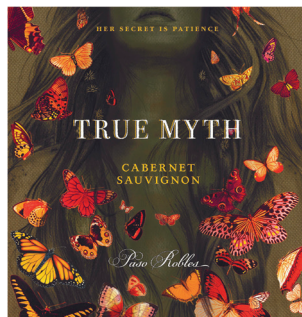
90 Simonsig 2017 Tiara Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch). Cinnamon and earthy aromas followed by black fruit shape the nose. This red has a mineral texture and flavors of vanilla and blackberry. It's full-bodied and finishes with wood spice in the aftertaste. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40



90 Sofia 2021 Sofia Rosé (Monterey County). A classic shade of pink in the glass, this rosé offers a chalky mineral tone on the nose alongside strawberry sorbet and crushed stone. The palate is wrapped in a chalky texture, delivering red apple, red plum and pink lemonade flavors atop a zesty acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19



90 Tapiz 2019 Alta Collection Malbec (Uco Valley). The nose shows restrained aromas of plum and vanilla. Full bodied, this wine delivers plenty of black- and red-fruit flavors, followed by herbs and tobacco on the palate. It has a lingering finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20



90 True Myth 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This reliable bottling grows more interesting with each vintage, in this case offering clean blackberry jam and hints of purple flowers on the nose. There is an impressive though not overly imposing layer of tannins on the sip, where boysenberry and black cherry flavors remain fresh into the slightly sticky finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24



90 William Hill Estate 2019 Winemaker's Series Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich in oak spices and equally rich in super-ripe fruit, this high-octane and smooth-textured wine is almost sweet on the palate, while soft tannins keep it relatively easy to sip. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$70



90 William Hill Estate 2020 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Delicious Danish pastry aromas and rich baked apple and nutmeg flavors make this full-bodied wine hard to put down. Plenty of oak spices from vanilla to nutmeg meet butter and hazelnut flavors on the palate. It feels creamy and layered. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35



90 Winzer Krems 2021 Kremstal Reserve Kremser Kreuzberg Riesling (Kremstal). A well-crafted classical expression of Riesling with slight volatility that is well integrated and actually gives this vibrancy. It is expressive and keeps its momentum on the finish. OZ Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



89 Carneros Highway 2021 Nueva Chardonnay (Carneros). Toasted almonds, brown butter and poached-pear flavors give this full-bodied wine plenty of flavor impact. It's broad and mouthfilling in texture and goes for plenty of ripeness, oak and spices. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17



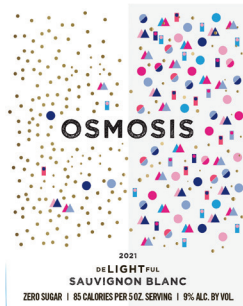
89 DC Flynt MW Selections 2020 Vinaforé Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This generous, fruity, smoky, smooth-textured wine puts lots of black pepper and beef accents over roasted-plum flavors for a savory expression that invites pairing with grilled meat or barbecue. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$22



89 Just Enough 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This canned Chardonnay delivers the complexity that this appellation is known for in a fresh way. Aromas of gardenia and fresh pear enliven the nose, while the palate packs citrus rind and crisp apple flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$8/250 ml



89 Muscardini 2019 Tesoro Red Blend (California). This generous, well-structured blend based on Sangiovese frames its nicely ripe blackberries and black cherries in moderate tannins. Subtle toast and baking spice notes keep it interesting from the aroma through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$56



88 Fincas Patagonicas 2021 Osmosis Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza). This wine has a restrained nose displaying subtle lime and wet stone aromas. Mouthwatering acidity and low alcohol makes it very refreshing. It's an easy-drinking Sauvignon Blanc with subtle lime and stone-fruit flavors. *Vino Del Sol.* —J.V.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



88 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Portada Reserva (Lisboa). Unusually for Portugal, this has some Marsanne in the blend. The wine offers rounded fruit, with touches of apricot and ripe plum along with a fine streak of acidity. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports.
Best Buy. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

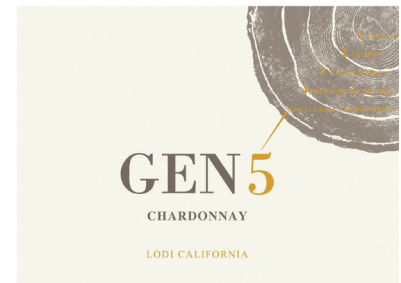


90 Highlands 41 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County). This fairly priced Chardonnay begins with showy aromas of ripe pear flesh and white flowers. There's a pleasing zip to the sip, where seared apple, toasty oak and chalk flavors align. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

BEST BUYS



89 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Grand'Arte Touriga Nacional (Lisboa). From Touriga Nacional, this wine is rich and perfumed, ripe with tannins that are integrating with the black fruits. It deserves further aging. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers.
Best Buy. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13



89 Gen5 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi). Going for maximum richness and ripeness, this full-bodied wine gushes Bartlett pears, Gravenstein apples, cinnamon and vanilla flavors on a broad, mouth-filling texture. It's appealing, fruity and not overly oaked. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$11

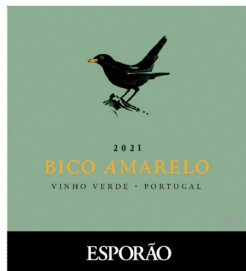


89 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). A hazy, lemon juice appearance is followed by a bright, fresh citrus-and-floral nose. There's pithy acidity on the palate and juicy lemon right to the finish. It's hard to see the varietal character here, but it's a refreshing, porch pounding drop nevertheless. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$13

BEST BUYS



88 DFJ Vinhos 2020 DFJ Alvarinho-Chardonnay (Lisboa). This sophisticated blend of Alvarinho and Chardonnay brings out the creamy, white-fruit aspects of both varieties. A light touch of spice and rounded texture give an attractive after-taste. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

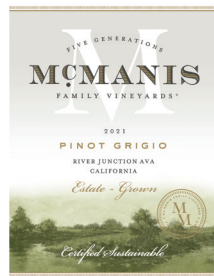


88 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Bico Amarelo (Vinho Verde). Produced at Quinta do Ameal in the Lima Valley, this wine is crisp, ripe and full of lemon and lime flavors. Lively and with great freshness, the wine is ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$12

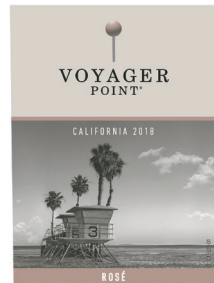


87 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Monte Velho (Alentejano). One of Portugal's best-selling wines, this fits that ranking very well. Soft tannins and black fruits harmonize. Smooth with a bit of spice, even this latest vintage is ready to drink. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

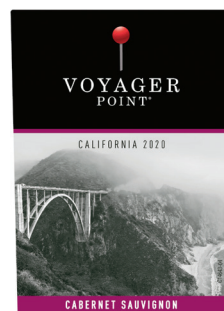
BEST BUYS



87 McManis 2021 Certified Sustainable Estate Grown Pinot Grigio (River Junction). Nicely crisp and fruity, this focused and well-balanced wine emphasizes lemon and lime flavors and lively acidity. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12



87 Voyager Point 2018 Rosé (California). A deep salmon color in the glass, this rosé entices with aromas and flavors of fresh and dried cranberry, pink rose petals moistened by the morning dew, wild strawberries and fennel fronds. Excellent acidity provides the freshness and brightness needed to keep these fruits and florals forward from start to finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10



87 Voyager Point 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Initial aromas are of black currant, blackberry, capsicum, black cherry and plum. The palate carries through on these flavors, also adding hints of smoke, dried tobacco and charred wood, providing additional interest and complexity. Tannins are chalky, but not too intense, never overwhelming the well-balanced flavor and structure of the wine as a whole. Finish lingers on those smoky tones in a very pleasant, captivating way. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

BEST BUYS



86 Fog Lane NV Red Blend (California). A mixture of fresh, ripe fruits including black currant, blackberry and boysenberry are complemented by notes of chocolate, tobacco, vanilla bean and fresh wood. Solid acidity adds vivaciousness to those fruits. Tannins are friendly, adding a linear structure. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$10

SPIRITS



97 Cocchi di Torino Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Haus Alpenz, Edina, MN). Look for a pale straw hue and fresh green apple and white flower aromas. The palate is zippy and remarkably light, with mouthwatering lemon peel and the barest hints of fresh herbs and peppermint on the super-clean, brisk exhale. Martini-worthy. —K.N.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$23 for 500 ml



95 Bertola Vermouth Jerez (Spain; Grapes of Spain, Lorton, VA). The base is a blend of oloroso and Pedro Ximenez sherries; look for a rich, spiced nose and palate enriched by dried fig, date and raisin, plus plenty of clover honey, vanilla, and baked apple. The lightly bitter finish is enlivened by clove, cinnamon and orange peel. Sip or mix with whiskey or rum. —K.N.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

SPIRITS



95 Oscar.697 Vermouth Bianco (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY). Ripe pear, savory dried herbs and a hint of almond richness create an enticing aroma. The palate opens distinctly honeyed and sweet, with grilled pineapple drying to a lightly bitter citrus peel finish. Delicious. —K.N.

abv: 16%

Price: \$38



95 Rockwell Vermouth Co. Extra Dry (USA; Rockwell Vermouth Co., Santa Rosa, CA). Faint whiffs of savory dried oregano and juicy pear lead into a bone-dry palate. Fresh-cut grass and an echo of pear lead into a drying, citrusy finish. *Best Buy.* —K.N.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$15

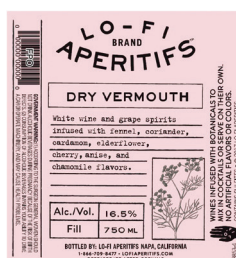


94 Frey Ranch Rye Whiskey (USA; Frey Ranch Distiller, Fallon, NV). This is a 100% rye grain, single barrel whisky, bottled at barrel strength. The bold oaky aroma leads, flanked by caramel and cinnamon. The relatively sweet palate shows caramel and maple framed by cinnamon spice, finishing long with cayenne, black pepper and clove heat. Adding water brings out a distinct orange peel note. Flavorful, but fiery. —K.N.

abv: 68.7%

Price: \$99

SPIRITS



94 Lo-Fi Aperitifs Dry Vermouth (USA; Lo-Fi Aperitifs, Napa, CA). Sip or mix this golden vermouth, which includes elderflower and cherry in the botanical mix. Look for plenty of bold mint, juicy pear and floral notes on nose and palate, winding into a refreshing vanilla-mint exhale. —K.N.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$25



94 Oscar.697 Vermouth Rosso (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, NY, NY). Look for an amber hue and mild dried fruit aromas. The palate opens with plum, raspberry compote and rhubarb, finishing lightly and mouthwatering with juicy cranberry, fruit leather and grapefruit peel dryness, plus a hint of orange peel on the fruity, sweet-tart exit. —K.N.

Abv: 16%

Price: \$38



94 Poli Gran Bassano Bianco Vermouth (Italy; Winebow, New York, NY). Expect a burnished gold hue and an aroma mixing dried herb and floral notes: lavender and elderflower are part of the mix. The palate opens lightly bitter, with grapefruit peel and coriander leading into mellow golden raisin brushed with honey. A mild dried herb note emerges on the finish. —K.N.

abv: 18%

Price: \$27

SPIRITS



94 Rockwell Vermouth Co. Classic Sweet (USA; Rockwell Vermouth Co., Santa Rosa, CA). Look for a tawny hue and complex, confected aromas that suggest pecan pie with a hint of fresh raspberry. The palate is similarly nutty, rich and dessert-like: think hazelnut, almond, mocha and caramel, finishing with mouthwatering orange peel.

Best Buy. —K.N.

abv: 16.5%

Price: \$15



94 Vermut Lacuesta Rojo (Spain; Fasel Shensone, Seattle, WA). Expect a nut brown hue and nearly neutral aroma. The palate is quite bold, with lots of bittersweet fruit, ranging from plum flesh and skin to cranberry and dried fig. The exhale shows fresh cherry and a tinge of espresso. Mix into Negronis. *Best Buy.* —K.N.

abv: 15%

Price: \$19



93 Dos Déus Origins Red Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). Everything here is deep, dark, and delicious, from the inky hue to the rich cocoa, blackberry and dried fig aromas. The smooth palate echoes those dark fruit flavors: more dried fig and date, leading to plum skin pucker and a mocha hint on the drying exhale. Maturation in sherry and Priorat barrels lends extra dried fruit richness. Mix into whiskey cocktails. —K.N.

abv: 15%

Price: \$30



93 Lo-Fi Aperitifs Sweet Vermouth (USA; Lo-Fi Aperitifs, Napa, CA). Since most sweet vermouths resemble red wine the golden hue may surprise – and that’s just fine for this versatile option. The light, sweet aroma suggests vanilla, peach nectar and mint, while the palate shows dried apricot, ripe pear, waxy honey and elderflower, exiting with mild baking spice and drying lemon pith. —K.N.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$25



91 Dos Déus Origins Blanc Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). Made with a Muscat base, this golden vermouth has a relatively dry aroma with a light hint of funk. The herbal palate shows dried mint and marjoram, dried apricot, and a perky lemon peel and pith finish. Pair with aged cheeses. —K.N.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30



90 Poli Gran Bassano Rosso Vermouth (Italy; Winebow, New York, NY). Expect a deep ruby hue and zesty, savory aromas; red fruit mixes with sun-dried tomato and dried oregano. The palate opens with bold dried cherry, raspberry and orange peel. The finish is relatively dry, with subtle savory herbs emerging on the final exhale. —K.N.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$27



89 P31 Green Aperitivo (Italy; Kindred Vines Imports, Troy, MI). Oh yes, it’s green: bright, vivid, unabashed traffic-light green. It also has a bit-tersweet, candied-grapefruit nose and palate, with hints of orange and vanilla on the exhale. But most of all, it’s vibrant green, and just right for mixing into fever-dream green Negronis.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$32 for 1 liter

Continued from page 3

aromas mingle with fresh red fruit, which flows to a lovely, long finish. This is a wine that dances to its own beat. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$50

90 Bolney Wine Estate 2018 Cuvée Rosé Brut Rosé (England). A pale peach color, Bolney’s vintage rosé is fleshy and red fruited, with rich base notes of marzipan and brioche. Bright acidity and juicy red fruit on the palate balances that lees-y opulence, and the bright bubbles are long-lasting in the glass. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

VINTAGE SPARKLING WHITE

96 Bride Valley Vineyard 2017 Brut Reserve (England). For full review see page 4. Boisset Collection. *Editors’ Choice.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

94 Gusbourne Estate 2018 Brut Reserve Traditional Method Champagne Blend (England). From a superstar vintage, this is all class. There’s richness here—a buttered toast backbone—but there’s also vibrant fruit via green apple and lemon rind. Mouthfilling flavors of yeast and orchard fruit are bundled up neatly in a silky rich texture and pricked by fine fizz and fresh acidity. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$64

93 Digby Fine English 2013 Reserve Champagne Blend (England). At nearly a decade old, Digby’s medium gold-hued vintage wine is fruit- and cream-driven; it’s a crowd-pleaser if ever there was one. Peach candy, lemon essential oil, orange blossom and yeast open this highly aromatic bottling. The palate is still remarkably crisp and fresh, juxtaposed by the rich texture and yeasty, autolytic characters. There’s lovely length, finishing citrusy and juicy and making another sip an exceptionally easy task. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$74

92 Chapel Down 2016 Three Graces Sparkling Blend (England). Delicate aromas of pear, strawberry, honeyed apricot and orchard blossoms are ensconced in a rich, toasty frame. Though dry overall, a hint of sweetness can be felt on the palate. Persistent bubbles, fresh acidity and a slippery texture make for frighteningly easy drinking. Park Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

BLANC DE BLANCS

96 Gusbourne Estate 2016 Blanc De Blancs Traditional Method Chardonnay (England). Blanc de blancs is a style at which England excels, and Gusbourne’s vintage bottling is a wonderfully

elegant example. Delicate aromas of citrus blossom and green apple are underpinned by richer notes of raw nuts and cream, with a whisper of ginger spice. The palate is clean and crunchy, with a vivid, piercing line of acidity straight down the middle of the tongue. It's broadened by a chalky texture. The fizz is fine and persistent, and there's a long, lemon-and-ginger finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$85

95 Hattingley Valley Wines 2014 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (England). This is a vibrant and beautifully crafted blanc de blancs. Aromas of lemon, pear and green apple float from the glass, followed by more delicate floral notes. There's a backbone of biscuit and cream. Mouthwatering acidity rushes across the tongue at first sip, hitting the back of the mouth and taking the citrus and orchard fruit notes along for the ride. Textural with length, depth and a slightly saline, yeasty finish, this is an elegant and versatile food wine. Valkyrie Selections. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$50

93 Henners 2014 Vintage Sparkling Blend (England). A wine you could sink into like a silk sheet on a comfy bed, it's reminiscent of apple crisp, honeyed pear, baker's yeast and raw hazelnut. Rich and aromatic, the opulent palate shows depth of flavor, vigorous bubbles, chalky acidity and an appealing apple and lemon finish. Drink up. Boutinot USA, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

93 Henners 2016 Vintage Sparkling Blend (England). Showing impressive freshness, there's an expressive bouquet of raw honey, wildflowers, fresh picked green apples and lemon oil. An undercurrent of buttered toast flows beneath. The mouthfeel is silky and rich with tangy, citrusy acidity. Bubbles prickle the tongue. Bruised green apple and lemon rind notes flow to the finish. Boutinot USA, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

92 Bride Valley Vineyard 2017 Blanc de Blancs (England). Bright and bracing, with the austerity of an ultracool climate, this opens with fresh, delicate aromas of lemon, apple, honey and florals, underpinned by toasty brioche nuances. The palate is pithy and slippery, with vibrant lemony acidic notes and fine bubbles amid the rounder, yeast-derived characters. Balanced, dry and elegant, this should be terrifically food-friendly. Boisset Collection. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

BLANC DE NOIRS

95 Gusbourne Estate 2018 Blanc De Noirs Traditional Method Pinot Noir (England). This is an elegant blanc de noirs. It's pale gold in color with an orchard-at-springtime vibe on the nose. Ginger spice, red apple and honeysuckle, with a rich, yeasty underlay, lead to a harmonious and fresh palate. Dry and gently fruity with fine bubbles and prickly

acidity, it offers elegance and power all at once. An exceptionally versatile bottle for food pairing. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$100

NONVINTAGE SPARKLING WINE

94 Digby Fine English NV Brut Sparkling Blend (England). This Pinot Noir-led bubbly from West Sussex bursts from the glass with singular notes of lemon, thyme and fresh hazelnut, then back to more citrus—fresh this time—with an underbelly of cream and a hint of smoke. The palate is equally expressive, the bright, mouthwatering acidity slicing through the gentle toast with a tangy zing of lemon right to the finish. Bracingly refreshing and nothing but class, this is delicious now, chilled for a warm summer's day. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$50

94 Hush Heath Estate NV Balfour 1503 Classic Cuvée Sparkling Blend (England). Classically structured and beautifully balanced, delicate fruit aromas dance with creamier, toastier ones. It hints at jasmine, white peach, apple with custard and lemon oil. There's a silkiness to the mouthfeel, then a crunch of acidity and fine bubbles. Those delicate aromas flow seamlessly into flavors. A poised and ultra-food-friendly bottling. The back label suggests fish and chips. This reviewer agrees. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$40

92 Hattingley Valley Wines NV Classic Reserve Sparkling Blend (England). High-toned fruit and nut aromas lead on this rich and multifaceted fizz. It's reminiscent of lemon candy, marzipan, raw almonds and butterscotch. A wonderfully zingy, lemony acidity and persistent mousse lifts the palate. It's remarkably ripe considering England's climate, but balance, length and freshness abound. Valkyrie Selections. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$45

91 Digby Fine English NV Leander Pink Sparkling Blend (England). With its vibrant blush color, there's an overarching yeastiness that's present amid the raspberry and cream. The palate is tangy and bright, with bracing acidity and a lingering red cherry note on the finish. A tasty summer sipper with both class and crowd appeal. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$60

91 Hush Heath Estate NV Leslie's Reserve Sparkling Blend (England). On a classic southeast England soil combo of clay, greensand and chalk, this is a bright and fruit-driven bottling with notes of peaches and cream, orange blossoms and green apple skins, backed gently by raw almonds and toast. The palate is mostly dry with just a whisper of sweetness and mouthwatering acidity. Bubbles

prickle softly, and fresh floral and citrus flavors flow through to the finish. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$45

90 Chapel Down NV English Rose Traditional Method Sparkling Blend (England). Raw almond, strawberries still on their stems, and floral aromas open this English rosé. The palate is dry overall, but a hint of sweetness is detectable. Lovely beads of bubbles and a crisp acidity add plenty of freshness, and a lingering red berry finish makes another sip an easy endeavor. Park Street Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$47

90 Henners NV Brut Sparkling Blend (England). From the East Sussex coast, this opulent sparkler is a blend of all three Champagne varieties. Cashews roasted in butter lead on the nose, along with orange blossom, greengage plum, lemon verbena and a distinctive smoky note to the yeasty toast. There's richness in the mouth as well. No nuttiness here, and the bubbles fizzle out fairly quickly, but citrus, stone fruit and cream are buoyed by a lovely crisp, maritime acidity. Boutinot USA, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

89 Henners NV Rose Sparkling Blend (England). The color of a ballerina's tutu, this opens with crowd-pleasing aromas of strawberries and cream, backed gently by floral nuances. Crisp acidity and a burst of bubbles fill the mouth. A balanced and refreshing drop with a remarkable ripeness considering the climate. Boutinot USA, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$NA

CHAMPAGNE VINTAGE

99 Philipponnat 2013 Clos des Goisses Extra Brut (Champagne). The new release of this Champagne is impressively stylish. It comes from a vertiginous vineyard facing north across the Marne river, the soil producing a wine with intense minerality and texture that demands time to soften. So, the blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is set for further aging. Ideally, wait for this magnificent wine until 2025. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$320

96 Billecart-Salmon 2009 Elisabeth Salmon Brut Rosé (Champagne). One of the great rosés, this Champagne named after a member of the family, is ripe with layers of red fruits and tight acidity. This vintage is still amazingly young, fresh and crisp with only a hint of maturity creeping in at the end. Drink now, and also age further. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$225

96 Lanson 2009 Clos Lanson Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Champagne). From a walled vineyard in the city of Reims, this Blanc de Blancs is made in limited quantities. Twelve years aging on

BUYINGGUIDE

the lees has softened the dryness of the Champagne and produced a marvelously toasty, fruity wine. Acidity contrasts with the nutty quality of the wine. The Champagne is at its peak. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$350

95 Billecart-Salmon 2008 Louis Salmon Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Perfectly mature, this Champagne has richness as well as a taut mineral texture. The wine is delicious with its steely edge balanced by bright apple flavors. It is well ready to drink. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$210

95 Lanson 2004 Noble Cuvée Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Aged for 18 years on its lees, this Champagne is beautifully shaped. It is by no means old, only just mature, with citrus flavors and a mineral texture still in focus. It is a very fine wine that could age further although it can be drunk now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$250

95 Lanson 2004 Noble Cuvée Brut (Champagne). This iteration of the prestige cuvée from Lanson is now well mature, but certainly not old. Even at nearly 20 years in age, it shows richness and toast while also having ripe white-fruit flavors. It is a beautifully balanced Champagne, still crisp from the dominant Chardonnay in the blend. Drink the wine now. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$220

94 Ayala 2014 No. 14 Rosé Brut (Champagne). This is the third in a open-ended series of limited-production Champagnes numbered after the vintage in which they were produced. This new iteration is now beginning its rich maturity, with five Grand Cru villages at its heart. It is a finely textured wine with weight and dryness mitigated by the ripe fruit. Drink now. Vintus LLC. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$130

94 Billecart-Salmon 2013 Vintage Brut (Champagne). A finely textured Champagne, this is definitely dry, still young, and with great potential. The wine's minerality combines with the texture to give both tension and richness. So it needs to soften further to be ready to drink from 2025. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$100

94 Jean Laurent 2000 Millésime Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Only disgorged in 2021, this vintage Champagne is just showing signs of maturity. For the most part, it is textured, still mineral with acidity and taut citrus fruit. There is a touch of nuttiness to show the wine's age. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$135

94 Lanson 2012 Le Vintage Brut (Champagne). This Champagne, still young, has almost equal proportions of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. That results in a ripe, balanced wine. Its white fruit is cut with citrus giving a full-bodied mouthfeel. The

wine should age further, so drink from 2025. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$135

94 Mailly Grand Cru 2016 L'Intemporelle Brut (Champagne). A classic Champagne blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay give this fine wine its rich and textured character. It is ripe, still textured with minerality and pure white fruits. It is a very fine wine that is still maturing. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$99

93 Deutz 2015 Brut (Champagne). Now approaching maturity, this ripe Champagne, with its high proportion of Pinot Noir, is ripe, warm in style and full of poise and balance. The wine is perfectly ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$80

93 Fluteau 2014 Symbiose (Champagne). With equal parts of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this Champagne is now soft, smooth and ripe. Its white fruits are open, mature while still also absolutely full of fruit. This is a fine, rich wine that is ready to drink. Connoisseur Wines. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$60

93 Jacquart 2012 Cuvée Alpha Brut (Champagne). This is the top Champagne from this cooperative based in Reims. It is a blend of Grand Cru fruit that was aged for seven years on the lees before disgorgement. That has given the wine depth and fine concentration as well as the maturity that comes with aging. Drink the wine now. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$72

93 Jean Laurent 2009 La Griffé de l'Ource Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Produced from vines over 50 years old, the wine is still tight and textured. Its fine acidity is impressive, with white fruit and layers of citrus still very present. Drink this Champagne now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$203

93 Jean Laurent 2000 Millésime Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne). Perfumed and textured, this is an impressive Champagne that is only just showing its age. There is a touch of toast to go with the wine's still very present white fruits and acidity. It is ready to drink. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$138

93 Mailly Grand Cru 2016 Extra Brut Grand Cru (Champagne). This is a fine, aged wine that still has great freshness. It is at the point where maturity really kicks in, so the white fruits and citrus are still there to appreciate. The wine is textured, tight and the bottling could age further. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$65

92 Alexandre Bonnet 2018 Champagne les Riceys La Géande Extra Brut (Champagne).

Using all seven of the permitted Champagne grapes, a specialty of the southern Aube region, this Champagne comes from a single vineyard. It is a rich wine, full in the mouth, with balanced acidity and white-fruit flavors. Drink this fine bottling now. VOS Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$110

92 Ayala 2016 Le Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). A blend of fruit from the Côte des Blancs, this fine, crisp apple-flavored Champagne is taut, tightly textured and with plenty of aging potential. Drink from 2025. Vintus LLC. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$95

92 Canard-Duchêne 2012 V2012 Brut Nature (Champagne). Over the 10 years since harvest, this Champagne's fruit and dryness have softened very satisfactorily. So, although it is dry, it also has an edge of softness, opening up the now mature fruit. Drink the wine now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$98

92 Fluteau 2013 Blanc de Blancs Brut Millésimé (Champagne). This Champagne is mature, showing a nutty, toasty character as much as fruit. It has arrived at richness and fine concentration while in the back, there is a crisp edge of acidity and citrus. Drink now. Connoisseur Wines. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$60

92 Gardet 2000 Prestige Charles Millésimé Brut (Champagne). While certainly mature after 22 years, the Champagne is by no means old. That means it has hints of white fruits alongside the toastiness of the wine, keeping freshness in the background. It is ripe, soft at the end. Drink now. P. Comms International. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Jacquart 2015 Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). This features a mix of fruit from Grand Cru and Premier Cru villages on the Côte des Blancs and the eastern end of the Montagne de Reims. It is now mature with softened acidity and minerality still evident but also touches of toast and spice. Drink this Champagne now. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$89

91 Baron-Fuenté 2013 Millésimé Brut (Champagne). This producer, in the Marne Valley, has produced a soft, full style of Champagne from this vintage. It has balance and ripe white fruits that now also have some bottle age from long aging before disgorgement. It is a delicious wine to drink now. DJK Imports. —R.V.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

91 Jean Laurent 2009 La Griffé de l'Ource Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne). It is impressive how fresh this wine is, despite its 13 years of aging. Yes, the vivid fruit has softened but the Champagne is textured and perfumed with a ripe character from the warm vintage. The wine is ready to drink. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12%

Price: \$199

90 Alexandre Bonnet 2015 Champagne les Rickeys La Forêt Rosé Extra Brut (Champagne). Darker in color than most rosé Champagne, this rosé de saignée takes its hues from the grapes skins. It is textured with light tannins to go alongside the acidity and red-currant flavors. The wine is astonishingly young, full of acidity and fruit. Keep for another year. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$98

90 Arlaux 2006 Millésime Rare (Champagne). This is a wine in two halves It is a mature Champagne, but there are elements that are fresh and textured. Its toastiness goes alongside the soft fruits and attractive richness. Of course, drink the wine now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$150

88 Monmarthe 2014 Le Nid d'Agace Extra Brut (Champagne). The Champagne is mature, even perhaps showing some age. With its spice and texture, its fruit has gone, leaving a toasty wine that needs to be drunk now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$100

NONVINTAGE

96 Krug NV Grande Cuvée 170ème Edition Brut (Champagne). The numbering indicates this is the 170th blending of this Champagne. This iteration has a fine poise—it's mature and toasty on the one hand and offers rich fruit on the other. It is a finely balanced wine that is ripe and full in the mouth. Drink this beautiful wine now. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$210

95 Billecart-Salmon NV Brut Sous Bois Brut (Champagne). Fermented in wood with a touch of spice and toast on the palate, this Champagne is beautifully textured and structured. The Chardonnay gives the wine a steely edge that suggests the bottling could age, so wait to drink this very fine wine from 2023. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

94 Billecart-Salmon NV Brut Blanc de Blancs Grand Cru (Champagne). Chardonnay from the Côte des Blancs lends itself to a Champagne that is finely textured and impressively fruity and structured. The wine has a steely edge that suggests this bottling is young but that also has beautiful fruit and minerality. This bottling will be even better from 2023. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

94 Krug NV Rosé 26ème Edition Brut (Champagne). A deep color and a mix of freshness and richness give this iconic Champagne a complexity that is rare. Its texture, orange zest and red-currant fruits are impressively integrated in a wine that demands food when drunk. Moët Hennessy USA. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$359

93 Baron-Fuenté NV Grands Cépages (Champagne). The Champagne has maturity, with the mineral edge softened by toast and nuttiness. It is full of great fruit that has rounded out and produces intensity and a taut aftertaste. This impressive wine is ready to drink. Select Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Chanoine NV Tzarina No1 Brut (Champagne). This prestige Champagne (in its clear bottle) is beautifully textured, with tight acidity from Chardonnay balanced against richer Pinot Noir. This bottling, still a little young, will age further to bring out the magnificent white freshness. Drink this wine from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$150

93 Delamotte NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). For full review see page 10. Vineyard Brands.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$91

93 Fluteau NV Retrospective Extra Brut (Champagne). Fermentation and aging in oak have given this Champagne a rounded character. Brioche and spice are balanced by the intense fruit and light texture of this Pinot Noir and Chardonnay blend. It is a finely poised wine that is dry while also ready to drink. Connoisseur Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$75

93 Jean Laurent NV Fleurs de Celles Brut (Champagne). This nonvintage Champagne is rich with tight, balanced fruit. It includes the rare Arbane and Pinot Blanc giving a perfumed character and soft texture with hints of tropical fruits. The wine is a pleasure to drink. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$155

92 Baron-Fuenté NV Cuvée 7 Brut (Champagne). Aged for seven years on its lees, this ripe wine brings together the three main Champagne grapes. It has a tangy, mineral edge that contrasts with some toastiness and creamed apple flavors. This fine, balanced Champagne is ready to drink. DJK Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Billecart-Salmon NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). A dry style of brut, emphasizing great fruitiness, and with a touch of bottle age, this Champagne is ready to drink. Citrus, red fruits and tight minerality from the 40% Chardonnay in the blend, offer a wine under tension and worth aging another year in bottle. Drink now or from 2023. Billecart Salmon USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

92 Brimoncourt NV Extra Brut Grand Cru (Champagne). This is a beautifully textured wine with dryness that has been softened by bottle age. With a high percentage of Pinot Noir in the blend, the Champagne has structure as well as potential for further aging. Drink the bottling from late 2023. Wines With Conviction. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Chanoine NV Tsarine Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne). Chardonnay mainly from the Côte des Blancs gives this Champagne a typically mineral and taut character. It is a young bottling and will benefit from some further bottle age. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$90

92 Delamotte NV Rosé Brut (Champagne). A crisp Champagne veering towards dryness, this is textured, with a touch of red fruits set alongside the citrus flavors. The wine is so fresh, so light and poised. Drink the bottling now. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$106

92 Lanson NV Le Black Label Brut (Champagne). For full review see page 12. Terlato Wines International.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Mailly Grand Cru NV Blanc de Pinot Noir Grand Cru Brut (Champagne). Pinot Noir vinified as a white wine still shows something of the structure of the red grape. In this Champagne, the wine is full and textured with a strong minerality suggesting this bottling could age further. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$61

92 Philipponnat NV Royale Réserve Non Dosé (Champagne). The *Non Dosé* in the name means the Champagne is completely dry. However the ripeness of the fruit in the blend is such that the wine's texture is generous and warm. That makes for a wine that is poised between a steely edge and ripe white fruits. Drink this bottling from 2023. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Philipponnat NV Royale Réserve Rosé Brut (Champagne). Darker in color than many rosés, this Champagne is also rich, with a tight texture that is balanced by zesty acidity and ripe red and citrus fruits. The wine is full-bodied, its concentration impressive. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Alexandre Bonnet NV Blanc de Blancs Extra Brut (Champagne). This delivers a ripe style of Blanc de Blancs, with rich Chardonnay and full white fruits. An edge of minerality goes with the Champagne's acidity and texture. This refreshing wine is well ready to drink. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Arlaux NV Brut Grand Bourgeois Premier Cru (Champagne). A fine, rounded Champagne, with fine fruitiness and a touch of pepper, this wine is generous and developing well. With its light texture and edge of minerality, the wine is still developing in the bottle. Wait until 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

BUYINGGUIDE

91 Baron-Fuenté NV Esprit Grand Cru (Champagne). This Champagne, fermented in oak, is rich with almost equal proportions of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. It has ripe white fruits and a touch of spice, giving a wine that is finely textured and ready to drink. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Bertrand-Delespierre NV Enfant de la Montagne Premier Cru (Champagne). A ripe Champagne with a touch of maturity, this is well balanced and delicious. The wine is softly finished—the acidity just underlining the white fruits. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$55

91 Brimoncourt NV Brut Regence (Champagne). Dominated by Chardonnay, the Champagne is tight with concentrated acidity to go with the vivid white fruits. The wine is dry while also rich, with tense fruit and a structure needing a while to soften. Drink the bottling from 2023. Wines With Conviction. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Chanoine NV Tsarine Cuvée Solium Premier Cru Brut (Champagne). This Champagne is in a dry style, emphasizing acidity and vivid white fruits. Mainly Chardonnay, it has a fine touch of minerality and crispness. This bottling should age further, drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$70

91 Jacquart NV Mosaïque Signature Brut (Champagne). All three main Champagne grapes go into this wine, resulting in a rounded character and sense of aging and maturity. It has a brioche flavor alongside the white fruits and the crisp acidity. The wine is finely balanced, ripe while also crisp at the end. Drink now. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$56

91 Jean Laurent NV Blanc de Blancs Réserve Brut (Champagne). A blend of four vintages, this fine, mineral-driven Champagne has a taut character. The beginnings of softness are discernible as the bottling ages. It's likely to be a delicious wine, from 2023. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$63

91 Lanson NV Green Label Bio-Organic Brut (Champagne). An attractive Champagne, this shows white fruits and a touch of crispness. The bottling is at perfect maturity, as hints of nuttiness appear in the background of the wine's fruit and tight texture. Drink now. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Lanson NV Le Rosé Brut (Champagne). A ripe style of rosé Champagne, this has red fruits in profusion balanced by a crisp, tight acidity. The wine's texture supports the touch of toast and the mature acidity. Drink the wine now. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Mailly Grand Cru NV Brut Réserve Grand Cru (Champagne). The nonvintage cuvée from this producer is finely balanced and softly textured. A majority of Pinot Noir in the blend gives the Champagne a light structure. Drink this attractive wine now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

91 Monmarthe NV Privilège Brut (Champagne). The Champagne is rich, with layers of white fruits, red apples and acidity. They are set against the touch of toast and nuts that indicate some bottle age. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Arlaux NV Brut Nature Premier Cru (Champagne). Dominated (as so many of this producer's wines are) by Meunier, this Champagne is crisp and certainly dry. However it also has a soft side, giving pure citrus and green-apple fruits alongside a rounded aftertaste. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Arlaux NV Brut Spéciale Réserve Premier Cru (Champagne). The wine has an edge of toastiness that makes a fine contrast with the crisp apple edge and tight texture. It is a fine, perfumed Champagne that is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$68

90 Canard-Duchêne NV P181 Extra Brut (Champagne). There is an attractive touch of toastiness in this wine that brings out the mature flavors that are well integrated with the Champagne's dosage. This a fine wine, hanging together well, and ready to drink. It is suitable for vegans. Organic. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$54

90 Champagne Doré NV Cuvée Origine Premier Cru Brut (Champagne). A bright and fruity style, this Champagne is ripe, with sliced apples and acidity. Its freshness is balanced by tangy fruits, creating a wine that is delicious to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Delamotte NV Brut (Champagne). An attractively dry Champagne that highlights its mineral texture as much as its ripe white fruits, this is tense, with a fine bite of acidity. The bottling is young and the wine needs to soften for the full experience. Drink from 2023. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$66

90 Deutz NV Brut Classic (Champagne). The wine's dosage is finely balanced with the ripe fruits and textured fruits. This bottling is just the right age, poised between crispness and a more toasty edge. Drink this beautifully controlled Champagne now. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

90 Ferdinand Bonnet NV Grande Réserve Brut (Champagne). A ripe Champagne with rich acidity and apple flavors, this is full in the mouth. Its balance is just right, with generous fruits and acidity in harmony. Drink the wine now. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$47

90 Ferdinand Bonnet NV Perle Rosée (Champagne). The Champagne, with its red-currant fruits and citrus acidity, is ripe while also textured and coolly crisp. The wine's edge of minerality adds complexity while also giving a fine shape. Drink now. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Fluteau NV Coeur de Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Champagne). Produced from 100% Pinot Noir, this ripe Champagne is lightly textured and open on the palate. There is a fine juicy character, along with touches of yeastiness, giving a wine that is ripe. Drink now. Connoisseur Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$45

90 Fluteau NV Echo Brut (Champagne). Produced from nine different parcels, this Champagne has a mineral edge alongside the bright apple and citrus fruits. The wine's freshness is balanced by its texture and taut aftertaste. Drink now. Connoisseur Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Gardet NV Brut Bio Organic (Champagne). Ripe and softly textured, this Champagne has some maturity as well as bright white fruits. Acidity and texture, touched with minerality, the wine is ready to drink. Organic. P. Comms International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Jean Josselin NV Alliance R.19 Brut (Champagne). A majority of Pinot Noir is very much in the Josselin house style. Here, allied to Chardonnay, it brings the weight with contrasting minerality from the Chardonnay. This is a young Champagne, crisp with green-apple flavors. Drink this bottling from 2023. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$63

90 Jean Laurent NV Cuvée Blanche Brut (Champagne). Here is a rarity: 100% Pinot Blanc—a grape allowed in Champagne but only rarely used, particularly alone. The wine is soft, perfumed with a light texture and ripe kiwi-fruit flavors. It is more than just a curiosity, of course, and this fine bottling is just right. Drink now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$110

89 Alexandre Bonnet NV Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut (Champagne). Pinot Noir is the most widely planted grape in the Aube and this Champagne gives the richness of this southern region. Textured with a fine bite of acidity and crisp apple, the wine is ready to drink. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Chanoine NV Réserve Privée Brut (Champagne). The wine, a blend of the three main Champagne grapes, is soft and fruity. Its creamy texture is brightened with citrus and filled out with some toastiness. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$89

89 Ferdinand Bonnet NV Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne). A full, rounded Champagne, with textures from the Pinot Noir and ripe fruits, this is rich, with a crisp edge. The wine's balance is just right, giving fine acidity and delicious fruit. Drink now. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$48

89 Fluteau NV Echo Rosé Brut (Champagne). A fresh style of rosé Champagne, this emphasizes red fruits as well as textured acidity. It's a refreshing style, bright with fruitiness and a fine touch of texture at the end. Connoisseur Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$55

89 Infinite Eight NV Rubis Extra Dry (Champagne). This dry Champagne is rounded and gently soft. It does have fresh white fruits and acidity but they are in the context of a full, creamy character. Drink the wine now. P. Comms International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

89 Jean Laurent NV Blanc de Noirs Brut (Champagne). A blend across five vintages, this vivid, lively wine is just lightly structured. It has a ripe, full character in the background waiting to come out as the Champagne softens. Drink this bottling from 2023. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$59

89 Lété-Vautrain NV Royal Brut Rosé (Champagne). The 60% Meunier in the blend of this Champagne gives softness to the texture and a delicate red-fruit perfume. Its acidity is equally soft from the high dosage. It is all in balance. Drink now. Peerless Importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

89 Monmarthe NV Secret de Famille Brut (Champagne). Here is the nonvintage cuvée of this Aude-based producer. The Champagne is fruity and with a fine touch of bottle age. Acidity and a nutty quality mingle well together. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$62

88 Alexandre Bonnet NV Champagne les Riceys Rosé Extra Brut (Champagne). Les Riceys is famed for its still, rosé wine. This rosé is in the same tradition, with its textured red fruits and tight acidity. This bright bottling is young, full of energy and should be kept for a year. VOS Selections. —R.V.
abv: 2.5% Price: \$64

88 Arlaux NV Brut Grande Cuvée Premier Cru (Champagne). The non-vintage cuvée from this producer, based to the west of Reims, has a musty aroma that belies the bright white-fruit fla-

vors. The palate is soft, with citrus and kiwi, and dominated by Meunier. The Champagne is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

88 Brimoncourt NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). A dark colored rosé, with a generous addition of red wine to give color, this is rich and soft. The red fruits give a rounded character to the Champagne, with a balancing acidity at the end. Wines With Conviction. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

88 Canard-Duchêne NV Brut (Champagne). Founded, like so many of the Champagne houses, in the 19th century, this producer has established a definite style for its nonvintage cuvée. It is soft, with an obvious dosage and white fruits. Easy to drink, this is ready now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$38

88 Canard-Duchêne NV Cuvée Léonie Brut (Champagne). A soft Champagne with a high dosage, this is fruity and lightly textured. White fruits and a light hand on the citrus are easy and ready to drink. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$37

88 Chanoine NV Tsarine Cuvée Premium Brut (Champagne). Equal proportions of the three main Champagne grapes come together in this brand's nonvintage release. Crisp citrus and white fruits are underlined by a tight texture that will age the wine further. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$50

88 Deutz NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). With its 90% Pinot Noir, this rosé Champagne has weight as well as the typical Deutz poise and crispness. It is bright and lightly structured and ready to drink for its refreshing, vibrant fruits. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

88 Infinite Eight NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). A well-balanced, fragrant Champagne, this relishes its red fruits cut with citrus. The wine is fruity, its acidity freshening the ripe flavors. It is ready to drink. P. Comms International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

88 Jacquart NV Rosé Mosaïque Brut (Champagne). This bottling has some attractive bottle age, giving a touch of nuttiness to the red fruits and taut texture. The Champagne is soft at the end, ready to drink. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

88 Mailly Grand Cru NV Rosé de Mailly Grand Cru Brut (Champagne). Almost entirely Pinot Noir, this Champagne has some weight, as well as its contrasting red-fruit freshness. Acidity offers a bite at the end of this attractive wine. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$61

88 Monmarthe NV Rosé de Ludes Premier Cru Brut (Champagne). This full, strawberry flavored wine is ripe and bright. Its acidity and texture are youthful and vivid with acidity and fruitiness right up front. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$75

87 Canard-Duchêne NV Rosé Brut (Champagne). With a relatively high dosage, this is a fruity Champagne. Its ripe red fruits are set against the acidity and rounded texture to give a wine that is full and slightly toasty. Drink now. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$46

87 Chanoine NV Tsarine Rosé Brut (Champagne). Crisp and bright with its red fruits singing over the edgy texture, this Champagne is fruity and bursting with fruitiness. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$68

87 Gardet NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). An attractive fruity Champagne, this is light on texture while full on the red and citrus fruits. It is a young wine that should be drunk now. P. Comms International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

87 Jean Josselin NV Audace R.19 Rosé Brut (Champagne). This dark rosé from 100% Pinot Noir is textured with hints of tannins as well as red-berry fruits. It is a rich Champagne from the Aube region where Pinot Noir reigns supreme. Drink the wine now. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$72

87 Jean Josselin NV Cuvée des Jean Brut (Champagne). A full, ripe Pinot Noir, this has red apple and just a touch of citrus. The wine's texture is light but essential, keeping the Champagne in shape. Ready to drink now. HB Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$56

86 Arlaux NV Brut Rosé (Champagne). Full in the mouth, with a high dosage, this is a soft Champagne. It has some crispness that cuts into the wild-strawberry flavors. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

OTHER SPARKLING WINE

88 Château Tour des Gendres 2021 Pétillant Naturel (Vin de France). A blend of Sauvignon Blanc with Chenin Blanc, this is a light, poised and friendly wine. It has a touch of honey filled out by green fruits and kiwi flavors. Drink this attractive wine now. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$25

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

93 **Château de France 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** Typically, the production of white Pessac-Léognan comes from rare parcels of chalky soils. This wine has the same provenance. It is mainly Sauvignon Blanc, wood aged and with ripe white-fruit flavors that are cut with citrus. The wine is young, so drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Fourcas Dupré 2021 (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wood aging of this wine is subtle, with hints of spice and toast. They are set against the wine's herbal character, with bright acidity and tight lemon flavors. The wine should be aged further. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Château Maltus 2021 Ambre de Maltus (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine is young, full of vivid white fruits. Fermented in wood, it has a toasty edge that adds an extra dimension of complexity. The wine with its tight texture will be ready from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

91 **Château Maltus 2020 Ambre de Maltus (Bordeaux Blanc).** Fermentation in wood has given this wine richness and spice. The white fruits and citrus edge show the tropical side of Sauvignon Blanc. With all this generosity, the wine is dense, as the fresh character shows at the end. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

88 **Château Langoiran 2021 Odyssea (Bordeaux Blanc).** Dominated by ripe, creamed apple flavored Sémillon, this is a full, direct wine. It has a fine mix of freshness and richness, giving a lift at the end. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

88 **Château Millet 2020 Cuvée Henri (Graves).** The 50% Sémillon in this wine is the secret behind its ripe, creamy character. That has developed from the initial acidity and shows the wine's smooth character. The wine will be ready from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 **Producta Vignobles 2021 Grain de Lune (Bordeaux Blanc).** This young, herbal wine needs to calm down. Then its bright grassy flavors will have filled out into a crisp and refreshing citrus and green-apple wine. Drink from 2023. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 **Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2021 La Closerie Saint-Vincent Grand Pavillon (Bordeaux Blanc).** This attractively gentle wine reveals its

acidity slowly and easily. Sliced apple flavors dominate the wine's fresh side and make it refreshing. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 **Château Haut Colombier 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** Soft, light, crisp and fruity, this wine has a gentle side that is honeyed. That shows well against the crisper citrus and tangy acidity. Drink the wine now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château le Gardera 2021 Le Ruisseau (Bordeaux Blanc).** Bright with tangy citrus fruits, this wine with its Sauvignon Blanc crispness is zesty and still young. The vivid fruits need to soften a little to round out the wine. Drink from 2023. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château Petit Freylon 2021 Cuvée Marguerite (Bordeaux Blanc).** Lemon fruitiness and a lightly herbal touch are the refreshing characteristics of this wine. It is crisp with a zesty texture. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

85 **Château Tassin 2021 (Bordeaux Blanc).** A fruity wine with a herbal hint, this focuses on lemon flavors. The wine's bright acidity is still young and tight, so drink from 2023. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

84 **Château de Marsan 2021 (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine is soft, showing grassy Sauvignon Blanc characteristics. The lemon-zest flavor gives a bite of acidity at the end. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

BORDEAUX ROSÉ

88 **Château Tanesse 2021 Langoiran (Bordeaux Rosé).** This ripe wine, with its strawberry fruits, is generous as well as crisp. Its acidity forms a vital role giving freshness to the fruits and making the wine very ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Château Tassin 2021 Le Rosé des Vents (Bordeaux Rosé).** Ripe and tangy, this has fresh raspberry flavors and bright acidity. It is fresh, crisp and deliciously ready to drink. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 **Marquis De Bern 2021 (Bordeaux Rosé).** Light, fruity and packed with red-currant flavors, this is a fresh and crisp wine. Its acidity and zesty aftertaste add to its refreshing character. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

RED WINES

91 **Château les Ricaudelles 2018 (Bordeaux).** This is an unusual wine, even in these days of the return of Malbec to many Bordeaux wines. Dark in color and rich in tannins, the wine is dense and powerful. It has weight, concentration of black-plum fruits. Drink this ripe wine from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 **Château Franc Baudron 2020 Recto Verso (Bordeaux).** This is a ripe and smoky wine, with spice and some firm tannins. The structure needs to soften to bring out the blackberry flavors. Drink this fine wine starting from 2023. Rooted Selections LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Château La Caussade 2020 Grande Réserve (Bordeaux).** With a fine mix of fruit and tannins, this juicy wine is already attractive. It has an open manner, showing a touch of spice and plenty of rich black fruits. Drink from 2023. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Château Moulin de Mallet 2020 (Bordeaux).** Here is a densely packed wine with firm tannins and a ripe structure. It has a ripe character from the black fruits. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Les Vignerons des Coteaux d'Albret 2020 Exception (Bordeaux).** This is a complete wine, with tannins and black fruits showing structure and ripeness. It has a firm core that will soften over the next few months. Drink from 2023. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 **Château Castagnac 2020 Tradition (Bordeaux).** The wine has structure with tannins and a firm, dry core. It also has ripe acidity and black-currant flavors, so the potential is there. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

89 **Château Haut Guillebot 2018 (Bordeaux).** There is a fine, firm edge to this balanced wine. The dry core is softening well, with fresh black-currant flavors over acidity and spice. The wine should be aged further. Drink from 2023. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 **Château la Fontaine de Genin 2020 (Bordeaux).** A smoothly textured wine that has a light core of tannins, this is developing well. It has plenty of fruity flavors along with a juicy aftertaste. Drink this from 2023. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

89 **Château Petit Moulin 2020 (Bordeaux).** This bottling offers a fruity, friendly wine, with ripe tannins and spice under plenty of black-berry fruits. Developing well, the wine shows ripeness, with balanced acidity. Drink from 2023. ABC Fine Wine & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château Roc de Minville 2020 (Bordeaux).** This ripe, juicy wine is generous with its berry fruits and ripe flavors. It has an attractive fruitiness and an open character. Drink from 2023. LVC Las Vegas Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

89 **Château Saint Florin 2020 (Bordeaux).** The wine is structured with a firm layer of tannins. At the same time, it has a fresh red-berry character that brings out the wine's potential. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 89% **Price:** \$12

88 **Château de l'Aubrade 2020 (Bordeaux).** This perfumed and fruity wine has ripe tannins and black-currant fruits. A touch of vanilla adds interest to this wine that will be ready to drink in 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Château du Claouset 2020 (Bordeaux).** The wine has plenty of berry fruits, ripe tannins and good potential. It still has a youthful stalkiness that will soften. Drink from 2023. ZRS Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Château Gantonnet 2019 (Bordeaux).** This open wine is developing well. Its soft tannins and smoky touches are already deliciously fruity. The wine comes from a property in the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers, It will be ready from 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Château Haut Mondain 2020 Grande Réserve (Bordeaux).** Red-berry fruits give this wine an easy, open character. It has spice and acidity in balance with the core tannins. Drink the wine from 2023. The House of Burgundy. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château la Commanderie du Bardelet 2020 (Bordeaux).** The wine's attractive fruity character masks the tannins that creep in from the background. It is juicy and full of black-currant flavors. Drink from 2023. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Château la Freynelle 2020 Emotion (Bordeaux).** Ripe and layered with black fruits and acidity, the wine is jammy, with ripe Merlot showing strongly. It needs time to show off its virtues, so drink from 2023. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château les 5 Clès 2020 (Bordeaux).** The wine is rich, almost entirely Merlot, with ripe tannins and juicy black fruits. There is a jammy edge to the wine that contrasts with the blackberry stalkiness and suggests a need to age further. Drink from 2023. Organic. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 **Château les Reuilles 2020 (Bordeaux).** The generous black fruits and perfumed tannins give this wine plenty of richness. This is a juicy wine, layering berry flavors and tannins in a poised way. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château Pilet 2020 (Bordeaux).** A juicy, black-currant flavored wine, this bottling is full of young fruits. Well structured, with tannins at its heart, it will age comfortably. Drink this from 2023. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Château Roquefort 2020 (Bordeaux).** A fine mix of black fruits and firm tannins make for a generous wine. It has acidity and berry flavors well in balance. The wine is developing well. Drink from 2023. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Château Thieuley 2020 (Bordeaux).** The wine's tannins are developing along with the black-currant fruits into a fresh, juicy character. The wine is likely to be ready from 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Les Vignerons Réunis de Monséguir 2020 Château Arnaucosse (Bordeaux).** This attractive juicy wine, with its 54% of the two Cabernets, is ripe, full and with the potential for a smooth texture as it matures further. The black-currant fruits already show freshness as well as spice. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Les Vignerons Réunis de Monséguir 2020 Château Grand Marchand (Bordeaux).** This wine, dominated by the black-currant flavor of Cabernet Sauvignon, is ripe and full bodied. The wine's structure, still open for all to taste, is sure to soften and give a smooth wine from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Les Vignerons Réunis de Monséguir 2020 Château Tuilerie Pagès (Bordeaux).** The fruit, with its ripe berry flavors, is generous and soft. Tannins are already an integrated part of the mix in this full black-fruit flavored wine. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 **Maison Matrona 2020 (Bordeaux).** The wine is poised between structure and fruit, suggesting potential and drinkability. There are soft tannins and a juicy aftertaste both completing the

wine. Drink from 2023. Organic. Suitable for vegans. Winc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 **Vignobles Grandeau 2019 Le Babbler (Bordeaux).** The thing wine is supposed to inspire, good conversation, is the highlighted by this whimsical wine. It is soft and rounded, full of juicy black fruits and with a light structure. Drink now. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Château Buisson-Redon 2020 (Bordeaux).** A spicy, juicy wine, this has attractive fresh fruits and acidity. Poised and with some youthful dryness, the wine needs a little time to open out. Drink from 2023. Prime WA. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

87 **Château d'Auzanet 2020 Cuvée des Abeilles (Bordeaux).** This is a light and soft wine. Perfumed with a smoky edge and ripe berry fruits, it comes from the southeast of the Entre-deux-Mers. This rounded wine could age further. Drink from 2023. Organic. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

87 **Château de Bon Ami 2019 (Bordeaux).** The wine has some structure, with a Cabernet Sauvignon core of tannins and ripe black fruits. With its potential, the wine can wait until 2023. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château de Fontenille 2020 Bordeaux Passion (Bordeaux).** This smoky wine has black fruits and soft tannins. It is developing easily and gently into an attractive fruity wine. Drink from 2023. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château de Lionne 2019 L'Envolée de Lionne (Bordeaux).** This is a balanced wine, with the fruit and tannins working well together. It has a firm core that needs to soften, giving a ripe wine in the next few months. Drink from 2023. LBV Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Château des Hautes Combes 2019 Bin 72/7 (Bordeaux).** Being bottled without added sulfur, the wine has forward red fruits and light tannins. It is lit by the acidity and juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2023. T. Elenty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Château Joinin 2020 (Bordeaux).** Ripe, fruity with attractive red fruits and a tannic core, the wine is juicy while still young. As it softens, the fruit will show better, so wait until 2023. Masciarelli Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Château Malbec 2020 (Bordeaux).** A wine that is already balanced, this has fruit and acidity in abundance. In its youthful exuberance,

BUYINGGUIDE

the tannins are also present and need to soften. Drink from 2023. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Château Montet 2018 (Bordeaux). There is a firm edge to this blend of the two Cabernets and Merlot. It brings structure to the black-currant fruits and juicy acidity. The wine will be ready from 2023. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Château Saint Sauveur Duplessis 2020 (Bordeaux). Touches of spice alongside the wine's black fruits give plenty of promise. Structure and a youthful character add to the potential. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Château Sentorin 2020 (Bordeaux). Fruity, with both milk-chocolate and spice flavors, this is softly textured. The wine's berry flavors are well developed and the wine will be ready at the end of 2022. Eagle Eye Brands. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

87 Château Suau 2020 Semper Viva (Bordeaux). The wine is smoky and juicy, with a fine balance between perfumed fruits and a dry edge. The wine is likely to develop, so drink from 2023. Organic. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

87 Château Talmont 2020 (Bordeaux). A juicy, red-fruit flavored wine with a bright, forward character, this is developing quickly. The wine's berry flavors are matched by licorice and tannins. Drink from 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Les Vignerons Réunis de Monséguir 2020 Château le Mayne Turon (Bordeaux). A happy blend of the three main Bordeaux grapes, and with fine tannins encased in warm black fruits, this is a finely textured wine. It is still young, but the wine's richness will see it in good stead. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 La Closerie Saint-Vincent Grand Pavillon (Bordeaux). The wine is soft and full of black fruits that have already opened up. It has juicy acidity and a fine balance of fruit and structure. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Axel des Vignes 2020 (Bordeaux). Red-fruit flavors and touches of spice give this wine fruitiness. At the same time, there is an edge of pepper and firm tannins that need to soften. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

86 Château Mazetier 2020 Tradition (Bordeaux). Still firm and showing signs of

excessive extraction, the wine needs to soften. If that happens, it will be bright and fruity, with a core of tannins. Wait until 2023. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Château Montet 2018 Merlot (Bordeaux). This 100% Merlot wine is so soft and smooth. There is just the tiniest edge of tannin that serves to keep the wine in shape. The wine is juicy and ready to drink. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Château Moulin de Vignolle 2020 (Bordeaux). The wine is smoky, juicy with black fruits and spice in harmony. At the moment, it is dry and firm and needs to soften. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Château Puy de Guirande 2020 (Bordeaux). With a firm structure alongside the ripe tannins, this is a well-balanced wine. It is full of juicy black fruits and bright acidity. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Château Tire Pé 2021 Tire-Vin vite (Bordeaux). This young wine is poised and juicy. Fresh berry fruits and light tannins give plenty of vivid flavors to the red-berry fruits. Drink from 2024. No sulfites. Jenny and François Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Domaine du Carrelet 2019 (Bordeaux). Tannins have softened into black-currant flavors from this five-acre Right Bank vineyard. In the back, there is a stalky edge that should disappear over the next few months. Drink from 2023. Vivino. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Les Vignerons Réunis de Monséguir 2020 Château Peynaud-Bagnac (Bordeaux). It is fascinating how even a small amount of Cabernet Franc can add perfume and smokiness to the wine. The problem here is with the use of wood, dominant at this stage and with some dryness from the wood aging. It all needs time. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Vignerons de Puissegui Lussac Saint-Emilion 2020 Les Rocs Nobles (Bordeaux). The wine has already aged to give smoky flavors alongside and soft fruit flavors. It is an attractive wine to drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

85 Château Haut Vieux Chêne 2020 (Bordeaux). Vanilla aromas cover the wine's fruit, giving a structured, firm character. The fruit comes through slowly, meaning the wine needs time. Drink from late 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Château Le Bonalguet 2020 (Bordeaux). Obviously, this producer was enthusiastic with wood, because there is more toast than fruit. It will need time to soften even marginally. Drink this from 2023. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Château les Fermenteaux 2020 (Bordeaux). Fresh with spicy tannins and a smoky core, this is a wine with a good future. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

85 Les Vignerons Réunis de Monséguir 2020 Château Marchand Bellevue (Bordeaux). This firm, structured wine comes from the eastern end of the Entre-deux-Mers region. With its acidity combined with spice, it is full bodied, although it is flipped at the end by pepper from the high alcohol. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

84 Château Moulin de Bernat 2020 (Bordeaux). The wine has a touch of vanilla, as well as blackberry flavors. They need to marry together. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

84 Château Penin 2020 Natur (Bordeaux). Red-berry flavors give this wine fruitiness while not showing much texture. It is likely to develop quickly. Steep Hill Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

84 Château Tour de Goupin 2020 (Bordeaux). The wine is too dry, suggesting the tannins are tough and the wine was extracted. It will soften over time, but expect a firm wine when fully developed. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$13

83 Cru la Maqueline 2020 (Bordeaux). A firm wine that shows signs of heavy extraction, this is a tough nut to crack. Its fruit is nowhere to be seen at this stage. Maybe by 2023 it will be softer. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 Château Trois Fonds 2019 Cuvée Prestige (Côtes de Bordeaux). A hold, luscious wine, this has ripe black tannins inside juicy, vivid black fruits. The wine's texture will certainly allow this fine wine to age. Drink this from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Château Trois Fonds 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Côtes de Bordeaux). Almost equal proportions of Merlot and the two Cabernets go into this wine, produced in the Entre-deux-Mers region. This wine is young, structured and with a firm layer of tannins. Drink the wine from 2025 Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

89 **Château de Langalerie 2018 (Côtes de Bordeaux).** From the region around the town of Cadillac, this wine is powerful and dense. With its spice and a touch of pepper, the wine is generously endowed. Black fruits complete the picture. Drink from 2023. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Emilion 2020 Faret (Côtes de Bordeaux).** Matured in oak, the wine has ripe tannins and a polished, perfumed character. Its problem is the alcohol from the high proportion of Merlot in the blend. That shows in a pepper edge and superrich black fruits. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$25

85 **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Emilion 2020 Prieur Saint-Florent (Côtes de Bordeaux).** Almost entirely Merlot, this juicy, softly textured wine is jammy with over-ripe fruit and high alcohol. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER BORDEAUX WINES

91 **Château Haut-La-Péreyre 2019 Cuvée Meste-Jean (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This wood-aged wine, with equal quantities of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, is full of blackberry flavors, edged by tannins and with a rounded, fruity aftertaste. It is a blend from three specific plots in the 120-acre vineyard. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

88 **Château de Paillet-Quancard 2020 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine has a tight structure, hinting at black-currant fruits and with tannins right up front. The wine's future is assured, with the acidity and firmness backed by juicy black-currant fruits. Drink from 2024. Cheval Quancard USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 **Château Toulouse 2018 (Graves de Vayres).** The wine is certainly ripe, with dominant Merlot ramping up the alcohol. The fruit balances with the wood flavors that show from the barrel aging for 18 months. Drink this superripe wine from 2023. Offredo Selections. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

87 **Château Toulouse 2018 Bleu Toulouse (Graves de Vayres).** A soft wine, this is full of blackberry fruits and gentle tannins. The wine has no wood aging, so the generous black fruits sing of ripeness and openness. Drink now. Offredo Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Bellevue Peycharneau 2020 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux).** This is ripe, with dusty tannins and a fine structure. Its Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon combination is just touched

with some Malbec. The result is a generous wine that can age. Drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.

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

HAUT-MÉDOC

92 **Château Landat 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** The dense tannins and fruits of this rich wine are very promising. Solid blackberry flavors are cut with succulent acidity and a fresh, still very young aftertaste. The wine's structure is still firm and of course needs to soften. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 **Château Paloumey 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This wine, rich in tannins and with layers of black-currant fruits, is a blend of almost equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It is the Cabernet that gives the wine its style and freshness and that promises plenty of aging. Drink the wine from 2026. Organic. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 **Château Lamothe-Cissac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** The wine from this estate in the northern Haut-Médoc is ripe and perfumed. The wood aging has brought richness to the tannins of the wine's structure. Black-currant fruits add acidity and a fruity aftertaste. Drink this balanced wine from 2025. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 **Château Tour Saint-Joseph 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** A ripe and generous wine with a goodly proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, this is richly structured and with a fine future. Black-currant fruits and a firm structure are working together. Drink from 2025. Cheval Quancard USA. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

89 **Château la Croix Margautot 2020 (Haut-Médoc).** A ripe and juicy wine that also has a sense of lightness. With its bright blackberry flavors and firm tannins, it also has a future. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Cheval Quancard USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 **Château la Tonnelle 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This rich and dense wine has firm tannins alongside stinky black fruits. It is tight, juicy with layers of berry flavors and acidity. Drink this wine from 2024. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

PESSAC LÉOGNAN

93 **Château de France 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** This sophisticated wine is a fine blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Its structure and black fruits, both still young, are impressive and full

of potential. With its balance and style, the wine is going to age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 **Château Picque Caillou 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** This vineyard, now surrounded by the Bordeaux suburbs, is producing some fine classic wines. This vintage in its youth is lightly stinky, with a smoky character that comes from wood aging. Its potential is fine, softening, highlighting the black-currant flavors and tannins. Drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 **Château de Camparian 2019 (Pessac-Léognan).** A ripe and juicy wine, this is rich in black fruits and tannins. It has structure and a texture that gives the wine a fine future. This is a solid wine, ready to age further. Drink from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

89 **Blason de Montbilly 2019 (Pessac-Léognan).** This smoky wine, with a good proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, is structured and firm with a layer of solid tannins. Its ripe black fruits are ready to fill out the structure. Drink from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

OTHER LEFT BANK WINES

93 **Château Anthonic 2020 (Moulis-en-Médoc).** Partially aged in amphorae as well as wood, this structured, balanced wine is juicy and packed with black-currant fruits. A high proportion of Merlot has given the wine the likelihood of aging relatively quickly. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Organic. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Château Bellegrave 2020 (Pauillac).** One of the rare estates in Pauillac that is not a classed growth, the wine is solid, still young. Its black-currant fruits and tannins are coming together along with the rich spice of wood aging. The wine is set for some serious aging. Drink from 2026. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

93 **Château Fourcas Dupré 2019 Cru Bourgeois (Listrac-Médoc).** This is a structured wine with fine tannins that will allow it to age. Black currant fruits and spice come together in a concentrated bond. The wine needs plenty of time, wait to drink until 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 **Château Deyrem Valentin 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Margaux).** This perfumed, wood-aged wine, with its 50% of structured Cabernet Sauvignon, is fine and ripe, with a great balance. The fruit and structure are working together to give an

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elegant wine. It will age, drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

88 **Château Anthonic 2021 Les Aigles d'Anthonic (Moulis-en-Médoc)**. Young, fruity and with attractive red fruits, this second wine of Château Anthonic is softened by light wood aging. It has an accessible character, and gentle tannins opening up. Drink from 2024. Organic. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

88 **Château Bellegrave 2019 (Médoc)**. The Cabernet Sauvignon is what makes this wine. It is responsible for the attractive back-currant fruits and the structure of tannins and acidity. The wine has a fine juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

88 **Château Prieuré-les-Tours 2019 (Graves)**. An attractive and lightly textured wine, this has juicy berry fruits and tannins that are developing at the same time. It is going to be a fruity wine as it matures. Drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

87 **Château Saint-Siméon 2018 (Médoc)**. The blend, with 60% Merlot, offers a soft, juicy texture to this fast-developing wine. It has a smoky edge that adds complexity to the simple fruits. Drink from 2023. Park Street Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

91 **Château Lajarre 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a smooth, spicy wine that has ripe tannins and a juicy core of blackberry flavors. It has structure underneath the fruit, with a fresh line of acidity at the end. Drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 **Château le Roudier 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. While there are plenty of tannins here, there is also great black fruit and a feeling of opulence. This gives the wine density while also showing freshness. Drink this finely judged wine from 2024. Misa Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 **Château Brondeau du Tertre 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. There is a fine juiciness and freshness to this wine. Its tannins are all there, but are mitigated by layers of black-currant fruits, cassis and berry flavors. Drink from 2024 when it has all softened and integrated. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

90 **Château de Bleyzac 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. While the wine has dryness, it also has fine fruit. There is a dynamic between the two that offers a wine of ripeness and a fine future.

