

# WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

## APRIL 2023

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Autumnal landscape of the vineyards at the foot of the Andes. Mendoza, Argentina.

GETTY IMAGES

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# BURGUNDY DOWN UNDER

Chardonnay, Pinot Noir excel in Southern Hemisphere.

**Editor's note:** *Christina Pickard reviews wines from Australia, New Zealand, England and New York, while Jessica Vargas is the reviewer for South America and South Africa.*

**Christina Pickard:** I'll go ahead and say it: Australian Chardonnays are some of the most underrated wines on the planet. They strike an elegant balance between vibrant fruit, piercing acidity and silky texture. Utterly delicious now, many will age gracefully for decades. And most come with price tags last seen in Burgundy a generation ago.

If you're holding onto outdated notions of over-ripe, toffee-oaked Aussie Chard, I beg you to pour yourself a glass of any of the wines reviewed in this issue, from Victoria and Western Australia, where the cooling influences of either the ocean or elevation retain gorgeous acidity. From Margaret River, top Chardy producers like Stella Bella, Xanadu and Leeuwin Estate show that concentration and vibrancy can be bedfellows. Two icons from small Victorian regions, Giaconda and Bass Phillip, set the bar extremely high.

**Jesica Vargas:** Elevation plays a big part in Argentine Chardonnay, too. The lofty Uco Valley has given winemakers like Catena Zapata the opportunity to achieve a fresh character, while soils with calcium carbonate have added texture to the wines. Under-the-radar regions include Sarmiento in Patagonia, where Otronia went beyond Argentina's traditional wine borders to plant Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Another is Pedernal Valley north of Mendoza, where Pyros Wines make crisp Chardonnays with complexity from limestone-rich soils.

**CP:** Complexity abounds in Aussie Pinot Noir as well. Yarra Valley's Pinot style is fruit-forward and sumptuous—Handpicked's is a tasty example—where inland, mountainous regions make multifaceted, world-class expressions. The Bass Phillip Pinots from Gippsland are Australia's priciest wines, capable of cellaring for decades.



Christina Pickard



Jesica Vargas

Look for elegant, ethereal Pinots from other cool regions Down Under like Great Southern and Tasmania.

**JV:** In Chile, winemakers went north, south and near the Pacific Ocean, searching for climates more suitable for Burgundian varietals. However, it's coastal regions like Casablanca and Leyda Valley where Pinot Noir, especially, has found a more distinctive and well-balanced character, shaped by granite soils and cool sea breezes at wineries like Matetic and Viña Leyda. Similar temperatures can be found further south, where Dakél, a winery in the historical Itata Valley, delivers lively expressions of this red.

**CP:** New Zealand Pinot places quality firmly over quantity. Wines from Martinborough in the North Island can be spicy and sappy, with sinewy tannins, like the Escarpment wines. Central Otago Pinots are uniquely structured, spicy and floral, while North Canterbury's style is more blue and red-fruited and floral—see Pyramid Valley's examples from both regions. Lastly, Marlborough's Pinots are easy to love and have come a long way in recent years.

Back to Chardonnay, the evolution of this variety in New Zealand—generally restrained, sea swept and pristine—has been fascinating to watch, despite living in Savvy B's shadow. Reviews here are from some of the best producers in the country (Pyramid Valley, Kumeu River and Escarpment, to name just three).

**JV:** What about South Africa? You will find refreshing Méthode Cap Classique Chardonnay sparkling wines made by Noble Hills at Simonsberg-Paarl and Graham Beck, sourcing grapes from Robertson. The cool Cape South Coast and maritime-influenced regions like Elgin, and Walker Bay are home to well-structured Pinots. Some of them have a fruity character and vigorous acidity, whereas others exhibit a wide range of flavors, including herbs and spices, made in an Old World style. Try elegant and delicious Pinots from Hamilton Russell, Tesselarsdal, The Valley and Thorne & Daughters.

## 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 Jaci Topps (Languedoc-Roussillon, Vin de France) and Writers at Large Michael Alberty (Oregon, Washington, Canada), Mike DeSimone (Spain, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, 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, Georgia), 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).

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.

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

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

### SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted to the appropriate reviewing location as detailed in our FAQ, available online via *Wine Enthusiast/contact-us*. Inquiries should be addressed to the Tasting & Review Department at 914.345.9463 or email [tastings@wineenthusiast.net](mailto: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.

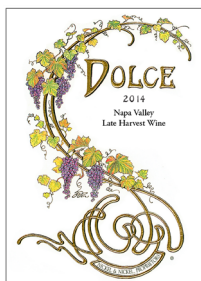
### LABELS

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](mailto:dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net)

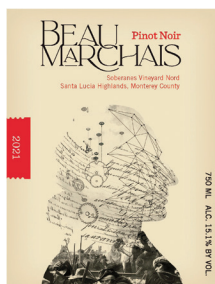
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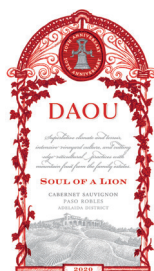
**98 Chappellet 2019 Pritchard Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** An extremely concentrated and well-structured wine, it offers flinty, toasty, tarry aromas, dark chocolate, black currant and espresso flavors on a thick blanket of fine-grained tannins that give a very firm mouthfeel. The wine has the depth and structure to age and improve for decades, as well as the track record to prove it. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$325



**98 Dolce 2014 Late Harvest Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This luscious, complex and captivating Sauternes-style sweet wine is made from grapes softened by *botrytis cinerea*, the “noble rot.” It offers riveting aromas of apricots, salted peanuts and peaches followed by gorgeous, nutty, peachy, honeyed flavors that swell on the palate and linger on the finish. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$85/375 ml



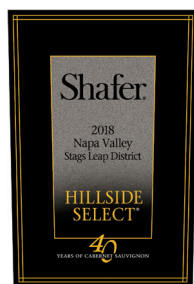
**97 Beau Marchais 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Nord Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Big and juicy aromas of strawberry, watermelon and spicy oak are fresh and vibrant on the nose of this bottling. A firm, elegant tension frames the lively, plush fruit of the palate, with cherry flavors decorated in bay leaf and sage. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$95



**97 Daou 2020 Soul of a Lion Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Impressively dark in the glass, this bottling pairs intense purple fruit and flower on this nose with more roasted, umami-laden aromas. The elegant palate is a master class in tannin management, proving firm in structure yet soft in mouthfeel. Flavors of blackberry jam, cocoa, walnut and cracked pepper ride a lingering acidity into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$170



**97 Muga 2019 Aro (Rioja).** This dark-ruby-colored wine has aromas of brambly fruits of the wood, with touches of cedar and violet. Notes of clove and eucalyptus are joined by exquisite flavors of cherry, cassis, dark chocolate and orange zest. Downy tannins carry on into an enduring finish. Drink now through 2044. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$400



**97 Shafer 2018 Hillside Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** Shafer’s iconic, flagship wine is richly textured and flavor packed. It starts with a minty, figgy, bay-leaf aroma before full, ripe, bold black fruits, tobacco and oak spices take over the palate, accompanied by masses of velvety tannins. Excellent depth and concentration will help it age well. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$375

## AUSTRALIA CHARDONNAY

**97 Giaconda 2019 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Beechworth).** Giaconda’s Chardonnays have a kind of cult status Down Under for their ability to give Burgundy a run for its money. In the Beechworth region of Victoria, at high altitude, the wine-making is ultra traditional. A rich, toasty style, this vintage is gorgeously aromatic right off the bat, with concentrated melon, stone fruit, smoke, oyster shell and buttered toast, revealing polished oak. In the mouth, the flavors ricochet with intensity and richness. Beautifully balanced with length and poise, this is an indulgent wine now, but could cellar gracefully for another 12–15 years. Legend Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$195

**96 Bass Phillip 2019 Premium Chardonnay (Gippsland).** For full review see page 4. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$127

**95 Stella Bella 2021 Suckfizzle Chardonnay (Margaret River).** From the most southern vineyard in Margaret River, this wine’s name alone invokes a kind of snap crackling drinkability. It’s that—and more—but its power comes quietly, gently, in the form of melon, peach and citrus aromas. There’s a little toasty, creamy oak influence but it’s seamlessly integrated. The lemony acidity is the first thing that hits the tongue. It’s this brightness—and a cool edge—that belies the concentration and intensity of fruit. Highly food friendly, it still sings after days open in bottle, and could easily age for eight years or more. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$55

**94 Bass Phillip 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Gippsland).** A rich gold hue, Bass’s Estate Chard shows a quiet power. It commences with gentle aromas of lemon, melon rind, and toast, with a little seashell reduction. The palate is beautifully textured—satiny and mouthfilling—with a cream-and-toast underbelly. Currently on the shy side, this could age for a decade or more but would make for elegant food pairing now. Vineyard Brands. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$96

**93 Stella Bella 2021 Luminosa Chardonnay (Margaret River).** Melon and peach fruit charge forth at first sniff. There’s a saline note—like oyster shells—and a toasted oak one, too. The powerful, citrusy acidity crackles and pops on the palate, making the textural weight fade almost into the background. But it’s there, providing structure and seriousness to this classic southern Margaret River wine. Lip-smacking and highly food friendly, this is a wine with flair that could age until 2030 at least. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

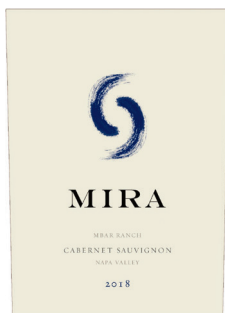
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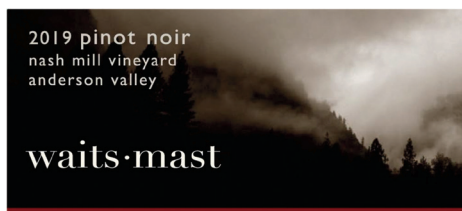
**96 Bass Phillip 2019 Premium Chardonnay (Gippsland).** Revealing its secrets quietly, discreetly, this Chardonnay, is a complex, mineral-laden wine. The lemon-balm, green-tea, wild-herb and sea-smoke aromas knit seamlessly together. The palate shows restraint and precision. It slips and slides, buoyed by a pristine line of acidity and long, focused flavor. Drink until 2032. Vineyard Brands. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$127



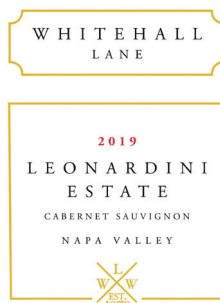
**96 Caraccioli 2021 Passetoutgrain Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir-Gamay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay Noir has Old World roots, but there is clearly a lot of New World potential. Fresh aromas of violet, geranium and boysenberry sorbet are penetrating on the nose. The palate's sizzling acidity slices through black raspberry, rose petal and peppercorn flavors, bolstered by a lingering wet-stone minerality. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45



**96 Mira 2018 MBar Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Intricate aromas, bold flavors and a lush texture add up to greatness in this well-concentrated, complex and age-worthy wine. Mint, dark chocolate, cinnamon and black-cherry syrup scents lead to rich, dark, saturated fruits on a firm base of fine-grained tannins. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$175



**96 Waits-Mast 2019 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This is a beautiful Pinot Noir with a depth of flavor that will only increase in complexity over time. Find pronounced aromas and flavors of bright red cherry, strawberry and pomegranate, forest floor, toasted wood and violet. Fine-grained, silky tannins slide off the tongue; elevated acidity brings lightness and freshness from start to lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$52



**96 Whitehall Lane 2019 Leonardini Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Robust in flavor and firmly tannic in texture, this bold and full-bodied wine will drink best after several more years of maturity. Massive flavors of blackberries, black olives, cedar, toasted oak and graphite fill out the tight frame, and have the concentration to keep developing while the tannins resolve over time. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$85



**95 Appassionata 2012 Fortissimo Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Loosen Bros. and J. Christopher Wines just released the Fortissimo and it is showing great acidity and fine-grained tannins. Its aromas and flavors of sweet red cherries, roasted pork shoulder and orange-peko tea are alive and kicking. Enjoy 2023–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$175



**95 Black Stallion 2018 Transcendent Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Dark and plush, this velvety, concentrated and appropriately tannic wine fills the nose with dark chocolate and cooked blueberries, and the palate with more chocolate, cloves, espresso and black currants. While impressive now for its power and richness, it should drink best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$150

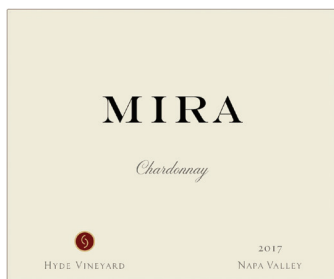


**95 Clif Family 2019 Cold Springs Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** An alluring, sexy, spicy, cigar-box aroma and impossibly rich black fruit and dark chocolate flavors give this wine a big wow factor on the first sip, while melted tannins weave in and out, extending the concentrated, fruity, spicy elements into a lingering finish. Made from certified organic grapes and aged for 20 months in 90% new French barrels. The wine is tempting now and best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150



**95 Ehlers Estate 2019 1886 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** This rich, concentrated and relaxed wine wraps supersoft tannins around plump black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate. It is saturated with fruit and subtle oak spices that taste complex and luxurious. Enjoyable to drink now through at least 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$149

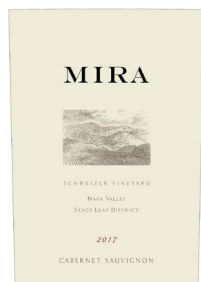




**95 Mira 2017 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** A vivid gold color signals something distinctive before nutty, lightly caramelized aromas lead to rich pear-tart flavors that range from marzipan to cream and nutmeg. This is a luxurious, mature-tasting, generous wine appropriate for a special occasion. —J.G.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$95



**95 Mira 2017 Schweizer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** This bold, ripe-tasting and quite tannic wine needs plenty of time to show its best side. Deep black cherry and black-currant flavors are accented by smoky, cedary oak notes, and backed by a full body and firm texture. Subtle accents of cedar, cloves and iron add to its complexity. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$250



**95 Morgan 2021 Highland Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** There's a compelling combination of precision and depth on this bottling. Aromas of lemon glaze, thinly sliced Asian pear and crushed oyster shell lead into an acid-driven palate, where rounded flavors of pear, honeysuckle and celery cling to a firm, exciting structure. —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$30



**95 V. Sattui 2019 Preston Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Well integrated and intriguing oak spices from cinnamon to cedar and tobacco complement this full-bodied wine's generous black cherry and black-currant flavors. Grown in the Rutherford district of Napa Valley, it is appropriately tannic—almost chewy in its concentration—and set up nicely for a long window of optimum enjoyment. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$95



**94 Appassionata 2017 GG Riesling (Chehalem Mountains).** The GG rested on its lees for a year after fermentation. Then, the wine debuted four years later—it was worth the wait. Apricot and Stargazer lily aromas are followed by flavors of lemon, marzipan and wet slate. The wine's acidity is invigorating. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$50



**94 Baldacci 2019 Black Label Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** Gorgeous fruit flavors, tempting oak spices and a textbook structure of fine-grained tannins make this wine a stunner, and more attractive at this stage than some other Baldacci 2019s. Its strong but gentle mouth-feel wraps up dark chocolate, crème de cassis and dark cherries, carrying them through a lingering finish. We noticed some harmless sediment. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

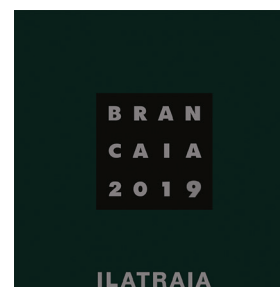
Price: \$110



**94 Bodega Garzón 2019 Petit Clos Block #212 Tannat (Maldonado).** This well-structured wine offers aromas of green bell pepper and plum accented by cinnamon. It's concentrated and has fine-grained tannins alongside balancing acidity. Flavors of blueberry and plum blend with hints of black olive on the elegant palate. It finishes long with notes of oak spice. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

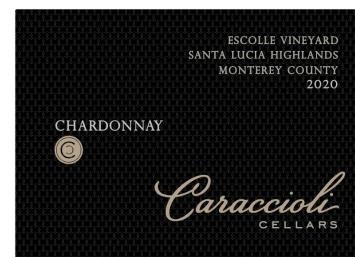
Price: \$60



**94 Brancaia 2019 Ilatraia (Toscana).** This wine strides forward with an extremely herba-ceous nose, from oregano to thyme to tomato leaf. It also conveys the peppery savoriness of capsicum plus the depth of newly turned soil and a final pop of sour cherries. The palate continues the theme, with more peppers and cherries, but also sundried tomatoes and balsamic vinegar. Polished and consistent tannins make for a fun but slick balance of savory and sweet. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$70



**94 Caraccioli 2020 Escolle Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** The sharply citrus and epically mineral-driven bottling begins with lemon peel and rainy river-stone aromas on the delicate nose. A vibrant tangerine zest flavor leads into hints of apple and melon on the palate, which is extremely tense and vibrant in acidity. —M.K.

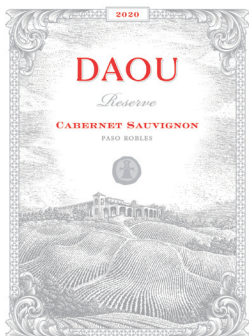
abv: 13.4%

Price: \$40





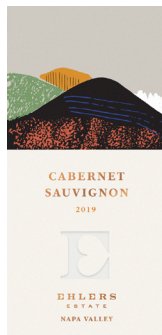
**94 Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** It's about time Gamay Noir landed in this cool, coastal appellation. This first full vintage is a beautiful color in the glass, and then offers smashed berry and mushroom powder aromas. The palate combines fruity boysenberry sauce with umami-laden shiitake elements and an earthy, forest-floor flavor. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$45



**94 Daou 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This is a widely available and reliably satisfying sip, offering dark and juicy aromas of baked berry along with toastier notes of hard spice and roasted cocoa nibs. The beefy palate is loaded with blackberry, roasted meat and rich fudge flavors, but it's the persistent acidity and tannic grip that elevates the experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$56



**94 Domaine Delaporte 2020 Le Cul de Beaujeu (Sancerre).** Aged in wood for 10 months, this wine has weight and richness that are underlined by the density and juicy acidity. It provides a fine example of Pinot Noir from Sancerre, with intensity and a promising future. Drink from 2025. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$59



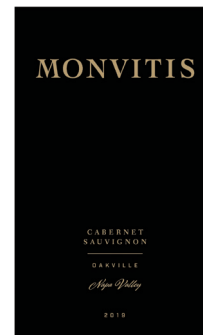
**94 Ehlers Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This supple, saturated and delicious wine is only a small step behind Ehlers' flagship 1886 wine that is twice as expensive. It overflows with dark chocolate, cooked blueberries and black cherries while fine-grained tannins surround and support them for further aging. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$77



**94 Elk Cove 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The 2019 vintage for Elk Cove's reserve is astounding. Black-cherry and blackcap raspberry aromas dance an intense tango with notes of basil and caramel. Berry flavors—both black and blue—glide across the smooth palate. With such brisk acidity and sturdy tannins, enjoy this pinot noir until 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100



**94 Escarpment 2020 Pinot Noir (Martinborough).** There's a raw mineral edge to the nose that compliments the earthy spice, cranberry and raspberry fruit. Combined, it evokes autumn: the crunch of leaves, tree sap, pine needles and dried wildflowers. The tannins are, true to region, raspy and bone dry, allowing the tart red fruit some juiciness but then sucking it away, leaving the mouth parched yet satisfied. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45



**94 Monvitis 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Gorgeous, pure-tasting red and black cherries, black currants and mint give a wonderful fruitiness and complexity to this full-bodied and well-polished wine. Moderate, fine-grained tannins and just enough acidity keep it well balanced and primed for further aging. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$105



**94 Morgan 2020 Twelve Clones Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Dark plum and purple-flower aromas show on the nose of this clonal combination. The bold palate is hearty and rich with flavors of black raspberry, blood-orange rind and crushed graphite, offering immense, impressive depth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$38



**94 Optio 2020 Grenache (San Luis Obispo Coast).** This is a solid example of how cool-climate Grenache shows tremendous intensity rather than going light from ocean influence. Aromas of concentrated plum, graphite, cocoa and latte show on the nose, while the palate, which is wrapped in thicker tannins, unleashes undulating waves of baked fruit, cocoa dust and loamy soil. The pie crust spice adds an approachable finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58





**94 Robert Renzoni 2019 Riserva Meritage (Temecula Valley).** This Bordeaux blend shows off Temecula Meritage in a very promising light, beginning with muddled black plum, dried berry, violet and licorice aromas on the nose. There's a charred wood element on the palate that gives a backdrop to the lavender, lilac, cassis and cracked-pepper flavors, with incense popping on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$76



**94 Rocca delle Macie 2019 Tenuta Fizzano Single Vineyard Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The nose on this single-vineyard wine is savory up front but fruit sneaks in from behind. Gunpowder, slate and tar roll into cherries, herbs, dark chocolate and coffee. Fresh Bing cherries, pomegranates and cranberries come out on the palate, alongside more dark chocolate, coffee and bitter cocoa, embraced by muscular but not aggressive tannins. Palm Bay International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100



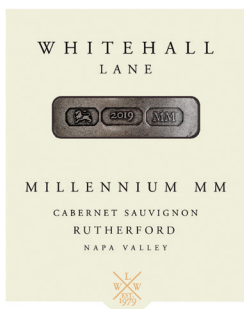
**94 Trimbach 2019 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace).** This wine is earthy, fruity and just a touch hot on the nose. Unabashedly savory, it offers notes of camphor, wild mushroom and chestnut on the finish. The wine is long lasting, with a cooling herbal characteristic, and all the intrigue of an evergreen forest. Taub Family Selections. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30



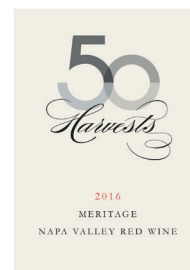
**94 V. Sattui 2019 Morisoli Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This elegant, creamy, lighter-style Cabernet offers a posh texture enfolding blueberries, black cherries and mocha, while the tannins are melted and fine grained. Good complexity, layering and a lingering finish all add to its allure. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$94



**94 Vinous Obscura 2021 "Grand Bazaar" Field Blend White Blend (Tualatin Hills).** This acacia-aged, cofermented blend of 15 grape varieties tastes like no other. It bewitches, from its candied persimmon and sweet vernal-grass aromas to flavors like olive-oil cake and cilantro. Its slippery texture and elevated acidity are a nice bonus. It is a superb orange wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.47% **Price:** \$25



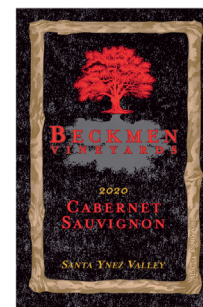
**94 Whitehall Lane 2019 Millennium MM Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Alluring dark chocolate, tobacco and dried plum aromas lead to rich, ripe and mouth-filling blackberry and cassis flavors in this full-bodied, warm and generous wine. It is blessed with an opulent, plush texture of melted tannins that softly cradle the abundant black fruits, dusky spices and toasted oak nuances. Best—2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$115



**93 50 Harvests 2016 Meritage Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Cocoa, nutmeg, cedar and dark cherries give this full-bodied and nicely mature wine plenty to appreciate, while moderate tannins and a touch of good acidity keep it well balanced. Its complexity grows as you sip and leaves a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$70



**93 Aftermath 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A salt and pepper aroma leads to cedary, minty embellishments while opulent black cherry and black-currant flavors dominate the palate. This generous wine offers elegant structure, moderate tannins and subtle power. Best—2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$85



**93 Beckmen 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** This bottling manages to pack in a riper side of Cab than is usually seen in Santa Barbara County, where an herbaceous quality tends to appear. This bottling starts with creamy aromas of purple fruit before landing on a palate full of cassis and violet. Black pepper and polished tannins complete the package. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$40

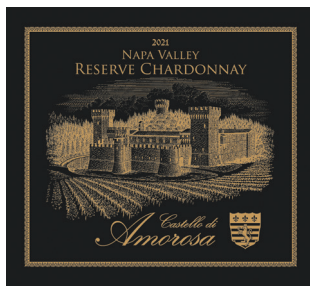




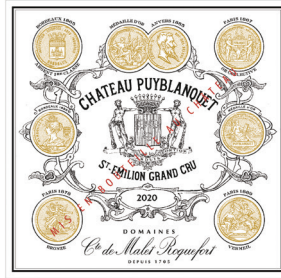
**93 Brancaia 2019 Il Blu (Toscana).** Heavy reduction on the nose of this wine meets blackberries, violets, gravel and tar, while vanilla sneaks out later. The palate is a chocolaty-berry blend with heat both peppery and spicy, then pivots elegantly to vanilla and baking spices. Dense but not cloying, it has pliant tannins and glittering acid. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$115