Enjoy the black fruits of this spicy wine from 2024. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 **Château de Brague 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine has a structure but it is the black fruits that shine. Smoky tannins and black-currant flavors go along with acidity and a fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2024. PS Wines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$13

90 **Château de Parenchère 2020 Cuvée Raphael (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a ripe, luscious wine, with bold black-fruit flavors embedded in the tannins. A wine with structure, it needs time with its concentration and density. The wine will be ready in 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$25

90 **Château La Loubière 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. An impressive, rich wine, this has great fruitiness as well as solid, firm tannins. It obviously has a good future of opening out to the fruit and tannins. Drink from 2024. Kindred Vines. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$17

90 **Château Lauduc 2019 Grande Cuvée (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Ripe and full of black fruits, the wine has fine tannins and a spicy texture. Blackberry flavors show strongly, the fruit packing the wine with ripeness. It comes from parcels of older vines at the Lauduc estate. Drink from 2024. Lanterna Distributors Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 **Château Maréchaux 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A dark, dry wine, the tannins are initially prominent. But there is a glint of juiciness as well that brings richness and black fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 **Château Roques Mauriac 2020 Grand Vin (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Ripe tannins and spicy black fruits give a wine that is balanced and with potential. A solid core promises a fine future. Underlying wood aging is the key here. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

89 **Château Bolaire 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is ripe with juicy black fruits. Generous tannins are in the background to give the wine its weight. Balanced and fruity, it will be ready to drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 **Château de la Cour d'Argent 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is young, with black fruits bursting from the dense tannins. The dry core acts as a support for the ripe berry flavors that will develop. Drink from 2024. Kahn's Fine Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

89 **Château du Bois Chantant 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is full bodied, smoky with black fruits and ripe tannins. With spice and berry flavors in fine combination, the wine has come together well. Drink from 2024. Advantage International. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$16

89 **Château Fleur Haut Gaussens 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a balanced wine. Its tannins are still firm although with plenty of black-plum fruits and acidity. A solid wine, this will develop slowly but surely. Drink from 2024. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

89 **Château Lamothe-Vincent 2020 Héritage (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This ripe, spicy wine is full of firm black fruits. With its weight and its density, the wine is both balanced and full of potential. It should age well, drink from 2024. La Ville Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

89 **Château Lauduc 2019 Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Full of black fruits, with ripe tannins and plenty of spice from wood aging, this is a well-structured wine from the Grandeau family. It has a good future; drink from 2024. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

89 **Château Laville 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. While there is a strong touch of vanilla here, there is also room for plenty of black fruits in this wine. It is weighty, spicy and juicy—a fine combination that shows strongly at the end. Drink from 2024. Allied Beverage Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

89 **Château Malbat 2020 L'Authentique (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a firm wine, although one with a rich future of a balanced structure. The wine is full enough to accommodate tannins and black-plum fruits. Drink from 2024. Wines Unlimited. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$12

89 **Château Mirambeau Papin 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine has richness along with the opulence of the vintage. That gives a ripe feel to the wine, with its blackberry flavors right up there. Drink from 2023. United Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

89 **Château Recogne 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. While the wine is dry with young tannins, it also has the weight of juicy fruits behind it. Its balance is on the way. The berry flavors and a smoky character are showing well. Drink from 2024. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

89 **Château Siran 2020 Saint Jacques De Siran (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a juicy wine, with ripe berry flavors and plenty of potential. The

wine's ripeness is moderated by acidity and by a layer of tannins. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Château Barreyre 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine's dry tannins are dense with licorice and spice flavors. They are set against the concentration and richness of the wine, promising a fine future. Drink from 2024. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 **Château Bellevue 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine shows off its blackberry fruits and acidity. The tannins that lie underneath are promising as a support and as a future. Drink this wine from 2024. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Château de Bleyzac 2018 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine, still dense, has ripe tannins and bold black fruit. At the heart, the tannins remain intact and need a little more time to soften. Drink from 2023. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Château de Parenchère 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Dark chocolate and rich black fruits are the order of the day here. The wine is full and concentrated, with a solid core of tannins. Everything needs to soften and integrate. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château du Lort 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Strong vanilla aromas indicate the presence of wood in this wine. It is spicy and tough at this stage, although there are enough black fruits underneath to propel the wine to balance. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château Haut-Gaussens 2-2- 3 Étoiles (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Spice and dark chocolate go with the potential for black fruits in this wine. Tannins combine with the berry flavors to give a wine that has potential. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Château Les Gravières de la Brandille 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A ripe, young wine, it also has rich tannins and attractive black fruits. This is a wine that shows its fruitiness well, well-balanced and juicy. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Lescale 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine's tannins are firm but the black fruit's weight is equal to the task. In balance, and with a ripe, warm feel to it, the wine has a fine future. Drink from 2024. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

88 **Château Maison Noble 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a dense wine, full of tannins while also full of berry-fruit flavors. The wine's freshness comes from acidity and black-currant crispness. It will be ready to drink from 2024. Sommelier Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Mallard les Rousseaux 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Black fruits and integrated tannins are two winning aspects of this wine. It has blackberry fruitiness and attractive spice and acidity. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château Moulin De Ferrand 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine has structure and generous black fruits. Its tannins, still prominent, are just right to give the wine its potential and richness in the future. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Château Roc Meynard 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is structured with dark tannins and black fruits in equal measure. Weight, concentration and a smoky aftertaste give the wine a solid start in life. Drink from 2024. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 **Château Toulouse-Lautrec 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine has plenty of red-berry fruits, giving a sense of lightness. It is fruity, with lively acidity and a background of tannic structure. Drink this attractive wine from 2024. Freedom Beverage Co. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Château Tour de Gilet 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. With its ripe fruit and generous tannins, this is a balanced wine. The juicy black-currant fruits are promising, and developing well. With its structure, the wine will age. Drink this from 2024. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 **Château au Vignoble 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. With 70% Merlot in the blend, this is a generous wine. Its juicy essence contrasts with the already rounded character of this dense wine. It has a fine medium-term future. Drink from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 **Château de Camarsac 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Red-berry fruits and ripe tannins combine in an open wine that is developing quickly. Drink this forward wine from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$87

87 **Château de Reynaud 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A firm wine that has tight tannins up front. That gives the wine its density, aided by the

black fruits that are slowly developing. Drink from 2024. Fine Vines. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

87 **Château de Seguin 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. There is a vegetal edge to this wine that needs to blow away. Everything else is right, from the blackberry fruits and structure. Drink from 2024. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Château de Terrefort-Quancard 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This property, close to the village of Fronsac, has produced a richly dense, still young wine. It is structured with generous Merlot that is given shape by Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink the wine from 2024. Cheval Quancard USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Château Donjon de Bruignac 2020 Bruignac Premium (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine has berry flavors, rich fruit and some solid tannins. Its structure promises well. Drink from 2024. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

87 **Château Haut Cormier 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine, with its black fruits and acidity, is already balanced. Tannins show against the berry flavors, framing them well. The wine will be ready from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Château la France 2020 Cuvée Neutre Carbone (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Plenty of tannins and a dark-coffee edge give this wine a tough start. The fruit comes through slowly, with a line of acidity and with hints of blackberry fruits. Wait until 2024. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 **Château La Mothe du Barry 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a juicy wine, with attractive black fruits. Tannins come through the fruity exterior to give structure to this balanced wine. Drink from 2024. Elite Wines Import. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château le Grand Verdus 2020 Petite Merlotte (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The juicy backdrop gives this wine its overall freshness. The tannins are ripe and give the wine structure. Drink from 2023. Ascent Wines Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château Lestrille Capmartin 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is well in balance, with black fruits and tannins showing well together. Bearing in mind its dryness, the wine needs more time. Drink from 2024. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 **Château Maucaillou 2020 Les Notables de Maucaillou B par Maucaillou (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a wine with fine balance and young wood, contrasting with vivid black fruits. It is

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juicy, hinting at its openness and black-currant flavors. Drink from 2024. The Wine Care Group. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

87 **Château Petit Freylon 2020 Cuvée Sarah (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Touches of vanilla show the wood aging quality of the wine. Add in the juicy black-fruit flavors and the wine is balanced and developing well. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

87 **Domaine du Rouchet 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Obviously young, but the wine is full of potential. The freshness of the black-currant fruits is right up front, with the acidity and crisp aftertaste in keeping with the vintage. Drink from 2024. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

86 **Château Feret Lambert 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is lean—the scaffolding without the building. There is a juicy element that may prevail. Wait until 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$19

86 **Château la Verrière 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Dark chocolate and licorice mark this wine out. It is dry and spicy with an abundance of tannins and a smoky aftertaste. Citadel Trading. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

86 **Château Laronde Desormes 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The Merlot show strongly in this wine with its dried fruit flavors. Along with the tannins, it needs time to come together. Drink from 2024. Michael Corso Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$32

86 **Chateau Lestrille Capmartin 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine's juicy character is attractive. Ripe berry fruits and tannins are still vying for a place, but it will all come together. Drink from 2023. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

86 **Château Vermont 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Fruity, with ripe tannins, the wine also has a fine core of dense tannins. It is rich, full bodied and will be ready from 2024. Touton Selection. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

85 **Château Argadens 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The firm tannins suggest heavy extraction, giving the wine a bitter edge. Underneath, the black fruits are struggling to get out. Wait and see, at least until 2024. Chambers & Chambers. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$16

85 **Château de l'Orangerie 2020 Premier Vin (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a firm, rather dry wine. Its solid tannins and structure are the

main features. Extraction is the problem. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

85 **Château Penin 2019 Les Cailloux (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine, three years since harvest, still shows its firm tannins. That suggests it will never fully soften. Steep Hill Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$27

85 **Château Saint Seurin De Léviac 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A toasty wine, with an enthusiasm for wood, this is tough. It is hard to discern the balance with fruit. Wine Manager LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

85 **Château Tour Chapoux 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Dry and firm, this is a wine that is all about structure. It has weight and a firm core of tannins. Wait until 2024 to see if there is also fruit. Citadel Trading. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$11

85 **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Emilion 2020 Les Roccs du Barry (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Made without wood aging, the wine is spicy, with some juicy fruits and overripe blackberry flavors. Drink the wine from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

84 **Château Belair Coubet 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The red fruits do not help this wine's structure. It has a mix of dryness and softness that is odd and not pleasant. Hemispheres. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

84 **Château Dallau 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The wine is rustic and dry. Big tannins and little fruit are the culprits. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

84 **Château Haut Landon 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Vanilla aromas are a sign that the wine has too much wood and extraction. It is solid and concentrated while missing the fruit. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

84 **Château Jalousie Beaulieu 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A dark wine, this bottling is very dry from wood aging. Extraction and toughness seem the order of the day here. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

84 **Château Sainte-Barbe 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a tough wine, dominated by wood and extraction. The fruit has been masked and is likely to remain so. Bradley Alan Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

84 **Citran 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The dry core of this wine shows strongly. Along with

tannins and a bitter edge of extraction, it seems the fruit has gone AWOL. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

83 **Château Rougier 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. The fruit here is overripe, and, along with the heavy extraction, leaves a dry, tough wine. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$14

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

90 **Bel Ormeau 2020 Les Clos (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This smoothly textured wine is sustained by solid tannins and balanced black fruits. A dense texture is an important element for this wine's development. Drink from 2025. Mr. Wine & Spirits USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

90 **Château Moulin Neuf 2020 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A generous Merlot from Hubert de Bouärd whose family owns Château Angéus in Saint-Emilion, this shows a sure hand in balancing ripe black fruits and rich tannins. It is a dense wine without having too much weight. The wine is set for aging; drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 **Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Petit Sociondo (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A relatively textured wine, that is still young. It has some firm tannins over juicy black fruits and acidity. So it does need to age further; drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

89 **Bel Ormeau 2020 Bois Vert (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This stinky wine, with its backdrop of juicy black currants, is taking its time to develop. It has fine potential richness to come, with dense black fruits and structure. Age this wine further and drink from 2025. Mr. Wine & Spirits USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

88 **Château Fontarabie 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Ripe, spicy black fruits show strongly in this young wine. Its tannins are encased by berry flavors and juicy acidity. The wine is likely to be ready to drink from 2025. Drinks LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$26

88 **Château la Valade 2020 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A ripe, spicy, perfumed wine, this has jammy Merlot set with a touch of structured Cabernet Sauvignon. It has black-currant fruits, with succulent acidity, that give the wine balance and potential. Drink from 2024. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

88 **Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Marquis de Talandier (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This is a ripe, juicy wine. Black fruits and generous tannins come through the wine's still-young texture. It will

develop some more: drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Terre Océane (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). With soft tannins and a good balance between black fruits and acidity, the wine is ripe and developing well. Blaye's vineyards, are close to the estuary and the Atlantic Ocean, give an appropriate name to the wine. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

89 Château le Peyrat 2020 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux). This ripe, smoky wine has some firm young tannins and a core of solid black fruits. It is a rich wine that needs to soften. Give the wine time to open out and drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

86 Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Les Hauts de Villebourbon (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux). The wine has structure and rich black fruits. It also has an open texture that promises attractive, easy aging. Drink the wine from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Maison Bardet 2015 Lideyre (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux). A generous, mature and full-bodied wine, this is dense. It is rich, although at seven years of age, it is beginning to dry with tannins creeping back. Drink now. RBE Drinks. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

CÔTES DE BOURG

91 Château Escalette 2019 Grand Vin (Côtes de Bourg). The wine, with 80% Merlot in the blend, has dense black fruits and ripe tannins. It is full and concentrated, with a young vibrant juiciness that will soften. The wine is rich and will be ready from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 Château Belair-Coubet 2021 (Côtes de Bourg). Lightly wooded, the wine has richness from its 60% Merlot and structure from its 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. The result is a ripe, full wine, layered with juicy black fruits. It needs a little time, so drink from 2025. Drinks LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

88 Château de Barbe 2019 (Côtes de Bourg). A ripe and juicy wine, this delivers full-bodied Merlot and a layer of freshening acidity. The wine is lightly structured, with a touch of youthful stalkiness. Drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 Château Jansenant 2021 (Côtes de Bourg). Still very young, this wine is showing its four months in wood. The weight of the black fruits will ensure that the woodiness goes shortly. It is structured and should age further. Drink from 2025. Drinks LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

88 Château les Ardouins 2021 (Côtes de Bourg). A soft and fruity wine, this has just a touch of wood aging that has softened the wine's structure. The wine is generous with black-plum flavors and ripe tannins. Drink from 2025. Drinks LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

SAINT-ÉMILION

93 Château Coutet 2020 Les Demoiselles Cuvée Emery (Saint-Émilion). Named after the present owner's three aunts who refused to use pesticides, this luxury cuvée is a 50-50 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. It is certainly rich, also firmly structured. The black fruits and the texture of this rich wine demand further aging. Drink from 2026. Organic. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

93 Château la Révérence 2020 (Saint-Émilion). Half-and-half Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this is a ripe, spicy wine, with a fine structure. It has balance between fruits and tannins, between perfume and berry flavors. With its fine potential, drink this wine from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Château Coutet 2020 (Saint-Émilion). This is a ripe, full wine, with mint and perfumed flavors from new wood. That gives a rich, smooth character integrating the tannins and structure. It's a fine wine that will, of course, age. Drink from 2026. Organic. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 Château les Grandes Versannes 2019 (Saint-Émilion). Merlot blending with Cabernet Franc gives a satisfying combination of rich fruit and perfumed structure. The wine is balanced, with fine blackberry fruits and a light dark-chocolate sauce. This is a young, structured wine with aging potential. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Château Haut Boutisse 2019 Cuvée Origine (Saint-Émilion). This structured and still young wine, has layers of black fruits, with ripe tannins and spice. The wine is juicy, firm with contrasting acidity. Drink from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

89 Château du Val d'Or 2019 (Saint-Émilion). This is a fine wine, with rich fruit and a generous structure. The high alcohol is just hinted at by a

touch of pepper but the main character of this wine is the juicy black fruits. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

89 Château du Val d'Or 2018 (Saint-Émilion). Now moving towards soft maturity, this Merlot-dominated wine is ripe, full and lightly perfumed. It is rich, the tannins fully integrated and powering the juicy black fruits. Drink from 2024. RBE Drinks. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Haut Rocher 2020 (Saint-Émilion). Merlot and the two Cabernets are together in this satisfying wine. With its ripe berry flavors and the touches of dark chocolate, the wine is rich. A bite of pepper indicates the high alcohol. Drink the wine from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Château Pontet Teyssier 2019 (Saint-Émilion). Aged with oak staves, the wine is more about fruit than structure. Pleasing red-berry flavors show strongly, bursting with energy and layered with acidity. Drink this wine from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Clos Petit Badon 2019 Bocquillon (Saint-Émilion). There are obvious wood-aging flavors in this wine. They give a dominant strain of spice, along with firm tannins. The wine's fruit is muted at this stage. Drink from 2025. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

87 Maison Bardet 2020 Louissette (Saint-Émilion). With attractive black fruits and some firm tannins, this is a structured, but still young, wine. The blend, with Merlot and the two Cabernets, is powered by the construction as well as the black-plum-skin flavors. Drink the wine from 2024. RBE Drinks. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Baron Clairac (Saint-Émilion). Ripe berry fruits are supported by soft tannins and juicy acidity in this rich Merlot-dominated wine. It has a full texture that gives the wine a fine, easy-going character. Drink now. Organic. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

93 Château des Landes 2020 Luccianus Amphore (Lussac Saint-Émilion). Fruit from 100-year-old vines aged in amphorae has produced an impressively rich wine. The bold black fruits are properly concentrated, with tannins adding their density. The wine definitely needs plenty of aging. Drink from 2026. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Château Haut la Grenière 2019 (Lussac Saint-Émilion). A delicious and juicy wine, this balances between rich black fruits and acidity, with a core of firm tannins. The wine is ripe, still young. Drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Château des Landes 2020 Cuvée Prestige (Lussac Saint-Émilion). Full bodied and ripe with black fruits, this is a big wine, with the richness of 100% Merlot. That gives density and juicy blackberry fruits, along with touches of spice and structure from wood aging. The wine needs to age, drink from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$41

91 Château Haut la Grenière 2020 (Lussac Saint-Émilion). This estate, north of Saint-Émilion, has produced a richly textured wine. Its black fruits and balance of acidity and tannins are promising. It has a rich potential. Drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Château des Landes 2020 Grand Héritage (Lussac Saint-Émilion). This ripe wood-aged wine is replete with powerful Merlot and a rich, ripe texture. It is structured, spicy with a bite of pepper. Drink this full, dense wine from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$51

90 Château la Perrière 2020 (Lussac Saint-Émilion). Big and firm, with dark chocolate flavors, this is a dense wine. It has solid tannins to place alongside the black fruits and acidity. With 85% Merlot, it is ripe and juicy. Drink this from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2019 Haut la Rulotte (Lussac Saint-Émilion). The wine is smoky, well on the way to full development. Along the route it will shed the acidity and intense black-currant fruits and develop a rich, rounded, warm character. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2019 La Garenne (Lussac Saint-Émilion). The bold, dark character of this rich wine is packed with juicy acidity and dense black-currant fruits. Ripe Merlot gives the wine a powerfully concentrated character, that is lifted by acidity at the end. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2020 Grand Prince (Lussac Saint-Émilion). The wine is still structured, firm and with ripe, juicy fruits. Blackberry flavors and plenty of smokiness go with the wine's fresher side of acidity. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2020 La Garenne (Lussac Saint-Émilion). With almost 90% Merlot, this ripe wine is solid, with tannins as well as full of generous, dark fruits. The wine has weight and revels in its blackberry and black-plum flavors. Drink this wine from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2020 Haut la Rulotte (Lussac Saint-Émilion). A rich, spicy Merlot-dominated wine, this is generous and full bodied. It has black fruit and toasty flavors from wood aging and a layer of tannins that are still softening. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2020 La Pruladière (Lussac Saint-Émilion). A mainly Merlot wine, this has light wood aging and plenty of jammy black fruits. The ripe tannins and berry fruits both show it is developing quickly. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

91 Château Haut Musset 2018 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). A rich dark-chocolate and spice flavored wine, this is dense and concentrated. Its balance between black-plum fruits and acidity is developing well, bringing some polish from wood aging. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Château Rocher Corbin 2019 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). This is a powerfully generous wine—a judicious blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Its spice and perfumes are ripe, and richness is the order of the day here. The wine, already smooth, will age further. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$33

89 Château Haut Musset 2019 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). The wine is rich but still structured with generous blackberry fruits. Its dominant Merlot gives weight and a ripe, juicy character. The wine will age further, wait to drink until 2025 W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

89 Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Marquis de Libarde (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). This is a ripe mint- and spice-flavored wine. The black fruits come strongly behind the wood aging and succulent texture. It is still young but already showing its strong textured tannins and black fruits. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Château Corbin 2019 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). Fermented without added sulfur, the wine is rich, very firmly structured. Its wood aging

has highlighted the fruit and spice flavors, giving a wine that is juicy and full of black-currant fruits. It will be ready from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

88 Château Corbin 2018 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). With 85% Merlot in the blend of this wine, this is rich, dense and full of dark-chocolate and bold spice flavors. They decorate the black fruits and tannins in a wine that will be ready from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Château Guadet Plaisance 2019 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion). Despite the high alcohol (blame the Merlot), this wine has balance, with ripe black fruit set against acidity. The wine's tannins are fully integrated with the fruit, giving a structure to the cushion of the superripe fruit. Drink this wine from 2024. Organic. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

OTHER RIGHT BANK WINES

92 Château Tournefeuille 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol). Overlooking the Pomerol plateau, this small property is rich with tannins and spice. The wine is still structured and young—a ripe wine, packed with Merlot juiciness. It will be ready to drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Vieux Maillet 2019 (Pomerol). Superripe Merlot gives a wine that is succulent, rich, and densely packed with balanced blackberry fruits and solid tannins. The wine's layers of ripeness promise great things. Drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château le Conte Marquay 2018 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion). From one of the villages north of Saint-Émilion, this wine has a generous layer of black fruits alongside the full structure. It is a concentrated wine, the black fruits and tannins developing in tandem. Drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Château Vieux Maillet 2020 (Pomerol). This rounded, rich wine is full of black fruits balanced with acidity. It has a firmer core that shows the wine's potential. The aftertaste is succulent and ripe. Drink from 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Clos Albertus 2019 (Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion). Still young, with fine chocolate and spice flavors to complement the ripe tannins, the wine is ready to mature further. Aged for 12 months in wood, this rich wine will be ready from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Château Maltus 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol).** A ripe, spicy and black-fruited wine, this has some dense tannins as well as fine blackberry flavors. The wine's acidity is muted at this stage, masked by the wine's powerful Merlot fruit flavors. Drink the wine from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

90 **Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Chevalier des Augirons (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** This juicy wine has ripe black fruits and some solid tannins at its core. It is a young wine, with spice and cocoa flavors alongside the fruit and acidity. The wine is very promising. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Vignobles Gabriel and Co. 2020 Seigneur de la Tour (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** Dark chocolate and ripe black fruits combine in this vivid wine. It is still young, its balanced Merlot fruitiness still surrounded by tannins. But it has potential. The wine is likely to be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Clos Albertus 2018 (Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion).** A blend of the two Cabernets with Merlot in almost equal proportions, the wine is rich and piled with alcohol and pepper. It has weight and rich tannins that are still very present. Drink this dense wine from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

BEAUJOLAIS WHITE WINES

88 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Lantignié Chardonnay (Beaujolais).** This is a ripe wine, with warm white fruits and a soft texture. Yellow fruits and orange flavors give the wine extra richness. The wine, rich and full, is ready to drink. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

87 **Domaine Agnès Pegaz 2021 Les Demoiselles Chardonnay (Beaujolais Blanc).** There is an attractive nutty quality behind this fruity, fresh wine. Its crisp acidity and edge of minerality give the wine its texture. Light wood aging has rounded the wine out. Drink from 2023. Vinotas Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

RED WINES

93 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Côte de Py (Morgon).** The famed slope of the Côte de Py has produced a firm, structured and dense wine. Bold black fruits backed by layers of tannins and acidity have come together in a rich medley of fruits and texture. Drink this from 2023. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

93 **Domaine Dubost 2020 La Ballofière (Morgon).** This Morgon vineyard has produced some rich black fruits. The fruitiness is now working with the tannins to give a complex wine. Blueberry flavors, spice and a dry core all point to aging potential. Drink this fine wine from 2023. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 **Domaine Baron de l'Ecluse 2020 Les Garances (Côte de Brouilly).** Smoky, spicy and rich, the wine has weight and structure. It has superripe fruit giving the wine high alcohol for a wine from Beaujolais. That is compensated by acidity and succulent cherry flavors. Drink the wine from 2023. Vinotas Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 **Domaine Dubost 2020 En Brenay (Moulin-à-Vent).** This single-vineyard wine is dense, with fine dusty tannins and rich black fruits. It is a complex wine—its edge of minerality combining with acidity and a structure that remains very present. Drink this wine from 2023. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Le Vivier (Fleurie).** A finely textured wine, structure backing up perfumed cherry and black fruits. This is a full wine: its dense fruits and tannins showing strongly against the fresher aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

92 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Les Burdelines (Moulin-à-Vent).** Properly structured with rich tannins and vivid black fruits, this is a dense wine. Its ripeness and firm edge are impressive, giving a full-bodied while balanced wine. Drink from 2023. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 **Domaine Baron de l'Ecluse 2021 Lieu-Dit l'Ecluse (Côte de Brouilly).** A richly structured wine that has ripe tannins and generous fruit, this is layered with black fruits and acidity. Coming from the slopes of Mont Brouilly, the wine has texture and minerality to contrast with the fruit. Drink from 2023. Vinotas Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

90 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Pierreux (Brouilly).** A finely textured, ripe and juicy wine, this highlights swathes of cherry and spice flavors. It comes from one of the top sectors of Brouilly, showing quality and will be ready to drink from 2023. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

89 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Le Potet (Régnié).** A smoky wine with spice and red fruits, this is lightly structured with gentle tannins. The fruits and acidity dominate, giving the wine an open, generous character. Drink now. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Brouilly).** The softest of the crus has performed its magic again in this velvet smooth wine. The lightest touch of structure supports the bright cherry fruits and the lively acidity. This is a vibrant wine that is ready to drink. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

88 **Domaine Agnès Pegaz 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages).** This soft, fruity, red-cherry-flavored wine is already delicious. Its contrast between gentle structure and fruit and the light tannins are just right for drinking now. Vinotas Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Domaine Agnès Pegaz 2021 (Brouilly).** A rounded wine, this features light tannins and generous black fruits. Gently structured, the wine has balance, freshness and vivid acidity. It is likely to be ready from 2023. Vinotas Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Domaine Dubost 2020 Lantignié (Beaujolais).** Bright with red fruits and delicious acidity, this is a light and perfumed wine. With its red-cherry flavors, the wine is now ready to drink. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON WHITE WINES

FAUGÈRES

89 **Domaine Ollier Taillefer 2019 Allegro Rhône-style White Blend (Faugères).** Refined on the nose, this white offers notes of honeydew, juicy peaches and vanilla. This full-bodied wine's palate is loaded with juicy Bosc pear, green melons and moderate acidity. Vintage '59 Imports. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 **Château des Estanilles 2020 Vallongue Rhône-style White Blend (Faugères).** Beautiful white-floral notes open this white blend. With a creamy mouthfeel, the palate reveals subtle notes of green apple, grapefruit and toasted nuts. The finish is bright and crisp. Afinity Imports Co. —J.T.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$25

86 **Château des Estanilles 2019 Vallongue Rhône-style White Blend (Faugères).** Ripe pear and toasted spice pop on the nose of this white blend. Tart green apple and ripe grapefruit form the palate. The finish is crisp and clean. Afinity Imports Co. —J.T.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 **Domaines Paul Mas 2020 Château Paul Mas Belluguet Rhône-style White Blend**

BUYINGGUIDE

(Languedoc). Beautifully expressive on the nose, this features notes of white flowers, vanilla, and green apples. The palate delivers a creamy mouthfeel, with flavors of peach, strawberries, toasted oak and notes of white pepper. The finish has fresh acid and a generous finish. Volio Vino. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Château de Lascaux 2020 Garrigue Rhône-style White Blend (Languedoc). Notes of wet stone, jasmine and citrus fruits linger on the nose. Juicy pears, melon and bright acid balance the palate of this wine Montaigne Imports. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉS

91 Jean Claude Mas 2021 Jardin De Roses Rosé (Languedoc). This rosé opens with a beautiful salmon color. White flowers, peaches and strawberries form the nose of this wine. The palate is lush, with juicy pears, peaches and pomegranates. Its finish is crisp and nicely balanced with fresh minerality and acid. Volio Vino. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Albert Bichot 2021 C'est La Vie! Rosé (Languedoc). A floral bouquet opens up this dry, crisp rosé. The creamy and lush mouthfeel is nicely balanced, offering flavors of red berries, blueberries and fresh minerality on the palate. Albert Bichot USA. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Château Puech-Haut 2020 Tête de Béliér Rosé (Languedoc). Rich floral and honey-suckle notes on the nose of this wine. The palate pops with pear, overripe melon, strawberry and a creamy buttery texture. The bright acid leads to a long finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Gérard Bertrand 2021 Source Of Joy Rosé (Languedoc). A bright-pink color, the bouquet offers aromas of strawberry and cherry, with hints of cassis. Offering up a creamy mouthfeel, this wine is balanced, with generous flavors of peaches, red berries and minerality on the palate. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Gérard Bertrand 2021 Cote Des Roses Rosé (Languedoc). Soft floral notes, juicy pears and peaches form the bouquet of this pale-pink wine. Ripe honeydew melon, strawberries, red currant and white pepper pop on the palate. The finish is long with and loaded with minerality. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

87 Gérard Bertrand 2021 Hampton Water Rosé (Languedoc). As it is produced primarily from Grenache, this rosé has fresh aromas of grapefruit and melon, along with a pop of spice. The pal-

ate offers generous notes of stone fruit, red berries and bright minerality. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON RED WINES CORBIÈRES

91 Château de Fournas 2019 Rhône-style Red Blend (Corbières). An elegant purple color, this wine blend boasts aroma notes of black currants and dried thyme. The palate is generous, with flavors of juicy plums, cherries and blackberries. It's structured with medium tannin and a long spicy finish. European Wine Imports. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Château La Boutignane 2018 Révélation Terroir de Lagrasse Organic Rhône-style Red Blend (Corbières). Beautiful notes of red flowers and strawberries are evident on the nose. The mouthfeel is supple, with ripe raspberry, strawberry and plum flavors popping on the palate of this wine. Medium tannin rounds out its smooth finish. Advantage International. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Château Ollieux Romanis 2020 Cuvée Classique Rhône-style Red Blend (Corbières). With a deep-purple hue, this wine is beautifully complex. The nose is fragrant, with notes of cardamom, black pepper and ripe plum. The palate is loaded with black fruits and dried herbs. Medium tannin lends structure while its balanced acidity offers a smooth finish. Wine Wine Situation. —J.T.
abv: NA **Price:** \$25

87 Chateau Pech-Latt 2019 Rhône-style Red Blend (Corbières). With a beautiful bouquet of dried green herbs and juicy blue fruit, this red blend has an inviting nose. The palate offers blueberries and strawberries, with pops of white pepper. HB Wine Merchants. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

89 Château de Caraguilhes 2019 Solus Rhône-style Red Blend (Corbières-Boutenac). Vibrant floral aromas meet with dried fruit on the nose of this red blend. The palate is plush, with flavors of black pepper, pomegranate and raspberries. The light tannin feel and fresh acid on the finish makes this wine easy to sip. BNP Distributing. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

LANGUEDOC

91 Gérard Bertrand 2019 Kosmos Héritage 888 Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). The nose pops with bright cherry and spiced purple-flower notes. The palate is complex, with touches of vanilla, pepper, juicy plums and strawberries. The medium-

round tannins lend structure and the finish is generous with bright acid. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Cave de Roquebrun 2020 Terrasses du Frigoulet Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). Aromatic notes of candied red fruit open up this red. The mouthfeel is generous and lush, with red berries and spice popping on the palate. It's a well structured wine, with medium tannin, bright acid and spice on the finish Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Les Vignobles Foncalieu 2019 Injuste Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). This easy-drinking wine opens with wild cherry and notes of earthy mushroom on the nose. The palate is plush, with apple, juicy plum, pomegranate and light touches of pepper. Its light tannin and bright acid leads to a nice finish. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Château la Vernède 2019 Pech Cabrio Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). Expressive wild strawberries and blueberries (as well as a touch of spice) form the nose of this red wine. The palate is loaded with red currants, cherry, mellow acid and a spicy generous finish. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$23

88 Château la Vernède 2019 Retour de Marché Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). Intense aromas of cherry, black currants and plum are found on the nose. On the palate, this full-bodied wine offers fresh acidity, grippy tannins and lovely notes of blackberries and strawberry. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Château Puech-Haut 2018 Tête de Béliér Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). With a beautiful bouquet of dried green herbs and juicy blue fruit, this red blend has an inviting nose. The palate offers blueberries, strawberries and subtle notes of licorice and white pepper. Medium-chewy tannin lead to a smooth short finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.T.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$44

86 Domaine de Fabrègues 2018 Le Coeur Rhône-style Red Blend (Languedoc). This full-bodied red wine has a bouquet of wood bark and ripe red fruit. Mellow wild cherries, strawberries and chewy tannins form the palate. Continent Wines Inc. —J.T.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

PAYS D'OC

91 Gérard Bertrand 2019 Cote des Roses Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). This Pinot opens up with notes of candied plums and purple violets on the nose. The palate offers flavors of supple raspberry, ripe cherries and vanilla. The soft round tannin

gives way to a nicely structured wine, with a touch of spice on the finish. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

90 Les Jamelles 2019 Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). Strawberries and red flowers pop on the nose of this Pinot. Flavors of red apples, cherries and plums are beaming on the palate. This wine's grippy tannin is balanced with a bright acidic, black-pepper finish. Grape Juice Group. —J.T.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

89 Bernard Magrez 2019 The Keys Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). A beautiful cherry-colored Pinot, this wine pops on the nose with strawberry and cherry aromas. The palate is loaded with tart cherries and dried herbs. The wine's medium tannin offers a nice balance to the acid. Misa Imports. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

89 D'Autrefois 2020 Alfio Moriconi Selection Pinot Noir (Pays d'Oc). An elegant dark-purple color, this Pinot's bouquet is rich, with juicy plums and cracked black pepper. The palate boasts juicy plums and ripe melon. Its finish is short with a touch of spice. Saranty Imports. —J.T.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

SAINT-CHINIAN

92 Château Gilbert & Gaillard 2018 Roc Blanc Rhône-style Red Blend (Saint-Chinian). Delightfully expressive notes of vanilla, plum, spice and pomegranate show on the nose. The palate is lush, featuring round tannins, flavors of juicy raspberry, strawberry and touches of spice. The finish is generous, with balanced acidity. Knows Imports. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$37

90 Château Gilbert & Gaillard 2018 Rhône-style Red Blend (Saint-Chinian). This blend opens up with a deep-ruby color. The nose is packed with ripe candied raspberries. The palate reveals tart cherry, black fruit and touches of *garrigue*. The mouthfeel is velvety, with medium tannin and gripping acid on the finish. Knows Imports. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

89 Lanye-Barrac Viti-Farm 2019 La Coulée des Schistes Rhône-style Red Blend (Saint-Chinian). This red blend opens up with perfumed-red-flower aromas and notes of spice. The palate reveals a rich texture, dried herbs, flavors of rhubarb, cherries, toasted vanilla and medium tannin. David Milligan Selections. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

OTHER RED WINES

86 Château La Négly 2018 Domaine Ferri Arnaud Rhône-style Red Blend (La Clape). Aromas of cherry, rhubarb and red-floral notes form the nose. The palate offers mellow, unripe strawber-

ries, cherries and toasted vanilla. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.T.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

PROVENCE

91 Domaine la Goujonne 2019 (Coteaux Varois en Provence). Dominated by Grenache with pinches of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, this has developed into a ripe, rounded wine. Black fruits and a hint of pepper from the Grenache are fully integrated, melded well into a very approachable, stylish wine. Drink from 2024. Vinedos Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

90 Cellier d'Eguilles 2021 Mas de la Baronne (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). This rich rosé is concentrated and full of ripe red-berry fruits. With food in mind, the wine is dry, with a core of acidity and a tangy aftertaste. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$29

89 Cellier d'Eguilles 2021 Les Cardonnieres (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). In a rich style, this full-bodied rosé is full of red fruits, brightened by acidity. Red currants are mixed with a fine texture and a tangy finish. Drink this balanced wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$26

88 Cellier d'Eguilles 2021 Aix Cellar (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). This is a ripe style of rosé. Raspberry flavors and soft fruitiness are balanced by the shot of crisp acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$28

88 Cellier d'Eguilles 2021 L'Aixoise (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). The cooperative located in Aix-en-Provence has produced a ripe wine, tangy with acidity and balanced between fruit and texture. The wine has layers of acidity giving freshness. Ready to drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$28

88 Château Margillière 2021 Kazaisu (Coteaux Varois en Provence). An attractive, peppery wine, this is softly textured and fruity. Red-berry flavors show well against the wine's light texture and dry aftertaste. Drink now. Organic. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

88 Domaine la Goujonne 2021 (Coteaux Varois en Provence). The wine is soft and fruity. Its red-currant flavors have gently softened and now show a balance between fresh and ripe fruits. This wine is refreshingly ready to drink. Vinedos Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

88 Château Font du Broc 2021 (Côte de Provence). A ripe, fruity wine, this has red currant in the background as well as spice and a peppery edge. There is a fine, juicy character to the wine

that gives a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Organic. Allen Walker Collection LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

87 Cellier d'Eguilles 2021 Le Sieur d'Eguilles (Coteaux d'Aix-en-Provence). A soft wine, smoothly textured and ripe, this is well balanced and attractive. Red fruits are lifted by some citrus and a light texture to give a wine that is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: NA Price: \$27

87 Château Font du Broc 2021 Cuvée Bisson (Côte de Provence). There is a fine touch of the white Rolle in this blend that softens and lightens the red fruits and texture of the wine. It is bright, ripe and ready to drink. Organic. Allen Walker Collection LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

WHITE WINE

90 Domaine la Goujonne 2021 (Coteaux Varois en Provence). Rolle is the dominant grape here, giving its ripe, warm white-fruit character to the wine. It is developing well, the citrus flavors opened up over the past year. This fine, delicious, perfumed wine is now ready to drink. Vinedos Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$27

SOUTHWEST FRANCE

RED WINES

93 Famille Conti 2019 Chez Paul Cabernet Sauvignon (Côte de Bergerac). A rich and polished wood-aged wine, this is finely textured. The blackberry fruits show well against the ripe, smoky character of this impressive, elegant wine. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

92 Château Tour des Gendres 2019 Les Gendres Parcelle No. 298 Merlot (Côte de Bergerac). Smooth and rich, the wine is generous, full of spice and generous black fruits. It is a juicy wine—the wood aging giving a fine toasty edge. Drink the wine from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

91 Château Nozières 2020 Amboise de l'Her (Cahors). Named after a historic local producer, the wine is richly structured with some firm tannins that have been softened by the Merlot in the blend. It is a fine, ripe, black-fruit and tannin wine. Coming from old vines, the wine has concentration alongside its tannins. Drink the wine from 2025. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 Château Tour des Gendres 2019 La Gloire de Mon Père (Côte de Bergerac). There is a rich element of Malbec in this wine. It blends well in a balanced wine, with blackberry flavors and

BUYINGGUIDE

hints of spice. The wine is likely to be ready from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

90 **Famille Conti 2021 La Vigne d'Albert (Bergerac)**. An exotic blend of grapes found across southwest France gives a rich, structured wine. It is a generous wine that brings the possibility of some aging. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

89 **Château Nozières 2020 (Cahors)**. This wine, matured in tank, is about ripe black fruits that are still softening. The juicy berry flavors are full and rich, with a young stalky edge. Drink this full wine from 2024. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

86 **Château Tour des Gendres 2021 Cantaloutte (Bergerac)**. A light and juicy wine, its acidity and open texture contribute to early drinking. The blend of Malbec, Merlot and Cabernet Franc is ready now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

WHITE WINES

91 **Château Tour des Gendres 2020 Moulin des Dames Parcelle A296 (Bergerac Sec)**. This is a full-bodied single-parcel wine. Rich fruits have been aged in wood to give baked apple and pear flavors, shot through with acidity. The wine is very fine and needs to age further. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$44

91 **Famille Conti 2021 Cuvée des Conti (Bergerac Sec)**. Bright, crisp and fruity, this pear- and apricot-perfumed wine is young and vivacious. It has a fine, fuller side to it, packed with fruits and likely to age for drinking in 2023. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

90 **Famille Conti 2021 Contine Périgourdine (Bergerac Sec)**. Perfumed, with a ripe edge of honey balances the yellow fruits and citrus flavors. The wine has a mineral edge, with freshness and acidity adding their crisp character to the texture. Drink now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$39

90 **François Lurton 2021 Domaine les Fumées Blanches Sauvignon Blanc (Côtes de Gascogne)**. A soft, smooth and rounded wine, this has ripe white fruit cut with citrus. Aged in concrete-egg fermenters to increase air circulation, the wine is ripe, delicious, lightly textured and ready to drink. Pardela USA. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$18

88 **Château Tour des Gendres 2021 Cantaloutte (Périgord)**. It's the Chenin Blanc in the blend that gives this wine its IGP appellation of Périgord, the ancient name of the region. The grape

adds a touch of honey alongside the freshness of citrus and kiwi flavors. It's a rich wine that will be even better from 2023. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

OTHER FRANCE

87 **François Lurton 2021 Fumées Blanches Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France)**. Tight, herbal Sauvignon Blanc is light and fruity. There is an edge of white fruits, as well pink-grapefruit citrus, giving total fruitiness and lightness. Drink now. Pardela USA. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

PORTUGAL

WHITE WINES

VINHO VERDE

94 **Anselmo Mendes 2019 Curtimenta (Vinho Verde)**. Partial skin contact and then wood aging for nine months has produced a rich, smoothly textured Alvarinho. This wine is luscious, with a smoky edge from the wood and mature white fruits that sing with ripe flavors. Drink the wine now. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$38

94 **Anselmo Mendes 2019 Parcela Unica (Vinho Verde)**. This single-vineyard Alvarinho, rich and concentrated from old vines, is powerful and balanced. Remnants of the initial freshness have now mellowed into a riper, smoother character. Drink now. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

93 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Alvarinho Contacto (Vinho Verde)**. Skin contact gives this wine extra intensity and richness. The full texture brings in spice and vanilla flavors as well as beautiful acidity and freshness. The wine is young, so drink from 2023. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

93 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Muros de Melgaço (Vinho Verde)**. This Alvarinho comes from the Monção and Melgaço region in the north of Vinho Verde. The wine is rich, with wood aging imparting touches of spice without masking the fruits. Drink from 2023. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

93 **Anselmo Mendes 2019 Expressões (Vinho Verde)**. This rich Alvarinho from the Minho Valley is shot through with great acidity and touches of spice. The wine shows the grape's creamy side as well as its mineral-driven texture. Drink the wine now. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

92 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Muros Antigos Alvarinho (Vinho Verde)**. A dense wine from the Minho Valley, this delivers swathes of white-

fruit flavors. The wine has great acidity, bright fruitiness and potential richness as it matures. Drink from 2023. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

92 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Passaros Alvarinho Loureiro (Vinho Verde)**. A blend of Vinho Verde's two finest grapes, this is beautifully fruity. Green fruit and citrus flavors come together in a ripe wine. It is densely textured and still young. Drink this wine from 2023. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

92 **Anselmo Mendes 2020 Loureiro Private (Vinho Verde)**. Light and well balanced, this wine is now at its youthful peak. It is tangy and textured, with a line of minerality plus apple and kiwi flavors. Ready to drink for its buoyant freshness, the wine also has aging potential at least until 2025. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$36

92 **Casa de Vilacetinho 2017 Grande Reserva (Vinho Verde)**. Matured in wood for a year, this rich wine is impressive. Mature, ripe creamed-apple and honey flavors are intense, offering an experience that is rare and memorable. Santa Maria Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

92 **Provam 2019 Vinha Antiga (Vinho Verde)**. Made from old vines, this wine shows the aging potential of Alvarinho. The wine is rich and full, with a touch of spice from barrel aging of ripe fruits. Apples are touched by citrus, giving a wine that is ready to drink. Dionysos Imports Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

92 **Quinta de Paços 2020 Casa do Capitão-Mor Reserva Macaração (Vinho Verde)**. This beautifully ripe wine offers touches of honey and a dense texture from long maceration. A fine example of rich Alvarinho, it has aging potential. Drink the wine from 2023. Amphorium LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

91 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Passaros Loureiro (Vinho Verde)**. Mendes crossed the mountains from his native Minho Valley to the Lima Valley to produce this wine (hence the name Passaros). The wine shows the quality of fine Loureiro, spicy and with direct layers of fruit and acidity. The wine is young, fresh and will be better from 2023. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

91 **Provam 2021 Portal do Fidalgo (Vinho Verde)**. Ripe and intense, this pure Alvarinho fills the mouth with a mix of citrus and green-apple flavors. It needs to age a bit more to get the real, creamy Alvarinho character. Drink from 2023. Dionysos Imports Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

91 **Quinta do Ameal 2021 Loureiro (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 16. Now Wine Imports. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

91 **Quinta do Ameal 2021 Solo Unico (Vinho Verde).** A single-vineyard wine, this is ripe, creamy and intense. Acidity and a crisp texture contrast with this richness to give a satisfyingly balanced wine. It will be ready to drink from 2023. Now Wine Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

90 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Muros Antigos Loureiro (Vinho Verde).** Fruit from the Lima Valley has created this spicy, lightly peppered Alvarinho. Acidity and the freshest white fruits combine in a tangy, textured wine. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

90 **Casa de Vilacetinho 2020 Avesso Superior (Vinho Verde).** With an extra year's age, this wine has a rounded character, with spice and soft apple flavors. It is fruity, spicy and food friendly. Drink now. Santa Maria Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Quinta da Raza 2021 Alvarinho Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 19. OZ Wine Company. **Editors' Choice.** **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

90 **Quinta de Paços 2020 Casa do Capitão-Mor Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** From the north of the Vinho Verde region, this pure Alvarinho has great style and clarity. Green fruits are enhanced by the wine's tight acidity and citrus. It is still young and will be better from 2023. Amphorium LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

89 **Casa de Vilacetinho 2021 Avesso-Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** While this wine is all about the freshest fruit, it also has concentration from the Alvarinho in the blend while spice brings out the Avesso. It is balanced and full of bright fruit at the end. Drink now. Santa Maria Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

89 **Quinta da Raza 2021 Avesso Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** This wine balances acidity and ripe white fruits in a bright, tangy texture. The wine is fruity, with great acidity. Drink now. OZ Wine Company. —R.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

88 **Anselmo Mendes 2021 Muros Antigos Escolha (Vinho Verde).** This ripe, fruity wine offers good acidity and intense citrus and green-apple flavors. It is lightly mineral, juicy and delicious. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$8

88 **Herdade do Esporão 2021 Bico Amarelo (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 22. Now Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 11% **Price:** \$12

88 **Provam 2021 Varanda do Conde (Vinho Verde).** This crisp, bright and fruity blend of Alvarinho and Trajadura was produced in the northern Monção and Melgaço region of Vinho Verde. The wine is citrusy, fresh and ready to drink. Dionysos Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

88 **Quinta de Paços 2020 Casa de Paços Arinto Reserva (Vinho Verde).** This rich Arinto with some wood aging is full bodied, with an open texture and generous white-fruit flavors. It is ready to drink. Amphorium LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

88 **Quinta de Paços 2020 Casa de Paços Loureiro Reserva (Vinho Verde).** This wine brings out great white fruits as well as citrus, delivering a good contrast between freshness and crispness. Extra aging has softened the fruit well and the wine is ready to drink. Amphorium LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

87 **Quinta da Raza 2021 Alvarinho-Trajadura Grande Escolha (Vinho Verde).** This young wine conveys a spice and pepper character. The acidity will take some time to soften to give a comparatively full-bodied character. Drink from 2023. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

87 **Sogrape 2021 Azevedo (Vinho Verde).** This estate in southern Vinho Verde has produced an easy, fresh wine with apple crispness and a shot of lime juice. The wine is ready to drink. Evaton, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

86 **Quinta da Raza 2021 Dom Diogo Arinto Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde).** Crisp with a hint of a prickle on the tongue, this wine is fruity, with a direct line of bright acidity. Just off dry, the wine is ready to drink. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

86 **Quinta da Raza 2021 Dom Diogo Azal Colheita Seleccionada Azal (Vinho Verde).** This wine is made from the Azal variety, very much at home in this southeastern corner of Vinho Verde. The wine is fresh but has an inner softness and ripe white fruits. It is ready to drink. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

85 **Quinta de Paços 2021 Casa de Paços Loureiro & Arinto Portuguese White (Vinho Verde).** This wine is bright and fruity, with crisp acidity and a bone-dry freshness. Citrus and green apples combine in this lively wine. Drink now. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

84 **Fria Frio 2021 Portuguese White (Vinho Verde).** An off-dry, lightly sparkling wine, this is bright with crisp apple fruits and a tangy character. Drink now. Specialty Cellars. —R.V. **abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$15

84 **Quinta da Raza 2021 Escolha Portuguese White (Vinho Verde).** This wine's crisp texture is balanced by its off-dry character. A blend of three varieties, it is vivid and lively. Drink now. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V. **abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

84 **Vicente Faria Vinhos 2021 Animus Portuguese White (Vinho Verde).** This off-dry, lightly fizzy wine is crisp with citrus as well as ripe with touches of honey. The wine is fresh, fruity and ready to drink. Bronco Wine Company. —R.V. **abv:** 11% **Price:** \$11

DOURO

93 **Quinta da Rede 2020 Grande Reserva Portuguese White (Douro).** This half-and-half blend of Arinto and Rabigato was grown at the Rede estate in the west of the Douro region. It offers richness and density. Vanilla from wood aging and ripe yellow and white fruits are balanced and finely textured. Drink the wine from 2023. M Imports, LLC. —R.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Quinta de la Rosa 2019 Tim Grande Reserva Portuguese White (Douro).** Named in honor of the late patriarch of the Bergqvist family, this wood-aged wine is full of fruit, with hints of apricots and vanilla. Richness will stand the wine in good stead as it matures. Drink from 2024. Wine-sellers, Ltd. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2020 Mirabilis Portuguese White (Douro).** Rich and concentrated, this blend of Viosinho and Gouveio was aged in wood. It was given extra density by aging on its lees, with hints of pineapple adding ripeness to a wine that will age. Drink from 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$88

92 **Kranemann Wine Estates 2018 Quinta do Convento Reserva (Douro).** Now certainly mature, this wine is a wood-aged blend of Rabigato, Viosinho and Gouveio. It is dense, spicy from wood aging and with an impressive layer of structure. Drink this wine now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

92 **Poças 2021 Fora da Série Acrobata (Douro).** Aging under a yeast cover has given this wine richness and a nutty quality. It has plenty of freshness as well, with a crisp apple character and tangy brightness. Drink this unusual wine from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

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92 Quevedo 2020 Q Grande Reserva (Douro). This limited-production wine comes from selected fruit in the Quevedo vineyard. The wood-aged wine is beautifully textured and full of tangy white fruits. Still young, it needs to age and will be ready from 2024. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

92 Quinta da Rede 2019 Vinha do Pinheiro (Douro). Full of ripe white fruits and baked-apple flavors, this wine offers vanilla and acidity as accompaniment. It is a rich wine, smoothed by wood aging and lifted by freshness at the end. Drink from 2023. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Quinta das Bandeiras 2021 Passagem by La Rosa Reserva (Douro). The richness of this wine is impressive. It is controlled, the white fruits constrained by wood aging and spice. The wine will age and should be drunk from 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Quinta do Portal 2019 Grande Reserva (Douro). This rich wine was aged for 18 months in old barrels, giving a spicy luster to the white-fruit flavors. Quince and yellow fruits come together in this beautifully structured, rich wine. Drink from 2023. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Casa de Cambres 2018 Grande Reserva (Douro). A velvet-smooth wine with a rich texture, this is now maturing. White fruits and a creamed-apple character are lightly textured. The wine is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Poças 2021 Poças Branco (Douro). A brand formerly known as Vale de Cavalos, this ripe wine is perfumed, touched by wood and generously textured. It is still young, with fruit intensity that needs to soften. Drink from 2023. Suitable for vegans. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

91 Quinta da Rede 2021 Reserva (Douro). Aged on its lees to give a richer texture, this ripe blend of Arinto, Viosinho and Gouveio is elegantly balanced. It needs more aging, so drink from 2023. M Imports, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

91 Quinta de la Rosa 2021 La Rosa Reserva (Douro). This creamy wine, just lightly touched by wood, has acidity, tangy citrus and apple fruits and potential. The wine is textured and full of fruit. Drink from 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Quinta Vale d'Aldeia 2020 Grande Reserva (Douro). A rich, wood-aged wine, this is ripe with layers of fruit and spice. The six months in wood have broadened the wine, giving ripe apple and yellow-fruit flavors alongside the perfumed

aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Le Wine Importer. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 Kopke 2020 São Luiz Reserva Branco (Douro). This lightly wood-aged wine is ripe with white fruits and textured with minerality. It is perfumed, fresh while also mature and ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

90 Quinta da Rede 2021 Rede Reserva (Douro). Barrel aged for six months, this wine is velvet smooth, with just hints of citrus and red apples to bring out freshness. It is a ripe wine that needs a little aging, so drink from 2023. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Quinta do Covão 2020 Mary Taylor Selection (Douro). Lightly mineral in texture and with a fine bite of acidity, this wine is tight and textured. It has an edge of perfume from the Malvasia in the blend and some touches of spice. Drink the wine from 2023. Nashawtuc LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Wine & Soul 2020 Guru (Douro). A blend of four varieties from 60-year-old vines, this juicy wine is crisp with white fruits and lime acidity. It is fruity, spicy and ready to drink. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Casa de Cambres 2021 Reserva (Douro). This wood-aged wine with ripe peach aromas and a smooth texture is lightly touched with minerality. Acidity is already fully integrated into the fruit. Drink from 2023. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Kranemann Wine Estates 2020 Quinta do Convento (Douro). This is a fresh and fruity wine, with bright acidity and a crisp apple flavor. The wine gains depth from lees stirring and some wood aging. Drink from 2023. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

89 Poças 2021 Coroa d'Ouro (Douro). With bright tangy flavors and acidity, this is juicy wine offers vivid fruit and freshness. It is young and could lose some of its boisterous intensity. Drink from 2023. Suitable for vegans. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

89 Poças 2021 Poças Branco da Ribeira (Douro). Vines in the Douro Superior at elevation have produced a ripe, wood-aged wine. Spice and acidity balance crispness and riper tropical-fruit flavors. The wine is worth aging further. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

89 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2020 Grainha Reserva (Douro). Lightly

wood aged for seven months, this wine is full of fruit, spruced up with spice flavors. The ripe wine has an attractive thread of acidity, allied to an aftertaste that gives white-fruit roundness. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Real Companhia Velha 2021 Evel Branco (Douro). Soft and rounded, this wine offers baked-apple flavors with a touch of perfume. Acidity gives a crisp edge to this charming wine that is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Sogevinus 2019 Curva Reserva Branco (Douro). A well-balanced wine, this is fresh yet with some weight and spice. It is full of apple fruits, layered with minerality and a hint of pink grapefruit. Drink the wine now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$33

88 Casca Wines 2021 Monte Cascas Colheita (Douro). Lightly wood aged, this wine is spicy and packed with vibrant white-fruit flavors. Full bodied, ripe and refreshingly juicy, the wine is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Delaforce 2021 Alvarinho (Douro). A ripe, full-bodied wine but with plenty of freshness, this is tangy and crisp. Although it's unusual to find 100% Alvarinho from the Douro, the wine works well, bringing out the minerality of the region as well as the fruits. Drink now. Signature Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Kranemann Wine Estates 2020 Hasso (Douro). A well-textured wine, this offers hints of minerality and bright apple acidity. The wine has a fresh character, lively and balanced. Drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Poças 2021 Poças Reserva (Douro). Fresh and crisp with a strong minerality, this wine is bright with white fruits and acidity. It is full of grapefruit and citrus flavors. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

88 Quevedo 2021 Claudia's White (Douro). This wood-aged wine is soft, with touches of spice and plenty of acidity. The wine is rounded and will soften and fill out with rich white fruits. It will be ready from 2023. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Quinta da Côte 2020 Côte Vinho Branco (Douro). An opulent wine, smooth and rich, this has ripe fruits, with generous green plums and perfumed acidity. The texture hints at minerality and the schist soils of the Douro vineyards. Drink from 2023. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Quinta da Foz 2021 Vinha da Foz (Douro). A blend of four grapes, this has acidity as well as ripe citrus and a perfumed character. Full of lemon and pink-grapefruit flavors, it is ready to drink now. Organic. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

88 Quinta da Pacheca 2020 Lagar de Granito Escolha (Douro). Ripe and zesty, this wine has an edge of spice and attractive apple flavors, filled out with a tropical hint of pineapple. It is ready to drink. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

88 Quinta das Bandeiras 2021 Passagem by La Rosa (Douro). Crisp, fruity and with tight acidity and citrus flavors, this wine is lively and bright while also having tangy fruit. Drink from 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$21

88 Quinta dos Murças 2021 Assobio (Douro). A fresh, lilted wine, this has citrus flavors and a crisp, bright aftertaste. It's very drinkable now but will be better from 2023. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$25

88 Real Companhia Velha 2021 Quinta dos Aciprestes Branco (Douro). A fresh blend of Rabigato, Viosinho and Arinto, this wine has tangy fruit and textured acidity. Still young, the wine is bright, with citrus fruitiness and kiwi flavors giving freshness. Drink the wine from 2023. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

88 Wine & Soul 2021 Quinta da Manoella (Douro). Fruit from an old vineyard gives this wine a crisp character, bright with citrus and green-apple flavors. A taut, nervy texture needs to soften. The wine will be ready from 2023. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

87 Burmester 2021 (Douro). Spice from the Malvasia in the blend gives this wine an immediate drinkability. It is ripe while also fresh and fruity. The texture is soft, just hinting at minerality. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

87 Casa de Cambres 2021 Colheita (Douro). Light, with touches of minerality, this wine is alive with acidity and a tangy, orange-zest character. The crisp apple favors and spice show that the wine is freshly ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

87 Poças 2021 Fora da Série Orange Wine (Douro). The month-long skin contact has given this wine a mature, lightly oxidative character. A blend of Arinto and Códega de Larinho, it has freshness as well, with a tangy, textured flavor. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$30

87 Quevedo 2021 Organic White (Douro). This is a ripe, rich and fruity wine. A blend of Gouveio, Arinto and Moscatel, it is red-apple fresh with acidity and a lemon-zest aftertaste. Drink now. Organic. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

87 Quevedo 2021 Oscar's White (Douro). Light, with citrus and green-apple flavors, this wine is fresh and packed with fruit. It could do with further aging to restrain the fruitiness and tangy texture. Drink the wine from 2023. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$17

87 Quinta da Pacheca 2021 Lagar de Granito (Douro). This fruity wine is dominated by perfumed Moscatel. Lemon, orange and sliced apple flavors give freshness. The aftertaste is zesty and lightly textured. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

87 Quinta de la Rosa 2021 La Rosa (Douro). Light and fruity, this wine is bright with lively citrus. It is fresh and crisp, youthful while also ready to drink. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$19

87 Real Companhia Velha 2021 Porca de Murça (Douro). This attractively fruity wine has a creamed-apple texture and fresh grapefruit flavors. The wine is bright with acidity and freshness. Drink now. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

87 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Castello d'Alba Dry Farming (Douro). Showing the typical Douro minerality along with vibrant green fruits and citrus, this wine is freshly crisp, zesty and ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

86 Kopke 2021 São Luiz Colheita Branco (Douro). A fresh, light and soft wine, this is very approachable. Ripeness comes from touches of tropical fruits that go alongside the clear line of citrus. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

86 Sogevinus 2021 Tavedo (Douro). This crisp wine shows tight minerality as well as lively acidity and real brightness. The wine is full of white fruits, lifted with lime freshness. Drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

85 Quinta da Rede 2021 Rede (Douro). This is a soft wine, with ripe white fruits that are lightly touched with citrus. Its fruitiness is refreshing and easygoing, and the wine is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

DÃO

93 Casa da Passarella NV Villa Oliveira 2e Edição (Dão). This is an unusual blend of five vintages of Encruzado from 2015 to 2019. It offers a vivid mix of mature fruit combined with the freshness of a young wine. Touched by wood aging, the wine is rich, with good acidity and white fruits. It is ready to drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$150

93 Quinta da Taboadella 2019 Grande Villae (Dão). Wood aging and a few years' age have given richness and spice to ripe white fruits in this wine. A mineral texture and balanced freshness work well with the fruit and promise further aging. Drink from 2023. Farah Trading Co. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$80

92 Quinta da Taboadella 2021 Encruzado Reserva (Dão). Grown at 1,700 feet, the vines for this wine enjoy a fresh climate that gives this bottling a cool aspect. With green fruits and the beginnings of a creamy texture, the wine will develop well. Drink from 2024. Farah Trading Co. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

91 Jardim de Granito 2019 Encruzado (Dão). With its name (garden of granite), this wine celebrates the mineral landscape of the Dão. The wine is structured, freshened by citrus and given richness by baked-apple flavors. Drink the wine now. Gold Medal Wine Club. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

91 Quinta do Covão 2019 Mary Taylor Selection (Dão). A blend of mainly Encruzado and Malvasia, this wine is smooth, creamy and full of bright apple and kiwi flavors. It has full fruit and a hint of spice. Drink now. Nashawtuc LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

91 Sogrape 2020 Quinta dos Carvalhais Reserva (Dão). A wood-aged wine, this is beautifully structured. Spice and a hint of pepper show well against the ripe tropical and fresher fruits. The wine comes from a major estate in the Dão region. Drink from 2023. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$60

89 Casa da Passarella 2019 O Fugitivo (Dão). Long skin contact and wood aging gives this wine an attractive gold color. A touch of oxidation is allied with tropical fruit flavors. It is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$55

89 Sogrape 2021 Quinta dos Carvalhais Colheita Branco (Dão). With the minerality often associated with the granite of the Dão region, this wine is textured while also being fresh and crisp. Citrus, pear and kiwi combine in the flavors of this wine. Crisp and refreshing, it is ready to drink now. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

BUYINGGUIDE

88 **Quinta da Taboadella 2021 Villae (Dão).** The high proportion of Encruzado in this wine adds richness and a creamy texture. The wine is full of white fruits, with a lightly mineral texture and uplifting acidity at the end. Drink from 2023. Farah Trading Co. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 **Quinta do Covão 2020 Reserva Encruzado (Dão).** Ripe and textured, this wine offers creamy fruits and baked-apple flavors. Acidity suggests this wine is still young and should age further. Drink from 2024. Nashawtuc LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

87 **Casa da Passarella 2021 A Descoberta Colheita (Dão).** A fresh blend that includes perfumed Malvasia and creamy Encruzado, this is an attractively crisp wine. It has bright fruits and lively acidity, showcasing green plum and touches of citrus. Drink the wine now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

BEIRA INTERIOR

90 **Rui Robredo Madeira 2021 Beyra Reserva (Beira Interior).** This wine is ripe, rich with apple and kiwi flavors. Its liveliness is intense and needs to soften to bring out the spice and riper flavors. Drink the wine now. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 **Rui Robredo Madeira 2021 Beyra Dry Farming (Beira Interior).** Mountain vineyards south of the Douro region have produced a bright, vivid blend of Fonte Cal and Siria. This is a lively wine, full of acidity and cool freshness. Drink now. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

88 **Rui Robredo Madeira 2021 Beyra (Beira Interior).** Pure squeezed-lemon and kiwi fruit flavors are at the heart of this high-altitude, cool wine. It is tangy and textured, with a touch of spice and intense acidity. The wine is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

LISBOA

92 **Parras Wines 2020 Quinta do Gradil Arinto (Lisboa).** The Arinto grape, whose spiritual home is in the Lisboa region, performs well in this wine. Touches of spice add to the ripe citrus and pear flavors. The crisp edge to the wine is textured and delicious. Drink from 2023. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

92 **Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2019 Reserva (Lisboa).** This classic Viognier comes from a Rhône grape expert in Lisboa. It has apricot and tangy lime and spice flavors. A hint of wood brings everything together. Drink now. Organic. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 **Quinta do Pinto 2019 Viognier-Chardonnay (Lisboa).** A blend that has proven popular in Portugal, this is rich, creamy in texture and full bodied. It has weight, but it is the baked-apple and spice flavors that stand out. Drink the wine now. WineWise. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

91 **Adega Mãe 2019 Reserva (Lisboa).** This wood-aged wine is ripe, with white fruits and a touch of honey. It is rounded, lifted by acidity and apple flavors. Made with the participation of Portuguese white-wine specialist Anselmo Mendes, the wine is sophisticated. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 **Quinta do Pinto 2019 Arinto Grande Escolha (Lisboa).** Arinto's home is the Lisboa region, as this wine shows well. Lightly wood aged, the wine is spicy. That character underlines the beautiful acidity, with crisp apples and a touch of citrus. Drink the wine now. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Quinta do Pinto 2018 Grande Escolha (Lisboa).** Balanced wood aging gives the wine good texture, opulent white fruits and a touch of spice. Still fresh and vibrant, the wine is also ready to drink. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

89 **Adega Mãe 2021 Dory (Lisboa).** A dory is a flat-bottomed fishing boat once used in the nearby Atlantic Ocean. This crisp, cool wine is bright with acidity and a lively texture. Acidity and a straight line of freshness give a fine lift at the end. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Escada Arinto Reserva (Lisboa).** Focused on the local Arinto grape, this ripe wine also has bright acidity and citrus flavors. With a soft edge at the end, it's attractively ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Grand'Arte Alvarinho (Lisboa).** Bring the northern Alvarinho grape south to Lisboa and it plumps up and has rounded white fruits in addition to its usual creaminess. This wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2020 DFJ Alvarinho-Chardonnay (Lisboa).** For full review see page 22. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **DFJ Vinhos 2020 Portada Reserva (Lisboa).** For full review see page 21. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$12

87 **Adega Mãe 2019 Viosinho (Lisboa).** This funky wine has earthy characteristics as well as a more fruity aspect. It is soft and ripe, not

quite sure if it is a crisp and cool wine or one that is soft and hot. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Aluado (Lisboa).** Just a tang of citrus shows in this otherwise rounded wine. It has a soft texture, offering sliced apple and spice in an generous structure. Drink now. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 Branco (Lisboa).** A soft wine produced from Marsanne, Viognier and Arinto, this has a smooth texture with a good line in acidity. It is ready to drink. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Adega Mãe 2021 Pinta Negra Branco (Lisboa).** This wine's rusticity is initially off-putting before grapefruit and citrus kick in to freshen the youthfulness. That character will dominate in a few months, so wait until 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

86 **Adega Mãe 2019 Arinto (Lisboa).** Bright and lemony, this Arinto is fresh, with tanginess and a sharp cut of acidity. The wine is now developed and ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 **DFJ Vinhos 2021 Portada Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa).** This simple, fruity wine has an attractive perfume from Riesling and a tiny drop of Moscatel in the blend. It is fresh, young and fruity, with crisp apple mixing with a hint of lychee and with plenty of acidity. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

85 **Casca Wines 2021 Cascas Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa).** A comfortable blend of Chardonnay, Fernão Pires and the local Vital, this wine is balanced and crisp. Citrus and bright fruits shine out. The wine is ready to drink. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

85 **Manz 2019 Platónico (Lisboa).** A blend of Fernão Pires and Arinto, this is a simple, fruity wine. Apples and citrus give freshness and textured crispness. Drink now. Italian Products. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

85 **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Dona Flor (Lisboa).** Sauvignon Blanc and Arinto bring bright acidity and a light herbal edge to this wine. Acidity and a zesty aftertaste mean it is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

85 **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Forte do Ciego (Lisboa).** Perfumed, fresh and crisply tex-

tured, this wine is driven by citrus and green-apple flavors. It is fresh, lightly textured and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

85 **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Portão 9 (Lisboa)**. This soft, simple wine has plenty of fruit and a soft texture. It is fruity, with bright acidity heightened by citrus. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

84 **Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Q.S.S. Rare (Lisboa)**. Bright and fruity with tangy acidity and fresh currant flavors, this wine is lightly perfumed. It is ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

TEJO

90 **Quinta da Lapa 2021 Alvarinho (Tejo)**. Pure Alvarinho is given a tropical edge with pineapple flavors in this fresh and fruity wine. It has density and bright acidity, with a citrus finish along with the riper flavors. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Quinta Vale de Fornos 2019 Arinto-Chardonnay-Gewürztraminer Reserva (Tejo)**. Quite how this eclectic blend came together is a story, but it works. Gewürztraminer makes a spicy addition to crisp acidity from the Arinto and Chardonnay. This attractive wine is ready to drink. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Colete Velho Premium (Tejo)**. A soft, white-fruit-flavored wine, this has a crisp, citrus edge. The squeezed-lime character gives a zesty texture and freshness as the wine matures in the next few months. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Quinta da Lapa 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Tejo)**. Intensely fruity, this is a crisp, textured wine, with bright lemon and herbal flavors. The wine is juicy and ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 **Quinta do Casal Branco 2020 Peter and the Wolf (Tejo)**. This wine's fresh, crisp citrus flavor is immediately attractive. Lively and vibrant, the lemon and grapefruit brightness are refreshing. The wine is ready to drink. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2021 Talhão 1 (Tejo)**. Light and slightly textured, this wine has crisp fruitiness and a good mix between apple and citrus flavors. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

86 **Quinta da Lapa 2021 No Added SO2 (Tejo)**. Made from Fernão Pires, this fruity wine, produced without added sulfur, is fresh with apple and citrus flavors. A rounded edge adds to the ripeness. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Colete Velho (Tejo)**. This easygoing white wine makes a crisp aperitif. Acidity and the citrus flavors are in balance and bright, and the wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

85 **Quinta da Lapa 2021 Nana (Tejo)**. A tangy, textured wine, this offers lively acidity and a crisp aftertaste. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Quinta da Lapa 2021 Selection (Tejo)**. A blend of Fernão Pires and Arinto, this offers forward white fruits shot through with citrus. It has a light texture and zesty aftertaste. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

85 **Quinta do Casal Branco 2020 Capoeira (Tejo)**. Bright, crisp and fresh, this open wine has acidity and citrus and green-apple flavors. Drink now. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

ALENTEJANO

93 **Herdade do Esporão 2020 Private Selection (Alentejano)**. This welltextured wine is ripe with yellow fruits and green plums. Rich and toasty, balancing the fruit against texture, the wine needs more time to release its potential. Drink from 2024. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 **Monte da Ravasqueira 2014 Premium (Alentejano)**. This wine is rich and mature, with 12 months in wood. Plenty of spice and aging have given the wine a smooth texture and hints of the apple flavor that was once more dominant, giving a baked-fruit character. The wine is totally ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **Casa Relvas 2020 Herdade de São Miguel Esquecido (Alentejano)**. Judiciously judged, this wood-aged Arinto has a rounded character along with a touch of citrus and riper white fruits. The spicy edge is delicious and the wine is worth aging. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 **Luis Duarte 2021 Rubrica (Alentejano)**. This wood-aged wine is rich and full in the mouth. It is luscious, ripe with yellow- and white-fruit flavors and dense from fermentation on its

lees. It finishes with a creamy aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 **Ségur Estates 2019 Dona Joana Grande Escolha (Alentejano)**. This limited-release wine is ripe, with fruit balanced by vanilla wood-aging flavors. The freshness has now mellowed and the wine is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Terras de Alter 2020 Telhas (Alentejano)**. A smooth, yellow-fruit-flavored wine, this is rich and powerful. The wine's texture is full of minerality, shot through with citrus acidity. The wine is ready to drink. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Herdade do Esporão 2021 Esporão Colheita (Alentejano)**. Alvarinho and Viognier bring their respective freshness and perfumes to this open, easy wine. It has richness, with ripe pear flavors and smooth acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Casa Relvas 2021 Sauvignon Blanc Vinha da Safa (Alentejano)**. A ripe, tropical style of Sauvignon Blanc, this offers ripe apricot and pineapple as much as crisper citrus and kiwi. The wine is rounded, the texture tangy and ready to drink. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 **Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2020 Reserva (Alentejano)**. This ripe wine with apricot and green-plum flavors is a satisfying blend of Antão Vaz, Arinto and Alvarinho. The wine emphasizes fruitiness, with a crisp edge that is broadened by some wood aging. Drink from 2023. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

88 **Luis Duarte 2021 Monte do Carrapatelo (Alentejano)**. This rounded, ripe wine veers in the direction of white fruits with a dash of apricot. The wine has a balance between the crispness at the end and a squeeze of citrus. Drink from 2023. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Luis Duarte 2021 Rapariga da Quinta Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano)**. This fresh and fruity wine delivers clear white fruits and acidity, with a great lift at the end. It is unoaked, allowing the fruit to shine brightly. The aftertaste has a light tang. Drink now. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 **Herdade do Esporão 2021 Monte Velho Biológico (Alentejano)**. Light and smooth with attractive apple flavors, this is an open and flavorsome wine. The fruitiness is delicious, lively while also full. Drink now. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

86 Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade de São Miguel Coheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). This is an attractive, lightly oaked wine. Bright citrus and acidity combine with riper perfumed flavors from the Verdelho in the blend. Drink the wine now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Dona Vitoria Coleção Privada (Alentejano). This is a fruity wine, packed with citrus and sliced-apple flavors. The wine turns a bright face to the world, zesty and with a touch of kiwi at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Encantado (Alentejano). This blend of Alvarinho, Arinto and Viognier has a tightly structured character. Still young with white fruits and intense acidity, it needs to soften and broaden out. Drink from 2023. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Mocho Galego Signature (Alentejano). Arinto, Alvarinho and Viognier make up this attractive blend. It is perfumed, with flavors of apricots and white fruits, crisp while having a rounded aftertaste. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Vinha da Coutada Velha (Alentejano). This rich, smooth wine offers a good balance between crisper citrus flavors and rich yellow fruits. The wine is spicy, with a zesty background. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Clássico Branco (Alentejano). A simple wine, open and refreshing, this is vibrant with acidity and great crispness. This citrus-flavored wine is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Cova dos Gamos (Alentejano). Light and bright with citrus fruits, this attractive wine has plenty of freshness from a touch of wood aging. It is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

84 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Guarda Rios Signature (Alentejano). Crisp and tangy, this wine has bright and vivid fruit flavors allied to a lively aftertaste. The wine is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

ALENTEJO

92 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Esporão Reserva (Alentejo). For full review see page 12. Now Wine Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 Casa Relvas 2021 Vidigueira (Alentejo). Arinto, Antão Vaz and the rare Perrum grapes have been blended in this soft, white-fruit wine. It is ripe and smoothly textured, with a bite of acidity and squeezed citrus at the end. The wine comes from the coolest part of southern Alentejo, which is confirmed by the final freshness. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Coutada Velha Signature (Alentejo). This fresh, fruity blend of four grapes includes, unusually, Sémillon. That grape gives the wine both its richness and creamy texture. Allied to the citrus flavors, the wine is perfumed and ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

85 Adega de Borba 2020 Montes Claros (Alentejo). Light with citrus fruitiness and tight acidity, this wine is ultrafresh and crisp. A light texture gives a zesty character. Drink now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$9

OTHER WHITE WINES

90 Quinta de Paços 2021 Morgado do Perdigão (Minho). A blend of Alvarinho and Loureiro, the two finest varieties in the northern Minho region, this is crisp and citrus driven, with a good balance of texture and acidity. The wine is fresh and ready to drink. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Quinta de Paços 2021 Casa de Paços Fernão Pires (Minho). The Fernão Pires grape, normally found in the Alentejo, is quite at home in the north. This wine has a crisp edge and lively acidity, with a pleasingly perfumed aftertaste. Drink now. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

86 José Maria da Fonseca 2021 Periquita (Península de Setúbal). This wine, popular in Portugal, is crisp, clean and full of fruit. Softness lies behind citrus flavors and a touch of perfume. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

86 Quinta de Paços 2021 Prazo da Cotovia (Portuguese Table Wine). A light, spicy and fruity wine, this is immediately attractive, especially as an aperitif. A crisp edge comes from the contrasting acidity. Drink now. Summit Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$9

SPARKLING WINES

88 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos NV Ribeiro Santo Bruto (Dão). Encruzado, Cerceal and crisp Bical go into this bright and fruity wine. Acidity and green-plum and citrus flavors are muted by some bottle age. Drink this gentle wine now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

88 Quinta da Lapa 2017 Brut Nature Reserva (Tejo). Sophisticated and full of mature flavors, this wine is ripe and balanced. It has a nutty edge under the acidity and perfumed fruits. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

85 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos NV Bruto (Tejo). Fruity and yeasty, this is a light, crisply textured wine. Acidity and a dry, citrus aftertaste give the wine a lift. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$NA

85 Quinta da Lapa 2016 Nana Cuvée Brut Reserva (Tejo). A soft, light wine blending Arinto and Fernão Pires, this is creamy, fruity and touched with some maturity. Drink now. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

PORTUGAL ROSÉS

88 José Maria da Fonseca 2021 DSF Roxo Rosé (Península de Setúbal). Made from the Moscatel Roxo variety, this wine is highly perfumed, with red-fruit and lychee flavors. It is vividly and deliciously ready to drink. NLC Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Sogrape 2021 Quinta dos Carvalhais Colheita Rosé (Dão). Touriga Nacional and Alfrocheiro unite in this fruity wine. Its red fruits are rounded with a background crispness. The wine is lively and ready to drink. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 Reserva (Lisboa). A wood-matured spicy rosé made from Syrah, this is rich and rounded with red-berry fruits and soft acidity. This is certainly a food rosé rather than an aperitif. Drink now. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

87 DFJ Vinhos 2021 Portada Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa). This soft rosé with ripe strawberry fruits is just right to drink now. Acidity and roundness have smoothed the initial acidity. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

87 Luis Duarte 2021 Rapariga da Quinta Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). Bright and fruity, this rosé has a light touch of caramel as well as crisp

red fruits. The wine is fresh and ready to drink. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Ravasqueira Seleção do Ano (Alentejano). Touriga Nacional, Aragonez and Syrah make up this fresh, light and fruity wine. Red-currant flavors are freshened by a twist of orange in a bright wine. It is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

87 Quinta do Portal 2021 (Douro). Bright fruit and fresh acidity give this wine red-berry flavors and a shot of citrus. Its lively bounce of fruit makes it ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

86 Poças 2021 (Douro). A ripe, smooth texture gives this wine richness as a contrast to the light texture and acidity. The crisp backdrop brings out the acidity and freshness. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

86 Quinta da Lapa 2021 Selection (Tejo). A ripe wine with red currants and acidity, this is fruity and vibrant. The fruit will be better when it is less intense so drink from 2023. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

86 Quinta da Rede 2021 Rede (Douro). This fresh, fruity wine is deliciously crisp and full of red-currant flavors. The wine is young and bright, with a lively, refreshing aftertaste. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

86 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 (Lisboa). A crisp, fruity wine with light fruits and red-currant flavors, this is buoyant and refreshing. Drink now. Organic. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

86 Vicente Faria Vinhos 2020 Quinta Vale Santa Luzia (Douro). Made from Tinta Roriz, this is a smooth, rich rosé. Raspberry flavors dominate the rounded texture and light acidity. It is a warm wine, ready to drink now. Bronco Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

85 Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade de São Miguel Coheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). This soft and fruity rosé is fresh with red currants. It is lightly textured, easy to drink and full of freshness at the end. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

85 DFJ Vinhos 2021 Escada (Lisboa). This off-dry rosé has attractive strawberry fruits and a fine line in acidity, with a bit of lime juice at the end. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

85 Fria Frio 2021 (Vinho Verde). Off dry and with a bright sparkle, this strawberry-

candy-flavored wine is freshened by acidity. It is a lively, simple wine that is ready to drink. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 10.5% Price: \$15

85 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Monte Velho (Alentejano). A blend of five grapes, this is a soft, strawberry-flavored wine. It is pure, bright with acidity and fruitiness. Drink now. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$12

85 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Ribeiro Santo (Dão). An attractive, soft rosé, this is rounded and offers red-berry fruits. Acidity brings some relief from the slightly candied character of the wine. Drink now. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

85 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Vinha da Coutada Velha (Alentejano). Bright red-currant fruit and acidity come together in this light wine. Its breezy freshness comes from the winds of the Arraiolos region. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

85 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2021 Lagoalva Rosé (Tejo). A blend of Syrah and Touriga Nacional has produced this tight, crisp and red-currant-flavored wine. Lively acidity shows at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

85 Quinta da Lapa 2021 Nana Rosé (Tejo). Touriga Nacional and Aragonez make a satisfying, food-friendly rosé. This wine has tangy acidity to match the red-fruit flavors. Acidity freshens the finish. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

85 Quinta da Raza 2021 Dom Diogo Colheita Seleccionada (Vinho Verde). There is a light prickle on this rosé made from 100% Padeiro. Fresh and just off dry, it has plenty of crisp red-currant fruits. Drink now. OZ Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

85 Quinta de Paços 2021 Casa de Paços (Vinho Verde). Really crisp, this strawberry and red-currant-flavored wine is light and tight. Acidity gives great freshness. Drink now. Summit Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$10

85 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Forte do Ciego (Lisboa). This wine's blend of Syrah and Touriga Nacional gives a light structure to the freshness and red-berry flavors. It is juicy and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$10

85 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Portão 9 (Lisboa). The combination of high-elevation vineyards and their coastal situation gives this wine great freshness and acidity. Made from Touriga

Nacional and Syrah, the wine is light, fruity and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$10

84 Casca Wines 2021 1808 (Beira Interior). A perfumed wine with ripeness and a soft texture, this simple rosé seems sweeter than it is. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

84 Monte da Ravasqueira 2020 Mocho Galego Premium (Alentejano). With fruit that has lost youthful vibrancy, this rosé is now soft. Red fruits and orange zest are dominant, with a rounded aftertaste. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

84 Quinta da Raza 2021 Escolha (Vinho Verde). Crisp and with intense acidity, this wine is lively and bright. It needs to soften over the next few months to become delicious. Drink early 2023. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$12

84 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Q.S.S. Rare (Lisboa). This perfumed and fruity wine offers red-currant flavors and lively acidity. The wine is crisp and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$13

83 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Dona Vitoria Grande Escolha (Alentejano). Wood aging has flattened the fruit of this wine. It is smooth and rounded while having few points of interest or excitement. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

PORTUGAL RED WINES DOURO

95 Quinta da Foz 2019 Grande Reserva (Douro). This powerful wine is the top offering from this famed estate that stands at the mouth of the Pinhão river as it enters the Douro. With dense, dark fruits, concentration and an immense structure, it has a way to go. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$80

95 Wine & Soul 2019 Pintas (Douro). This major wine is, as always, impressive and age-worthy. Dark tannins infused with minerality and layers of black fruits are powerful. At the same time, they have elegance to balance the great richness. Age this wine and drink from 2026. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$120

94 Quinta de la Rosa 2019 Vinha Vale do Inferno (Douro). This single-vineyard wine, from a parcel that has traditionally been among the hottest places in the estate, is powerful while also elegant.

BUYINGGUIDE

It is impressive, rich with black fruits and textured with minerality. Drink from 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$99

94 Real Companhia Velha 2016 Quinta dos Aciprestes Grande Reserva (Douro). For full review see page 9. Metrowine Distribution.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

94 Wine & Soul 2019 Quinta da Manoella Vinhas Velhas (Douro). This spectacular vineyard hidden in the folds of the Pinhão Valley has parcels of old vines that are the backbone of this wine. It is rich and structured, dense with tannins and black fruits. A wine to age, it will be ready to drink from 2026. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

93 Casa de Cambres 2017 Q Grande Reserva (Douro). This wine, now mature, is rich and dense. Wood aging has added spice and smoothness to the black fruits and dense texture. The wine is ripe and ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Quinta da Côte 2017 (Douro). Rich and smooth, this wine has polished tannins from wood aging and black fruits that now balance the structure. It is ready to drink, but this succulent wine will be better from 2023. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$57

93 Quinta da Foz 2019 Reserva (Douro). From parcels of vines that are more than 60 years old, this is a generous, rounded and full-bodied wine. Juicy black fruits show as layers of berry and black-currant flavors. This wine is ready to drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

93 Quinta da Rede 2017 Grande Reserva (Douro). From selected parcels, this wine is rich, dense and just approaching maturity. Wood aged for a year, it offers spice and toast as well as dense black fruits. The aftertaste brings a spicy, juicy character to the wine. Drink from 2024. M Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Quinta de la Rosa 2019 La Rosa Reserva (Douro). This dense wine, still young and full of promise, is richly structured. Black fruits, dark tannins and concentration are smoothed by wood aging. At the end, acidity adds to the wine's potential. Drink from 2025. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

93 Quinta Vale d'Aldeia 2019 Grande Reserva (Douro). Dense and packed with solid black fruits, this is a powerful, still-young wine. Rich tannins, flavors of the wood aging and concentration all point to aging. The wine's weight and structure show potential. Drink from 2024. Le Wine Importer. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

93 Real Companhia Velha 2015 Quinta dos Aciprestes Grande Reserva Sousão (Douro). From a single parcel of low-yielding Sousão, this wine showcases that lesser-known Douro grape. The wine has an open structure, still full of buoyant black fruits and still with plenty of freshness. It could be drunk now, but the wine will age further, at least until 2025. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Roquette e Cazes 2019 (Douro). The result of a joint venture between the Roquette family of Quinta do Crasto in the Douro and the Cazes family, owner of Château Lynch-Bages in Bordeaux, this wine is based around Douro fruit. It is a dark, black wine, dominated by powerful Touriga Nacional. It needs many years, so drink from 2026. Tenzing Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Poças 2021 Fora da Série Lagar das Quartas (Douro). This limited-production field blend has been produced by fermenting red and white grapes together, just as they came from the vineyard. While the wine has tannins, it also conveys great freshness and acidity. Juicy red-berry flavors are forward, meaning the wine is likely to develop relatively quickly. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Quinta da Côte 2015 (Douro). Now mature, but still with attractive black-plum flavors, this wine also has great freshness from acidity. Smoky, wood-aging flavors come with a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$57

92 Quinta das Bandeiras 2020 Passagem by La Rosa (Douro). A solid wine from vineyards in the Douro Superior, this exudes great black fruits. It has a juicy character and, while young, already has the makings of smooth fruits and tannins. Drink this wine from 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Quinta das Bandeiras 2019 Passagem by La Rosa Reserva (Douro). This wine's richness is palpable, balanced by youthful acidity that adds freshness and powerful black fruits. It has considerable aging ability. Drink at the earliest from 2023. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

92 Quinta das Bandeiras 2018 Passagem by La Rosa Reserva (Douro). This warm wine reflects the heat of the Douro Superior vineyards. At the same time, depth and concentration give richness to sustain the dense fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

92 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2019 Reserva Terroir Blend (Douro). This is a dense wine. Its ripe structure and complex relationship between black fruits and tannins make it worth

aging. The wine will be attractive as it matures, so drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

92 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2019 Quinta da Pedra Escrita (Douro). Set at nearly 1,900 feet, this is a high-altitude vineyard. This wine has structure and firm tannins, still young after three years. Black fruits are matched by the solid structure. From a single vineyard, the wine will be at its best from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Santos & Seixo 2018 Santos da Casa Grande Reserva (Douro). A limited-production wine from old vines, this is a powerful expression of black fruits and rich tannins. Weight and concentration gives the wine density while its structure needs several years more to soften. Dark plum and spice from wood aging are part of the mix. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Wine & Soul 2019 Quinta da Manoella (Douro). This single-vineyard wine from the Pinhão Valley, is well constructed. Bold tannins and firm black fruits are tempered by the wine's broad texture and acidity. It needs plenty of aging. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Ivin 2018 Bota Velha Vinhas Antigas (Douro). A field blend from old vines, this is a rich, structured wine. The tannins and spice indicate wood aging that gives smoothness to the still-young texture. Age this wine further and drink from 2024. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Kranemann Wine Estates 2018 Quinta do Convento Reserva (Douro). A rich field blend of old vines, this wine is full and structured. Moving easily from juicy black fruits and a firm structure, it is worthy of aging. Drink from 2025. Wine Bridge Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$57

91 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Vinhas de Xisto Reserva (Douro). The schist (Xisto) soil of the Douro plays an essential part in the wines of the region. Here, it gives minerality and structure along with tannins that are still firm. It is worth aging this dark plum and spice-flavored wine further. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Poças 2020 Poças Reserva (Douro). This powerful, dense wine was wood aged and has a rich, still-young structure. Weight and ripe blackberry fruits are reinforced by the tannins and dark texture. The wine needs to age further, so drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Quinta da Pacheca 2019 Lagar de Granito Reserva (Douro). This reserve wine is rich, well textured and full of ripe black fruits. Fer-

mented in open granite lagars, the wine has spice, a dense texture and further potential. It will likely be ready in 2024. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

91 Quinta das Carvalhas 2020 Reserva (Douro). For full review see page 16. Multiple U.S. importers.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

91 Quinta do Covão 2019 Mary Taylor Selection (Douro). This rounded wine is softly textured, with great black fruits set beside the juicy acidity and ripe berry flavors. The balance is impeccable, with a fresh edge set against generous dark fruits. Drink now. Nashawtuc LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

91 Quinta dos Murças 2019 Margem (Douro). Surprisingly light in its fruit and structure, this wine has buoyant, juicy acidity and black-plum fruits. With a crisp texture, the wine shows plenty of youthfulness while also having the potential for balance and a smooth texture. Drink from 2024. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$45

91 Real Companhia Velha 2019 Quinta dos Aciprestes Reserva (Douro). For full review see page 16. Metrowine Distribution.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

91 Vicente Faria Vinhos 2019 Quinta Vale Santa Luzia Reserva (Douro). This rich and spicy wood-aged wine comes from a single vineyard in the Douro. Its firm tannins are still intact, promising solid potential as well as succulent blackberry flavors. The wine needs more time, so drink from 2025. Bronco Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 Casa de Cambres 2018 Reserva (Douro). This wood-aged wine is rich in berry fruits and juicy, lined with spice and minerality. It has a while to go, with tannins still firm behind the fruit. Drink from 2023. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Kopke 2019 São Luiz Reserva Tinto (Douro). A well-balanced, ripe wine, this is rich while also having a strong freshness and textured minerality. Along with this framework, it offers delicious black fruits and rounded tannins. Drink this almost mature wine from 2023. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

90 Manz 2016 Manz Douro (Douro). While this wine is all about fruit, without any barrel aging, it also has a good structure. Tannins and minerality give concentration and weight. It is ready to drink. Italian Products. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$23

90 Monte da Ravasqueira 2019 Ponte de Xisto (Douro). Named after the schist soil of the Douro vineyards, this wine is structured, with

black fruits and generous tannins. It is dense, complex and could still age. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 Poças 2020 Fora da Série Vinho da Roga (Douro). With light extraction that results in a lighter color, this is designed as a fresh, red-berry-flavored wine. It also has a light touch, with acidity and freshness in equal measure. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$30

90 Poças 2020 Poças Tinto (Douro). A new look for the Vale de Cavalos wines from this producer, this lightly wood-aged wine gives spice to the ripe tannins and black fruits. Smoothly textured, the wine needs a little time. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 Quinta da Côte 2019 Princesa (Douro). A ripe, juicy wine with youthful tannins and open black fruits, this is fresh and friendly. The structure will soften over the next few months to give a ripe, fruity wine from 2024. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

90 Quinta da Rede 2018 Rede Reserva (Douro). This fresh, juicy wine is underpinned by partial wood aging. Touches of spice and juicy acidity partner with black-fruit flavors. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Quinta dos Murças 2019 Minas (Douro). For full review see page 19. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

90 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2020 Grainha Reserva (Douro). Aged for 14 months in wood, this wine is ripe and dense. Powerful tannins are balanced by the dark, black fruits and jammy texture. Drink this juicy wine from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 Real Companhia Velha 2018 Porca de Murça Reserva (Douro). For full review see page 20. Metrowine Distribution.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$19

90 Sogevinus 2019 Curva Reserva (Douro). A rounded, wood-aged wine, this is full of ripe spice and black fruits. Softly textured and ready to drink, it is well balanced. Polished and with a crisp line of acidity, it is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$33

90 Vicente Faria Vinhos 2019 Quinta Vale Santa Luzia (Douro). This ripe, single-vineyard wine is powerful and dense, full of acidity and black fruits sustained by wood aging. The wine is spicy, with a perfumed flavor and berry flavors that are

just getting ready for drinking. Drink from 2024. Bronco Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Wine & Soul 2019 Pintas Character (Douro). Acting as a second wine for the producer's Pintas, this bottling has a softer aspect at this young stage. It is juicy, with ripe blackberry fruits and good acidity that cuts through the tannins. Drink the wine from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$43

89 Delaforce 2018 Touriga Nacional (Douro). A ripe and smooth wine that is now almost mature, this has a rich structure and juicy acidity. Wood aging has given it weight as well as spice and a smoky character. Drink from 2023. Signature Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

89 Quinta da Pacheca 2020 Lagar de Granito Escolha (Douro). Densely textured, this ripe wine was fermented in granite lagars and then aged in wood. It is polished and spicy, rich in black fruits and youthful acidity. Drink from 2024. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

89 Quinta da Rede 2018 Reserva (Douro). This wood-aged wine is rich in dark tannins and powerful black fruits. Aged in wood for nine months, the wine has acquired a fine veneer and polish. It is almost ready. Just wait until 2023. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

89 Quinta das Carvalhas 2019 Red Blend (Douro). This wine's ripeness is balanced by a cool line of acidity. Tannins, soft and generous, give structure to the open wine with its blackberry flavors. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$13

89 Quinta do Portal 2020 Mural Reserva (Douro). This ripe wine offers black fruits and acidity in a perfumed blend of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz and Touriga Franca in roughly equal proportions. Drink this attractive wine from 2024. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

88 Adega Mãe 2020 Dory (Douro). This wine has an earthy barnyard character that gives a rustic edge. Underneath the black fruits and structure from Touriga Nacional and Pinot Noir, the Aragonez and Syrah should make a satisfying blend as the wine matures. Drink from 2024. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$10

88 Casa de Cambres 2020 Colheita (Douro). Direct berry fruits and light tannins power this juicy and lightly textured wine. It is easy, open, spicy and ready to drink now. M Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

BUYINGGUIDE

88 Kranemann Wine Estates 2019 Hasso (Douro). This ripe, juicy combination of three grapes includes some older vines from a field blend. It is dense with blackberry flavors and acidity. Tannins in the background will allow the wine to develop. Drink from 2024. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Kranemann Wine Estates 2019 Quinta do Convento (Douro). This rich, smoky wine is dominated by wood aromas. A blend of three grapes plus 20% field blend, the wine is richly structured and set for some aging. Drink from 2024. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

88 Quevedo 2020 Oscar's Red (Douro). This attractive wine is dominated by berry fruits and acidity. It is juicy and lightly tannic, with ripe cherry flavors to give a smoky edge. Drink from 2023. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Quinta dos Murças 2020 Assobio (Douro). This wine is still young, with its black fruits and a textured character. Succulent black fruits show well against the balanced structure. Drink from 2023. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2020 Unoaked (Douro). All about juicy black fruits, this wine is attractive and forward. Berry flavors and ripe fruit tannins give freshness and structure. Drink the wine from 2023. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

88 Real Companhia Velha 2019 Evel (Douro). Ripe, soft and juicy, this wine is full of berry fruits with just a touch of wood aging. The wine has an attractive finish of acidity. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2020 Castello d'Alba Reserva Dry Farming (Douro). The surprisingly smooth texture for such a young wine masks the layers of tannins and black fruits. From vineyards in the Douro Superior, this wine is rich with blackberry flavors and ripe acidity. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

88 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2020 Castello d'Alba Superior (Douro). From schist soil in the Douro Superior region, this wine is richly structured with a strong mineral edge along with black fruits and perfumed acidity. The wine is young, promising to soften over the next year. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Barão de Vilar 2021 Graça 28 Reserva (Douro). This blend of five grapes carries a label that celebrates the trams of Oporto. It is soft, with ripe red-berry fruits and just a touch of spice

and tannin. The wine is ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Barão de Vilar 2021 Vilarissa Valley (Douro). Light tannins shape this wine that offers rich black fruits and an appealing concentration of berry flavors and acidity. The wine has richness along with a soft and rounded texture. Drink now. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Delaforce 2019 Red Blend (Douro). Smooth fruit and ripe tannins make this wine approachable. With blackberry flavors and good acidity, the wine is juicy and ready to drink. Signature Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Poças 2020 Coroa d'Ouro (Douro). This accessible wine has a balanced structure suitable for the ripe, juicy black fruits and acidity. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Quinta da Pacheca 2020 Lagar de Granito (Douro). Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz and Tinta Barroca come together in this fruity wine. Like all the wines in this Lagar de Granito range, it was fermented in open-top granite lagars giving round tannins and a juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Plume Ridge. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Quinta da Rede 2020 Rede (Douro). A light structure gives this wine shape. The framework supports red-fruit flavors and juicy acidity, set with touches of spice from brief wood aging. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Real Companhia Velha 2019 Porca de Murça (Douro). This soft wine relies on its fine fruit for its success. Juicy red-berry flavors come through in a wine that is ripe with acidity and light tannins. Drink the wine now. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Castello d'Alba Dry Farming (Douro). Dense and with dark fruits, this wine is rich and concentrated. Still young, it has a broad character that brings together concentration, black fruit and juicy acidity. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

86 Kopke 2019 São Luiz Colheita Tinto (Douro). This easy wine offers ripe black fruit and a soft texture. Berry flavors and acidity work well together in an attractive wine, ready to drink now. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

86 Quinta da Foz 2020 Vinha da Foz (Douro). Fruity and smoky, this wine has a light texture that holds the berry fruit and acidity together.

With toastiness and spice, the wine is still young. Drink from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

DÃO

94 Casa da Passarella 2015 Villa Oliveira Vinhas das Pedras Altas (Dão). Fermentation on the skins of the grapes and 12 months in wood have produced a rich and impressive wine. It comes from a single parcel of field-blend vines. The generous wine has a dense structure to support the black fruits. Just moving towards secondary flavors, it is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

94 Quinta da Taboadella 2019 Grande Villae (Dão). Rich while also balanced and textured, this wine has great potential. Ripe tannins and opulent black fruits are set against the typical minerality of the Dão region with its granite soils. The concentration promises much. Drink from 2025. Farah Trading Co. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$128

93 Quinta da Taboadella 2020 Alfrocheiro Reserva (Dão). Aged in a mix of old and new wood, this wine is generous, polished and balanced. It is stylish, with acidity and spice that mingle with dense tannins and structure. The wine will age. Drink from 2025. Farah Trading Co. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Quinta da Taboadella 2020 Touriga Nacional Reserva (Dão). Structured and still firm, this wine promises much. Ripe black fruits and acidity vie with tannins in a rich assembly of perfumes and black-currant flavors. Drink the wine from 2025. Farah Trading Co. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

92 Casa da Passarella 2019 O Oenólogo Vinhas Velhas (Dão). Aged for 18 months in wood, this wine comes from lots specially selected by the winemaker. The rich texture hints at minerality, with firm tannins that make the wine ageworthy. Drink from 2025. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2020 Pinha (Dão). This ripe, polished wine has rich black fruits from an equal blend of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz and Alfrocheiro. The juicy ripe fruits are almost ready to drink. Just wait until 2023. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

91 Casa da Passarella 2018 Albanico Reserva (Dão). A blend of three typical Dão varieties, this wine is richly structured, with impressive tannins and perfumed spice. The juicy wine layers acidity and black fruits. Drink this wine from 2024. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Casa da Passarella 2017 Enxertia (Dão). The Alfrocheiro is one of the varieties that is unique to the Dão. Apart from giving a high alcohol wine, it produces black fruits and rich tannins, flavored with a pinch of pepper. The wine is just now ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2018 Ribeiro Santo (Dão). This rich Touriga Nacional-based wine has solid black fruits and an attractive perfume from wood aging. It has developed a polished character as it ages although the black fruits and tannins demand more time. Drink from 2024. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 Quinta da Taboadella 2020 Villae (Dão). A blend of four of the Dão's main grapes, this is a balanced, juicy wine. The berry fruits and ripe tannins still burst with energy which means the wine needs to age further. Drink from 2024. Farah Trading Co. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Casa da Passarella 2019 A Descoberta Colheita (Dão). Fermented in open-top lagars, this wine is smooth, the tannins hiding behind generous black fruits. It has richness as well as spice and acidity in balanced measure. Drink this wine from 2024. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Casa da Passarella 2020 O Fugitivo (Dão). Light in color, typical of the Bastardo variety, this wine is smooth and juicy. Fermented in open granite lagars, the wine has strawberry-jelly flavors and a rounded texture. It is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

87 Jardim de Granito 2019 Terroir Blend (Dão). A mineral-driven wine, this offers ripe black fruits and a strong youthful texture. The wine is juicy, full of fruit and ready to drink. Gold Medal Wine Club. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

87 Terras de Alter 2021 Terra d'Alter Alfrocheiro Alfrocheiro (Dão). This soft, smoky wine is made from one of the three main grapes of Dão. It is rounded, with a touch of spice against the red-berry fruits and smooth texture. The wine will be ready from 2023. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

BEIRA INTERIOR

88 Casca Wines 2021 Monte Cascas Colheita Organic Portuguese Red (Beira Interior). Ripe, young and fruity, this wine is buoyed by acidity and by vivid red fruits. The wine's fruitiness is the thing, showing red berries and a light smokiness at the end. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Cellar Wines Distributing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Rui Roboredo Madeira 2021 Atalaya Vinhos de Altitude Portuguese Red (Beira Interior). Vineyards at 1,200 feet are the source of this ripe and lightly structured wine. It has juicy red fruits and a rounded character. Drink the wine from 2023. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Casca Wines 2020 1808 Portuguese Red (Beira Interior). Spicy and softly textured, this is a ripe, black-fruited wine. Soft tannins and berry flavors have a gentle aftertaste. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Cellar Wines Distributing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

LISBOA

93 Manz 2018 Pomar do Espírito Santo Reserva Portuguese Red (Lisboa). Based in the village of Cheleiros in the heart of southern Lisboa, this producer has crafted a firm, still young and structured wine. It is a dense blend of Syrah, Petit Verdot and a touch of Touriga Nacional. Give the wine more time and drink from 2024. Italian Products. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2019 Touriga Nacional Touriga Nacional (Lisboa). This wine is something of a departure for this estate that has specialized in Rhône grapes. Its rich tannins and spice are well judged. Thanks to the relatively low alcohol, the wine is poised and vibrant, with attractive acidity. Drink from 2024. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2017 Reserva Portuguese Red (Lisboa). A bold, ripe wine with juicy layers of mature black fruits, this is beautifully textured and balanced. Richness is tempered by the elegant aftertaste. Drink now. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Adega Mãe 2018 Touriga Franca (Lisboa). One of a new range of single-varietal bottlings based on Douro grapes, this wine is spicy and smoothly textured. It has a ripe structure under the black fruits and concentration. Drink from 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Adega Mãe 2017 Reserva (Lisboa). This wine is ripe and juicy. Rich tannins are fully integrated with the attractive acidity and fresh underlying character. Plenty of jammy black fruits partner with the structure. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Consensus (Lisboa). For full review see page 14. Multiple U.S. importers.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Quinta da Casaboa 2016 Reserva Homenagem (Lisboa). This wine is dominated by Alicante

Bouschet, less intense here in the Lisbon region than in Alentejo. The wine has freshness to go alongside the black fruits. It is balanced and juicy, with black-skin flavors and a touch of pepper at the end. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Adega Mãe 2018 Touriga Nacional (Lisboa). A ripe and perfumed wine, this is structured and still shows a young side. Blackberry flavors and rich tannins have spice from wood aging, with a bite of pepper at the end. It is one of a new series of single-varietal wines from this producer. Drink from 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Portada Reserva (Lisboa). This limited-production wine has been wood aged and conveys weight. Touriga Nacional, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet have been put together in a wine that is now rounded and ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

90 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Escada Reserva (Lisboa). For full review see page 17. Multiple U.S. importers.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Parras Wines 2020 Castelo do Sulco Seleção dos Enólogos Reserva (Lisboa). Fruit selected by the winemakers go into this generous, still-young wine. The spice and tannins speak to excellent aging potential, while the wine's balance promises pleasure from 2024. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

90 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2019 Tinto (Lisboa). Bold tannins and rich black fruits are the hallmarks of this dense wine. It has a lighter side of acidity, adding spice and a juicy edge to the black-plum flavors. The wine needs to age, so drink from 2023. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Quinta do Pinto 2017 Petit Verdot (Lisboa). This Bordeaux grape has found another home here in the Lisbon region. It has produced a powerful wine, with finely sculpted black fruits and tannins. They come together in this rich wine, full of succulent ripeness. Drink now. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

89 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Pedras do Monte (Lisboa). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Tinta Roriz brings together two classic grapes in an attractive framework. Light tannins, succulent acidity and black-currant fruits are ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

89 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Aluado Reserva (Lisboa). This wine exhibits much of the density of Alicante Bouschet but in a gentler format. This wine is juicy, dark in color and full of black fruits. Its

BUYINGGUIDE

structure has softened into the fruit flavors. Drink now. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

89 DFJ Vinhos 2019 Grand'Arte Touriga Nacional (Lisboa). For full review see page 21. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Parras Wines 2020 Martinus Johannis (Lisboa). This ripe, black-fruited wine is named after a pioneer who planted vines at the Gradil estate in the 15th century. Wood aged and spicy, the wine has ripe berry flavors and an open texture. Drink from 2023. Grape2Glass. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

89 Quinta do Pinto 2017 Tinta Miúda (Lisboa). Known as Graciano in Spain, this grape is rare in Portugal. It has produced a ripe, jammy wine with soft tannins and red-berry flavors. Just enough acidity sustains this ripe, open wine. Drink now. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Manz 2018 Platónico (Lisboa). Partial wood aging of this blend of four varieties gives it a fresh edge along with structure and tannins. A spicy element enhances the wine's texture and brings juicy balance. Drink now. Italian Products. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Quinta da Casaboa 2019 (Lisboa). This estate, close to the city of Torres Vedras, has produced a full, ripe and black-fruited wine. Juicy acidity and black-currant flavors dominate, with perfumed Touriga Nacional showing well. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Encosta do Forte Special Selection (Lisboa). Wood aging shows in the spice and toasty flavors of this wine. These are set against the black fruits and generous berry flavors. Drink the wine from 2023. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Forte do Ciego (Lisboa). The light structure in this wine gives shape to juicy red fruits and acidity. The wine is a little young and will be best from 2023. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

88 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2018 Tinto (Lisboa). Now smooth and ripe, this mature, very drinkable wine offers a fine transition between rich black fruits and smooth, wood-aging flavors. The wine is perfectly ready to drink. Organic. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 Casca Wines 2021 Cascas Winemaker's Selection (Lisboa). Light oak aging polishes this wine while keeping ripe, jammy red fruits to the

fore. A straight line of freshness and acidity runs through, keeping the wine well balanced. Drink now. Cellar Wines Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

87 DFJ Vinhos 2021 Aluado (Lisboa). This wine misses some of the structure associated with Alicante Bouschet, but it compensates with bold black fruits and richness. It is ready to drink. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 DFJ Vinhos 2021 Brigando (Lisboa). A blend of Syrah, Tinta Roriz and Alicante Bouschet, this soft wine is full of red fruits. A juicy streak gives it shape. Drink the wine now. Lionstone International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

87 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Always on Friday (Lisboa). A soft, easy wine with smooth tannins, this is full of red-cherry flavors. The wine is juicy, rounded and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Manz 2018 Penedo do Lexim (Lisboa). This open, juicy wine is sustained by black fruits and acidity, which gives attractive brightness and crispness at the end. Drink now. Italian Products. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Manz 2017 Manz Lisboa (Lisboa). This wine's open character is boosted by wood aging that brings out the berry flavors and generous tannins. The wine is fruity and ready to drink. Italian Products. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Dona Flor (Lisboa). Cabernet Sauvignon and Touriga Franca meld together well in this gently structured wine. Background tannins give structure and will let the wine age a little further. Drink from 2023. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

87 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Q.S.S. Rare (Lisboa). One in a series of wines highlighting animals at risk, this wine is soft, and open, full of spicy flavors and black fruits. Light tannins and the balanced acidity mean it is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Quinta do Pinto 2017 Vinha do Lasso Colheita Seleccionada (Lisboa). A touch of wood aging gives this smooth wine an open approach. Now mature, it is generous, warm, juicy and structured. Drink now. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

86 Adega Mãe 2021 Pinta Negra (Lisboa). An open, perfumed wine full of red-berry flavors, this is made to drink young. It is juicy and fresh, with a cool sea-breeze feeling to balance the

accessible fruits. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

86 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Bigode (Lisboa). Light tannins and lots of red-berry fruits give this wine a juicy character. A blend of seven varieties, it's both ripe and light, and is ready to drink. Dionysos Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Miradouro da Vinha (Lisboa). All berry flavors and acidity, this gentle wine is lightly structured. It offers juiciness, pure fruits and subtle tannins. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Portão 9 (Lisboa). This ripe wine with juicy red fruits is rounded and soft. An attractive, succulent after-taste gives a burst of final freshness. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

85 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Casa do Lago (Lisboa). A blend of five grapes, this has ripe red-berry flavors along with balancing acidity. It is softly textured and warm. Drink this open wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

85 DFJ Vinhos 2020 Coreto (Lisboa). In this blend of six grapes, a light structure backs up the red-berry fruits and light acidity. It is softly textured and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Lindeborg Wines 2017 Fulgor (Lisboa). This soft wine is gently textured. It has a balance of black fruits with acidity and light tannins. The wine is easy and ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Fonte das Setas (Lisboa). Attractive freshness highlights the red-berry flavors of this wine. It is lightly perfumed, softly textured and ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

84 Quinta de S. Sebastião 2021 Janela Branca Colheita Seleccionada (Lisboa). A light-hearted celebration of Lisbon on the label leads to a softly textured wine. Red fruits and lightness give this easygoing wine an immediate appeal. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

TEJO

94 Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2018 Dona Isabel Juliana Grande Reserva (Tejo). This rich wine, wood-aged and with plenty of potential, is

solid with tannins and packed with black-currant fruits. The wine has structure, concentration and real depth of flavors. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

93 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2018 Grande Reserva (Tejo).** Rich in dark fruits and tannins, this bold wine is powered by structure and acidity. Complex density will propel the wine further. Sure to age, it should be ready from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

93 **Quinta Vale de Fornos 2016 Touriga Nacional Reserva (Tejo).** This is a smooth, opulently textured wine. Its black fruits are now integrated with the tannins and general richness. The wine has weight along with a fine, perfumed style. Drink now. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

91 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Grande Reserva (Tejo).** Still young, this wine has firm tannins and a juicy backdrop to the black-plum and spice flavors. It is balanced, with layers of black fruits, well-judged acidity and a dense structure. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

91 **Quinta da Lapa 2018 Reserva (Tejo).** This take on Touriga Nacional brings out its fruitiness. Tannins are just a support for the black-currant flavors and juicy texture. Wood aging shows in the polished character that makes the wine ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 **Quinta da Lapa 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva (Tejo).** A ripe, well-balanced wine, this has jammy strawberry flavors polished by wood aging. Succulent acidity and a rich structure show that the wine is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 **Quinta da Lapa 2018 Reserva (Tejo).** This wine has gentle tannins, now softened along with the fruit. It has a warm feel, speaking to the sunny climate and the sandy soils of the vineyard. Black fruits, allied with acidity, give the wine a succulent feel. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

90 **Quinta Vale de Fornos 2015 Touriga Nacional (Tejo).** This ripe wine, now mature, is juicy and succulent with secondary flavors of mushrooms and spice. Touches of the Touriga Nacional perfumes come through the generous, rounded structure. The wine is ready to drink. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

89 **Quinta da Lapa 2019 Reserva (Tejo).** This wine's smooth character comes from wood aging and a ripe blend of Cabernet Sauvignon,

Touriga Nacional and Merlot. A full-bodied, spicy wine, it is rich with black fruits and gently textured. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$27

89 **Quinta da Lapa 2018 Merlot Reserva (Tejo).** This smooth, well-judged wine has black-berry flavors. Tannins and spice have come together to balance the fruitiness and acidity. It is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 **Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Colete Velho Premium (Tejo).** With spice and red fruits, this easygoing wine from the Tejo region is soft with raspberry flavors. Acidity comes through attractively at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

87 **Lindeborg Wines 2020 Quinta Vale do Armo Vila Jardim Colheita Seleccionada (Tejo).** This bright, red-fruited wine presents acidity and berry fruits in balance. It has gentle tannins and ripe, fresh flavors. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

87 **Lindeborg Wines 2019 Quinta Vale do Armo Vila Jardim (Tejo).** A soft blend of Trincadeira and Touriga Nacional, this wine is full of red-fruit flavors. Touches of tannins and acidity give the wine a satisfying shape. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

87 **Quinta do Casal Branco 2020 Peter and the Wolf (Tejo).** A blend of four grapes, this is ripe and smoky. Some wood aging has resulted in spice and easy acidity. Full in the mouth and lightly textured, the wine is ready to drink. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 **Quinta Vale de Fornos 2019 Colheita Seleccionada (Tejo).** Still young, this wine has bright red fruits and energetic tannins. The structure and concentration are essential elements of this fruity wine that should be drunk from 2023. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

86 **Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Colete Velho (Tejo).** Celebrating the horse breeding and riding traditions of the Ribatejo, this wine is juicy, with soft tannins and gentle red-fruit flavors that are balanced by acidity. Drink the wine now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

86 **Quinta do Casal Branco 2020 Capoeira (Tejo).** A blend of Castelão and Cabernet Sauvignon, this is dense with black fruits and generous berry flavors. Spice from a touch of wood aging suits the wine well. Drink now. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$12

85 **Quinta da Lapa 2019 Selection (Tejo).** Touriga Nacional, Castelão and Alicante Bouschet hang together well in this juicy, red-fruit-flavored wine. The fresh fruit is attractive and the wine is ready to drink. D'Ouro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

PENÍNSULA DE SETÚBAL

92 **Manz 2016 Contador de Estórias Reserva (Península de Setúbal).** This smooth, ripe wine is rich in tannins, with spice from wood aging. Density and structure give the wine depth and a succulent black-fruit character. Now mature, it is ready to drink. Italian Products. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

89 **Manz 2019 Contador de Estórias (Península de Setúbal).** A smoothly textured wine, this is ripe, full of generous tannins and juicy black fruits. The structure is fully integrated into the vivid fruitiness. Drink from 2023. Italian Products. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

88 **Barão de Vilar 2021 Fat Baron Premium (Península de Setúbal).** This wine from south of Lisbon is easy and smooth, despite 15% alcohol. Soft and juicy, it has a touch of spice from wood aging along with black fruits and a rounded texture. Drink now. Hemispheres. —R.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$27

ALENTEJANO

95 **Luis Duarte 2019 Rubrica Autograph (Alentejano).** For full review see page 6. Specialty Cellars.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

94 **Casa Relvas 2020 Herdade de São Miguel Pé de Mãe (Alentejano).** In its richness and balanced, stylish character, this single-vineyard wine exudes attractive fruits and elegance. The wine deserves aging. Drink from 2025. Quintessential Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$75

94 **Luis Duarte 2019 Rubrica (Alentejano).** For full review see page 8. Specialty Cellars. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

93 **Quevedo 2018 Q Grande Reserva (Alentejano).** This wine delivers structure along with powerful dark fruits. A blend of selected fruit, the wine is rich, with good acidity and tannins that show excellent potential. The wine will be best from 2024. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

93 **Terras de Alter 2014 Sete Linhas (Alentejano).** Although obviously mature, this wine offers rich flavors, with hints of leaf mold, spice and black licorice over a powerful structure. The wine is

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ready to drink and will likely last well over the next few years. WineWise. —R.V.

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

92 Casa Relvas 2019 Herdade de São Miguel Friends Collection (Alentejano). This ripe, fruity wine had two years in wood, giving it richness and intensity that underline the black-fruit flavors and dark tannins. Obviously still young, the wine will be best from 2025. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2019 Myndru (Alentejano). Aged in terracota jars and amphoras, this wine has a smooth texture, pushing the ripe black fruits forward to give ripeness and a mineral, structured edge. It offers a rich edge and balanced acidity. Drink from 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$159

92 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2019 Reserva (Alentejano). This wood-aged wine is structured, with layers of black fruits and ripe tannins. Still firm, the wine is also rich, with berry flavors balanced by spicy acidity. Drink from 2024. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Terras de Alter 2018 Outeiro (Alentejano). This smooth wine presents a mint and spice character over well-judged black fruits. It is dense, concentrated and richly textured, with tannins still evident. The wine needs to soften more to reveal its structure. Drink from 2024. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

91 Casa Relvas 2020 Ciconia The Reserve Blend (Alentejano). This wine has rich black fruits and concentrated tannins. The structure and black fruits are still young, vibrant with acidity and spice. This wood-aged wine will be better from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

91 Casa Relvas 2020 Herdade de São Miguel Reserva (Alentejano). For full review see page 14. Quintessential Wines.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

90 Abegoaria 2016 Herdade do Gamito Cabernet Sauvignon (Alentejano). This style of Cabernet Sauvignon is warm, from the southern Portugal climate. It is also mature, the tannins fully involved with the black fruits and smokiness. The wine is balanced, rich and ready to drink. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Terras de Alter 2019 AB Terra d'Alter Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). This is a typically dense, dark-colored wine made from 100% Alicante Bouschet. The almost-black color is echoed in the concentrated black-plum flavors. The powerful wine needs to age. Drink from 2024. WineWise. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Casa Relvas 2020 Herdade de São Miguel Segredos de São Miguel Reserva (Alentejano). Nine months in wood have given this black-fruited wine richness and a polished sheen. Along with concentration, the wine also shows structure and background tannins. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

89 Casa Relvas 2020 Montinho São Miguel Reserva (Alentejano). A rich blend of four grapes including Cabernet Sauvignon, this structured wine is packed with dark fruits. It is dense, solid with tannins and black-plum flavors. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Dona Vitoria Grande Escolha Portuguesa Red (Alentejano). This rustic-style wine offers earthy tannins set against juicy blackberry fruits. The wine is young, firm with potential once the funkiness blows away. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Guarda Rios Signature (Alentejano). This bold wine is full of vibrant young fruit and soft tannins, with forward, rich berry flavors and balanced acidity. A light structure will propel the wine to further aging. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Ségur Estates 2020 Simbiose (Alentejano). A blend of Alicante Bouschet, Trincadeira and Touriga Nacional, this dark-colored wine is ripe with black fruits and still with layers of tannins. The wine will be ready from 2024. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Casa Relvas 2021 Herdade de São Miguel Coheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). Big ripe tannins and rich black fruits are hallmarks of this dense wine. It is solid, with a good structure and swathes of juicy acidity at the end. Drink from 2023. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Encostas de Estremoz 2018 Reserva (Alentejano). Ripe, fat and with generous black fruits, this wine has a fully integrated structure. Rich and with a vanilla edge from wood aging, the wine is concentrated and ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Esporão Colheita (Alentejano). Black fruits shine in this open wine. Its light structure and acidity enhance the smooth texture and juicy aftertaste. Drink in 2023. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Luis Duarte 2020 Monte do Carrapatelo (Alentejano). The vineyard in Reguengos de Monsaraz in eastern Alentejo has produced a ripe,

fruity wine, with spice from wood aging and layers of black fruits. The generous wine will be ready from 2023. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

88 Luis Duarte 2020 Rapariga da Quinta Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). This soft wine offers juicy strawberry flavors cut with acidity. That brightness lifts the fruits and enhances the immediate drinkability of the wine. Specialty Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Coutada Velha Signature (Alentejano). A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Aragonez and Trincadeira, this wine has ripe tannins and a polished character from wood aging. It combines black-currant flavors and acidity. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Encantado (Alentejano). The name Encantado (enchanted) suits this attractive, ripe wine. It shows poise between acidity and the dense black fruits. A touch of spice adds interest to this ageworthy wine. Drink from 2025. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Guarda Rios Signature (Alentejano). This ripe, spicy wine offers violet aromas and a soft texture. It is full of juicy berry fruits and acidity. Chosen from the best parcels, the wine demonstrates how well Syrah is suited to the Alentejo. Drink from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Superior (Alentejano). This blend of four grapes is already delicious. The smooth texture, lifted by black currant acidity, fronts ripe tannins and a touch of spice. The wine will be ready from 2023. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Ségur Estates 2020 Ossa Vinhas Velhas (Alentejano). Concentration from old vines gives depth to this wine. It is ripe, with black fruits and still-young tannins in the background. Drink from 2024. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

87 Abegoaria 2018 Herdade do Gamito Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). Rich and powerful, this wine does have a clumsy aspect because of its alcohol. It is structured, with dense black fruits still right up front. The wine needs more time, so drink from 2024. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 Casa Relvas 2021 Ciconia (Alentejano). This is a ripe and balanced wine. Its generous structure and tannins go with the rich blackberry fruits and elegant texture. Drink the wine from 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Encostas de Estremoz 2020 Colheita Edição da Enóloga (Alentejano). Ripe berry fruits combine with smoky spice to give a rounded wine. The acidity and balance are just ready, meaning the wine can be enjoyed now. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

87 Herdade do Esporão 2021 Monte Velho (Alentejano). For full review see page 22. Now Wine Imports. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

87 Herdade do Esporão 2020 Monte Velho Biológico (Alentejano). This soft wine is well balanced. Red fruits and acidity contrast with soft tannins and hints of spice. The wine is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Now Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Ravasqueira Seleção do Ano (Alentejano). From selected fruit, this balanced and structured wine will be delicious. Ripe berry flavors, balanced with structure, give a ripe, spicy and juicy wine. It will be ready from 2024. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Vinha da Coutada Velha (Alentejano). Named after a Roman spring, this wine has plenty of ripe, red-berry flavors. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Dona Vitoria Coleção Privada (Alentejano). Already soft and with light tannins, this wine is an open medley of red fruits. Acidity and the lightest structure give the wine shape. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Mocho Galego Premium (Alentejano). This soft and juicy wine is fresh, with black-currant flavors and bright acidity. The wine is lightly textured and ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Parras Wines 2020 Montaria (Alentejano). In this simple wine, red-berry fruits and touches of spice and pepper bring out the juicy flavors. The light texture is in balance. Suitable for vegans. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$11

85 Encostas de Estremoz 2019 Signature Edição da Enóloga (Alentejano). This wine is wood aged, adding spice to the otherwise flat character. It is lightly juicy with black-currant fruits. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Clássico (Alentejano). With good acidity and soft tannins, this wine is perfumed and easygoing. It has the

gentle red-fruit character of a wine that is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Monte da Ravasqueira 2021 Mocho Galego Signature (Alentejano). The Mocho Galego is an owl found in the Alentejo. This wine is ripe and juicy, with red fruits and gentle tannins. The acidity and openness of the wine mean it is ready to drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

ALENTEJO

93 Herdade do Rocim 2019 Clay Aged (Alentejo). Aged in terracotta jars, this wine is smooth, setting an herbal perfume against a palate of rich blackberry fruits. Drink this dense wine from 2024. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Adega de Borba 2019 Castelo de Borba Reserva (Alentejo). Ripe berry flavors show well in this wood-aged wine. Tannins are now fully integrated, giving a textured wine dominated by fruit and acidity. The wine is rich and ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

90 Adega de Borba 2019 Quintas de Borba Reserva (Alentejo). In this wine, richness from wood aging goes along with firm tannins that lie behind the berry flavors. Toast and a smooth texture are to the fore at this stage. Drink the wine from 2024. LGL Imports LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

88 Abegoaria 2019 Piteira (Alentejo). A full-bodied wine, this has a rustic edge along with acidity and ripe red fruits. It is still full of background tannins and structure that need to soften. Drink from 2023. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

88 Adega de Borba 2019 Quintas de Borba (Alentejo). Aragonez and Alicante Bouschet have joined with Syrah to produce this young while very drinkable wine. A touch of wood aging has polished the black fruits into a spicy and ripe berry-flavored wine. It is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

86 Casa Relvas 2020 Redondo (Alentejo). This rounded, softly textured wine from Aragonez, Trincadeira and Castelão is made to drink young. With ripe berry fruits and light tannins, it is, indeed, ready to drink. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

OTHER RED WINES

90 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Spyland (Portuguese Table Wine). For full review see page 18. Tri-Vin Imports.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2020 Vinha da Curia (Bairrada). Offering juicy black fruits and plenty of acidity, this wine is young but has developed well. Black-currant flavors balance freshness, with background tannins. The wine will develop further. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

87 Monte da Ravasqueira 2020 Vinha da Curia Colheita (Bairrada). This single-vineyard wine shows balanced black fruits and spicy acidity. The structure and layer of tannins will keep the wine developing. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

PORT

95 Ferreira NV Dona Antonia Old Tawny 30 Years (Port). Aged tawny Ports from Ferreira are always things of beauty. This 30-year-old win, in its impressive bottle, is no exception. It is textured, bringing together old wood aging, concentration and immense depth of flavor. This wonderful wine is ready to drink. Evaton, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$180

95 Quevedo NV 40 Years Old Tawny (Port). Produced from a field blend of old vines, this Port is a classic of its kind. It has an old-gold character, with concentration from aging in wood for nearly 40 years. Spice and acidity are balanced by the heady perfumes of this wine. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.
abv: 21.5% **Price:** \$180

94 Quinta da Côrte NV Tawny 40 Years Old (Port). This rare tawny Port, aged for around 40 years in wood, is dense and concentrated. Aging in old wood has given the wine layers of spice as well as intense acidity and richness. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$525

93 Kopke NV 20 Years Old Tawny (Port). As with so many 20-year-old Tawny Ports, this is at its peak of balance. The fruit is just there while the generous spice, dried sultanas and richness from long wood aging have concentrated the wine. It is ready to drink. Wine In-Motion. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$70

93 Kranemann Wine Estates NV 20 Years Old Tawny (Port). With the fruitiness diminished, the wood aging has come to the fore in this mature Port. It is poised, with a drier character

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contrasting with hints of orange zest and ripe toffee flavors. Drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 19% Price: \$104

93 **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2019 Vintage (Port).** This Port comes from a field blend of century-old vines. The richness and luscious black fruits have a spine of tannins and spirit that promises the aging. This Vintage, on the sweet side, will develop over many years. Drink from 2028. Wein Bauer Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$112

92 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Quinta das Herédias Vintage (Port).** This Dão-based producer entered the Douro to produce a Vintage Port. It is young, with perfumed black fruits, layers of tannins and jammy blackberry flavors. The wine, on the sweet side, has structure that will propel its aging. Drink this Port from 2029. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 19% Price: \$75

91 **Kranemann Wine Estates NV 10 Years Old Tawny Port (Port).** This is a beautifully textured Port, with flavors that bring together berry fruits and balanced smoky and wood-aged flavors. A drier style of Port, the wine is at a perfect stage. Drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$39

91 **Quevedo NV 20 Years Old Tawny (Port).** Aged in old 110-gallon barrels, this Port is at the sweet spot where fruit has almost disappeared and the mature old wood, spice and acidity come through along with hints of spirit. It is ready to drink. P.R. Grisley Company. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$61

91 **Quinta do Portal 2014 Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** With some bottle age, this Port has softened and filled with dark fruits and black-plum-jelly flavors. The spirit is well integrated, giving a wine that is well textured and lightly structured. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$32

90 **Poças 2020 Vintage (Port).** From what is not a generally declared Vintage, this Port is nevertheless full of the right tannins and black-currant fruits for aging. Its structure is firm and textured. Drink the wine from 2028. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$80

90 **Quinta da Côte NV Tawny 10 Years Old (Port).** A soft, aged tawny Port, this has sweet fruitiness that contrasts with the developing wood-aged flavors. The balance is just right, a young aged tawny still bursting with fruit. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$60

90 **Quinta da Côte 2016 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** This ripe, generous wine offers soft tannins and black fruits. The wine's spirit and pepper touch emphasize its sweetness, conveying

black raisins. Acidity cuts a satisfying swathe at the end. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$44

90 **Quinta das Carvalhas 2017 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** For full review see page 19. Metrowine Distribution.
abv: 20% Price: \$22

90 **Quinta de la Rosa 2017 Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** This rich Port is ready to drink, but it also has aging potential. The dry style of this structured wine with both acidity and dense sweetness is balanced and full of black fruits. Drink this wine now through 2027. Winesellers, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$30

89 **Poças 2005 Colheita (Port).** This wood-aged Port is closer to fruit than to wood-aging flavors. It is ripe, with generous red fruits and a sweet edge. The wine is just turning a tawny color that shows in the touches of wood at the end. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$45

89 **Real Companhia Velha 2017 Royal Oporto Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** From old-vine fruit that was fermented in open lagars, this Port is softly textured. On the sweet side, with ripe sultanas and spice, the wine is rounded and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 20% Price: \$22