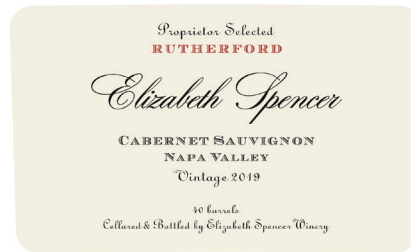
**93 Brancaia 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The nose on this wine is reserved, delicate and approachable. It opens with a strong presence of eucalyptus and sambuca flower followed by gunpowder, slate, brick and bright cherries. The palate is still very herbaceous, giving way to coffee grinds, chocolate and more cherries. Tannins still feel dense but not impenetrable, and acid lends crunch to the fruit. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50



**93 Castello di Amoresa 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Full bodied and nicely buttery, this rich and ripe-tasting wine features baked apple and vanilla aromas, butter and quince flavors and a smooth, broad texture. Aged in all-new French barrels, it's a pleasing, luxurious wine for sipping straight or pairing with chicken, veal or even steak. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$59



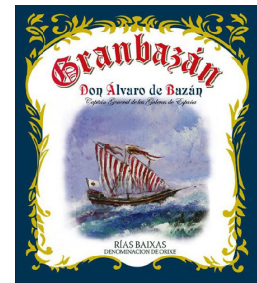
**93 Château Puyblanquet 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This is the first vintage since the vineyard returned to the Malet Roquefort family after 60 years. It is full of black fruits and ripe juicy tannins, with a freshness allied to the wine's natural structure. It is a wine to age. Drink from 2027. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$59



**93 Elizabeth Spencer 2019 Proprietor Selected Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** A velvety, seamless texture and subtly layered fruit, spice and cream flavors make this rich and full-bodied wine practically irresistible. Generous red and black cherries, dark plums, light vanilla and nutmeg accents fill out the expansive frame of this luxurious wine. Best—2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$85



**93 Fairsing 2019 Sullivan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This is my favorite Sullivan since Ed, but frankly, this wine is way prettier. It is balanced and medium bodied, with a supple texture. The wine's aromas of cranberries, lavender, butterscotch and an old cedar chest are repeated on the palate, along with flavors like red currants and lemon. The mouthfeel is silky and elegant. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65



**93 Granbazán 2018 Don Álvaro de Bazán (Rías Baixas).** Light straw in color, this wine has aromas of Bartlett pear and white flowers. It offers complex flavors of pineapple, grapefruit, toffee and a tiny hint of rose petal. Salinity and floral notes make themselves known on the finish. Europpin USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55



**93 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace).** In this wine, sweet pear aromas merge with a crisp saline scent. The palate is inflected with a creamy, slightly waxy texture that's not all that typical, but provides a welcome counterpoint to bright, lemon-drop acidity. A savory note of aged cheese leads into a long, tangy finish. Quintessential Wines. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**93 J. Lohr 2019 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Rich, dark and delicious, this full-bodied wine offers attractive, indulgent flavors of dark chocolate, blackberries and black olives on a firm but polished texture of fine-grained tannins. J. Lohr is a Central Coast powerhouse, but has owned this Napa Valley vineyard for more than 20 years. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60





**93 Jermann 2020 Vintage Tunina (Friuli).** This complex and intriguing wine is a blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Ribolla Gialla and Malvasia. Each grape plays its part but they work seamlessly together to produce a wine with depth. It opens with aromas of ripe tropical fruit, orchard fruit, dried flowers and fresh honey. The palate has weight but is vibrant, with acidity coursing through each sip. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.

abv: 13.5%

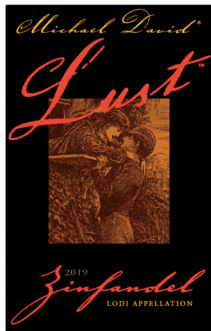
Price: \$75



**93 John Duval Wines 2020 Plexus Shiraz-Grenache-Mourvèdre Rhône-style Red Blend (Barossa).** In Duval's distinctive style, this is a rich, polished and highly spicy wine, with tart red plums, cherry, a sumac-spiced tang, white pepper, mocha and olive brine. The satiny mouthfeel is full but not overtly rich. Tannins take a firm supporting role, letting the plump fruit and spice take center stage. There's a touch of alcohol heat. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 14.5%

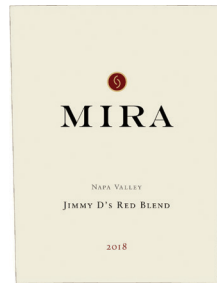
Price: \$40



**93 Michael David 2019 Lust Zinfandel (Lodi).** Beautiful aromas of fresh and dried violets, fresh blackberry, blueberry, and boysenberry, black-plum jam, chocolate, vanilla bean and flower and toasted wood. The palate confirms the nose with an integration of flavors that incorporate a delicacy and subtle elegance to these component parts that come together in a cohesive crescendo and lead toward a long, lingering finish. —S.B.

abv: 15.5%

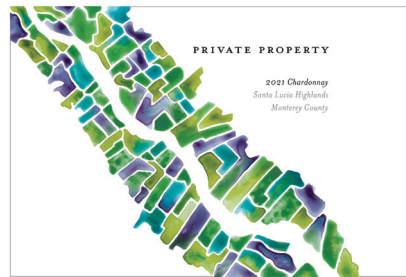
Price: \$59



**93 Mira 2018 Jimmy D's Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Great balance, intricate layers of flavor and velvety tannins make this blend of mostly Syrah and Merlot fun to savor and also save for future drinking when it has developed more complexity. Very fine-grained tannins and good acidity give it the backbone to drink best from 2025–2035. A blend of 62% Syrah, 30% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 15%

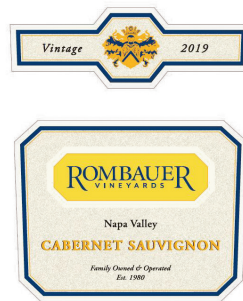
Price: \$60



**93 Private Property 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Brisk aromas of lemon meet with chalk and wet clay on the nose of this racy bottling. The structure is chalky and very grippy, wrapping around tart apple, white flower and citrus pith flavors into a very long, tense finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

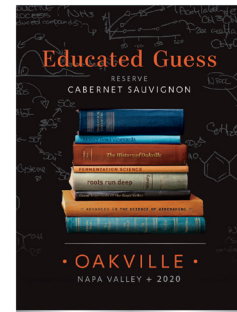
Price: \$25



**93 Rombauer 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This deep and concentrated wine is as smooth as silk, scented with black currants, spearmint and a touch of toast, then soothes the palate with velvety tannins and lush, ripe fruit flavors. While easy to sip, it has a subtle, restrained tannin structure. Best–2028. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

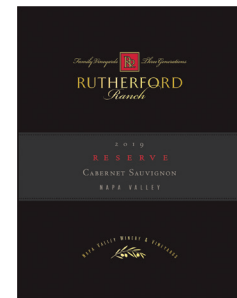
Price: \$75



**93 Roots Run Deep Winery 2020 Educated Guess Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Delicious black currant and blueberry flavors form a focused core of fruit in this well-balanced, moderately tannic wine. It has a good grippy texture, good concentration and the structure to age. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.

abv: 15%

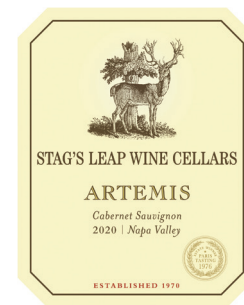
Price: \$60



**93 Rutherford Ranch 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A flint and gunpowder nose leads to bold graphite, blueberry and tobacco flavors in this full-bodied wine that is laced with a high level of fine-grained tannins. This wine is meant for aging, being so tightly packed with fruits and minerals and having the structure to keep it fresh while more complex flavors develop over time. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$70



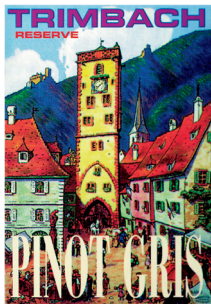
**93 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This plush, delicious and fruit-drenched wine pairs wonderful black fruit nuances of crème de cassis and black cherries with subtle, layered oak spices of new leather, tobacco and graphite, while a creamy texture makes the texture almost irresistible. Best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$110



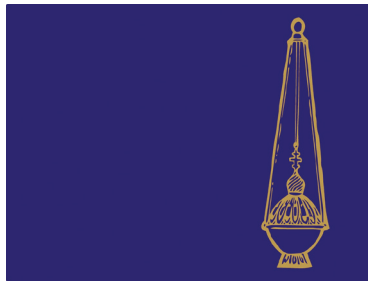
**93 Tekstura 2021 Redford-Wetle Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills).** Tekstura is a new Willamette Valley winery that, based on its first releases, has a bright future. Its Sauvignon Blanc sports flamboyant aromas of lime, freshly cut grass, juniper berries and a chilled glass of Fresca. It has a crisp mouthfeel, elevated acidity and its gooseberry, ginger and candied-lemon-peel flavors go on forever. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65



**93 Trimbach 2017 Reserve Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Petrol mingles with straw and a saline hint of fresh oysters on the nose. This wine is savory with edgy mineral notes balanced by a hint of tart pineapple. It finishes on a savory, Alpine cheese note along with palate-cleansing acidity. It's serious and austere, a wine for contemplation. Taub Family Selections. —L.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33



**93 V. Sattui 2019 Mt. Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Super ripe and also well balanced, this vibrant, full-bodied and moderately tannic wine shows laser-focused black cherry and black-currant flavors that are lightly spiced with cinnamon, vanilla and mocha notes. Good acidity and moderate tannins add a lively mouthfeel that bodes well for further aging. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$105



**93 Vinous Obscura 2021 "Censer" Sagrantino (Columbia Gorge).** A censer is a vessel used for burning incense, typically in religious ceremonies. It is a perfect name for this wine given its transcendent nature. Aromas and flavors of cherries, violets, wet rattan and the contents of a schoolhouse chalk tray encircle your head and psyche. It has a massive tannic structure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.57% **Price:** \$28



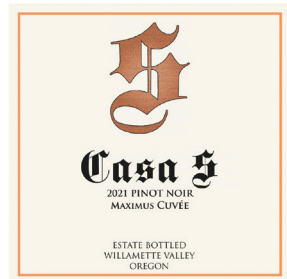
**92 Argento 2019 Single Block Organic Malbec (Mendoza).** The grapes for this wine were sourced from a specific block within the winery's vineyard. Showing a chalky texture and invigorating acidity, it opens with licorice and sweet cherry aromas accented by light notes of nutmeg. The palate delivers layers of black fruit, herbs, coffee and chocolate. This Malbec has vibrant profile and lasting finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55



**92 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 IV Generación Single Block Gran Malbec (Los Chacayes).** The nose displays inviting chocolate notes over a core of blackberry and cherry. Oak is intense but well integrated on the firm palate. Ripe fruit, rosemary and smoke flavors are intertwined. It has a vibrant and mineral-textured mouthfeel. The finish offers oak spice. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55



**92 Boekenhouts Kloof 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Franschhoek).** This is a well-structured spicy wine with fresh acidity and lots of fruit. It opens with aromas of meaty red fruit, green bell pepper and peppercorn. Chalky tannins support similar notes of spices and herbs on the palate. A core of plum and blackberry adds to its complexity. It finishes with sweet notes of fruit and tobacco. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$69



**92 Casa S 2021 Maximus Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's initial aromas of lemon and powdered sugar bring back memories of lemon-drop hard candies. Then, red-raspberry and orange-pith aromas tart things up a bit. Fine-grained tannins back bright red-cherry and strawberry-fruit flavors, with a touch of thyme on the finish. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40



**92 Château la Gaffelière 2020 Dame de Gaffelière (Saint-Émilion).** Almost all Merlot, this second wine is spicy and dense while also packed with fruit. Its ripe tannins and light structure show aging potential. Full of perfumed acidity giving a rich backdrop, the wine will be ready from 2026. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49





**92** Clos de Napa Cellars 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Coffee, dark chocolate and blackberries give a lot of flavor to this espresso-scented wine, while fine-grained tannins add to its rich mouthfeel. The wine offers excellent concentration and good structure that will help it age. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65



**92** Elizabeth Spencer 2019 Proprietor Selected Special Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Gentle in texture and abundant in flavor, this velvety wine exudes delicious black cherries, mellow nutmeg and vanilla, dark chocolate and mint notes on a rich bed of soft tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55



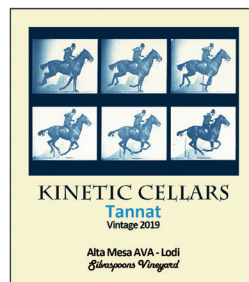
**92** Fairsing 2019 Dardis Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Blackberries and lilacs emerge from the glass, and befitting a Celtic-influenced winery, they are joined by an aroma similar to oat cakes. The wine's graceful, silky mouthfeel is accompanied by flavors of blueberry scones with lemon icing and a cup of bergamot tea. With solid tannins and tangy acidity, enjoy now until 2032. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$65



**92** Firestone 2019 The Chairman Series Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). This estate-grown bottling is warm and cohesive on the nose, showing blackberry and black-cherry jam flavors as well as enticing baking spices. The tannins hit firmly at the tip of the sip, then open into black-cherry cream, toasted oak and light caramel flavors, with a satisfying, vanilla-laced finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46



**92** J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Mont De Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis). Round and rich, this wine presents bruised Granny Smith apple skin, fresh orchard fruit, citrus pith, white rose petal and gardenia flowers. It is complete, with a lingering saline and hazelnut finish. Aerate in the glass to enjoy its layered complexity. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50



**92** Kinetic Cellars 2019 Silvaspoons Vineyard Tannat (Alta Mesa). This varietal Tannat shows excellent quality in its depth of flavors and layers of texture. Robust, crunchy tannins are well met by the lightness and brightness of fruit, which are further enhanced by the elevated acidity. Find notes of black cherry, black plum, black berry, roasted coffee, cacao, turned earth and a hint leather. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20



**92** La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey). Dark strawberry, raspberry jam and light herb aromas make for a familiar and complex nose on his bottling. The palate is edgy in texture and brisk in flavor, showing red plum, pomegranate and rounded red-flower flavors, with pepper spice on the finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23



**92** Landmark 2019 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There is plenty of herbal influence on the nose of this single-vineyard expression, with bay leaf, rosemary blossom and peppermint aromas spicing up the red-fruit base. Crisp pomegranate forms the backbone of the palate, with pepper dust and sagebrush elements adding nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70



**92** Leeuwin Estate 2021 Prelude Vineyards Chardonnay (Margaret River). Leeuwin's entry-level range consistently proves an excellent intro to this long-standing Margaret River winery. Bright aromas of honeydew melon and white peach are underpinned gently by toast, cream and a saline nuance. The juicy fruit is persistent to the finish, the toasty, mineral notes flanking. Texturally, it's slippery but also carries some chalky weight. Drink now and over the next several years. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36



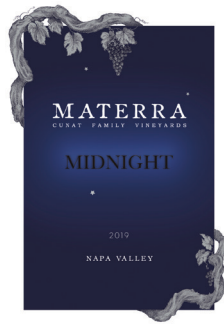
**92 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Goodchild High 9 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Dark and ripe aromas of pomegranate and reduced strawberry sauce are lifted by wild mints and white sage on the nose of this bottling, which comes from a single block. There is ample density of red fruit on the palate, which is juicy but layered in minty herbs, with a light toast arising on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38



**92 Luigi Bosca 2020 Los Nobles Single Vineyard Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).** This wine shows traditional Malbec characteristics with vibrant acidity. Aromas of violets are joined by ripe cherry and blackberry on the nose. Hints of flint add complexity to the bouquet. The palate has herbaceous notes and fresh acidity balancing ripe fruits. It finishes with hints of black cherry. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60



**92 Matchbook 2018 The Herdsman MAL Giguere Estate Malbec (Dunnigan Hills).** This Malbec is filled with plump black and blue fruits, with an elevated acidity that keeps this fuller red wine fairly light on its feet. Integration of oak elevates fruit components without overwhelming; tannins are a calm medium, just gently creating a backbone down the center of the tongue. Flavors of blackberry jam, boysenberry, blueberry, black plum, cacao, anise, nutmeg, fresh violets and damp forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30



**92 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2019 Midnight Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Delicious mocha and black-cherry flavors distinguish this layered, supple and complex wine blended from Malbec, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Petite Sirah grapes. Moderate oak spices of cinnamon, vanilla and cocoa surround the core of fruit, while light tannins give a slight grip to the texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$44



**92 Matetic 2018 EQ Granite Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** The winery's Valle Hermoso Vineyard is located in Casablanca, only 10 miles from the Pacific Ocean. This is fresh and well balanced with maritime influence. Earthy aromas are followed by cherry and light notes of smoke. A complex palate delivers peppercorn, spices, herbs and ripe berries alongside balancing acidity. It has weight and is lifted by vibrant acidity. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40



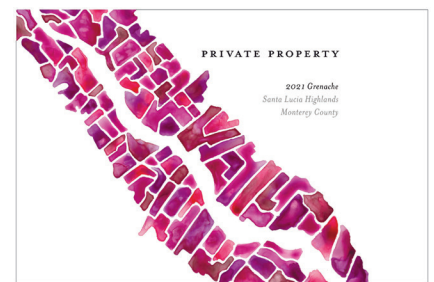
**92 Mira 2021 Estate White Blend (Yountville).** This full-bodied blend of Sauvignon Gris and Sauvignon Blanc boasts a slightly tangy texture and mostly ripe and spicy flavors from lemons to white peaches to white pepper and toast. Good depth, concentration and a deft touch of oak add to its complexity and enjoyment. Rich enough for main courses and best-2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75



**92 ONX 2021 L'Autre Femme Rhône-style White Blend (Templeton Gap District).** Honeyed aromas of cashew cream, macadamia nut and nectarine are fresh while rich on the inviting nose of this blend of 53% Picpoul Blanc and 47% Viognier. A chalky texture balances the richness of the palate, where brioche, mango cream and pear-custard flavors make for a nice Chardonnay alternative. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

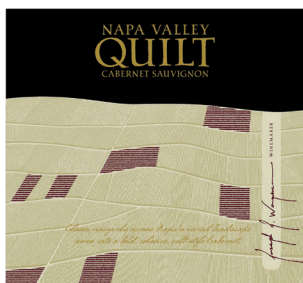


**92 Paula Kornell NV Brut Methode Champenoise Sparkling Blend (California).** This medium-bodied sparkling is boosted by its creamy backbone and persistent mousse. Excellent acidity brings fruits and florals to life. Find notes of lemon, lime, green apple, white peach and peach skin, orange pith, toasted bread, raw almond, baby's breath and potpourri. The finish is long, lingering. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22



**92 Private Property 2021 Grenache (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Generous aromas of boysenberry, strawberry, beetroot and dark flowers invite the nose into this bold yet balanced bottling of cooler climate Grenache. The palate snaps with a pomegranate and rose-water combination, offering a fresh experience into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$30





**92 Quilt 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Full bodied and superripe tasting, this wine shows powerful black cherry, cedar and cinnamon flavors on a firmly tannic texture, but maintains a nice polish in the mouthfeel. Approachable now and best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55



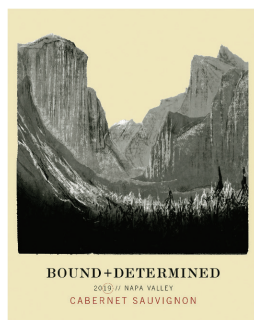
**92 Robert Renzoni 2019 Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Elegant aromas of elderberry, blueberry, soy, purple flowers and smoke coalesce on the nose of this bottling, a strong showing for Syrah from the region. Dark fruit and smoked-meat flavors converge on the palate, where cracked pepper and purple flower elements ride a fresh, yet firm, structure. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$33



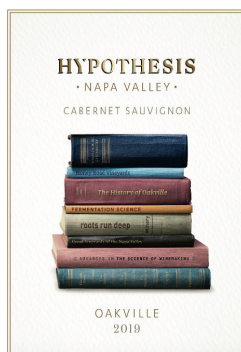
**92 Rocca delle Macie 2019 RoccatO Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** With a nose that's intensely woody, this Cabernet Sauvignon feels like a stroll through the woods on a winter's afternoon. Aromas start with roots, underbrush and soil and then pass into dark berries and bramble. The palate turns chocolaty and dense with blackberries and currants. Palm Bay International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60



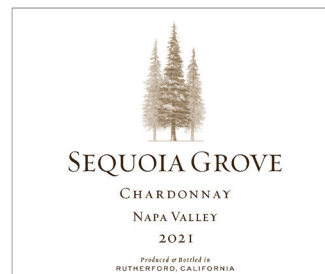
**92 Roco 2019 RMS Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** From its frothy mousse to its rich midpalate to the toasted filberts on the finish, this is a mighty fine traditional method sparkling wine. The wine's fresh citrus aromas of lemon curd and Key lime join notes of jasmine and ginger. Flavors like honeycomb, Marcona almonds and lemon pastilles are hard to resist. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65



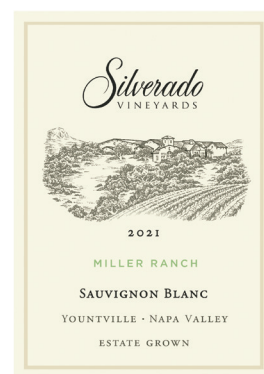
**92 Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 Bound + Determined Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Excellent concentration and a rather firm structure mean this wine should develop nicely over time. Bold black cherry and blueberry flavors are supported by moderate tannins and a good, appetizing balance on the palate. Best from 2024–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60



**92 Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 Hypothesis Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Assertive cedar and toasted oak aromas give way to rich, dark chocolate and blackberry flavors in this well-structured, appropriately tannic wine. Good concentration and balance keep it appetizing despite its full body. Best 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75



**92 Sequoia Grove 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This subtle, smooth and well-balanced wine offers harmonious pear, apple, light butter and almond flavors on a medium body. It will be a great accompaniment for everything from salads through seafood and roast chicken. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$36



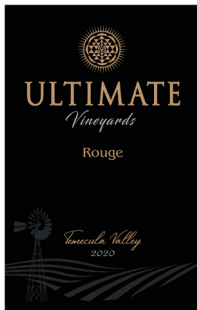
**92 Silverado 2021 Miller Ranch Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville).** A delicious blend of herbal and spicy flavors drives this medium-bodied wine as hints of coconut and toasted oak lead to tangy grapefruit, lime and white pepper flavors. It shows great balance, inviting complexity and a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$30



**92 Two Angels 2020 Petite Sirah (Red Hills).** This deep, inky, purple-hued wine imparts decadent aromas of blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry and marionberry complemented by toasted wood, chocolate and a subtle scent of smoky-umami. Full-on tannins greet the palate, but they are mature and feel purposeful and are—most importantly—well matched with the voluptuous, ripe nature of the fruits and balanced by acidity. Deep and complex now, this wine will become even more interesting with age. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$27



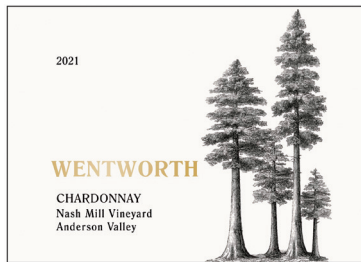
**92 Ultimate Vineyards 2020 Estate Reserve Merlot (Temecula Valley).** This newer brand on an older estate is making solid wines, and this Merlot is a fine example. Dark and dense aromas of charred meat, elderberry, licorice and crushed slate show on the nose. The palate also impresses with its density, carrying flavors of blueberry and açai across a tense and fresh frame. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$45



**92 Ultimate Vineyards 2020 Rouge Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** Dark cherry, cocoa and oak toast aromas are expertly integrated on the nose of this blend of all five traditional Bordelaise varieties. The tannins are well managed on the palate, framing flavors of berry, mocha and earth, with an acidity that carries into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$68



**92 Viberti 2021 Filebasse Chardonnay (Piemonte).** This wine benefits with a little extra time in the glass. It opens up to reveal aromas of roasted apple, lemon zest and gravel. The wine is vinified all in steel, so the vibrant fruit on the palate is expressive with upfront Honeycrisp apple, Meyer lemon and white flowers. Medium in body it has a bright and peppery finish. Opici Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23



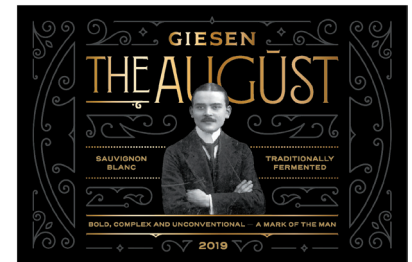
**92 Wentworth 2021 Nash Mill Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).** An engaging and fun Chardonnay with a vivacious acidity and just a touch of phenolic grip on the palate, adding textural intrigue, weight and body. Find aromas and flavors of lemon, lime chamomile, green apple and pear, wet stone, just-ripe white peach and apricot and a lingering hint of almond on the finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$78