88 **Poças 2017 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** Perfumed with ripe, jammy black fruits, this Port is softly textured. Ripe tannins and rich spice and dried fruits giving a luscious wine that is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$28

88 **Quinta da Pacheca NV Lagar de Granito 10 Years (Port).** Part of a new series of Ports from Pacheca, this is softly textured, with plenty of fruits combining with a toffee sweetness. It has good balance and the wine is ready to drink. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$40

88 **Quinta da Pacheca NV Lagar de Granito White (Port).** Part of a new series of Ports from Pacheca, this wine has a pale-gold color from the wood aging. Produced from white Douro varieties, the wine has a well-balanced, well-contrasted character, with sultanas and acidity coming together. Drink now. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$25

88 **Quinta da Pacheca 2016 Lagar de Granito LBV (Port).** Part of a new series of Ports from Pacheca, this attractive wine now shows some aging. Soft tannins and ripeness give a sweeter style, with a juicy edge to the dried fruits and touches of wood. Drink now. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$30

87 **Quinta da Pacheca NV Lagar de Granito Ruby (Port).** Part of a new series of Ports from

Pacheca, this has a very easy style, with smooth tannins over jammy plum and spice. Acidity gives the essential contrast in this ready-to-drink wine. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$25

87 **Quinta da Pacheca NV Lagar de Granito Tawny (Port).** Part of a new series of Ports from Pacheca, this port blends a whole range of varieties, it has some wood aging giving spice and dried fruits. An edge of spirit provides bite to the aftertaste. Drink now. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$25

85 **Quinta da Pacheca NV Lagar de Granito Pink (Port).** Part of a new series of Ports from Pacheca, this wine is ruby pink in color. It's sweet, with a pepper edge of spirit and jammy red-berry flavors that would work best in cocktails. Drink now. Plume Ridge. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% Price: \$25

OTHER DESSERT WINES

93 **Quinta do Portal 2007 Reserva (Moscatel do Douro).** Aged for seven years in wood before bottling, this sweet, perfumed wine is velvet smooth. Touches of acidity and the spirit underline the wine's luscious character. Honey and lychees show beautifully against the lemon-curd flavor. Drink now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 18% Price: \$50

91 **Casa de Vilacetinho 2017 Avesso Late Harvest (Vinho Verde).** Avesso grapes left on the vine to shrivel and concentrate have produced an intense, toffee- and treacle-flavored wine. Now well aged, it has maintained the acidity to keep it all in balance. Drink now. Santa Maria Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$40/375 ml

VENETO PROSECCO

90 **Davigna 2021 Organic (Prosecco Superiore di Cartizze).** Intense aromas of golden delicious apples, Anjou pear, lemon zest, white flowers, pink ginger and crushed rock. The palate has a slight lemon pith note that balances out the fruity notes of the wine with a kiss of saltiness. A very tasty Prosecco! Origins Organic Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$23

90 **Rebula NV Prosecco di Valdobbiadene (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This wine shines from the moment the bottle is popped. Classic fresh apples and pear notes mingle with perfectly ripe white peach and orange blossoms. The palate pops with bright acidity and a kiss of minerality balancing out the wine for a zippy finish. Yum! Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.
abv: 11% Price: \$28

85 Whoopi 2021 Brut (Asolo Prosecco Superiore). Like this wine's namesake, it's fun and will bring a smile to your face. Fresh fruity notes of candied red apples, white flowers and lemon. The palate mirrors the nose with the fruit shining through with a touch of acidity to freshen the palate with each sip. Private Cask Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

85 Dacastello 2021 Extra Dry Millesimato (Prosecco). This wine has vibrant aromas of perfectly ripe McIntosh apples, ginger, freshly cut flowers and gravel. Bright on the palate with zippy acidity and a slightly sweet finish. Pampa Beverages LLC. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

84 Luca Bosio NV Rosé Di Nonna Angela (Prosecco). This unique wine is rose gold in color with watermelon notes that leap out of the glass. The wine is very forward and fruity on the palate with a crisp bright finish. Quintessential Wines. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

83 Dacastello 2020 Brut Millesimato (Prosecco). This wine's nose is a full bushel of ripe golden apples and yellow pears. There are subtle hints of tropical fruits and a kiss of ginger. A very fruity palate with a touch of acidity making the wine seem sweeter than it is. Pampa Beverages LLC. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$11

83 Rebuli NV Prosecco Rosé Brut Millesimato (Prosecco Treviso). Fresh, fruity and fun. This easy-to-drink rosé offers light strawberry and cotton-candy aromas. Refreshing and pleasant, the wine will make you smile. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

82 Luca Bosio NV Di Nonna Angelina (Prosecco). The wine has subtle aromas of apples and lemon. The palate is fresh and fruit forward. A simple, easy-drinking wine. Quintessential Wines. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$16

81 Corvezzo NV Organic & Vegan Rosé (Prosecco). Aromas of a fresh fruit salad, strawberry marshmallow and rose candies. Almost sprightly on the palate with a slightly bitter almond note. An easy and simple wine. Origins Organic Imports. —J.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

80 Rebuli NV Prosecco Extra Dry (Prosecco Treviso). A simple and easy Prosecco that has loads of fresh apples on the nose. The palate sings the apple note, but nothing else. The wine finishes quite sweet, with not enough acidity to balance out the wine. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$25

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

93 Le Ragose 2010 Classico (Amarone della Valpolicella). A thrill to have an older vintage released onto the market. The nose is as if the best red wine sauce of plum, dried orange, and mixed herbs was made to go on your favorite roast. The wine is meaty and herbal with plush and soft tannins that glide on the palate. The savory finish is sublime. Drink Now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$60

90 Acinum 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella). A dense and opaque wine from the moment it flows in the glass. Dark and brooding on the nose with Black Forest cake, cocoa powder, and dark roast-coffee aromas with a slight herbal note. The palate is mouth filling with coconut, cherry and dark chocolate dominating the palate. If you are looking for lush, very fruit-forward Amarone, this is it. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Le Ragose 2015 Classico (Amarone della Valpolicella). Dried sour cherries, savory spices, herbs and forest floor open the door to this old-school Amarone. Rich and mouth filling with a ton of cooked plums, fresh tobacco and graphite notes. The wine finishes with rounded tannins and a seemingly endless rich blackberry note. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$45

AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO

96 Serego Alighieri 2015 Vaio Armaron (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). For full review see page 4. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$119

95 Allegrini 2015 Fieramonte Amarone Riserva (Valpolicella Classico). Aromas of blackberries, cherry-pie filling and cooked plums combine with clove, vanilla, freshly turned earth, and dried violets in this deep and dark red wine. Rich and complex, the wine is framed by fine and polished tannins with a lush mouthfeel and hints of dried plum and gingerbread cookies. Drink 2025–2035 (or beyond). Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$400

93 Le Salette 2017 La Marega (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). For those looking for a classic Amarone, this is for you. The aromas are a mix of dried cherries, plums, savory herbs and baking spices. The palate is plush and silky smooth with gobs of spiced plums and cherries finishing

with enough acidity to keep the wine from overwhelming the palate. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Le Salette 2016 Pergole Vecce (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). This wine is filled with ripe blackberry, prune, dark chocolate, black cherries, cinnamon, clove and vanilla aromas. The palate is plump and juicy, with black cherries and chocolate leading the way. The wine is a giant on the palate with firm and fine tannins that will allow the wine to go the distance (2026–2035). Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$152

92 Allegrini 2018 Amarone Classico (Valpolicella). For full review see page 11. Maze Row Wine Merchant.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$99

92 Bolla 2016 Le Origini Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). The nose of this wine is pretty and pure. It is filled with the aromas of a mixed bowl of dark fruits tossed with clove and vanilla. The palate is plush and soft with a touch of espresso and chocolate. The wine finishes with just enough acidity to keep the palate from being overwhelmed by all the fruit and the tannins are fine and firm, but well integrated. (2025–2032) Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Le Salette 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Aromas of prunes covered in cloves mixed with blackberry compote greet you on the first whiff. The wine evolves with graphite notes, dried herbs and a subtle earthy note. The palate explodes with blackberries, sour plums and cherries steadied by herbal notes and super-silky tannins. A good Amarone to drink now. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Santi 2015 Proemio (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Bay leaf, thyme, roasted black currants and black cherries jump out of the glass from the start. As the wine opens, aromas of pencil lead, coffee grounds and cocoa combine with the lush fruits. The palate is soft and silky with black-currant flavors taking center stage. Fine tannins and a dash of bright acidity support the wine on the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$79

90 Bolla 2016 Rhetico (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). Notes of caramel, spiced dried cherries, black currants, cocoa powder, and dried-earth notes are all present and persistent on the nose. The palate changes gears with more tart cherry notes and fresh herbal hints. The wine is full in body with fine tannins making the wine a drink-now Amarone. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 Santi 2017 Santico (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico). The wine has aromas of wild red and blackberry pie filling, forest floor and savory spices. The palate's tannins are dusty and rustic

with the lush fruit notes of red and blackberry carrying the wine to the finish, which is a tad short. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$50

ITALIAN SPARKLING WINES

92 Rotari 2022 (Trento). For full review see page 13. Prestige Wine Imports Corp.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

91 Rotari 2022 Brut (Trento). For full review see page 16. Prestige Wine Imports Corp.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Amastuola 2017 Rò Brut Metodo Classico (Vino Spumante). The metodo classico employed here by organic producer Amastuola results in a concentrated, steady perlage for this straw-yellow sparkler and a nose of lime and almond flowers. The palate is more pithy citrus, yellow plums, and some lightly savory, briny characteristics, evocative of capers and anchovies on buttered toast—a perfect snack to accompany this glass. Allora Wine Group. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Cantina di Gambellara NV Spumante Brut (Lessini Durello). This wine pops with vibrant green apple and lemon-lime notes on the nose. The fruit is balanced by a touch of white flowers, sea salt and subtle minerality. The palate is bright and fresh as if squeezing a lemon on your dish of oysters with a lasting finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

86 Crifo 2020 Cryfus Dolce (Puglia). A rom-com of a wine, fun and light and not asking for anything but your participation, this bright-yellow lightly sparkling Moscato is intensely ripe apricots on the nose and the neon taste of lemon-lime sports drink. The palate keeps giving stone fruit and citrus, but now dried apricots and candied lemon peel with a with a sea-glass edge that helps offset the residual sugar. Pullano Imports. —D.C.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$14

86 Crifo 2020 Cryfus Rosato Extra Dry Millesimato (Castel del Monte). Rosy pink with a gently rolling mousse, this sparkling rosato has a nose of pithy pink grapefruit and white raspberries, with a hint of fuzzy green almonds. Sweetness comes through on the palate like a bowl of berries and cream dusted with nuts and spritzed with lemon for a welcome acid component that helps lift up the bubbles. Pullano Imports. —D.C.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Vespa NV Noitre Rosé Brut (Salento). The coppery salmon of this bouncily sparkling rosato foreshadows a nose that is unusually savory, like a bite of baklava with honey and nuts, and a slightly metallic note of pennies. On the palate is a

medley of sweet citrus, from ruby red grapefruit to blood orange and candied lemon peel, with a hint of sun-drenched terracotta. Ethica Wines. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

86 Zaglia NV Rosis Brut (Friuli). This wine might just be brunch in a glass. Plump and juicy strawberry notes with a touch of lemon zest on the nose and palate. Tart red currants pop on the palate with a bright and refreshing finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

84 Terre Dei Buth NV Frizzante Rosé Special Cuvee (Veneto). Aromas of fresh watermelon and underripe strawberries and sea salt. Light and lively on the palate with strawberry notes taking center stage. Easy and fresh, best suited for the patio or your next backyard get together. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$18

CHIANTI

90 Cecchi 2018 Valore Di Famiglia Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico). Like a cherry tart coming out of an oven somewhere deep in the Chiantishire on a damp afternoon, the nose on the Cecchi Chianti Classico Gran Selezione has fruit and spice set against a woody, wet stone backdrop. The cherries become denser on the palate, and the wood fire and spices grow meatier. Tannins are ripe for aging certainly another 10 years. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Cecchi 2018 Riserva Di Famiglia (Chianti Classico). Glowing deep garnet in the glass with glints of copper, the nose on this Chianti starts with subtle gun flint and sage and opens up into black cherries that continue on the palate, now joined with chocolate and licorice candy. Good length, with tannins that nip like a cat. Drink now or hold. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

88 Cecchi 2020 (Chianti). The nose of this classic expression of Chianti is easy to love, with cherry-strawberry fruit leather and a whisper of fennel fronds. More red berries come out on the palate, alongside orange peels and spices. If the tannins are perhaps a little too forgiving, they only guarantee an immediately enjoyable pour. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Cecchi 2020 Storia Di Famiglia (Chianti Classico). The vanilla, Bing cherry, and wild mint on the nose of Cecchi's Storia di Famiglia bottling recall a cherry pie, rolling into darker cherry on the palate with blood orange and savory licorice elements on the finish. Good length and mouth-drying tannins satisfy any Chianti lover's expectations. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

CENTRAL ITALY

92 Ciavolich 2018 Fosso Cancelli (Colline Pescaresesi). The deep golden yellow of the Ciavolich Fosso Cancelli Pecorino signals excitement and rightfully so. The nose is lightly reduced, with salty citrus and stone fruits, while the palate is unctuous and umami laden, a bite of Parmigiano Reggiano with honey and hazelnuts that seems to last forever. This is an evocative, layered wine that truly succeeds in demonstrating the potential of the endlessly versatile Pecorino grape. First Vine, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Ciavolich 2020 Aries (Colline Pescaresesi). Pecorino's flexibility seems to know no bounds, and the lush but briny Ciavolich Aries sees the grape stretching itself out fully. From a nose of fried herbs and lemon to a palate that is saturated with melon and ripe yellow apple complemented by a sharp, flinty acidity, this wine delivers the always-delightful experience of exceeding expectations with far more structure and depth than the bouncy first notes would even dare to promise. First Vine, LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Il Feuduccio Di S. Maria D'Orni 2018 Ursonia (Colline Teatine). Like eating a ripe peach while sitting on a stopped bike on hot pavement, the reduced nose with mature fruit is an apt point of entry into the Feuduccio di Santa Maria d'Orni Pecorino that balances a toasted creaminess with a vigorous acidity on the palate. Dense notes of lemon jellies push back against lemon zest for a wine that is both buoyant and integrated. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

90 Tenuta I Fauri 2020 (Abruzzo). The Tenuta I Fauri Pecorino is a simple, pleasurable wine that seems greater than the sum of its parts. After the nose offers lemon, honeysuckle, and a hint of wild mint, the palate takes over with an integrated citric-salty-grassiness of sand dunes and coastal cliffs. As ever, the Pecorino grape succeeds in surprising with a spirited entrance that belies its substance and precision. Wineberry America LLC. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Illuminati 2020 (Controguerra). It might be banal to say that an Italian white recalls a dish of spaghetti with clams, but if it's true and it's delicious, who cares? With a nose that gives sea air and lemon juice and a palate that has a shellfish brine, cooked-down lemon and herbs and the creamy density of glutenated pasta water that holds it all together, Illuminati's Controguerra Pecorino is classically authentic and eminently drinkable. Montcalm Wine Importers. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Illuminati 2020 Costalupo Bianco (Controguerra). With a nose that features grapefruit and bergamot up front and the wind blowing off a

grassy, unkempt field coming through from behind, the Illuminati Costalupo is a reminder of how versatile Trebbiano d'Abruzzo can be. Savory notes of wild herbs continue to push back against crisp Golden Delicious apple and sweet and sour citrus on the palate in a fun and easy to drink dance. Montcalm Wine Importers. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$16

SOUTHERN ITALY

AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE

92 Elena Fucci 2019 Titolo (Aglianico del Vulture). Once an unexpected sensation, Elena Fucci's Titolo Aglianico has become a point of reference, as the 2019 vintage only further confirms. The notes of tar and roses notes that have lent this grape its nickname are immediately apparent on the nose, underpinned with dark berries and brambles. A wine that manages to feel both lithe and substantial and that could take another decade of age in stride. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$58

92 Elena Fucci 2019 Titolo by Amphora (Aglianico del Vulture). Elena Fucci's ability to coax miracles out of the Aglianico that grows on her family's Titolo estate is well documented, but the move to aging in amphora for this bottling produces a wine with a quiet rumble that perfectly captures the volcanic terroir that produces it. Deep ruby red in the glass, it offers a subtle, savory nose and a palate that oscillates between biting and pliable, with notes that recall a hike up the side of the mountain, crushing violets and tripping over stones. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$92

88 Grifalco 2019 Gricos (Aglianico del Vulture). The Gricos bottling of the Grifalco is an ideal way to meet and come to appreciate Aglianico from the Monte Vulture subappellation in Basilicata. Cherries and pomegranate seeds on the nose meet iron filings and ripe plums on the palate. The acid is sparkling and the tannins kick back, so let them fight with lamb lollipops fresh off the grill or umami-rich cheeses. Soilair Selection. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

88 Tenuta del Portale 2019 (Aglianico del Vulture). A deeply savory nose gives cedar, tobacco leaf, even woody cologne notes that make way for dark fruit and a chocolatey, herbaceous palate. Even at this price point, the tannins and alcohol are prepared to give it life for another 10 years, making it especially worth a try for anyone interested in watching how age affects the still underappreciated Aglianico, presented here unaccompanied. Saranty Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

87 Vigneti del Vulture 2019 Pipoli (Aglianico del Vulture). From the first aromas on the nose that bring to mind drinking a cherry-vanilla Coke while sitting on wet pavement, youthful warmth is

the defining characteristic of this expression of the sometimes less approachable Aglianico grape. The palate of chocolate-cherry cookies with a hint of orange peel extend the feeling of a relaxed, informal encounter, but the prominent acid ensures a certain liveliness through the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

PUGLIA

90 Tenuta del Pajaru 2021 Auru (Puglia). Organic, vegan and sustainably certified, the Tenuta di Pajaru Nero di Troia can boast a lot of badges, but what makes it worth drinking is how straightforwardly pleasurable it is. Fresh, crunchy red fruit up front on the nose with undertones of ripe plums and violets make way for a luxurious palate that evokes fig cake and dark chocolate, finishing with leather and coffee grinds. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$25

90 Tenuta del Pajaru 2021 Paritaru (Puglia). Like a Christmas gift in a bottle, the nose on this deep garnet Negroamaro is pine bark, cinnamon and cloves swirled with sugar plums and currants and just a hint of black licorice. On the palate it feels spicy and chewy, with notes of bitter chocolate, pepper and macerated fruit—romeritos navideños come to mind or wild boar stewed in wine and cocoa. The heat on the back is a welcome conclusion, making way for the next sip. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$25

88 A Mano 2020 (Puglia). The Negroamaro from the old vines in the Salice Salentino produce a deep garnet wine with a nose of candied cherry, blood and soil—a cherry shaved ice consumed as a distraction from a skinned knee. Soil continues on the palate, along with berries and brambles, dark cherry and spices, balanced out with grippy tannins and plenty of acid. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$13

88 Matané 2020 (Puglia). Raspberries and blackberries on the nose of this Primitivo are eventually joined by crushed herbs and damp stones. The palate is lush with candied figs and berries, leaning into soft, pliable tannins. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

88 Matané 2019 (Puglia). The nose of this coppery garnet Negroamaro conjures a moment after dinner, sitting in the garden with a cigar and an espresso corrected with grappa. The potting soil, wild herbs, tobacco leaf, and coffee grinds are joined with cherries and raspberries, with a vein of iron running through. Tannins are firm but approachable, making for an enjoyable pop and pour. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

87 Crifo 2020 Squarcione Appassimento (Puglia). Using the “appassimento” process of allowing grapes to dry on the vines and develop rich, macerated fruit flavors and balancing herbal notes, the Crifo Squarcione is nonetheless a surprisingly buoyant expression of Nero di Troia vinified in this fashion. The brambles and wild berries on the nose enjoy a counterpoint of medicinal roots and engine oil on the palate, with a lively acid component and firm enough tannins to lend a welcome verve to the plush fruit. Pullano Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$15

PRIMITIVO DI MANDURIA

89 San Marzano 2018 Anniversario 62 Riserva (Primitivo di Manduria). San Marzano's anniversary bottling celebrating the year of their founding squeezes dense fruit and savory overtones out of the Primitivo, starting with a spicy, chocolatey, macerated berry nose and arriving at a palate of dark chocolate and espresso. The tannins and alcohol provide a necessary backbone against the richness of the mouthfeel. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

89 San Marzano 2017 Sessantanni Old Vines (Primitivo di Manduria). Primitivo from old vines produces a leathery, tobacco leaf-infused nose with dark berries that carry over onto the palate. Once there, they join with savory elements, a balsamic glazed roast with herbs and olives. Tannins kick back, as does the acid. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

88 Matané 2019 Il Matané Estate Bottled (Primitivo di Manduria). The deep garnet with copper tones of this wine match with the nose of hibiscus tea and ripe but still slightly sour plums. On the palate, hibiscus turns to berries and tea leaves to tobacco, with tannins relaxed enough to be friendly drinking right now. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

SALENTO

90 Produttori di Manduria 2021 Electric Bee Unconventional Primitivo (Salento). This Pugliese wine cooperative coaxes fleshy and fun juice out of its Primitivo, here presenting a gravelly nose with wild strawberries and blackberries poking through that rolls into a palate of more ripe berries with meat drippings and a hint of tobacco leaf. Good acid, balanced alcohol and flexible tannins. Massanois Imports. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$16

89 San Marzano 2020 F (Salento). Deep red, nearly opaque in the glass, this Negroamaro from the San Marzano cooperative opens with tree bark and blackberries on the nose, with more savory, outdoorsy elements emerging as it opens up. The candied figs, soil and dark chocolate on the

BUYINGGUIDE

palate are checked against tannins that still have their grip and can hold their own against the plush mouthfeel. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Schola Sarmenti 2020 Roccamora (Salento). The combination of vanilla, brown sugar, and jus on the nose of this Negroamaro tastes like picking up the burnt ends from the barbecue tray, with the perfume of herbs wafting in the background. The palate keeps up a healthy tension between sweet and savory, with berry compote, balsamic plum reduction and peppery spices, with tannins that feel like falling into a bean bag chair. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

87 Schola Sarmenti 2020 Critèra (Salento). There's an almost punch-like quality to the nose of this Primitivo, with spices and heat undergirding macerated berries and stone fruit. The palate serves Linzer tart with a bit of wild herbs and round, squishy tannins. Massanois Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

CIRÒ

86 Caparra & Siciliani 2018 Volvito (Cirò). A not-unwelcome brashness characterizes this wine, with a nose of mostly raw ground meat, car tire and coffee grinds, but also a hint of raspberries and fennel seed. The palate relaxes into dark cherries and raspberries still covered in dirt, with an almost cola-like quality and recognizably dusty tannins that make it very drinkable if, at times, aggressive. Enotria Wine Import. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

85 Caparra & Siciliani 2019 (Cirò). Damp, iron-rich soil strewn with wild fennel comes through on the nose of this deep-garnet Calabrian red. Subtle raspberries and cherries pop through the earthy aromas on the palate, with a notable acidity and tannins that have just begun to unwind. Enotria Wine Import. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

84 Caparra & Siciliani 2020 Solagi (Cirò). The scent of melty tar and crunchy red berries on the nose of this deep-garnet wine confirms its identity as Gaglioppo, with potting soil and leather polish rounding out the classic notes. The palate is peppery and acidic, with cranberries and currants leading the way to a clipped finish. Enotria Wine Import. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

OTHER RED WINES

89 Crifo 2015 Augustale (Castel del Monte). Nearly opaque in the glass, the attention given to the Nero di Troia from the Castel del Monte subappellation in this bottle comes through as the tension the grape can offer between meatiness and dense fruit is teased out. With notes of digestive

tea and cigar, it feels more like the end of a meal than the beginning, with plates left on the table and everyone pushing back to relax and stretch out. The tannins hold on tightly enough to suggest it will improve with age. Pullano Imports. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 Librandi 2018 Gravello (Calabria). A slight funkiness on the nose blows off to reveal freshly paved road, soft leather and raspberry jam. The palate is gamy, but also peppery and fruity, like a lamb tagine followed by a mixed-berry tart placed on a leather charger—a fun if slightly chaotic union that gets some stability from substantial acid and tannins that are just beginning to give in. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$30

87 Crifo 2020 Grifone (Castel del Monte). Like a Willy Wonka glass that opens with vegetables lightly sautéed in olive oil and dressed with mint and progresses to rabbit stewed with tomatoes and olives before finally giving way to a Ferrovia cherry tart, the Crifo Castel del Monte Rosso is a lush and thoroughly satisfying blend of Montepulciano and Nero di Troia. With soft tannins and relatively low alcohol, this can be a pop and pour red for any time just as easily as a bottle that can carry you through a meal. Pullano Imports. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 Azienda Agricola Roberto Ceraudo Strongoli 2019 Petelia (Calabria). The wines from Roberto Ceraudo's estate in Calabria are recognizable for how effectively what's in the glass expresses its identity and how it got there. This golden blend of Greco Bianco and Mantonico is the sublime melancholy of the Calabrian countryside captured in a bottle. On the nose, cooked pineapples and whipped cream make everyone feel at home, while the palate serves brie, honey and nuts to elevate the experience for the sophisticate. A welcoming but confident wine. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 San Marzano 2020 Edda (Salento). The Chardonnay in this white blend from Puglia dominates the nose, as stone fruit mingles with tropical fruit, from apricots to pineapple, pressing up against a thin layer of bitter orange jam. A squeeze of lemon and a light nuttiness liven up the peaches and cream palate, giving the wine a flexibility that brings to mind pairings with everything from miso-marinated cod to lobster mac'n'cheese to chicken Tachin. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Crifo 2020 Grifone (Castel del Monte). Straw yellow with a greenish aura glowing like raw summer energy in the glass, the Pampanuto and Bombino Bianco in Crifo's Grifone Castel del Monte give white peaches and almond flowers on the nose and sweet grapefruit, finger limes and grass on the palate. A hint of rubber and bright acid light

everything up, like watching your friends play kickball while you take a break and have a sip of peach iced tea as the sun goes down on a long a hot day. Great value from this Pugliese cooperative. Pullano Imports. —D.C.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Gaierhof 2021 Pinot Grigio (Trentino). Wildflowers, white peach, apricot and blanched almonds greet you on the first whiff of this fun wine, which then shows off its beautiful texture wrapped in stone fruits and citrus that perk up the palate. This is a joyous example of Pinot Grigio that will bring a smile to your face with each sip. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

86 Attems 2021 (Friuli). This classic gem from Friuli mixes vibrant citrus notes, lemon and pomelo, with just-picked Macintosh apples. Textured and round on the palate with a touch of almond on the finish. Vintus LLC. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Lechthaler 2021 Torre Di Luna In The Shadow Of The Moon Pinot Grigio (Venezie). Aromas of lemon and lime leap out of the glass from the moment you pour. There are slight hints of lemongrass and wildflowers. This easy-drinking Pinot Grigio keeps it bright, fresh, and fun. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

83 Maso Poli 2021 Pinot Grigio (Trentino). Aromas of mango, pineapple and banana on the nose. These lush fruit notes are then again found on the palate giving the wine richness. There is a quick splash of acidity on the finish that rounds out the wine. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

82 Puiatti 2021 Pinot Grigio (Friuli). This Pinot Grigio has loads of tropical fruits, ripe Golden Delicious apples and a touch of cotton candy on the nose. The palate is clean and crisp. An easy wine. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

AUSTRIA

GRÜNER VELTLINER

93 Ingrid Groiss 2020 Ried Pankraz Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a bit tight now, but underneath there is a seductive wine, with a charming vanilla note and chalky minerality that frames the core of rich quince, ripe pear and baked pineapple. Firmly structured and long, this is made for cellaring, so give it a few years. Best 2025–2035. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

92 Ingrid Groiss 2020 Ried Sauberg Tradition Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This white features a beautiful, silky texture, combined with firm structure and strong minerality. Orchard

and stone fruit flavors are mixed at the core, framed by chamomile tea hints. The finish is marked by a long smoked sea salt note. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$49

91 Alzinger 2021 Dürnstein Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This shows complexity, with peach, licorice and smoked sea salt notes upfront, while lentil and dandelion emerge midpalate, all vibrating on a vibrant structure. It's silky in texture with a flamboyant feel and long finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

91 Bernhard Ott 2021 Fass 4 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). An unctuous white, redolent of Bosc pear, ginger and white raspberry, this has a slight grip texturally, with acidity that vibrates, yet it is soft enough and well integrated, so you can sip on it all night. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

91 Lichtenberger González 2018 Skin Contact Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). An intriguing texture lures you into this white, then notes of white raspberry, cardamom and flint emerge, all packed into a pleasant, round frame. The mouthwatering acidity flows through, giving this balance and structure, with a slight grip on the backpalate. It has a long finish. Winemonger. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

90 Bernhard Ott 2021 Am Berg Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Gorgeous silky texture marks this racy white, while laser-like acidity cuts through the rich core of quince, yellow apple and white gooseberry. There is a great balance here, and its elegance is inviting. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$21

90 Domäne Wachau 2020 Smaragd Ried Achleiten Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). For full review see page 17. Gonzalez Byass USA.
abv: 13% Price: \$51

90 Edlinger 2018 Ried Silberbühel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This is on the riper side, sporting a lush mix of quince paste, ripe Bosc pear and white peach, with a slight textural grip and a pleasant mouthfeel. It is well-crafted and has good length and enough complexity. W&W Gourmet Foods & Wine Inc.. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

89 Markus Huber 2020 Metamorphosis Grüner Veltliner (Austria). A glouglou white, with charming notes of lemon curd, ginger and yellow apple, mingling at the core, underscored by vibrant acidity. Not terribly complex, but a nice sipper. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

89 Nigl 2021 Freiheit Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This features mouthwatering acidity that links the elements together, evoking an intense mix of stone fruit, ginger and cardamom.

It's well-structured and balanced with some complexity on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

89 Pratsch 2021 Ried Rottenpüllen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This white is balanced, with well-integrated acidity serving as the backbone. It's texturally interesting with charming minerality and savory notes on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

89 Winzer Krems 2021 Kremstal Reserve Ried Kremser Wachtberg Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This shows a bit of bitterness, like a grapefruit, but it is well integrated and has a nice texture and spice notes that harmonize it all. Moderate length. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$29

88 Hiedler 2021 Löss Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This is a very typical Grüner Veltliner, with notes of white pepper, citrus and orchard fruit. The finish is savory and mouthwatering and moderately long. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

88 Laurenz V. 2021 Friendly Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). There's a slight grip to this white, but also almost a fizz that lends it a sense of freshness. The fruit and herbal notes are well balanced by pleasant acidity. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

88 Laurenz V. 2021 Singing Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). This white is gentle, with a nice flow of citrus and orchard fruit note, and some spice as decoration. Moderate length. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

87 Bründlmayer 2021 L & T Grüner Veltliner (Langenlois). Fresh and focused, with peach and salted almond flavors and a refined texture. It has a direct, moderately long finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11% Price: \$20

87 Ingrid Groiss 2021 Weinviertel DAC Grüner Veltliner (Weinviertel). This is a bit direct, but it is juicy and thirst quenching with pretty fruit at the core to appease. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

87 Markus Huber 2020 Terrasen Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This opens up with a note of singed sage and smoked sea salt, while citrus and apple emerge midpalate. It shows good length. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

86 Biokult 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Austria). Dandelion and yuzu notes mark this fresh white. There's nice roundness on the finish. BWSC dba Winc, Inc.. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$19

86 Pratsch 2021 Made with Organic Grapes Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). There is a slight fizz to this light and refreshing white with direct notes of green apple. Savory finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16/1 L

86 Winzer Krems 2021 Kremstal Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This is pretty straightforward, with notes of citrus and white pepper and juicy acidity to keep it all intact. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

85 Markus Huber 2021 Vision Grüner Veltliner (Austria). This is quite crunchy, with an interesting texture, but it is not terribly expressive, sporting direct citrus and apple. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$14

85 Pratsch 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Notes of smoke and sea salt mark this rather direct version. Moderate length. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

RIESLING

94 Weingut Knoll 2019 Ried Pfaffenberg Steiner Selection Riesling (Niederösterreich). Very expressive and concentrated, this is a typical Wachau Riesling, featuring apricot, pineapple, passion fruit butter and floral notes. The acidity helps give it energy, lifting up the midpalate and supporting the heavy imprint of the fruit. Structurally impressive. Best 2025–2040. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$81

93 Christoph Hoch NV Hollenburger Riesling (Weinland Österreich). This cloudy white opens up with a matchstick note that turns into flint, which echos in the background from start to finish. The subtleness of the fruit is overshadowed by mineral elements that shine so bright, as this displays an impressive energy. It is hard to put your glass down with this beauty in the glass. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

93 Weingut Knoll 2020 Ried Pfaffenberg Steiner Riesling (Kremstal). Enticing, with bright honeysuckle and citrus notes leading the way, backed by vibrant acidity and mineral backbone. The midpalate is marked by a wave of spice, including white pepper, cardamom and allspice. Quinine notes mark the long, mouthwatering finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$62

92 Ingrid Groiss 2020 Ried Auf Der Henne Riesling (Niederösterreich). This shows some roundness, but the acidity that pierces through brings out freshness and opens the doors for fruit, spice and herbal notes to express themselves. It has

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good length and is complex and balanced. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$49

91 Harm 2017 Dürnsteiner Kellerberg Riesling (Wachau). Here is a leaner, racier version of Riesling, with lime and sea salt notes that unfold gracefully. It is tangy and crunchy, with vivid acidity plowing through any concentration in the way, and leaving a bone-dry aftertaste. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

90 Ingrid Groiss 2021 Braitenpuechtorff Riesling (Niederösterreich). A mineral driven white, with a savory note gliding along the spine of fruit and spice. This shows nice complexity and balance overall. The finish shows some length and picks up a subtle cream flavor. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

90 Nigl 2021 Urgestein Riesling (Kremstal). This is subtle, but in nice harmony, with chamomile tea, ripe quince and guava aromas and flavors, all backed by a vibrant acidity. Mineral elements decorate the texture, which invites you for more. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

90 Schlosskellerei Gobelsburg 2021 Riesling (Kamptal). A very well made white, with tropical notes of guava and baked pineapple, underscored by juicy acidity and slight textural grip. It's well balanced, showing complexity and focus on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

90 Winzer Krems 2021 Kremstal Reserve Kremser Kreuzberg Riesling (Kremstal). For full review see page 20. OZ Wine Company.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

89 Eder 2018 Ried Felser Mitterweg Riesling (Wagram). This is already showing some signs of maturity, with a subtle petrol note gliding along the edges, while the core sports notes of yellow apple and graham cracker. This will find its fans. W&W Gourmet Foods & Wine Inc.. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$27

89 Weingut Knoll 2020 Leibner Federspiel Riesling (Wachau). This is a bit austere, even nervous at first, with fruit elements battling the constraints, trying to express themselves. With a little air, they shine through and this finds balance. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$52

88 Winzer Krems 2021 Donauriesling Sandgrube 13 Riesling (Austria). This is a nicely made Riesling, with exotic notes mingling with orchard fruit, all linked by bracing acidity. Moderate finish. OZ Wine Company. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

FURMINT

92 Wenzel 2020 Autark Furmint (Austria). This is somewhat intense on the first bat, but air opens it up as this moves toward lovely peach and quince flavors, all backed by plenty of structure. The finish is long and marked by savory mineral elements. This could use a bit more time to display its full potential. Best 2024–2034. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$32

91 Günter & Regina Triebaumer 2020 Ried Geyrumriss Furmint (Burgenland). This white is not about the amplitude of flavor and aromas, but its structure, texture and minerality. Its silkiness is a perfect match for the acidity that fuels it and mineral elements that give it a crunch and savory aftertaste. It is a versatile food-pairing wine. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$57

90 Günter & Regina Triebaumer 2020 Furmint (Burgenland). This is slightly reductive at first, but with air it opens up to reveal notes of dandelion tea, quince and cardamom. It is nicely textured and has a fairly neutral aftertaste, but still is intriguing. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$27

GELBER MUSKATELLER

91 Tement 2020 Sand & Schiefer Gelber Muskateller (Südsteiermark). This wine shows incredible aromatics considering its light body. It is precise, but there is an aspect that signals that this is alive and full of energy. Guava, melon and cantaloupe notes just add to the overall experience. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$23

89 Eder 2018 Ried Brenner Gelber Muskateller (Wagram). This is superaromatic and expressive, with notes of chrysanthemum and quince blossom, but it also has some nutty flavors. Sea salt hints mark the finish. W&W Gourmet Foods & Wine Inc.. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

89 Strauss 2020 Klassik Gelber Muskateller (Südsteiermark). This screams “Muskateller” on the first sniff, with typical aromas for the variety. On the palate it is juicy and exotic with a moderately long finish. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$20

PINOT BLANC

91 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2020 Heideboden Pinot Blanc (Burgenland). There is a charming reduction on the nose of this white, but the palate opens up, adding notes of macadamia nut that hover over the core of lemon, nectarine and chamo-

mile tea. It is clean and quite precise on the lengthy finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

90 Hillinger 2018 Pinot Blanc (Leithaberg). This is a viscous white, with a leesy and woody quality and velvety texture. There is not much fruit here, but aging left a mark, giving it character. This is for the fans of the style, but was crafted with intent. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$39

86 Höpler 2021 Pinot Blanc (Burgenland). An aromatic white, with juicy acidity and plenty of spice. White pepper emerges on the aftertaste. USA Wine Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$21

ROTGIPFLER

93 Johanneshof Reinisch 2019 Ried Satzing Rotgipfler (Thermenregion). An impressive white with a pleasant leesy reduction that opens up to the notes of white peach, Meyer lemon and chamomile, but it is the chalky minerality that gives the intrigue and enviable texture. Lively acidity flows throughout, giving this energy and length, as well as the support to stand up to an array of dishes. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$47

93 Stadlmann 2019 Tagelsteiner Rotgipfler (Niederösterreich). Velvety texture introduces this rather unique white, which features a ripe core of pear sauce, hints of melon and even some sweet corn, all linked and underscored by vivid acidity. This shows pedigree and proves that Rotgipfler deserves a bit more attention from the international crowd. It will develop more, so cellar some bottles to follow the progression. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

91 Stadlmann 2020 Gumpoldskirchen Rotgipfler (Niederösterreich). This opens up subtly, but the more you sip and think about it, the more it has to offer. Aromas and flavors of white pepper, lentil, cardamom and singed sage all lead the way for the core filled with quince and white peach. The real delight is its texture, which caresses the palate and separates this from the crowd. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

89 Stadlmann 2020 Anning Rotgipfler (Niederösterreich). This combines crunchy and smooth textures, reminiscent of corduroy, with orchard fruit and lots of spice on the palate. Smoke accents emerge and extend on the finish that ends a bit abruptly. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

WHITE BLENDS

93 Rosi Schuster 2020 Aus Den Dörfern White Blend (Burgenland). A stunning white that has depth and intensity, with acidity that powers through the palate, which bursts with lemon pith, yellow plum, honeysuckle, quinine and chalk. The finish leaves a mouthwatering impression, with savory minerality and subtle persistence that makes you want to come back for more. Winemonger. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Maria & Sepp Muster 2020 Opok White Blend (Steierland). A flinty and chalky impression lures you into the glass of this white, while notes of lemon zest, chamomile and tangy fleur de sel make you stay for good. It has an easy sway with an impressive length and purity. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Gernot and Heike Heinrich 2018 Naked White Blend (Burgenland). This shows notes of toasted hazelnut upfront, suggesting a bit of oxidation, but fresh notes of lemon and apple come through, coupled with sea salt accents. It is long and savory on the finish. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Kolfok 2021 Intra! The Wild White Blend (Burgenland). Well-crafted, with precision and focus, this evokes notes of wet stone, sea salt, citrus and peach on a delicate frame. It firms up midpalate and delivers a clean, long, mouthwatering finish. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

90 Moric 2020 Haus Marke Supernatural White Blend (Burgenland). Bright and very juicy, this white exhibits a delicious core of melon, quince, oolong tea and heather. It has a glossy texture that holds the interest and adds to the charm and complexity. The finish is pure and persistent. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Straka 2019 Stratos White Blend (Burgenland). This has a nice range, with gooseberry, chamomile and white peach flavors upfront, followed by racy lemon verbena and sea salt accents. It is long and expressive, with a focused streak. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Ingrid Groiss 2021 Braitenpuechtorff Gemischter Satz Austrian white blend (Niederösterreich). This is expressive with wonderful acidity standing behind the notes of apple, apricot and cardamom. It is gentle on the prolonged finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Koppitsch 2020 Perspektive White Blend (Weinland Österreich). This has a sour beer-like quality at first, but air helps it find its equilib-

rium. Notes of yuzu, hops and sea salt play a melody, with acidity conducting the harmony. It's better with food. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$31

88 Markus Huber 2021 Kontrast White Blend (Austria). This is fairly cloudy in appearance, with a rounder mouthfeel, but acidity cuts through delivering notes of gooseberry and white peach. Moderate length. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Neumeister 2019 Ried Klausen Sauvignon Blanc (Vulkanland Steiermark). Exuding Styria out of the glass, this silky, mineral-driven white displays notes of lemon pith and gooseberry, followed by white peach, with flint notes streaming through. A chalky grip awaits midpalate, filling in the textural experience. This is pretty now, but with a few years in the cellar, it will unfurl even more. Best 2024–2035. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

93 Stadlmann 2019 Mandel-höh Zierfandler (Niederösterreich). A stunning, velvety white, this exhibits a bit of density, with acidity that keeps it light on its feet but also connects all the dots and provides intensity. This is at the stage where it is more about texture than it is about flavor. However, notes of calendula, orchard blossom and quince add to the charm. This needs a bit more time. Best 2024–2034. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Johanneshof Reinisch 2019 Ried Spiegel Monopol Zierfandler (Thermenregion). Orange blossom, white raspberry and melon notes take the center stage in this vibrant white. It shows slight volatility, but it is well integrated and, if anything, it gives this wine a lift midpalate that carries it on to the licorice snap details on the finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$47

92 Leth 2020 Ried Fumberg Roter Veltliner (Wagram). A well-crafted white, with notes of chamomile and white pepper framing the juicy orchard fruit core. It is well-proportioned and beautifully structured, with all elements in harmony. Savory mineral elements mark the finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

91 Netzl 2020 Christina Chardonnay (Weinland Österreich). A clean expression, wearing nothing but its face. It is cloudy in appearance and raw on the palate, with savory mineral elements mingling with white pepper and orchard fruit. It's a great match for fish, shellfish and vegetable stir-fry. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Wenzel 2021 Wild + Free Voodoo Child Pinot Gris (Austria). This is not your Italian Pinot Grigio, but rather a ruby-colored wine that goes beyond the boxed notions of the variety. It really drinks like a very light Pinot Noir, with juicy acidity and notes of cherry and mulberry and soft tannins. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$40

90 Tement 2019 Muschelkalk Morillon (Südsteiermark). This is flinty and chalky in texture, with baked apple, yuzu and sea salt notes giving this a nice zing. The body and texture spread over the palate for a beautiful mouthfeel. Well-made from start to finish. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Diwald 2020 Frühroter Veltliner (Wagram). This is clean and focused, displaying exotic aromas and flavors that lure you in, while the mineral backbone makes you reach for another sip. It is perfect for *aperitif*, but would pair nicely with sushi, too. Shiverick Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

88 Kracher 2019 Trocken Pinot Gris (Burgenland). This is round, with a pleasant mouthfeel and some complexity. Notes of yellow apple, corn and cardamom mark the core, backed by vibrant acidity. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Pratsch 2021 Ried Kittel Sauvignon Blanc (Niederösterreich). Very typical for the variety, this exudes notes of gooseberry and ruby grapefruit, with an herbal tinge gliding along. It shows good length, too, just lacks complexity. Wine-sellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Weingut Knoll 2019 Loibner Smaragd Gelber Traminer (Wachau). This idiosyncratic white has beautiful aromas and flavors, but it's slightly off balance, so it's really for those who are into the style. It shows lemon curd, mint and basil, with peach cream notes on the finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

87 Leth 2020 Klassik Roter Veltliner (Wagram). This is refreshing and exotic, with notes of lemongrass and grapefruit lingering midpalate. It's clean and mouthwatering, with a mineral-infused finish. The Sorting Table. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Strauss 2020 Sämling 88 Klassik Scheurebe (Steierland). This will find its fans with its juicy core and exotic flavors, despite its simplicity. Moderate length. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

SPARKLING WINES

90 Taus 2018 Roséekt Blaufränkisch (Austria). This rosé sparkler marches to its own

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beat, with a pickled mango aroma mixed with rose water and steeped raspberry flavors. Vibrant acidity cuts through the midpalate and straightens it up, leaving a sea salt accent on the aftertaste. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$44

87 Biokult 2021 Rosé Secco Pinot Noir (Austria).

There's a bit of residual sugar here that overwhelms the acidity, but this is quite quaffable and will find its fans. BWSC dba Winc, Inc.. —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

87 Biokult 2021 Naken White Blend (Austria).

This is more interesting texturally than when it comes to its flavor profile. Delicate mousse that fills up the palate is matched by subtle acidity and fruit. BWSC dba Winc, Inc.. —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

87 Markus Huber NV Sparkling Rosé White Blend (Austria).

This is quite quaffable, with gentle mousse and a touch of sweet white cherry. Good aperitif wine. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

87 Markus Huber NV Sparkling White White Blend (Austria).

This has a pleasant, gentle mousse that caresses the palate, while notes of citrus and yellow apple mark the midpalate. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.

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

ROSÉ

87 Markus Huber 2021 Moments Organic Rosé (Austria).

A typical rosé, with notes of crushed strawberries, watermelon and juicy acidity giving it vibrancy. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.

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

86 Ingrid Groiss 2021 Ried Hasenhaide Rosé (Niederösterreich).

Salmon-pink in color, with a vibrant palate that almost has a fizz. It is light and refreshing. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Pratsch 2021 Rosé (Niederösterreich).

A light and mineral-driven rosé, with subtle notes of crushed cherries and a soft grip on the palate. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Nigl 2021 Rosé Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).

A bit darker in appearance, this is on a slightly riper spectrum, but with vivid acidity flowing through. Savory notes emerge on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Biokult 2021 Rosé Zweigelt (Austria).

A straightforward rosé with light red fruit and a touch of savory minerality. BWSC dba Winc, Inc.. —A.Z.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

ZWEIGELT

90 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2019 Zweigelt (Burgenland).

Shows a bright cola note, along with steeped raspberry and blackberry flavors. An herbal note emerges on the midpalate, with melting tannins building structure together with blood orange acidity. Pure and long on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

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

89 Anton Bauer 2018 Feuersbrunn Zweigelt (Wagram).

Silky red, with a beautiful mouthfeel and notes of currant and wild strawberry that lure you in for another sip, while light tannins and minerality add to the structure. Moderate length. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Keringer 2017 Mönchhof 100 Days Reserve Zweigelt (Neusiedlersee).

This is for fans of the riper, more modern style. It exhibits concentrated notes of plum sauce, hoisin sauce and cocoa, with cinnamon and nutmeg gliding on the edge. It hangs on, with a spicy aftertaste. W&W Gourmet Foods & Wine Inc.. —A.Z.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

88 Pratsch 2020 Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).

A charming red with notes of red and black fruit and rooibos tea notes. It is pleasant with a mineral texture and moderate length. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16/1 L

87 Kracher 2018 Trocken Zweigelt (Burgenland).

This shows berry and spice aromas and flavors, with hints of vanilla. It is medium-bodied with ripe tannins, but slightly one-dimensional. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.

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

87 Markus Huber 2018 Zweigelt (Austria).

This evokes notes of iron and smoke, with a ripe core of dark cherry and currant, while cocoa notes emerge on the moderately long finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

87 Winzer Krems 2021 Kellermeister Privat Blauer Zweigelt Qualitätswein Zweigelt (Niederösterreich).

This has a nice silky texture, together with ripe cherry notes. It is a bit monotone, though, but fine nevertheless. Saranty Imports. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

95 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2019 Lange Ohn Blaufränkisch (Leithaberg).

A pure and refined red, with flavors of Damson plum, cassis and dark chocolate. A buoyant acidity flows through, providing vibrancy and lift, which give an elegant impression overall. It does have nice extraction, but its poise is unmatched. The lingering sanguine echo

on the finish extends like a Miles Davis trumpet. This will cellar so nicely, but it is quite irresistible now. Best 2024–2040. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

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

92 Nittnaus Anita und Hans 2019 Kalk & Schiefer Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).

This is stylish in a traditional sense, with exemplary purity and focus, exhibiting crushed berry fruit, cola, grilled herb and violet notes. Sanguine and tangy, this has fine-grained tannins, with excellent length on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.

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

91 Moric 2020 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).

An alluring red, with sanguine notes upfront, followed by black cherry, cola and hoisin sauce, while graphite echoes in the background. It is medium-bodied and has a beautiful mouthfeel and a finish that invites you for another sip. Winemonger. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Kolfok 2021 Intra! The Wild Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).

This is juicy, with notes of currant, mulberry and blackberry, underscored by vivid acidity that gives it energy and links all the elements. A slight grip firms up the overall impression on the finish. Winemonger. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

RED BLENDS

93 Gut Oggau 2020 Joschuari (Rot) Red Blend (Austria).

This flows like satin, with a slightly firm feel to the pomegranate, plum and chalky shavings that add a mineral feel. A tangy floral edge emerges on the midpalate and hangs on to the acidity that streaks through so gracefully, giving this the spine together with fine-grained tannins that melt on the palate. Beautiful now, so no need to cellar unless you want tertiary notes. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

92 Netzl 2019 Ried Bärnreiser 1ÖTW Anna-Christina Red Blend (Carnuntum).

This shows fleshy plum and boysenberry flavors that are focused and supported by a firm structure. Mouth-watering acidity gives it a lift, cutting through the woody influence, and helps flavors extend on the finish. It is pretty polished and for the fans of the style, but there is purity to it. Best after 2024. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$69

91 Christoph Hoch NV Rot Red Blend (Weinland Österreich).

An incredibly light red, which never sacrifices flavor and expresses such vibrancy that it is hard to stop drinking it. The palate shows raspberry, mulberry and blood orange acidity, which gives this the backbone since the tannins are superlight. A truly beautiful match for the summer. Bowler Wine. —A.Z.

abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Koppitsch 2019 Perspektive Rot Red Blend (Weinland Österreich). This shows a great deal of acidity, which cuts through the juicy, fruity palate filled with blackberry and currant. It is velvety in texture, with a raw quality that gives it intrigue. Hints of smoke mark the long finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$31

91 Rosi Schuster 2019 Aus Den Dörfen Red Blend (Burgenland). This shows the cooler, bay leaf-tinged profile, with gently steeped blackberry and currant fruit, framed by corduroy-like tannins. It has good acidity to bring out the vibrancy and a persistent sanguine tune in the background. It has a long finish. Winemonger. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

89 Biokult 2020 Zweigelt Meets Pinot Noir Red Blend (Austria). Silky in texture, with beautiful red fruit featured on the palate, this is fresh and vibrant with a persistent finish. Very friendly red. BWSC dba Winc, Inc.. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

88 Steindorfer 2019 Apetlon Red Blend (Burgenland). The palate of this red is round with a juicy core, showing ripe cherry and plum notes. The tannins are light and well integrated, while vanilla spice gives this a pleasant touch. Artisanal Cellars. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

OTHER RED WINES

92 Dorli Muhr 2018 Syrah (Carnuntum). An enviable expression of Syrah from Carnuntum, showing elegance and panache, with smoldering charcoal and tobacco notes that glide around the core of black currant, Damson plum and fig. Just when you think this is all about fruit, black olive tapenade and savory minerality emerge, leading to a long finish. It shows great definition. Westgarth Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

88 Stadlmann 2018 Pinot Noir (Niederösterreich). Despite the firm structure and spicy profile, this boasts charming cherry and mulberry notes, but it tightens up on the finish. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

DESSERT WINES

92 Kracher 2018 Beerenauslese Cuvée White Blend (Burgenland). A lovely and graceful sweet-styled white, showing aromas of apricot and melon, with dried mango, mint jelly and spicy honey making it an intriguing drink. It is never over the top, but you definitely have to be into the style to appreciate this fully. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$40/375 ml

90 Kracher 2019 Auslese Cuvée White Blend (Burgenland). A light dessert wine that can be enjoyed with many different types of food, from sweet to savory. It expresses notes of burnt sugar, guava jam and mango chutney, with mouthwatering acidity for support. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

89 Kracher 2018 Beerenauslese Zweigelt (Burgenland). A sweet red that is aromatic and unusual. It shows notes of honey and raisin, with plenty of spice. It would be a lot better with a little more acidity, but it's very pleasant now, too. Terlato Wines International. —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$45/375 ml

GERMANY

RIESLING

95 Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt 2018 Saar Scharzhofberger Auslese #10 Gold Kap Riesling (Mosel). This bracing, salt-edged Auslese showcases a purity of green apple, lime and stone fruit flavors against shocks of stony, slaty minerality. Exceptionally light on its feet yet piercing with electricity, it's a sweet-tart, reverberating style of sweet Riesling that could only come from the Saar. It's delicious now in its youthful eccentricity but will improve for decades to come. American B.D. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Mönchhof 2019 Erdener Prälat Auslese Riesling (Mosel). Smoky, spicy earth tones and whiffs of honeysuckle introduce this featherlight yet deeply concentrated Auslese. Lip-smackingly sweet yet racy in acidity, its sunny yellow peach and apricot flavors are dusted with hints of bitter toffee, mint and lime zest. This is a wine with a long, pure finish that should drink at peak through 2035 and hold further. The German Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$60

93 SJ Montigny 2017 Kreuznacher Kauzenberg Auslese Riesling (Nahe). Compared with this producer's more opulent and tropical Narrenkappe Auslese, the Kauzenberg boasts a sharpness and linearity that's breathless and thrilling. Exceptionally light-bodied yet penetrating with white peach and grapefruit flavors, it calibrates sweet, sunny fruit against a firm mineral spice and bracing acidity. It's gorgeous now but should mature well through 2030. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$25

92 SJ Montigny 2018 Kreuznacher Narrenkappe Auslese Riesling (Nahe). Tropical tones of mango and pineapple extend from nose to finish in this light-bodied yet gorgeously textured Riesling. It's a lusciously sweet, sunny sip warmed by undertones of caramel and honey but balanced by a shock of lemon-lime acidity and greengage plum on the finish. It's delicious young but should gain

more savory complexities as it matures. At peak now—2030. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.I.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Leonard Kreusch 2020 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This sun-struck sweet Riesling is packed with ripe, juicy yellow peach, pineapple and mango flavors. Approachably fresh and fruity, it's a delicately structured, freshly balanced sip cut by a brisk, lemony finish. Best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$19

EISWEIN

88 Leonard Kreusch 2018 Estate Label Eiswein Silvaner (Rheinhessen). Directly impacted by climate change, Eiswein is an increasing rarity, even in Germany these days. This delicately herbaceous, lime-scented Eiswein, made from Silvaner grapes frozen and concentrated on the vines, is a richly honeyed, freshly balanced sip at a remarkably affordable price. Its zippy lime and lemon flavors are pert and pristine, finishing on hints of earth and smoky minerals. Best enjoyed young. Leonard Kreusch, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

DORNFELDER

87 Wilhelm Bergmann 2020 Dryfelder Dornfelder (Rheinhessen). This dry, full-bodied Dornfelder offers fresh blackberry and black plum flavors etched with hints of smoke, sweet spice and bramble. Plummy and richly concentrated yet fresh on the finish, it's an easy-drinking red that finishes on soft, easing tannins. Drink young. Knows Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

86 Peter Mertes 2019 Platinum Sweet Dornfelder (Rheinhessen). Gobs of juicy, primary black cherry, plum and raspberry flavors flood the palate of this easy-drinking sweet Dornfelder. Soft in tannins and plush in texture, it's a welcoming sip for those who prefer their red wines smooth and sweet. Banks Channel. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$8

86 Sun Garden 2020 Dornfelder (Rheinhessen). Fruity and sweet in style, this plump, softly textured red highlights fresh blueberry and blackberry flavors. Accents of cola and sweet spice lend a touch of warmth to the finish. An uncomplicated wine best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$11

85 Karl Josef 2020 Dornfelder (Rheinhessen). Flavors of red plum and raspberry abound in this easy-drinking, sweet red. Plush in mouthfeel and low in alcohol, it's a fruity, juicy sip best enjoyed young. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$11

BUYINGGUIDE

85 Wilhelm Bergmann 2018 Semi-Sweet Red Wine Dornfelder (Rheinhessen). This is a fresh-fruited, sweet red wine with straightforward red cherry and blackberry flavors. Soft and plummy on the palate, it's best enjoyed young while its primary flavors are still vibrant. Knows Imports. —A.I.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$12

PINOT NOIR

89 Schäfer 2018 Made With Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). Finding a well-made Pinot Noir under \$20 is a challenge these days, but this perfumed, bright-fruited red is a consistent value from year to year. Bursting with fresh raspberry, cherry and plum flavors, it's a full-bodied but refreshingly spry wine framed by finely integrated tannins. Best enjoyed young. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Alde Gott 2019 Spätlese Trocken Spätburgunder (Baden). This full-bodied yet briskly balanced Pinot Noir offers bright blackberry and red currant flavors accented by hints of smoke, rose petal and black pepper. While taut in tannins, its fresh berry profile and zesty style make it ready to drink and likely to maintain peak through 2026. Terroir Connections. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

AUSTRALIA CHARDONNAY

95 Charlotte Dalton 2021 Grace Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). From an exciting, artisanal Adelaide Hills producer, this elegant, gold-hued Chardy offers a multitude of intriguing aromas from very first sniff: honey, lemon peel, baker's yeast, green tea and butter. The mouthfeel is glycerin-like, with a supportive frame of oak, a citrus freshness, and a long, mouthwatering, lemon curd-on-toast finish. A versatile wine for food pairing, it also has the potential to age gracefully until around 2030. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Giant Steps 2020 Sexton Vineyard Chardonnay (Yarra Valley). This single vineyard beauty, from a restrained and acid-driven Chardonnay vintage in the Yarra Valley, leads with reductive flint and nut characters. They're woven in with more delicate aromas like stone fruit, waxy lemon, white spice, orchard blossoms and wet stones. Toasty oak is there too, but it's well tucked. The mouthfeel is beautifully balanced, with prickly, citrusy acidity and supportive oak. Precise yet still characterful, this is an excellent, food friendly example of modern Aussie Chard. Drink now–2032. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 Forest Hill 2020 Highbury Fields Chardonnay (Great Southern). This is a distinctive wine

from a distinctive place, deep in Western Australia's remote Great Southern region. It's a flinty, mineral, linear (borderline austere) style with lithe peach and melon fruit, toasted sesame seed, white spice, stone and seashell. The oak is there too but it's solidly in a supporting role. Laser-like acidity slices through a gently creamy texture in the mouth, that stony, salty minerality flowing through to the finish. Food friendly and very well priced, it could also cellar five to eight years, gaining fleshy, honeyed complexity (tasted 6/22). Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Monterra 2021 M Block - Special Batch Chardonnay (Fleurieu). This is a buttery style of Chardy but it's still bright and vibrant with notes of lemon curd, melon and fresh ginger. The creamy texture on the palate is lifted by lemony acidity. A modern Aussie white for quaffing solo or with a summery meal. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Morambro Creek 2020 Chardonnay (Padthaway). Vibrant gold in color, this Chardy, from a small region in South Australia, has a flinty, salty edge, but it doesn't overwhelm the concentrated citrus and stone fruit. There's a whiff of oak-derived smoke, like the embers of a beachside campfire. The palate offers tingly freshness and medium weight. Oak is present but more in a supporting role. Think Mâconnais with Aussie sunshine. Drink now–2028. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

91 Petaluma 2020 Chardonnay (Piccadilly Valley). Straw yellow in hue, this is a bright, if rich, Chard from a warm, tough vintage in this part of South Australia. Considering this, it succeeds splendidly, offering notes of pineapple, lemon, buttercup, cream and oak spice. The oak is a little prominent on the palate, especially on the finish, but there's a burst of lemony acidity that tilts the scales back to center. Still young, it could cellar happily until at least 2032. Accolade Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Thorn Clarke 2020 Milton Park Chardonnay (South Australia). This is a bright, linear Chard with notes of lime and pineapple rind underpinned by orange blossom, ginger, and a hint of toasty oak. The palate is lithe and juicy with a lovely lift of acidity and a chalky texture. Oak is well placed and there's a long, limey finish. Food friendly yet refreshing on its own, and a total bargain. Kysela Père et Fils. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Sam Plunkett 2020 The Butterfly Effect Chardonnay (Victoria). This offers all the lemony citrus and melony brightness of a modern Aussie Chard, with cream-on-toast oak, white blossoms and a saline note. It's lightly textured, never overly creamy or heavy. The lemony acidity tingles, and the toffee oak is present—particularly on the lengthy finish—but never over the top. Linear and food friendly. Naked Wines. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$19

88 Bare Winemakers 2021 Single Vineyard High Altitude Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). Rich, heady peach and melon fruit take the melody here, underscored by ginger spice, cream and toasty oak. There's richness and weight to the palate, too, but generally it's medium rather than full bodied. The oak is a little off pitch, and the mouth could use more of the appealing fruit from the nose, but it's still a peachy little number for drinking now. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Fourth Wave 2021 Bumblebee Made with Organic Grapes Chardonnay (South Australia). This is a fruity Chardonnay packed full of ripe, fleshy peach, melon and lemon rind notes, backed by ginger and subtle oak influence. The palate is on the heavy side, but there's a lovely zingy acidity that lifts the fleshy stone fruit. The finish is short. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Schild Estate 2019 Unoaked Chardonnay (Barossa Valley). Currently quite reductive on the nose, this needs some aeration to blow off. Once open, it offers more pleasing notes of lemon-lime, melon and white spice. There's a chalky texture to the medium weight palate. A citrusy acidity lifts the concentrated fruit, keeping things fresh. There's a melon-y finish. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

86 Fourth Wave 2020 Little Brute Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). There's a creamy, green oak note overlaying the lemon and stone fruit on this Chardonnay. As it opens in glass, this does settle a little, but the palate sits heavily in the mouth. Acidity is fresh but alongside the oak it feels pinched and underripe, distracting from the fruit. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Yalumba 2021 Y Series Chardonnay (South Australia). This is currently quite reductive to start, dominated by Band Aid and onion characters. Lemon balm and white spice notes stand at the back. As it gets air in glass, more peach and melon aromas float to the fore. The palate is chalky textured with shrill acidity. It's a bit lean and green at first, but does offer more peach and citrus fruit as it opens. Another year or so in bottle may give this time to gel. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

85 McPherson Wine Company 2020 MWC Chardonnay (Victoria). This is a rich, reticent Char with notes of lemon curd, peach and toasty oak, the latter feels green on the palate, souring the fruit a little. Heavy set with a creamy texture, there's a sweaty sweetness to the finish. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

SAUVIGNON BLANC

88 Ocean Road 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (South Australia). This is a bright, pleasantly fruity SB with notes of peach, watermelon and pineapple, and with just a touch of something greener, like gooseberry. Acidity rushes in straight away on the palate, pulsing until the finish. There's a slight chalky textural weight adding to the pineapple rind and peach fuzz flavors. *Vino Logics. Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

87 Colab and Bloom 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide Hills). After the trapped CO₂ dissipates and it warms in the glass a little, this Aussie Sauvignon Blanc offers up a nose of waxy lemon and lime, nectarine, pineapple and florals, with a gently pungent whiff of gooseberry. The palate is medium in weight with some creamy texture. Acidity feels a bit forced, but those waxy citrus and tropical notes are present to the end. *Little Peacock Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Bec Hardy 2021 Time Flies When You're Having Fun Sauvignon Blanc (South Australia). This is a ripe, rich Sauvignon Blanc with heady notes of passion fruit, ruby grapefruit, lime and guava. Acidity pierces the tongue, but it sits in opposition to the round, creamy texture, overwhelming the fruit and making it fall flat at the finish. *Liquid Innovation.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

85 Yalumba 2021 Y Series Sauvignon Blanc (South Australia). Yalumba has certainly made a bold style choice with its wild yeast-fermented, lees-contact Sauvignon, but it's a questionable one for this variety and region. Reductive notes of onion and struck match dominate the nose, with the melon, peach and citrus peaking through the cracks. There's a baker's yeast note at back. The pungency continues on the palate, where angular acidity and textural weight never jell, and what feels like a burn of sulfur flares up on the finish. Yeast-derived flavors are intriguing, and there's potential for food-friendliness, but it never quite finds its groove. *Winebow Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

84 Dandelion 2021 Wishing Clock of the Adelaide Hills Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide Hills). With a slight pale pink tinge to the color, this is a straightforward, fruity Sauvignon that opens with confectioned notes of watermelon and peach. The palate is creamy, but the stone and melon fruit get a little lost amid the angular acidity and forced, synthetic finish. *Vine Street Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

SEMILLON

94 Charlotte Dalton 2019 Ærkeengel Semillon (Adelaide Hills). From one of South Australia's talented small batch producers, this medium gold-hued Semillon sees time on full lees in bar-

rel. It's simultaneously rich and refreshing, with a rush of heady aromas of raw wildflower honey, apple and pear flesh, citrus and beeswax. The palate is round, waxy-textured and concentrated, lifted by gorgeously mouthwatering acidity that carries the orchard fruit, waxy citrus and gingery spice to a lengthy finish. A wine bursting with personality, charm and class. *Wine Dogs Imports LLC.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

93 Charlotte Dalton 2019 Love You Love Me Semillon (Adelaide Hills). Give this small production Semillon a little time in the glass or decanter to open up (and, whatever you do, don't drink it too cold). Some salty reductive characters will linger but so will the honeysuckle, beeswax, lemon myrtle and lime rind aromas. It's the palate that really steals the show. Classically structured while marching to its own beat, the mouthfeel is broad at first, but then rapier acidity slices through it, right down the middle of the tongue. It's long, citrusy and mouthwatering, making it impossible not to go back for more. *Wine Dogs Imports LLC. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

86 Torbreck 2021 Woodcutter's Semillon (Barossa Valley). Pale for this variety, this is a highly fruity, somewhat confectioned Semillon. Peach candy, lemon juice and rind are backed by a hint of spice. There's a slippery texture to the palate with forced, citrusy acidity. The fruit veers a touch sour and falls off quickly at the finish. *Delicato Family Wines.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

RIESLING

93 Frankland Estate 2018 Isolation Ridge Dry Riesling (Frankland River). Despite a bit of bottle age, this vintage of the renowned single vineyard, Isolation Ridge, is quite young and reductive, still wanting for more time in the cellar. It leads with heady notes of burnt rubber, struck match and kerosene. Wax, seashell, lemon oil, lavender and lime leaf follow. The palate shows lovely texture that's sliced through the middle with rapier, citrusy acidity. There's depth, length and harmony here, it just needs more time in bottle to blossom. Drink from 2023 and easily for several decades beyond. *Vinedos Imports. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Leeuwin Estate 2021 Art Series Riesling (Margaret River). Not commonly found in this region, Leeuwin's location towards the southern end of Margaret River means it can craft deliciously delicate and fruity Riesling. This vintage is distinctively Aussie in style, with lime popsicle and orchard blossoms. It's bright and slender, sliced through the middle by a zingy line of citrusy acidity. Dry yet still mouthwatering, with a lingering limey finish, this is an easy drop on its own or with a number of summer seafood and green veg dishes. *Old Bridge Cellars. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

91 Forest Hill 2021 Highbury Fields Riesling (Great Southern). Rich, heady aromas of lemon oil, lime leaf and lavender with just a hint of kerosene open this bracing Great Southern Riesling. Acidity is mouthpuckering on the dry palate, but there's just enough textural weight to keep it in check. There's a lovely lemon-lime and ginger finish. Still a baby, this could age gracefully until around 2032. *Hudson Wine Brokers.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Alkoomi 2021 Riesling (Frankland River). Quite pale in hue, this wine, based in Frankland River (in Western Australia's far south), is a gentle and pleasant drop, displaying aromas of lime, lemon curd and peach blossom set against a backdrop of ginger spice. The vivid, piercing acidity buoys the delicate fruit. There's a gently chalky texture, with a limy finish. It should gain some honeyed complexity with a few more years in the bottle. *Little Peacock Imports.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

WHITE BLENDS

90 Bec Hardy 2021 Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide). There are oodles of crowd-pleasing floral and fruit aromas on this Semillon-Sauvignon blend. Honeysuckle, lime blossom, peach and lemon drops are underpinned by gingery spice. The palate is weightier than one might expect, although it's still in the light-to medium-bodied spectrum. Flavors are delicate but persistent. There's freshness and a pretty, summer-sipping vibe. Drink now. *Liquid Innovation.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Scissor Kick 2020 Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (South Australia). This lemon-hued Sauvignon-Semillon blend is rich and fruity, wafting aromas of lemon curd cream and toasty spice, with just a whisper of something greener and more vegetal. The palate is medium-bodied with textural weight and a short finish. It wants for more zippy freshness to buoy the broad shoulders, but it's nevertheless a balanced, straightforward drop. *Firstleaf.* —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

ROSÉ

91 Colab and Bloom 2021 Tempranillo Grenache Rosé (South Australia). Ballerina pink in color, this affordable Tempranillo-Grenache rosé is simultaneously delicate and supple, with crowd-pleasing aromas of strawberries, cherries with their blossoms, cream and a touch of spice at the back. A prickle of acidity adds vibrancy to the creamy textured palate, allowing the red fruit and florals to bounce along their way to the finish. It's harmonious and food-friendly to boot. *Little Peacock Imports. Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Charlotte Dalton 2021 Isolated Rosé (Langhorne Creek). The Tempranillo and Mon-

tepulciano fruit for this small-batch wine is from Langhorne Creek (winemaker Charlotte Hardy is based in the Adelaide Hills). Its name is apt: This is a cerebral rosé that's the color of strawberry juice with chameleon-like tendencies that feels right for solo island sipping. For now it's a little funky and a touch volatile, but the watermelon and fleshy red berry flavors win out. The palate is on the fuller end of the spectrum, but there's freshness of character. There are stronger wines in this producer's stable, but it's a tasty drop nonetheless. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Fourth Wave 2021 Children Of The Revolution Rosé (Australia). A very pale, watery pink hue, this dry, delicate rosé offers gentle notes of strawberries and cream, watermelon and florals. There's not a whole lot of flavor to the palate, but it makes for refreshing, poolside sipping nonetheless. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

abv: 9.9% **Price:** \$20

86 Maxwell 2018 Little Demon Rosé (McLaren Vale). This rosé is riper than its pale blush suggests. Candied red fruit and ginger dominate with a delicate floral note. The palate shows a touch of residual sugar but is dry overall. Lacks some vibrancy and the finish is short and on the sweet side. Rodinia LLC. —C.P.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

PINOT NOIR

94 Tolpuddle 2020 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). From Tasmania's Coal River Valley and from nearly 35-year-old vines, Tolpuddle has become one of Australia's most renowned single vineyards. The style is Burgundy-meets-New World, and cellaring is expected. This vintage is highly aromatic: A vineyard floor-like reduction is tangled up with layers of brambly currants, wild blueberries and black cherries, dark chocolate and a wallop of savory, spiced meat and mushroom. The palate is concentrated, with polished, if somewhat, drying tannins. Flavors are tightly wound and oak is on display, but this should age with grace until the late 2030s, at least. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$76

93 Giant Steps 2020 Fatal Shore Pinot Noir (Tasmania). This renowned Yarra Valley winery has ventured outside Victoria and into Tasmania. This bottling bears the Giant Steps signature but walks to a distinctly different beat. It's layered and spicy with brambly red currant, cranberry and blueberry fruit backed by subtle chocolate oak, white pepper and violets on their stems. There's heft to the palate, with concentrated fruit, spicy, chiseled tannins and barrel influence. An expressive bottling, well-made with longevity in mind. Drink now–2032. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Oakridge 2020 Over The Shoulder Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). From vineyards in three sub-

regions across the valley, this shows lovely fresh red berry aromas underscored with white spice and lovely floral notes, like rose and hibiscus petals. The palate is lightweight with juicy, fleshy red fruit, a gentle tug of spicy tannins and uplifting acidity. A modern, harmonious and ultra-affordable bottling for drinking slightly chilled with an array of spring and summer meals. K&L Wine Merchants. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$15

91 Devil's Corner 2019 Resolution Pinot Noir (Tasmania). Fruit and spice lead on this classy, still-young Tassie Pinot. After some swirling in the glass, fresh strawberry and rhubarb aromas are followed by rose petal and potpourri notes. The palate follows a similar path, the brambly fruit wound in taut, spicy tannins. Still on the shy side, this should age well in the bottle until around 2030. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

90 Mandala 2020 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). This is a ripe, clean, ultrafruity Pinot. Bouncy red berries dominate, underpinned by florals (stalks included) and a savory, charcuterie nuance. Aromas flow into flavors on the palate, which is lightweight and has a gentle line of lightly savory tannins. A modern Aussie red for sipping chilled on a warm day. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Tamar Ridge 2019 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). Vibrant and fruity, this Tassie Pinot gives fresh, crunchy vibes. Strawberries and cherries lead with some stalk, spice and wet stone minerals at the back. Youthful and light-bodied, the fleshy, tart red cherry fruit adds some texture, tugged gently by spicy tannins. The slightly astringent finish falls away quickly. A modern Pinot for drinking now. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

89 Devil's Corner 2020 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). A vivid cherry juice color, this opens bright and fruity with concentrated red berries alongside heady spice aromas like clove and anise, orange rind and something a bit meaty. The palate isn't quite as exciting. It's thin but with heavysset fruit and a short finish. There is, however, plenty of freshness, making for a solid, drink-soon modern Pinot from Australia's coolest climate wine growing region. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Mac Forbes 2020 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). The 2020 vintage was a bit all over the place in the Yarra and this Pinot, from a normally top-notch producer, is showing a little awkwardly, for the moment, anyway. The high-toned aromas of freshly picked grapes at crush time with florals and spice are raw and appealing, but there's something more rustic and barnyard-like that creeps in at the back, pulling attention. The palate offers straightforward freshness and finishes with a lingering funk. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.

abv: 11% **Price:** \$32

89 McPherson Wine Company 2020 MWC Pinot Noir (Victoria). This affordable Pinot is as delightfully fruity as the strawberry juice hue suggests. Fresh pressed red fruit (cherries and raspberries), watermelon and white spice tickle the nose. The palate follows with freshness and crisp acidity. There's a tug of tannins, somewhat heavy fruit weight and a short finish. Chill down and drink young. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Blue Pyrenees 2018 Richardson Cabernet Sauvignon (Pyrenees). For full review see page 5. Liquid Innovation.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

95 Howard Park 2018 Abercrombie Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Australia). For full review see page 6. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.*

abv: 14% **Price:** \$93

95 Vasse Felix 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). For full review see page 6. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Leeuwin Estate 2018 Art Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). This is a sturdy, plush vintage of Art Series with a long life ahead of it. It's a touch austere at the moment, with some sweet oak showing and pinched acidity, but the distinctive varietal and regional character still shines. A lovely, warming earthy spice backs sleek aromas of black cherry, cassis, cedar, mint, olive brine and sea spray. Tannins are spicy and sinewy, muscular but still in a supportive role, allowing the juicy fruit to star. Drink 2023–2038. Old Bridge Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Stella Bella 2019 Luminosa Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). The top red of this southern Margaret River estate is an aromatic and characterful bottling destined for the cellar. Tangy red currant, wild blueberry, violet, beet, eucalyptus and distinctly earthy spices are softly framed by chocolate oak. The palate is distinctly shaped, broad across the tongue with powerful, powdery tannins. There's a lot of heft here for now, but the tangy fruit and spice aren't entirely lost. This promises a lot for the future. Drink 2024–2039. M Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$65

93 Wynns Coonawarra Estate 2019 64th Vintage Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). This Coonawarra Cab wears broad shoulder pads, but it still finds poise and polish plus regional and (cool) vintage character amid the brawn. Somewhat austere and dusty on the nose, the concentrated dark berry fruit, dried mint, ground pepper and oregano aromas peak through the cracks. On the palate, the plump, juicy fruit finds its way through the

iron curtain of tannins, which are hulking but well structured for the long haul. Drink 2025–2040, at least. Southcorp Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$111

92 Colab and Bloom 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). This is a thoroughly modern Cab with freshness and drinkability. It's rich and concentrated but accessible, with black cherry and currant fruit, cedar spice and toasty vanillin oak. Tannins are etched in savory spice with a lovely texture that, along with lifted acidity, nicely counters the plush red orchard fruit. Drink with grilled portobello mushroom or rare steak. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

92 Forest Hill 2020 Highbury Fields Cabernet Sauvignon (Great Southern). From the remote Great Southern region of Western Australia, this is full of regional and varietal loveliness. It's on the riper side for the region, with aromas of plush cherries, plums and black currants. The fruit is underpinned by a heady spice, eucalyptus and a gentle oak influence. The palate is silky, balanced and poised with bright, plump fruit and powerful-yet-beautifully textured tannins. Fruit and spice notes linger on this easy-to-like Cab. Drink now–2032. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

91 Bec Hardy 2020 Pertaringa Lakeside Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). This is a well-balanced, layered and drinkable Cab at a casual drinking price. A lovely nose of fresh rhubarb, plum, currant, scrubby Aussie bush plants, tobacco leaf and eucalyptus leads to a powerful yet restrained palate. There's a bit of sweet oak and dusty, spicy tannins in the mouth, but neither weighs down the juicy currant fruit or crunchy acidity. This would be a knockout with grilled lamb. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

91 Robert Oatley 2019 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). For full review see page 16. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$18

90 Alkoomi 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Frankland River). A bouquet of tangy red currant, cherry and violet opens this Great Southern Cab, backed by notes of eucalyptus, savory spice, graphite and a gentle chocolate oak. Powerful gauzy tannins coat the tongue and are a little aggressive. They're currently drowning out the fruit somewhat but should settle with another year or two in the bottle. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

90 Bec Hardy 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Limestone Coast). For full review see page 17. Liquid Innovation.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 Bec Hardy 2020 Time Flies When You're Having Fun Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). For full review see page 17. Liquid Innovation.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 Fourth Wave 2020 Bumblebee Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia). For full review see page 18. Liquid Innovation.
abv: 14% Price: \$17

90 Penley Estate 2020 Phoenix Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). For full review see page 19. Old Bridge Cellars.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

90 Vasse Felix 2020 Filius Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). Heady notes of sweetly spiced oak and chocolate mingle with cassis, violet and mint. Tannins are a little chunky, and acidity is pinched, but there's lovely savory spice and red fruit tang right through to the finish. A solid, youthful Cab bearing the classic Vasse style, but this reviewer recommends paying a bit extra for the winery's self-named middle tier bottling. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

89 Bec Hardy 2020 Village Green Cabernet Sauvignon (Limestone Coast). A harmonious Cab for every day drinking, this takes its time opening up, but with air it offers red cherry and plum fruit with sweet spiced bass notes. It's medium-to full-bodied with tightly wound tannins, lifted acidity and juicy fruit. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

87 Sister's Run 2020 Old Testament Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). Rich and chocolatey with dark concentrated berry fruit and undertones of earthy spice and tomato stem, this is a plush, likable Cab with granular, borderline astringent, tannins, plenty of oak influence and a tangy fruit finish. Drink now with protein. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

86 Fourth Wave 2020 Little Brute Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra). A plush, pleasant, fruit-forward nose framed in licorice and sweet oak leads to a full-figured palate with elevated acidity that adds refreshment, but also sours the fruit a bit, and finishes short. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

SHIRAZ

96 Torbreck 2019 RunRig Syrah (Barossa Valley). 2019 was a vintage of quality over quantity. Torbreck's premium Shiraz deftly demonstrates the former. A deep crimson color, it opens with heady aromas of concentrated purple and blue fruit framed by cracked pepper, chocolate, menthol and glossy oak. The richly textured palate is supported by powerful, still-youthful tannins. A little alcohol heat and a lot of oak can be felt, but both will subside with more time in the bottle. A spe-

cial occasion steak wine to hold until at least 2024 and then drink until 2042, at least. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$225

94 Torbreck 2019 Descendant Shiraz (Barossa Valley). The mini-me of Torbreck's renowned Runrig, Descendant sees some Viognier skins. It's a perfumed and powerful wine, with aromas of raspberry tart, blueberry preserves, violet, cracked pepper and beetroot and a good lick of chocolate, toasty oak. The rich yet sculpted palate is gripped by muscular tannins. It'll soften with time and should age quite gracefully, but for now it's still very young. Drink 2024–2035. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$120

93 Brash Higgins 2019 SHZ Omensetter Vineyard Shiraz (McLaren Vale). From American ex-pat Brad Hickey, and from vines over 25 years old, this is a highly aromatic and spice-driven Shiraz with sappy, stalky, cinnamon bark and blueberry jam notes alongside the more classic plum, blackberry and ground pepper characteristics. The palate doesn't pop as much as the nose, but it still achieves refreshment amid powerful-yet-juicy tannins. A characterful drop from a thoughtful winemaker for drinking with a wide range of wintery dishes now–2032. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$36

93 Kaesler 2019 The Bogan Shiraz (Barossa Valley). It's hard to resist the silky plum fruit that floats from the glass. There are more savory spice and green peppercorn notes, a hint of violet, black olive and a lick of well-integrated, slightly charred oak characters, too. But this is really all about that plush fruit. The palate is beautifully balanced, silky in texture with spicy tannins and supportive oak. There's a touch of alcohol heat, but overall it's a far classier Barossa Shiraz than the "Bogan" (the Aussie equivalent of "redneck") name implies. Drink now–2032. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 15% Price: \$55

92 Bethany 2018 GR Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This open-knit, crimson-colored Shiraz smells of freshly preserved blackberry jam and black cherry cordial. Mint, dark chocolate and furniture polish notes lie beneath. The glossy, plush palate shows more chocolate oak than the nose lets on. Opulent dark fruit and dusty, earthy spice flow through to a tangy finish, where a bit of woody astringency pops up. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$125

92 Torbreck 2019 The Factor Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Plush heady notes of plum, currant and licorice open this powerful and polished Shiraz. There're also hefty helpings of savory, peppery spice. The palate is cinched by massive, drying, spicy tannins amid the silky fruit. A plate of protein is a requirement if drinking now, but this really needs a few years—from 2035 onwards—in cellar before opening to soften those tannins. Then

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it could age gracefully for a decade beyond that. Delicate Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$120

91 Schild Estate 2018 Moorooroo Shiraz (Barossa Valley). Made from ancient vines planted in 1847, this is a luscious, open-knit Shiraz with notes of plush cherry and black currant, dried thyme, mint, dark chocolate and a beetroot and tomato leaf nuance. Oak is present but well tucked. The mouthfeel is opulent but cinched by powerful, herb-flecked tannins. It's a bit woody on the finish, and lacks some character and depth, but should cellar nicely nonetheless. Decant and drink now or hold until 2037. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

90 Bethany 2019 Blue Quarry Shiraz (Barossa Valley). A firecracker of cracked peppercorn and roasting spices pops from the glass, along with plump red and black fruit, licorice and graphite aromas, all backed by a well-tucked layer of chocolaty oak. The palate is powerful, cinched by chiseled, spicy tannins and a olive brine savoriness amid the plump fruit. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Rabbit & Spaghetti 2018 Icon Shiraz (South Australia). Stewed plums and black currant pastilles lead on the nose of this plump, pleasing Shiraz. There's an earthy, almost charred meat note and a touch of olive and licorice, too. The palate is plush and silky with more barrel influence, but there's a lovely line of acidity and a savory note at the finish. Drink now. Naked Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

89 Robert Oatley 2019 Signature Series Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Dusty, dark chocolate oak frames baking cherry and blueberry on this chiseled, linear Shiraz. It's underpinned by savory spice, bay leaf, ground black pepper and dried violet. The palate is a touch austere at the moment, cinched by chalky, fine tannins and with elevated acidity. It should soften with more time in the bottle. Overall a solid expression of this variety and region. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Barossa Valley Estate 2019 Shiraz (Barossa Valley). This offers appealingly sweet red and black berry and plum fruit upfront, followed by licorice, violet and warm gravel notes. There's a good deal of dusty, toasty oak influence, too. The palate is plump and plummy. Tannins are astringent and some heat can be felt from the alcohol. An austere, young wine that could benefit from another several years in the bottle. Drink 2024–2029. Delegate USA, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 D'Arenberg 2019 The Footbolt Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This is quite closed and dense at the moment. Eventually, with plenty of swirling in the glass, it reveals notes of dark cherry and plum fruit framed by mocha oak, savory spice, tree sap and cedar wood. The palate is powerfully

structured with astringent tannins. The fruit manages to squeak through, but this needs some serious protein and a decanter to be penetrated. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Innocent Bystander 2019 Syrah (Yarra Valley). This is a ripe—but not confected—Shiraz from the Yarra Valley in Victoria. A peppery nuance adds character to the otherwise primary cherry and red currant fruit aromas. The palate is medium-bodied, the fruit, spice and tannins well-balanced, although there's thinness and an astringency at the finish that detract. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Monterra 2019 Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Typical to McLaren Vale, this is a dense, powerful, spicy Shiraz. Fruit notes of brambly currants, plum and black cherry are underpinned by savory spice, ground pepper and a good lick of toasty oak influence. The palate is full-figured with drying, chunky tannins and lifted acidity. A sappy, savory spiced note hangs on at the finish. Drink now with protein at hand. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

86 De Bortoli 2019 Woodfired Shiraz (Heathcote). This is a straightforward, sturdy Shiraz from the Heathcote region of central Victoria. It offers plenty of red and black berry fruit, spice and a little oak influence, but the acidity is pinchy and forced, never quite jelling with the drying, granular tannins. PH Importing. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

86 Greg Norman Estates 2019 Shiraz (Limestone Coast). This is a very fruity Shiraz led by aromas of cherry and plum jam, sweet spice and vanillin oak. It's light to medium in weight. The confected fruit is present on the palate, too. Acidity adds freshness, even if it's a tad forced, and the tannins and oak are present but subtle. Crowd appeal for fruity wine lovers. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

85 Bec Hardy 2019 Shiraz (South Australia). This is a straightforward Shiraz with aromas of cherry and plum backed by subtle licorice and spice characters. The palate offers more cherry fruit but is thin and a bit pinched, the acidity somewhat forced, and there's an astringency to the finish. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

85 D'Arenberg 2019 The Love Grass Organic Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This is a broody, sappy Shiraz. Dusty, savory spice and graphite aromas weave into plum and black cherry, framed by bitter dark chocolate oak. The palate carries a bitterness to it as well, from the drying, astringent tannins to the barrel influence. It needs an extra juicy rare steak to balance it out. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

85 Fowles Wine 2019 Are You Game? Shiraz (Victoria). A prominent layer of oak-driven characteristics (think smoked hickory, toast and cola) overlays this wine on both the nose and palate. The plush dark berry fruit is beneath it, as is a pleasant lift of acidity, but both get somewhat buried by the wood. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

GRENACHE

92 Ministry Of Clouds 2019 Grenache (McLaren Vale). From old bush vines—some of which are a century old—this small batch Grenache marches to its own beat while also reflecting site and variety. Aromas are heady but delicate, with space for the red berry fruit to mingle with chocolate, terra-cotta and spice. The palate shows elegance and freshness with chalky, nicely placed tannins. There's lovely structure and elegance that's refreshing to see in a sea of jammy Grenache. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

91 D'Arenberg 2018 The Custodian Grenache (McLaren Vale). In typical D'Arenberg fashion, this is a rich, tannic red, particularly for a Grenache. But there's much to like here. The nose is chocolaty with ground pepper, warm earth and mint amid blackberry and blueberry fruit. The palate is full-bodied by Grenache standards, with a lick of alcohol heat. But it still retains freshness and silky fruit, even in the face of a powerful, savory tannin structure. Would be a cracker with barbecue fare. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Schild Estate 2019 Edgar Schild Old Bush Vines Grenache (Barossa Valley). From a combo of bush vines over 100 years old and nearing that, this Grenache starts out reductively, but with aeration opens into an aromatic and characterful bottling. Aromas of fleshy red currant, cherry and wild strawberry are underpinned by licorice and red rose petals. The palate offers a pleasant lift of acidity—a freshness that's almost unexpected—and gives a lovely tang to the fruit. It's all tugged into place by chalky, somewhat drying tannins. A touch of alcohol heat can be felt. Drink now–2030. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Zonte's Footstep 2019 Love Symbol Grenache (McLaren Vale). A heady perfume of plump red fruit, spice and florals leads to a light-to-medium-weight palate. The acidity feels a bit forced and it never quite knits together with the tannins. The finish is short. A straightforward Grenache that doesn't quite hit the marks of the previous vintage, but is easy-drinking Grenache nonetheless. Artisans & Vines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

MOURVEDRE

95 Torbreck 2019 The Pict Mataro (Barossa Valley). A strong vintage with more juicy drinkability than the previous one, this is polished but lucid and appealing. Fresh blackberries, currants, peppery spice and crushed violets are supported by chiseled tannins. With length and finesse this would be a top tippie for pairing with a slab of steak, but it also has great cellaring potential until 2032 at least. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

93 Bertrand Bespoke 2020 Mourvedre (Heathcote). Light to medium in hue, this 100% Mourvèdre charges from the gate with heady aromas of raspberries and cherries still on their stems, wildflowers and heaps of spice. It evokes an early summer meadow. The palate is less vivacious than the nose, but is light-bodied with crunchy red fruit, some stems and a fresh, “glouglou” vibe that makes it a candidate for chilled down summertime red drinking. A tasty, modern take on this variety. Little Peacock Imports. *Editors’ Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

92 D’Arenberg 2018 The Twenty Eight Road Mourvèdre (McLaren Vale). This is a rich (and affordable) version of Mataro, aka Mourvèdre, but it’s a balanced and varietal one, too. Dark fruit, dusty, pepper spice and chocolaty oak all comprise the nose. The palate shows an almost surprising lift of acidity, which adds tang to the plump plum and blackberry fruit. The oak is neatly tucked, allowing room for the spicy, fine, dusty-textured tannins support. Drink now with a variety of red meat roasts or barbecue fare. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Torbreck 2018 The Pict Mataro (Barossa Valley). This vintage of Mataro (Mourvèdre) is a chunkier, more powerful bottling than the 2019, but it’s in balance overall. Appealing aromas of tangy red cherry and Satsuma plum open, framed by cola oak and gentle floral and spice notes. The palate is full-figured with a velvety texture, and more of that tangy fruitiness. Muscular tannins call for plenty of protein but more time in the bottle could transform this into quite the beauty. Drink until 2035. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

88 Tim Smith 2019 Mataro (Barossa). This Mataro, aka Mourvèdre, is on the reductive, savory side. Barnyard, mushroom and hoisin sauce notes mingle with the plump red and black berry fruit, cola, green peppercorn and baking spice. The sweet fruit continues on the palate, where chunky tannins and a bit of alcohol heat detract somewhat. This is a solid, if ripe, version of this variety. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

RED BLENDS

97 Torbreck 2016 The Laird Red Blend (Barossa Valley). For full review see page 3. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$700

97 Vasse Felix 2018 Tom Cullity Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Margaret River). For full review see page 4. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$165

96 Cullen 2019 Wilyabrup Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Margaret River). The wines from this iconic, biodynamic estate always sing of their place. 2019 was a cooler-than-average vintage but one that’s winning over this reviewer for the wines’ aromatics and elegance. Layered and highly characterful, the nose is floral, like West Aussie wildflowers, and a bit meaty, like the pan scrapings from a roast. The fruit comes in compote form, like freshly canned rhubarb, plum and currant. There’s an earthy, savory spine like beet juice, olive brine and cedar shavings. A cool eucalyptus edge adds to the vintage charm. Chiseled, sappy tannins are powerful but leave ample room for flavor. Exceptional quality at an attainable price, this drinks well now with decanter and protein at hand, or could cellar beautifully for a decade at least. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors’ Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 Hickinbotham 2019 The Peake Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (Clarendon). A glossy, vanilla-and-spiced oak sentinel stands guard over this Cab-Shiraz blend from a top McLaren Vale vineyard. It’s not wholly intrusive, but it makes itself known, as do the characteristics of supple dark berry fruit and chocolate with undertones of mint and spice. The palate is equally rich and broad shouldered, with plump, concentrated fruit and spicy, powerful but well-placed tannins. An infant now, it should age gracefully and slowly. Drink 2024 until well into the 2030s. Majestic Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$175

94 Vintage Longbottom 2020 Henry’s Drive Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale). For full review see page 9. Quintessential Wines.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Woodlands 2017 Wilyabrup Valley Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Margaret River). Savory spice precludes the fruit on this Cab-Merlot blend from a well-reputed winery in the heart of Margaret River’s most esteemed subregion. First comes tar, tobacco, bay leaf, seaweed and iodine notes. And then, the fruit: fresh plum and black currant. The palate is full-bodied but fresh, linear and focused. Sappy, well-integrated tannins support the fruit, and all those savory, earth spice and herb notes flow right to the finish. Drink now–2030. Vine Street Imports. *Editors’ Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Stella Bella 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon-Malbec (Margaret River). This Cab, from a consistently quality-driven producer, offers concentrated, heady aromatics like red currant, cherry and black olive. There’s a lovely winter warming spice and a lick of dusty oak influence as well. The palate is silky and well structured with lifted acidity that hints at its place in the southern end of Margaret River. Chalky, spice tannins support rather than overwhelm, making this approachable now with protein, but capable of aging until around 2030. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

92 Torbreck 2020 The Steading Red Blend (Barossa Valley). A supple, sturdy wine with balance and finesse, Steading opens with rich aromas of chocolate and plum underpinned by licorice, savory spice and warm tarmac. The plush palate is silky textured with fine, well-integrated tannins and length. There’s a lovely play between tangy fruit and savory spice. Drink now–2030. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 D’Arenberg 2017 The Galvo Garage Bordeaux-style Red Blend (McLaren Vale). For full review see page 14. Old Bridge Cellars.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Dandelion 2020 Menagerie of the Barossa Grenache-Shiraz-Mataro (Barossa Valley). This is a modern, fresh and affordable Rhône red blend. The open-knit nose offers fistfuls of cherry, plum, licorice, dried rose and earthy, savory spice with a subtle backbone of oak. The palate is nicely structured and powerfully wound, with chiseled, talc-like tannins and juicy fruit remains at the fore. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Schild Estate 2018 Narrow Road Vineyard Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa Valley). Ripe but still-juicy strawberry and plum preserves are in the fore on this big-boned but finessed wine. Spicy cedar wood, violet, chocolate and a gentle earthy, pepper spice trail behind. The palate is round in shape with silky, pleasantly plump berry fruit and well-placed spiced tannins. More characterful than many of this brand’s others, this is still young so a decanter and protein is vital if drinking now, otherwise cellar until around 2024, then drink until another eight to ten years beyond that. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Kalleske 2020 Clarry’s G-S-M (Barossa Valley). From one of Barossa’s longstanding and highly reputed wineries, Clarry’s is a bold yet layered GSM. A lucid, winter warming nose of brambly raspberry and currant fruit, cherry, licorice, cracked pepper and very dark chocolate is etched in charred, dusty vanillin oak. The oak is increasingly present on the palate, too, as it warms in the glass. Chiseled, chalky tannins cinch plump fruit and savory spice. The finish is sappy and astringent.

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Another year or two in the bottle (from 2024) might do this good. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

90 Konpira Maru 2021 Voltron Red Blend (Victoria). This wild red blend from Victoria's King Valley is under crown cap, implying bubbles. But the fizz is minimal. A cloudy strawberry color, it's rustic and gently spiced with sour cherry aromas. The palate is soft yet fresh, like a tart cherry pie, with a fruit pit pithiness, a tug of skinsy tannins and a slight funk to the finish. Stripped back for chilling down on a hot summer's day, it's more like drinking fruit juice than wine. Dangerous, really. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$35

90 Penfolds 2018 Max's Shiraz-Cabernet (South Australia). For full review see page 19. Treasury Wine Estates.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

90 S.C. Pannell 2017 Tempranillo Touriga Red Blend (Adelaide Hills). Give this Tempranillo-Touriga blend some aeration before drinking. Once open, it's a characterful drop, offering rich, fleshy plum and cherry fruit, leather saddle, cedar, sweet spice and vanilla. The palate is medium in weight, with lifted acidity and hefty but highly textural, herbal tannins. There's a slight charred meaty note amid the bright fleshy fruit. Drink now and over the next few years. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

89 Balnaves of Coonawarra 2018 The Blend Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Coonawarra). A sturdy Bordeaux blend, this Coonawarra red leads with plump plum and blueberry fruit backed by more savory, meaty notes, savory spice and a fair lick of slightly charred, vanillin oak. The palate is plush and juicy with powerful, spicy tannins. The oak rears its head, but another year or two in the bottle may settle it, and then it should drink well until 2030, at least. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

89 Charlotte Dalton 2021 What A Ride Red Blend (Adelaide Hills). Made of 80% Shiraz and 20% Carignan, this is a savory, stinky, peppery red with brambly berry fruit, plum, tree sap and mint. There's a slight charred meaty note that's present but not oak-derived. The palate shows both power and restraint, thanks to fresh acidity; taut, skinsy tannins, and juicy fruit. It's a medium-bodied expression that could be chilled slightly and drunk on an early autumn or spring evening. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Mad Fish 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Western Australia). An approachable and affordable intro to the West Aussie Cab style, this spicy, aromatic bottling opens with notes of black cherry, plum and tangerine laced with earthier characteristics like pencil lead, ground black pepper, mint and tobacco leaf. Crunchy, juicy fruit on the palate is reined in by sappy, spice-filled tan-

nins. It veers a touch astringent on the finish but overall is a solid drop for drinking young. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$14

89 Somos 2021 Tintito Red Blend (South Australia). A heady and unusual blend of Grenache, Uva di Troia, Pinot Meunier and Men-cia makes for a translucent, cherry-hued bottling. After some swirling, the nose offers appealing notes of rose water, strawberry, cocktail bitters and dried herbs, spices and florals. There's some stalky, sappy whole bunch notes here, too. The palate is less exciting. It's medium in weight, with a big lift of acidity and quite powerful tannins that rake across the tongue. Tart red berry notes finish. Drink slightly chilled with a fatty dish like pork rilette or grilled Middle Eastern-style eggplant. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

89 Voyager Estate 2017 Girt By The Sea Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Margaret River). This is an aromatic, open-knit wine with notes of plums, cherries and oodles of savory spice and earthy herbs (think cracked black pepper and tobacco leaf). Chocolate-vanilla oak flavors supports without stealing the spotlight. The palate is medium in weight with plenty of freshness, chalky spiced tannins and plump plummy fruit. A straight-forward drop for drinking now with protein—2030. Pace Wine and Spirits. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

88 Vintage Longbottom 2020 Henry's Drive G-S-M (McLaren Vale). This is a plump, meaty Cab with tangy plum and cherry fruit and rather prominent mealy oak that's underpinned by licorice, chocolate, chorizo, clove and black pepper. The palate is broad shouldered, with chewy tannins, chocolaty oak and plush fruit. There's plenty for big red lovers to take a bite out of here, but a slab of protein is a requisite. Drink now—2032. Quintessential Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$80

87 Bethany 2018 First Village Shiraz-Cabernet (Barossa Valley). A pleasant if confected strawberry fruit aroma opens this oh-so-Aussie blend. It's backed by a leafy green note like flower stems and sweet spice. The palate is full-figured but less hefty than many in this style. Acidity feels somewhat forced, adding a sour sense to the fruit and an astringency to the tannins. Drink now and over the next few years. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

87 Cape Mentelle 2018 Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (Margaret River). This Shiraz-Cab blend, from one of Margaret River's long-standing wineries, is dense and dusty, with notes of sour cherry, raspberry, licorice and savory spice, and a quite prominent curtain of cola flavored oak. The moderate, maritime climate can be felt on the palate, where a freshness lifts the tart red berry fruit. But again the oak distracts in the form of astringent tannins, drying out the mouth and making for aus-

tere and rather difficult drinking. Moët Hennessy USA. —C.P.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$NA

87 Fox Creek 2018 JSM James Stanley Malpas Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon-Cabernet Franc Red Blend (McLaren Vale). Plush brambly red and black fruit dominates on this red blend. It's backed by gentle spice, a tomato stem note and some oak influence. The palate shows some fruit richness and freshness, but overall this is a broad-shouldered wine with somewhat chewy, oak-derived tannins. Drink with a big slab of meat. Paradigm Collection. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

87 Paxton 2020 AAA Organic Biodynamic Shiraz-Grenache (McLaren Vale). Still young, this Shiraz-Grenache blend opens with red berry and blood orange aromas, backed by savory spice, tree sap and ground black pepper. The tangy fruit flows through to the palate, and the lifted acidity can be felt immediately. The chewy mouthfilling tannins then rush in to take their place. While the nose shows promise, the palate lacks some harmony and depth and finishes astringently. Cabernet Corporation. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

86 Bella Ridge 2017 Tempranillo-Grenache (Western Australia). This is an open, aromatic Tempranillo-Grenache blend from a small, outside-the-box producer in Western Australia's historic Swan Valley. There is, however, quite a lot of volatile acidity, distracting to the otherwise appealing red fruit, vanilla and soft spice characters. The volatile acidity is less obvious on the palate, where the juicy red berry flavors are more in the fore, wound in herb-flecked tannins. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

86 Some Young Punks 2020 The Squid's Fist Red Blend (Clare Valley). This plum-and brick-colored Shiraz-Sangiovese blend from the Clare Valley is a dense, concentrated bottling. The ripe plum and cherry fruit is backed by chocolaty oak and earthy, peppery spice and herbal notes. The powerful palate is cinched with skinsy tannins. There's a brambly, sappy, savory quality here that appeals, but it lacks flavor depth and veers astringent and drying on the finish. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$31

OTHER RED WINES

92 Mr. Riggs 2018 Montepulciano (Adelaide). There's a cool edge to this Montepulciano, like brambly blackberry bushes after a spring shower. Notes of tobacco leaf, dried violet, black olive and dusty red earth add complexity and layers. There's also an underbelly of sweet, polished oak. In the mouth, savory tannins are highly textural and sandpaper-like. The tingly, mouthwatering acidity proves a good counterbalance, enhanc-

ing the juicy berry fruit. The oak is again a touch prominent. Could be a knockout with charcuterie or salt-encrusted lamb chops. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Bink 2019 Mirrors Zinfandel (Clare Valley). Zinfandel but not as you know it! From a natural-leaning producer in the Clare Valley, this is a light-bodied, low alcohol and easy-drinking Zin. A cloudy cherry color, it tastes like freshly pressed red berries (stems and all), cinnamon bark and autumn leaves. It's lucid and appealing, with a lingering yeasty red apple note that turns tart on the palate due to a bite of skinsy tannins. A little reminiscent of cider, there's a bit of funk at the finish, but overall this is an ultrarefreshing red to drink chilled in the summer. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 8.7% **Price:** \$35

90 Colab and Bloom 2021 Sangiovese (Fleu-riou). This Sangiovese is as fruity on the nose as the cherry color implies. It's ripe but still fresh, the red berries backed by notes of sage, ground black pepper and subtle florals. The palate is nicely balanced and linear with rapiers acidity, fleshy fruit and fine, chalky tannins. It finishes a little short but would be a knockout with barbecue or roast mushroom fare. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Colab and Bloom 2021 Tempranillo (Ade-laide Hills). This is a full-figured Tempranillo but it's a fresh and harmonious one. High-toned red berries and plums, backed gently by savory herbs, spices and vanilla bean, are supported by powerful, chalky tannins. A silky mouthfeel rounds it out. Would make an excellent pizza night tittle. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Maxwell 2020 Clan Nero d'Avola (McLaren Vale). This is a rich and glossy Nero with concentrated notes of cherry and blackberry in the lead framed by soft, savory spice and a sheen of chocolate, toasty oak. It's plump and full-figured with supple tannins and a lovely lift of acidity like tart baking cherry. The oak is better tucked on the palate. Rodinia LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

89 Ricca Terra 2020 Nero d'Avola (Riverland). There's a highly appealing lift of ultrajuicy strawberry and cherry fruit akin to Jolly Ranchers straight off the bat on this wine from progressive organic Riverland growers. A stalky, spicy and slightly floral edge adds interest. The palate is medium in weight with savory tannins and a mighty lift of unexpected (for the warmth of the region) acidity. Fruit sits a little flatly, though, and falls off quickly, showing a touch of alcohol heat. Not as strong as the 2019, but a tasty and characterful drop nonetheless. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 La Petite Mort 2020 Qvevri Saperavi (Queensland). A Saperavi from Queensland is unusual. A Saperavi from Queensland that spends

211 days on skins in clay amphorae is downright bonkers. Stylistically divisive, to say the least, this opaque wine is aromatic in the funkiest of senses, with dense aromatics like ripe plum, blackberry and blueberry, vineyard floor, mint, tree sap, stalks and black licorice. The palate is powerful with bucket-loads of acidity, sappy tannins and a funkalicious finish. Pair with equally rustic, starchy foods like Eastern European-style dumplings. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$48

86 Colab and Bloom 2020 Montepulciano (Fleurieu). This Montepulciano is a bit reductive to start, the barnyard notes distracting from the ripe red and black fruit, leafy herbs, licorice and chocolate, sweet spiced oak. The palate feels similarly muffled and reductive with a pinch of acidity, chalky tannins and quite a bit of oak showing, as well as some alcohol warmth. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Jen Pfeiffer 2020 The Rebel Tempranillo (Victoria). It's hard to see the varietal character of this Tempranillo amid the sweaty reductive notes. Beneath them lie ripe red berry and sweet oak spice characters. Powerful, tightly wound tannins and alcohol heat are the most prominent features of the palate, which feels a bit disjointed overall. Naked Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$21

FORTIFIED WINES

100 Seppeltsfield 1921 Para Shiraz-Grenache (Barossa Valley). Released every year since 1878, this is thought to be the world's only single vintage wine with such unbroken lineage. A deep amber hue, it envelops the senses with endless layers of aroma and flavor that conjure snapshots of the past: the dried leather pungency of a tannery; the equal parts polish and dust of cracked-spine books lining glossy mahogany shelves of an old library; smoked chestnuts; dark chocolate, and date cake. Texturally it's like drinking satin, unctuous but not cloying (it's astoundingly fresh actually). The alcohol creeps in later but is overwhelmed by richness of flavor and a finish that lasts for full minutes. Picture it gently siphoned from its 100-year slumber in the ancient barrel halls of Seppeltsfield's Centennial Cellar—which is exactly what happens each time an order is placed. There's been a hefty price hike recently, but for a once-in-a-lifetime treasure such as this, it's justified. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: NA **Price:** \$1000

99 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Rare Muscat (Rutherglen). A rich, comforting coffee color with a slight green rim, Chambers's Rare Muscat is a national treasure, with vines over a century old and from a solera blending system that's even older. Like sinking into your favorite armchair at the end of a long day, it envelops the senses in a cloak of melted dark chocolate, hazelnut, milky

coffee, toffee and the spine of an old library book. The palate is intensely concentrated, with a viscous texture that glides satin-like over the tongue. The alcohol is present but in check, and a remarkable freshness remains. Divinely indulgent, to be savored slowly on its own or drunk with a nutty dark chocolate dessert. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$350/375 ml

97 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Grand Muscadelle (Rutherglen). Although significantly cheaper than this historic producer's Rare Muscadelle, the Grand proves equally delicious with excellent length and freshness. Walnut-hued with a pale rim, it's rich and heady, billowing raisin, fig, coffee and chocolate-covered nuts dusted in cinnamon. Secondary notes of smoke and dusty library book add another layer of complexity. In the mouth it's intensely sweet and unctuous, but there's also a lovely tang of acidity, depth of flavor and a seemingly endless finish. An indulgent "sticky" alone or with a multitude of chocolate, nut or toffee-based desserts. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$140/375 ml

97 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Rare Muscadelle (Rutherglen). Molasses hued, Chambers's oldest, most premium Muscadelle is a multifaceted beauty that unravels slowly, revealing—amid the richness and concentration—a pleasant mustiness, like the smell of a mahogany-furnished library in a stately old home. Mocha, baked fig and burnt brown sugar follow. At first sip, the intense sweetness and alcohol are prominent, but they're rapidly followed by those concentrated mocha and fig flavors. Unctuous but still amazingly fresh, this proves an excellent example of a style that's deeply engrained in Aussie wine history. Sip fireside on an icy winter's eve. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 17.5% **Price:** \$350/375 ml

97 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Grand Muscat (Rutherglen). This is a beautiful fortified, composed of solera wines going back a staggering 120 years. Espresso colored, it exudes dried fig, praline, butterscotch, smoke and mocha aromas. The palate is intensely sweet, with a lick of alcohol heat, but with beautiful freshness to buoy the dried orange, fig and toffee flavors, which linger long on the endless finish. Savor with a caramel-and-fruit-based dessert. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 18.5% **Price:** \$100/375 ml

95 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains (Rutherglen). This tawny-hued, late-picked Muscat is one of the best bargains in fortified wine. From a historic, benchmark Aussie wine producer, it's fresh, floral and highly appealing. Aromas of honeysuckle, peony, orange water, toffee and cream lead to a palate that's intensely sweet and concentrated but with mouth-watering acidity and a marmalade finish. Drink chilled with a candied orange or caramel dessert. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$16/375 ml

94 Seppeltsfield NV Para Grand Tawny Red Blend (Australia). The Para Grand Tawny is an excellent example of this style as well as an affordable opportunity to try a fortified from this renowned historic estate. Aged an average of 10 years, it's a burnt sugar color, with the beginnings of a green rim, but still looking vibrant. The nose is less nutty and oxidative and more evocative of dusty library books, leather armchairs, baked raisins, molasses, coffee beans and warm spice. In the mouth a lovely acidity cuts through the sweetness. There's burn to the alcohol but it stays balanced, the flavors flowing to a long finish. Sip slightly chilled with *crème brûlée* or tiramisu. Legend Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.
abv: 20.9% **Price:** \$39

94 Chambers Rosewood Vineyards NV Muscadelle (Rutherford). A vibrant maple syrup hue with a slightly green rim, this delightful and wildly well-priced fortified smells like Cow Tales candy, a toffee and cream combo that swirls with heady notes of dried tangerine and brown sugar backed by smoky and vaguely mineral nuance. The palate is as unctuous and sticky as you'd expect. The alcohol adds heat and lift. This would be a knockout with a citrus and custard dessert like an orange flan. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$16

92 De Bortoli 2018 Noble One Semillon (New South Wales). For full review see page 11. PH Importing.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$40

91 Seppeltsfield NV DP38 Rich Rare Apera Solero White Blend (South Australia). This Apera sees a minimum average age of 18 years. It's amber hued with a green rim and evokes a plethora of aromas from dusting polish over glossed mahogany, English Christmas pudding with baked with raisins, sultanas and baking spice, honey roasted nuts, and a burn of alcohol that's emphasized on the palate. There's textural viscosity, a woody note and a lingering dried tangerine peel finish. Sip like a Sherry with roasted, salted nuts and other tapas fair. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 23% **Price:** \$37

90 Seppeltsfield NV DPI16 Aged Flor Apera Solero Palomino (South Australia). Made from 100% Palomino (in true Sherry style), this vibrant burnt orange Apera offers notes of toffee, marmalade, melted butter and peanut shells. The palate emphasizes the bitterness of the style as well as the elevated alcohol, but those marmalade, nut and toffee notes are there, too. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 22.5% **Price:** \$37/500 ml

89 De Bortoli NV Fine Tawny 8 Year Old Red Blend (Australia). De Bortoli's espresso-hued tawny isn't as well-known as its Noble One. Aromas of milky coffee, root beer, raisins and chocolate flow into flavors on the palate, where the alcohol and sweetness are tempered by just enough acidity. It lacks much of the intriguing oxidative

character and harmony of other tawnies, but would be a tasty pairing with a caramel-and-nut-based dessert. PH Importing. —C.P.
abv: 18.5% **Price:** \$50

SOUTH AFRICA

CHENIN BLANC

90 Lievland 2020 Old Vine Chenin Blanc (Paarl). Aromas of citrus fruit, peach, pear and honey are inviting. This wine has moderate acidity supporting stone fruit, apple and a light note of linden tea on the palate. It finishes with notes of lemon. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

88 Noble Hill 2020 Sur Lie Chenin Blanc (Simonsberg-Paarl). White grapefruit and hints of chamomile shape the nose of this wine. The palate offers good acidity backing up flavors of orange zest and grapefruit. It finishes with notes of citrus fruit. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

87 Painted Wolf 2020 The Den Chenin Blanc (Coastal Region). Lime, honey and light notes of white flowers shape the nose of this coastal white wine. The palate offers citrus fruit, grass and linden tea alongside moderate acidity. The finish is slightly warm. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Friesland 2020 Berg & See Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch). This white wine offers quince, honey and citrus flavors alongside good acidity. It finishes with bitter notes. Terroir Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

85 Neethlingshof 2020 Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch). Citrus aromas on the nose are subtle and generic. This wine has nice acidity supporting bitter flavors. Saranty Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CHARDONNAY

89 Boschloof 2020 Chardonnay (Western Cape). Fresh and citrusy, this white opens with lemon and peach aromas followed by hints of wet stone. On the palate, it features nice acidity supporting ripe lime and stone fruit flavors. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Indaba 2020 Chardonnay (Western Cape). The nose opens with peach, chamomile and orange zest. Backed by light acidity, flavors of stone fruit, lime and vanilla are subtle on the palate. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Glen Carlou 2020 Chardonnay (Simonsberg-Paarl). The nose is rather austere and has

light notes of mango and white flowers. On the palate, it shows light acidity, ripe apple, peach and grass leading to a lemony finish. Pace Wine and Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 The Beachhouse 2020 Chardonnay (Western Cape). Aromas of stone fruit blend with light notes of wet stone on the nose. The palate has ripe lime and peach flavors. It has light acidity and a medium finish. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

86 Boschendal 2020 Chardonnay (Western Cape). Aromas of sweet flowers and stone fruit are subtle. Nice acidity supports mild stone and citrus fruit flavors. The finish shows light bitter notes. Cape Classics. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

SPARKLING WINES

88 Graham Beck NV Brut Méthode Cap Classique Champagne Blend (Western Cape). The nose displays stone fruit and light notes of toasted bread. Flavors of peach and lime blended with chamomile show on the creamy palate. Moderate acidity and good carbonation make the wine easy to drink. Beck Family Estates. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

87 Steenberg NV Brut Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape). Ripe pear blends with light notes of butter on the nose and repeats on the oily palate. It has good acidity and fine bubbles leading to a slightly bitter finish. Beck Family Estates. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Boschendal NV Méthode Cap Classique Chardonnay-Pinot Noir Brut Sparkling Blend (Western Cape). This brut offers aromas of peach, pear and flowers. The palate shows peach and apple flavors. Playful bubbles and good acidity make the wine fresh. It finishes with notes of toasted bread. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

88 Overhex NV Balance Boldly Brut Sparkling Blend (Western Cape). The nose is shaped by honey, apple and white flowers. The creamy palate delivers stone fruit, lime and a light note of butter. It's balanced overall. Meridian Prime Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$11

85 Benguela Cove NV Méthode Cap Classique Cuvée 58 Sparkling Blend (Walker Bay). On the nose it offers ripe citrus fruit aromas. Lightly sparkling, this wine finishes with bitter citrus flavors. Baobab Wines Inc. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

88 Boschklouf 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape). Syrupy cherry and nutmeg shape the nose. On the palate, meaty red berry flavors are supported by rough tannins leading to a lingering finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Braai 2019 A South African Classic Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape). Aromas of ripe blackberry, peppercorn, earth and cumin show in the glass of this wine. Chewy tannins frame ripe black fruit and grassy flavors alongside moderate acidity. It's medium-to full-bodied and has a medium finish with spice in the aftertaste. Cape Classics. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

87 Warwick 2020 The First Lady Cabernet Sauvignon (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch). The nose of this wine offers dried herbs and cherries. Oaky flavors mask mild red fruit on the full-bodied palate. Sharp acidity freshens the medium finish. Elektra Wines LLC. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Spier 2019 True to Terroir Cabernet Sauvignon (Coastal Region). This wine shows aromas of ripe cherry blended with chocolate notes. On the palate, it offers red fruit and dried herb flavors alongside drying tannins. The finish is warm. USA Wine West. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

84 MAN Family Wines 2019 Ou Kalant Cabernet Sauvignon (Coastal Region). Red fruit aromas are woolly on the nose. The palate shows balsamic notes and grass leading to a short bitter finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

SYRAH

90 Stellenbosch Vineyards 2018 Shiraz (Stellenbosch). Bay leaf and vanilla aromas shape the nose of this well-balanced Shiraz. It features smooth tannins and lively acidity supporting plum, blueberry and black cherry. The finish is pleasant and has light notes of smoke. Vinamericas, Inc.. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Noble Hill 2018 Sic Transit Gloria Mvndi Syrah (Simonsberg-Paarl). Overripe red fruit aromas are followed by light notes of tobacco. This wine has soft tannins and moderate acidity backing concentrated ripe berry flavors. Medium-bodied, it finishes with chocolate notes. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

89 Reyneke 2018 Syrah (Stellenbosch). On the nose this wine offers cherry and raspberry accented by peppercorn. It's medium-bodied with

slightly rough tannins. Dried herbs, ripe cherry and hints of oak spice show on the palate. The finish is medium in length. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

86 Bruce Jack 2018 Heritage Collection Clean Slate Single Vineyard Shiraz (Overberg). The nose is rather austere and has notes of raspberry. On the palate, this wine shows concentrated red fruit flavors alongside light acidity and soft tannins. Manzanos Wines USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

RED BLENDS

90 Constantia Glen 2017 Five Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Constantia). This full-bodied wine opens with red berry and toasted oak aromas followed by green bell pepper. The rounded palate features cherry, plum and smoky flavors that last through the pleasant warm finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Simonsig 2017 Tiara Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch). For full review see page 20. Quintessential Wines.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

86 Meerlust 2018 Rubicon Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch). The nose offers prune and light notes of spice and black olive. On the palate, pyrazine and smoky flavors are not well-integrated. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

84 Stony Brook 2017 The Max Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Franschhoek). This wine has stewed red fruit flavors backed by mild acidity and light tannins. The finish is short. RSF Wine. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

84 Warwick 2017 Estate Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch). This wine offers overripe black and red fruit flavors framed by drying tannins and good acidity. It has a short bitter finish. Elektra Wines LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 Peake Ranch 2020 Peake Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Very lean and focused on the nose, this brilliant bottling shows lemon peel, shiso leaf and sea salt on the nose, with the slightest hint of delicate cream. The mineral focus to the palate is tremendous, as the crushed chalk tension holds firm from start to finish, allowing flavors of lychee and lemon zest to shine. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

95 Au Bon Climat 2019 Nuits-Blanche au Bouge Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

95 Clendenen Family 2018 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). This bottling begins with a mellow touch, and then opens in more toasty ways, showing judicious levels of butterscotch, lemon confit, hazelnut and oak on the nose. Zippy acidity and savory salinity slice through the palate, contrasting the richer waves of toasted nuts, baked lemon, seared peach and white chocolate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Solomon Hills Estate 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's an impressive amount of white-rock minerality to the nose of this bottling, where chalk aromas surround the Asian pear, white lemon and lychee character of the nose. That chalky tension and flavor run through the palate, giving a steady edge to the lime blossom, lemon balm and underripe pineapple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

95 Solomon Hills Estate 2020 Belle of the Ball Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's a fascinating sense of chalk, lemon curd and light-yellow pear on the expertly crafted nose of this top-shelf bottling from this esteemed estate. Pear flesh and bright lemon flavors ride a sharp acidity on the sip, but it's that granular, grippy structure that takes this to the next level. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

94 Armida 2019 Gap's Crown Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$55

94 Benovia 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

94 Castello di Amorosa 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59

94 Clendenen Family 2018 Le Bon Climat Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's no shying away from this bottling's nutty aromas—from hazelnut to pecan to toasty oak—but there's also inviting butterscotch and seared-lemon notes as well. Those warm aspects are cut by a tense, acid-driven structure on the palate, where citrus slices through the caramel, salt and browned butter flavors. The hint of herb makes it a perfect pairing with roast chicken. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Donnachadh 2020 Estate Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Brisk and chalky aromas of almond, lychee and honey make for a compelling nose on this bottling from this newer and impressive estate. A bright sizzle of acidity slices right through the sip, as honeyed almond, pear flesh and

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lime rind flavors ride a chalky texture into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

93 Au Bon Climat 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Meyer lemon aromas meet toasted nuts and wood spice on the focused nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly woven, offering blanched almond, crushed rock and white-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Donnachadh 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

93 Falcone 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Broad aromas of peach and honey-suckle manage to stay focused and precise on the nose of this bottling from 22-year-old vines at Bien Nacido Vineyard. There's a chalky, alkaline edge to the palate that frames the more generous white flower, coconut and peach flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

93 Madson 2021 Misty Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Tightly alkaline aromas of chalk and lime pith meet with crushed sandstone and a hint of citrus on the nose of this bottling. The palate is all about the firm structural grip, which weaves through flavors of almond and lemon peel. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$48

93 Madson 2021 Sunsprings Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). The tightly wound bottlings of this producer are excellent for cellar storage. Mineral-driven aromas of crushed stone meet with lemon balm and shiso leaf on the nose. The grippy structure holds up flavors of nectarine, lemon blossom, lychee and Asian pear. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$48

93 McIntyre Family Wines 2019 Winemaker Series: Don Van Staaveren McIntyre Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Soft baked peach and light salt aromas meet with more exotic hints of saffron and chamomile on the engaging nose of this bottling, a partnership between legendary grower Steve McIntyre and winemaker Don Van Staaveren. The palate packs flavors of apricot jam, lemon and salted butter into a comprehensive experience framed by a waxy, tactile grip. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$52

93 Peake Ranch 2020 Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Honey-suckle, pear, melon and pillowy gardenia aromas make for a clean and rounded nose on this bottling. It's much more tightly woven on the palate, where bright acidity cuts through softer flavors of honey-suckle, lime blossom and lemon cream. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Riverbench 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's a chalky overtone to the nose of this bottling, which also offers Asian pear, nectarine and a hint of cashew on the nose. The rocky, tightly woven expression extends to the palate, where brisk jicama, salted lemon wedge and white-fleshed fruit flavors are generous but not overbearing. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

92 Au Bon Climat 2019 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Ynez Valley). Singed oak, toasted almond and cashew and baked apple aromas converge on the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard collection. The palate grips with a crushed rock minerality, giving a frame to the lemon zest and stone-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Tightly woven lemon peel, crushed stone and light nectarine aromas come through on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the sip, where a sneaky acidity pops through the flavors of chalk, lemon and pineapple rind. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Diora 2020 La Grande Lumière San Bernabe Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Eberle 2021 Eberle Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Paso Robles). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

92 Ferrari Ranch 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Clean lines of peach, cultured butter and candied nut show on the nose of this estate bottling. The palate picks up zesty lemon and grapefruit edges, while apple, salted butter and light vanilla flavors ride into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Mahoney 2020 Gavin Vineyard Estate Grown Chardonnay (Carneros). Well structured and showing plenty of rich pear and apple-pie flavors, this full-bodied wine offers tempting toast and butter accents that start with the aroma and continue through the palate and finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

92 V. Sattui 2020 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$38

91 Alfaro Family 2020 Mary Katherine Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Lime peel and almond aromas are decorated with earthy tones of wet chalk and clay on the nose of this bottling. That earthy kick carries through the sip, with rocky elements served atop flavors of citrus peel and dried apple flesh. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

91 Alfaro Family 2020 Trout Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Comforting aromas of lemon glaze, toasted macadamia nuts and tropical white flowers invite the nose into this single-vineyard expression. There's a quick blast of acidity on the palate, cutting into the nutty flavors of dried lemon and roasted banana, with a citrus note lingering into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$33

91 Alma de Cattleya 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

91 Babcock 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Crisp Asian and red-pear aromas meet with fresh honeysuckle and citrus pith on the nose of this appellation blend. A bright acidity sizzles through the chalky frame of the palate, which is loaded with tight lime and broader tropical flavors of mango. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Barra of Mendocino 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Mendocino). From first pour, the depth and complexity of this Chardonnay is immediately evident with pronounced aromas of ripe yellow and green apple, yellow peach and nectarine, cantaloupe and white and pink roses—dew-covered and warming in the morning sun. These fresh components are complemented by secondary notes of hazelnut, almond, vanilla and nutmeg. The palate doesn't disappoint, providing the right amount of acid to uplift those fruits and add a refreshing center to this voluptuous white wine, leading toward a long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

91 Buehler 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

91 Clos LaChance 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Baked apricot and peach aromas are rich, while remaining fresh and delicate on the nose of this bottling. There's a steely drive to the palate, giving a racy touch to the baked apple and light citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

91 Fleur de California 2020 Carneros Select Chardonnay (Carneros). Attractive oak notes of toasted bread, butter and fresh ginger lead to vivid crisp apple and Anjou-pear flavors in this well-balanced, complex barrel-fermented wine. It is tangy yet ripe and generously spiced. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

91 Lindquist Family 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's a stony style to the nose of this single-vineyard expression, which also shows light wood, baked Meyer lemon and crisp nectarine aromas. Lemon and grapefruit peel flavors pop on the palate, but there's an earthy core as well, with brisk apple and

tantalizing acidity carrying deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

91 Morgan 2021 Metallico Unoaked Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Tightly woven aromas of lime pith, Meyer lemon, chalk and jicama draw the nose into this unoaked bottling. There's a firmly stony expression on the palate, giving a mineral edge to the honeysuckle and riper apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

91 Pali Wine Co. 2019 Pali Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of freshly cut apples seared in butter, macadamia nut and lemon show a warmer, broad nose on this bottling, but in very judicious ways. There's an earthy tension to the palate at first, and then come waves of apple, pear and savory herb flavors, with hints of oak and salt on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$79

91 Peake Ranch 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Chalk and lemon confit aromas make for a tight focus yet warmer touch on the nose of this bottling. Plush nectarine, pineapple and sea salt flavors are cut by a lemon-peel element on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

91 Vinum Cellars 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey). Soft aromas of sea salt, baked apple, lemon and hazelnut make for a classic nose on this bottling. There's a slow-rising acidity on the palate, where honeysuckle, baked pear and toasted-pastry flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 DC Flynt MW Selections 2021 Vinaforé Collection Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

90 Diora 2020 La Splendeur du Soleil Chardonnay (Monterey). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 Doctor's Orders 2016 Meadow Farm Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). From a unique, ocean-side property in the coastal Santa Barbara enclave of Hope Ranch, this is an exciting hint of what's to come for this vineyard. Aromas of dried lemon peel and toasted wood lead into a tense palate, where chamomile, vanilla and well-integrated oak flavors ride a persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

90 Duckhorn 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

90 Highlands 41 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.1% Price: \$15

90 Jamie Slone Wines 2019 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lime-spray aromas meet with blanched almond and singed orange peel on the nose of this bottling, which sparkles with the slightest fizz in the glass. The palate leans fresh and green, with honeydew and key-lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$45

90 Madson 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Subdued aromas of earth, wool, wet stone and light citrus show on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate is all about texture, with earthy, rocky elements and flavors of citrus pith and crisp pear clinging to the tight frame. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$36

90 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2021 Shinkan Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$27

90 Pali Wine Co. 2019 Pali Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Browned butter, butterscotch, baked lemon and toasted almond make for a rich nose on this bottling. Those lush flavors of baked peach, marzipan and vanilla-laced caramel are full on the palate as well, balanced by a tight weave and steady acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$64

90 Riverbench 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Toasted hazelnut, brown butter and seared-marshmallow aromas make for a classic California Chard experience on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a toasted macadamia nut flavor that is splashed with lemon juice. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$36

90 The Harris Gallery 2020 Du Pratt Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). A tempting aroma of toasted baguette leads to rather smoky, oaky flavors backed by good golden apple and Bosc pear flavors in this medium-bodied, assertive wine. It's old school and well done in that style. —J.G.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$56

90 William Hill Estate 2020 Chardonnay (Napa Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

89 Ancient Peaks 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Margarita Ranch). Fresh white flower, pear flesh and white-melon aromas arise on the nose of this bottling. There's a light sizzle of acidity on the palate, where tropical fruit and flower flavors of plumaria and pineapple align. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Burtech Family 2020 Chardonnay (Carneros). This rich and relaxed wine indulges the nose and palate with extra ripe, almost sweet apple and pear flavors that are accented quietly by vanilla and nutmeg nuances. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$55

89 Carneros Highway 2021 Nueva Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 20.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$17

89 Gen5 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.2% Price: \$11

89 Girasole 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Mendocino County). This wine exudes complexity almost immediately with initial aromas that include fully ripe yellow apple, white peach and nectarine, complemented with notes of toasted bread, vanilla, cream and hints of fresh green herbs. The palate does not disappoint, speaking to those initial aromatics and highlighting the delicate winemaking that enhances, not hides, those beautiful fresh fruits and herbs. Enjoyable on its own, but even better paired with a light pasta or chicken dish. —S.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

89 Just Enough 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.8% Price: \$8/250 ml

89 Wente 2021 Riva Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Likably tart aromas of lime pith and grapefruit peel are warmed by almond and lifted by spearmint on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rounded in expression, with baked melon, lemon and hazelnut flavors finishing on a flinty note. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

88 Bernardus 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Lime spritz and apple-slice aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows an earthier side, offering baked lemon and toasted nut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$28

88 Cabana Wines 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi). A golden hue in the glass, this Chardonnay provides immediate aromas of very ripe fruits—yellow peach and nectarine, apricot and honeydew melon. The palate carries through with these notes, adding additional layers of citrus (orange juice and zest) along with the floral notes of fresh almonds and almond blossoms. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 Complicated 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Butter aromas are cut by lemon spritz and a stony minerality on the nose of this bottling. Rounded peach flavors meet with light citrus on the soft palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$22

88 Highway 12 2021 Chardonnay (California). A flinty, mineral aroma leads to good apple and pear flavors in this nicely crisp and uncomplicated, lighter style of Chardonnay. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

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88 Lasorda Family Wines 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Light aromas of apricot, peach and apple blossoms are clean and fresh on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture, offering apple, pear, bubblegum and banana flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Lion's Ridge 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Central Coast). Baked apple, pecan and oak spice aromas are familiar and fine on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture, showing vanilla, creamy apple and lots of oak influence. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Maddalena 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey). Warm aromas of buttered pecan and salted peanut are quite rich and nutty on the nose of this bottling. The palate follows a similar line with hazelnut, pecan and apple pie flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$20

88 No Curfew 2021 Chardonnay (California). Straight-away this Chardonnay welcomes the palate with a smooth, glycerin mouthfeel ripe with warm flavors of yellow apple, blanched almonds, hazelnut, poached peaches, vanilla and cream. There's enough acidity to add a dose of freshness that extends the length of the tasting. An overall comfortable expression of Chardonnay that can be utilized in a variety of occasions with a variety of dishes. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$12

88 Robert Hall 2021 Cavern Select Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Buttercream, baked apple and cinnamon spice aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is toasty with nut and oak flavors, as apple sauce shows through the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

88 San Simeon 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey). This is an unctuous and buttery style of Chardonnay, starting with butterscotch, baked apple pie and hazelnut on the nose. The palate is rich and bold with buttery flavors of nutty oak and more butterscotch. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$25

88 Sculpterra 2021 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). There's a toasty kick of oak to the nose of this bottling alongside flavors of baked apple and baking spice. The palate is wrapped in a soft tension, showing slightly sweet flavors of baked apple and ripe peach. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$34

88 Shannon Ridge 2020 High Elevation Collection Chardonnay (Lake County). This rich and buttery wine offers vivid melted-butter aromas, tasty poached-pear flavors and a coating of butter and vanilla that lasts through the finish. Full in body, it feels soft in terms of acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$23

88 Sunstone 2021 Spear Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Dried lemon, apple jerky and dusty earth aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The subdued earthy tone decorates the palate as well, with baked lemon and seared-apple flavors most apparent. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

88 Wiens Cellars 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Temecula Valley). This is a very toasty style of Chardonnay, offering loads of wood spice, warm pastry and roasted-nut aromas on the nose. The palate is more tart with lemon flavors as well as a wooly earth minerality. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$42

87 Crow Canyon Vineyards 2021 Chardonnay (California). Deep, golden yellow in the glass, the wine exudes a plethora of appetizing aromas: agave, hazelnut, cream, apple, pear, white blossom and lemon meringue delicately spiced with dried cardamom, coriander and nutmeg. This dry, almost full-bodied Chardonnay carries through with those notes onto the palate, providing a surprising level of complexity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$8

87 Equioa 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey). Soft aromas of hazelnut, butterscotch and baked peach decorate the nose on this bottling. The palate is soft in texture and rich in flavor, offering butter, poached pear and a hint of lemon. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

87 Ryder Estate 2021 Chardonnay (California). Aromas offer notes of white peach and nectarine, just-ripe apricot, fresh lemon zest, lime leaf and a hint of toast and roasted hazelnut. The palate follows through with those notes and provides a soft mouthfeel and relatively full body. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Meeker 2021 Gamboge Chardonnay (North Coast). A quaffable Chardonnay with aromas and flavors of fresh lemon and lime, green apple, ripe yellow peach and nectarine, as well as notes of white blossom, vanilla and cream. While carrying a plethora of flavors, it maintains a relative simplicity about it, meaning it's a perfect match for a casual night and will pair well with a variety of dishes. —S.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$29

84 Barrel Burner 2021 Double Oak Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Strong aromas of oak meet with blanched almonds, honey and butterscotch pudding on the unctuous nose of this bottling. The soft palate offers more oak and apple juice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Spottswode 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa County-Sonoma County). With 4% Sémillon, this bi-county white impresses in grapefruit,

pea shoot and peach, with a hint of candied ginger on the back of the palate. Consistent acidity refreshes and adds complexity and refinement to the proceedings, with just a hint of oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

93 Brander 2021 au Naturel Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District). Cut grass, dark green herbs and yellow apple aromas show on the nose of this bottling. It's very lean on the palate with a zippy, energetic acidity that cuts right through the cement, crushed stone and serrano flavors, engaging the palate on all sides. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Grey Stack 2021 Rosemary's Block Dry Stack Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Bennett Valley). Winemaker Patrick Sullivan coaxes texture and great acidity out of the grapes for this fresh, complex and nicely balanced wine. Flavors of pineapple, mango and Meyer lemon contrast well against the hint of oak and minerality. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

92 Brander 2021 Cuvée Nicolas Sauvignon Blanc (Los Olivos District). The usage of oak barrels in this Sauvignon Blanc adds a plush, floral note on the nose of light honeysuckle alongside crisp and tart lemon scents. The palate is very stony in structure and taste, with wet-stone flavors playing against the gardenia and white-rose elements. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Cadre 2021 Stone Blossom Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). Delicate aromas of lime peel, orange zest and grapefruit flesh meet with a wet-stone minerality on the dynamic nose of this bottling. There's a familiar cut-lawn flavor on the palate, but the tangerine touch adds more nuance, as does a zipping acidity that zings right through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

92 Gainey 2021 Limited Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Classic aromas of grass, green apple skin and green pepper are crisp and sprightly on the nose of this bottling. Lime peel flavor and texture make for a pleasantly puckering palate, with a dash of white pepper adding complexity. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

92 Round Pond 2021 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford). Fermented entirely in stainless steel, this white is grassy, lemony and nicely textured. Wet stone dominates on the steely palate as rich undertones of stone fruit and lychee take form. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Bernardus 2021 Griva Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Briny limes, green apple peels and dark grass cuttings show on the nose of this bottling, which is reminiscent of a Kiwi style.