**92 Whitehall Lane 2019 Tre Leoni Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This ultra-smooth and layered blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Zinfandel offers rich, creamy flavors of milk chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla surrounding a core of black cherries and raspberry syrup. It is hand-somely oaked, light in tannins and comes off slightly sweet on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$36



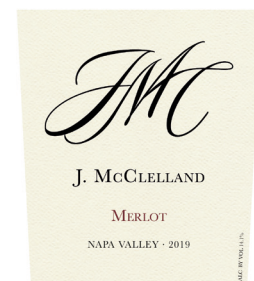
**91 El Pino Club 2021 High Haven Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Find bright aromas and flavors of cranberry, raspberry and strawberry along with earthy notes of river-rock minerality, roses, violets, hints of fennel and tarragon and just a touch of wood. Elevated fruit concentration yields pleasantly plush tannic texture along with an energetic acidity that points to a long, lingering finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60



**91 Giesen 2019 The August 1888 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** The medium-gold color on this barrel-fermented Sauvignon suggests straight away the richness that's to come. A mineral-smudged nose-ful of gun smoke, grapefruit pith and pineapple rind and fire-roasted bell pepper heads into a palate that's full figured and highly textural. The fireworks of aromas doesn't quite carry through into flavors, and the acidity could be a little more vibrant, but overall this is a characterful bottling with length and weight. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40



**91 Golden Cluster 2021 "Ode to Chuck" David Hill Vineyards Sémillon (Tualatin Hills).** This wine is a tip of the cap to Charles Coury, the man who planted these Sémillon vines nearly 60 years ago. It smells like Golden Delicious apples, pear and ginger, with a wee bit of talc and honeycomb. It possesses brisk acidity to accompany intense flavors like cardamom, lemon sorbet and a cup of genmaicha (or "popcorn tea"). *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.38% **Price:** \$35



**91 J. McClelland Cellars 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley).** A textbook Merlot. Earth and bay-leaf nuances complement a rich core of raspberries and blueberries in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. It's fine to drink now if aired out in a decanter, but will be best from 2025–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40





**91 Klinker Brick 2020 Old Ghost Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A twinge of bitter oak tannin underlies this Zinfandel—absolutely well integrated and gives the a wine a particular point of view. Beyond the oak, find further engaging flavors of black plum, prune, cedar bark, fennel, dark chocolate and nutmeg spice. Allow to open for about an hour for best enjoyment. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$40



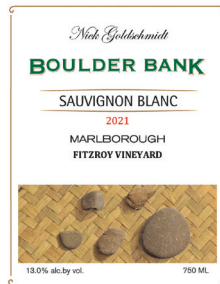
**91 Laetitia 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Rich cherry-juice aromas are concentrated on the nose of this affordable, easy-to-find bottling, with accents of sandalwood and loamy earth providing depth. The palate is loaded with dark, plummy flavors that are cut by oregano, bay leaf and singed herb. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28



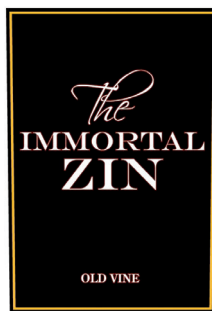
**91 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2018 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** Relatively light for a notoriously heavy grape variety, this wine is a harmonious blend of ripe plums and blackberries, mild baking spices and a chocolate undertone that coats the palate. Full bodied and moderately tannic, it will be enjoyable through at least 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49



**91 Montes Toscanini 2019 Gran Tannat (Canelones).** Full-bodied and oak-spiced, this wine has a nose of ripe raspberry and blackberry blended with chocolate notes. Well-balanced, it has concentrated black fruit flavors followed by green pepper. The finish is slightly warm and offers a lasting hint of toasted oak. Vinaio Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45



**91 Nick Goldschmidt 2021 Boulder Bank Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is as aromatic as it gets: a firecracker of passion fruit, lemon-lime candy, honeysuckle and jasmine, with just a whisper of green herbs. The palate comes with a lovely textural components. Lively, tangy acidity tickles and tingles the tongue, and all those juicy fruit and floral flavors flow onto a long, mouthwatering finish. Goldschmidt Vineyards. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22



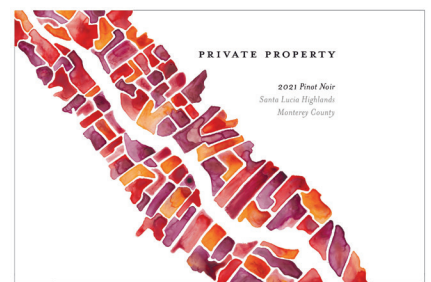
**91 Peirano 2021 The Immortal Zin Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** A bit shy on the nose, this Zin really comes to life on the palate, incorporating rich ripe fruits with complementary soft, plush tannins and an excellent line of acidity that provides a refreshing backbone. Enjoy notes of blackberry, blueberry, boysenberry, violets and roses, fennel fronds and dried forest floor. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$15



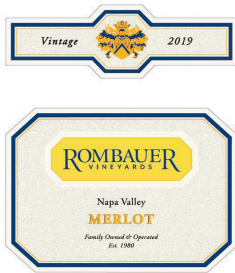
**91 Precision Wine 2020 Navigator Chardonnay (California).** A very well-balanced Chardonnay in terms of structure, texture and flavor with good concentration of fruits elevated by subtle winemaking. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, green apple and pear, just-ripe white nectarine, white grapefruit, chamomile, wet-stone minerality, matchstick flint and a touch of vanilla and vanilla flower. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35



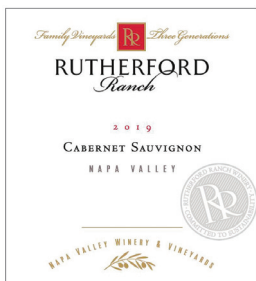
**91 Precision Wine 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A very good value for a Napa Valley Cabernet. Welcoming, ripe-fruit flavors and an easy-going texture make this full-bodied wine surprisingly easy to sip. At first it feels low in tannins and acidity, but firms up as you sip, offering generous black cherry and blackberry flavors and tasty accents of oak spices backed by fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**91 Private Property 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This label translates to bargain in every bottling. The nose of this vintage pops with snappy red-fruit aromas, while the palate carries strawberry, red cherry, fennel pollen and wood oil flavors across a fine-tuned structure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.47% **Price:** \$35



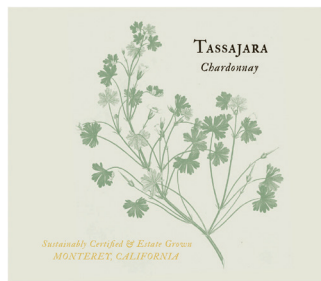
**91 Rombauer 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Clear, direct fruit flavors such as red cherries and cranberries are nicely framed in moderate tannins and balanced acidity, while spicy accents of clove and cedar weave in as you sip. Delicious and enjoyable through at least 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48



**91 Rutherford Ranch 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This well-balanced, harmonious and not-too-full-bodied wine offers an attractive array of red and black cherries, cedar and bay leaves on a lightly tannic texture. Drinkable now through at least 2028 and versatile in food pairings. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40



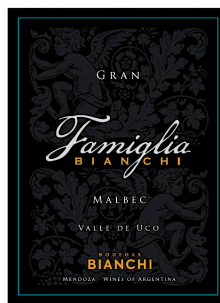
**91 Scotto Family Cellars NV Brut Sparkling Blend (California).** High acid and a fine mousse give this casual sparkling a bit of elegance. Find notes of lemon, lime, green apple, biscuit, toast, wet stone and match-stick flint on the nose, with the palate opening further to the lovely autolytic nuances of toasted bread, yeast and biscuit that are so-loved and appreciated by fans of Champagne-style sparklers. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20



**91 Tassajara 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Sharp lime blossom aromas are layered in warmer touches of buttered apple and honeyed chamomile on the nose of this bottling. There's a decent angle of tension that cuts into the richer mouthfeel, as flavors of apple and brown spices ride a buoyant acidity into the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



**91 Whitehall Lane 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).** Delicious, fruity and with a lively balance, this well-rounded and medium-bodied wine offers mild citrus, crisp pear and white peach flavors over good, tangy acidity. It was partially barrel-fermented and benefits from 19% Sémillon. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30



**90 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 Gran Famiglia Bianchi Malbec (Uco Valley).** This red is bold and has a fruity character. The rich nose shows plenty of cherry, raspberry and blackberry aromas. Vanilla bean and herbs complement the bouquet. It has a full body, displaying a dense core of berries accented by tobacco and grass. Good acidity and a chalky texture support the palate. It will benefit from more aging time in the bottle. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30



**90 Campos De Solana 2018 Único Tannat (Bolivia).** Coming from high-altitude vineyards in Tarija, Bolivia, this Tannat has an inviting nose of tobacco and baking spices followed by ripe berries and prune. On the palate, oak is intense but blends well with black fruit flavors. Hints of cinnamon, nutmeg and chocolate linger on the finish. Tannins are ripe and acidity is moderate, providing a good mouthfeel. Llamas Wine LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$33



**90 Jermann 2020 Where Dreams Have No End Chardonnay (Friuli).** This sun-dappled wine is loaded with aromas of baked apple, sweet spice from the French oak, and lemon zest. Broad and mouthfilling, the palate focuses on ample flavors of pear, dried yellow flowers and roasted honey, finishing with a clean slate of acidity. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75



**90 Jermann 2021 Vinnæ Ribolla Gialla (Friuli).** Aromas of wildflowers mixed with yellow plums and Honeycrisp apples waft out of the glass from this classic Ribolla Gialla. Savory herbal notes combine with forward, fresh apple flavors and a touch of crushed rocks on the finish. Medium in body, it has a lovely texture and kiss of acidity on the finish. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38





**90 King Estate 2021 Domaine Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Come over to the creamy side of Willamette Valley Pinot Gris. Flavors of guava, coconut and lemon-meringue pie slide across the palate, with enough acidity to maintain a sense of balance. The real showstoppers are the wine's potent grapefruit, lemon-basil and Marcona almond aromas. —M.A.

abv: 13%

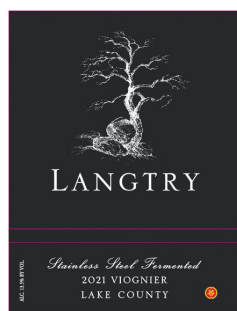
Price: \$30



**90 Landmark 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Ripe cherry, dusty earth and sandalwood aromas make for a familiar and compelling combination on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean and expressive with slightly tart red-fruit flavors that are spiced up by candied cinnamon and a zesty acidity. —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$45



**90 Langtry 2021 Viognier (Lake County).** This varietal Viognier has a pleasant elevated acidity that complements the grape's natural glossy texture. Find fresh aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, white-grapefruit zest, just-ripe green apple, white cherries, cherry blossom, chamomile and a river rock minerality. —S.B.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32



**90 Loscano 2019 Grand Reserve Malbec (Uco Valley).** With a mineral character and a good amount of fruit, this red opens with raspberry jam aromas. Softly textured, it has enough structure to hold a concentrated palate with raspberry and plum flavors. It's fresh and shows hints of grass in the aftertaste. Vinocopia. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

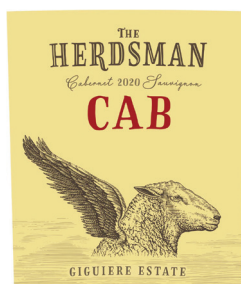


**90 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Valley View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).**

Ripe aromas of baked red fruit and rose petal meet with dark, loamy soil and graphite elements on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard that overlooks the Santa Ynez River. Toasty wood spice introduces the palate, where more red fruit and baking spice flavors lead into an herbal finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$27



**90 Matchbook 2020 The Herdsman CAB Giguere Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Dunnigan Hills).** This wine leads with immediate floral-perfume aromas, moving on toward notes of blackberry, black cherry, crushed violets and purple orchids, cocoa, vanilla, nutmeg and a hint of fresh leather. As it opens, the elevated tannic structure softens and the voluptuousness of the fruits really shines through. —S.B.

abv: 13.9%

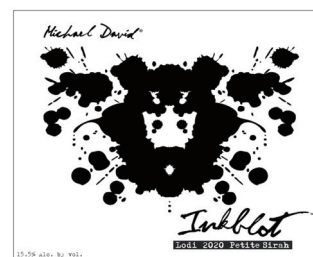
Price: \$30



**90 Michael David 2020 Bechthold Vineyard Ancient Vine Cinsaut (Lodi).** "Vibrant red" is the first thing that comes to mind when engaging with this red wine. Find aromas and flavors of fresh raspberry, wild strawberry, red plum, cranberry and pomegranate complemented by notes of vanilla, cinnamon, nutmeg and hints of roses, violets and jasmine blossom. A well-balanced acidity keeps fresh fruits forward from start to finish and adding a lightness and brightness to the wine as a whole. —S.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30



**90 Michael David 2020 Inkblot Petite Sirah (Lodi).** Find rich, robust notes of over-ripe blackberry, black plum and blueberry—reminiscent of mixed-berry pie—alongside integrated oak notes and plush, mouth-coating tannins. For lovers of big, bold wines, this sip is for you. —S.B.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$30



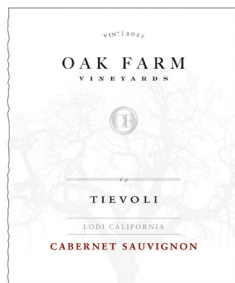
**90 Michael David 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** A lighter expression of Chardonnay that incorporates the use of ML and oak in a way that enhances the fruits. Find notes of water lily, wet stone, just-ripe white peach and nectarine, lychee and rose petal alongside a balanced elevated acidity and a soft mouthfeel. —S.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$24



**90 Mikami Vineyards 2020 Petite Sirah (Lodi).** Find pronounced aromas and flavors of red and black plum, fennel, tarragon, olive tapenade, damp forest floor, cacao, fresh cedar and pine wood alongside coarse, mature tannins that add an excellent structural backbone. Elevated acidity adds needed freshness and maintains an even balance from start to finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$39



**90 Oak Farm 2021 Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Overall, a nice, well-balanced Cabernet Sauvignon that includes 16% Petite Sirah, 4% Petit Verdot and 3% Merlot in the mix. Enjoy notes of blackberry, black cherry, black currant, chocolate, walnut, tobacco, toasted wood and a hint of leather. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20



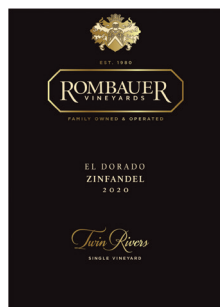
**90 Piattelli 2021 Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** The nose presents green bell pepper and rosemary aromas, introducing a well-balanced palate. Aniseed and green bell pepper blend over red plum and barrel-driven flavors. Fine-grained tannins and lively acidity provide a good structure. Vinocopia. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



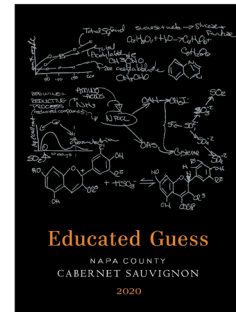
**90 Precision Wine 2020 Octopoda Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** This wine offers a friendly expression with notes of blackberry, black plum, black currant, fennel, star anise, crushed violets, chocolate and a hint of lead and pencil shaving. Firm tannins coat the mouth and there's just enough acidity to cut through for a needed refreshing quality. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



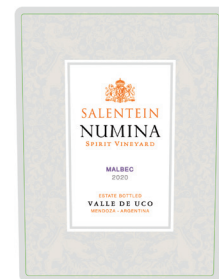
**90 Rocca delle Macie 2020 Famiglia Zingarelli (Chianti Classico).** The nose on this wine is earthy and dense with mushrooms, soil and underbrush, followed by hibiscus and cranberry tea. Cherries, strawberries and raspberries meet up with cranberries and hibiscus on the palate, with hints of vanilla, milk chocolate and finally some orange pith for astringency. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



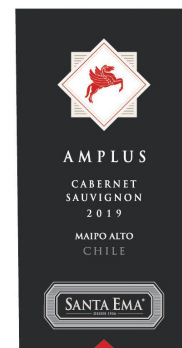
**90 Rombauer 2020 Twin Rivers Single Vineyard Zinfandel (El Dorado).** A full-bodied Zinfandel with plushy tannins that hug that palate, well balanced by an elevated acidity that maintains a freshness throughout. Find notes of blackberry, black cherry, black currant, black pepper, toasted wood, cacao and nutmeg. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$45



**90 Roots Run Deep Winery 2020 Educated Guess Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County).** Black currant and milk-chocolate flavors dominate this richly textured and full-bodied wine. Almost-sweet fruits and oak spices such as vanilla and nutmeg flood the palate, buoyed by fine-grained tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

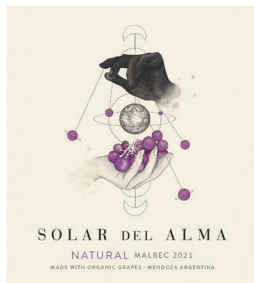


**90 Salentein 2020 Numina Spirit Vineyard Malbec (Uco Valley).** The nose reveals aromas of tart cherry and plum. Mineral-textured, the palate offers cherry, blackberry and plum with hints of bay leaf. Oak spice flavors are potent but still pleasant. Lively acidity provides freshness and leads to a long finish. Palm Bay International. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$41

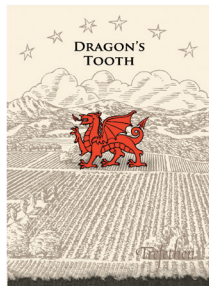


**90 Santa Ema 2019 Amplus Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Alto).** An oaky nose shows aromas of vanilla and cherry. Coming from high-altitude vineyards in Maipo Alto, this wine has electric acidity and gripping tannins. Red fruit flavors mix with herbs on the medium-weight palate. It's fresh and tasty, revealing a pleasant mineral character. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30





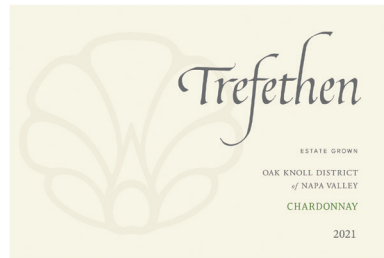
**90 Solar Del Alma 2021 Natural Malbec (Mendoza).** This red is light and has moderate complexity, offering tart cherry on the nose. Made with organic grapes and following biodynamic farming practices, it's full of bright flavors of blueberry and cherry alongside lively acidity. Hints of herbs linger in the pleasant finish. Drink it slightly chilled. Wine For The World. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$26



**90 Trefethen 2019 Dragon's Tooth Estate Grown Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This blend of Bordeaux grape varieties starting with Malbec offers deep black- and red-cherry aromas, a good, moderately tannic texture, substantive fruit flavors and oak spices ranging from clove to cedar to cinnamon. Best from 2024–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

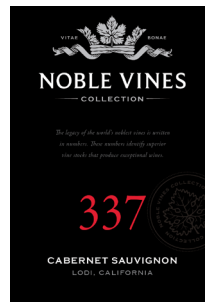


**90 Two Angels 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley).** A light, refreshing, reliable sipper, the Two Angels Sauvignon Blanc offers classic varietal notes of lemon, lime, cherry blossoms, Granny Smith apples, just-mowed grass, with hints white grapefruit and green melon. Enjoy on its own or with lighter fare. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

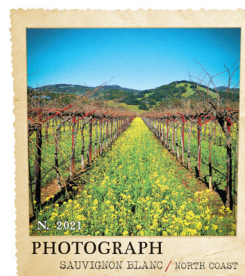


**89 Trefethen 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** This crisp and well-balanced wine tastes clean and fresh owing to bright lemon and green-apple flavors, good acidity and a relatively light body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$40

## BEST BUYS



**92 Noble Vines 2020 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Currently showing oak-forward notes of fresh cedar, vanilla and toasted wood. This is followed by earthy tones of capsicum, black currant, bramble, fresh black cherry and boysenberry. Elevated acidity keeps the wine alive from start to finish; chalky tannins coat the palate. The finish lingers with a little peppery kick. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

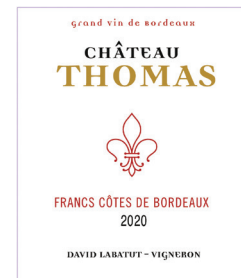


**92 Photograph 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** Pronounced aromas waft immediately out of the glass with floral notes of lilacs and lily of the valley along with vivacious fresh fruits of lemon, lime, yellow apple, just-ripe white nectarine and peach skins. The palate opens to further sensations of grapefruit pith and oil, papaya and a blanched almond kind of nuttiness. While light and easy-going as a Sauvignon Blanc should be, this expression shows marked depth and complexity. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

## BEST BUYS



**92 Château du Luc 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** An impressively rich wine, this has density and ripe black fruits. Firm tannins still give this dense and balanced wine a structure that will let it age further. Drink this wine from 2025. Organic. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15



**92 Château Thomas 2020 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux).** A richly structured wine, this is dense and impressive. The dry edge and firm tannins are supported by rich black fruits that are developing well. This wine has a fine future. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

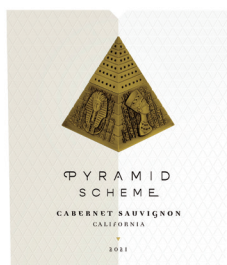


**92 Montes Toscanini 2017 Criado en Roble Tannat (Canelones).** Rich black and red berry aromas are prevalent alongside vanilla and licorice on the nose of this wine. Flavors of oak spice, plum and a light note of rosemary meet with ripe tannins on the concentrated palate. This is a big Tannat with vibrant acidity to keep it fresh through the long finish. Oak Beverages Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

## BEST BUYS



**91 Precision Wine 2020 Adorn Pinot Noir (California).** At \$10, this is a total bang-for-the-buck Pinot Noir that incorporates layered aromas and flavors of raspberry, cranberry, wild strawberry, fresh and dried violet, baking spices, forest floor, mushroom, and a river-rock minerality. Elevated acidity allows for a refreshing quality; medium tannins add just the right amount of texture. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

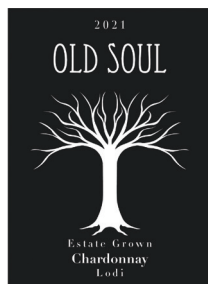


**91 Precision Wine 2021 Pyramid Scheme Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Find layered aromas and flavors of blackberry, boysenberry, black cherry, coffee, nutmeg, cumin and clove, and gamy meat just on the back-breath. Smooth tannins dissipate slowly throughout the length of the tasting; an elevated acidity gives the fruit notes a sense of vivacity. The finish is lingering. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

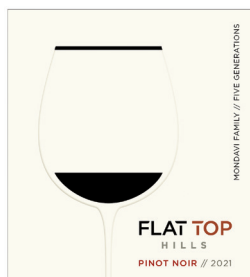


**91 Precision Wine 2020 Fly By Chardonnay (North Coast).** This Chardonnay incorporates layers of pronounced flavors and aromas with an elevated acidity that means freshness from start to finish. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, juicy green pear, apple blossom, baby's breath, vanilla, nutmeg, matchstick flint and petrol. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

## BEST BUYS



**91 Old Soul 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Lodi).** A medium- to full-bodied Chardonnay with a soft, rounded mouthfeel and just a slight phenolic grip that adds just a touch of texture. Oak-integration is well balanced, never imposing upon the fruits. Notes of jasmine blossom, chamomile flowers, ripe yellow peach, nectarine, mango and complementary tones of vanilla and nutmeg. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16



**91 Flat Top Hills 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** This is a very well-rounded, fresh and vibrant Pinot Noir that also incorporates darker and earthier undertones. Find well-integrated aromas and flavors of fresh red and pink roses, cranberry, wild strawberry, just-ripe black plum, mission fig, vanilla and dried forest floor. Tannins are firm, adding texture, weight and body. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17



**91 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Cabernet Franc (Maldonado).** A generous nose, offering meaty blackberry and cherry aromas with a light note of black olive. Firm tannins and an herbal character. Red fruit flavors blend with green bell pepper and mint on the palate. It finishes with pleasant cocoa notes. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