The palate is grassy in style as well, with lime and grapefruit peel flavors also showing. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Folktales 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Arroyo Seco). Serrano pepper, wet lawn and rainy cement aromas make for a very brisk and New Zealand-style nose on this bottling. The palate sizzles with flavors of lime peel, grass and jalapeno, all wrapped in a stony tension. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$34

91 Jamie Stone Wines 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Light nectarine, honeysuckle and lemongrass aromas make for a delicate entry on the nose of this wine. The palate is tense and dry, with lemon rind, light peach and melon flavors that emerge across the sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Rancho Sisquoc 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Damp grass, light peach and wet rock aromas are delicately subtle and more mineral driven than anything else on the pleasantly restrained nose of this bottling. The palate lands with light bell pepper, cut grass and lime peel flavors, yet it's that rocky minerality and flashy acidity that impresses most. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$22

91 Refugio Ranch 2021 Tiradora Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). Clean lines of lime peel, grass and fine dust show on the nose of this bottling. There's a very chalky grip to the sip, framing subtle flavors of Meyer lemon, crisp Asian pear and a hint of grass. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Storm Wines 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley). There is a crisp purity of glacial runoff on the nose of this bottling alongside hints of lime peel, green mango and pear flesh. The palate sizzles with acidity and grips with a wet-cement edge, then settles into fleshier flavors of nectarine and pear. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

91 Storm Wines 2021 Presquile Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Maria Valley). There's a strong earthy sense to the nose of this bottling, with river-bottom aromas as well as more familiar scents of green pepper, white peppercorn and citrus flesh. The green grass and fruit flavors are more prominent on the sip, where lime peel and sour grapefruit elements dominate and a maritime kelp touch lingers on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$38

90 A. Toraño 2021 Kick Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). From the great site known for this variety among others, this white is refreshing in stone fruit, perfumed and bright with a broad approachability. Well made, it offers hints of complexity that don't over confound, allowing both the acidity and fruit to shine. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

90 Aperture 2021 Barrel-Fermented Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). With 3% Sémillon, this white is viscous and oily in texture, with a density of apricot and plum. Rich in undertones of honey and nougat, it balances itself with moderate acidity, the oak playing a prominent part in weight and spice. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

90 Luna Hart 2021 Grimm's Bluff Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Both sharp and tropical aromas arise on the nose of this bottling, from honey and melon to citrus and lemongrass. The palate is reminiscent of wandering through a lemon orchard on a sunny night, as very ripe fruit is stomped into the grassy floor yet brisk peels and pith still hang from the trees. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$35

89 Clay Shannon 2021 Betsy Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). Fresh citrus and lemon-thyme aromas lead to a nicely crisp texture in this well-balanced and appetizing wine. It's relatively light in body, clean and appealing. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Kate Arnold 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). Classic Sauvignon Blanc aromas of lemon, lime, white peach and nectarine, passionfruit and grapefruit all come together with subtle hints of sea-salt salinity and a white blossom aura. This dry white wine has a smooth texture, save for the zip of acidity that rides right through the center of the palate, uplifting those fresh fruit components from start to finish. A fun, light and bright Sauvignon Blanc to keep on hand for any occasion. —S.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$19

89 Predator 2021 Loveliness Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). Lovely honeydew melon and white peach flavors give this medium-bodied wine a lot to like. Fruity but delicate, it brings good balance and a light touch in the texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Robledo 2021 Selección Clásica Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). Unusually rich and ripe for the grape variety, this smooth apple-and-pear flavored wine is soft on the palate, nicely concentrated and has a lingering, fruity finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

88 Black Stallion 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Approachable in style, this is a full-bodied white with dense flavors of green apple and apricot that remain freshly focused on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Cabana Wines 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). A light, bright sunshine yellow in the glass, this Sauvignon Blanc follows through with a sunny palate as well. Complementary flavors of green apples and pears, fresh-squeezed lemon, pink grapefruit, apple blossoms and jasmine are all

uplifted by the joyful acidity that carries the fresh fruit and florals through to the finish. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Dry Creek Vineyard 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Earthy, herbal and grassy, this blends small percentages of Sauvignon Musque and Sauvignon Gris into the mix, stainless-steel fermenting until the end, when a touch of barrel is introduced. Peach, apricot and pineapple play along the midpalate, steely in texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

88 San Simeon 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Wet concrete and cement aromas meet with lime pith, white flower and ripe apple flavors on the nose of this bottling. There's a hint of green pepper on the palate as well as some riper pear tones and a touch of bubblegum. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Ryder Estate 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Classic Sauvignon Blanc aromas and flavors with every sniff and sip: passionfruit, pineapple, sour apple, green bell pepper and jasmine blossom. There's also a slight, pleasant phenolic grip that adds just a touch of texture as well as some weight to this light, bright easy sipper. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Sculpterra 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Mellow aromas of clipped grass, dried lime peel and jalapeno converge on the green-leaning nose of this bottling. The palate offers ripe apple and pear juice flavors along with more green herb and vegetable notes. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$32

87 Ziata 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This is a simple, grippy white with broad appeal that shows dense layers of peach, apricot and vanilla bean. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

86 McGrail 2021 Peyton Paige Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). Herbal, grassy aromas and strong grapefruit flavors give a lot of zip and tang to this medium-bodied wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$28

VIIGNIER

92 Fess Parker 2020 Rodney's Vineyard Viognier (Santa Barbara County). Lemon-soaked nectarine aromas pull the nose into this bottling, which also offers hints of grapefruit and toasted wood. The palate is very racy for a Viognier, with zesty lemon peel flavors that slice through the apricot cream and baked-apple elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

90 Héroe 2021 Viognier (Paso Robles). A sizzling scent of lime juice meets with brisk apple on the tightly woven nose of this bottling. There's a citrusy edge to the palate, where zesty

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lime flavors cut through the ripe apple-flesh core. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

90 Le Mistral 2021 Le Mistral Single Vineyard Viognier (Monterey County). Subtle aromas of Asian pear get a bit more tangy with lemon syrup on the nose of this bottling. It's brisk on the palate, offering a stony, flinty minerality alongside citrus peel and lemon balm flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

89 Calcareous 2021 Viognier (Paso Robles). Clean lines of peach and banana show on the nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with a touch of acidity, offering lime and white-melon flavors atop a softer texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$38

88 Sculpterra 2021 Viognier (Paso Robles). Broad aromas of peach, mango and papaya are pleasantly tropical on the nose of this bottling. The palate's candied honeydew flavors are quite fruity and border on sweet. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$34

GRENACHE BLANC

92 Epiphany 2020 Rodney's Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Intriguing aromas of crisp apple, green melon, crushed granite and wet river stone make for a zesty nose on this bottling. The palate sizzles with acidity and a vibrantly stony minerality, as subtle apple and pear flavors round out the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

91 Clementine Carter 2021 Grenache Blanc (Santa Barbara County). Crisp apricot and peach aromas work alongside aromatic apple and orange blossom notes on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very zesty and fresh on the front, then the midpalate offers broader apple and pear flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

91 Super Real Wines 2021 Unfiltered Natural Skin Contact Grenache Blanc (Ballard Canyon). Jasmine tea, gardenia, wet clay and melon aromas make for a layered expression on the nose of this skin-fermented Grenache Blanc. The palate is layered in texture and pumped up with vibrant acidity, allowing softer flavors of melon, citrus peel and finger lime to dance across the tongue. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

ALBARIÑO

92 Cadre 2021 Sea Queen Albariño (Edna Valley). Clean aromas of crisp pear are coated in a wet-stone veil on the nose of this bottling. The texture is impressive on the palate, giving a rocky backbone to the rounded pear, apple and melon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Dunites 2021 Albariño (San Luis Obispo Coast). This is another excellent Albarino from this recently approved appellation. Lovely layers of stone fruit, orchard blossom, lemongrass and green papaya snap on the nose of this bottling. There's a tight texture to the palate, where zesty and vibrant flavors of pluot and citrus push deep into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Croma Vera 2021 Albariño (Edna Valley). Subtle aromas of peach and citrus peel and clean and delicate on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm, chalky texture on the sip, where stone fruit and citrus cream flavors are generous yet still fresh and vibrant. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Folktales 2021 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Fresh and lively on the nose, this bottling pops with lime flesh and lemon peel aromas. The palate picks up a ripier tone, with peach and white flower flavors, through the citrus spray and tight texture hold everything together. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

88 Wiens Cellars 2021 Albariño (Temecula Valley). Lime peel, green melon, grass and honeysuckle bud aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Soft in texture on the palate with a light vinous tone, the wine offers flavors of melon and green flowers. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$28

PINOT GRIGIO

91 Terah 2021 Ramato Bassi Vineyard Pinot Gris (San Luis Obispo County). Made in the traditional Italian skin-contact style, this pink-hued bottling offerings kirsch, cinnamon and nutmeg on the intriguing nose. Tart red plum and sharp sumac flavors pop on the palate, where mulling spice and ling hui mui powder elements add nuance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

90 Sculpterra 2021 Pinot Grigio (Paso Robles). This is a fresh and fun wine, starting with aromas of pear, pineapple and apple on the nose. The palate sizzles with a buoyant acidity that carries the poached pear, plumeria and coconut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

89 Maddalena 2021 Pinot Grigio (Monterey). This is a very refreshing bottling at a great price. The slightest hint of pink in the glass, this begins with white melon, pear and lychee aromas. The palate shows bisk apple flesh and a hint of earth. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

89 Wiens Cellars 2021 Pinot Grigio (Temecula Valley). Fresh, fruity and clean aromas of pear, pineapple and grapefruit peel make for a brisk and pleasant show on the nose of this bottling. A

strong sizzle of acidity kicks off the palate, where prominent pear flavors are lifted by honeysuckle and light coconut. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

87 McManis 2021 Certified Sustainable Estate Grown Pinot Grigio (River Junction). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

VERMENTINO

90 Robert Hall 2021 Cavern Select Vermentino (Paso Robles). Quite steely on the nose, this bottling offers aromas of yellow apple and rocky earth. The palate lands with a brisk lime note at first, opening toward broader flavors of pear, apple and almond. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Section Wines 2021 Vermentino (Santa Ynez Valley). Lively, blossoming aromas of lychee and ripe pear are quite fruity on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more tart and acid driven, with apple, light peach and coconut flavors that are cut by a citrusy zip. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

89 Avivo 2019 Ledbetter Family Vineyards Vermentino (Lodi). This light-bodied, mineral-driven wine made from biodynamically farmed grapes offers white pepper and flint aromas, subtle dried thyme and Bosc pear flavors lifted by good acidity for a refreshing texture. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

GRÜNER VELTLINER

93 Peake Ranch 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Sta. Rita Hills). The nose on this bottling is tightly wound, allowing delicate hints of melon rind, grass and lime to emerge. The palate holds that tightness as well, delivering brisk flavors of green grass and lime peel atop an energetic acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

91 Luna Hart 2021 Spear Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean, crisp aromas of frozen melon rind and glacial melt make for a very tight and focused nose on this bottling. There's a slight citrus tang to the sip, which is framed by a chalky structure, very fresh and easy to enjoy. —M.K.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$32

91 Navarro 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Anderson Valley). This elegant, tangy and nicely rounded wine shows the signature Navarro style on a new varietal wine. Fresh apricot and subtle peach flavors are heightened by juicy acidity in this smooth and well-balanced wine. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

RIESLING

90 Maidenstoen 2021 Riesling (Central Coast). Lively white flower, Meyer lemon zest and pineapple rind aromas converge on the nose of this Riesling. There are touches of ripe apple and crisp pear on the palate, with a lightly chalky grip. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$22

90 Rancho Sisquoc 2021 Riesling (Santa Barbara County). Lightly honeyed lemon aromas meet with crisp pear flesh on the delicate nose of this bottling. The palate shows a riper side, offering apple, pear, orange peel and honeysuckle flavors with just a tiny touch of sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

86 SeaGlass 2021 Riesling (Central Coast). This is a cleanly made sweeter wine, starting with ripe aromas of pear, apple and jasmine on the nose. The palate is viscous and honeyed with ripe pear flesh and frozen applesauce flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

MUSCAT

91 Brander 2021 Muscat (Los Olivos District). This grape doesn't show up in a dryly made style much around California, but this clean and crisp bottling makes one wonder why. Brisk aromas of lemon juice and grapefruit rind on the nose lead into an taut palate of more citrus peel and green flower blossoms, all wrapped in an ashy, chalky minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$28

88 Terah 2021 Enz Vineyard Old Vine Muscat (Lime Kiln Valley). Hazy and a soft yellow color in the glass, the nose on this skin-fermented Muscat is intriguingly floral, with jasmine tea, honeysuckle and ripe-melon aromas. There's a clay-like minerality on the palate, where dried lemon and flower-water flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$35

87 Sculpterra 2021 Muscat (California). There's a maritime funk to the nose of this bottling, with briny and wet soil aromas that weave through lime zest scents. The palate is much sweeter than anticipated, with juicy pear flesh, citrus peel and honey flavors. —M.K.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$32

WHITE BLENDS

95 Illumination 2021 White Blend (Napa County-Sonoma County). Made from 50% Sauvignon Blanc Musque, 30% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon, the grapes grown both in Napa and Sonoma counties, this is an incredibly delicious, refined and impressive wine. Peach skin, orange peel and lovely, intertwined acidity provide

a bright, light and memorable expression of summertime fruit and freshness. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

94 Au Bon Climat 2020 Hildegard White Blend (Santa Maria Valley). This Burgundian-minded blend of 50% Pinot Gris, 45% Pinot Blanc and 5% Aligote is exciting to try each vintage. This year's is rich yet zesty, starting with aggressive aromas of lemon juice, baked apricot, cream and toast on the nose. The palate is layered in hazelnut, lemon confit and unabashed oak flavors, proving creamy in texture yet blasted with persistent acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

93 Tooth & Nail 2020 Fragrant Snare White Blend (Central Coast). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$36

92 Brander 2021 Le Cul de Refugio White Blend (Los Olivos District). Tightly woven aromas of citrus peel, brisk apple and pear make for a firm nose on this blend of 58% Pinot Gris, 33% Pinot Blanc and 9% Chardonnay. The palate is even more tense and zesty, offering citrus, red pear and more pome-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$26

92 Refugio Ranch 2020 Ineseno Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Light, clean and crisp aromas of nectarine, fresh apricot and honeyed cashew grow a bit more robust on the nose as this half-and-half blend of Roussanne and Viognier opens up. The palate combines density with acid-driven freshness, offering floral flavors of plumeria alongside tropical tones of mango and lychee. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$34

91 Lindquist Family 2021 Viognier-Chardonnay (Central Coast). Lightly candied lemon, honey and brisk Asian pear aromas make for a unique combination on the nose of this atypical blend of Viognier and Chardonnay. It's fresh and delightful on the palate, with light stone and lime-tonic flavors making for a focused, tight palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Eberle 2021 Côtes-du-Rhône Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). This blend of 65% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc and 15% Viognier is always a bold and ripe Rhône showcase. Aromas of candied peach, cantaloupe, honeydew and plumeria lead from the nose into a palate dripping with peach cobbler and more tropical flower flavors, staying clean and fresh into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Folktales 2021 We Are A Flower Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon (Monterey County). Grassy notes from the 66% Sauvignon Blanc (grown in Arroyo Seco) meet with wet wool tones from the 34% Sémillon (Carmel Valley) on the nose of this bottling. There's an earthy funk to the palate,

where citrus peel and wet cement flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$38

90 Folktales 2021 The Lion for Real Skin Fermented White Blend (Monterey County). Golden hued but not cloudy in the glass, this skin-fermented white offers lemon syrup, honey and yellow flower on the nose. The palate is viscous yet edging and lifted by tingy acidity, offering flavors of banana and mango. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$38

90 Marco Lucchesi 2020 Il Bianco White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Baked apple, lemon syrup and light cinnamon aromas show on the riper nose of this blend of 75% Arneis and 25% Albarino. The palate is viscous in mouthfeel, offering baked apple and orange oil flavors, making an appropriate Chardonnay alternative. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

90 Opolo 2020 Willow Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Central Coast). Baked peach, vanilla, toasted nut and a hint of barrel smoke make for a noticeable nose on this bottling, yet it remains tightly wound. The palate puts those rich flavors more center stage, with toasted oak and baked-lemon flavors that are reminiscent of buttery Chardonnay. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Via Romano 2020 Frasco White Blend (El Dorado County). An intriguing blend of ripe, lush fruit flavors and gentle spices give this wine both a nice complexity and an easy-going drinkability. Light white peaches, honeydew melon, vanilla and coconut are great to savor. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

89 Epiphany 2020 Inspiration Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Barbara County). Earthy aromas of sandstone and wet rocks meet with cashew, melon and lime peel on the nose of this blend of 50% Marsanne, 25% Roussanne and 25% Viognier. There's a tonic-like citrus tone to the palate as well as broaden flavors of melon and pineapple. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

89 Folktales NV The Lion For Real 4-Year Solera Skin Fermented White Blend (Monterey County). Golden hued in the glass, this bottle is very nutty on the nose with hints of seared lemon and light cream. The palate is very grippy in texture, with slightly sour flavors of tea-steeped citrus. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Le Mistral 2021 The White Witch Rhône-style White Blend (Arroyo Seco). This blend of 37% Grenache Blanc, 23% Marsanne, 21% Roussanne and 19% Viognier is sharp on a lot of fronts, starting with lemon peel, lime balm and grapefruit zest aromas. There's a sour and somewhat wild edge

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to the palate, where puckery lemon-peel flavors are most prominent. —M.K.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$42

87 Andis 2021 Painted Fields Cuvée Blanc White Blend (Sierra Foothills). This dry and tangy blend of Vermentino, Chenin Blanc, Sémillon and Arinto offers light dusty, earthy aromas, subdued fennel bulb and jicama flavors and a slightly tannic feel on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Lone Madrone 2021 Old Oak Vineyard Picpoul Blanc (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Zippy and fresh on the nose, this bottling of Picpoul Blanc, which proprietor Neil Collins has pushed longer than almost anyone, offers aromas of chiseled concrete, lemon spray and citrus balm bordering on menthol. The laser-sharp palate is energetic with citrus-like acidity that cuts through flavors of lychee, longan and frozen grape. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Epiphany 2020 Rodney's Vineyard Marsanne (Santa Barbara County). Marsanne is a difficult grape to feature alone and this low-alcohol bottling captures its spirit without going overly ripe. Tightly woven aromas of lime peel, melon flesh, citrus balm and crushed stone make for a focused nose. The palate is all about a stony texture, offering wet sidewalk, tangerine flesh and grapefruit-peel flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$28

91 Blade & Talon 2021 Calleri Vineyard Falanghina (San Benito). The five days of skin contact give this bottling a golden hue in the glass while contributing to the inviting aromas of pineapple, melon and orange peel. The palate is viscous while tense, as a tactile acidity leads through flavors of toasted almond, lemon confit and dried apricot, with a white-pepper kick to the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Clementine Carter 2021 Roussanne (Santa Barbara County). There's a metallic minerality on the nose of this bottling, which shows light kiwi and melon-rind aromas. There's a steely edge to the sip, where delicate melon and tangerine flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

91 Epiphany 2020 Camp Four Vineyard Roussanne (Santa Barbara County). Broad beach and melon aromas are lifted by pillowy yellow flowers and a springtime freshness on the nose of this bottling. The palate grips with a firm tension, presenting a citrus edge to the richer white-flower and nectarine flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$28

91 Refugio Ranch 2021 Malvasia Bianca (Santa Ynez Valley). There's no shortage of aromas on this bottling, from floral tones of orange blossom

and jasmine to crisp hints of star fruit. There's a zesty citrus blast to the palate, which stays tightly wound and focused while allowing those blossom flavors to show. —M.K.

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

91 Wiens Cellars 2021 Fiano (Temecula Valley). Fiano is clearly a grape that does well in Temecula's warmer climate. Brisk aromas of apricot, white rose, melon and nuts lead into a palate of apple flesh and skin, with a waxy texture adding nuance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Rancho Sisquoc 2021 Sylvaner (Santa Barbara County). Dried lime peel, cut grass and light-melon aromas show on the nose of this bottling of a rarely found variety for the region. The palate picks up a slightly earthy character, with lime peel, green plum and dried-grass flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$18

90 Theopolis 2021 Symphony (Yorkville Highlands). A deep-gold color and abundant floral and stone-fruit aromas set this wine apart from other dry whites. On the palate, it comes off rich in texture and generous in poached peaches, honey and almonds. It feels full bodied, mouthfilling and long on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$25

89 Babcock 2021 Clairette Blanche (Santa Barbara County). Very light in the glass, this bottling offers lime peel, wet rock and a hint of serrano pepper on the nose. There's a light funkiness to the earthy palate, where wooly flavors play against green pear and lime. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$20

89 Girasole 2021 Estate Grown Pinot Blanc (Mendocino County). Notes of lemon, lime, grapefruit, sour green apple, just-ripe pineapple and a hint of minerality provide a refreshing expression on both the nose and the palate. This Pinot Blanc has excellent weight without becoming weighty, maintaining a lightness and brightness from start to finish thanks to the uplifting acidity that cuts right through the center of an overall smooth-textured mouthfeel, leading toward an aromatic lingering finish. —S.B.

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

89 Lone Madrone 2021 Chenin Blanc (Adelaida District). Light and easy aromas of apple flesh and lemonade show on the nose of this bottling from a dry-farmed vineyard planted in 1971. There's a light hit of tannin on the sip, where orange, apple and nut flavors align. —M.K.

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

89 Meeker 2020 Paradise Canyon Farm Dolcetto (Mendocino). Decadent aromas of ripe red and black plum, blackberry jam, boysenberries, black mission fig, chocolate, nutmeg and toast jump out of the glass and follow through onto the palate. It's a dry wine with full tannins that are a bit rough

around the edges but integrate well within the length of the tasting. A lifted acidity rides through the center, providing relief to these richer flavors and stronger textures and leading toward a finish that lingers with those more savory spice and toasty notes. —S.B.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

89 Zanolli 2021 Patricia Charlotte Vineyard at Bailey Ranch Chenin Blanc (Adelaida District). Light jasmine and plumber aromas meet with subdued coconut and a hint of dusty earth on the nose of this bottling. There's a wooly flavor to the palate, where a grippy structure leads through citrus elements. —M.K.

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

SPARKLING WINES

97 Schramsberg 2013 J. Schram Blancs Sparkling Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 3.

abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$130

95 Schramsberg 2013 J. Schram Noirs Sparkling Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 6.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$130

93 Schramsberg 2019 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Fresh, bright aromas of green apple, lemon juice, lime zest and lime leaf complemented by a light toasty-bread scent waft out of the glass almost immediately. Beautiful acidity keeps the lively fruits front and center, whilst those yeast tones add a layer of complexity to the flavor profile as well as a lovely weight and body to the mouthfeel. —S.B.

abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$42

93 Talking Animals 2021 Petillant-Naturel Grenache Blanc (Monterey County). Though "just" a pet-nat, there's a lot of complexity in this always-fun bottling. A delicate foam presents aromas of melon, cucumber, Meyer lemon and tangerine zest on the nose. The palate shines with a layered serving of baked lemon, toasty almond and croissant flake flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

92 Fesstivity 2019 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). A fine mousse of persistent effervescence presents a delicate nose of baked lemon, jasmine and lightly toasted almond on the nose of this Chardonnay-based bubbly, which includes 18% Pinot Noir. It's quite foamy on the palate, showing a silky texture that carries tart apple and citrus flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Sofia NV Sofia Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Monterey County). For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*

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

90 Fesstivity 2019 Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). A straw color in the glass with the slightest hint of pink, this bottling hits the nose with clean aromas of grapefruit zest and melon. There's a creamy lemon expression on the palate, with citrus spray elements riding into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$49

90 V. Sattui 2018 Prestige Cuvée Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Complex and elegant, this pale copper-colored wine made from largely Pinot Noir offers spearmint, ginger, red cherry and cranberry flavors on a medium body. The effervescence gives a smooth but refreshing texture. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Fesstivity 2019 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). A rustier shade of pink in the glass, this sparkling starts with steely strawberry aromas and a light earthy funk on the nose. The bubbles are persistent and well layered, as dried plum and berry flavors ride through the acidity. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$49

89 Folktale 2021 Piquette Chu Sparkling Blend (Monterey County). Piquette is a fantastic way to bring more from grapes while producing a low-alcohol thirst quencher, and this creatively named bottling delivers exactly that. A muddy purple hue in the glass, the slightly sparkling wine offers Pinot Noir-like aromas of raspberry and sage on the nose. The palate is crisp with more raspberry and features a textural bite. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 7.1% **Price:** \$25

89 Rockets Red 2021 Fizzion Petillant Naturel Sparkling Blend (Santa Barbara County). Aromas of pink lemonade chalk and grapefruit zest show on the nose of this bottling, which is a light shade of pink in the glass. There are generous fruit flavors on the palate, led by ripe strawberry. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$38

89 Trader Joe's NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (North Coast). This nicely balanced and flavorful wine is more than worth the low price. It starts with a light copper color and light strawberry and cherry aromas. Good, broad plum flavors fill the palate backed by elegant, fine-grained bubbles. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 12.58% **Price:** \$10

88 Decoy NV Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (California). Tropical fruit aromas and pineapple flavors are lifted by a crisp texture and full effervescence in this medium-bodied sparkler from the Duckhorn group. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Fesstivity 2019 Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). This Pinot Noir-led bubbly, which also includes 3% Chardonnay, begins with tart lemon, tonic and pastry aromas on the nose, where the foam quickly fades. The palate offers

apple and more citrus flavors atop a soft texture. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$49

88 Just Enough 2020 Brut Bubbles Sparkling Blend (Central Coast). Large bubbles disappear quickly in the glass on this canned offering, which offers citrusy aromas of apple juice on the nose. The mousse reemerges on the palate along with sharp yellow- and green-apple flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$7/250 ml

88 Sofia NV Sofia Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Monterey County). An inviting soft pink in color, this bubbly hits the nose with aromas of steel and fermenting watermelon. The palate picks up tart lemon-peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

87 Trader Joe's NV Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (North Coast). A light brassy color, fresh apple and white-cherry flavors and a frothy texture make this light-bodied wine soft and appealing. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 12.58% **Price:** \$10

86 Lawer NV Brut Reserve Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Bold, buttery aromas are followed by earthy, almond-y flavors in this dry and fine-beaded wine. It shows an admirable creaminess in texture along with very light fruit flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

ROSÉS

93 Peake Ranch 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A delicate hue of pink in the glass, this top-of-class rosé shows delicate aromas of white strawberry flesh and melon on the nose. There's a vibrant sizzle of acidity on the sip, where a chalky texture frames the pinpoint yet subtle flavors of watermelon and cotton candy. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

93 Refugio Ranch 2021 Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley). A very pale shade of pink in the glass, this rosé greets the nose with delicate and appealing hints of fresh melon, orange rind and white flower blossom. The palate is tightly woven, grippy and refreshingly brisk in flavor, with white melon, light strawberry and shy cherry elements riding the chalky frame. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$34

92 Bernardus 2021 Rosé (Santa Lucia Highlands). A soft pink in color, this Pinot Noir-based rosé starts with aromas of pink lemonade, watermelon, strawberry and chalk on the nose. The palate sizzles with acidity and relies on a chalky texture to frame the strawberry ice cream flavor. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Blade & Talon 2021 Rose Madder Rosé (San Benito). There's a lot of excitement to find in this darker rosé by young winemaker Nat Wong,

who blends 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Petit Verdot and 25% Cabernet Pfeffer into a lively show. Aromas of snappy black raspberry, turned earth and herb lead into a palate of sizzling acidity and zesty raspberry and plum-skin flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

92 Casa Loce 2021 Maya Rosé (Ventura County). An extremely slight shade of pink in this glass, this delicately delicious rosé begins with aromas of soft melon, rose petal and shy peach on the nose. A lingering acidity and chalky texture flows through the palate, where subtle peach and melon flavors persist. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$NA

92 The Harris Gallery 2021 Klindt Vineyard Rosé (Anderson Valley). Strong raspberry, herb and cranberry flavors give this light-bodied wine an almost startling expression that contrasts with the mostly subdued rosés that dominate the market. It offers a nervy, stemmy texture and hearty palate, more like a red wine. —J.G.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$35

92 The Language of Yes 2021 Pink Wine Le Cerisier Rosé (Central Coast). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Burtech Family 2021 Maile Burtech Family Vineyard Rosé (Central Coast). For full review see page 14.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$36

91 Doctor's Orders 2020 Rosé of Grenache (Ventura County). Pink in color with a slight hint of yellow, this rosé hits the nose with peach, strawberry and wet rock aromas. The palate offers melon and orange sorbet flavors, offset by a firm tension and lightly tart berry element. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

91 Lone Madrone 2021 Points West Rosé (Templeton Gap District). A pale pink in the glass, this Mourvèdre-based rosé begins with earthy aromas of wet rocks alongside melon and tangerine peel. The palate combines a wet cement minerality with crisp pluot and melon, making for a great afternoon sipper. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Babcock 2021 Love Garden Rosé of Petit Verdot (Santa Barbara County). Muddled red currant, cherry, loamy soil and crushed rock aromas make for a compelling nose on this rare rosé of Petit Verdot. There's ample acidity to the palate, where candied cherry flavors meet with light dried-herb elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

90 Clif Family 2021 Rosé of Grenache (Mendocino County). Snappy, refreshing acidity and light raspberry flavors get this deceptively full-bodied wine to a great balance point, offering a

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palate-cleansing effect accompanied by subtle but persistent fruit. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$30

90 Ferrari Ranch 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A pale-pink hue in the glass, this rosé shows a steely minerality on the nose as well as light strawberry and brisk watermelon scents. The palate offers a firm grip and a zippy acidity, with light currant flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$28

89 Folktales 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Monterey County). A pale pink in the glass, this rosé offers seared lemon, ripe melon and pleasant rose petal on the nose. The palate is a touch sharp with grapefruit peel flavors that are rounded by hints of nectarine. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

90 Flamingo Estate 2021 Pink Moon Rosé (San Luis Obispo County). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$30

90 Luna Hart 2021 Hinnrichs Vineyard Rosé of Syrah (Ballard Canyon). A darker hue of salmon-like pink, this bottling offers plenty of earth and herb on the nose alongside the light berry aromas. Raspberry pops on the palate, with dusty herbs adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$28

90 Piazza Family 2021 Bella Vista Vineyard Rosé of Graciano (Ballard Canyon). Almost a fuschia color in the glass, this bottling is relatively light on the nose with hints of strawberry, earth and cinnamon. There's a pleasant grip to the palate, where bolder cherry flavors meet with an earthy streak. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

90 Rockets Red 2021 Rockets Red Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Inviting and warm aromas of maraschino cherry and pie spice show on the nose of this bottling. There's decent texture on the palate, where baked cherry and peach cobbler flavors lead into a nutty finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$25

90 Sofia 2021 Sofia Rosé (Monterey County). For full review see page 20.
abv: 13% Price: \$19

90 Super Real Wines 2021 Claudia's Rosé (Ballard Canyon). A yellowish shade of light pink in color, this bottling is very earthy on the nose with aromas of dried citrus peel and apricot. There's a compelling texture to the palate, where wet rock and citrus pith flavors converge. Kosher. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$29

89 Just Enough 2021 Rosé (Central Coast). This canned wine works well, starting with zesty aromas of strawberry soda on the nose. The palate combines tart plum with rounded strawberry

flavors, proving a refreshing treat for the beach or lake. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$8/250 ml

88 Just Enough 2020 Rosé Bubbles Rosé (California). Clay, chalk, light plum and blooming rosé aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a flash of acidity on the palate, where lemon and berry flavors are cut by a sharp acidity. —M.K.
abv: 11% Price: \$7/250 ml

88 Section Wines 2021 La Luciana Rosé of Sangiovese (Santa Ynez Valley). A vibrant shade of electric pink in the glass, this bottling is aggressively aromatic on the nose, with strong scents of cherry syrup and strawberry sorbet. There's a nice grip to the sip, giving some balance to the ripe cherry-syrup flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$38

88 Sunstone 2021 Rosé of Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Pale pink in the glass, this bottling offers strawberry, light cotton candy and earth aromas on the nose. There's a good blast of acidity and a lightly gritty texture to the palate, where bubblegum flavors dominate. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

87 Sculpterra 2021 Paso Pink Rosé (Paso Robles). An orange hue of fuschia in the glass, this GSM-based rosé offers earthy aromas of wet clay, muddy raspberry and red apple on the nose. There's a viscous texture to the palate, where ripe berry flavors show boldly. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$34

87 Voyager Point 2018 Rosé (California). For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% Price: \$10

86 Nola Grace 2021 Dry Rosé (California). Fresh strawberry aromas and ripe, juicy cherry flavors give this soft, smooth wine a generous, sweet impression. —J.G.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

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98 Macauley 2019 Beckstoffer To Kalon Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.2% Price: \$250

98 Macauley 2019 Kalyteros Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.1% Price: \$175

98 Macauley 2019 Oakville Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.4% Price: \$175

97 Macauley 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.4% Price: \$175

96 The Messenger 2018 181 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Dense with flavor and rather tightly wound, this well-concentrated wine has the right stuff for aging. Pure blackberry, cassis and blueberry flavors are lightly accented with oak spices like cedar and clove, while a wrapping of fine-grained tannins holds them snugly. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

95 Hendry 2018 Hendry Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% Price: \$68

95 Macauley 2019 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.4% Price: \$175

95 Penfolds 2019 Bin 704 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

95 Rangeland 2019 Limestone Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$55

94 Atlas Peak 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15.5% Price: \$80

94 Beaulieu Vineyard 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Deep black-fruit flavors, moderate tannins and a sense of good density make this wine from one of Napa's oldest producers impressive. Cloves, cedar, blackberries and a touch of anise combine for good complexity on the palate. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$85

94 Castello di Amorosa 2017 Il Barone Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$105

94 Clay Shannon 2019 The Barkley Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

94 Earthshine 2019 Moone One Thousand Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Warm plummy aromas and rich milk-chocolate and cocoa flavors make this full-bodied wine indulgent and delicious. Excellent depth in the dark plum and black currant flavors and a good structure of soft

tannins bode well for further improvement with time. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$140

94 John Anthony 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This warm, rich, gently spicy wine achieves terrific quality for the broad Napa Valley appellation. It tastes ripe, inviting and delicious, pouring plump black cherries and black currants over the palate, accented by a mélange of cinnamon, vanilla, mint and cedar. Fine-grained tannins add a velvety texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$75

94 Lawer 2018 Barrel Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$115

94 Macauley 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$80

94 McGrail 2019 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% Price: \$55

94 Round Pond 2019 Louis Bovet Home Ranch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Aromas of salt, pepper and grilled herbs dominate the nose of this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. A core of dark chocolate, blueberries and blackberries keeps the wine right on track, and well-integrated tannins add an appetizing texture. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$128

94 Soda Rock Winery 2019 Five Star General Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Great depth of fruit and breadth of texture come together nicely in this bold but well-balanced wine. Concentrated black currant and blackberry notes meet light wood smoke, cinnamon and cedar as firm, fine-grained tannins knit everything together. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$65

94 Soda Rock Winery 2015 Kenneth Carl Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Cool blueberry and blackberry flavors fill up this smooth, concentrated and subtly complex wine made in tiny quantities. A core of deep fruit is accented by dark chocolate and baking spices, as moderate tannins lend a slight grip to the texture. It gets better with each sip. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$150

93 Blue Rock 2018 Best Barrels Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This well-balanced, concentrated and powerful wine shows impressive blackberries, black currants and blueberries wrapped in fine-grained tannins for a velvety texture. Tempting now but best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$95

93 Brandlin 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

93 Castello di Amorosa 2018 Trenta Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Plush in texture yet simultaneously powerful in fruit and spice flavors, this complex and layered wine was aged in barrel especially long, for 30 months. It lightly coats the palate with black currants, blueberries and balsamic while soft, integrated tannins carry it through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$175

93 Castello di Amorosa 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District). This polished and beautifully concentrated wine offers light wood smoke, cardamom and deep blueberry aromas followed by dark chocolate, black plum and a hint of espresso. Firm, fine-grained tannins interlace with the black fruits for a good grip on the palate. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$85

93 Donati Family Vineyard 2019 Barrel Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

93 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

93 Ledson 2017 Estate Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This frank and uncomplicated wine lets the pure fruit flavors of Cabernet shine through. Aromas of plump black cherries and black olives lead to a focused, ripe palate where cherries and blackberries dominate, with a light touch of oak spice intertwining. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$120

93 Rangeland 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District). Intense aromas of cassis, concentrated red and purple flowers and baked berries are very rich on the nose of this bottling, which includes 5% each Merlot and Petit Verdot. The palate is thick, concentrated and expertly focused, offering satisfying flavors of jammy fruit, milk chocolate and fudge, with just enough tannins and acid to balance the richness. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$45

93 Round Pond 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Toasted oak aromas lead to good, ripe and focused blueberry and black cherry flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. It has richness without fat, and spices up the dark fruits with black pepper and wisps of wood smoke. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$80

93 Soda Rock Winery 2019 Smith Orchard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). A vivid aroma of crème de cassis defines this remarkable, full-bodied, smooth and moderately tannic wine.

Hints of mint, black cherries and black currants enrich the palate, while a smooth texture leads to a lingering finish. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$56

93 V. Sattui 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$58

92 Addendum 2018 Stagecoach Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Cedar and black pepper notes top this full-bodied and richly tannic wine, backed by deep, dense blackberries, black cherries and a firm texture. Cocoa and dark chocolate notes come out on the sip. Best from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$135

92 Armida 2019 Block 8 Stuhmuller Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$75

92 B Cellars 2019 Bridgeline Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Brawny and full-bodied in style, this vineyard designate shows strong flavors of black olive, flint, bark and earth. Black currant and toasted oak provide a darker, denser side that adds to the intensity, structured in firm tannin. —V.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$140

92 Calcareous 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Quite fruity aromas of blackberry jam and violet make for an accessible nose on this bottling. There's a firm grip to the tip of the sip, where ripe and clean berry flavors are cut by a decent acidity, proving fresh and fun. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

92 Castello di Amorosa 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This seriously structured and nicely concentrated wine is a keeper. Scented with blueberries and light oak spices, it shows rich, somewhat grippy tannins, full body and pure black-cherry and black-currant flavors that point to continued improvement with time. Best from 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$62

92 Clos de Napa Cellars 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). Bright red cherry notes blend with deeper blackberries and blueberries in this intensely fruity, pure-tasting wine. Moderate tannins and good acidity shape the generous flavors for good balance and an appetizing texture. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$75

92 Davis Estates 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This densely layered, well-concentrated wine emphasizes cocoa, dark chocolate and dried blueberry flavors that are firmly wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Expect it to mellow and gain more complexity with time. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$85

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92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% Price: \$32

92 Eberle 2019 Eberle Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$52

92 Folktale 2019 The Mountain Massa Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley). This bottling, which includes 15% Petit Verdot, comes from a historic vineyard deep in the Carmel Valley. Aromas of roasted meat, smoke and dark plums are savory on the nose, while the palate contributes charcuterie, berry jam, pencil shaving and graphite flavors, all laced in intense tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$120

92 J. Lohr 2020 Hilltop Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$35

92 Janzen 2019 Beckstoffer Missouri Hopper Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is from such a great site, on the border of Yountville and Oakville, situated along the rich benchlands of the Mayacamas. It shows the intensity of site, jammy and intense in black and red berry, caramel and toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$175

92 Patent 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District). Generous aromas of mint, cardamom and ginger light up this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine from the first whiff. Espresso, blackberry, and toasted oak flavors dominate the palate giving a definite spicy character to this wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$68

92 Pope Valley Winery 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). saturated with well-ripened black-fruit flavors, this full-bodied wine shows the beauty of Cabernet fruit flavors without a lot of oak spice. Bright blackberry and rich blueberry join vibrant black cherry notes on a broad and moderately tannic texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$85

92 Smith & Hook 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.8% Price: \$25

92 The Messenger 2018 Reserve 455 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This big, bold, meaty wine blends lots of ripe berries and plums with generous oak spices like cedar, clove and cinnamon on a robust texture of moderate tannins and a full body. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

91 Addendum 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This brawny wine offers a big structure of firm tannins and full body packed with deep

blackberries and dark plums that fill it out well. It is lightly oaked, relying mostly on ripe fruit to power its expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$90

91 Beaulieu Vineyard 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This well-balanced, moderately tannic wine offers black fruits, oak spice and a lightly gripping texture, all in good proportions. It's a pleasurable wine that shows the typical, attractive black cherries, black olives and hints of baking spices. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$38

91 Calcareous 2019 Carver Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (York Mountain). Intense aromas of blackberry, cocoa powder and black-plum skin show on the nose of this bottling from a historic estate in a historic appellation. The palate is creamy in texture, as polished tannins present flavors of blackberry jam and lavender. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$NA

91 Flanagan 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Well balanced and relatively light, this medium-bodied wine offers great balance and an appetizing texture lifted by good fruit acidity and light tannins. Raspberries and red cherries light up the flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$95

91 J. Lohr 2020 Seven Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% Price: \$17

91 Ledson 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Attractive oak-spice aromas, and flavors of mint and dark chocolate give good complexity and interest to this full-bodied, richly tannic wine that got an extended period of barrel aging in about half new French barrels. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$120

91 Lobo 2019 Wulff Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). This full-bodied, fully ripe-tasting wine offers aromas of black cherries and lavish oak spices, deep blackberry and blueberry flavors and a moderately tannic, broad texture. Small amounts of Merlot and Petit Verdot were blended in to this enjoyable, complex wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$105

91 Lucas & Lewellen 2018 Cote del Sol Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

91 Materra Cugat Family Vineyards 2018 Hidden Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$72

91 McGrail 2018 A Jó Élet Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Strong tannins and a

handsomely oaky profile define this full-bodied wine and dominate its expression across the palate and finish. Aged in new Hungarian oak barrels, it is densely textured, packed with dark chocolate, blueberries and spearmint, while cinnamon, vanilla and cloves accompany them all the way through. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$59

91 Shannon Ridge 2020 Buck Shack Sustainably Farmed Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). This flavorful and well-structured wine lays out black cherries, black pepper, bits of charred oak and dried herbs, while moderate tannins hold it together nicely. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

91 Soda Rock Winery 2015 Antoine Phillippe Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Warm oak spices complement rich, ripe black fruit flavors in this broad-textured, moderately tannic wine. It offers vanilla, maple and nutmeg on top of cooked plums and blackberries for a mouth-filling, delicious expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$150

91 Wiens Cellars 2019 Goldreyer Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). From a vineyard on the northwestern edge of the appellation loaded with iron-rich soils, this Cab shows leathery aromas of dried meat, roasted fennel and dried berry on the nose. Polished tannins frame the savory sip, where grilled meat, dried herb and plum reduction flavors work in harmony. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$145

91 Wiens Cellars 2018 Kriel Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley). This winery is taking the Temecula terroir very seriously, as evidenced in this cellar-worthy bottling. Aromas of blackberry, pencil shavings and leather on the nose lead into a palate of charcuterie and berry compote, wrapped in sticky tannins. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$165

90 Earthshine 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). Generous black-fruit flavors are shaped by firm tannins and noticeable fruit acidity in this rather tightly structured wine. A good core of black cherries and blackberries gives it a tasty palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$140

90 Eponymous 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$60

90 Illicit 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Decadent aromas of blackberry, black cherry, black plum and chocolate intermingle with rose petals, violets and just a hint of lavender. The palate goes even deeper, adding to the plethora of flavors vanilla, toasted wood, sweet tobacco and damp forest floor. The mouthfeel is smooth, incorporating silky tannins and just enough acidity to

add a refreshing quality. An elevated easy-drinking Cabernet. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

90 Josh Cellars 2019 Heritage Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This deep-colored, smoky and concentrated wine stays smooth on the palate despite its moderate tannins and toasted oak notes that layer in with ripe blackberries and blueberries. It's tasty and complete. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

90 Lost Parcels 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). The Napa Valley bottling of a French chateau, this red sources grapes from sites on Howell Mountain, Mt. Veeder and Spring Mountain to produce a wine of elegance and subtle intensity. Tight, compact tannins surround an earthy core of flint, dried herb and cedar, with floral undertones and silky, balanced complexity. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$NA

90 Muirwood 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Arroyo Seco). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

90 Muscardini 2018 Cassata Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$60

90 Oblivion 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Boysenberry pie, lilac, blueberry and light clay aromas balance boisterous fruit with an earthy minerality on the nose of this bottling. Clean and exuberant flavors of boysenberry and blackberry meet with more lilac and Concord grape on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$22

90 Pope Valley Winery 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This robust, hearty wine offers well-ripened black cherries and dark plums on a grippy texture of moderate tannins. It is mouth filling and nicely concentrated. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$

90 Soda Rock Winery 2019 The General Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Mint and cedar aromas lead to rich, ripe black-fruit flavors in this mouth-filling, moderately tannic wine. It offers good concentration, firm structure for continued aging and nice, light oak spices. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

90 True Myth 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 20. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

90 Verdad 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a much lighter style of Cab than is usual for Paso Robles, starting with aromas of asphalt, ripe strawberry and turned earth on the nose. The medium-bodied palate packs herb and hard spice alongside tart red fruits, with ample

chance to age. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$42

90 William Hill Estate 2019 Winemaker's Series Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 20.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$70

89 Acre 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Lavish oak spices dominate the fruit aspects of this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine, giving it a chocolaty palate and an almost sweet feel on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

89 Addendum 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). This bold, powerful wine aged in two-thirds new French oak barrels is full-bodied and packed with ultraripe fruit flavors like dried plums, dried blueberries and cocoa. It is moderately tannic and feels broad and nicely grippy in texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$120

89 Atlas Peak 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A tangy mouthfeel and abundant fresh fruit flavors make this full-bodied wine feel lively while moderate tannins add a good grip to the texture. Red and black cherries shine through in this uncomplicated wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$50

89 Barra of Mendocino 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This wine exudes enticing aromas of chocolate, black cherry pie, coffee, vanilla, capsicum, black pepper, black olives, fresh and dried violets and eucalyptus leaves. The palate delivers on what the nose promises and also adds hints of leather and a meaty-umami as well. This combination of primary, secondary and tertiary flavors are well met by the ripe, mature tannins and a refreshing acidity that adds lift and balance. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

89 DC Flynt MW Selections 2020 Vinaforé Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$22

89 Derby 2018 Derby Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry sauce aromas are lifted by toasted wood, warm milk chocolate and bitter cocoa dust on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The grip is firm on the palate, where slightly tart berry and plum flavors are coated in a dark wood spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$46

89 Geyser Peak 2020 Walking Tree Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Mint and bay leaf nuances add extra dimensions to this full-bodied and broad-textured wine as good dark plum and black-cherry flavors coat the palate. Moderate tannins nicely balance out the ripe fruits. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$30

89 Highlands 41 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Pleasant aromas of baked strawberry are fresh and inviting on the nose of this bottling. That red fruit flavor stays dry and persistent on the palate, with a light acidity, decent tannins and an oak smoke kick. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$15

89 Lasorda Family Wines 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Muddled fig and mulberry aromas are spice up by wood shavings on the nose of this bottling. The palate's roasted berry core meets with roasted meat and smoke on the umami-laced palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

89 Montse Reece 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley). This full-bodied wine offers tempting oak aromas of new leather, earth and tobacco followed by a well-balanced palate where lively raspberries and red cherries dominate the fruit impressions. It has a slightly tangy texture and light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$37

89 No Curfew 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Heaps of aromas and flavors are found in this varietal Cabernet Sauvignon: blueberry, blackberry, cranberry, capsicum and fennel, fresh and dried violets, and just a slight hint of dusty forest floor. Tannins come on a bit strong, but they are well met by the ripeness of the fruit structure whilst also providing textural and structural integrity to the wine. Intense, but well balanced and would best be paired with something smoky off the grill. —S.B.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$15

89 The Vice 2018 Batch #40 The Five Peaks Unfiltered Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A sultry, leather-and-spice aroma leads to nicely saturated black fruit flavors in this oak-dominated wine. Earth, wood char and tobacco notes compete with the fruit flavors while a firmly tannic texture gives it a bite on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$88

89 The Vice 2018 Batch 39 Carly and Kenny Cabernet Sauvignon (Atlas Peak). This bold, concentrated and firmly tannic wine holds its black cherry and blueberry flavors rather tightly in a grippy texture. No denying its power, the wine should mellow a bit from 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$69

89 Vinum Cellars 2019 The Insider Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Baked blackberry, cracked pepper and loads of oak spice show on the nose of this bottling. There's a viscous, nearly sweet character to the palate, which is hefty in body and ripe with dark fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

89 William Hill Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Ripe, jammy fruit aromas lead to generous flavors of blackberries, strawber-

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ries and blueberries that flood the palate, while soft tannins and soft acidity give it a pillowy mouthfeel. —J.G.

abv: 15.4% Price: \$55

88 Acre 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Strong toasted-oak aromas lead to relatively lean fruit flavors and another dose of peppery, smoky oak on the palate. The wine has firm tannins and tangy cherry and blackberry flavors. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

88 Addendum 2018 Skellenger Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This fully ripe, big and bold wine offers late-picked blackberry and black-plum flavors, accents of earth and coffee, while the mouthfeel is spicy and a little hot. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$120

88 Addendum 2018 The Hills Block 6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Well stuffed with black cherries and blackberries, this structured, concentrated wine holds its fruit flavors rather firmly in moderate tannins. The black fruits are accented by strong hints of cedar and wood char for an oaky slant. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$120

88 Benziger 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Charred-oak aromas and flavors are front and center in this full-bodied wine. Ample black-fruit notes are lavishly dressed up in spicy, smoky accents. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

88 Captûre 2019 Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Pine Mountain-Cloverdale Peak). This full-bodied, powerful and tannic wine exerts a big force on the palate, gripping very ripe blackberry and black cherries with a firm, tooth-drying texture. Time will mellow it, but the muscularity will remain. Best from 2028. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$65

88 Francis Ford Coppola 2019 Director's Cut Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This savory and warmly spicy wine offers balsam, maple and light wood smoke on the sniff, then plenty of beef, black pepper and grilled plums on the sip. It's a hearty, mouth-filling wine that takes its own path. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

88 Girasole 2020 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County). A well-balanced and easy-going Cabernet perfect for casual consumption. Aromas and flavors are an integrated combination of fresh blackberries, black currant, bramble and capsicum alongside decadent notes of chocolate, toasted wood, sweet tobacco and cigar smoke. Chalky tannins add a touch of texture without overwhelming. —S.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

88 Jamie Slone Wines 2018 Duo Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa

Barbara). Tart blackberry aromas show most prominently on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a sharp berry flavor, as cigar box spice adds nuance. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$69

88 Lion's Ridge 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Dark berry, oregano and anise aromas make for a slightly tart nose on this bottling. The palate is wrapped in suave tannins, as baked-berry flavors are lifted by oak spice, pepper and thyme. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$25

88 Locatelli 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Blackberry jam, damp wood and incense aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers flavors of roasted wood, more blackberry and a pinch of anise. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

88 Marietta Cellars 2019 Game Trail Clone 6 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Yorkville Highlands). An aroma of violets and rose petals lends an uncharacteristic cast to this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine, as black cherries, parched earth and blackberries emerge on the sip. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$42

88 Occasio 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This full-bodied wine starts with a black-pepper aroma that leads to ripe blackberries, roasted bell peppers and dark chocolate with earthy accents. There is no denying its concentration and firm structure. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

88 Serial 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This broad and full-bodied wine offers dramatic wood smoke, black pepper and grilled beef flavors that are atypical but tasty. —J.G.

abv: 15.1% Price: \$35

88 Wiens Cellars 2019 Bare Knuckle Cabernet Sauvignon (Riverside County). Roasted-plum aromas meet with licorice and roasted fennel on the nose of this bottling. That fennel kick is prominent on the sip, where blistered plum also shows. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$49

87 Hamilton Branch 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Flinty on the one hand and super ripe on the other, this full-bodied, moderately tannic and broad-textured wine offers smoky, iron-like aromas and dried plum and raisin flavors. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$28

87 Kirkland Signature 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This broad-textured, mature and mellow-tasting wine is rather soft in tannins and shows well-developed flavors of roasted plums, almonds and sun-baked earth. It's

something to enjoy soon with grilled or braised beasts and birds. **Best Buy.** —J.G.

abv: 14% Price: \$10

87 St. Francis 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). An aroma of oak smoke and flavors of black pepper and blackberries dominate this full-bodied, chunky and moderately tannic wine. It's a little rough edged, but nicely robust and flavorful. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$22

87 Voyager Point 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**

abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

86 Crow Canyon Vineyards 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). An overall well-balanced California Cabernet with a strong intensity and variety of flavors. Ripe black plum, black cherry and blackberry are complemented well by notes of decadent chocolate and vanilla tones, leading to a smoky attitude on the finish with lingering scents of toasted cedar wood and sweet tobacco. Soft, mature tannins add a linear backbone and solid finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

abv: 13% Price: \$8

86 Muirwood 2020 Vaquero Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Arroyo Seco). Dark fruit and prominent smoke aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a smoky element to the palate as well, and not in entirely pleasant ways, though the baked red fruit and baking-spice flavors are fine. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$22

85 McGrail 2019 Lucky 8 Vineyard Colton's Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). This well-oaked, full-bodied and moderately tannic wine has a steak-sauce aroma, hearty beef and blackberry flavors and a considerable layer of oak spices from vanilla to cedar and clove. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$44

84 Bota Box NV Nighthawk Black Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Muted aromas and broad, plummy flavors make this wine feel weighty, giving up dried plum and raisin flavors on a soft texture. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$23/3 L

84 Brick & Cole 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). While some black fruits are evident, this wine leads with secondary characteristics of charred wood, smoke and toast, along with a few baking spices. Tannins are quite drying, further muting the fresh fruit components which, when found, include black currant, bramble and even earthy notes of forest floor. —S.B.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

84 Risk 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). An interesting composition of aromas and flavors that include black tea, red roses, violets with hints of smoke, char and toast that

overlay fresh fruit notes of red and black plum as well as prune and raisin. Though tannins are a bit rough around the edges and midpalate is lacking a desired lift, this is an adequate expression appropriate for casual consumption. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

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98 Brewer-Clifton 2020 Hapgood Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Luxurious aromas of red cherry sorbet, strawberry, light tar, dark mint and a slightly dank herb are cut by smashed stone on the incredibly complex nose of this bottling, arguably this brand's best of this vintage. A bright, tongue-tingling, long-lingering acidity sails through forest floor and tarragon flavors that give complexity to that core of ripe red cherry on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

97 Brewer-Clifton 2020 Machado Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lovely aromas of strawberry compote, soft mint and an array of baking spices lure the nose into this bottling. The polished red fruit flavors of the palate range from cherry compote to strawberry sorbet to darker hints of berry. But it's that zippy, fresh acidity and tense tannic energy that push this into vibrantly delicious levels. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

97 Kosta Browne 2019 Cerise Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Kosta Browne is taking great care of this former Saintsbury vineyard source. A brilliant vein of black cherries and sour cherries weaves through black tea, redwood duff and subtle oak spices in this medium- to full-bodied wine, as dazzling acidity and moderate tannins energize the palate. Great balance and impressive depth make it stand out. Best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$200

96 Ancien 2019 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This single-vineyard expression is always an impressive and cellar-worthy take on this historic Sta. Rita Hills property. Focused and penetrating aromas of blackberry and scarlet-hued roses lead into a palate wrapped in expertly chiseled tannins. Flavors of boysenberry, black plum and lavender ride those firm yet fluid tannins deep into the finish. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

96 Davies 2020 Ferrington Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

96 Solomon Hills Estate 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

95 Alma de Cattleya 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$35

95 Davies 2020 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This Pinot Noir presents pronounced aromas and flavors of cranberry, raspberry compote, dark chocolate, mushroom, forest floor, and a hint of fresh tarragon. A lovely acidity keeps the fruit components elevated throughout the length of the tasting; fine-grained tannins provide a velvety texture to the tongue. The finish is long, lingering, and continues the delicate balance between youthful vivacity and a rustic earthiness. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Fess Parker 2020 Ashley's Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

95 Fess Parker 2020 Sanford & Benedict Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

95 Peake Ranch 2020 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Boysenberry, lilac and cinnamon aromas swirl into a complex and heady nose on this bottling from one of the three epic vineyards owned by proprietor John Wagner. The palate is bold with black raspberry, fennel and sage flavors, while crushed slate minerality provides both an earthy side and a textural canvas. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Riverbench 2020 Pommard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This wine is wildly complex and layered for expressing just a single clone. Light in the glass, the wine starts with savory aromas of salted meats alongside dried, dusty strawberry. The palate is rich with strawberry and cherry flavors, as sagebrush and cracked pepper elements bring fulfilling depth. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

94 Au Bon Climat 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A light hue in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with fresh pomegranate and raspberry jam aromas that are leveled by sage and peppercorn scents. The palate is vibrant and lively, offering cranberry, peppercorn and bay leaf flavors, presenting likable fruit tones with savory edges. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 The Captain Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). This bottling from and by this legendary estate begins with fresh and full aromas of cherry, plum, crushed stone, light oak and wet earth on the nose. The palate packs a powerful punch of roasted cherry and baking spice,

framed by a steady structure. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

94 Clendenen Family 2018 Rancho La Cuna Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). From one of the family ranches owned by the late Jim Clendenen, this bottling from a Los Alamos vineyard pops with cranberry, mushroom and thyme on the umami-packed nose. Thyme and sagebrush are even more pronounced on the palate, where the tart cranberry and blistered tomato core meet with a smoked-meat flavor. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Donnachadh 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

94 Dusty Nabor 2020 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Focused aromas of boysenberry and lilac are tart and dark on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling from the appellation's southwestern-most property. A powerful acidity frames a very intriguing palate, where boysenberry and elderberry converge with crushed rocks and purple-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 Fess Parker 2020 Parker West Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Plump cherry, strawberry and red melon aromas are made all the more inviting with a light kiss of toasted oak on the nose of this bottling. The oak shows a bit more strongly on the palate as a vanilla-like spice, but it's the firm tannins, zesty acidity and fresh pomegranate flavors that attract the most attention. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Fess Parker 2020 Pommard Clone Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Suavely integrated aromas of boysenberry, black cherry, scarlet rose petal and hints of violet make for a nose that's both fresh and dark on this clonal selection. There's a clear richness to the palate with ripe cherry and chai flavors, as well as a fuller bodied frame. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

94 Folktale 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Though forced to pick early from Escolle Vineyard due to the River Fire, this bottling, which also includes Eden Rift fruit, is utterly delicious, starting with aromas of baked strawberry, cherry compote and pie crust spices. The palate is fresh with pomegranate syrup, hibiscus and rose petal flavors, making for a light and refreshing sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$58

94 Mahoney 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Carneros). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

94 McIntyre Family Wines 2019 Winemaker Series: Don Van Staaveren McIntyre Estate

Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This grower-winemaker collaboration series is off to an exciting start, as this bottling exhibits appealing aromas of black cherry, subtle nutmeg and a light mesquite smoke on the nose. The palate is cohesive in presentation, combining complex sumac and cardamom flavors with a fresh and accessibly ripe cherry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$56

94 Pali Wine Co. 2019 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rich aromas of black cherry, cola and smoked meat consume the nose on this bottling. That savory smoke tone holds through the acid-driven sip as well, adding nuance to waves of boysenberry cake frosting and peppery spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$79

94 Peake Ranch 2020 Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A range of cherry aromas—from luxardo to maraschino—kick off the nose of this bottling, with grenadine and Red Hot cinnamon candy elements also arising. Fine tannins surround the sip, where the strawberry and cherry flavors are lifted by mace and vanilla spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Beautifully candied aromas of cherry are enhanced by lovely tones of earth and jubilant mint leaves on the nose of this bottling from a historic property deep in the Santa Maria Valley. Spearmint and juicy strawberry compote converge on the lively palate as well, where the finish sports an anise spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$32

94 Regan Vineyards Winery 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This new, luxury-level brand for the historic Bargetto family is off to a promising start. Rich, inviting aromas of black cherry, frozen strawberry and mace are quite delicious. There is a firm tension to the palate, balancing the ripe cherry and strawberry sorbet flavors. This is expertly captured ripeness. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Riverbench 2020 One Palm Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Lighter in the glass, this bottling snaps on the nose with extremely expressive aromas of pomegranate, cranberry and orange rind, with hints of wild herb and bay leaf adding complexity. The sip tightens up in texture and focuses on those same elements, picking up savory green peppercorn and lingering acidity along the way. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$48

94 Storm Wines 2020 Sanford & Benedict Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Crisp red-fruit aromas are enhanced by peppery spices on the well-integrated and delightful nose of this bottling by Ernst Storm. The palate is focused and tight, with cherry, red berry, sumac and cinnamon flavors playing well

together, as an earthy herbal tone arises on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$75

94 Terah 2021 Besson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley). This young winemaker's take on an old vineyard is exciting on all fronts. Aromas of soil, slate, elderberry and purple flavors on the nose slide right into the refreshing flavors of lavender and açai on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

93 Alfaro Family 2020 Trout Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A light shade in the glass, this bottling offers that characteristic earth aromas of this region, showing dusty chaparral, forest floor and crushed stone against the cherry core. That chaparral quality rides through the tart Montmorency cherry and game flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Alfaro Family 2020 Whole Cluster Lindsay Paige Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Fresh and vibrant aromas of black raspberry are layered in earthy tones of scorched soil, singed sage and crumpled purple flowers on the nose of this bottling. The palate hits in pleasantly rugged ways, showing sagebrush, tart cherry and smoked chaparral flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Au Bon Climat 2018 Larmes de Grappe Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Quite light in the glass, this bottling from the Sanford & Benedict Vineyard begins with rustic aromas of blistered cranberry, orange peel, dried wood and stemmy herbs on the nose. The cranberry and orange peel combination meets with sagebrush oil and incense on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Casa Dumetz 2020 Hapgood Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Light in the glass, this bottling sizzles on the nose with fresh strawberry juice, bay leaf and green peppercorn aromas, showing a very cool-climate expression. Peppercorn and eucalyptus leaf notes carry through the palate, where subdued plum skin and tart berry flavors form the base. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

93 Donnachadh 2020 Estate Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Ripe black cherry and smoked-meat aromas make for a compelling nose on this estate bottling. There's a firm textural grip to the palate, where black raspberry, fennel frond and peppercorn flavors lead into a minty licorice finish. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Fess Parker 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Stewed cherry and smoky mesquite aromas swirl into an inviting nose on this bottling from a historic vineyard. The palate is very cohesive and well integrated, from the

grippy structure and brisk acidity to the smoked cherry, white pepper, crumpled sage, oregano and incense flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Fess Parker 2020 Older Barrels Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Waves of oak are woven through aromas of baked cherry and mocha on the nose of this bottling. Supple red fruit and light floral flavors meet with citrus peel and more toasty qualities on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Fess Parker 2020 Sanford & Benedict 1971 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's an appealing degree of subtlety to this bottling from historic vines that will ensure a long age. Aromas of black raspberry, crushed rock and potpourri slip into a palate of pomegranate, hibiscus and crushed rocks. Those qualities will coalesce further with patience. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$70

93 Folie à Deux 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Centered on bright red cherries and raspberries, this delicious, well-balanced and full-bodied wine has an elegant feel, lively fruit flavors and a slightly tangy finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

93 Glunz 2019 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

93 Obsidian 2020 Poseidon Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$38

93 Storm Wines 2020 Donnachadh Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean and crisp aromas of pomegranate, light pepper and sumac show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers dark cranberry and raspberry flavors as well as dark marjoram herb notes, but it's the sticky grip that ensures a long life. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$58

93 Storm Wines 2020 Presqu'île Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A light hue in the glass, this very cool-climate bottling offers lively aromas of sage, dust and eucalyptus alongside crisp cranberry and raspberry on the nose. The palate is brisk with pomegranate and cranberry flavors, as a smoky charcuterie element lingers in the background. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$58

93 The Harris Gallery 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Flavorful, appetizing and well-balanced, this medium-bodied wine blends red and black cherries, black currant and a touch of black tea for plenty of satisfaction on the sip, while

slightly tangy fruit acidity and light tannins lend a palate-cleansing texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$67

92 Babcock 2020 Ocean's Ghost Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Concentrated aromas of black raspberry and boysenberry are decorated with loamy soil, fennel bulb and light oak on the nose of this bottling. There's a thick mouthfeel to the palate, where powerful flavors of baked boysenberry are both bold and tart, lifted by light oak and baking spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$70

92 Bernardus 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Brooding aromas of berry and intense plum are cut by tar and pepper on the nose of this appellation blend. There's an opulent ripeness to the palate where spicy flavors of mace, cardamom, vanilla and clove decorate the dark, rich fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$45

92 Crū 2019 Sarmiento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.9% Price: \$35

92 Davies 2020 Pinot Noir (North Coast). The aroma and flavor profile of this wine are led by popping-fresh red fruits: raspberry, cranberry, wild strawberry and red plum. Close to follow are deeper, yet delicately dispersed, secondary notes of toasted wood, char, clove and nutmeg, which all work to complement and uplift those primary fruits. A solid line of acidity rides right through the center, uplifting the palate from start to finish, while the smooth, fine-grained tannins add just enough texture and structural integrity. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

92 Dunites 2021 Ella Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast). Tart strawberry, dried berry and intriguing floral aromas of hibiscus and rose weave through the nose of this bottling. The palate is lively, fresh and crisp, popping with raspberry and red-plum flavors that are spiced up by cinnamon and mace. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

92 Peake Ranch 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark and ripe aromas of cherry are fruit forward but not overbearing on the nose of this bottling, which also shows hints of sagebrush. The palate lands with a deliciously ripe combo of cherry, strawberry and blackberry, as herb-oil elements and a hint of caramel arise on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

92 Riverbench 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A rusty red color in the glass, this bottling begins with earthy aromas of sagebrush and fresh hits of cranberry and cherry, deftly balancing herb and fruit elements. There is ample energy to the sip, where flavors of more sage, dust, wood and currant converge. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$34

92 Schug 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$32

92 Sean Minor 2021 Signature Series Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

92 Testarossa 2020 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Baked cherry, toasted oak and a pinch of sage show on the classic nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard on the southern end of San Luis Obispo County. A toasty quality frames the palate, where savory wood spice flavors wrap around the core of cherry fruit and rose petals. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$74

91 Au Bon Climat 2018 La Bauge Au-dessus Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Quite tart aromas of cherry, sagebrush and forest floor duff converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a fierce herbal streak to the palate, where thyme, sagebrush and eucalyptus leaf elements decorate the tart cranberry and currant flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

91 Belle Glos 2021 Clark & Telephone Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$55

91 Fess Parker 2020 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dark strawberry and cherry aromas converge with leather and tar on the nose of this bottling. The fruit shows a tart side on the palate, with rounder flavors of violet and açai also at play, all zinging into a sagebrush-kissed finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

91 Fleur de California 2020 Carneros Select Pinot Noir (Carneros). This is a classic-style wine typical of the grape variety, showing good red and black cherry flavors that are accented by leafy, woody and cinnamon nuances on the palate. It's medium bodied, well balanced and has light, textural tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$24

91 Folktale 2020 Eden Rift Vineyard Pinot Noir (Cienega Valley). Boiled cherry, sharp sage and light peppercorn aromas align on the nose of this bottling from a reinvigorated property. The palate is tart with pomegranate and raspberry flavors, while strawberry adds a broader base and thyme contributes earthy nuance. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$85

91 Pali Wine Co. 2019 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Clean aromas of cherry liqueur, turned earth and light sage make for a hearty entry to the nose of this bottling. Cranberry and strawberry flavors are lifted by chaparral herbs on the palate, with plum skins adding a tart balance. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$79

91 Storm Wines 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Crushed currant and cranberry aromas meet with coriander and earthy funk on the nose of this county-wide blend. The palate amplifies the earthy tone, with kelp and seashore flavors giving depth to the tart black raspberry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

91 Storm Wines 2020 Duvarita Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Dusty aromas of clay, damp campfire and rugged chaparral dominate the cherry elements on the nose of this bottling. There's a richer, viscous left to the palate, where thick flavors of plum, mace and clove are incorporated into that earthy funk. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$65

90 Barra of Mendocino 2020 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Mendocino). A pale ruby in the glass, hedging toward an elegant rouge around the perimeter. Initial aromas include red cherry, cranberry, wild raspberry, vanilla, toasted wood and a hint of forest floor. An uplifted acidity brings those fresh fruits to light on the palate—a palate that presents complementing spices of dried nutmeg and cardamom not initially sensed on the nose. Well balanced with layers of flavors leading to a lingering finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$24

90 Davies 2020 Georgian Vineyards Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). An enticing, silky-texture mouthfeel greets the palate with decadent flavors of boysenberry, black cherry, raspberry compote complemented by toasted oak, vanilla, and dried forest floor leaves. Integrated acidity adds a lovely uplifted midpalate; the finish is clean and invites another sip. An overall well-rounded and engaging Pinot Noir. —S.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$75

90 Patz & Hall 2019 Hyde Pinot Noir (Carneros). A full-bodied expression of the famous site, long a source for this producer, this inn his spicy, earthy and tannic, with a concentration of lush, richly layered red fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

90 Steele 2020 Cuvée Pinot Noir (Sonoma County-Colusa County). Generous oak spices—cinnamon, vanilla and cedar—give some attractive complexity to this warm and ripe-tasting wine. A full body, light tannins and rich mouthfeel make it soothing to sip. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$30

90 Wiens Cellars 2020 Pinot Noir (Temecula Valley). Pinot Noir is a challenging choice in this warm region, but this bottling shows the possibilities, starting with familiar aromas of dried cherry, cola and root beer on the nose. The palate picks up an earthy note of fennel and more cola, with a baked-cherry core. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$38

89 Decoy 2020 Pinot Noir (California). This nicely balanced and medium-bodied wine

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checks the boxes for a very good Pinot Noir with its red and black cherries, light tannins and hints of cinnamon and black tea. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

89 Girasole 2021 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). Classic Pinot Noir aromas greet you from the glass: red roses, ripe red raspberry, red cherry and vanilla. On the palate, these notes are complemented by hints of baking spices. Tannins are subtle at first, building up in the mid-palate, and then slowly integrating and dissipating—a quality that provides both structure and length to the tasting. A casual, quaffable, well-balanced expression. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Bernardus 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Clean lines of black raspberry, dank forest floor and light mint show on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a thick and viscous texture, offering ripe black cherry and strawberry juice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

88 Block Nine 2021 Caiden's Vineyards Pinot Noir (California). This is a good, solid-quality wine with nice black cherry flavors on a medium body. It tastes ripe and straightforward, offering attractive fruit and light spices. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 J. Lohr 2021 Falcon's Perch Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Fresh raspberry aromas are cut by incense and cigar box on the nose of this bottling. There's a viscous and ripe character to the palate, where ripe cherry flavors are enhanced by an umami-laced mushroom note and a tangy citrus acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$17

88 Protector Cellars NV Picnic Punch Piquette Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). This canned piquette is a refreshing alternative to beer or hard seltzer. A muddy mauve when poured into a glass, it offers wild black raspberry aromas on the nose and then purple flower, black plum and turned-earth flavors on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 6.9% **Price:** \$9/250 ml

87 Edna Valley Vineyard 2020 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Light in the glass, this bottling offers dried cherry and wood spice aromas on the nose. Cedar plays against cherry compote on the palate, which leans ripe and into the brown sugar realm. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

87 No Curfew 2020 Pinot Noir (California). A fun, fresh, fruity, almost candy-like expression of red cherry, cranberry and strawberry greet the nose and the palate along with secondary notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, fresh wood and a hint of sweet tobacco. The tannins are a tad course and chalky, but there's just enough acidity to add some

vivacity to that deeper attitude and craft a well-balanced wine. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

87 Vinum Cellars 2019 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Plum, berry, oak, and all spice aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tart with cranberry and grapefruit peel flavors, as woody tannins add a bit of structure. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Voces 2019 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This smooth and well-behaved wine offers modest black-fruit flavors on a firm structure of moderate tannins and full body. It is straight forward and well made. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

86 Mahoney 2019 Mahoney Ranch Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Carneros). A strong sawn-oak aroma continues in the flavors of this grippy, spicy wine. Firm tannins and tight red-cherry flavors give it a mouth-puckering impact that may mellow with time. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

86 Testarossa 2020 Cuvée Los Gatos Pinot Noir (Monterey). Earthy aromas of muddled fig, sour berry and turned loam show on the nose of this bottling. There's a wild pomegranate fruit flavor to the palate along with watery cranberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

85 Scotto Family Cellars 2020 Anthony & Dominic Pinot Noir (North Coast). This full-bodied wine is stuffed with ripe, jammy black-fruit flavors that sing a decent one-note song. The wine is soft in texture and low in tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

85 Souverain 2020 Pinot Noir (California). Ripe, soft cherries and red apples give a jammy expression to this full-bodied and broad-textured wine. It's a decent red wine without a lot of Pinot character. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$11

85 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi NV Pinot Noir (California). This soft, broad and ripe-tasting wine shows low acidity, a smooth mouthfeel and straightforward dark plum and raisin flavors. Minor amounts of Tannat, Tempranillo and Petite Sirah were blended in. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$7

GAMAY

93 Stasis 2021 Gamay Noir (Santa Barbara County). Classically fresh aromas of ripe berry and red currant mix with the earthy edges of loamy soil, crushed slate and chaparral on the nose of this new county-focused bottling. The palate is wrapped in a chalky texture and bright acidity, with strawberry, berry and spicy white-pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

93 Stasis 2021 Murmur Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Maria Valley). There's a lot of complexity in this bottling, starting with aromas of crushed rocks, bay leaf, sagebrush and black raspberry bubblegum on the nose. The palate is fresh with strawberry and light banana flavors, as pepper dust adds spice and the lively acidity makes for bright sipping. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

92 Donnachadh 2020 Gamay (Sta. Rita Hills). Fruit-driven aromas of strawberry and raspberry sorbet are offset by plump rose buds, crushed rocks and turned soil on the nose of this estate Gamay, a new bottling for the brand. Lively pepper spices cut into that ripe red fruit core on the palate, making for an easily quaffable glass. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

SYRAH

96 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 The XO Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). From the X block of Syrah that was grafted back in 1987, this luxury-level bottling hits the nose with an awesome array of fresh yet funky aromas, offering blueberry, damp soil and smoked meat scents. The palate is tightly woven and built for the cellar, combining lavender, violet, white-pepper and purple-fruit flavors into a lovely, lively showcase. Drink now–2042. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Dark yet fresh aromas of elderberry and violet are spiced by cracked pepper and tar on the focused nose of this estate bottling. The palate is very firm and tense, with a zesty acidity that cuts through those elderberry and dark-purple flower flavors. That grip will last for many years, so drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Epiphany 2019 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Intense and dark but not overly ripe aromas of black currant, blackberry and black plum are lifted by peppery spices and violet on the nose of this bottling. The palate is chalky yet smoothly polished in texture, framing the roasted berry, cassis and creamy chai spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$49

94 Fess Parker 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). A big and brooding wine at every turn, this alluringly smoky wine begins with aromas of hickory, roasting meats and blackberry compote on the nose. The hefty palate combines smoked tea leaves, kelp, iodine and bloody meats flavors with ample herb and roasted fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$54

94 Glunz 2019 White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

94 Muscardini 2019 Vadasz Vineyards Syrah (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$48

94 Peake Ranch 2020 John Sebastiano Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Elderberry, crushed asphalt and intense Tellicherry peppercorn aromas draw the nose into this cool-climate Syrah. There's a firm focus to the palate, where zesty and detailed flavors of purple flower and berry ride a lingering grip deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

93 Donnachadh 2020 Estate Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean aromas of blackberry, graphite, black peppercorn and a hint of tar show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh and lively with crisp plum, pluot, raspberry and lavender flavors, as white pepper brings spice to the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$65

93 Epiphany 2019 Colson Canyon Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Dark berry and gamy meat aromas are lifted by woody incense, lavender and patchouli aromas on the nose of this bottling from a rugged and remote vineyard. The palate is hefty with roasted meat, stewed boysenberry, thyme and bay leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$49

93 Epiphany 2019 Hampton Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Dense and fresh aromas of berry, roasted meat, violet and elderberry sorbet show on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with lots of texture and flavor, showing roasted kelp, coffee bean, smoked-meat and wild-berry elements. A great steak wine. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$44

93 Lone Madrone 2019 Old Oak Vineyard Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Clean and crisp aromas of black raspberry sorbet make for a pure and focused nose on this bottling. There's a firm grip to the sip, where vibrant and fresh berry and plum aromas are lifted by white pepper and an ashy minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

93 Minus Tide 2019 Perli Vineyard Syrah (Mendocino Ridge). This sleek, almost spare wine, has an edgy expression from nervy acidity and a rather light body that accompanies violets, sour cherries and black pepper flavors that are fascinating to savor. An earthy, tobacco-like nuance develops on the palate and lingers on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$39

93 Peake Ranch 2020 Peake Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Strong sagebrush aromas meet with baked strawberry and plush cherry on the nose of this bottling, which also shows a touch of gamy funk. The palate is intense with fresh yet dark strawberry and plum flavors, as incense and eucalyptus leaf elements add intrigue. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

93 Zanoli 2019 Glenrose Vineyard Syrah (Adelaida District). Polished aromas of black plum, açai, blackberry pudding and violet make for a lovely nose on this single-vineyard expression. The palate is hedonistically focused and nearing on sweet, with candied blackberry and berry sorbet flavors that are leveled by thyme and pepper dust. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$56

92 Le Mistral 2020 Whole Cluster Syrah (Monterey County). Bay and eucalyptus leaf aromas meet with pristine plum, smashed black raspberry and rainbow peppercorn on the nose of this bottling. The palate is wrapped in creamy tannins, rather than the edgy texture that whole-cluster often delivers, offering chai, mocha, mace and strawberry compote flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$54

92 Refugio Ranch 2017 Time for Time Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). This is an elegant expression of long-aged Syrah, offering herbal hints of thyme and peppercorn as well as lavender and fresh boysenberry on the nose. The palate snaps with purple fruit and flower flavors, as the integrated oak aging shows in subtle ways. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$95

92 V. Sattui 2019 Syrah (Napa Valley). Showing the elegant side of Syrah, this smooth, almost silky wine holds its concentrated black-fruit flavors rather lightly with moderate tannins, while impressive concentration and touches of vanilla, cinnamon and cedar keep it interesting. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$44

91 Dunites 2021 Sans Soufre Syrah (San Luis Obispo Coast). There are a growing number of quick-to-release, low- to no-sulfur Syrah bottlings on the market, and they're a very unique take on this grape. This bottling begins with aromas of boysenberry paste, wet loam, asphalt and crushed stone on the nose, while the palate sizzles with acidity as tactile tannins present flavors of boysenberry and violet. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

91 Fess Parker 2019 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This brawny style of Syrah offers grilled meat, elderberry, leather and mesquite aromas on the nose. Iodine, smoked-meat and roasted-berry flavors show on the bold palate, which would handle any type of roasted beef. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$30

91 Opolo 2019 Reserve Collection Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Brooding aromas of aged berry, tobacco leaf, caramel and wood spice make for a heady nose on this bottling. There's a tarry grip to the palate, where baked berry and more caramel flavors make for a rich expression of Syrah, yet with just enough acidity to carry into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

91 Wiens Cellars 2019 Reserve Syrah (Temecula Valley). Dark, ripe fruit aromas are layered across licorice and smoked meat scents on the nose of this bottling. Black licorice flavors cruise through the palate in distinctive ways, spicing up the roasted black plum and fig core, as vanilla lingers into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$85

90 Le Mistral 2019 Brosseau Vineyard Syrah (Chalone). Black plum, violet and pepper aromas snap on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tart with plum skin flavors, as lavender adds nuance to the single-vineyard, low-alcohol expression. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% Price: \$60

90 Lindquist Family 2020 Syrah (Central Coast). Fresh and easy aromas of berry and cracked pepper show that Syrah can be enjoyable in many occasions. The flavors are fresh and tangy on the palate, with blackberry, baking spice and white pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

89 Kendric 2019 Proprietor Grown Syrah (Petaluma Gap-Marin County). Smoky, leathery, earthy aromas are followed by rich black fruits and noticeable meaty, funky flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$28

89 Minus Tide 2019 Valenti Vineyard Syrah (Mendocino Ridge). This bold and rowdy wine fermented with 50% whole clusters offers bites of black pepper, sage and tart blackberries on a moderately tannic frame. It's a little severe but definitely distinctive. —J.G.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$39

87 Fasi Estate 2020 Private Reserve Estate Syrah (Madera). Ginger and vanilla aromas combine with sour cherry and dark plum flavors in this medium-bodied, lean-tasting wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$38

GRENACHE

95 Epiphany 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$40

95 Peake Ranch 2020 Peake Ranch Vineyard Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Clean and ripe aromas of cherry, rose petal and loamy earth make for an attention-grabbing nose on this bottling, another show of the Rhône promise of the Sta. Rita Hills. There's a rich, creamy texture to the palate, yet loads of acid and hard spices that push dark strawberry, cardamom and cinnamon flavors deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

95 Refugio Ranch 2020 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Smoothly integrated aromas of rich

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red fruits are layered with mace, cardamom and liquified rose petals on the delicious nose of this estate bottling. The creamy tannins are managed into a soft frame on the palate, where both power and grace are carried across flavors of dark cherry and roasted berry. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

94 Babcock 2020 Born Ready Grenache (California). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

94 Bien Nacido Estate 2020 Grenache (Santa Maria Valley). Vibrant black raspberry jelly, crusted stone and pine forest duff aromas make for a complex nose on this bottling. There is intense tannic framing to the palate, where light toast flavors surround the intense black raspberry and cherry flavors. A great cool-climate Grenache example, built for aging. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 Clementine Carter 2020 Robert Rae Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Super bright and fresh aromas of strawberry are punchy and fun on the nose of this bottling, which picks up more complex hints of brown spice and caramel as well. Those rounded red-fruit flavors are wrapped in a tight-enough grip, with light wood, baking spice and hibiscus elements adding depth. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Clementine Carter 2020 West End Grenache (Santa Barbara County). Dark cherry and berry aromas meet with crushed slate, bay leaf and an underlying chaparral note on the nose of this bottling. The palate snaps with tart berry and plum before opening into delicious strawberry compote, cinnamon and sumac flavors, with fresh acidity and tight tannins holding the fruit together. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Lindquist Family 2020 Sawyer Lindquist Vineyard Grenache (Edna Valley). A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling from a special site pops on the nose with snappy, easy red fruit tones of pomegranate and ripe cranberry. The palate is zippy and fresh, with darker pomegranate and light herb elements, exhibiting both a structure and flavor set that will stand the test of time. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Babcock 2020 Love Among the Ruins Grenache (Santa Barbara County). There's an earthy, slightly funky angle to the nose of this bottling, with wet soil aromas floating behind the red currant, rose and freshly shaved cinnamon notes. The soil character returns on the sip, picking up pepper, dark cranberry and bouncy red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

92 Dunitis 2020 Islay Hill Vineyard Grenache (Edna Valley). Dark aromas of dried cherry,

toasted sage and woody stems offer a slightly funky take on Grenache in this bottling. The palate carries the cool-climate aspect forward, showing wild thyme, forest floor and chaparral flavors alongside the roasted berry core. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$38

91 Croma Vera 2021 Joven Grenache (Paso Robles). Very light and transparent in the glass, this carbonically fermented quick-release wine is very satisfying, easily-to-quaff partner for a cheese and charcuterie plate. Cherry, incense, hibiscus and earth aromas on the nose lead into cranberry, plum and salty meat flavors on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Doctor's Orders 2020 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). Rustic aromas of sagebrush, toasted thyme, smoke and red fruits show on the nose of this bottling. There's a snappy acidity on the palate, where more chaparral and desert shrub influence is woven through the cranberry and tomato skin flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Dusty Nabor 2020 Spear Vineyard Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). Light aromas of tart red currant and rose oil lead into darker cherry and wet earth as this wine's nose opens. The palate snaps with sour cranberry but riper strawberry flavors, as cinnamon and hibiscus elements lead into a woody finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Sierra Vista 2019 Grenache (El Dorado). Very fresh, almost jammy fruit flavors are gently wrapped in moderate tannins in this full-bodied, well-balanced and well-concentrated wine. Dark cherries, dark plums and blueberries flood the palate and stay vivid and delicious through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$29

91 V. Sattui 2019 Grenache (Napa Valley). Full-bodied and deep, this rich but well-balanced wine doesn't get too heavy, layering oak spice, raspberries, dark plums and hints of rosemary on a smooth, lightly tannic texture that keeps it lip-smacking and appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$39

90 Le Mistral 2020 Le Mistral Single Vineyard Grenache (Monterey County). A light shade in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with muddled plum, mace and slightly nutty aromas on the nose. There's a snappy freshness to the palate, where red apple and currant are dusted in dried herb and hard spice elements. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$40

90 Occasio 2020 Shake Ridge Ranch Grenache (Amador County). This plump, juicy, full-bodied wine comes on very fruity and smooth, with dark plums, strawberries and red currants, and then nicely tightens a bit on the palate with the appetiz-

ing snap of light tannins. It is very well balanced and appealing. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

88 Midnight 2019 Moonbeam Grenache (Paso Robles). Aromas of cherry and baked strawberry are concentrated and hefty on the nose of this bottling. The bold palate picks up oak-smoked meat alongside the dense strawberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$49

MOURVÈDRE

93 Clementine Carter 2020 Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County). Light in the glass and fruity on the nose for this typically burly, earthy grape, this bottling snaps with aromas of fresh strawberry, red currant and hibiscus. The palate is equally bright and zesty, with raspberry flavors more prominent and a refreshing acidity lingering long. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 Epiphany 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County). Very dark purple flower aromas meet with crushed rocks, tar, elderberry and dusty sagebrush on the nose of this bottling. The palate is earthy and rugged yet generous in ripe flavors of berry, as oak coats the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Zanolli 2020 Row X Glenrose Vineyard Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Dark plummy fruit aromas meet with charred meat, dried earth and leather on the nose of this bottling. There's a tarry edge to the palate, where pure berry, baking spice and meat flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$52

90 Dorcich 2020 Mourvèdre (Santa Clara Valley). Toasty oak aromas surround the baked boysenberry, violet and charred beef aromas on the nose of this bottling. Sticky tannins surround the palate, where charred meat and tar flavors pair with roasted berry. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

90 Sierra Vista 2019 Mourvèdre (El Dorado). This smooth and appealing wine shows very ripe, warm black- and red-fruit flavors on a suave, rather soft texture. It is easy on the tannins and packed with delicious fruit notes that are subtly accented by oak spices. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

CARIGNAN

93 Babcock 2020 Opportunity Knocks Santa Ynez Vineyard Carignan (Santa Ynez Valley). Baked plum and hickory-smoked meat aromas coalesce on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard on the eastern edge of Santa Ynez Valley. Rich and generous fruit flavors are wrapped in rocky tannins and a crushed stone minerality on the palate, as

pepper and herb elements add spice. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Babcock 2020 Status Crow Carignan (Santa Barbara County). Bryan Babcock's endless fascination to explore evermore varieties shines in this bottling of Carignan, which is dark in the glass and begins with aromas of freshly smashed berry and currant as well as pulverized rocks. The palate's acidity zips through black raspberry, rhubarb, loamy soil and dried mushroom flavors on the wildly complex palate. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$35

91 Minus Tide 2019 Feliz Creek Vineyard Carignan (Mendocino). One of the heritage varieties in California, this robust Carignan stands out for its potent, focused black fruits, hints of wood smoke, tobacco and leather, all wrapped in moderate tannins for a structure that should help it age. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

CABERNET FRANC

95 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2018 Cabernet Franc (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

93 Soda Rock Winery 2019 Warm Springs Reserve Cabernet Franc (Dry Creek Valley). This quietly powerful wine packs dense black fruits, cardamom and dark chocolate in abundant fine-grained tannins so that it feels smooth on the palate yet deep and well structured, finishing with a powerful grip that needs time to soften. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48

92 Copain Wines 2019 Taylor Peak Cabernet Franc (North Coast). Neither oak spices nor tannins dominate this medium-bodied wine, allowing the grape variety's complex, savory characters of black currants and bay leaves to shine through, backed by a supple texture and light, integrated tannins. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$90

92 Duckhorn 2019 Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley). Butter and maple overtones meet rich blueberry and blackberry flavors in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. It is mouthfilling and broad in texture, making it enjoyable now–2028 at least. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

91 Babcock 2019 Bright Fortune Cabernet Franc (Santa Barbara County). Charred meat, baked blackberry, light violet and hints of caramel show on the nose of this bottling. Crushed peppercorn flavors pop on the palate alongside dark berry, plum and tarry asphalt notes. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Le Casque 2019 Cabernet Franc (Sierra Foothills). This rich, broad, meaty and earthy wine floods the palate with deep black plums, cooked cherries, tobacco and a barnyard note, all of which create a complex, slightly funky effect, while soft tannins add a soothing texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Locatelli 2019 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Black cherry, loamy soil and milk chocolate powder aromas invite the nose into this bottling. There's a purity to the palate, where blackberry jam and toasty caramel flavors are framed by bold tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

91 Soda Rock Winery 2019 Warm Springs Cabernet Franc (Dry Creek Valley). This brawny and full-bodied wine wraps black cherry, black olive and dark chocolate flavors in sandy tannins for a mouth-filling texture and appetizing bite. Great concentration and bold flavors help it stand out. Best from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48

90 Vinum Cellars 2018 The Scrapper Cabernet Franc (El Dorado County). Firmly tannic and also nicely concentrated, this big, angular wine matches bright cinnamon and cedar notes from oak aging with nicely ripe and vibrant black currants and red cherries. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

90 Wiens Cellars 2018 Cabernet Franc (Riverside County). This bottling begins on a reductive kick, with smoked meat, tar and peppercorn aromas leading the way on the nose and asphalt and blackberry on the palate. But patience reveals the dark fruit, charcuterie and cracked-pepper elements that make for a rewarding sip. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$38

MALBEC

91 Dorcich 2021 Estate Carbonic Malbec (Santa Clara Valley). Malbec isn't a common choice for carbonic fermentation, but it shows unique character in this bottling. Aromas of dark plum, crushed berry and turned soil make for a brooding nose. The palate is tremendously firm and grippy yet still playful with fresh black-plum flavors. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Opaque 2019 Malbec (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

90 Berryessa Gap 2019 Malbec (Yolo County). Well-extracted fruit flavors and handsome spices give considerable appeal to this medium-bodied wine aged in neutral oak barrels. Cinnamon, vanilla and cedar meet black cherries and maraschino cherries on the palate, while mild tannins add a bit of structure. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Ms Behave Malbec (Paso Robles). Dark berry, loamy soil and light violet aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a very lively streak of cassis and violet, with fairly young, sticky tannins that should resolve more with time. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Hearst Ranch 2020 Babicora Malbec (Paso Robles). Dark strawberry and boysenberry pair with light wood and caramel on the nose of this bottling. There's an herbal show of oregano and marjoram on the palate, with plum and strawberry flavors leading into an oakier finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

89 Robert Hall 2020 Cavern Select Malbec (Paso Robles). Focused aromas of blackberry, toasty oak and tar converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a tense, even sticky frame to the palate, where violet, tart dark plum and dried herbs show. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

MERLOT

91 J. Lohr 2020 Los Osos Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

91 Rangeland 2019 Ultramafic Reserve Merlot (Adelaida District). Boysenberry jelly and violet extract aromas invite the nose into this bottling. The purple-flower notes expand on the palate, where violet and lilac lead into açai and blueberry flavors, making for a clean and satisfying sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

90 Flanagan 2019 Merlot (Sonoma County). This big, smooth wine floods the palate with mint, cedar and beef flavors after a slightly herbaceous, earthy nose. Although light in tannins, it has a deep, dark fruit character that leaves a lingering impression on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

87 Locatelli 2020 Merlot (Paso Robles). Focused black cherry, oak smoke and caramel aromas show on the nose of this bold bottling. The wood spice character overwhelms the palate, with toasted oak fighting against eye-wateringly sharp acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

87 Wilson Creek 2020 Reserve Merlot (Temecula Valley). Muddled strawberry and candied mulberry aromas meet with cardamom, mahogany and incense aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very woody in texture and flavor, as a pine-sap character wraps around the strawberry elements. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$45

86 Cannonball 2020 Merlot (California). A simple and quaffable Merlot with notes of blueberry, blackberry, black plum and licorice. Tan-

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nins are soft, plush, never overwhelming the palate, but adding a solid backbone while the acidity does well to uplift the fruit components. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

PETIT VERDOT

95 Thirty-Seven 2018 Reserve Petit Verdot (Petaluma Gap). This concentrated and well-polished wine is infused with black cherries, black currants and cedar that give it good focus on the palate. Moderate, velvety tannins bolster the texture and balance out the generous fruit flavors. It's a big wine, but coming from a cooler part of Sonoma County, it tastes elegant and harmonious. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

94 Howell Mountain Vineyards 2018 Petit Verdot (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Soda Rock Winery 2018 Runway Reserve Petit Verdot (Sonoma County). Deep, dark and saturated, this powerful and moderately tannic wine coats the palate with uber-ripe blueberries and blackberries, held nicely by fine-grained tannins that keep it velvety in texture. The oak spices are subtle and complex. Best through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

91 Babcock 2019 Fathom Santa Ynez Vineyard Petit Verdot (Santa Barbara County). Very ripe aromas of black cherry and blackberry meet with smoke and caramelized vanilla on the nose of this bottling. Baked berry and cherry flavors ride atop a similar caramel note on the palate, where the texture is medium bodied and the acidity bright. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Midnight 2019 Synnove Petit Verdot (Paso Robles). Polished blackberry aromas are lifted by a light toasty tone on the nose of this bottling. Blueberry and açai flavors make for a purple-powered, medium-bodied palate, with a hint of pepper adding spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$49

PETITE SIRAH

95 McKahn Family Cellars 2019 Casa De Vinas Vineyard Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley). Utterly black and tarry in appearance, aroma and flavor, this distinctive, bold but also polished wine puts a smoky, peppery, meaty spin on its core of deep blackberries, blueberries and espresso. It is quite tannic but the flavor concentration matches it step by step for good balance. Best from 2025–2045. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Langtry 2019 Serpentine Meadow Petite Sirah (Guenoc Valley). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

94 Ruby Hill Winery 2018 Jewel Collection Series Estate Reserve Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley). Luscious dark-chocolate and deep blueberry flavors rest in rich, velvety tannins in this full-bodied, inky-colored, super-concentrated wine. Layering, creaminess and a plush mouthfeel make it practically irresistible. Best through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$52

93 LangeTwins 2019 One Hundred Vineyard Petite Sirah (Jahant). This textbook Petite Sirah aged in neutral oak barrels shows the LangeTwins at their best. The wine reveals all the grape variety's inky color, intense black-fruit flavors and grippy tannins. Yet it also adds subtleties of dark chocolate, anise and red roses that emerge with repeated sipping. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

93 Refugio Ranch 2019 Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). Dark and focused aromas of ripe strawberry and mesquite-smoked meat are very approachable on the nose of this bottling. It's tightly structured on the palate, where firm, chalky tannins frame the juicy black plum and berry flavors. Drink now–2029. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Ruby Hill Winery 2018 Reserve Collection Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley). This blockbuster of a wine squeezes every ounce of color, fruit, spice and tannin out of the notoriously potent grape variety. Generous dashes of oak spice from cinnamon to wood smoke to cedar mingle with intense blueberry, blackberry and dark chocolate notes while firm tannins bind them together rather firmly. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$31

92 Michael David 2020 Petite Petite Petite Sirah (Lodi). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

92 San Simeon 2019 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30

92 Ursa 2018 Petite Sirah (Sierra Foothills). Nicely concentrated, dark in color and overflowing with blackberry jam and blueberry flavors, this full-bodied wine is delicious and mouth coating. While tannic, the texture stays smooth and velvety. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

91 Epiphany 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County). Brooding aromas of black plum and cassis meet with nutty milk chocolate scents on the nose of this bottle. The palate is thick as expected for this grape, with big berry and

violet flavors. A tight acidity keeps it all in check. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Hoyt Family Vineyards 2016 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Trinitas 2017 Old Vine Petite Sirah (Contra Costa County). Dark and rich, this full-bodied, high-alcohol and lavishly tannic wine is softened by sweet-seeming blueberry and chocolate flavors that give it an indulgent dessert-wine expression. —J.G.
abv: 16.4% **Price:** \$36

89 Langtry 2019 Double Barrel Aged Bourbon Barrel Petite Sirah (Guenoc Valley). This potent but approachable wine offers delicious blackberry jam and blueberry syrup flavors on a thick bed of fine-grained tannins. It's lavish, oaky and well aged. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$42

88 Cabana Wines 2020 Petite Sirah (Lodi). A fairly simple expression that packs a lot of punch and flavor and is very well balanced. The fruit structure is extremely ripe, speaking of blackberry and blueberry jams, baked black plums and blackberry compote. This is well matched by the fairly high alcohol but also by a decent dose of acidity that helps cut through the richness. Further, these robust flavors are complemented by additional notes of violets, tarragon, black pepper and nutmeg that linger on the back of the palate. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

87 Locatelli 2020 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Blackberry and violet aromas are both rich and tart on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite sweet with brown sugar and black-currant flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$38

87 Wiens Cellars 2019 Bare-Knuckle Petite Sirah (California). Herbal aromas meet with leathery tones on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit thin in texture, offering toasted herb and roasted berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

ZINFANDEL

92 Trinitas 2017 Zinfandel (El Dorado). Plump boysenberries and warm blackberries fill up this generous, fruity and full-bodied wine, giving all the richness and ripeness you'd want from a Zin. It is super clean, friendly and fresh. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$32

91 Berryessa Gap 2019 Zinfandel (Yolo County). Broad in texture and generous in flavor, this mouth-filling, lightly tannic wine offers juicy dark plum, blackberry and roasted meat flavors for a sat-

isfying and layered effect on the palate. Not too full bodied, it will be a wine for all occasions. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$27

91 Lone Madrone 2019 Sheep Camp Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Candied boysenberry and pie spice aromas make for a very ripe nose on this bottling from a dry-farmed vineyard planted 40 years ago. The palate is remarkably dry and delightful, offering flavors of black strawberry and cassis gummies. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

90 Ancient Peaks 2020 Zinfandel (Santa Margarita Ranch). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$22

90 Ballard Lane 2020 Zinfandel (Central Coast). This is a tasty and complex wine for a very fair price. Aromas of strawberry pie, red flower, cinnamon and earth show on the nose, while the palate offers a more dry expression, offering fresh red fruit and clean stone flavors atop a light-weight body. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$13

90 Husch 2020 Estate Bottled Garzini Ranch Old Vines Zinfandel (Mendocino). Fresh raspberry and strawberry aromas lead to fruity, well-defined flavors of blackberries and dark plums in this uncomplicated, pure-tasting and well-balanced wine. Okay to serve chilled. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$28

89 Andis 2020 Painted Fields Old Vine Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). A raspberry aroma and earthy blackberry and black pepper flavors give this full-bodied, concentrated wine plenty to savor. Made from vines 50 years and older, it shows moderate tannins while a broad mouthfeel enhances its expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$28

89 Midnight 2019 Estate Zinfandel (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Boysenberry, violet and grape candy aromas show on the nose of this estate bottling. The palate offers more earthy flavors of soil and herb, with a hefty body presenting Concord grape and violet flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% Price: \$49

89 Steele 2020 Cuvée Zinfandel (Lake County-Mendocino County). Serious and well-structured, this full-bodied wine offers moderate black fruit flavors along with beefy, savory notes on a texture braced by medium tannins. It has the heft and complexity for pairing with juicy, rich meat dishes. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

87 Barra of Mendocino 2019 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Mendocino). An intriguing mix of aromas greet you from the glass: raspberry, wild strawberry, red cherry, cherry blossom and cherry wood intermingle with notes of black tea and a fresh, sea-salt salinity. The ripe, juicy fresh fruits come to the front, followed by that woody note

along with vanilla tones and a hint of menthol. It's a quaffable, easily enjoyable red wine. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$24

86 Cabana Wines 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). Lavish oak spices coat this full-bodied, smooth and rather soft-textured wine, damping down the basic dark plum and blackberry flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

86 Ivory and Burt 2019 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). Exuberant, jammy aromas and flavors come with a buttery, candied effect in this super-ripe, fruity and somewhat oaky wine. It is full-bodied and soft in texture. —J.G.
abv: 15% Price: \$16

SANGIOVESE

93 Refugio Ranch 2020 Sangiovese (Santa Ynez Valley). Warm and generous aromas of baked cherry, mocha spice and salty caramel show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is layered in soft, polished tannins that retain just enough edge to balance the comforting berry-pie flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$48

91 Risk 2018 Sangiovese (San Francisco Bay). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

86 Box Wine Company 2020 Black Roses Sangiovese (North Coast). Vanilla and other oak-spice flavors get most of the attention in this smooth, rich-tasting wine, while its mellow red cherry flavors stay in the background. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$40

RED BLENDS

95 Chateau Margene 2019 Cask 4 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Creston District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$210

95 Chateau Margene 2019 Cask 7 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Creston District). For full review see page 5.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$210

95 William Hill Estate 2019 Benchmark Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$105

94 Peachy Canyon 2020 Para Siempre Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Tightly manicured berry aroma of cassis gummies meet with lilac and violet on the creamy, pudding-like nose of this blend of 46% Malbec, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Petit Verdot. Oak envelopes the palate's cassis core, with hints of incense and dried herb coating the entire grippy sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$55

94 Peake Ranch 2020 Bellis Noir Red Blend (Sta. Rita Hills). This Rhône-dominated estate red blend begins with aromas of baked cherry, nutmeg, anise, tar and smoked meat on the nose. The palate is more smoke driven than the nose, with hints of hickory-kissed charcuterie, but there's much more happening too, including cherry compote, sumac, soy and mocha flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

94 Sunstone 2020 Fred's Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). This is a juicy and pleasurable blend of 61% Merlot and 39% Cabernet Franc, starting with aromas of strawberry, toasted oregano and sandalwood on the nose. The fresh red-fruit flavors are wrapped in friendly oak spices on the palate, where a sticky grip carries mahogany and marjoram as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$70

94 The Feminist Party 2020 G-S-M (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% Price: \$40

94 Trinitas 2020 Sandy Lane Vineyard Old Vine Red Blend (Contra Costa County). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$50

94 William Hill Estate 2019 Winemaker's Series The Notch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15.3% Price: \$75

93 Clay Shannon 2019 The David Red Blend (Lake County). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

93 Clos LaChance 2020 Meritage (Santa Clara Valley). Dark and focused aroma of blackberry and caramel are given a savory edge with hints of salt, pepper and dried beef on the nose of this impressive bottling. The palate is cohesive, showing well-integrated flavors of pepper, blackberry paste, light herbs and elegant purple flowers. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

93 Fess Parker 2019 The Big Easy Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). This Syrah-driven blend starts with smoked meat, dark fruit and pepper dust aromas on the nose. There's an impressively chalky edge to the palate, which is much more interesting than the nose, offering blackberry paste, smoked beef rib, dried thyme, cracked pepper and a caramel finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$37

93 Highway 12 2019 Serres Ranch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). This smooth and well-balanced wine is full bodied, packed with tasty black and red-cherry flavors and accented by light cinnamon, mint and clove notes. Without being showy, it offers excellent complexity, structure and length. Blended from equal parts Cab-

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ernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026–2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$35

93 Kukkula 2019 Aatto Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Counoise stars in this blend, which also features 35% Mourvèdre and 20% Grenache. Aromas of cranberry, dried strawberry, thyme and scorched earth lead into an herbal palate of thyme, green olive and sagebrush, which play up against the brisk pomegranate, melon and orange-rind flavors. —M.K.
abv: 16% Price: \$60

93 Kukkula 2019 Kaamos Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). There is a lot of cool-climate spice on the nose of this blend of 64% Petite Sirah, 20% Grenache and 16% Mourvèdre, with cracked pepper, iodine, soy, nori and plum aromas. The palate is very peppery as well, with lot of herb and savory umami flavors alongside the black plum core. Serve to spice up a juicy steak. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% Price: \$65

93 Lindquist Family 2020 G-S-M (Central Coast). This blend of 52% Grenache, 24% Syrah and 24% Mourvèdre is the perfect everyday drinker. Aromas of candied Bing cherry, light mint, cinnamon and red-apple lozenge lead into a juicy palate of cherry and raspberry that picks up complex notes of fennel pollen, anise and cardamom by the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

93 Pope Valley Winery 2019 Faultline Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). This rich, broad and velvety wine offers wonderful layers of black fruit and oak spice, carried by a gently tannic texture that makes it smooth but textured. Black cherries, blueberries and black currants meet cinnamon, clove and vanilla on the palate before a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.4% Price: \$72

93 Rancho Boa Vista 2016 Syrahva Reserve Syrah-Petite Sirah (Ballard Canyon). Though six years old, this blend of 75% Syrah and 25% Petite Sirah is still very much alive. Savory aromas of cracked pepper, forest herbs, roasted meat and black plum show on the nose. The palate lands with a hearty mouthfeel, offering rich berry, meat and pepper flavors and still snappy with acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$45

93 Rangeland 2019 Watershed Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Intense aromas of cassis are dark and yet still fresh on the nose of this 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 15% Petit Verdot and 10% Malbec, which looks creamy in the glass. Polished tannins wrap around the jammy berry preserve flavors, with bold floral elements and a nice acidity pumping throughout. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$45

93 Rangeland 2019 Shepherd Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Brooding aromas of elderberry, cassis, loam and milk chocolate coalesce on the nose of this blend of 35% Syrah, 35% Mourvèdre and 30% Grenache. The palate is unctuous and heavy in impressive ways, offering cassis, violet extract and more milk-chocolate flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$45

92 Burtech Family 2019 The Beginning Private Family Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$200

92 Folktale 2019 The Hound Massa Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Carmel Valley). From a historic vineyard deep in the rugged Carmel Valley, this blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc, 11% Malbec, 11% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot is slow to open with aromas of roasted meat, toasted wood, pencil shavings and black pepper. The wood spice picks up speed on the palate, giving an edge to the grilled cherry and herb flavors. Drink 2024–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$95

92 Midnight 2019 Zenith Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Aromas of roasted plum, oak smoke, new leather and a hint of herb converge on the nose of this blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 13% Petit Verdot and 13% Malbec. The palate blends wood spice and dried herb to decorate the red and black-plum fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$80

92 Penfolds 2019 Bin 600 Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz (California). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

92 Rangeland 2019 Mistletoe Red Blend (Adelaida District). Dark aromas of black plum are layered in elegant amounts of baking spice on the nose of this blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Syrah, 14% Merlot and 6% Malbec. The palate lands with a rich mouthfeel, carrying violet and black-plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$35

92 Refugio Ranch 2019 Barbareño Syrah-Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). Tart blackberry and lavender aromas meet with a hint of asphalt on the nose of this estate blend of 77% Syrah and 23% Petite Sirah. The palate is more lightly bodied than expected, with elegant layers of crumpled flower, light pepper, crisp black fruit and soy-laced umami flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

92 Shannon Ridge 2020 Buck Shack Sustainably Farmed Red Blend (Lake County). This extra-concentrated wine is densely packed with black fruits and dark chocolate on a firm texture of fine-grained tannins. A reddish-black color, black-

berry and black cherry aromas and rich, chocolate-raspberry flavors make it delicious to sip. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

91 Dry Creek Vineyard 2019 The Mariner Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

91 Folktale 2019 The Messenger Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey County). With 55% Sangiovese from the tiny Folktale estate vineyard and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon from the historic Massa Estate, this Super Tuscan-style, two-barrel blend captures extreme ends of the Carmel Valley. Aromas of black plum, wood spice and baked strawberry on the nose lead into tart plum skin and hibiscus flavors on the palate, with loads of acidity and a rusty minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$54

91 Kukkula 2019 Pas de Deux Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Smashed-up herb, forest floor and chaparral aromas kick off the nose to this blend of 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah, which also shows dried dig, smoke and sour red fruit elements. The earthy element is prominent on the plate, where stewed herbs are woven into the black plum and berry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$55

91 Le Mistral 2019 Joseph's Blend Rhône-style Red Blend (Monterey County). Fresh boysenberry, violet and dusty-rock aromas show on the nose of this blend of 48% Grenache, 39% Syrah and 13% Mourvèdre. There's a brisk angle to the palate, where boysenberry and black-plum flavors ride through rocky fields of lavender. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

91 M by Michael Mondavi 2018 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley). Sweet-seeming oak aromas of vanilla and chocolate lead to broad, generous berries and dark plums on the palate of this full-bodied, softly tannic wine. It's big but gentle, and easy to appreciate. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$200

91 San Simeon 2019 Stormwatch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 16. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.9% Price: \$70

91 Tooth & Nail 2020 The Fiend Red Blend (Paso Robles). Roasted red fruit and wood spice aromas meet with a more delicate floral edge on the nose of this blend of 79% Malbec, 12% Petite Sirah and 9% Cabernet Sauvignon. There's a firm grip to the palate, where fruity flavors are spiced by tobacco and pepper into the sticky finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$35

90 Daou 2020 Pessimist Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 17.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$30

90 Jamie Slone Wines 2018 P1 Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Lovely aromas of just-ripe red fruits and sumac make for a joyous nose on this blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Syrah and 5% Cabernet Franc. There's a tart touch to the palate, with snappy black-plum and purple-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$52

90 Jamie Slone Wines 2018 Super Tuscan Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). The nose of this blend of 42% Sangiovese, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot hits with sharp plum skin, purple flower and baking spice aromas. There's a tart edge of plum to the palate, rounded out by lilac flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$52

90 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2019 Right Bank Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Oak Knoll District). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

90 Muscardini 2017 Fortuna Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County). For full review see page 19.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$72

90 Opolo 2019 Rhapsody Reserve Collection Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). There's a hint of reduction to the nose of this Bordeaux blend, with asphalt, dark leather, loamy soil and savory mushroom sauce flavors surrounding the dark fruit scents. Charred-meat flavors arise on the palate alongside ripe blackberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Rancho Boa Vista 2018 Syrahva Syrah-Petite Sirah (Ballard Canyon). Toasty aromas of mesquite and hickory meet with caramelized berries on the nose of this estate blend of 75% Syrah and 25% Petite Sirah. The ripe palate is dark with woody oak flavors that surround the roasted berry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

90 Robledo 2019 Selección Clásica Red Blend (North Coast). Vivid and tangy, this red-fruit centered wine combines floral, raspberry-like flavors with a crisp balance and grippy tannins. The startling, fresh fruitiness makes for a dramatic entrance. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Shannon Ridge 2020 High Elevation Collection Wrangler Red Blend (Lake County). This smooth, silky wine glides easily across the palate, gushing ripe blackberries, blueberries and mild oak spices of vanilla, cinnamon and cedar. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

90 Wilson Creek 2020 Double Dog Red Five Paws Vineyard Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Smashed boysenberry, warmed pasty and light oak aromas show on the nose of this blend of Cabernet

Sauvignon and Petite Sirah. Baked berry and sweet oak flavors work in harmony on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Ursa 2018 Syrah-Petite Sirah (Sierra Foothills). Generous oak spices—cedar, vanilla, cinnamon—lend a broad appeal to this ripe-tasting, full-bodied wine. It is moderately tannic yet rich enough for a smooth texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

89 22 Pirates 2020 Red Blend (Central Coast). This playfully labeled blend excels in this vintage, offering roasted red fruit and darker berry aromas on the slightly tart nose. The palate picks up woody notes of incense and sandalwood, giving a smoky edge to the ripe red fruit and pepper spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Andis 2020 Painted Fields Curse Of Knowledge Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). This richly oaked wine oozes baking spices, cedar, cloves and maple from the first whiff to the lingering finish. A full body and light tannins give it a soothing, warm texture, while ripe black cherries form a good background. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Burtech Family 2018 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma Mountain). Vivid red and black fruits give this medium- to full-bodied wine an elegant, lively impression on the palate while any oak spices are quite subtle. Earthy, black peppery accents blend in on the sip and **the finish**. —
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

89 Calcareous 2019 Lloyd of Calcareous Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Tart yet dark blackberry aromas meet with violet and light toast on the nose of this blend of 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Cabernet Franc, 18% Malbec, 14% Merlot, and 6% Petit Verdot. Rich, fresh flavors of boysenberry sorbet are cut by tart acidity on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$70

89 Hoyt Family Vineyards NV Dylema Red Blend (California). This blend shows a cooler climate nose, with nori wrap, olive, dusty herb and red fruit aromas making for a complex entry. The palate is creamy and viscous in texture, with ripe red-berry flavors cut by herb and olive. —M.K.
abv: 15.23% **Price:** \$30

89 Le Casque 2019 Espion Rhône-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). This medium-bodied and broad-textured wine is a 65-35 blend of Mourvèdre and Syrah. It offers mostly meaty, earthy aromas and rather mild dark-plum flavors that make it pleasant to drink, in the well-loved Cotes-du-Rhône style. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$36

89 Muscardini 2019 Tesoro Red Blend (California). For full review see page 21.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$56

89 The Harris Gallery 2021 Klindt Vineyard Co-Fermented Field Blend Pinot Gris-Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Extremely floral and fruity, this fun wine tastes as if Muscat grapes were blended in. By co-fermenting the grape varieties, honeysuckle, rose petals and fresh raspberry flavors seem to be amplified. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$42

89 Tiger Lily 2019 Outlaw Estate Reserve G-S-M (El Dorado). This full-bodied and mouth-filling wine boasts concentrated flavors of dark plums and grilled cherries along with beefy, black peppery accents. It's big and meaty but not heavy on tannin so there is no need to wait before pouring it. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

88 Girasole 2020 Charlie's Blend Red Blend (Mendocino County). This wine opens up to a plethora of aromas: violets, red and black plum, fennel and a sea-salt salinity. On the palate, even more flavors present themselves, including blackberry, black cherry and notes of toasted oak wood. The mouthfeel is almost luscious, plush with velvety tannins and just enough acidity to provide needed freshness. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

88 Husch 2020 Estate Bottled Garzini Ranch Old Vines Heritage Red Blend (Mendocino). This tight and tannic wine based on Petite Sirah and Zinfandel grips focused black cherry and blueberry flavors in a firm texture giving it a sense of focus and depth as well. It will pair with meaty proteins and should improve through at least 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

88 Jamie Slone Wines 2018 BoRific Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Rather tart aromas of berry juice meet with fresher boysenberry sorbet on the nose of this blend of 56% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Malbec. The palate is sour in berry flavors but picks up complex notes of herb by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

88 Wilson Creek 2020 Ecclesia Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley). Roasted black-plum aromas are ripe on the nose and rounded by milk chocolate and wood spice notes. The palate is very tangy with plum-skin flavors but also loaded with darker, almost-sweet berry elements, as herbs hang in the background. —M.K.
abv: 16.3% **Price:** \$45

87 Braymar NV Proprietor's Reserve Red Blend (North Coast). This supple, chocolaty, mature wine infuses soft tannins into very ripe, indulgent plum flavors for a full-bodied approach that's very smooth, verging on sweet. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$26

87 Lion's Ridge 2020 Reserve Red Blend (Central Coast). Fairly tart red fruit aromas are rounded by softer hibiscus on the nose of this

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bottling. The palate goes from sweet berry to sour plum. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

87 McGrail 2019 Shamus Patrick Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Livermore Valley). This concentrated wine grips black cherry and dark-plum flavors with potent acidity and firm tannins for a kind of stiff mouthfeel that will need more time or a good, rich dish for pairing. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$46

87 No Curfew 2019 Red Blend (California). Notes of blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry, black olives, chocolate, licorice, fennel, dried fig and prune along with just a hint of black pepper and leather in the background. It's a flavor bomb that packs a punch, but maintains a friendly balance. Would pair well with a burger or steak off the BBQ. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

87 Sean Minor 2021 Nicole Marie Red Blend (North Coast). Bold, ripe, grapey aromas and flavors come with an apparent sweetness and moderate tannins in this flavorful, straightforward wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Fog Lane NV Red Blend (California). FOr full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$10

86 Just Enough 2019 Red Blend (Edna Valley). Dried cherry and sweet wood aromas show on the nose of this canned wine. There's a sizzle of acidity on the palate along with flavors of wood spice, cinnamon and ripe blackberry. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$8/250 ml

84 Usual 2020 Large Glass Of Red Blend (Mendocino County). Notes of black plums, black cherry compote, capsicum and dried figs with a hint of cinnamon spice. Drying tannins coat the palate and add a heftiness to this bruiser of a red blend. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$8/187 ml

82 Voyager Point NV Red Blend (California). This red blend is all about the juicy, jammy fruits: blueberry, blackberry, boysenberry, raspberry. Flavors are met with a full, plush mouthfeel complete with squashy ripe tannins that are surprisingly aggressive and grippy for this simple blend. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$10

OTHER RED WINES

94 Verdad 2019 Sawyer Lindquist Vineyard Tempranillo (Edna Valley). Dark aromas of fresh red fruit, juicy plum and loamy soil lure the nose into this bottling from a vineyard that Bob and Louisa Lindquist planted. Bright red-fruit flavors are spiced by pepper and baking spice on the

palate, but the chalky tannins are most compelling and ensure a long, interesting life. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

93 Blade & Talon 2021 Calleri Vineyard Négrette (San Benito). Smoked meat, baked strawberry, beef jerky and soy aromas make for a savory nose on this still very fresh and lower-octane bottling, from a rare grape done in a zesty style. Soy and seasoning salt flavors show on the sip as well, but then it's all about crisp and bright red plum and strawberry fruits. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$40

93 Clendenen Family 2014 Nebbiolo (Santa Maria Valley). Sandalwood and long-simmering cherry sauce flavors invite the nose into this bottling. The grape's classic tannic tension is still firm on the sip, where roasted cherry and blistered tomato flavors are layered in incense and pine-sap elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Epiphany 2019 Rodney's Vineyard Counoise (Santa Barbara County). Fresh and focused aromas of candied berry, cherry, cola and charred meat show on the nose of this bottling. There's a savory style to the palate, with pepper and salted meat flavors, alongside crisp and fresh berry at the core. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

93 Piazza Family 2021 Carbonic Bella Vista Vineyard Graciano (Ballard Canyon). Graciano makes for a very exciting carbonic fermentation option, as this early-release bottling reveals each vintage. Concentrated aromas of boysenberry paste, violet, graphite and chaparral spice lead into a palate that combines those ripe berry flavors with wet earth and hints of mushroom. Unique and refreshing. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$30

92 Berryessa Gap 2019 Tempranillo (Yolo County). For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

92 Clementine Carter 2020 Graciano (Santa Ynez Valley). Lively and fresh aromas of strawberry and grape meet with lilac and rose on the nose of this bottling. The palate pops with zesty splashes of violet and cassis sorbet flavors, with high-acid structure that tantalizes deep into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

92 Lone Madrone 2019 Old Oak Vineyard Counoise (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). A light ruby red in the glass, this dry-farmed bottling begins with crystalline aromas of grenadine and maraschino cherry on the fresh and fruity nose. The palate is very fresh and tactile in texture, with strawberry, hibiscus and cherry-syrup flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Ursa 2018 Souzao (Sierra Foothills). This outstanding, suave and handsomely oaked wine weaves tasty cinnamon, cedar, mint and clove notes between velvety tannins and rich red- and black-fruit flavors. It has a gentle but mouth-filling texture and a long finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$32

90 Ursa 2018 Ferrel Ranch Tannat (El Dorado). Hearty and full-bodied, this moderately tannic wine offers concentrated red and black cherry flavors and significant accents of black pepper and wood smoke for an attractively rustic slant. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

89 Ursa 2018 Silvaspoons Vineyards Mencía (Alta Mesa). This savory, appetizing, salt-and-pepper-accented wine shows more meaty than fruity flavors, while the moderate tannins and a medium- to full body support beef jus and grilled plum notes. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$25

DESSERT WINE

91 Babcock 2019 50 Bricks Ultra Late Harvest Viognier (Santa Barbara County). This viscous, robust dessert wine is a dark golden hue in the glass, and offers condensed apple and buttered apricot on the Sauternes-like nose. The palate shows pecan, brown sugar, burned orange peel and a tinge of caramel apple, reminiscent of an Old Fashioned cocktail. —M.K.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$50/500 ml

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

96 Adelsheim 2019 Ribbon Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge). This is Adelsheim Vineyard's only estate single vineyard Chardonnay in their 51-year history. That's probably a good thing, as it would be difficult to top this fantastic wine. It is packed with aromas and flavors of cool cellar floor earth, lemon shortbread, ripe apricots, toasted filberts, coconut and the flinty-smoky note of a recently discharged firecracker. This is a fuller-bodied wine with a medium level of acidity and a whole lot of delicious character. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$55

95 Audeant 2019 Seven Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

95 Lange 2021 Three Hills Cuvée Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

94 Erath 2019 Willakia Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This beautiful example of Willamette Valley Chardonnay features a complex aromatic set of lemon verbena, freshly baked sourdough bread, toasted filberts and a slightly savory quality that suggests seared scallops. The flavors of lemon sorbet, melon, chamomile, vanilla and clarified butter are equally compelling. The wine is medium-bodied, with more than enough acidity. It's 100% whole cluster pressed, with 13 months in French oak, 25% of which was new. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 St. Innocent 2019 Freedom Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The aromatic set begins with bursts of earth and lemon verbena, followed by a wonderful combination of sliced warm sourdough bread topped with apple butter. The wine's rich texture fills the mouth as flavors of chamomile tea with lemon and honey unite with roasted walnuts and donut peaches. The wine went through malolactic fermentation, after which it rests on the lees for 11 months in used French oak. Enjoy now–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

94 Stoller 2020 Elsie's Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). A Goldilocks Chardonnay where "everything is just right." The nose offers refreshing aromas of white peach, cedar, toasted filberts and the wet apron of an outdoor swimming pool. Extended lees contact provides a rich texture, while elevated acidity makes every sip juicy. A trace of butter joins flavors of grilled peaches and an iced lemon ginger tisane. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$65

93 Clay Pigeon 2016 "Jura" Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 Ponzi 2019 Laurelwood Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). This Chardonnay, made with fruit from the Ponzi family's original 1970 plantings and a series of Laurelwood District vineyards, is quite a treat. Its floral qualities are almost too numerous to fit into a tasting note. Suffice it to say that honeysuckle, flowering tobacco and lemon catmint provide a heady amount of jasmine and citrus notes. Lighter-bodied, with a smooth mouthfeel, this lovely Chardonnay has flavors of Bosc pear, toasted filberts and a clean sea breeze. The acidity is lively, with a touch of butter on the finish. —M.A.
abv: 13.18% **Price:** \$45

93 Ruby 2019 Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

92 Domaine Divio 2020 Les Climat Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Winemaker Bruno Corneaux has a deft touch with Chardonnay, and it shows with the Les Climat. The aromas include Mirabelle plum, peach-flavored pastille and a slightly savory/smoky quality that hovers in the background. The wine manages to combine con-

centrated flavors of orange marmalade, brioche and Meyer lemon with brisk acidity and a nice, long finish. This uplifting Chardonnay aged for 12 months in lightly toasted French oak barrels, a mere 10% of which were new. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

92 Résonance 2020 Découverte Vineyard Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). Résonance's estate vineyard Chardonnay is a dangerous combination of elegance and persuasion. From its rich, pleasing mouthfeel to its aromas and flavors of peach, orange zest, wet rock, cashew and a trace of sweet butter, you will be hard-pressed to avoid opening a second bottle. The wine aged in French oak, 30% new, for 16 months. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Dobbles Family Estate 2021 Grand Assemblage Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Dusky Goose 2019 Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). The fruit for this wine comes from Fenwood Vineyard, where small clusters of Chardonnay clone 548 line the rows. It's medium-bodied, with soft acidity and a round mouthfeel. The nose features aromas of sweet gardenia, roasted filberts and a tiny bit of gunflint. Flavors of citrusy kumquat and Lapsang Souchong tea will keep you sipping for a long time. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Phelps Creek 2019 Lynette Chardonnay (Columbia Gorge). Aged in French puncheons for almost a year, this homage to the winery owner's wife is a fuller-bodied Chardonnay with just enough acidity to maintain a sense of balance. Aromas of a lemon shaved ice mixed with spearmint catch your attention, followed by bursts of saline and brown sugar. The citrus fruit is muted on the palate, with flavors of vanilla crème brûlée, butter and talc holding court instead. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$49

91 Résonance 2020 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Aromas of lemon and graham cracker might make the brain think a lovely lemon tart is on its way. Floating in the background are whiffs of mint and white lilacs. While the wine's crisp mouthfeel and elevated acidity suggest a sip from an icy stream, the flavors of spearmint, pistachio gelato and caramelized peaches are anything but watery. This is quite a value, made with fruit from a variety of Willamette Valley vineyards, including two Résonance estate vineyards. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Scenic Valley Farms 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: NA **Price:** \$20

91 Sokol Blosser 2021 Evolution Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A tropical paradise of a wine, with aromas of pineapple, coconut and saline

reminiscent of a sea breeze. Flavors include more tropical fruit and an icy citrus note that will make you long for a granita. A lithe and lean mouthfeel and elevated acidity make for a refreshing drink. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Flâneur 2019 La Belle Promenade Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). Citrus, beeswax and burnt cream aromas slowly give way to shy stone fruit notes such as peaches and sweet red cherries. It's medium-bodied, with minimal new oak influence and crisp acidity. Flavors like blood orange, summer sidewalks after a rain, pine needles and a savory note of seared scallops served with a splash of fresh lemon. There's a lot to unpack here, but it is worth the effort. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Landlines Estates 2018 Lost Corner Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). The Lost Corner is a one-acre block of Chardonnay 76 and 95 clones planted in the Demeter Certified Biodynamic and CCOF Certified Organic Tidalstar Vineyard. The wine aged in 51% new French oak for 14 months. That oak has had a few years to integrate. The wine's Mirabelle plum, cucumber water, heliotrope and talc aromas are exotic and refreshing. Flavors like grilled oranges, musk melon and wet rocks accompany a soft and round mouthfeel. A bit more acidity would have been nice. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Marshall Davis 2019 Marshall Davis Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). An elegant, balanced Chardonnay with refreshing aromas of Douglas fir needles, peaches, jasmine and a saline note similar to the lining of a fresh-shucked Yaquina Bay oyster. Minimal use of new French oak resulted in a crisp mouthfeel and flavors of a lemon granita and barely buttered popcorn. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Red Electric 2019 Alpine Lily Chardonnay (Ribbon Ridge). This value-packed Chardonnay is but one reason Red Electric is a winery you need to get to know better. The Alpine Lily puts a lot of Chardonnays that cost twice its price to shame. Aromas like orange blossom, white peach, gardenia and lemon basil drift slowly from the glass. The mouthfeel is toward the leaner side, with flavors of sea spray and iced lemonade with a nice bit of acidity. Drink now–2028. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

90 Sokol Blosser 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). The mildly earthy nose features scents of papaya, Golden Delicious apple and freshly cut lawn grass. Flavors like peach melba and pistachio coat the mouth in a soft, creamy fashion. The wine was fermented and aged in a combination of concrete, stainless steel and oak. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

90 Stoller 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). It was difficult to pick up any fruit on

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the nose of this wine. Perhaps Granny Smith apples and a bit of lime zest? More pronounced were the aromas of butterscotch, talc and lemon basil. The opulent palate features flavors such as lemon hard candies, sweet limes, toasted filberts with just enough acidity to hold it all together. —M.A.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

90 Valley View 2019 Anna Maria Chardonnay (Applegate Valley). A little earth and funk blow off with a few glass swirls, giving way to aromas of ripe cantaloupe, dried jasmine flowers and wet concrete drying in the sunshine. The mouthfeel of the wine is soft and round, with flavors of grilled pineapple, sweet Comice pear, pine needles and a touch of salinity. Valley View Winery, one of Oregon's oldest, has made Chardonnay every year since 1979. —M.A.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$22

89 Abbey Road Farm 2020 Terry Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). Made with fruit from a vineyard near Oregon's foothills, which are filled with volcanic cobbles and marine sedimentary soils. The aromas of sweet butter spread on a peach fritter make the mouth water nearly as much as the wine's brisk acidity. Medium-bodied, with flavors of German chamomile, Granny Smith apples, honey and vanillin. —M.A.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$37

89 Chehalem 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This was aged for 10 months in French oak, 36% new, then raked into stainless steel tanks with lees for another five months. Notes of cantaloupe and a cup of gunpowder green tea accompany aromas of a buttery croissant straight out of the oven. The lean mouthfeel is complemented by brisk acidity. Lemon tart, earthy raw filbert and pine needle flavors are pushed to the background by the wine's toasty oak qualities. —M.A.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

89 K&M 2020 Alchemy Vineyard Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). Alchemy Vineyard is home to the cutest miniature sheep you'll ever see and Chardonnay vines that are about to celebrate a 40th birthday. The wine's aromas are a simple combination of apples and apricots, with a wee bit of wet rocks. Aged 10 months in mostly used French oak, with flavors ranging from unripe pineapple and tonic water to honeydew and talc. —M.A.

abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$35

88 Dancin 2019 Capriccio Chardonnay (Rogue Valley). Fruit for the Capriccio comes from the oldest Chardonnay block in an estate vineyard rising to nearly 2,000 feet above sea level in the Rogue Valley. The wine is made with a combination of Robert Young 17, Dijon 76 and Wente 72 clones, aged in 26% new French oak. The aromas of red clover and melon are sweet, but they are tempered by a savory note of seared beef. Capriccio is a rich, thick mouthful of ripe yellow apples and dragon fruit. The wine's acidity is almost as elevated as the estate vineyard. —M.A.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$35

88 David Paige 2020 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Aromatically, this Chardonnay is a wall of citrus. Every sniff brings bright scents of Meyer lemon, lemon verbena or lemon basil. The palate is more diverse, with flavors like hibiscus flowers, toasty oak spice, vanilla and apricot. The wine's acidity was lacking on this day. —M.A.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

PINOT GRIGIO

93 Dion 2021 Estate Pinot Gris (Chehalem Mountains). A brisk Pinot Gris with gloriously floral aromas such as rose, lavender and hyacinth, along with touches of lemon citrus and orange creamsicle. The combination comes across as clean and fresh as a French laundry powder. Great acidity, with flavors of white peach, shaved lemon ice and Makrut lime. —M.A.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

92 Sokol Blosser 2021 Estate Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Made with fruit from estate vineyards in the Eola-Amity and Dundee Hills, this orchard stroll begins with aromas of pear, Golden Delicious apple and white peach. A bergamot tea note floats in the background for added interest. Flavors like lemon gelato, lime zest and shredded coconut combine with a trace of lavender and talc. Dry and medium-bodied, with enough acidity to wake your palate right up. —M.A.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

88 Melrose 2021 Pinot Gris (Umpqua Valley). This full-throttled wine's aromas of caramel apple, Stargazer lily and ripe melon make for a heady perfume. Flavors of lemon poppy seed cake and blood orange dominate the fleshy palate. More acidity would have been most welcome. —M.A.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Red Lily 2021 Stargazer Lily Verdejo (Applegate Valley). This Rueda meets Oregon Verdejo show begins with an aromatic flying circus featuring white peach, lemon, roasted pork shoulder and rosemary. There's even something floating around in the glass that smells like wet pavement drying under a summer sun. Flavors of tangerine tart, lime zest and toasted almonds surf a wave of zippy acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$27

94 Sokol Blosser 2021 Croft Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Willamette Valley). Croft Vineyard in the new Mount Pisgah, Polk County, AVA is home to some of the best Sauvignon Blanc grapes in Oregon. That quality shines in this wine. The pungent, grassy nose includes bits of jasmine and ripe red grapefruit. The flavors of Mandarin orange, lime and mint are like some previously unknown mojito recipe, while the wine's frisky acidity is flat-out energizing. —M.A.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

92 2Hawk 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Rogue Valley). The silky texture of this wine is worth the price of admission all by itself. The wine's aromas of chilled pineapple, lemon basil and a note that smells like dust warming on a light bulb are equally hard to resist. While the acidity is on the modest side, the wine's flavors of lemon sorbet, eucalyptus and saline are not. An enjoyable wine to drink over the next few years. —M.A.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

SPARKLING WINES

95 Corollary 2018 Cuvée One Rosé Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley). From its salmon pink color to its peach fuzz finish, this traditional method sparkling wine is a showstopper. The wine's raspberry and powdered sugar aromas are followed by a wave of citrus and saline notes. Flavors like tangerine and strawberry do a tango with electric acidity and those final finishing notes of peach fuzz and wet rock. This blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Blanc spent six months in neutral oak, with 30 months en tirage. Disgorged December 21. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$50

93 Corollary 2018 Namaste Vineyard Brut Sparkling Blend (Van Duzer Corridor). This 75-25 blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir is one of those wines where your nose tells you one thing and then the palate throws you a changeup worthy of Milwaukee Brewer Devin Williams. The aromas of tart green apple and spicy ginger prepare you for something crisp and acidic. Then you get nailed with a creamy mouthfeel and flavors like lemon curd and tangerine jelly on toast. This traditional method wine spent six months in neutral oak, with 30 months en tirage. Disgorged December 21. —M.A.

abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$50

93 Corollary 2017 Winter's Hill Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Pinot Blanc (Dundee Hills). It's such a rare treat to be able to taste a 100% sparkling Pinot Blanc. Corollary's take is steely and dry, with aromas and flavors like crisp green apple, salted pretzel, white flowers and white grapefruit. The wine's soaring acidity is as thrilling as that carnival ride that scared you as a kid. This traditional method sparkling wine spent six months in steel barrel, with 32 months en tirage. Disgorged January 21. —M.A.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Corollary 2018 X-Omni Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). This traditional method sparkling wine is made with fruit from X Omni, one of Oregon's most important Chardonnay vineyards. It is made from 17 clones of Chardonnay that are co-planted together in the same block. Aromas of lemon chiffon and wet rock transition to even more creamy citrus flavors on the palate. There they are joined by brioche fresh out of the oven and traces of saline and white chocolate.