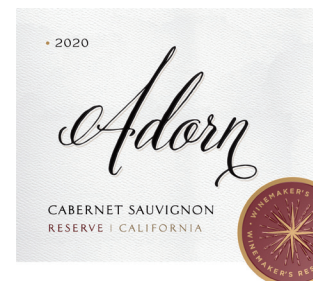
## BEST BUYS



**90 Zolo 2022 Sustainably Farmed Estate Grown and Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza).** This white has a citrus character that shows on the nose with delicate aromas of lime, peach and white grapefruit. Mouthwatering acidity and subtle lime and stone fruit flavors are displayed on the mineral-textured palate. Citrus notes appear in the aftertaste. *Vino Del Sol.* **Best Buy.** —J.V. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14



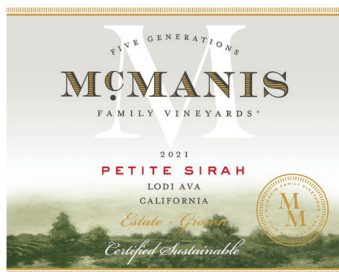
**90 Precision Wine 2020 The Introvert Reserve Pinot Noir (California).** This is a deeper, darker expression of Pinot Noir that brings in both red and black fruits with an aura of toasty smoke that some will find quite appetizing. Find additional notes of black and red plum, black and red cherry, cranberry, black tea, tobacco, forest floor and mushroom. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



**90 Precision Wine 2020 Adorn Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Enjoy intense aromas and flavors of blackberry, black currant, plum, crushed-stone minerality, cacao dust and hints of barnyard and spiced meat. Well-integrated tannins add a lovely texture and highlights the decadence of the concentrated fruit structure. **Best Buy.** —S.B. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20



## BEST BUYS



**90 McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Petite Sirah (Lodi).** This Petite Sirah includes a small percentage of Tannat and Teroldego in the mix, resulting in a deep-purple hue and full tannic structure that is well met by the voluptuousness of the fruits. Find notes of blackberry bush, bramble, fennel, capsicum, black cherry, smoke, toast and leather. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12



**90 Cline 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** The uniqueness of this wine comes from an overlying petrol note that adds an extra layer of complexity. Beneath that, find ripe fruit aromas of lemon, lime and white grapefruit; and a palate that opens further to just-ripe stone fruits such as white peach and white nectarine, as well as earthy-floral notes of chamomile and apple blossom. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15



**90 Cline 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast).** A fuller-bodied Chardonnay with notes of lemon, lime, green apple, chamomile, white peaches and cream, match-stick flint, baking spice and tree bark. A smooth, rounded texture makes the fruit feel that much more voluptuous, all the while maintaining a strong acid structure. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

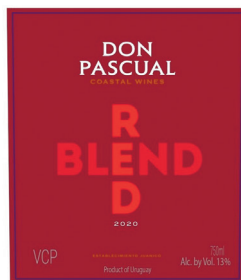
## BEST BUYS



**90 Bodega Garzón 2022 Pinot Noir Reserva Rosé (Maldonado).** A delicate nose offers aromas of guava and cherry accented by citrus fruit. This wine is fresh and has a mineral character. The palate offers bright cherry flavors balanced by good acidity. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20



**90 Bodega Garzón 2022 Reserva Albariño (Maldonado).** Aromas of lemon and honeydew shape the nose and repeat on the palate. This wine is light-bodied and has a refreshing acidity. The lemony finish is medium in length. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20



**90 Establecimiento Juanico 2020 Don Pascual Red Blend (Juanico).** This red blend delivers plenty of blackberry and red plum. It's fresh with juicy fruit and just the right amount of tannic backbone and acidity. erbaceous notes linger on the long finish. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

## BEST BUYS



**90 Montes Toscanini 2019 La Cumparsita Edición Centenario Tannat (Canelones).** This red opens with oaky notes followed by red berry aromas. After aeration, a light note of espresso emerges. The palate features moderate tannins and enough acidity to back up red plum blended with coffee flavors. It has a persistent finish. Oak Beverages Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**89 Oak Grove 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** This is a well-balanced and simply enjoyable Pinot Noir. Find notes of wild strawberry, cranberry juice, black cherry, rhubarb, vanilla, Brazil nut and nut skins. Tannins are a tad course, but there's high enough acidity to cut through and add a refreshing quality. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10



**89 Dark Horse 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** This riper darker expression of Pinot Noir gives off aromas and flavors of both red and black fruits—plum, cherry, boysenberry and marionberry—along with oak tones of chocolate and earthy notes of forest floor and mushroom. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

## BEST BUYS



**89 Franciscan 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Find all the aromas and flavors you expect from a classic Sauvignon Blanc in this bottling: cut grass, chamomile flowers, passionfruit, grapefruit, pineapple and just a hint of capsicum. Serve lightly chilled and enjoy. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$13

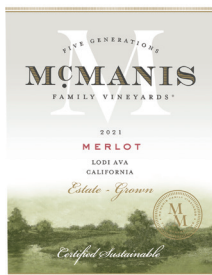


**89 Estancia 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A classic, New Zealand-esque style of Sauvignon Blanc. Enjoy notes of just-cut grass, passionfruit, grapefruit and pineapple, green apple, lemon and lime. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$13

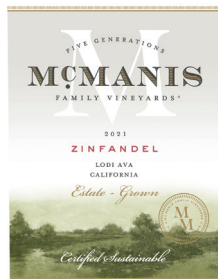


**88 McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Viognier (River Junction).** This is a fun, juicy wine with ripe aromas and flavors of green and yellow apple, yellow peaches, apricot, mango, pineapple, lychee and passionfruit. A full, rounded mouthfeel along with those voluptuous tropical fruits gives the wine some weight. The finish is a solid medium length. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

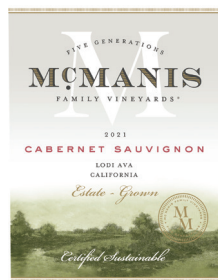
## BEST BUYS



**88 McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Merlot (Lodi).** A fun, easy sipper. Find rich aromas and flavors of red and black plum, boysenberry, river rock, gently toasted wood and a hint of cacao alongside fine-grained tannins, a balanced acidic structure and well-integrated oak. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12



**88 McManis 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi).** An overall well-balanced Zinfandel incorporating small percentages of Petit Verdot, Teroldego and Petite Sirah. Find aromas and flavors of ripe red cherry, plum, cola, pomegranate juice, cranberry compote, fennel and fresh cedar wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12



**88 McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Oak-forward on the palate with notes of chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, star anise and toasted wood, the wine does have layers of rich blackberry and black cherry fruits as well. An overall well-balanced and simple expression of Cabernet Sauvignon, ideal for casual consumption. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

## BEST BUYS



**88 Black Box 2021 Tart & Tangy Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Well balanced, engaging and an overall easy sipper. Find aromas and flavors of wet stone, lime zest and pith, lemon juice, green apple and just-ripe white nectarine. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L



**88 Black Box 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** A very simple, but all together well-balanced and quaffable light-bodied white wine with notes of lemon, lime, jasmine blossom, honeysuckle, orange zest and just a hint of meringue. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L



**88 Barefoot Bubbly NV Moscato Spumante Champagne Sparkling Blend (California).** Simple, but pleasant and all-together well-balanced. If you like your sparkling on the sweeter side, this sparkling Moscato does the trick. Find notes of white roses, lilies, green apple and pear, white peach and nectarine, apricot, orange blossom, honeysuckle and nasturtium nectar. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$10



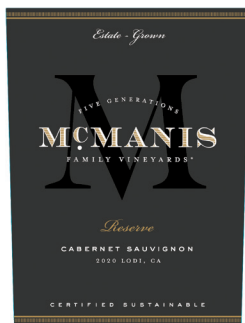
## BEST BUYS



**88 Estancia 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** A light-bodied, simple wine made for pure enjoyment. The florals lead the way with notes of water lilies, white orchids, cherry blossom flowing into subtle fruits of lemon, lime and green apple. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13



**88 Quinta Monteiro de Matos 2021 Reserva do Paul Selection (Tejo).** The wine is young, exhibiting acidity as much as structure. The tannins are in the background, a dry edge that needs to develop. The wine should be more ready to drink from 2024. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18



**87 McManis 2020 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** Oak forward with notes of fresh cedar followed by black cherry, black plum, black currant, fennel, capsaicum, chocolate, vanilla and crushed violets. The palate is filled with mouth-coating tannins alongside a moderate acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

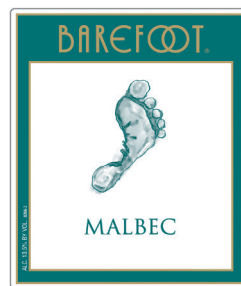
## BEST BUYS



**87 DC Flynt MW Selections 2020 Kirkland Signature Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Vivid cedar and cigar box aromas grab all the attention in this woody, spicy, affordable wine made from mostly Cabernet Sauvignon grapes. It is full bodied, light on fruit flavors and heavy on the oak influence. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11



**87 Black Box 2021 Rosé (California).** Fun and lively with vivacious fruits and florals. Find aromas and flavors of guava, cantaloupe, watermelon rind, rose petal and just-ripe strawberry. Serve slightly chilled for best enjoyment. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L



**86 Barefoot NV Malbec (California).** A simple red wine with straight-forward aromas and flavors of blackberry, blueberry, cinnamon and vanilla. Fruits are over ripe and jammy in nature; the palate incorporates a chalky tannic texture leading to a medium-length finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$7

Continued from page 3.

**93 Xanadu 2019 DJL Chardonnay (Margaret River).** There's a hard-to-resist vibrancy about this Margaret River Chard. A firecracker of lemon zest, white peach, melon, toast and ginger forms a rich yet racy bottling. It's slippery in texture, lilting, with zippy acidity and a touch of oak. Still young and slender, it could grow broader shoulders over the next five to 10 years but it is utterly elegant now. Rathbone Wine Group. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Giant Steps 2021 Applejack Vineyard Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** This is a medium-weight, fruit-and-toast driven Chard from the upper Yarra. High-toned aromas of lemon, apple peel, grilled white peach and musk are backed by cream and saline notes. It's slippery in texture, balanced by a salty acidity, with length and poise. This vintage feels more reticent than previous ones, so cellar for a year or two then drink until 2031. Jackson Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Leeuwin Estate 2021 Prelude Vineyards Chardonnay (Margaret River).** For full review see page 11. Old Bridge Cellars.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**92 Walsh & Sons 2021 Burnside Chardonnay (Margaret River).** This is a rich, heady bottling from a leading small-batch Margaret River producer. A multitude of concentrated aromas open: lemon curd, cantaloupe rind, cream, white spice, smoke and wet stones. The palate is round and creamy, buoyed by tingly acidity and long lemon and green-melon flavors. There's an ease of wine-making here that transmits to the wine itself. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**91 Bird On A Wire 2018 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** This green-tinged Chard is austere yet intensely aromatic with an overlay of flinty reduction. Underneath can be found pineapple rind, lemon, salt and toast. The palate is linear with focus and drive. It's a little smoky, underpinned by toasty oak with a long, lemony finish. Styled like a young Burgundy, it's balanced, polished and food friendly now, but should reveal more complexity with time. Drink now through 2028. Legend Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$39

**91 Stella Bella 2021 Chardonnay (Margaret River).** A rich, ripe nose of ripe melon, pineapple, cream and some seashell salinity leads to a palate that's slippery and weighty, but is sliced through with bright acidity. A cream and toast underbelly adds gravitas. It's a straightforward but tasty intro to the style of this top-notch Margaret River producer. M Imports, LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90 Giant Steps 2021 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** This renowned Yarra Valley producer's multi-vineyard Chardy neatly demonstrates the paradox between the variety's power and freshness Down Under. Fleshy peach, citrus and ginger are underpinned by toasty, mineral, lactic nuances. The palate walks a similar tightrope between richness and vibrancy, with length and structure amidst heaps of tangy fruit and subtle oak. Sovereign Wine Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 De Bortoli 2019 The Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** A heady combo of bright lemon, melon, seashell, campfire smoke and cream open on this approachable, modern Chard. Crystalline acidity sculpts the textured palate. It is a versatile wine to pair with a wide range of mid-weight-to-rich dishes. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**89 Fowles Wine 2020 Are You Game? Chardonnay (Victoria).** This Chard—blended with a dash of Sauvignon Blanc—is fleshy and fruity, with freshly sliced peach and pineapple, and lemon curd, butter and struck match undertones. Tingly, mouthwatering acidity cuts through the richness on the palate. A touch of oak and reduction can be seen on the finish. It's modern cool-climate Aussie Chardonnay. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Yering Station 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** This is a rich, lactic Chardonnay that opens with gentle notes of lemon curd, melon and butter. The palate is equally buttery, in both texture and flavor. There's ripe fruit and toasty oak, too. Overall, it sits a bit flat and finishes on the short side, but it's young, and despite several years in bottle already, it could still blossom with time. Drink until 2030. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Yering Station 2019 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** Bright lemon and stone fruit open alongside some reductive flinty aromas. There's a lactic richness and a dried herbal nuance. The palate is as full-figured as the nose suggests, richly textured with buttery oak and ripe peach. Tingly acidity adds needed freshness. On the forgettable side, it has a short finish, but is nevertheless a harmonious bottling. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Fowles Wine 2020 Ladies Who Shoot Their Lunch Chardonnay (Victoria).** Made in a reductive style, this leads with a prominent struck match aroma. Beneath that sit notes of grilled pineapple and butter. The palate is similarly rich, concentrated and toasty. It's a divisive style, but if carefully paired with food, it can work well. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$35

## RIESLING

**92 Frederick Stevenson 2020 Riesling (Clare Valley).** A medium-gold hue, this is a yeasty and slightly oxidative Riesling with a big personality. It smells of bruised pears, lemon peel, honey and hay. The palate is rich but fresh, wild but clean. More the sum of its parts than easily dissected, it's concentrated, crunchy and highly textural. Rather than screaming "Aussie Riesling!", it sings its own entirely delightful song. Vine Street Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**91 David Franz 2020 Riesling (Eden Valley).** Honey, citrus and floral aromas—and just a touch of kerosene—open this elegant, refreshing Eden Riesling. It's dry and crisp, with a lovely balance of acidity amidst the chalky texture. The delicate honeyed citrus and floral notes are along for the ride. (It's a long ride at that). Drink now. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$28

**89 D'Arenberg 2020 The Stump Jump Riesling (McLaren Vale).** A delicate lift of aromas like lemon-lime, jasmine and honey opens this crowd-pleasing Riesling. There's a touch of sweetness on the palate, lifted by prickly acidity and those citrus and honeyed floral flavors last right to the finish. Straightforward but hard to resist, it should go particularly with a soft salty cheese or fruit tart. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$14

**89 Some Young Punks 2019 Monsters, Monsters Attack! Riesling (Clare Valley).** Kerosene, honey, green tea, lime pith and lavender open this distinctive Riesling. There's a bit of sweetness on the palate which adds texture and a toffee quality to the citrus and floral flavors. Straightforward with a short finish, this is a tasty, balanced drop for pairing with a spicy Thai curry or similar. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27

## SYRAH

**94 Syrahmi 2018 XV Shiraz Shiraz (Heathcote).** The landscape of this small label by Adam Foster is one of the most dramatically pre-historic in all of Australia. The Heathcote region is known for powerful yet fresh, perfumed Shiraz, and this is an excellent example. Heady aromas of cherry and blackberry cordial, dried violets, baking spice and slight minty, medicinal notes float from the glass at first sniff. Chiseled, chalk-dust tannins tighten up the fruit, floral and spice characters on the midweight palate, and a mineral streak is present throughout. Drink now through 2028. Legend Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$60

**92 Mount Langi Ghiran 2018 Talus Shiraz (Grampians).** From a remote, mountainous site deep in western Victoria, Mount Langi's Talus offers power, polish and elegance. High-toned blueberry and black-currant fruit opens, underpinned by mint, sweet spices and florals. Juicy, plump fruit on the midweight palate provides a satiny texture, with a tannic tug. Structured enough to cellar until around 2028 or sip with a plate or protein, it is also approachable enough to be a crowd-pleaser on its own. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**92 Shaw and Smith 2019 Balhannah Vineyard Shiraz (Adelaide Hills).** Shaw and Smith have had a good year, with chief winemaker Adam Wadewitz recently named Winemaker of the Year in a major Australian publication. This single-vineyard bottling is aromatic and sweet-fruited, with succulent blueberry and red plum, fresh violets and a gentle spice. The palate is similarly juicy, satiny textured and wound by chalky, chiseled tannins. Drink now through 2033. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$87

**90 Fowles Wine 2018 Ladies Who Shoot Their Lunch Shiraz (Victoria).** There is a strong undercurrent of sage, tobacco leaf and damp pavement beneath the plump cherry and blueberry fruit. Polished oak is subtly present. Baking-spice and floral notes creep to the fore as the wine opens. Earthy, savory spiced tannins frame the tangy fruit on the sturdy palate. A cool-climate edge reins in the power and amps up the freshness. Fowles Wine Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Forest Hill 2020 Highbury Fields Shiraz (Great Southern).** This vintage of Highbury Fields is currently dense and tightly wound, with plump dark berry, cola, ground pepper and other earthy, savory spices, and a dusty, mineral undertow. The palate is powerful with silky, juicy blackberry fruit wound in chiseled, chalk-dust tannins. A terra firma austerity adds mystery. It needs a of a plate of protein now, but could happily remain in bottle for another five to eight years. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Handpicked 2020 Regional Selections Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Supple red currant and cherry open on this winter-roast friendly red. The fruit is flanked by notes of graphite, dark chocolate and a cocktail-bitters-like herb and spice combo. More midweight than full, it offers savory spices while chalk-dust-textured tannins support the satiny fruit. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25

**89 Mitolo 2019 Marsican Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Firmly in the big, glossy, expensive red-wine category, this certainly doesn't skimp on flavor. There's a sheen of vanilla-mocha oak atop blackberry jam and clove spice. The palate is pow-



erful and tightly gripped by chalky tannins. There's elevated acidity which gives the fruit bite and tartness. Call it a black-tie wine, if overly polished and generic for this reviewer's taste. Vintus LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$235

**88 Blue Pyrenees 2018 Estate Shiraz (Pyrenees).** Raisiny red-currant, orange-rind, underbrush and dried meat aromas are framed by quite prominent vanilla-chocolate oak. The palate is medium weight. It feels a bit thin due to a combo of chalky, drying tannins and lifted acidity, with little fruit weight. Austere and undeniably cool climate, it lacks the depth and power of this label's upper-tier Shiraz, Richardson. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Fowles Wine 2018 Farm To Table Shiraz (Victoria).** This Shiraz shows the warmth of the vintage via plush plum and black-cherry notes, but also the overall coolness of this mountainous central Victorian region via black pepper, graphite and a lick of vanilla and baking spice. There's richness on the palate but a line of freshening acidity, a chalky tannic backbone and supportive oak. Hence the name, it's a wine for roast meat if there ever was one. Fowles Wine Ltd. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$17

**88 Franklin Tate 2020 Tate Shiraz (Margaret River).** Due to the tightly wound bottling, give this Margaret River Shiraz some time aerating in glass or decanter so it can reveal its plush plum and dark-berry fruit, mint, black-olive and spice aromas. The palate is more open-knit, the sturdy sandpaper-textured tannins allowing room for the juicy fruit, graphite and savory spice to shine. It is a powerful, but a medium-bodied expression overall. Indigo Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$17

**88 Mitolo 2019 G.A.M. Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Plum and cherry compote are supported by licorice, bay leaf and a subtle earthy spice. Tannins on the palate are a bit biting and pinched, drying the mouth. The fruit is dense, with an angular edge due to a big lift of acidity. This is in a bit of a clunky spot at the moment but big red lovers will still dig its sheer power and layers of flavor. Vintus LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$57

**88 Mitolo 2019 Savitar Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Juicy, brambly berry fruit, chocolate, graphite and toasty oak spice open on this lucid, broad-shouldered Shiraz. The plum-and-spice-filled palate is full bodied, with a bit of alcohol heat and muscular, somewhat drying tannins. Drinkable now through 2030. Vintus LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**87 Mad Fish 2020 Shiraz (Western Australia).** This is an open, appealing drop straight off the bat. Aromas of black currant, licorice, mint and dark chocolate lead to a straightforward palate of primary fruit and woolly tannins. There's an edge to the acidity that sours the fruit a little, and the finish

falls off, but overall, it's an easy, affordable week-night Shiraz. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Alkoomi 2020 Shiraz (Frankland River).** Cofermented with a little Viognier, this Shiraz, from the southwest reaches of Western Australia, is surprisingly rich and dense. Concentrated plum and dark-berry fruit is in the fore, backed by softer peppery spice, graphite and a lick of chocolate-and-vanilla oak, which shows up on the tannins, too. Plush and broadly structured, the cool-climate freshness saves this from sliding into jam territory. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 First Drop 2016 Fat of the Land Seppeltsfield Vineyard Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Seven years old at the time of tasting, this is showing its age. The fruit is firmly in dates-and-raisins territory, with bass notes of black olive brine, mocha, dried potpourri and butterscotch oak influence. Still-powerful tannins retain a firm grip on the palate—and there's a big lift of acidity—but the fruit weight doesn't quite match. It is in a bit of an awkward stage at the moment. Merchant Vintner Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$100

**86 Shoofly 2020 Shiraz (South Australia).** There's a reductive barnyard note straight off the bat on this Shiraz that distracts from the red-plum, mint and cola characters. Things improve on the palate where a lift of acidity adds a crunchiness to the red fruit. Oaky tannins are a touch astringent, and there's some alcohol heat, but overall this is a straightforward pizza red for drinking now. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Thompson Estate 2020 Four Chambers Shiraz (Margaret River).** This opens with dense aromas of plush plum and cherry fruit, underpinned by more savory, spicy and oak-driven notes like black olive, ground pepper and cherry-cola. There's power and richness to the palate, the plummy fruit cinched by granular tannins. Despite its muscle, the fruit remains at the fore, aided by a freshness from Margaret River's moderate climate. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**85 Barossa Valley Estate 2020 Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Plump cherries and plums mingle with mint, spice and some toasty vanillin oak on this straightforward Aussie Shiraz. The palate is full-figured, with rather woody tannins and a bite of acidity. Delectat USA, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**85 Heartland 2020 Spice Trader Shiraz (Langhorne Creek).** The name of this wine says it all: this is a highly spicy, minty Cab, with heady notes of cinnamon gum and black-cherry cordial. It never quite finds the depth or power to integrate such bold flavors, though, resulting in the vinous

equivalent of nana wearing too much perfume. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

**85 Thomas Goss 2020 Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** A dusting-polish note sits atop the dark fruit and spice notes on this McLaren Vale Shiraz. The palate is bone dry, with elevated acidity and chalky, drying tannins that add to the austerity. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**91 Living Roots 2019 Coastal Wattle Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaide).** This is a broody Cab, with dense aromas of black-currant leaf, black-cherry and savory, earthy spice. The palate is softer than the nose suggests, with savory tannins supporting the supple fruit. There's length and harmony—a tightrope walk of drinkability and power. Drink now through 2029. Living Roots Wine & Co. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**89 D'Arenberg 2019 The High Trellis Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale).** So-named because this was the first vineyard in the region to be trained above knee height, this is a distinctive Cab with a nose full of fruit cake, plum pudding, black currant, licorice, chocolate and a bowl of potpourri. The tannins are massive. The fruit still finds its way through, and it even manages to feel, if not fresh, then at least juicy. Drink 2024–2034. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Peter Juicy Gajewski 2019 Juicy Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** High-toned aromas of raspberry, cherry, orange rind, rose petal and a cocktail-bitters herbal nuance lead to a palate that is juicy and fresh. The fruit lingers for a moment before a rush of powerful, chalky tannins grab hold of the tongue. Despite its heft, there's still a balance and drinkability here. But a protein-rich pairing is a must. Naked Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Bec Hardy 2020 The Wattle Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** There's a flowery hand-soap vibe to the nose of this South Aussie Cab. It's followed by plush berry fruit, licorice, cracked pepper and mint. The palate is gentler in nature than the nose implies, with a soft line of dried mint tannins and oodles of succulent fruit. Drink now. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 McLaren Flat Wine Co. 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** Candied red-fruit aromas burst from the glass, flanked by black-currant leaf, a citrus-orange tang and a little savory spice. The tannins are chewy, iron-fisted around the tongue, yet the fruit and spice still find their way through the thicket, adding appeal and drinkability.