This wine spent six months in neutral oak, with 30 months en tirage. Disgorged December 21. —M.A.
abv: 11.4% Price: \$55

92 **Tron 2021 Pét tanNat Tannat (Applegate Valley).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 10.5% Price: \$35

91 **Cho 2021 Settler's Hill Vineyard Pétillant-Naturel Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Please meet Lois and Dave Cho. They are Oregon's first Korean winemakers and vineyard owners. They are also very talented. Their ancestral method sparkling Pinot Gris is a fun, frisky tangerine dream, with lively bubbles and a lithe and lean mouthfeel. Other aromas and flavors include peach gelato, jasmine white tea, lemon and a chalky mineral note. —M.A.
abv: 12% Price: \$36

90 **Corollary 2018 Cuvée One Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and a small amount of Pinot Blanc features aromas of pear and nectarine with touch of marzipan. The crisp mouthfeel and superfrothy bubbles will wake your palate up in time to enjoy flavors of lemon drops, white pepper and saline. Dry and delightful. This wine spent six months in neutral oak, with 32 months en tirage. Disgorged December 21. —M.A.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$40

89 **Sokol Blosser 2020 Bluebird Cuvée Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This traditional method sparkling wine is a proprietary blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and a handful of other white wine grapes. The aromas at first sniff are like a grassy New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc backed by notes of petrol, orange blossom and sweet saguaro cactus meat. The bubbles pogo on the tongue as flavors like saline, lychee and vanilla fill the mouth. There's a touch of sweetness here, but it doesn't get near off-dry territory. —M.A.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$36

ROSÉS

90 **Cho 2021 Pinot Noir Rosé (Laurelwood District).** A perfumed nose with aromas of strawberry, orange blossom and lemon-scented geranium. The wine's acidity will revive the weariest of palates, while the flavors of pink grapefruit and lemon gelato and a grassy herbal note will keep it awake. —M.A.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

89 **Melrose 2021 Pinot Noir Rosé (Umpqua Valley).** A nice salmon pink color with aromas of a strawberry-flavored Jolly Rancher, lemon catmint and wet rocks. The wine has a brisk mouthfeel, tangy acidity and flavors like tart raspberry, peach, ginger and toffee. —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

RED WINES

96 **Iterum 2019 Clone 114 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** What a fantastic debut from the Orchard House Estate project recently launched by Joe and Patricia Dobbles. Aged in barrel for 16 months, their Clone 114 Pinot Noir has aromas of black cherry, violet and bittersweet dark chocolate, with a hint of flint in the background. Ripe raspberry and Red Delicious apple flavors on a medium-bodied palate, with velvety tannins and elevated acidity. Enjoy best 2022–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$75

96 **Tron 2020 Estate Vineyard Syrah (Applegate Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% Price: \$35

93 **2Hawk 2018 Darow Series Malbec (Rogue Valley).** This full-bodied Malbec with a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot is a beautifully balanced wine with sturdy tannins, plenty of acidity and all the blackberry fruit your palate can handle. Touches of bittersweet dark chocolate, orange pith and cedar provide added interest. Aged 21 months in French oak, 58% of which was new. Enjoy now and for the next six to seven years. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$49

93 **2Hawk 2017 Padigan Series Tempranillo (Rogue Valley).** Named in honor of the small amount of Padigan series soils found in 2Hawk's estate vineyard, this is an impressive Tempranillo. Scents of roasted pork shoulder with a raspberry compote erupt from the glass, along with wee bits of leather, garrigue and cool cellar floor earth. Flavors like cherry clafoutis, cola and orange pekoe tea are equally impressive. The wine spent nearly three years in French oak, 50% of which was new, followed by a year of bottle conditioning. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA Price: \$65

93 **Spangler 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Southern Oregon).** Don't swirl too hard, as this wine gives off enough blackcap raspberry and marionberry scents to attract every bear in the vicinity. Aromas of straw, chalk and cacao nibs provide a strong supporting cast. The medium-bodied wine offers an interesting flavor combination of chocolate-covered cherries, toasted hazelnuts, coconut and an earthy quality that reminded me of pu-erh tea. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$32

93 **Tron 2020 Estate Vineyard Tannat-Malbec (Applegate Valley).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$45

91 **Ermisch 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This promising new Cabernet Sauvignon features fruit from two Oregon parcels,

one of which is located in The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater AVA. Aromas of boysenberry sorbet and ripe nectarines combine with wee bits of thyme and dark chocolate. The palate oozes blackberry and peach flavors, all backed by plush tannins and mouthwatering acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$39

91 **Lange 2021 Classique Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Made with various traditional and Dijon clones grown in north Willamette Valley vineyards, this Pinot Noir saw time in 25% new French oak. The aromas of red cherries and cranberries unite with dried rose petals and Christmas spices to create a heady perfume. The tannins are sturdy, and the acidity is elevated, which is good given how much fruit is here. Flavors like tart red raspberries, not-quite-ripe marionberries, hibiscus tea and bittersweet dark chocolate coat the palate in a pleasing fashion. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$32

90 **Melrose 2021 Pinotage (Umpqua Valley).** Scents of rose petals and freesia form a sweet bouquet to accompany bursts of boysenberries and talc. Blackcap raspberry flavors dominate a palate that includes traces of citrus and cherry pipe tobacco. A nice wine that needs just a bit more acidity to push it to a higher level. —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 **Spangler 2018 Malbec (Southern Oregon).** What an interesting aromatic set of Earl Grey tea, raspberry ice pop, shredded coconut and a bit of fresh-turned earth. More raspberries on the palate, along with flavors of nectarine, espresso and a bitter almond note. Modest acidity with a nice, round mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

88 **Red Lily 2018 Tempranillo (Rogue Valley).** There is such a pronounced impression of alcohol on the nose, the wine comes across like a dark plum-and orange peel-based amaro. Notes of freshly cut hay and saddle leather only add to the impression. Flavors of strawberries and toasted walnuts, with chewy, tooth-coating tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$38

88 **Spangler 2018 Cabernet Franc (Southern Oregon).** There's a bit of blackberry fruit on the nose, but it is dominated by aromas of black olives, cedar, crunchy dried leaves and morel mushrooms. Fruit flavors are muted as well, with traces of black cherry encircled by white chocolate and roasted almonds. Modest acidity and enough tannins to fussy up the teeth. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$32

88 **Spangler 2018 Carménère (Southern Oregon).** Aromatically, the wine is a heady mixture of blackcap raspberries, orange pipe tobacco, toasty oak and a note similar to the burlap bags used to transport green coffee beans. The wine's sweet dark cherry cola and saffras flavors tiptoe up to

BUYINGGUIDE

cough drop territory. Medium-bodied, with sturdy tannins and modest amounts of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$39

NEW YORK CHARDONNAY

89 Milea 2020 Reserve Chardonnay Chardonnay (New York). Give this a few minutes to aerate in the glass and then it offers heady notes of white florals, citrus and pineapple rind, underpinned by a butter, minty oak influence. There's a lovely lift of acidity amid a textural richness on the midweight palate. The oak is well placed, leaving room for the lemony fruit. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$28

88 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This unoaked Chard leads with notes of red apples and their blossoms, lemon drops and honey. There's a lovely citrusy juiciness on the palate, zingy acidity and some lemon length to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.1% Price: \$17

88 Heron Hill 2020 Macri Vineyard Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This is a high-toned, fruity Chardonnay that bursts with peach, pineapple rind, melted butter and just a lick of oak spice. Bright, elevated acidity in the mouth neatly counterbalances the creamy texture and toasty oak. The fruit is, thankfully, more toned down here. The finish is on the short side, with a green pineapple rind finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

88 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Reserve Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). There's a distinctive smoky, meaty note amid a creamy richness here that's reminiscent of bacon frying in butter. Simultaneously there's a lemony citrus character that vies for space in your nostrils. The bacon-y vibe continues on the palate, where it's clear it's oak-derived. This lacks some length and depth, but it's undeniably characterful, with lifted acidity and a nod toward Burgundy. —C.P.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$20

88 Millbrook 2020 Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Chardonnay (New York). Straw colored, this anniversary Chardonnay, from one of the Hudson Valley's most well-known names, is a heady, richly aromatic bottling. Pineapple, lemon balm and honey lead the charge, with floral notes flanking. The palate is glossy-textured with citrus-and-pineapple flavor. It's a bit bombastic, with some flashy wine-making, but is an appealing and food-friendly wine nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

88 Six Eighty Cellars 2020 Sandstone Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This lemon-hued Chard, from a cellar dedicated to using alternative vessels like clay, stone and terra-cotta, is initially glycerol-like, with notes of pressed dandelions and butter.

That is, until the wine warms in the glass, and then pineapple fruit, lemon, ginger and peach blossom nuances reveal themselves, brightening things along the way. The palate is fresh and dry, with juicy citrus, pineapple and spice amid a textural richness. —C.P.
abv: 12.6% Price: \$32

87 Buttonwood Grove 2020 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This is a bright and fruity Chardonnay with citrus and stone fruits underpinned by cream and spice. There's tingly—borderline shrill—acidity on the palate and a vibrancy to the citrusy fruit that's not obscured by oak. —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$18

87 Fox Run 2020 Doyle Family Chardonnay (Seneca Lake). This is a rich, buttery Chardonnay from Seneca Lake. Notes of ripe peach, pineapple and melon are underpinned by buttered toast and oak. The palate is rich and creamy. It could use more fruit in the mouth to balance the lactose and oak characters, but it's a solid, varietal wine nonetheless. —C.P.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$14

87 Lamoreaux Landing 2020 Unoaked Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). An aromatic wine, particularly for a Chardonnay, displaying slight reductive qualities like struck match alongside melon and pineapple fruit. It's underpinned by mint and buttery oak influence. The palate is straightforward, with lemon and melon fruit flowing through to the finish. —C.P.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$16

87 Trestle Thirty One 2019 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). This is a ripe, aromatic Chardonnay with notes of confected lemon, orange water and ground ginger. Like the 2020, there's a somewhat synthetic air freshener note, too. The medium-weight palate offers some creaminess of texture along with bright lemon and pineapple fruit. While the acidity is a touch shrill and the finish short, overall this makes for refreshing, easy sipping. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

86 Hosmer 2020 Chardonnay (Cayuga Lake). Ripe peach and melon followed by vanilla and a minty toasted oak character lead on this Cayuga Lake Chardonnay. The palate offers fresh acidity amid a creamy texture. This is full-bodied Chard with plenty of oak showing and a slightly salty finish. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$18

86 Millbrook 2020 Proprietor's Special Reserve Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). Millbrook's gold-hued reserve Chardonnay wafts honeycomb, jasmine, pineapple candy and melted butter. It's rich and aromatic, followed by an equally unctuous palate. The intensely creamy mouthfeel and oak influence feel somewhat heavy-handed, with the fruit struggling to keep up.

Food-friendly drinking for those who favor full-bodied whites. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

86 Treleven 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Cayuga Lake). A vibrant straw yellow in color, this Cayuga Lake Chard is rich and fruity, the cream and oak notes mingling with citrus, melon and pressed yellow flower aromas. The palate shows freshness amid the lactose and oaky toastiness. The finish is short and lemony. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

86 Trestle Thirty One 2020 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Medium gold in hue, this Chard lead with bright notes of candied lemon, baked peaches and cream and florals. It has a somewhat synthetic appeal, like a car air freshener. The palate is rich and a bit oaky, with a slippery texture and a fairly short finish. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

86 Whitecliff Vineyard 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Hudson River Region). Rich, heady aromas of honey, orange blossom, lemon preserves and spice gain more prominence as the wine warms in the glass. The palate is rich and slippery, a full-bodied number with honey-flecked fruit, florals and oak influence. The finish is heavyset and on the short side. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

85 Buttonwood Grove 2020 Chardonnay (Finger Lakes). Lemon curd, grilled peach, ginger spice and cream lead on the nose of this Finger Lakes Chard. They're underpinned by subtler notes of toast and flint. The palate is round in shape with richness but lacking in fruit depth. The finish is short and watery, but a pleasant lemony acidity buoys it all. —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

GRÜNER VELTLINER

90 Hosmer 2020 Grüner Veltliner (Cayuga Lake). There's a charred, smoky nuance to the nose of this vibrantly straw-colored, that's a bit distracting, but there's also concentrated lemony fruit that could gain more interesting honeyed notes with another year or so in the bottle. The palate is creamy in texture with intense citrus and spice notes. While typically more Chardonnay in style than Grüner, it's a serious bottling that could pair well with buttery pasta and poultry dishes. —C.P.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$18

89 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2020 Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.4% Price: \$13

89 Six Eighty Cellars 2020 Concrete Tulip Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). Fleishy ripe citrus and tropical fruits (think lemon, red apple skins, pineapple, white pepper, honeysuckle and butter) lead to a confident palate, where subtle textural

weight is balanced by lifted acidity and purity of fruit. A varietal white spice character flows through to the finish. Food-friendly drinking, particularly with spicy cuisine. —C.P.

abv: 11.7%

Price: \$26

86 Millbrook 2021 Proprietor's Special Reserve Grüner Veltliner (Hudson River Region). This takes its time opening, and even with plenty of swirling is quite reductive, with a smoky, flinty note at the fore. But beneath it peaks notes of lemon-grass, peach and ginger spice. There's nicely placed, mouthwatering acidity and a lingering citrus and stone fruit flavor on the palate. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

84 Lamoreaux Landing 2021 Vineyard Select Grüner Veltliner (Finger Lakes). This aromatic, fruity and low alcohol Grüner offers notes of lemon-lime, peach and florals. The palate shrieks with acidity that serves to freshen and brighten amid some sweetness, but it's at a level reserved for only the most acid-loving among us. —C.P.

abv: 10.1%

Price: \$20

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

85 Damiani 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). This is very muted when first poured. After plenty time open in the glass, the plum, black cherry and black currant fruit float to the fore, followed by tobacco leaf and chocolate oak. The palate goes a similar direction, with more plum and dark-berry fruit. Tannins feel oak-driven and drying, but the varietal character doesn't get lost. —C.P.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$29

85 Treleven 2020 Sawmill Creek Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Seneca Lake). On the nose, this Cab feels rich and heavy, laden with raisin-ing cherry and plum fruit and mint, and a woolly layer of chocolate, toasty oak. But on the palate it's a bit pinched and thin, with more prominent oak. The fruit is there, framed by a powerful line of tannins, but it lacks the vibrancy to achieve the power-poise balance needed for this variety to work. —C.P.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$35

84 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Finger Lakes). This opens with aromas of blueberry and red berry fruit and pepper spice, but is quickly dominated by sweet, minty oak. The palate is thin and equally oak-driven with rapier acidity and uniquely textured tannins that take an astringent turn at the finish. This lacks the fruit depth to hold up to all that oak. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

83 Freedom Run 2018 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Niagara Escarpment). A thick layer of sweetly spiced oak overlays this wine, along with what feels like some volatile acidity. Behind this, there's a floral note and rather tired-feeling plum fruit. In the mouth, acidity is shrill, tannins pinch, and oak dominates. The fruit, however, is

plumper and a touch fresher than the nose, and there's a bit of a varietal herbal edge toward the finish. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

MERLOT

90 Millbrook 2019 Proprietor's Special Reserve Merlot (New York). This well-balanced Hudson Valley Merlot opens with aromas of fleshy plum and black cherry, framed by soft spice and mint chocolate with an herbal edge and a sweet, charred oak. There's a sappy line of tannins on the medium- to full-figured palate that supports the plump cherry fruit. The sweet oak is ever-present but doesn't dominate. This could make for a tasty barbecue tippie. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$40

89 Treleven 2020 Merlot (Finger Lakes). The sweet, minty oak spice is prominent but pleasing on this Finger Lakes Merlot. Bright, fresh red berry fruit comes next. The palate is medium in weight and has a crunchy acidity that makes the fruit feel fresh and tart. Sappy, taut tannins provide structure and shape. The oak feels better integrated on the palate, and the restrained alcohol and fruit freshness brings out a refreshing, cool-climate edge to this variety. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$23

87 Mazza Chautauqua Cellars 2017 Merlot (Long Island). The color of cherry juice, this is a heady, aromatic Merlot oozing sweet red berry and plum fruit and spice. There's some reduction here, which gives a mushroom and sweaty onion quality. The medium-weight palate is sturdy if a bit thin on flavor. Acidity and tannins are pronounced, the latter a bit drying and bitter on the finish. Overall, though, this is a modern red for drinking now. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

85 Damiani 2020 Merlot (Finger Lakes). This big-boned Merlot opens with glossy red berry fruit beneath a thick sheen of vanillin oak. There's a cool, herbal edge and a slight mustiness. The palate is equally heavyset, although it's saved by some refreshing acidity. There's a touch of alcohol heat and plenty of oaky tannins that dry out the mouth at the finish. Nevertheless, the fruit makes its way through the cracks. —C.P.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$31

84 Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards 2019 Merlot (Finger Lakes). For a 2019, this already feels tired. The fruit is raisiny, like cherry preserves, backed by vineyard floor, sweat and sweet oak aromas. Tannins are drying, chewy and sappy amid the tart cherry fruit. The acidity freshens, but the oak is heavyset, making this a rich red that lacks harmony and drinkability. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$31

RED BLENDS

88 Bedell 2015 Musée Red Blend (North Fork of Long Island). Hand-harvested from the property's oldest vines and fermented with native yeasts, this is a plump, rich Petit Verdot-led Bordeaux blend. The chocolate-cola oak is in the fore, but so is the ripe cherry and black currant fruit. There's an herbal, almost smoky edge. The palate is powerful with granular, quite aggressive tannins that you could cut with a steak knife, but with enough plush berry fruit to handle them. Speaking of steak, a salt-encrusted sirloin might not be a bad match. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$125

86 Freedom Run 2018 Estate Meritage Appassimento Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Niagara Escarpment). This is as rich and full-throttle as you might imagine from a fruit that was, in large part, air-dried Amarone-style in the family's historic barn. The 15.5% alcohol confirms it. The red and black fruit has a stewed, jammy quality, and the sweet, chocolate-and-toast oak is prominently on display. There's also a more appealing minty, herbal nuance. Tannins are tightly wound, drying and oak-driven. But the herb-flecked fruit is there, too. A divisive bottling but one that deserves props for scribbling outside the lines. —C.P.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$40

86 Heron Hill 2019 Eclipse Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Finger Lakes). This Merlot-led Bordeaux blend offers raisiny black and red currant fruit, tobacco leaf, an herbal edge and plenty of cola-like oak. The latter feels a little musty, and the fruit is somewhat tired for such a relatively young wine. Elevated acidity on the palate adds a tartness to the currant fruit, which is juicy and appealing. But the tannins—chalky, spicy and austere—dominate. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

85 Hector Wine Company 2019 Essence Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Seneca Lake). The heavyset dark-berry fruit in this Cab-dominated Bordeaux blend comes with a minty edge, as well as some mushroomy reduction and mocha oak. Tannins are muscular and chalky in texture, drying out the mouth. This is a broody wine that may need a very rare slab of protein to balance it. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

85 Whitecliff Vineyard 2016 Sky Island Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hudson River Region). Appealingly sweet fruit (think cherry and plum preserves) opens on the nose while a leafy, minty note follows. The oak is present, but it doesn't dominate. The palate shows its age more with somewhat tired, thin fruit and drying tannins that rake across the tongue, leading to a short finish. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$33

ARGENTINA

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Miguel Torres 2021 Cordillera De Los Andes Reserva Especial Sauvignon Blanc (Patagonia). Light bodied, the nose of this wine from Chile's southernmost region is delicate. Notes of white flowers, peaches, limes, and herbs are fresh. It has a mineral character and vibrant acidity. Grapefruit, peach, and lime flavors are displayed on the palate. The finish is marked by citrus. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

89 Luigi Bosca 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza). The nose shows subtle aromas of orange peel and wet stone. It delivers plenty of white-grapefruit and lime flavors on the oily palate. This wine is medium in weight and finishes with light saline notes. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$NA

88 Fincas Patagonicas 2021 Osmosis Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza). For full review see page 21. Vino Del Sol.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

87 The Seeker 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza). The nose is aromatic, displaying herbal and citric notes that repeat on the palate. It's light bodied and has a prolonged finish, with slightly bitter citrus fruit. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

86 Montl aiz 2021 Dandelion Torrontés (Mendoza). Aromatic lemon zest and chalky notes open the nose, leading to a palate with subtle citrus-fruit flavors and good acidity. Hints of herbs linger in the warm finish. Wine For The World. —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

ROSÉ

89 Argento 2021 Minimalista Rosé (Mendoza). This good-value Rosé offers bright aromas of citrus and raspberry. On the palate, it displays melon, strawberry, and cherry backed by crisp acidity. The finish is short and citrus. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

90 Alpamanta 2020 Brev a Syrah (Luján de Cuyo). This unfiltered Rosé made of Syrah grapes shows subtle aromas of strawberry and nectarine accented by light notes of dried herbs. On the palate, it's fruit-forward, with light notes of citrus fruit and herbs. Good acidity balances juicy cherry, red-plum, and cranberry flavors. The finish is long and fresh. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

MALBEC

95 Bodega Y Cavas De Weinert 2006 Tonel Unico No 248 Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This Malbec was aged for 14 years in 4,800 liter oak casks and bottled in 2020. The winery has a very distinctive style. This wine is balanced and complex, with a nose of prune, dates, mushroom, and decayed flowers. The palate has depth and ripe tannins, with concentrated fruit flavors. Plum and cherry are accented by hints of truffle, and dates. It has a lingering delicious finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Casarena 2019 Naoki Vineyard Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This red has a beautiful nose of flowers and blackberry jam. After aeration, it offers hints of rosemary. On the palate, concentrated black-fruit and toasted oak flavors are backed by fresh acidity and firm tannins. The finish is long and exhibits tobacco notes. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

92 Durigutti 2015 Guarda Carmel Las Computas Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This wine opens with aromas of plum and dried black cherry, along with earthy notes. The smooth palate offers concentrated ripe fruit flavors, hints of peppercorn, and cinnamon. Oak flavors are well integrated. It's full bodied, has a good acidity and finishes with dark chocolate in the aftertaste. The Artisan Collection. —J.V.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$NA

92 Luca 2019 Nico Malbec (Mendoza). This red has a nose of plum, cherry, and herbs. It's full bodied and delivers savory ripe fruit flavors followed by light notes of green bell pepper. Moderate acidity and smooth tannins lead to a lingering finish. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$125

91 Alpamanta 2012 Terroir Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). Plum and cherry aromas alongside hints of walnuts shape the nose. A light note of nutmeg adds complexity to the bouquet. On the palate, oak flavors are intense but taste pleasant alongside black fruit. It has soft tannins, light acidity, and a lingering finish with vanilla notes. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

91 Bodega Y Cavas De Weinert 2012 Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). This savory red offers aromas with notes of prune, dried herbs, and spices. Well balanced, the palate features ripe fruit flavors followed by hints of cumin and cigar box. It has firm tannins and enough acidity to lift up the palate. This 100% Malbec was aged in French 2,000 to 6,000 liter oak casks for over eight years and bottled in 2021. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domingo Molina 2016 M2 Estate Bottled Malbec (Salta). A delicate nose offers cherry

and raspberry, with hints of baking spices. Vibrant acidity backs up concentrated berry flavors on the palate. Well balanced, it has chalky tannins and finishes with notes of cocoa. Downey Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Doña Paula 2019 Selección de Bodega Alluvia Vineyard Malbec (Gualtallary). This red has a nose of cinnamon, grass, and strawberry. It's full bodied and fresh, delivering tart cherry and black-fruit flavors followed by notes of grass and hints of toasted oak. Vibrant acidity and moderate tannins offer a good structure. Prestige Beverage Group. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Durigutti 2016 Carmela Las Computas Gran Reserva Malbec (Luján de Cuyo). A bouquet of concentrated blackberry and hints of violets is aromatic. This red has soft tannins and good acidity, with flavors of black fruit blended with thyme. There is a moderate complexity to the wine. CTS Distributing. —J.V.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

91 Mendoza Vineyards 2018 Gran Reserva by Richard Bonvin Malbec (Mendoza). This red offers inviting black-cherry and plum aromas accented by vanilla and licorice. Firm tannins provide a good structure supporting plum and baking-spice flavors. Full bodied, it's smooth and has a pleasant finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Trapiche 2018 Terroir Series Finca Ambrosia Malbec (Gualtallary). This red has a nose of raspberry, grilled bell pepper, and peppercorn. On the palate, it offers intense black-fruit flavors blended with toasted oak and hints of dried herbs. Tannins are slightly rough in this full-bodied wine that finishes with a touch of cigar box in the aftertaste. WX Brands. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Altocedro 2019 Finca Los Turcos Malbec (La Consulta). Ripe and fruit-forward, this red opens with aromas of blackberry and vanilla. The palate features smooth tannins and good acidity, with black and red fruit flavors. Hints of peppercorn and baking spices add complexity in the aftertaste. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

90 Estancia Uspallata 2018 Malbec (Mendoza). This red from one of the highest altitude vineyards in Mendoza, offers cherry and herbaceous aromas. It has a herbal character and delivers ripe red- and black-fruit flavors blended with notes of grass and tobacco. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Finca la Celia 2019 Elite Malbec (Paraje Altamira). For full review see page 18. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 Luigi Bosca 2019 De Sangre Malbec (Uco Valley). For full review see page 18. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$29

90 Manos Negras 2020 Atrevida Aventura Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Well balanced, this red opens with chalk, plum, and hints of toasted oak. On the palate, black-fruit and strawberry flavors are fresh and lead to a medium finish, with notes of grass and tobacco. It's a medium-bodied wine, with mineral texture and good acidity. **Vino Del Sol.** —J.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Pampa 2019 Pampa Family Reserve Malbec (Mendoza). For full review see page 19. Pampa Beverages LLC. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Pyros 2018 Malbec (Pedernal Valley). The aromas bring notes of cherry and vanilla. This red features a mineral character and intense red-fruit flavors. Notes of nutmeg add complexity to the palate. Moderate acidity is enough to back up the flavors. **Palm Bay International.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 SonVida 2018 Malbec (Paraje Altamira). Blackberry aromas are ripe and blend with hints of aniseed on the nose of this full-bodied wine. Meaty black-fruit flavors are framed by chalky tannins. This red has intense flavors and moderate acidity. It finishes with chocolate in the aftertaste. **Kysela Père et Fils.** —J.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

90 Tapiz 2019 Alta Collection Malbec (Uco Valley). For full review see page 20. **Vino Del Sol.** **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$20

88 Andás 2019 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). This fruit-forward red has cherry-jam aromas intertwined with notes of peppercorn. The palate echoes the nose. Good acidity and soft tannins make it easy to drink. **Firstleaf.** —J.V. **abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

88 Casa Natal 2019 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza). The nose shows plum and fig aromas followed by dried herbs. On the palate, it offers ripe black fruit and bell pepper framed by light tannins. It finishes with notes of grass. **W. Direct.** —J.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

87 Coen Wines 2019 Reserve Malbec (Uco Valley). The aromas offer notes of ripe berries and toasted oak. Fruit flavors are mild alongside light acidity and soft tannins. Hints of oak lead to a medium finish. **Colangelo & Partners.** —J.V. **abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$45

87 Dos Puentes 2019 Gran Summit Malbec (Uco Valley). Herb and plum aromas are mild. This red offers subtle black-fruit flavors, with tobacco

and earthy notes. It has light tannins and finishes with oaky flavors. **BuenaVida Imports.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

86 François Lurton 2021 Bodega Piedra Negra Reserve Malbec (Los Chacayes). Ripe cherry and hints of salt blend with notes of grass. This easy-drinking red has light acidity and a short finish. **Pardela USA.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

86 The Pledge 2019 1000 Malbec (Mendoza). The aromas display notes of baking spices and ripe plum. The palate delivers ripe fruit and grilled bell pepper flavors. It finishes with a light note of oxidation and hints of smoke. **Tri-Vin Imports.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Luigi Bosca 2019 Paraiso Malbec Blend (Luján de Cuyo). For full review see page 10. **Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.** **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$150

92 TeHo 2019 Zaha Toko Vineyard El Corte Malbec Blend (Paraje Altamira). For full review see page 13. **Vino Del Sol.** **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Bodega Norton 2018 Lote Negro Unique Edition Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). This full-bodied and concentrated wine offers earthy berry and plum aromas. It has nice acidity and silky tannins. Black and red fruit blend with pleasant oaky flavors, leading to a lingering finish with tobacco notes. **Kobrand.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Finca Decero 2018 Amano Remolinos Vineyard Red Blend (Agrelo). A blend of 65% Malbec, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, a touch of Petit Verdot, and Tannat from Luján de Cuyo, shows ripe black-fruit aromas that are typical from this region. The bouquet includes chocolate notes. This wine is full bodied and delivers plenty of black-fruit flavors followed by notes of grass. Oak is well integrated. It has moderate acidity and supple tannins. **Vintus LLC.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$69

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

91 Luigi Bosca 2020 De Sangre Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). For full review see page 15. **Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.** **abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$29

91 Piattelli 2019 Single Parcel La Isla Cabernet Sauvignon (Cafayate). For full review see page 16. **Vinocopia.** **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

91 Viña Cobos 2018 Reptil Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). Bell pepper, tomato leaf, plum, and a touch of coffee shape the nose. The palate features ripe red-berry and black-fruit flavors

followed by pronounced notes of toasted oak. The finish is long, with a light note of coffee bean in the aftertaste. **Paul Hobbs Wines.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Bodega Y Cavas De Weinert 2019 Carrascal Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo). Aromas of meaty black cherry and mint are inviting. Smooth tannins and nice acidity support savory red-fruit flavors blended with green bell pepper on the palate. It finishes with notes of tobacco. **Broad-bent Selections, Inc.** —J.V. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Bressia 2018 Monteagrello Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza). Dried herbs and cherry blend with hints of licorice in the nose of this red. It has good acidity and moderate tannins, supporting savory notes of cherry, red plum, and bell pepper. The finish is slightly warm, with notes of cigar box. **Kysela Père et Fils.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Finca Flichman 2018 Dedicado Gran Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley). The nose shows subtle aromas of bell pepper and red fruit. Well balanced, it offers meaty bell pepper and berry flavors contrasting against herbs and tobacco. **Evaton, Inc.** —J.V. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

90 François Lurton 2018 Bodega Piedra Negra Gran Lurton Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Chacayes). This red shows star anise, ripe black-cherry, and plum aromas. Medium to full bodied, it features chalky tannins supporting meaty, plum and toasted oak flavors that linger into the medium finish. **Pardela USA.** —J.V. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

CABERNET FRANC

92 TeHo 2019 Zaha Toko Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Paraje Altamira). For full review see page 13. **Vino Del Sol.** **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Finca Decero 2019 Mini Ediciones Remolinos Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Agrelo). This wine has a nose of plum and vanilla followed by a light note of eucalyptus and thyme. Vibrant acidity backs up concentrated plum and blackberry flavors with hints of dried herbs and chocolate. It's full bodied and has a very enjoyable finish. **Vintus LLC.** —J.V. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Sottano 2018 Barrabas by Judas Cabernet Franc (Agrelo). Hints of vanilla accent fresh strawberry and blackberry aromas. After aeration, it reveals herbaceous notes. Vibrant acidity and smooth tannins support flavors of berry and baking spices. It's fruit-forward and bright. **Dangerous Import Group.** —J.V. **abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$49

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Lui 2018 Gran Reserva Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Ripe cherry and a light note of cumin shape the nose of this full-bodied red. The palate echoes the nose. It has smooth and firm tannins, finishing with dried herbs and hints of smoke in the aftertaste. BuenaVida Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Viejo Isaias 2019 Juana Cabernet Franc (Mendoza). Medium bodied and savory, this red offers aromas of mint, bell pepper, black olive, and a light note of licorice. It has a vibrant acidity and moderate tannins. Flavors of blackberry, olive, and bell pepper are concentrated. It's easy to drink and has a lingering finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

RED BLENDS

95 Cheval des Andes 2018 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza). This blend of 70% Malbec and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon offers a delicate nose of ripe plum, cumin, and dried herbs. Well balanced and elegant, it features juicy black-fruit flavors and hints of rosemary. A light note of chocolate adds complexity to the palate. Silky tannins and good acidity provide a good structure, suggesting the wine will age beautifully. Moët Hennessy USA. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Luigi Bosca 2019 Paraiso Malbec Blend (Luján de Cuyo). Red-berry aromas intertwined with spices show on the enticing nose of this blend of 71% Malbec and 29% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's fruit-focused, offering honest plum and cherry flavors. Hints of oak are well integrated. Vibrant acidity and moderate tannins make the wine very approachable and elegant. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

92 Kaiken 2019 Disobedience by Francis Mallmann Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Uco Valley). Well balanced, this red opens with aromas of raspberry and plum, plus hints of mint. Nice acidity and smooth tannins provide a good structure where oaky notes blend well with flavors of berry, plum, and bell pepper. It's fresh and tasty, finishing with tobacco notes. Guarachi Wine Partners. —J.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

92 Valentín Bianchi 2019 IV Generación Selected Blocks Gran Corte Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Los Chacayes). For full review see page 14. Quint-essential Wines.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

91 Bodega Norton 2018 Lote Negro Unique Edition Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley). This full-bodied and concentrated wine offers earthy berry and plum aromas. It has nice acidity and silky tannins. Black and red fruit blend with pleasant oaky flavors, leading to a lingering finish with tobacco notes. Kobrand. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Bodega Y Cavas De Weinert 2011 Cask Selection - Gran Vino Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Luján de Cuyo). Ripe plum and cherry aromas are prevalent alongside spices on the nose of this blend of 40% Malbec, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 20% Merlot. Aged over nine years in oak casks, it displays meaty bell pepper, concentrated black-fruit flavors, peppercorn, and hints of leather. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Bodega Y Cavas De Weinert 2018 Carrascal Corte Tinto Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Luján de Cuyo). Full bodied, this blend of 40% Malbec, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 25% Merlot has a nose of blackberry and bell pepper. It's smooth and easy to drink, with moderate tannins and just enough acidity to support ripe plum and blackberry flavors. The finish offers hints of herbs in the aftertaste. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Finca Decero 2018 Amano Remolinos Vineyard Red Blend (Agrelo). A blend of 65% Malbec, 28% Cabernet Sauvignon, a touch of Petit Verdot, and Tannat from Luján de Cuyo, shows ripe black-fruit aromas that are typical from this region. The bouquet includes chocolate notes. This wine is full bodied and delivers plenty of black-fruit flavors followed by notes of grass. The oak is well integrated. It has moderate acidity and supple tannins. Vintus LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$69

89 Benegas 2018 Single Vineyard Finca Libertad Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mendoza). The nose offers aromas of cherry and plum followed by a light note of green bell pepper. This blend delivers ripe fruit flavors and tobacco alongside light acidity and soft tannins. QW Wine Experts. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Viña Alicia 2018 Morena Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Luján de Cuyo). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Cabernet Franc opens with aromas of baking spices, peppercorn, and bell pepper. It has soft tannins and high acidity. Ripe blueberry, blackberry, and vanilla flavors linger in the medium finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

SPIRITS

Long a supporting character, vermouth steps into spotlight

If any bottle can make a difference in your next cocktail, it's vermouth.

On the surface, vermouth is a simple beverage. It's a wine that's been fortified, usually with grape brandy, and aromatized with herbs, spices and botanicals. But in recent years, vermouth has come into its own—from extra-dry to sweet (with an ever-expanding array of options in between), and in a range of styles, including blanc, ambrato and rosé.

While it's still indispensable as a supporting character in boozy classics like the Martini and Manhattan, growing enthusiasm for low-proof drinks means vermouth is getting plenty of well-deserved time in the spotlight on its own.

In fact, some vermouths are practically cocktails unto themselves—after all, they contain acidity, sweetness, a bittering agent (usually wormwood and/or gentian) and alcohol. So it's not surprising that they can shine with minimal embellishment, such as lengthened into a vermouth and

tonic or a vermouth-based spritz.

Many drinks even combine more than one type of vermouth. Consider, for example, the low-alcohol 5 Finger Martini at NYC Basque restaurant Ernesto's. Bar manager Sarah Morrissey combined a sherry vermouth, Italian bianco vermouth and palo cortado sherry into a dry, bracing sipper with just a hint of salin-

ity. Although it was created for the opening menu, when the restaurant had only a beer and wine license, it remains on the menu today, even though a full-strength martini now can be ordered too.

The Old Hickory, contains equal parts blanc and sweet vermouths, stirred with Peychaud's, orange bitters and ice. A lemon twist garnish is all that's needed to complete the presentation. "We look at this as a wine-based Old Fashioned," he says, meaning it's similarly complex, but it doesn't pack the same wallop as the whiskey-based original.

—Kara Newman

Some vermouths are practically cocktails unto themselves, and they can shine with minimal embellishment.

97 BCN MUT Negre Barrel Aged Dry Vermouth (Spain; De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC). What's in the bottle: a vermouth made from old-vine Grenache grapes and aged several months in French oak. This mellow, barrel-aged vermouth has a deep espresso-brown hue and dried fig and date aromas. The flavor is nutty, fruity and rich, echoing dried fig alongside dried cherry, grapefruit peel astringency and walnut.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$42

97 Cocchi di Torino Extra Dry Vermouth (Italy; Haus Alpenz, Edina, MN). For full review see page 22.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$23 for 500 ml

96 BCN MUT Vermut Ambre (Spain; De Maison Selections, Chapel Hill, NC). This vermouth has a rich amber hue and mild orange aroma. The palate shows juicy bitter orange and a brisk, distinct mentholated finish, plus a lightly bitter hint

of unsweetened chocolate. Mix with light or dark spirits, or top up with tonic.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$33

95 Bertola Vermouth Jerez (Spain; Grapes of Spain, Lorton, VA). For full review see page 22.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

95 Rockwell Vermouth Co. Extra Dry (USA; Rockwell Vermouth Co., Santa Rosa, CA). Faint whiffs of savory dried oregano and juicy pear lead into a bone-dry palate. Fresh-cut grass and an echo of pear lead into a drying, citrusy finish. **Best Buy.**
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$15

95 Oscar.697 Vermouth Bianco (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY). For full review see page 23.
abv: TK% **Price:** \$38

95 Tosti 1820 Riserva Taurinorum Vermouth di Torino (Italy; Tosti USA, Manhasset, NY). This honeyed vermouth opens with apricot, honey and almond on nose and palate, leading into a long, slightly sticky, nutty finish, with a faint white flower hint. Moscato is the base wine, with lots of orange in the botanicals.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$28

95 Vermut Lacuesta Blanco (Spain; Fasel Shensstone, Seattle, WA). This pale gold vermouth mixes gentle chamomile and mint aromas. The palate is lightly sweet, fruity and complex: ripe apple and pear lead into a citrusy midpalate, braced up with mild, herbal bitterness. Sip or mix. **Best Buy.**
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

94 Lo-Fi Aperitifs Dry Vermouth (USA; Lo-Fi Aperitifs, Napa, CA). For full review see page 23.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$25

94 Oscar. 697 Vermouth Rosso (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, NY, NY). Look for an amber hue and mild dried fruit aromas. The palate opens with plum, raspberry compote and rhubarb, finishing lightly and mouthwatering with juicy cranberry, fruit leather and grapefruit peel dryness, plus a hint of orange peel on the fruity, sweet-tart exit.
Abv: 16% **Price:** \$38

94 Poli Gran Bassano Bianco Vermouth (Italy; Winebow, New York, NY). Expect a bur-nished gold hue and an aroma mixing dried herb and floral notes: lavender and elderflower are part of the mix. The palate opens lightly bitter, with grapefruit peel and coriander leading into mellow golden raisin brushed with honey. A mild dried herb note emerges on the finish.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$27

94 Rinomato Americano Bianco (Italy; Fasel Shensstone, Seattle, WA). The sweet fragrance of this vermouth suggests vanilla and – yes, bubble gum. The relatively sweet palate echoes those notes, layering on juicy grapefruit segments and grapefruit peel bitterness, plus a fleeting spearmint note. Producer recommends mixing into an Americano.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$32 for 1 liter

94 Rockwell Vermouth Co. Classic Sweet (USA; Rockwell Vermouth Co., Santa Rosa, CA). For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$15

94 Vermut Lacuesta Rojo (Spain; Fasel Shensstone, Seattle, WA). For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

94 Vermut Flores Rosé Vermouth (Uruguay; Global Vineyard Importers, Berkeley, CA).

Continued on page 139

BUYINGGUIDE

Look for a pretty blush hue and mild floral aroma with a fleeting berry hint. The palate echoes the juicy berry note, braced up with grapefruit pith bitternes and finishing with peach nectar and a mild floral exhale. Nice as a chilled aperitif. Best Buy.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$17

93 D.co Ulrich Bianco di Torino (Italy; Soilair Selection, New York, NY). Overall this golden vermouth is restrained and complex. Dried apple, dried herb and hay aromas lead into a lightly sweet palate. Ripe pear provides the core, surrounded by hints of green apple and lemon peel acidity, plus a gentle tarragon and coriander exhale.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$24

93 Dos Déus Origins Red Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). For full review see page 23.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 Lo-Fi Aperitifs Sweet Vermouth (USA; Lo-Fi Aperitifs, Napa, CA). For full review see page 24.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Mancino Kopi Vermouth (Italy; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). This innovative tawny vermouth is made with robusta coffee dark-roasted in Naples. The coffee content is minimal – only 0.5% per bottle – and only surfaces in the subtle coffee and vanilla aroma. Meanwhile, the palate shows dried apricot and golden raisin, finishing with lemony tartness. Mix into espresso martini variations.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$45 for 500 ml

93 Mancino Vermouth Bianco Ambrato (Italy; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). A big but harmonious fruit bowl of a vermouth: Bold, ripe pear, golden raisin, and a juicy hint of pineapple lead into an assertive coconut and almond midpalate. The finish is laced with clove and cardamom, plus grapefruit peel bitterness. Producer recommends mixing into a Spritz with an orange wedge – sure, what's one more fruit in the mix?
abv: 16% **Price:** \$35

93 Mancino Vermouth Rosso Amaranto (Italy; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). The plummy aroma of this sweet vermouth includes savory oregano and dried herb notes, while the juicy palate suggests hints of strawberry rhubarb jam and vanilla, drying to plum skin and alpine herbs.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$35

93 Mastrogiannis Sweet Vermouth (USA; Mastrogiannis Distillery, Lakewood, WA). Look for a rusty orange hue and allspice and baked apple aromas. The palate suggests mulled cider, with baking spice leading into dried fig and baked apple, leading into hints of dried cherry, waxy honey and cayenne heat on the finish. Sweetened with Washington wildflower honey.
abv: 21.6% **Price:** \$25

93 Vermut Lacuesta Extra Dry (Spain; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). This amber vermouth is reminiscent of fino sherry. Sweet, oxidized aromas – vanilla, baked apple, nutmeg – are inviting. The palate opens quite tart and sharp; a hint of salinity makes the mouth water. A waft of toasted almond and ginger emerges on the crisp exhale. Best Buy.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$19

93 Villa Massa Giardino Sweet Vermouth di Torino Tradizionale (Italy; Zamora, Dallas, TX). Look for a transparent plum hue and mild, savory aromas, including a faint mesquite smoke hint. The palate is rich but not heavy: bold red fruit – cherry, cranberry, raspberry jam – leads into a drying finish with an orange peel accent. Mix into Manhattans.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$29

92 Maidenii Classic Vermouth (Australia; Little Peacock Imports, Brooklyn, NY). Made with a Syrah base, this vermouth has a bold aroma that mixes berries, savory dried herbs, and an appetizing, nose-twitching peppery note. The palate shows raspberry compote, cassis, and a savory undercurrent, drying to a plum skin finish with a lightly spicy-peppery exhale. Botanicals include: strawberry gum, sea parsley, wattle seed, river mint.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Vya Extra Dry Vermouth (USA; Quady Winery, Madera, CA). Made with a base of California wine, this golden vermouth has a gentle golden raisin and dried apple fragrance. The citrusy, herbaceous palate offers hints of lemon peel, sage, and grapefruit peel and pith, finishing dry, with mouthwatering acidity.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$25

92 Yzaguirre Vermouth Rojo Reserva (Spain; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). The rich aroma is loaded with ripe blackberry, cassis, dried cherry, even a tart cranberry note. Ripe fruit leads the bittersweet palate, echoing the nose and exiting with light bitterness, including gentian, grapefruit pith, and just the faintest espresso tinge. Aged 1 year in brandy barrels.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$27 for 1 liter

91 D.co Ulrich Rosso di Torino (Italy; Soilair Selection, New York, NY). Delicate baking spice aromas lead this amber-hued sweet vermouth. The palate suggests mulled wine: plenty of cinnamon and clove, with a floral midpalate redolent of carnation and hibiscus, and a touch of red fruit on the exhale. Mix into wintry cocktails.
abv: 16.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Dos Déus Origins Blanc Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). For full review see page 24.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

91 Oscar.697 Extra Dry (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY). This burnished gold vermouth offers heady aromas of baked pear and

golden raisin. The lightly tart palate shows stewed fruit, dried mint, and a squeeze of lemon juice, leading into a whisper of vanilla on the exhale.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$48 for 500 ml

90 BroVo Jammy Sweet Vermouth (USA; Brovo Spirits, Woodinville, WA). The sweet, herbal aroma leans toward dried mint and cinnamon. A distinct spearmint note leads the palate, followed by a dried cherry and rhubarb midpalate. The finish is lively and bright, showing tarragon, aniseed and mint. Best Buy.
abv: 19.9% **Price:** \$20

90 D.co Ulrich Vermouth di Torino Extra Dry (Italy; Soilair Selection, New York, NY). With a pale gold hue and mild, almost neutral aroma, this vermouth has a lemony, distinctly herbaceous flavor. Fleeting hints of fresh rosemary and tarragon lead into a drying, puckery finish with a mouthwatering salted lemon note.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$24

90 Maidenii Dry Vermouth (Australia; Little Peacock Imports, Brooklyn, NY). Made with a base of Viognier, this Aussie vermouth has savory herb and red apple aromas. The juicy palate echoes that fresh apple note, mingling it with tinges of butterscotch, spearmint and mouthwatering lemon peel.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$40

90 Mancino Vermouth Secco (Italy; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). Pale yellow in the glass, with a mild, citrusy aroma, this dry vermouth has a bold, lemony flavor and racy acidity. Hints of green apple, lemon verbena and sage lead into a moderately long, coconut-accented finish.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35

90 Poli Gran Bassano Rosso Vermouth (Italy; Winebow, New York, NY). Expect a deep ruby hue and zesty, savory aromas; red fruit mixes with sun-dried tomato and dried oregano. The palate opens with bold dried cherry, raspberry and orange peel. The finish is relatively dry, with subtle savory herbs emerging on the final exhale.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$27

90 Vya Whisper Dry Vermouth (USA; Quady Winery, Madera, CA). This feather-light vermouth has a pale gold hue and mild, almost neutral aroma. The drying palate has faint red and green apple tones and a barely-there vanilla exhale, finishing brisk and tart.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$25

89 Dos Déus Origins Dry White Vermouth (Spain; Chopin Imports, Manhasset, NY). Made with a base of Macabeo and mistela, a fortified wine, this vermouth has a savory, lightly smoky nose and palate, suggesting mesquite smoke or torched rosemary sprigs. The drying, herbaceous exhale reflects hints of apple and almond.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$30

89 Maidenii Sweet Vermouth (Australia; Little Peacock Imports, Brooklyn, NY). Made with a Cabernet base, this rosy-amber vermouth offers bold berry compote aromas. The palate is distinctly savory, with a dried herb edge, finishing slightly floral. A hint of eucalyptus freshens the exhale.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$40

89 Yzaguirre Dry Reserva Vermouth (Spain; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). Aged one year in fino sherry casks, this dry vermouth welcomes with light almond and coconut aromas. The brisk palate opens lemony and bright, with bracing Granny Smith apple tartness and the faintest whiff of coconut on the drying exhale.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$27 for 1 liter

89 Yzaguirre Rosado Vermouth (Spain; Fasel Shenstone, Seattle, WA). Expect a vivid rose-pink hue – the product of hibiscus and ruby grapefruit extract – and a savory, spicy aroma. The bold, juicy palate opens with a bittersweet note reminiscent of Aperol, finishing lightly with suggestions of pomegranate and grape juices. Mix into Spritzes.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27 for 1L

88 BroVo Pink Rosé Vermouth (USA; BroVo Spirits, Woodinville, WA). Made with rose, hibiscus and geranium as part of the botanical mix, this vermouth is floral in the extreme, suggesting rosewater, violet candy – and yes, distinctly soapy hint – on nose and palate. Juicy berry, orange and grapefruit peel provide a counterpoint to the super-floral exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 19.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Villa Massa Giardino Mediterraneo Dry Vermouth (Italy; Zamora, Dallas, TX). “Lemony” is the best descriptor for this pale gold vermouth, from the mild, citrusy aroma to the super-dry, puckery lemon palate. A dried-herb hint on the exhale lends nuance.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$29

APERITIFS

92 Haus Rose Rosé (USA; House, Healdsburg, CA). This “modern aperitif” is made with Chardonnay grapes and Sonoma grape brandy. Look for a vibrant orange-pink hue and funky-floral aroma. The bold, juicy palate suggests raspberry and watermelon, finishing with drying hints of grapefruit peel, gentian, and cinnamon. Lighten with soda water or Prosecco.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35

89 Haus Citrus Flower (USA; Haus, Healdsburg, CA). Look for a honey color and sweet peach nectar aroma. The palate is light and sweet, showing honey, dried apricot, and sticky golden raisin, finishing long and sweet. Serve this aperitif wine chilled, with lots of sparkling water or sparkling wine.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35

89 P31 Green Aperitivo (Italy; Kindred Vines Imports, Troy, MI). For full review see page 24.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$32 for 1 liter

87 Haus Grapefruit Jalapeño (USA; Haus, Healdsburg, CA). A straw hue and zesty, citrusy aromas introduces this aperitif wine. The tart, lemony palate offers a savory dried-herb hint and finishes with prickly pink peppercorn and jalapeno heat.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$35

RYE

94 Frey Ranch Rye Whiskey (USA; Frey Ranch Distiller, Fallon, NV). For full review see page 23.
abv: 68.7% **Price:** \$99

92 Brush Creek Railroad Rye (USA; Brush Creek Distillery, Saratoga, WY). In May 2021, 80 barrels of whiskey distilled in Indiana were taken to Chicago, where they were loaded onto a railway car headed to Rock Springs, WY, then taken to Brush Creek’s distillery. Gimmicky? Perhaps. But the end result is mild cinnamon, nutmeg and maple aromas and brisk oak and citrus flavor, finishing with sweet spices and cayenne heat. Limited edition of 3,000 bottles, inaugural release of planned annual release. Released in May 2022.
abv: 52% **Price:** \$130

92 Stelum Rye Fibonacci Blend #1 (USA; Stelum Spirits, Louisville, KY). Attention math fans: this is a blend of six cask-strength rye blends (distilled in Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee) combined in accordance with the Fibonacci sequence, a series of numbers, each the sum of the two previous numbers. So how does it taste? There’s lots of oak, vanilla, brown sugar and baking spice, leading into a butterscotch finish tinged with tingly, peppery heat.
abv: 57.56% **Price:** \$99

86 MF Bonfire Smoky Rye (USA; Vale Fox Distillery, Poughkeepsie, NY). What’s in the bottle is a rye whiskey distilled in Indiana and infused with lapsang souchong tea. The end result is a liquid smoke-like aroma and palate that suggests billows of campfire, with hint of almond sweetness and black pepper sparks beneath. MF stands for “Mischief Farm,” a brand created by actors Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Hilarie Burton Morgan in partnership with The Vale Fox Distillery.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$47

BEERS

Imperial stout: a cellar star comes out of the dark

Strong, dark ales are regularly used as a base to be aged in wood. Imperial porters, stouts and barley wines are used to prop up the canvas that is bourbon or wine barrels. On its own, however, the imperial stout is a style that can showcase a brewer's talents and leave an impression on the palate—and the following morning.

As the name suggests, imperial stouts are strong. The definition can vary, with some brewers staying in the 7% to 8% abv range (still more than double the strength of the more familiar dry Irish stout), but most will climb into the low double digits. That said, any harsh alcohol is often well-masked by chocolate or coffee flavors that are derived from specialty malts.

Hops play a subtle role in the style, but are still often present, ultimately lending additional pleasing bitterness to the finish. Body is also important in this style. Where lesser stouts will be watery and thin, these tend to be inky, thick and hearty. Imperials are better sipped than gulped, and often taste best when served

at cellar temperature.

Of course, brewers still use the beer to showcase specialty ingredients. Artisanal chocolates are added to the recipe for an extra robust kick; local coffee roasters lend their finest beans to be steeped cold during fermentation; and a whole host of fruits and nuts can add depth and whimsical flavor.

To that end, some brewers have started using the style to create a substyle. The tropical stout is quickly gaining favor among breweries and consumers alike. Sometimes they're brewed with banana or pineapples and other topical-climate

fruits; other times there are coconuts added to the mash or in fermentation to give a taste of the island life.

This doesn't just deliver a mindset but is also a nod to locale. Big stouts have long been a staple for drinking in warmer weather regions, including a strong stout made by Guinness, and it bucks the notion that these styles are only good for cold weather comfort.

—John Holl

Where lesser stouts will be watery and thin, these tend to be inky, thick and hearty.

96 Bravery Brewing The Shroud (Imperial Stout; Bravery Brewing, CA). An assertive imperial stout that is big on roasted malts, dark chocolate, an assertive coffee, and just a touch of sweetness. Full bodied with a tan head that sticks to the side of the glass as it empties, this has an alcohol kick towards the finish, but still feels like it should be consumed en masse with friends in a strong handled mug.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$17/16oz 4 pack

96 Lost Abbey Serpent's Stout (Imperial Stout; The Lost Abbey, CA). Rich and decadent, this stout pours silky smooth creating a modest mocha head. This 2022 vintage teases with earthy hops that impart an herbality to the very edges of the ale, but it is the center where a boozy fudge mixes with thick coffee that has not yet burned were attention should be paid. The assertiveness sticks on the palate and is given respite by a fruity sweetness that weaves about.
Abv: 11% **Price:** \$11/750ml

95 Bear Republic Baba Yaga (Imperial Stout; Bear Republic Brewing, CA). A solidly constructed imperial stout that showcases the very best in roasted malt from dark coffee to bitter chocolate all in a high abv package that never feels decadent or scary. A sweet chocolate thread, like earthy fudge comes on at the first sip and weaves through the palate for the remainder of the experience, like a trail that leads to the end of a fun night.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18/16oz 4 pack

94 Bear Republic Big Bear Black Stout (Imperial Stout; Bear Republic Brewing, CA). A robust stout that offers up roast coffee and chocolate, with a berry undertone that adds a level of sweetness. Well balanced and full bodied, this assertive dark ale has a lightness to it, making it an easy sipper. Proceed with caution, however, it will growl back.
abv: 8.1% **Price:** \$12/16oz 4 pack

93 Ecliptic 2022 Oort (Imperial Stout; Ecliptic Brewing, OR). Chewy and full bodied, this robust strong stout packs a roast malt character that verges on burnt in the most pleasing of ways. Coupled with a noticeable earthy hop kick on the finish, the dark chocolate and dark roast coffee flavors that appear mid-palate make for a stout that lands hard but competently on the palate.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

92 Hardywood Gingerbread Stout (Imperial Stout; Hardywood Brewing, VA). From the moment this black liquid lands in the glass, the mocha head reveals a warming, rich aroma of baked ginger and molasses. The first sip is reminiscent of the popular cookie, with a chocolate biscotti served on the side. Spicy and lively, this evokes memories of the holidays anytime of year.
abv: 9.2% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

92 Pure Lost Monarch (Imperial Stout; Pure Project, CA). For some a hazelnut flavored coffee is the perfect way to start a day. For them this beer might be the perfect bookend to the day. Rich and fudgy, this inky thick stout has a roasted filbert quality that adds a touch of oiliness to the overall sip. Decadent without being heavy handed, this is one to find and enjoy.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22/500ml

91 Alesmith Speedway Stout (Imperial Stout; Alesmith Brewing, CA). An imperial stout brewed with coffee and the java really takes center stage. From a slight pepper aroma on the nose with bits of spice, and a medium mouthfeel, this could be a beer to start the day or as a afternoon refresher when a bit of booze is warranted. Finishes dry with a touch of bitter chocolate.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

91 Fogtown Night Nurse (Imperial Stout; Fogtown Brewing, ME). With an assertive roasted malt character that leans into medium roast coffee and earthy chocolate, this easy drinking stout has a modest abv, allowing a drinker to scratch an itch for a strong stout but not wind up with regrets in the morning. Faint berries and fudge towards the finish add a bit more complexity to an already solidly made ale.
abv: 7.1% **Price:** \$17/16oz 4 pack

91 Lost Coast Imperial Stout Reserve (Imperial Stout; Lost Coast Brewing, CA). Will well pronounced dark chocolate and strong coffee notes, this strong stout delivers on roast from start to finish. Singed caramel, earthy, herbal hops, and just a bit of fudge come on mid palate and stick around until the finish. A firepit sipper on a cool autumn night is a perfect companion to this ale.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$6.59/22oz

90 Fogtown Night Nurse Double Shift (Imperial Stout; Fogtown Brewing, ME). This strong stout comes on with unmistakable vanilla and coffee, like a super charged latte from a place

that knows its way around an espresso machine and might keep a bottle of something under the counter for special customers. Full bodied and well roasted, this adjuncted stout is a strong way to start a day off.

abv: 9.4%

Price: \$18/16oz 4 pack

90 New Image Underworld Barista (New Image Brewing, CO). Pouring inky brown and smooth, the dark mocha head quickly dissipates leaving a thick cola-colored brew behind in the glass. Sweet baked sugar aromas emerge paired with toasted vanilla, and espresso. This is a stout to savor, not gulp. Light carbonation keeps the taste-buds from becoming overwhelmed and well-coated.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$22/16oz 4 pack

89 West Sixth Snake Eyes (Imperial Stout; West Sixth Brewing, KY). Smooth and hearty with a deep fudge aroma that doesn't present as overly sweet. Robust malt bill adds espresso and some toffee to the mix, with just a touch of cocoa and hop bitterness on the finish. A warm welcome on a cool evening.

abv: 11%

Price: \$12/12oz 6 pack

88 Alesmith Speedway Stout Tart Cherry Edition (Imperial Stout; Alesmith Brewing, CA).

A version of the brewery's regular speedway stout but with the addition of cherries. At times tart from the stone fruit and other times sugary sweet, there is an overwhelming comparison to the chocolate covered cherry candy, with an added boost of espresso flavor.

abv: 12%

Price: \$20/16oz 4 pack

86 Trophy Broken Hearts Club (Imperial Stout; Trophy Brewing, NC).

This pastry stout brewed with lactose is big on all things candied raspberry. From the aroma, to the full sip, to well after the glass is empty, the raspberry is a sticky friend that hugs the olfactory senses. Vanilla manages to peek through at times along with sweet chocolate and a light coffee note, but the berry jam is the star of the show.

abv: 11%

Price: \$10/16oz 2 pack

85 Hot Air Molotov Cock'd (Imperial Stout; Hot Air Brewing, IA).

An assertive, strong stout with a metallic minerality and thick fudgy body. Chocolate, herbal hops, and a shot of strong espresso mix well before leaving a slight burn on the finish.

abv: 10.5%

Price: TK/12oz 6 pack

84 Bruz Cooper's Imperial Stout (Imperial Stout, Bruz Beers, CO).

With whiffs of sweet caramel and earthy toffee, with mineral undertones, this strong stout pours a thick black with a mocha-colored head that dissipates quickly. The sweetness continues onto the palate in a way that will delight sweet teeth, followed quickly but a hop bite and more minerality, that verges on metallic.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$18/12oz 4 pack