# BUYINGGUIDE

It's a bargain, to boot. Wine 4 Winners, LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Yalumba 2020 The Y Series Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** Aromatic with heaps of spice, dark-chocolate flakes and dried mint amidst the blackberry and currant fruit, this is an approachable Cab for drinking now. Some toasty oak influence goes from nose to palate. Varietally typically tannins are in the fore, but the fruit is fresh and juicy, with a savory herb and spice finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**85 Heartland 2020 Spice Trader Cabernet Sauvignon (Langhorne Creek).** As per the name, this is a highly spicy, minty Cab with heady notes of cinnamon gum and black-cherry cordial. The palate shows similar flavors, but never finds the depth or power to integrate such bold flavors, resulting in the vinous equivalent of nana wearing too much perfume. Vino Logics. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

**85 Woop Woop 2020 Cabernet (South Australia).** Featuring little varietal character, this reads like a generic red, with quiet notes of red- and blackberry fruit, roasting spice and chocolate. Acidity on the palate is elevated—a bit forced—making the fruit feel quite tart. Epicurean Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## RED BLENDS

**94 Henschke 2019 Johann's Garden Red Blend (Barossa Valley).** A wholly complete and ready-to-drink-now wine, this Grenache-dominant blend is fresh, silky and open-knit. The fruit leads on the beautifully aromatic nose: cherry and strawberry, underscored by savory spice and florals. There's succulent red fruit and a satiny texture to the midweight palate. A gentle line of tannins pulls it all together. Well balanced, with rounded edges, this is a wine you could sink into. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$76

**94 Henschke 2017 Keyneton Euphonium Red Blend (Barossa).** With a bit of bottle age, this Shiraz-led red blend has really settled into itself. Luscious berry and plum fruit mingles with florals, pencil lead, spice and a polish of vanillin oak. The palate is succulent, with a satiny texture tempered by a soft line of savory tannins. It's glossy and polished, maybe from the high-end oak, but it also elegant, harmonious and hugely likable. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**93 John Duval Wines 2020 Plexus Shiraz-Grenache-Mourvèdre Rhône-style Red Blend (Barossa).** For full review see page 9. Old Bridge Cellars.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Unico Zelo 2021 True Blue Red Blend (South Australia).** From one of Aus's most progressive producers, this is a multi-regionally blended wine of soft edges and oodles of crowd appeal. Open-knit and sweet-fruited (but dry in taste) while still managing to feel fresh, there are notes of blueberry crumble, florals, chocolate and damp earth. It's plump and silky, mouthfilling, succulent and gently tannic. It will get polished off at frightening speed. Epicurean Wines. **Hidden Gem.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 The Islander 2019 Bark Hut Road Red Blend (Kangaroo Island).** From Kangaroo Island, off the coast of South Australia, this has a distinctive sense of place. Aromatically, it's a fireworks of spices—cloves, bay and cracked black pepper—with cherry, red-currant and graphite notes following. The palate has a cool, crisp edge. It's full bodied but linear, lucid and fresh. Drink now. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Torbreck 2020 Cuvée Juveniles Red Blend (Barossa Valley).** Aromas of mint, olive brine, plum and raspberry open after some brief aeration. The palate is medium bodied, by Barossa standards, and demonstrates restraint. There's a briny, spiced tannin profile and sandpaper texture neatly pinning the juicy, plum fruit. Lower alcohol and more vibrancy would be nice for a "juveniles" style, but it's a tasty tippie nonetheless. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Penfolds 2020 Bin 389 Red Blend (South Australia).** An almost even split of Cab and Shiraz, this is a muscular, reticent red you could cut with a knife. Plump plum and blackberry aromas are followed by peppery, dusty spices and chocolatey oak. Tannins are powerful and sinewy, wrapping around the tongue like a vice, leaving just enough room for the dark fruit to shine. Drink 2024–2034. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**90 The Perfect No. 6 2020 Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** There's a silky herb-and-spice coat to this wine: brambly black currant and cherry, with cumin, ground black pepper, dark chocolate, coffee and dates. The palate is uniquely textured and granular, with fine, savory spiced tannins that weave the plush fruit together. It's wearing a bit of make up but has crowd appeal and moderate alcohol. Penrose Hill. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**89 Charlotte Dalton 2022 What a Ride Red Blend (Langhorne Creek).** A blend of Shiraz, Carignan and Graciano from the warm Langhorne Creek region, this sits at a moderate 13% alcohol. It bursts with a multiple of spices, a turn of the pepper grinder, cherry preserves, dried violets and licorice. It's powerful, lucid and youthful, with an open-knit palate. Inevitably rich, but with person-

ality and an easygoing, hands-off appeal. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Penfolds 2019 Max's Shiraz-Cabernet (South Australia).** Quite dense, rich aromas of cola, cherry preserves, blackberry, dark chocolate and tobacco spice lead, flanked by polished oak, a hallmark of this famous brand. The palate is powerful with chalky, chiseled tannins cinching the dark-berry fruit. Still young, this needs a decanter and protein now, or a few more years in bottle to settle down and unwind a little. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Jen Pfeiffer 2020 The Rebel Red Blend (South Eastern Australia).** A mint-chocolate and vanilla note overlays rich, plummy fruit, ground pepper and cloves. The palate starts with a rush of succulent fruit. Then, the tannins come, tightening things up and nicely juxtaposing the plushness, making this a drink-now, food-friendly wine. Naked Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$21

**88 Pure Vision 2018 Red Wine Blend Estate Grown Vegan Made with Organic Grapes Red Blend (Adelaide Plains).** Plump, brambly red- and blackberry fruit is wound together with peppery, savory spice, chocolate and licorice. The palate is rich and sweet-fruited, with a lift of acidity and well-placed tannins. Drink now, with protein and over the next few years. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**85 The Black Chook 2020 Shiraz-Viognier (McLaren Vale).** Sweet cherry-cola notes lead, underscored with peppery spice. The palate is medium bodied, with angular acidity and granular, drying tannins. Wine Trees. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## NEW ZEALAND

### CHARDONNAY

**96 Pyramid Valley 2019 Lion's Tooth Chardonnay (North Canterbury).** From one of New Zealand's most revered vineyards, Lion's Tooth comes with a fair lick of smoke and oyster-shell aromas at first sniff. But a little aeration in glass and the delicate aromas of lemon curd, white peach, vanilla bean and cream shine through. There's weight to the palate and a lovely slippery texture. The laser-like, citrusy acidity is a reminder of just how cool the climate is up in Pyramid Valley, north of Christchurch. Persistent, layered, elegant and classy, this is one of New Zealand's most expressive Chardonnays, and it almost guarantees a long and ever-changing life ahead. Drink now through 2032 at least. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$100

**95 Pyramid Valley 2019 Field of Fire Chardonnay (North Canterbury).** Steve Smith MW,



the new(ish) co-owner of this highly revered North Canterbury estate, hopes to make Pyramid Valley synonymous with world-class Chardonnay. He's on his way to achieving it. This vintage of Field of Fire is bright and fruity without being simple. Cantaloupe and lemon rind are delicately framed in yeasty, toasty lees and oak characters. There's a soft saline note, like seashells plucked from the beach, windswept by a cool ocean breeze. It reflects this site's unique position between the mountains and the sea. In the mouth, lemony acidity is prickly, gliding rather than slicing through the slippery texture. Oak is present but supportive, well tucked and obviously high-end. The lengthy finish makes another sip impossible to resist. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

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

**95 Smith and Sheth 2020 CRU Heretaunga Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay).** This is a pristine, Burgundy-influenced Chardonnay with poise and ageworthiness. The nose is bright and enticing, with notes of lemon and melon rind set to a back drop of cream, toast and rock salt. The full-figured palate is slippery with a vivid line of acidity. Oak and lees influence add opulence, texture and complexity while knowing their place as supporting characters. Drinking beautifully now, this has the potential to age gracefully until around 2030. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Giesen 2017 Clayvin Fuder Chardonnay (Marlborough).** Pale-gold with a green tinge, this exudes pineapple rind, preserved lemon, honey, butter cream and toast. It's ripe and concentrated with some showy oak, but it never goes overboard on either. The palate is rich with a lactic texture, the lemony acidity tempered by toasty oak. The tangy fruits lingers on the persistent finish. It would make a top drop with buttery lobster or similarly rich seafood fare. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —C.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**94 Kumeu River 2021 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay (Kumeu).** From over 30-year-old vineyards in the far north of New Zealand, this Chard leads with a delicate perfume of lemon peel, mandarin, pear, seashell and white blossom, with a subtle toasty underbelly. There's a juiciness to the pithy citrus fruit on the mid-weight palate. Quietly supportive oak and a mineral streak add a feeling of purity and poise. Highly food friendly, with polish and restraint, this drinks well now but could cellar until 2033. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$69

**94 Pyramid Valley 2019 Chardonnay (North Canterbury).** Give this a little time in glass to open. Once it does, it exudes ripe lemon, melon and cream. The palate is medium in weight with a creamy texture. Here, the cool climate reflects via the bright, lemon, mouthwatering acidity which proves a lovely counterbalance to the fruit ripeness. There's long, tangy finish, the freshness begging another sip. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Escarpment 2020 Chardonnay (Martinborough).** Escarpment may be better known for its Pinot Noir, but this Chardonnay is a class act. A powerful punch of grilled pineapple, preserved lemon, gun smoke, seashell and toast all ricochet around the nose. The palate is rich with layers of flavor, crunchy acidity, an oak frame and a lovely textural bite. This class act will gain more honeyed complexity with time. Drink until 2032. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Dog Point 2019 Chardonnay (Marlborough).** Dog Point's Chard style is divisive, but expertly executed. Medium-gold hued, there's a highly reductive nose of roasted nuts, struck flint, grilled melon, coconut flakes and a little buttered toast. The palate is as intense as the nose suggests, with similar flavors, but it's sliced through with a welcome line of citrusy acidity and a grilled fruit note that lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2030. Vintus LLC. —C.P.

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

**92 Matt Connell Wines 2020 Lowburn Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Central Otago).** Both rich and vibrant, this single-vineyard Otago wine opens with peach cobbler, lemon zest, vanilla extract and floral aromas. The mid-weight palate is equally energetic with a pristine line of acidity. Buttery, toasty oak is present but not intrusive. This is long, harmonious and food friendly. DJK Imports. —C.P.

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

**92 Savvy 2016 The Darling Chardonnay (Marlborough).** This nearly seven-year-old bottling (at the time of tasting) is a straw-yellow color, with a greenish tinge. Both rich and vibrant, there are heady fruit aromas of preserved lemon, grapefruit and pineapple rind, with a seam of toasted coconut. The palate has lovely texture, slippery yet fresh, with bouncy citrus and heaps of food friendliness. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.

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

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**94 Astrolabe 2020 Taihoa Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** A stellar example of the beauty that emerges from Marlborough Sauvignon after a few years in bottle (and from an excellent vintage to boot), this pale-gold-hued bottling is heady with an opulent perfume of crème brûlée, passion fruit tart and lime compote, with a wet stone-mineral component behind. The palate follows through with balanced richness, buoyed by limey acidity. Baked fruit and honeyed notes are present but the focus here is more on that acid-texture tightrope, which makes for delicious drinking. It is long, poised and exceptionally food friendly. Share a Splash. —C.P.

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

**92 Dog Point 2019 Section 94 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Aged and fermented in old oak barrels, this Sauvignon is quite flinty and reduc-

tive at first. It benefits from a short time in decanter or vigorous swirling in glass. Once aerated, gentle notes of honeycomb and lime popsicle float to the fore. Primarily, though, this is about the toasty oak and struck match characters. Despite a few years of age, the acidity is still lively, crunching through the textural creaminess. Drink with richer foods than you'd pair with your regular NZ SB. Vintus LLC. —C.P.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92 Nautilus 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Like the shell pictured on its label, there's quite a bit of saline oyster shell, flint and smoky reductive notes to start on this classy Sauvignon. The lime and passion fruit aromas, along with dried green herbs, peek through the cracks. Flint and shell nuances continue on the palate. Some chalky textural weigh counterbalances the fleshy fruit and crisp acidity. There's a lingering lime and herb finish. Food friendly and affordable, this has the ability to age until around 2028. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Dog Point 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Like two flint rocks striking one another, there's a smoky, sulfuric aroma that mingles with toasted nut and oyster shell. More delicate fruit (pithy lime) and floral aromas arrive after some time in glass. There's a textural richness to the palate. It's sliced by razor-edged acidity. Crunchy and citrusy with length and poise, this manages to be delicate and bold all at once. It's a divisive style but one that enormously rewards time and food. Vintus LLC. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Giesen 2019 The August 1888 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** For full review see page 14. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.

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

**91 Nick Goldschmidt 2021 Boulder Bank Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** For full review see page 15. Goldschmidt Vineyards.

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

**91 Smith and Sheth 2021 CRU Sauvignon Blanc (Wairau Valley).** This is a classically styled, quietly powerful wine with reductive struck match and onion notes alongside lemon balm, white peach, celery salt and dried herbs. There's a lovely tingly acidity that harmonizes with the textural components. Length, poise and food friendliness bump this up a notch from your average Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Deep Down 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** On the fruitier side of the Sauvignon spectrum, this opens with bright, likable notes of white peach, lime and passion fruit, with a pungent pop of Sauvignon Blanc goodness underneath. The palate is slippery in texture, tangy and refreshing

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with well-balanced acidity and a lingering passion fruit finish. Vintage '59 Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Tinpot Hut 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Pineapple, passion fruit, guava, lime and even some red apple burst like a firecracker from the glass of this outgoing white. The palate comes with a lively tang of limey acidity amidst the slippery palate. Balanced and textural, this is a tasty tippie now that should gain more honeyed interest with another year or two in bottle. Copa Fina Imports CA. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**90 Vidal 2021 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Cut grass and summer veg-garden aromas are present but don't obscure the lime, passion fruit and fresh pineapple notes. The palate is bone dry, with quite elevated acidity. But there's enough texture and fruit weight tip the scales back towards the center. Lingering citrus and passion fruit flavors on the long finish make it easy to take another sip of this food-friendly little number. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Villa Maria 2021 Taylors Pass Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Strawberry leaf, lemon-lime and ginger charge forth on this aromatic white. In the mouth, it's crisp, refreshing and slippery with what feels like a hint of residual sugar—contributing texture interest more than actual sweetness. It would be a knockout with spicy Southeast Asian fare. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**89 Astrolabe 2021 Awatere Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley).** This is lithe and fresh with an appealing perfume of peach, pear, lime popsicle, gentle florals and cut grass. The harmonious palate is dry, with a softly creamy texture and a dried herbal finish. Share a Splash. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Spy Valley 2021 Handpicked Single Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Lime, waxy lemon and pineapple rind open this gentle fruity Sauvignon. They're underpinned by a soft green-herb and bell pepper note. The palate is dry overall but showing a hint of residual sugar. The palate is slippery in texture, with crunchy acidity and a tangy lime finish. It's balanced and refreshing. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Greg Norman Estates 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is an aromatic Sauvignon, with white-peach, grapefruit, pineapple and honeysuckle notes. There's also, judging by the slight burning sensation in the nose, a hefty dollop of sulfur. In the mouth, a touch of residual sugar counters the bright, lemony acidity, adding a creaminess to the texture. The finish is long and citrusy. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88 Lexicon 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** On the ripe fruit-and-floral end of the Sauvignon spectrum, aromas of fresh lime, passion fruit, grapefruit and orchard blossoms—with just a whisper of green herbs—flow to a palate that slips and slides easily over the tongue. It's brightened by citrusy acidity and carried along by the same flavors as the nose. There's a limeade finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**88 Matua 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** A firecracker of a wine, this whizzes and bangs with lemon, lime, and peach aromas. There's a slight onion and green-bean note just behind. The palate is fresh and slippery, with fleshy stone and citrus fruit leading to a tingly finish. Treasury Wine Estates. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Peregrine 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Otago).** A rich, layered nose of flint, seashell, onion powder and celery salt sit atop peach and lemon-lime fruit. The palate is highly textural, with mouthwatering acidity. It falls a little flat on the finish, but nevertheless offers complexity and age-ability. Vineyard Brands. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$31

**88 Rubus 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Bright and zippy, with high-toned but delicate aromas of lime popsicle, passion fruit and jasmine flower, this classic Marlborough Sauvignon sees only the slightest green-herb and bell pepper character. The palate has some weight to it but there's heaps of bright, crisp acidity to keep it ultrafresh. The finish is long, herb-flecked and citrusy. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**88 Te Pa 2018 Oke Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** With some bottle age and time spent on full lees in French barrels, this isn't your typical NZ Sauvignon. It billows aromas of smoke and nuts. The peach and passion fruit come in later and stay at the fray. It's full bodied, with a rich texture, but a lift of acidity to keep things fresh. The oak and lees definitely dominate the flavor and mouthfeel, but there's a lingering and welcome tang of fruit at the finish. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 The Better Half 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This is a fruit-forward Sauvignon, with crowd-pleasing aromas of passion fruit, lime and honeysuckle. The slippery palate is fresh and focused, with oodles of fruit that flow through to the finish. Drink now. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Giesen 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** A pungent Sauvignon, this wine pops with lemon-lime, white-grapefruit, bell pepper and jalapeño aromas. The palate is tart with crisp, citrusy acidity amidst a gently creamy mouthfeel. Light and refreshing, this was made for water-

side sipping. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Auntsfield 2021 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** On the vegetal end of the Sauvignon Blanc spectrum, the first aromas that come to mind are of a summer veg-garden nature: tomato stems, green beans and bell peppers, followed by fruitier ones like lime and white grapefruit. There's what feels like a burn from the sulfur, too. The palate is high-toned and zippy, with razor-sharp acidity and citrusy fruit to the finish. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**86 Invivo 2022 Graham Norton Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand).** Bright aromas of lime, white peach and flower blossom open this Sauvignon, made in partnership with Irish celebrity, Graham Norton. The palate is a bit flat, showing a hint of residual sugar amidst all the crisp acidity. This sports a straightforward, commercial style for easy-drinking. Seaview Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**86 Invivo 2022 SJP Sarah Jessica Parker Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Quite young, reductive and pungent, the flint and onion notes are distracting but they don't fully obscure the fresh lime, passion fruit, green-bean and dried green-herb aromas. The citrus and passion fruit flavors continue on the palate. There's a slight burn of what feels like sulfur here, and a searing crunch of acidity. This could benefit from another six months to a year in bottle to settle into itself. Seaview Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**86 Ivy Ridge 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Initially quite muted and reductive, with some aeration in glass this offers gentle aromas of waxy lemon and white grapefruit, underscored by some green herbal and floral nuances. The texture is chalky in the mouth, with crisp acidity and a lemony finish. The round palate is met by a short, herb-flecked finish. The Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Lobster Reef 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** A nose led by lemon-lime and passion fruit—and backed by some grassy, bell pepper notes—leads to a palate that's crisp, clean and refreshing. It's straightforward, easy-drinking drop. Vino Logics. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Rapaura Springs 2022 Classic Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** There's a nutty, flinty reductive note at the top of this still-young Sauvignon, and a lime, guava and passion fruit underbelly. In the mouth, prickly if somewhat searing acidity counteracts the dash of sweetness. This straightforward sipper with a limey finish, should benefit from a few more months in bottle. Shaw-Ross International Importers. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16



**85 Spy Valley 2021 Easy Tiger Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Soft floral and honey aromas atop the peach and lemon rind add appeal to this low-alcohol Sauvignon. Still young, the lemony acidity pinches in the mouth, sitting beside the creamy texture rather than integrating with it. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 9% **Price:** \$20

**85 Walnut Block 2021 Nutcracker Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Relatively muted by NZ Sauvignon standards, this opens softly with confected notes of honey and lime, underpinned by more vegetal nuances. The palate is crisp and light, with a bite of acidity and a somewhat odd finish. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**93 Pyramid Valley 2020 Orange Pinot Gris (North Canterbury).** The color of a flaming sunset, this orange wine, made from Pinot Gris, opens with hedonistic aromas of ginger, candied pineapple, nectarine and marmalade, backed by honeyed flower-blossom scents and the slightest mushroomy funk to remind you that we're not in Kansas anymore, Toto. The palate crackles and pops with tangy flavor. There's a pithy, tannic tug on the tongue, mouthwatering acidity and a lengthy finish. Clean, ripe and fresh, this is just plain delicious. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Pyramid Valley 2021 Orange Pinot Gris (North Canterbury).** A radiant Halloween-orange hue, this Pinot Gris, fermented on skins then aged in amphorae and oak, takes a minute to open, but once it does, it offers rich, heady aromas of nectarine, marmalade, ginger candy and honeysuckle. The palate is ripe but never flabby, the natural acidity from this cool-climate region shining sunbeams of freshness. Tannins are grippy but not astringent. It is a delicious example of this increasingly popular style, and likely a knockout with salty, tartrate-flecked cheeses like aged Parmigiano or Gouda. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

## PINOT NOIR

**94 Escarpment 2020 Pinot Noir (Martinborough).** For full review see page 6. Delicato Family Wines.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Escarpment 2020 Kupe Pinot Noir (Martinborough).** This is a big, austere Pinot that needs time. At the moment, it shows vineyard-floor characters, along with mint, cedar, dark chocolate and toasty oak. The cherry and cranberry fruit is almost an afterthought. The palate is tightly wound in chiseled, chalky tannins. With time in glass to aerate, the tangy fruit creeps to the fore. Structured

for the long haul, this should start to reveal more of its charms in another few years. Drink 2024–2034. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**93 Nautilus 2019 Southern Valleys Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** A gentle perfume of cloves, red berries and orange peel lend a potpourri-like feel to this Pinot. It's slightly sappy and autumnal, with a raw mineral edge. The palate is lightweight but with a sturdy spine of sap-like tannins and snappy acidity that feels like you're taking a bite rather than a sip. There is an ease and expressiveness here that's easy to love. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**93 Pyramid Valley 2019 Earth Smoke Pinot Noir (North Canterbury).** A dusty rose-petal hue, this Pinot is an elegant, cool-climate example from one of New Zealand's most unique vineyards. A enticing perfume of blueberries, dried red berries, spice, florals and herbs swirls together to create a cocktail-bitters feel, backed by a little campfire-smoke note. Light on its feet, the palate is lacking a little length and fruit depth for a wine of this caliber, but there's a lovely line of acidity and flavors that evokes autumnal drinking beside a charcuterie board. Drink now and over the next few years. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$100

**92 Pyramid Valley 2019 Pinot Noir (Central Otago).** This may be half the price of Pyramid's other Pinots, but quality-wise it's very nearly on par with the single-vineyard stuff. Heady aromas of red currant and rhubarb (with dried herbs and floral notes) open, followed by palate that is lightweight but quite tautly structured, with a welcome tug of spice-flecked tannins. The fruit isn't as present as one would like, but there's an overall loveliness and ease about this wine nonetheless. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Pyramid Valley 2019 Angel Flower Pinot Noir (North Canterbury).** Slightly hazy, with a color reminiscent of bricks and rose petals, Angel Flower offers bright cherry-compote aromas, framed in dried spice and florals, with a raw mineral edge. Like the other '19s from the highly respected winery, this is aging rather quickly. The palate is featherlight, with freshness and those same characters as on the nose. Crunchy acidity and a soft line of tannins create balance and elegance. Drink now. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$100

**92 Villa Maria 2019 Attorney Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Cedar smoke, tar, dried herbs, spices and florals open this rich, perfumed wine. They nicely compliment the ripe red-currant and cherry-preserve aromas, creating an overall autumnal vibe. There's a lovely freshness to the juicy red fruit, aided by mouthwatering acidity, and tugged into place by spice-laden tannins. Those herbal, floral aromas go along for the ride. This medium-

weight Pinot has a somewhat astringent finish that's drinking well now and will hold up until around 2028 or so. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$68

**91 Butterworth 2018 Te Muna Pinot Noir (Martinborough).** High-toned and highly appealing aromas of wild blueberries, cherries, dried herbs and spices come floating up from the glass. There's a quiet but present chocolatey oak note here, too. The palate is well structured, with spice-laden, raspy tannins and elevated acidity. The brambly fruit also makes its way onto the tongue, carrying through to the finish. Drink now, with a charcuterie, roast duck or pork crackling. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$51

**91 Escarpment 2020 Te Rehua Pinot Noir (Martinborough).** Quite the introvert at the moment, this likely needs more time in bottle to unravel. At the moment—with vigorous swirling in glass—it ekes out red- and blueberry fruit, baking-spice and some vanillin-oak characters. The palate is wound tightly by the tannins, and lofty acidity adds to the austerity. Hold until around 2025, then it should drink well for another decade at least. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**89 Auntsfield 2020 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** This is a plump Pinot with oodles of fresh cherry and strawberry and cream notes, as well as cured meat, black-pepper and violet undercurrents. The palate is medium to full bodied, round in shape and gently tugged by savory tannins. The red-berry fruit flows to the finish—a classic example of this Marlborough style. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**89 Villa Maria 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** There's a bit of mushroomy reduction to start, but give this some aeration in glass and it softens eventually, making room for plump cherry, raspberry, vanilla and savory spice aromas. The palate is equally plump and rounded but with a good lift of acidity that gives the fruit a tangy feel. It's supported by granular, slightly drying, oak-driven tannins, which should soften with a few more years in bottle. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88 Butterworth 2017 Layline Pinot Noir (Martinborough).** There's a sulfuric pungency to this Pinot that seems built into its structure, although aeration in glass reveals more primary red-fruit, floral and spice aromas. The palate is medium weight but richly textured and round in shape, lifted by a crunch of acidity and framed by chalky, spice-filled tannins. New Zealand Wine Navigator. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**87 Te Pa 2020 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** Plump red berry, cedar and winter warming spices open on this silky, medium-bodied Pinot. A touch of oak can be felt on the palate but this is, overall, a

# BUYINGGUIDE

fruit-driven, refreshing red for drinking now. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**86 Oyster Bay 2020 Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** On the richer, rounder end of the Pinot spectrum, a meaty, mushroomy note opens, but with vigorous swirling in glass, the primary plum and cherry fruit squeeze to the fore. Underneath lie dried herbal notes like mint and oregano and vanillin oak. The palate is fruity, and a bit oaky with a quick finish. Delegat USA, Inc. —C.P.  
abv: 14% Price: \$19

**86 Spy Valley 2020 Sustainably Crafted Pinot Noir (Marlborough).** This cherry-hued Pinot is a little muted, but with aeration in glass, it squeaks out notes of red fruit, florals and peppery spice. The palate is tart with angular acidity and chalky, drying tannins. A straightforward wine for drinking now. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Te Mata 2021 Gamay Noir (Hawkes Bay).** Showing varietal character infused with NZ charm, this Hawke's Bay Gamay opens plump and fruity (think: cherry and strawberry) with a bouquet garni of herbs and spices, and a gentle floral nuance, too. The medium-weight palate is plush and silky, while the red-berry fruit is on display. Acidity and chalky tannins creep in slowly on the midpalate. By the finish—which is long and herb-filled—the mouth is watering, ready to take another sip. Drink now, with a variety of autumnal and winter dishes. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

## SOUTH AFRICA CHARDONNAY

**89 David Finlayson 2020 Camino Africana - Shale Terraces Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** The nose is restrained, offering a light bouquet of citrus fruit. Mineral texture and moderate acidity support a creamy palate with lime, pear and vanilla bean flavors that extend into the medium finish. It's a smooth Chardonnay. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**89 Glen Carlou 2021 Petite Chardonnay Chardonnay (Coastal Region).** The wine has an herbaceous character, and its subtle aroma displays celery and gunflint. It's light and fresh, with a mineral texture holding mild notes of lime and white grapefruit. Good acidity extends hints of grass and citrus flavors into the finish. Pace Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

**89 Glenelly 2021 Glass Collection Unoaked Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** The nose is aromatic, with tropical fruits and light notes of white

flowers. On the palate, it's light and well balanced, showing flavors of mango and pineapple. Moderate acidity makes the wine approachable. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$18

**88 Backsberg 2020 Kosher Sustainably Farmed Chardonnay (Paarl).** This wine is medium-bodied and unoaked, offering ripe light notes of lime and white grapefruit. The nose leads with subtle lime aromas. On the palate, an oily texture and citrus character is supported by good acidity that carries the flavors throughout the long lemony finish. Kosher. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$18

**88 Glenelly 2021 Estate Reserve Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** A delicate nose opens with aromas of jasmine and light notes of peach. The palate has weight and shows notes of butter, vanilla and chamomile. Fruit flavors of peaches are subtle. It's creamy and has a gentle acidity. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$25

**88 Ken Forrester 2021 Petit Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** This light and everyday white has mild aromas of lime, mango and pineapple. The fruity palate features notes of lime, pineapple and a splash of grapefruit. It has moderate acidity and a short finish with notes of sweet melon. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$12

**88 Meerlust 2021 Chardonnay (Stellenbosch).** The nose leads with aromas of chamomile, vanilla and hints of lime that introduce a palate with a heavy oak influence. Honey and baking spices contrast with light notes of citrus fruit. Enough acidity balances the wine, making it approachable and lengthening the flavors. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**87 Tongai 2021 Premium Chardonnay (Western Cape).** Citrus aromas on the nose lead to lime and pear on the medium-weight palate. Sharp acidity carries the flavors into a citrus finish. Vinosphere Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$15

**86 Warwick 2021 The First Lady Chardonnay (Western Cape).** This is an herbaceous and austere wine with a restrained nose. It has a mineral character and offers citrus fruit and grass lifted by moderate acidity. The citrus notes disappear in the short finish. Elektra Wines LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$15

**85 Robertson Winery 2021 Chardonnay (Robertson).** Inviting subtle citrus aromas blend with stone fruit and grass. This is an everyday creamy Chardonnay with moderate acidity, featuring oaky notes that mask citrus fruit. All flavors fade away quickly in a short finish. Indigo Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

## CHENIN BLANC

**90 Stark-Condé 2021 Monk Stone Chenin Blanc (Jonkershoek Valley).** This wine was fermented in clay amphorae and French oak barrels. The nose presents light notes of honey, herbs and bergamot, introducing a palate with citrus flavors. Lime and thyme join subtle notes of linden tea. Moderate acidity extends bright citrus notes into a persistent finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$21

**90 Stellenbosch Vineyards 2021 Bushvine Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** Aromas of flowers and lime are delicate. Offering tropical, citrus fruit flavors and lively acidity, this white is medium in weight and fresh. Lime and mango lead to a lemony finish. Vinamericas, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**89 Ken Forrester 2021 Old Vine Reserve Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** This wine is aromatic, with herbaceous and oaky notes mixed with hints of pear. The smooth palate exhibits subtle flavors of lemon, pear and chamomile. It has weight and gentle acidity. Barrel-driven spices invade the finish. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$15

**89 Raats Family 2021 Original Unwooded Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** This unoaked white is smooth and fruit-focused. It opens with lime, mango and pear aromas. It has a flavorful palate lifted by moderate acidity. Tropical fruit blends with light notes of green apple. Citrus notes shine in the medium finish. Cape Classics. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

**89 Simonsig 2020 Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** Lemon zest and saline notes are light and fade away easily on the nose. Subtle lime and tropical fruit flavors show on the lightweight palate. Lively acidity freshens lingering citrus notes on the finish. Quintessential Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

**88 Avondale 2017 Jonty's Ducks Guardians of the Vines Pekin White Chenin Blanc (Paarl).** The nose is citrusy and delicate, exhibiting lemon and orange zest. On the palate, sharp acidity cuts through the dense texture and lifts up flavors of oak spice, lime, chamomile and honey. It finishes with a touch of vanilla. Baobab Wines Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**88 Ridgeback 2018 Chenin Blanc (Paarl).** The nose offers ripe lime aromas. Barrel-driven flavors are prominent on this wine, but a mineral character and vibrant acidity balance it all out. It displays honey, lime and white grapefruit on the medium-weight palate. The finish shows vanilla bean in the aftertaste. Artisans & Vines. —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

**87 Avondale 2017 Anima Chenin Blanc (Paarl).** The wine is medium-bodied and has a tight



nose that slowly reveals subtle citrus aromas. On the palate, it offers pleasant honey and citrus flavors backed by medium acidity. It finishes with lemon peel and smoky notes. Baobab Wines Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**87 Robertson Winery 2021 Chenin Blanc (Robertson).** This opens with white flowers followed by lime and grass. It features an herbaceous character and sharp acidity. Subtle lime blends with tropical fruit flavors on the palate leading to a short finish. Indigo Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Stellenbosch Vineyards 2021 Mountain Shadows Chenin Blanc (Western Cape).** Notes of flowers and citrus fruit emerge from the glass. It has an herbaceous character with a mix of lime and apples that is lifted by vigorous acidity. Grass flavors close the palate. Vinamericas, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Overhex 2020 Balance Chenin Blanc (Western Cape).** Subtle pear and apple aromas are delicate. This everyday Chenin is light-bodied with good acidity. Lime, peach and pear flavors on the palate disappear in the short finish. Meridian Prime Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

**85 Reyneke 2021 Vinehugger Chenin Blanc (Stellenbosch).** The nose of this white leads with a heavy load of oak and grass. On the palate, stone fruit and chamomile mix with herbs. It's lightweight and has a short citrusy finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**84 Indaba 2020 Chenin Blanc (Western Cape).** Ripe lemon and apple on the nose lead to a palate with similar ripe notes that blend with grass. It has medium acidity and is slightly warm on the finish. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**84 Overhex 2020 Survivor Chenin Blanc (Swartland).** It has a nose of mild aromas of citrus and flint. On the palate, this white features gentle acidity, citrus and tropical fruit blended with vanilla. Meridian Prime Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**91 Constantia Glen 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Constantia).** Pleasant aromas of herbs are prominent on the nose. Lime and a hint of mint complement the delicious bouquet. Minty notes repeat on the palate and blend with white grapefruit, lime and a dash of salt. Mouthwatering acidity carries the flavors throughout the lingering finish. It's fresh and medium in weight with an herbaceous character. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Southlands 2021 Cool Climate Sauvignon Blanc (Coastal Region).** This bone-dry white has a tight nose, offering gentle wet stone aromas. Delicious herbaceous notes wrap peach and linden tea flavors. A mineral texture and bright acidity make a refreshing palate. W. Direct. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**87 Indaba 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape).** The sweet nose displays notes of mango and melon. Flavors of lemon and tropical fruits are supported by moderate acidity on the medium-weight palate. This is an easy-drinking wine that shows citrus notes in the short finish. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**86 Stellenbosch Vineyards 2021 Mountain Shadows Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape).** Lime and grass dominate the nose of this white with moderate acidity. The palate shows an herbaceous character featuring lime and white grapefruit that fade away into a short finish. Vinamericas, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**85 Kosi Bay 2021 Selection Sauvignon Blanc (Western Cape).** Lime and pineapple aromas are mild and lead to a palate with tropical fruit flavors and a splash of citrus fruit. It features gentle acidity and has a short finish. W. Direct. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**86 Bosman Family Vineyards 2018 Fides Skin Contact Natural Ferment Grenache Blanc (Wellington).** Light notes of apricot emerge from this amber-color wine. The medium-bodied palate has light notes of ripe peach, apricot and pear. It offers gentle acidity and citrus flavors leading to a short finish. Wine For The World. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## SPARKLING WINES

**91 Graham Beck 2017 Cuvée Clive Champagne Blend (Western Cape).** Delicate aromas of citrus fruit and toasted biscuit are inviting. A flavorful and balanced palate delivers layers of lime, red apple and light toasted notes on a mineral character. Bubbles are elegant and extend into the persistent fruity finish. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$70

**90 Graham Beck 2017 Brut Rose Champagne Blend (Western Cape).** Well-balanced, this rosé has a nose of ripe red apple and pear. Lively acidity is featured on the palate alongside citrus and pear flavors. Subtle toastiness leads to a pleasant finish with berries in the aftertaste. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**90 Graham Beck 2015 Ultra Brut Chardonnay (Robertson).** Apple, peach and lime are bright on the nose of this sparkling wine with zero dosage. The creamy palate offers lemon, orange peel and subtle notes of toasted bread and almond. It's vibrant, with a lasting lemony finish. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Noble Hill 2017 Blanc de Blancs Brut Nature Méthode Cap Classique Chardonnay (Simonsberg-Paarl).** Lemon and yeasty aromas open the nose of this refreshing wine. The palate features good acidity and fine bubbles lifting pronounced citrus flavors and hints of butter. It has a lemony finish. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Twee Jonge Gezellen 2019 Krone Rosé Cuvée Brut Sparkling Blend (Western Cape).** Orange zest, watermelon, blueberry and a fine touch of toastiness shape the nose. It's fruit-forward and well balanced with mouthwatering acidity backing red berry flavors and toast. A fine mousse leads to a lingering blueberry finish. Indigo Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**89 Constantia Uitsig 2017 Méthode Cap Classique Chardonnay (Constantia).** The austere nose exhibits subtle aromas of toast that repeat on the palate followed by lime. It has weight, a creamy texture and elegant bubbles providing a lingering finish. Still Point Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**89 Genevieve MCC 2016 Brut Blanc de Blancs Méthode Cap Classique Chardonnay (Cape South Coast).** This wine is made with 100% Chardonnay grapes and sees extended time on lees. The result is a rich palate that offers lime and apple blended with subtle notes of yeast and fine bubbles. Still Point Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**89 Graham Beck 2017 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Robertson).** This wine offers ripe apple and lime aromas. Fine bubbles and delicate acidity support sweet notes of citrus fruit, apples and peach on a creamy palate. Maritime Wine Trading Collective. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**88 Backsberg 2019 Kosher Brut Méthode Cap Classique Sustainably Farmed Champagne Blend (Coastal Region).** A nose of ripe apple, pear and melon repeats on the palate alongside medium acidity and foamy bubbles. It has a fresh, short finish. Kosher. Marquee Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88 Lubanzi NV Rosé Bubbles Cinsault (Swartland).** Bright strawberry and cherry with a touch of herbs shape the nose. Light-bodied, this wine made of Cinsault grapes offers berries and red apple. It has good acidity and a short crisp finish. Cape Venture Wine Co. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15

**88 Simonsig 2019 Kaapse Vonkel Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Western Cape).** Bright notes of cherry and stone fruit are bright on the aromatic nose. The palate offers berries and peach alongside foamy bubbles and good acidity. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87 Kloovenburg NV Brut Rosé Grenache (Swartland).** A nose of cherry and peach shows in the glass of this light sparkling wine made of Grenache. Cranberry and yeasty flavors are concentrated on the palate. This dry rosé with playful bubbles is ideal to drink now. Baobab Wines Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**86 Boschendal NV Brut Rosé Cap Classique Sparkling Blend (Western Cape).** This blend of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinotage displays subtle lime, peach and yeasty aromas. It's light in weight, with red apple and citrus fruit fading away in a short finish. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**93 Warwick 2019 The Blue Lady Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** Peppercorn aromas are bright on the spicy nose while dark cherry, plum and vanilla add complexity to the bouquet. It's full-bodied, with vibrant acidity and firm tannins backing layers of plum, cherry and blackberry. Dried herbs and well-integrated oak flavors complement the palate. It's well balanced and finishes with oak spice. Let this red breathe for a few minutes before drinking. Elektra Wines LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Boekenhoutskloof 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** For full review see page 10. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$69

**92 Boekenhoutskloof 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Franschhoek).** This is a well-structured spicy wine with fresh acidity and lots of fruit. It opens with aromas of meaty red fruit, green bell pepper and peppercorn. Chalky tannins support similar notes of spices and herbs on the palate. A core of plum and blackberry adds to its complexity. It finishes with sweet notes of fruit and tobacco. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$69

**92 Kanonkop 2016 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch).** Bright cherry aromas blend with hints of cinnamon. Focused acidity and mineral texture provide support to a concentrated palate. Rich flavors of cherry, bell pepper and hints of oak spice blend on this flavorful wine that has a delicious finish. Drink now—2028. Cape Classics. **Cellar Selection.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Stony Brook 2017 Ghost Gum Cabernet Sauvignon (Franschhoek).** A captivating nose delivers aromas of bell pepper, ripe cherry, dates and chocolate. Light notes of eucalyptus add freshness to the bouquet. Ripe tannins hold plenty of cherry and raspberry flavors accented by chocolate. It's medium in weight, with precise acidity making the wine very enjoyable. Mentholated notes are persistent on the finish. RSF Wine. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Friesland 2018 M - Klas Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** This wine offers a blend of ripe plum and smoke on the nose. The palate is full-bodied with gripping tannins and enough acidity to lift blackberry, plum and blueberry flavors. Tobacco and hints of peppercorn add to its complexity. Terroir Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$59

**90 Keermont 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** Aromas of chocolate and peppercorn mix on the attractive nose. This is a well-structured, full-bodied red with evident oak influence almost masking the fruit. It has fine-grained tannins supporting earthy flavors of plum, fig and cherry. Coffee notes show in the aftertaste. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$58

**89 David Finlayson 2019 GS Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** A nose of vanilla and smoke opens this wine while light notes of black olive are displayed in the background. The palate holds mild flavors of black fruit and tobacco and is marked by oak spice and an herbaceous character. It shows notes of grass on the medium finish. This red is medium-bodied and has good acidity and moderate tannins. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Noble Hill 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Simonsberg-Paarl).** This is a ripe red that displays fig, prune and light notes of black olive. Its tannins are soft, and it preserves good acidity, lifting the palate. Prune and earthy cherry blend with notes of chocolate. Drink now. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Simonsig 2018 Labyrinth Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** The delicate nose shows black olive and berries with a touch of toasted oak. On the savory palate, notes of black olive, green bell pepper and hints of black fruit are supported by soft tannins. It's medium-bodied, with good acidity carrying all the flavors through the grassy finish. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$23

**89 Stellenbosch Vineyards 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** This is a medium-bodied red with a spicy nose. Notes of aniseed, smoke and peppercorn emerge from the glass. The palate is round, with ripe black fruit and grass fla-

vors that extend into the medium finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$20

**88 Braai 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape).** This wine has a mildly aromatic nose with hints of grass. It's full-bodied, showing ripe red fruit, green bell pepper and grass flavors. Good acidity and medium tannins frame the palate, which finishes with notes of smoke. As the label suggests, this Cabernet will pair well with Braai and equally well with American BBQ. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Glenelly 2019 Glass Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Stellenbosch).** Sweet notes of plum jam are accented by a dash of black pepper on the nose. Black fruit, vanilla and light notes of herbs are backed by grainy tannins. This is a medium-weight Cabernet with a ripe character and medium finish. Cape Classics. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**85 Fleur Du Cap 2020 Essence du Cap Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape).** A tight nose offers subtle aromas of berries. The palate is medium in weight and has drying tannins. Mild berry and grilled bell pepper flavors lead to a short and slightly warm finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**83 Overhex 2020 Balance Cabernet Sauvignon (Western Cape).** The nose of this everyday wine exhibits stewed fruit aromas. The same notes repeat on the palate, showing stewed berry flavors alongside sharp acidity and thin tannins. It's light-bodied and has a short finish. Meridian Prime Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## PINOT NOIR

**91 Hamilton Russell 2021 Tesselaarsdal Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge).** With grapes from the cool-climate Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge, this wine is well structured and has depth. The nose and palate display lively notes of cherry and cranberry. Vigorous acidity and smooth tannins make for an elegant mouthfeel. It's a very enjoyable Pinot Noir that finishes with a dash of herbs. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$57

**90 Hamilton Russell 2021 Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley).** Light herbaceous notes complement the cherry aromas of this delicate red. Fine tannins and moderate acidity provide a smooth mouthfeel. Well-balanced flavors of chocolate, cherry and herbs show on the bright palate and linger in the medium finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$53

**90 The Valley 2020 Pinot Noir (Elgin).** Coming from a cool-climate region, this wine shows

a delicate nose of cherry, flint and hints of rose petals. It's fresh with mineral texture, framing tart cherries and dried herbs on the palate. It has vigorous acidity that freshens the spicy finish. Meridian Prime Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Thorne & Daughters 2021 Copper Pot Pinot Noir (Cape South Coast).** It's an aromatic and fruit-driven wine with plenty of spices. The nose exhibits licorice, cassis, raspberry and hints of cinnamon. This lightly wooded Pinot Noir has fine tannins and good acidity that carries ripe berry and tobacco flavors throughout the fruity finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**89 Hamilton Russell 2020 Tesselaarsdal Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde).** Subtle aromas of berries and smoke are light on the nose. Ripe medium tannins and gentle acidity frame savory flavors of meaty cherry and raspberry. It finishes with intense notes of tobacco. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## PINOTAGE

**90 Bellingham 2018 The Bernard Series Bush Vine Limited Release Pinotage (Coastal Region).** The captivating nose leads with varietal aromas of black currant, raspberry and cherry. This wine is full-bodied and has fine-grained tannins and moderate acidity. Layers of ripe red fruit contrast with herbaceous and tobacco notes, lengthening the finish. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89 Fleur Du Cap 2018 Essence du Cap Pinotage (Western Cape).** This is a spicy medium-bodied red. Aromas of cumin and strawberry reveal in the glass. The palate shows strawberry accented by paprika and white pepper. It's an everyday wine with good acidity, slightly green tannins and a long finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 Overhex 2019 Survivor Pinotage (Swartland).** The nose reveals plenty of cherry and grenadine aromas with a touch of herbs. Nice acidity and moderate tannins hold fresh fruit and grass flavors. It has a medium finish with subtle berry notes. Meridian Prime Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Backsberg 2019 Sustainably Farmed Pinotage (Coastal Region).** This is an easy-drinking red with bright aromas of berry. Paprika and red fruit flavors are present on the earthy palate and continue through the medium finish. Hints of coffee show in the aftertaste. Marquee Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**88 Fairvalley 2020 Pinotage (Western Cape).** This wine displays cherry, plum and hints

of oak spice. Juicy ripe cherry, plum and blackberry flavors are framed by good acidity and thin tannins. It finishes with hints of coffee and is slightly warm. Banks Channel. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**88 Ken Forrester 2020 Petit Pinotage (Stellenbosch).** Ripe red and black fruit aromas mix with bell pepper in this fruit-driven wine. The light palate offers bell pepper, berry and smoky flavors. It has thin tannins and finishes with leafy notes in the trim finish. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**87 Backsberg 2020 Kosher Sustainably Farmed Pinotage (Coastal Region).** Notes of blackberry jam and plum fill the bouquet of this full-bodied wine. It features medium acidity, plum and tobacco supported by mildly astringent tannins. It has a short finish with fruit flavors. Marquee Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Painted Wolf 2020 The Den Pinotage (Coastal Region).** This has a nose of smoke and red fruit. On the lightweight palate, cherry and strawberry flavors are framed by moderate acidity and thin tannins. It's an easy-drinking wine to pair with burgers on a summer day. Southern Starz, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Warwick 2020 The First Lady Pinotage (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch).** Bright notes of red plum and cherry are honest on the nose of this enjoyable light-bodied red. The palate is fresh, displaying fruity notes and grass supported by crisp acidity. It finishes with notes of cherry. Elektra Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

## SYRAH

**92 Boekenhoutskloof 2019 Syrah (Swartland).** Cherry and spices with hints of flint make the bouquet of this fresh well-structured red. The palate shows light oak influence and vibrant acidity. Spicy flavors meet black olives over a core of red fruit. It has firm tannins and a long finish with notes of smoke adding to its complexity. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$69

**92 Porseleinberg 2019 Syrah (Swartland).** The nose offers meaty black fruit with hints of salt. Medium tannins and enough acidity provide structure to this well-balanced Syrah. The palate is savory and bright, showing berries and black olive that extend to the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$95

**92 Porseleinberg 2018 Syrah (Swartland).** Aromas of bell pepper and black olive open the nose of this lightly wooded red. On the palate, bay leaf and black fruit meet black olive and grilled bell pepper alongside good acidity. It has firm medium

tannins providing support and a smooth mouthfeel. The finish is long and enjoyable. Drink on its own or pair with a charcuterie board. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$95

**91 Boekenhoutskloof 2017 Syrah (Swartland).** A captivating nose of blackberry, plum, peppercorn and black olive mark the profile of this red. The spicy medium-bodied palate offers plum, black olive and black pepper backed by good acidity and grainy tannins. Delicious notes of thyme shine on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$69

**90 Kershaw 2017 Clonal Selection Syrah (Elgin).** The nose is aromatic, exhibiting notes of cumin, nutmeg, black pepper and berry. On the palate, it offers fresh cherry and sweet notes of oak spice. It has supple tannins and good acidity framing the flavors. The finish offers fruity notes. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

## RED BLENDS

**94 Morgenster 2014 Estate Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** This wine has a ripe character but preserves freshness. Berries, smoke, prune and subtle notes of walnut and chocolate form the nose. On the palate, it delivers layers of ripe plum, blackberry and blueberry that are well integrated with oak spice. Hints of dates and herbs add to its complexity while firm tannins and vigorous acidity support the flavors. A dash of cacao nibs shows on the finish. Drink now–2030. The Wine Trust. **Cellar Selection.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Glenelly 2015 Lady May Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** The nose presents blackberry, cranberry and light notes of licorice. This has a silky texture and vibrant acidity holding layers of cranberry, blackberry and cherry. A smart use of oak assured a good balance and gentle notes of vanilla and nutmeg on the finish. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**93 Kanonkop 2019 Paul Sauer Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch).** An aromatic nose introduces aromas of cherry, grenadine, raspberry and vanilla bean. This wine has a good amount of berries mixed with light notes of nutmeg. It's well structured, with high acidity and firm tannins suggesting good aging potential. The fresh texture balances barrel-driven flavors in the persistent finish. Drink now–2030. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**93 Morgenster 2014 Lourens River Valley Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** Ripe berry aromas and hints of black olive, black pepper and smoke are inviting. The full-bodied and spicy palate is firmly textured and offers black pep-



# BUYINGGUIDE

per, nutmeg, herbs and tobacco complemented by black and red fruit flavors. Light notes of cherry and chocolate show on the finish. It's well balanced, has vigorous acidity and will continue to age beautifully. Drink now–2028. The Wine Trust. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**92 Glenelly 2016 Estate Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** This is a blend of 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 15% Syrah and a drop of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that opens with smoky aromas and grilled bell pepper over a core of dense red and black fruit. It's bold, but lively acidity adds elegance. Flavors of herbs, green bell pepper, peppercorn and chocolate are supported by fine-grained tannins. Drink now–2029. Cape Classics. *Cellar Selection.* —J.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**91 Bellingham 2018 The Bernard Series Small Barrel SMV Rhône-style Red Blend (Paarl).** The blend of 61% Syrah, 37% Mourvèdre and 2% Viognier creates a fruit-driven and spicy nose. Licorice, aniseed, plum, cassis and cranberry aromas are bright leading to a fruity palate. Vivacious blackberry, raspberry and herbs mix with balancing oak flavors. Nice acidity and medium tannins assure a smooth and fresh texture. It has a pleasant finish with notes of cherry jam. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Boekenhoutskloof 2020 The Chocolate Block Red Blend (Swartland).** Light notes of star anise and licorice form an attractive nose. The smooth palate of this blend has a core of red berries accented by fresh herbs. It's medium-bodied and has a persistent finish that is slightly warm and fruity. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 Constantia Glen 2018 Three Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Constantia).** It's a medium-bodied and well-balanced blend that opens with bright red plum, raspberry and hints of oak spice. A plush and fruit-driven palate offers plenty of berry flavors alongside energetic acidity. Rosemary notes add freshness to the medium finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Noble Hill 2019 Estate Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Simonsberg-Paarl).** A nose of spices, tobacco and cherry aromas introduce a flavorful wine. The spiciness continues on the palate with notes of paprika and peppercorn followed by bay leaf and hints of dried fruit. Balancing acidity lifts the flavors and is enough to freshen the medium finish. Drink now. Canopy Wine Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Reyneke 2019 Capstone Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** Notes of dried herbs followed by plum emerge from the glass. A mix of fruit and herbs repeat on the medium-bodied palate, complemented by peppercorn and tobacco. Good acidity is enough to freshen the medium finish

of this blend of 75% Cabernet Franc and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Rustenberg 2019 John X Merriman Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** This is a medium-bodied blend of 43.5% Merlot and 41% Cabernet Sauvignon with a drop of Malbec and Petit Verdot. Aromatic herbs, plum and coffee open the nose. The palate is fresh, with lively acidity and medium tannins balancing intense oak flavors. Smoky notes followed by a core of meaty red and black fruit flavors extend to the medium finish. Indigo Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**90 Simonsig 2016 Frans Malan Cape Blend Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** Delicious aromas of chocolate-covered blueberry emerge from the glass. Chocolate notes repeat on the smooth palate and give character to this full-bodied red. Plush tannins back flavors of blackberry and light notes of peppercorn alongside gentle acidity. It finishes slightly warm. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$38

**90 Topiary 2018 Innocence Red Blend (Franschhoek).** Floral and plum aromas are inviting on the nose of this blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Syrah. It has chalky tannins and vigorous acidity lending grip and freshness to the palate. Notes of berries and licorice are intense and lead to a persistent finish with flavors of smoke. Cape Classics. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**90 Warwick 2019 Trilogy Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Simonsberg-Stellenbosch).** This wine has a good structure and will benefit from more time aging in the bottle. It opens with herbaceous notes followed by plum and tart cherry. It has vigorous acidity that balances out intense oak flavors. The palate shows concentrated fruit and gripping tannins. Hold and drink 2025–2030. Elektra Wines LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**89 Black Elephant 2019 Three Men In A Tub With A Rubber Duck Red Blend (Western Cape).** This is a medium-bodied red that has subtle berry notes mixed with hints of sage and salt. It's fresh, with lively acidity and chalky texture supporting subtle plum notes. It's a well-balanced wine to pair with pizza. Meridian Prime Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Constantia Glen 2018 Five Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Constantia).** A blend of Bordeaux varieties forms a nose of sweet notes of vanilla and black fruit. It's medium-bodied with gentle acidity and concentrated blackberry and plum flavors. Notes of vanilla and coffee bean are prominent on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Storm Point 2020 Rhône-style Red Blend (Swartland).** The aromatic nose of tart

cherry introduces a light palate loaded with red fruit flavors and subtle notes of spices and herbs. It's a fresh blend of 56% Cinsault, 29% Syrah and 15% Carignan that has a soft texture and good acidity. Drink slightly chilled. Vine Street Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Spice Route 2018 Chakalaka Red Blend (Swartland).** The nose offers oaky notes of vanilla. After aeration, it reveals sweet cherry. A full body supported by chalky tannins delivers intense barrel-driven flavors almost masking the fruit. It's big, with moderate acidity backing the palate. Indigo Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**87 Black Pearl 2020 Mischief Maker Rhône-style Red Blend (Coastal Region).** This blend of 60% Shiraz, 23% Grenache and 17% Mourvèdre is fruit-forward with green notes and berries on the nose. Flavors of cherry and grenadine invade the lightweight palate. Moderate acidity leads to a short finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Meerlust 2019 Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** Notes of cherry, licorice and a hint of aniseed form a delicate nose. Mildly astringent tannins and vigorous acidity support grilled bell pepper and ripe plum flavors. Hints of smoke emerge on the finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**86 Black Pearl 2018 The Mischief Maker Rhône-style Red Blend (Paarl).** Aromas of bay leaf and cumin with light notes of cherry show on the nose of this medium-bodied blend. It has a soft palate, offering spices, coffee and grass. Mild flavors of overripe fruit appear in the aftertaste. Southern Starz, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**86 Essay 2020 Rhône-style Red Blend (Coastal Region).** The concentrated nose offers cherry jam aromas. It's lightweight and has a fruit-focused character. The lean palate shows red fruit flavors and moderate acidity. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**86 Longridge 2018 Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** Cigar box and hints of walnut are on the nose of this blend of 86% Merlot and 14% Cabernet Franc. The palate displays plum, fig and dried cherry flavors alongside sharp acidity. It's medium-bodied with thin tannins. Baobab Wines Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**86 Warwick 2017 Professor Black Pitch Black Red Blend (Stellenbosch).** The spicy nose offers aromas of bay leaf, nutmeg, smoke and peppercorn. It's medium-bodied and has a gentle grip and light acidity. Spices with hints of herbs, mild

overripe fruit and grilled bell pepper flavors show toward the finish. Elektra Wines LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**85 Noble Hill 2018 Field Atlas Rhône-style Red Blend (Simonsberg-Paarl).** The wine is medium-bodied, and its ripe aroma displays spices and raspberry. Thin tannins and gentle acidity provide a light texture, holding peppercorn, tobacco and ripe red fruit flavors. The finish is warm and short. Canopy Wine Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## CALIFORNIA

### CHARDONNAY

**95 Cuvaison 2020 ATS Estate Grown Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Heady aromas, complex flavors, a great concentration of fruit and oak spice components lift this wine well above the pack. Everything from toasted baguettes to grated ginger, poached pears and marzipan play across the palate as a full body and lush texture carry them forward to a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**95 Mira 2017 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$95

**95 Morgan 2021 Highland Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**95 Newton 2020 Beckstoffer Carneros Lake Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Toasty, spicy flavors, full body and a creamy texture come together beautifully in this detailed and well-balanced wine. Attractive oak notes of toasted baguette slices and roasted almonds meet Bosc pear, vanilla and hints of lemon, while a silky, elegant texture leads to a lingering finish. Best—2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$120

**94 Caraccioli 2020 Escolle Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$40

**94 Fennell 2019 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** This bottling balances the Burgundian complexity of richness with minerality and acidity, offering aromas of lime peel, struck stone, macadamia nut and light buttercream. Lively citrus, chalk and ash elements give deep character to the palate, which evolves into a buttery brioche finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Castello di Amorosa 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$59

**93 Cuvaison 2020 Hedon Estate Grown Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This lavish,

deep and complex wine starts with a rich gold color, sends up generous scents of ginger, spiced pears, butter and toast, and delivers ripe, mouth-filling fruits and more oak spices on the palate. It is broad and lush, nicely viscous and offers a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60

**93 Handley 2019 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).** Even the aromas of this Chardonnay showcase depth and complexity with the palate confirming and enhancing that quality with the integration of a clean acidic backbone from which the fruits and florals can orbit. Find notes of jasmine, orange blossom, green apple and pear, just-ripe white peach, wet stone and very subtle baking spices. Enjoy the lingering finish—and then take another sip. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$38

**93 Kanpai 2019 Aki No Mori Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Complex aromas and flavors weave through a lively but expansive texture as this full-bodied wine presents toasted almonds, lemon zest, fresh sheets and a hint of vanilla. Layering and creaminess merge with good acidity for great balance, too. Best—2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**93 Mindego Ridge 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This subtle bottling benefits from a touch of patience, as the light citrus and stone aromas broaden into more nuanced expressions over time. The palate is bright yet restrained, with tightly woven apple, melon rind and citrus flavors, and the underlying earthy edge emerges as the wine warms. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$48

**93 Private Property 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Assiduous 2021 Regan Vineyards Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Every wine from this tiny producer deserves attention, as the vibrant bottlings are accompanied by symbolic illustrations and detailed creation stories on the labels. This bottling begins with apple, white flower, wet stone and Meyer lemon pith aromas. The palate is zippy with lemon-lime acidity, as apple flesh flavors ride a chalky texture. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$30

**92 Baxter 2020 Oppenlander Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino).** This Chardonnay combines both delicacy and vivacity, producing pure pleasure for the palate. Find nuanced aromas and flavors of wet stone minerality, flint, lime pith, lemon zest, just-ripe white nectarine, white grapefruit, jasmine blossom, lily, lilac and cut grass. The elevated acidity adds an excellent midpalate lift that leads toward the lingering finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$42

**92 Beringer 2020 Private Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Vivid apple and subtle

toasted oak aromas lead to a rich palate of butter, baked apples, almonds and vanilla on a viscous, soothing texture and full body. This luxurious wine is balanced toward the soft, low-acid end of the spectrum. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$48

**92 Lorenzi Estate 2020 Dijon Clone 76 Block 4 Estate Reserve Chardonnay (Temecula Valley).** This is a Chardonnay made in that classically rich California style. Aromas of seared lemon, hazelnut pudding and dried stone fruit on the nose lead into a salty palate of toasted macadamia nut, roasted lemon and butterscotch flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.35% **Price:** \$55

**92 Newton 2020 Unfiltered Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This fresh-tasting, well-balanced, barrel-fermented wine supports juicy yellow-apple and Bosc-pear flavors with good, tangy acidity for a structure that should help it age gracefully. Best—2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92 Sequoia Grove 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$36

**92 Testarossa 2020 Lone Oak Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A pinch of citrus zest livens up the cherimoya, young coconut and toasty oak aromas on the complex nose of this bottling. There's a pleasantly granular texture to the palate, where lemony acidity and oaky spice lead into a coconut cream and vanilla finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$53

**92 Trinitas 2021 Stanly Ranch Vineyard Fidelis Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Bold butter and butterscotch flavors flood this full-bodied, richly textured wine from first sniff to the lingering, buttery finish. It feels mouth filling and soft and could be paired with equally buttery dishes. Allow time to remove the thick wax capsule before serving. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$100

**92 Wentworth 2021 Nash Mill Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$78

**91 Alfaro Family 2021 Lindsay Paige Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Toasted nut, lemon glaze and apple-flesh aromas make for a cohesive nose on this bottling. The palate is viscous in texture, offering sandalwood, blanched almond and baked lemon flavors, with a toasty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

**91 Alfaro Family 2021 Trout Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Very light in the glass, this bottling sports a very earthy tone throughout, starting with river stone, wild thyme and candied lemon-peel aromas. A bright acidity pairs well to the turned-earth flavors of the palate,

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where dried citrus and light herb elements align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**91 Beringer 2020 Luminus Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** Very fresh and well-balanced, this wine lifts up good crisp apple and ripe pear flavors with touch of spicy oak and good acidity. It tastes clean, refreshing and pure in its fruitiness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$39

**91 Cakebread 2020 Family Vineyards Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This full-bodied, robust wine offers golden apples, pineapples and a hint of butter on a big frame of acidity and firming oak influence. It feels tight and subdued, offers subtle oak spices and a hint of toast. Look for more complexity with time in the bottle. Best from 2024. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$82

**91 Hess Collection 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Loads of vanilla, butter and macadamia nut flavors give this full-bodied wine a mouth-filling, almost-sweet effect. Layers of baked apple and pear tart glide on rather soft acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$25

**91 Old Soul 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Lodi).** For full review see page 20. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**91 Optio 2020 Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Rich and nutty notes of dried apple and butterscotch are enlivened by fresh lemongrass and lemon peel on the nose of this bottling. There's a stony grip to the sip, which clings to the broader core flavors of melon, white flower and pear flesh. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$42

**91 Precision Wine 2020 Fly By Chardonnay (North Coast).** For full review see page 20. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Precision Wine 2020 Navigator Chardonnay (California).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Rombauer 2021 Buchli Station Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Butter, lemon, vanilla and juicy apple flavors all stand out vividly in this full-bodied and richly textured wine that spent eight months aging in French oak, 40% new. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**91 Tassajara 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey).** For full review see page 16. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Trinitas 2021 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** Good, underlying crisp-apple acidity give a refreshing quality to this tasty, buttery wine as it balances tanginess with good, ripe golden apple and

Bartlett pear flavors. Will pair well with all sorts of salads, seafood and entrees. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48

**91 Wood Family Vineyards 2021 Chardonnay (Livermore Valley).** Texturally intriguing with a soft, rounded mouthfeel that is counterbalanced by a slight phenolic grip, this is a fuller expression of Chardonnay that offers beautifully ripe aromas and flavors of citrus blossom, chamomile flowers and baby's breath; followed by ripe Meyer lemon, yellow peach, nectarine, pineapple and banana and just a hint of vanilla and nutmeg. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$32

**90 Alfaro Family 2021 Mary Katherine Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's an earthy tone to this entire bottling, starting with crushed rock and dust on the nose, which pair with a citrus pith core. The palate is firm in structure, offering fresh citrus oil, more turned earth and a hint of nuttiness on the end. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

**90 Cline 2021 Chardonnay (North Coast).** For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Frelander 2021 District One Chardonnay (California).** This fuller-bodied Chardonnay shows ripe fruit aromas of green apple, green melon, peach, nectarine and mango with complementary tones of baby's breath, bread dough, vanilla and cream and blanched almond. The mouthfeel is smooth, rounded, but a lively acidity provides a central line of crispness and refreshing quality throughout. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**90 Long Meadow Ranch 2018 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).** A refreshing expression of Chardonnay with a youthful vivacity from start to finish. Florals lead, with notes of jasmine blossom and honeysuckle, followed by bright, juicy fruits of lemon, lime, white grapefruit and white nectarine. A hint of flint that just touches the backpalate adds a notable complexity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Michael David 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90 Sterling 2021 Vintner's Collection Chardonnay (California).** A well-rounded Chardonnay with a great combination of fruit and florals that elevates the overall drinking experience. Enjoy notes of green apple, lemon, lime, just-ripe apricot and mango and a hint of baby's breath. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$12

**89 Bogle 2020 Phantom Chardonnay (Clarksburg).** This is a fun and well-balanced Chardonnay with a plethora of aromas and flavors to share: ripe Meyer lemon, yellow apple, peach and nectarine, apricot, pineapple and banana. Fruits are

followed by cream, butter and a kind of desert-sand earthiness. The excellent integration of ML and oak tones help uplift the riper fruit elements and assist in the lingering finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Cannonball 2021 Chardonnay (California).** This Chardonnay shows great integration of flavors and textures, including a very light and pleasant phenolic grip. Find notes of ripe green apple, pear, lemon, lime, chamomile, vanilla, almond skin and sawdust. The finish is a solid medium in length. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Canyon Oaks 2021 Chardonnay (California).** Fruits and florals meet savory in this bang-for-the-buck, appetizing Chardonnay. Find notes of just-ripe yellow peach and nectarine, jasmine and cherry blossom, biscuit and pastry cream, sprinkled with fennel, cardamom and nutmeg. Perfect for a casual, Parmesan-topped pasta night at home. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

**89 Domenico 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Toasted nut and rich custard aromas are dusted in clove on the bold nose of this bottling. The palate is broad with flavors of lychee and lemon pith, as a thicker, soft structure picks up baking spice toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**89 Grady Family Vineyards 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** Bridging the gap between linear and rounded expressions of Chardonnay, this wine offers a slightly creamy texture that maintains a crisp line of acidity through and through. Find notes of lemon, lime, green apple and pear, wet stone, river water, dewy grass. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 La Crema 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Candied lemon, buttered apple and blanched-almond aromas show on the easy nose of this bottling. The palate is rich with lemon glaze and soft apple flavors, with caramel and beeswax elements that create a bolder finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Maggio 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Lodi).** Overall, a well-balanced, medium-bodied Chardonnay with notes of ripe yellow apple, peach, nectarine and apricot, buttered toast, vanilla and nutmeg spice. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Oak Farm 2021 Chardonnay (Lodi).** This is a very light, linear but well-balanced Chardonnay—and a fun, easy sipper at that. Find aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, chamomile, cut grass and wet stone. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20



**89 Trefethen 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$40

**89 Ziata 2019 Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This full-bodied, almost-sweet wine offers toasted almond, butter and poached-pear flavors on a rich texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55

**88 Bishop Pine 2021 Chardonnay (California).** A fuller, riper expression of Chardonnay with rich notes of yellow peach and nectarine, apricot, mango, nutmeg, cardamom and toasted wood alongside a moderate acidity and a soft, plushy body. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$12

**88 Cooper-Garrod 2021 Gravel Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A golden hue in the glass, this bottling from a dry-farmed vineyard overlooking Silicon Valley offers butterscotch and lemon aromas on the rich nose. Hazelnut and seared-lemon flavors show on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$43

**88 Europa Village 2020 C'est La Vie Barrel Select Chardonnay (Temecula Valley).** Soft and rounded melon, lime pith and guava aromas are refreshing on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit viscous and soft in texture, offering coconut, plumeria and more guava flavors, with a creamy finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**88 Frey 2021 Organic Chardonnay (California).** An interesting mix of fruit and floral are woven into this Chardonnay. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, green apple, chamomile and baby's breath, honey suckle, just-ripe white peach and nectarine, orange zest, beeswax and just a hint of toast and nutmeg. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$19

**88 Integrity 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** The nose on this bottling is heavily weighted with baked apple, lemon rind and light herb aromas. The texture is soft on the broad palate, where poached pear and apple flavors show. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$32

**88 J. McClelland 2020 Chardonnay (Oak Knoll District).** A full body and mouth-filling texture carry ripe golden apple and honeydew melon flavors in this broad wine that feels soft in acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Rickshaw 2021 Chardonnay (California).** Well balanced and quaffable, this is a drink-me-now Chardonnay with notes of lemon, lime, yellow delicious apple, just-ripe yellow peach and

nectarine, apricot, whipped meringue, chamomile flowers and a hint of toasted bread. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 True Myth 2021 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Crisp apple and lime-pith aromas are focused on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft and fruity, with honeydew and ripe-apple flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88 World's End 2018 Chardonnay (Napa Valley).** This high-powered, impactful wine offers tangy green apples and rich buttery tones along with golden apple and vanilla flavors. It tastes bold, big and a bit hot on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$80

**87 Bianchi 2021 Signature Selection Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** Meyer lemon peel and lemon curd aromas meet with an earthy touch on the nose of this bottling. The palate is both tart in a lemon-peel flavor, yet fatter in texture, with broad pear elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**87 Custard 2021 Chardonnay (California).** A fuller-bodied expression of Chardonnay with notable oak tones throughout. Find aromas and flavors of ripe green apple, pear, mango, pineapple, banana, baby's breath, vanilla and baking spice. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Erosion 2020 Unicorn Eyes Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley).** Mint and pine aromas lead to mostly crisp, green-apple flavors and a vein of minerality in this lean but appetizing wine. It has a good grip and tangy finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$29

**87 Hahn 2021 Chardonnay (California).** With the extreme ripeness of fruits along with a slightly elevated alcohol, this is a fuller-bodied expression of Chardonnay, and one that could pair just as easily with a burger as with a hearty white fish. Find notes of ripe yellow peach, nectarine, pineapple, a hint of banana, vanilla and nutmeg. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Twisted Cedar 2020 Native American Owned Chardonnay (Lodi).** The ripe nature of the fruits along with the oak give this wine a plush texture and an essence of sweetness on the palate. Find notes of ripe yellow peach and nectarine, mango skin, banana, vanilla, nutmeg and toast. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$13

**86 Kirkland Signature 2021 Chardonnay (California).** Over-ripe flavors of mango, pineapple and melon, spiced with cinnamon and nutmeg produce a round, soft palate. The minimal acidity makes the wine feel even fuller. The finish is short. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8/1.5 L

**86 Precision Wine 2021 Pyramid Scheme Chardonnay (California).** This Chardonnay leads with its secondary aromas of toasted wood, cream and baked bread. Fruit flavors subtly follow with notes of over-ripe yellow apple, yellow peach and apricot. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**85 Cycles Gladiator 2020 Chardonnay (California).** This is a fuller expression of Chardonnay with over-ripe fruit notes of yellow peach, apricot, mango, pineapple and banana. There's also a strong phenolic grip that adds a bit of bitterness throughout the palate. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**85 LangeTwins 2021 Sand Point Chardonnay (California).** Extremely ripe aromas and flavors of sour green apple, mango, pineapple and banana lead toward a warm finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$12

**85 Rodney Strong 2021 Chardonnay (California).** Find over-ripe fruits of white peach, red and yellow apple and candied banana alongside a baby's breath floral note. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

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## SAUVIGNON BLANC

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**92 Photograph 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** For full review see page 19. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**92 Silverado 2021 Miller Ranch Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$30

**92 Whitehall Lane 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This lively, layered and elegant wine shows a tempting mélange of herbs, light spices and tangy fruit flavors on a light to medium body. White pepper, white peaches and subtle celery and parsley notes make it virtually a salad in a glass. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$26

**91 The Paring 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** This super-fresh twist-topped wine shows a slight fizz in the glass, then delivers inviting aromas of grass, guava, passionfruit and wet stone on the nose. The palate offers the same combination, with wet cement providing a mineral touch, as guava peel adds the tropical side. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Whitehall Lane 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Rutherford).** For full review see page 16. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**90 Cline 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** For full review see page 21. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

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**90 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2021 Aveta Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Vivid herb and citrus aromas and a tangy, lively mouthfeel make this medium-bodied wine mouth watering. Snap peas, celery, lemon and jicama flavors show a strong presence. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**90 Two Angels 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

**89 Estancia 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$13

**89 Franciscan 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$13

**89 Precision Wine 2021 Navigator Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** This well-balanced, medium-bodied wine blends light herbal nuances with good fruity flavors of crisp apples and lemons. It tastes clean and refreshing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Anthem Winery 2021 Riverbound Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville).** A rich texture wraps up generous honeydew melon and cucumber flavors as this full-bodied and barrel-fermented wine takes a fuller, riper style than many. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

**88 Black Box 2021 Tart & Tangy Sauvignon Blanc (California).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L

**88 Dirty Minded 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A simple, easy-sipping Sauvignon Blanc with very subtle aromas and flavors. Notes of rose water, orange blossom, water lily, green grape, lime leaf and zest. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88 Est Cru 2021 Clothesline Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** This varietal Sauvignon Blanc is simple but vivacious, showcasing textbook aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, white peach and nectarine, chamomile flower, orange blossom, wet stone and moss. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Hess Select 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A bright expression of Sauvignon Blanc, reminiscent of the New Zealand style. Find aromas and flavors of passionfruit, pink grapefruit, just-ripe pineapple, capsicum and green grass. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Robert Mondavi Private Selection 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Classic Sauvignon Blanc aromas and flavors of cut grass, passionfruit, pineapple, lychee, capsicum, chamomile flowers and lime zest. Medium-bodied with an over-lying soft

texture, the elevated acidity ensures the crispness one expects from the variety. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

**88 Sterling 2021 Vintner's Collection Sauvignon Blanc (California).** A simple, well-rounded, people-pleasing Sauvignon Blanc with light aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, green apple and cherry blossom. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$12

**87 Frey 2021 Biodynamic Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino).** A balanced, enjoyable, if subtle expression of Sauvignon Blanc with notes of white peach and nectarine, blanched almond, hint biscuit and just a hint of cream. A slight effervescence adds just a touch of texture. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$25

**87 RouteStock 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley).** Fruity, ripe tasting and full bodied, this smooth-textured wine offers honeydew melon and peach syrup flavors on a rather soft, mouth-coating texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$20

**87 Sean Minor 2021 California Series Sauvignon Blanc (California).** Light bodied, subtle and simple, find notes of green apple, lemon skin, lime leaf, white peach fuzz, match-stick flint, baby's breath and white mushroom. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Six Sigma Ranch 2021 Asbill Valley Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County).** A balanced and quaffable Sauvignon Blanc that offers aromas and flavors of green apple, lemon, lime chamomile and just a hint of salinity to round it out. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

## RIESLING

**95 Tatomer 2020 Kick-on Ranch Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** Crisp, clean and layered aromas of citrus blossom, tangerine zest and wet chalkboard pull the nose into this single-vineyard expression. There's a fascinating textural grip to the palate, which is zesty with citrus and edged by wet rock and soil flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**93 Tatomer 2020 Vandenberg Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** This should be the mandatory benchmark tasting for relatively affordable yet hand-crafted California Riesling. Aromas of wet gravel and dried lemon peel lead into a texturally deft palate that elevates both the mineral and citrus qualities, popping with flavors of tangerine, lemon and crushed stone. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$28

**90 Integrity 2020 Riesling (Arroyo Seco).** A very light hue in the glass, this bottling offers precise aromas of yellow grapefruit and petrol on the delicate nose. Riper pear-flesh flavors are

wrapped in a chiseled structure on the palate. Drink now—2032. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.4% **Price:** \$24

**90 Tatomer 2020 Clone 239 Kick-on Ranch Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** Crisp Gala apple aromas meet with a petrol-like earthiness on the nose of this clonal expression. Citrus zest and damp-earth flavors ride a steady acidity on the palate, which is very focused and relatively innocuous in character. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$50

**88 Integrity 2021 Riesling (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Crisp Meyer lemon peel and wet-stone aromas meet with richer melon scents on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a riper side, with sweet apple flavors that ride a persistent sizzle of acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.2% **Price:** \$26

**88 V. Sattui 2021 Off-Dry Riesling (North Coast).** A smooth, glycerin mouthfeel gives way to flavors of lime juice and zest, mango and just-ripe pineapple, complemented by a sea-water salinity, wet stone minerality and floral components of apple and orange blossom and agave nectar. An overall juicy, expression that maintains a lightness and brightness throughout. —S.B.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$32

## VIIGNIER

**91 Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Viognier (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This is a very racy and tight expression of Viognier, starting with aromas of lemon rind and young coconut flesh on the nose. A chalky texture frames the palate, where restrained tropical fruit flavors emerge. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Hungry Hawk 2021 Viognier (San Diego County).** A brisk style of Viognier can thrive in San Diego County, as this bottling reveals with fresh aromas of lime and white flower. A chalky texture surrounds the palate, where baked apple, pear and apricot flavors get hit with a dusting of sea salt. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.75% **Price:** \$38

**90 Langtry 2021 Viognier (Lake County).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**88 McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Viognier (River Junction).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Peltzer Family 2021 Viognier (California).** Elegant layers of lime, Tuscan melon and crisp pear show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more prominent in peachy flavors, with a soft texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$38

## PINOT GRIGIO

**91** **Castello di Amorosa 2021 Pinot Grigio (North Coast).** A vivacious and fun, light-bodied white wine with notes of green apple and pear, apple and jasmine blossom, white peaches, mandarin orange zest, fresh cut grass, and a river-rock minerality. This is simplicity at its best. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Assiduous 2021 Pinot Gris (Santa Cruz County).** This is a very subtle bottling, offering dried apple and tangerine-peel aromas on the nose. Citrus peel and acacia flower flavors reflect a tonic-like element on the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Black Box 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** For full review see page 22. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L

**88** **Estancia 2021 Pinot Grigio (California).** For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Sterling 2021 Vintner's Collection Pinot Grigio (California).** Simple, fruity, juicy and fun, find notes of white lilies, lilacs, and cherry blossom; green apple and pear and a hint of banana. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**88** **Twisted Cedar 2021 Native American Owned Pinot Grigio (California).** A simple, well-balanced and easy-sipping white with notes of lemon, lime, green apple, chamomile flowers, dewy grass and green melon. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**87** **Integrity 2021 Pinot Grigio (Monterey).** Broad aromas of apple, pear and honeysuckle are cut by a steely minerality on the nose of this bottling. Honeydew and pear flavors meet with a bitter edge on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$24

**86** **Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Pinot Grigio (California).** A simple and straight-forward white wine with light-intensity notes of lemon, lime and white blossom. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Long Meadow Ranch 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley).** Find over-ripe aromas of apple juice, yellow peach and mango, alongside notes of blanched almond, warm grass and vanilla cake. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

## WHITE BLENDS

**92** **Mira 2021 Estate White Blend (Yountville).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75

**92** **ONX 2021 L'Autre Femme Rhône-style White Blend (Templeton Gap District).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**91** **Monochrome 2021 Altered Images White Blend (California).** Rounded aromas of golden apple and pear meet with a touch of mango on the nose of this Santa Barbara County blend, 79% Chenin Blanc from Jurassic Park and 21% Chardonnay from Bien Nacido. There's a power to the palate, where pear and apple-flesh flavors are cut by lime peel and wet-rock elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Monochrome 2021 Sense of Out of Place White Blend (California).** Only the bold would take two distinct grapes from two historic vineyards, Bien Nacido and Enz, and blend them into this 86% Chardonnay and 14% Sauvignon Blanc cuvée. The result is a nose redolent in jasmine, coconut flake and ripe apple, while the palate offers chamomile, green apple and a hint of herb. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Amulet 2021 White Blend (Napa Valley).** This smooth, rounded and lush wine feels mouth filling and tastes nicely ripe. Good, green apple notes back up attractive notes of cantaloupe and pineapple as fermentation in a concrete egg seems to have brought out a friendly expression overall. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$85

**88** **Theopolis 2021 Theo-Patra's Cuvée Blanc White Blend (California).** An overall well-balanced white with notes of ripe yellow peach, nectarine and Bartlett pear; almond blossom, pastry and hazelnut; toast and a touch of salted caramel. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Est Cru 2021 Clothesline White Blend (Mendocino County).** A balanced, medium-bodied wine with moderate acidity. Find notes of blanched almond, yellow apple, water lilies and orange rind. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**95** **Ernest 2020 Edaphos Alder Springs Vineyard Petite Arvine (Mendocino County).** Petite Arvine, a white grape originating from the Swiss region of Valais, is a rarity in the US. What a discovery it is—richly hued with a deep golden yellow color and an intensity of aromas and flavors to match: lemon, lime, ripe yellow apple and peach,

dewy grass, chamomile, nasturtium leaf and nectar. There's a subtle blanched-almond nuttiness in the backpalate. Lovely now on its own, versatile enough to pair with a variety of dishes, but this is an example of a white wine that can also age with elegance and grace. **Editors' Choice.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**92** **Handley 2021 Estate Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley).** Textbook Gewürztraminer aromas waft immediately out of the glass—rose water, rose petals, lychee, white grapes, honeysuckle, and agave nectar. The palate doesn't disappoint and includes a solid dose of acidity that breaks through those perfume notes, adding freshness, lightness and brightness. Sip on its own or pair with an aromatically spice-filled dish such as a classic curry. **Hidden Gem.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$38

**92** **Monochrome 2021 Barrel Distortion Albariño (California).** The nose of this bottle combines the variety's mineral-driven earthiness with its inviting fruit tones, showing focused aromas of mango, honey and lily blossom. The palate is tense in texture and driven by a lemon-peel acidity that cuts into flavors of apple gummies and candied pear. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$45

**92** **Monochrome 2021 North by Northwest Gewürztraminer (California).** The floral character of Gewürztraminer is on full display on the nose of this bottling, with honeysuckle and apple blossom but also citrusy tones of yuzu and tangerine. The palate is tight in texture but loaded in flavors of mango sorbet, papaya and orange oil. A perfect sushi or ceviche pairing. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$45

**92** **Monochrome 2021 Center Tone ONX Estate Vineyard Grenache Gris (California).** This rare grape makes for a compelling sip in this bottling, starting with restrained tropical-fruit aromas of kiwi sorbet and mango, as stone adds a rocky edge on the nose. The palate is even more stony in flavor at first, then opens toward gardenia and jasmine tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**92** **Tatomer 2020 Meeresboden Grüner Veltliner (Santa Barbara County).** There's a steely line of minerality that slices through the nose of this bottling, which simultaneously shows warmer qualities of kiwi, apple flesh and dried grass. The palate is very grippy in texture, as subtle undercurrents of pear skin, lime peel and orange sorbet lead into a delicately nutty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$28

**91** **Evidence 2021 Chenin Blanc (El Dorado).** Lovers of Chenin will find joy in this pure varietal expression. Find well-integrated aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, kiwi, beeswax, lanolin and mandarin orange zest. —S.B.  
**abv:** 11.2% **Price:** \$40



**89 Est Cru 2021 Clothesline Roussanne (Lodi).** A simple, well balanced and easy sipper of a white wine. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, green apple, just-ripe white peach, chamomile blossom, flint, wet stone, crusty, toasty bread and a hint of almond cream. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Tatomer 2020 Grüner Veltliner (Santa Barbara County).** There's a distinctive earthiness that shows across the entire experience of this bottling. On the nose, the damp soil element meets with underripe passionfruit and fresh lime peel. On the palate, it's more of a rocky essence to the apple flesh and citrus flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$22

**88 Castello di Amorosa 2021 Vermentino (Temecula Valley).** Very floral aromas of honey-suckle and lily meet with a hint of coconut on the nose of this bottling. The palate is softer in texture, showing gardenia, white rose and tuberose flavors, as a splash of Meyer lemon adds zip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

**88 Cougar 2020 Vermentino (Temecula Valley).** Aromas of chalk, singed lime and white melon show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is subdued in style, showing lychee and light stone flavors, with a slightly bitter tone to the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$26

**88 Ultimate Vineyards 2021 Muscat Canelli (Temecula Valley).** Zesty aromas of orange blossom and pomelo peel show on the nose of this bottling, which features a light fizz in the glass. The palate is refreshingly clean while somewhat sweet, with honeyed pear flavors riding atop a soft texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$32

**87 Cougar 2020 Falanghina (Temecula Valley).** Apple peel and dried-apricot aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Dried apple and tangy citrus flavors show on the somewhat viscous palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$28

**87 Kleinlerer 2021 Skin Contact Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg).** This varietal Chenin spent 25 days on its skins, so be prepared for some serious tannic grip on this white wine. Underlying that texture are flavors of sour green apple, pineapple, mango, meringue and pastry cream. Acid balance does allow for some brightness; those tannins add an undeniable bitterness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**87 Mira 2021 Franc Blanc Cabernet Franc (Yountville).** A pinkish tinge in the color of this medium-bodied white wine hints at the red grapes from which it is made. Light honeydew melon and cucumber flavors accompany a rather soft texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

## SPARKLING WINES

**92 Paula Kornell NV Brut Méthode Champenoise Sparkling Blend (California).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**91 Scotto Family Cellars NV Brut Sparkling Blend (California).** For full review see page 16. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**90 Chandon NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (California).** This classic blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Meunier immediately captures you with floral aromas of rose petal, baby's breath and jasmine blossom. Bright citrus and stone fruits and just a hint of strawberry follow and envelop you further. A fine-structured mousse creates an engaging textural experience. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**90 Long Meadow Ranch 2017 Blanc de Noirs Estate Grown Sparkling Blend (Anderson Valley).** This sparkling shows great layering and integration of aromas and flavors, with primary fruits and florals delicately interwoven with those from secondary fermentation. Enjoy notes of green and yellow apple, Bartlett pear, just-ripe white nectarine, orange blossom, cream and bread dough. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$85

**88 Barefoot Bubbly NV Moscato Spumante Champagne Sparkling Blend (California).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Scotto Family Cellars NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (California).** When you want to sip on bubbles just for the fun of it, this is your perfect pairing. Find notes of lemon, lime, baby's breath, white strawberries, tart raspberries, candied watermelon and rose petal. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**88 Sterling NV Vintner's Collection Brut Sparkling Blend (California).** A simple sparkler with just a touch of sweetness. Find notes of cherry and jasmine blossom, lemon, lime, kiwi, just-ripe white peach and nectarine, apricot and cut grass. With a big-bubbled mousse structure, be sure to serve in a flute to preserve the sparkle most efficiently. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**84 Hogwash NV Rosé Sparkling Blend (California).** On the nose, find notes of fresh strawberry, watermelon, red cherry, cherry blossom, vanilla flower and a hint of herbaceousness. The fizzy palate brings a liveliness to the texture but softens the vivaciousness of the fruits. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$5/250 ml

## ROSÉS

**90 Cuvaison 2021 Estate Grown Pinot Noir Rosé (Napa-Carneros).** This full-bodied wine offers rose petal and black-plum flavors on a rich, mouth-filling texture. A smoky, earthy undercurrent gives a savory slant, emphasizing a bold expression on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**89 Six Sigma Ranch 2021 Marianne's Rosé (Lake County).** A deep salmon color in the glass, this fully dry rosé imparts aromas and flavors of wild strawberries, red cherries, vanilla, blood orange zest, ripe watermelon—all overlaying a fresh herbaceousness. There's a solid, linear acidity that keeps these notes uplifted throughout the tasting. Overall a well-balanced and quaffable rosé. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$28

**88 Est Cru 2021 Staring At The Sun Cabernet Franc Rosé (Clarksburg).** An overall well-balanced, simple and quaffable rosé with typical notes of lemon, white strawberry, watermelon, chamomile, cherry blossom, and pink and white rose petal. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Peltzer Family 2021 Rosé of Syrah (Temecula Valley).** A beautiful, slightly dark shade of pink leans toward fuchsia in the glass on this bottling, which begins with subtle aromas of dried strawberry, fruit punch and fleshy citrus. Delicate flavors of watermelon arise on the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$38

**87 Karine 2021 Art Series Laurie's Vineyard Vin Gris of Barbera (Madera County).** Made from 100% Barbera, this is a light-intensity rosé with subtle notes of white strawberry, grapefruit pith, yellow peach fuzz, chamomile flowers, cut grass and a river-water minerality. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**86 Precision Wine 2021 Navigator Rosé (Napa Valley).** This medium-bodied wine smells and tastes slightly sweet, due to its sunny, fruity, floral flavors that resemble Moscato. It tastes fresh and is easy to enjoy. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**85 Hogwash NV Rosé (California).** A straightforward rosé with simple notes of chamomile, white strawberry, just-ripe white nectarine and peach. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$5/250 ml

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**98 Chappellet 2019 Pritchard Hill Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$325

**97 Beringer 2019 Steinhauer Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** This quietly powerful wine grown at 1,900 feet elevation is deep, dark and delicious, offering concentrated black cherries, black currants and dark chocolate on a creamy texture of super-fine-grained tannins. Possibly the best of Beringer's 2019 Cabernet offerings, it shows a seamless blend of fruits, spices and cocoa that carries over to a lingering finish. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$150

**97 Corison 2019 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This snugly wrapped, agile, medium-bodied wine from old vines keeps a core of raspberries, violets and black currants under a veil of silky tannins. The wine's excellent acid balance, tension and sense of depth will unleash more complexity as the tannins resolve over time. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$225

**97 Daou 2020 Soul of a Lion Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** For full review see page 3.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$170

**97 Hertelendy 2018 Legend Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** The dusky, spicy, graphite and tobacco aromas in this powerful but polished wine grab the attention on first sniff, followed on the palate by delicious, deep-black fruits from figs to blackberries to black currants. The wine achieves great balance and elegance by countering concentration and structure with a creamy but supportive mouthfeel. Best from 2027–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$235

**97 Shafer 2018 Hillside Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$375

**96 Beringer 2019 Bancroft Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** This luxurious wine offers great concentration of black fruits and dark chocolate, surrounded by a plush, soft texture of melted tannins. Ripeness, richness and subtle oak spices come together beautifully, making the wine a pleasure to sip now while promising further development. Best from 2025–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$150

**96 Beringer 2019 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Tempting aromas of violets and black currants lead to delicious black fruit and oak-spice flavors wrapped in fine-grained tannins. This full-bodied yet elegant and nuanced wine has the structure and long track record to indicate it will continue to improve with time. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$170

**96 Clif Family 2019 Cima Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Handsome, intricate

oak spices top off this complex and layered wine beautifully, as subtle wood smoke, toast and nutmeg notes blend with gorgeous blueberries, blackberries and dark chocolate. Clif Family made it from certified organic grapes and aged it in all-new French barrels. A full body and well-integrated tannins give the great structure for further aging. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150

**96 Mira 2018 MBar Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$175

**96 Whitehall Lane 2019 Leonardini Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$85

**95 Anthem Winery 2019 Beckstoffer Las Piedras Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** This wine is big in flavor and full in body, warmly spiced with cinnamon and cedar notes over rich black cherries and cassis flavors. Aged in French barrels, 75% of which were new, the wine is drinkable now for its lush fruits and broad texture, but will be best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$150

**95 Baldacci 2019 Ruppert Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** This big but nicely polished wine packs black cherry, black olive, iron and graphite flavors on a full body backed by good, fine-grained tannins. It has that aromatic magic of the varietal in which oak spices and the natural grape flavors multiply each other's contributions. Noticeable sediment doesn't affect the wine's taste. Best—2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$150

**95 Beringer 2019 Borrow Pit Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Rich, ripe, voluptuous fruit and oak-spice flavors imbue this wine with complexity while its polished tannins create a super generous, velvety texture. Black fruits, dark chocolate and hints of graphite carry over to the lingering finish. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$150

**95 Black Stallion 2018 Transcendent Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$150

**95 Clif Family 2019 Cold Springs Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$150

**95 Ehlers Estate 2019 1886 Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$149

**95 Long Meadow Ranch 2018 E.J. Church Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).**

Impressively structured and handsomely spiced, this medium- to full-bodied wine exudes serious scents of toasted oak, graphite and pipe tobacco followed by nicely dry black currant and black-olive flavors wrapped in firm but fine-grained tannins. A bit austere to show its best stuff while still young, this exceptional wine should drink best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$150

**95 Mira 2017 Schweizer Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$250

**95 V. Sattui 2019 Preston Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$95

**94 Baldacci 2019 Black Label Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** For full review see page 5.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**94 Baldacci 2019 Stella Knight Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).** Bold in flavor and big in tannin, this full-bodied wine is also smooth around the edges and lures you in to enjoy its dark cherries, spiced plums, cedar and cinnamon notes. Tempting now, but best from 2025. Noticeable sediment doesn't affect the wine's taste. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**94 Clif Family 2019 Croquet Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** Enticing mint, cedar and tobacco aromas lead to complex, intricate wood smoke, dark chocolate, blackberry and black-currant flavors on a good structure of firm tannins. A tang of fruit acidity helps to balance out the rich fruits and spices in this wine made from certified organic grapes. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$135

**94 Conn Creek 2019 AVA Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Distinctive mint and clove aromas lead to potent, deep, black fruits, graphite and cocoa in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. Blueberries and black currants make a rich mix while hints of wood smoke and tobacco kick in extra complexity. Best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$130

**94 Daou 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$56

**94 Ehlers Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$77

**94 Evidence 2019 Bruadair Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** Silky but structured, this deep and powerful wine wears a polished

# BUYINGGUIDE

texture supporting abundant black cherry, dark plum, cassis and dark-chocolate flavors on substantial but rounded tannins. Spiced with 14% Malbec, the wine seems destined for more complexity and enjoyment with time; best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$105

## 94 Kenefick Ranch 2019 Chris's Cuvée Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).

This powerful, concentrated wine is also straightforward and no-nonsense in style, as deep and delicious black currant and blueberry flavors are firmly wrapped in fine-grained tannins, waiting for time to bring out further nuances. Hints of mint, cedar and cocoa suggest the complexity that will develop. Best from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

## 94 Mira 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville).

Rich blueberry and crème de cassis aromas lead to a moderately tannic palate impression and well-concentrated black fruit and dark-chocolate flavors. Notes of espresso and 90% cacao reinforce a dry, potent expression that will need time to mellow. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

## 94 Mirror 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).

Toasted oak notes of cloves, cinnamon and wood char stand out in this full-bodied, firmly tannic wine, while good black cherry and black-currant flavors build on the palate. The wine is rather tight but nicely concentrated and will mellow and gain complexity with time. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$110

## 94 Monvitis 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).

For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$105

## 94 Trinitas 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This wine gives a classic take on Napa Cabernet, aromatic in black peppers and black olives, concentrated in dark cherry and blueberry, with polished edges smoothing out good, fine-grained tannins. The savory touches help this wine stand out from other simply ripe wines. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$70

## 94 V. Sattui 2019 Morisoli Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$94

## 94 Whitehall Lane 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This wine offers a stunning combination of super-concentrated fruit, savory and spicy nuances and extra-fine-grained, supportive tannins that wrap it up in a warm texture. Black cherries, black olives, blueberries, cedar and mint all add to its flavor complexity. Best from 2025–2035. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50

## 94 Whitehall Lane 2019 Millenium MM Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).

For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$115

## 93 Aftermath 2019 Aftermath Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$85

## 93 Baldacci 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).

This bold, richly fruity wine bursts with blueberries, black cherries and cranberries for a concentrated, tangy fruit expression that is subtly accented with oak spices such as vanilla and cedar. A full body and moderate tannins give good texture. Noticeable sediment doesn't affect the wine's taste. Best—2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

## 93 Baldacci 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).

This powerful, firmly structured wine seems built for aging, as a strong wrap of tannins tightly pulls in the dark chocolate, cedar and espresso flavors. Ample black fruits at the center of the palate will develop complexity with time as the texture softens. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$150

## 93 Baldacci 2019 Brenda's Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).

Very ripe tasting, very full bodied and very oaky, this giant wine fills the mouth with dried-fruit flavors, dark chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla as an almost-sweet sensation carries the palate and lingering finish. Our sample showed some harmless sediment. Best—2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$200

## 93 Beckmen 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).

For full review see page 7.  
*Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$40

## 93 Cliff Family 2019 Kit's Killer Cab Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

This well-proportioned, well-balanced but also gutsy wine carries deep blackberry and black-cherry flavors and generous cocoa and wood smoke accents on a good frame of moderate tannins and slightly snappy acidity. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$75

## 93 Conn Creek 2019 AVA Series Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).

Deep blackberry and clove aromas lead to rich blackberries, blueberries and cedar on the palate of this full-bodied wine as masses of fine-grained tannins provide a grippy mouthfeel. The wine is bold, flavorful and built for further improvement with age. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$100

## 93 Elizabeth Spencer 2019 Proprietor Selected Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).

For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$85

## 93 J. Lohr 2019 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).

For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60

## 93 Kanpai 2019 Tsuchi No Koe Meadowbrook Farm Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

Nicely concentrated, dense and layered, this wine boasts firm tannins to support its lavish dark chocolate, blueberry and toasted oak flavors. It feels strong and a bit restrained, needing time for the structure to soften a bit and let more complexity show through. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

## 93 Kathryn Kennedy 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).

The region's forest-like qualities show on the nose of this bottling, where hints of sandalwood, cigar box, oregano and thyme add to the dried red-fruit aromas. The palate offers a dark blackberry jam core, with peppercorn and marjoram adding nuance. Drink now–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$295

## 93 Mira 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).

Lavish oak aromas of cinnamon, cloves, and cedar lead to well-saturated black fruit and smoky, cedary flavors in this full-bodied wine that is wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Aged in all-new French barrels. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$150

## 93 Rombauer 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$75

## 93 Ron McGinnis 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).

Ripe-tasting and round-textured, this soothing and generous wine fills the mouth with plump, juicy black cherries, blackberries and subtle oak spices, while a full body and soft tannins lead to a lingering finish. Best now–2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$100

## 93 Ron McGinnis 2016 AK Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).

Find rich, robust notes of blackberry, black cherry, black currant, black pepper, capsicum, fennel, vanilla, toasted wood and leather alongside a full palate of mouth-coating tannins that's well balanced by the acidic structure. Approachable now—open for 30–60 minutes for the best experience. This wine will become even better with age—best after 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$45

## 93 Roots Run Deep Winery 2020 Educated Guess Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).

For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

## 93 Royal Prince 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).

Deep-black fruits, generous oak spices and a velvety texture add up to a luscious, drinkable wine with plenty of heft on the palate and a lingering finish. The wine is laced with



fine-grained tannins that give it some grip without harshness. Best—2032. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

**93 Rutherford Ranch 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$70

**93 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2020 Artemis Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$110

**93 V. Sattui 2019 Mt. Veeder Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$105

**93 V. Sattui 2019 Rutherford Dust Up Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** This warm, rich and mouth-filling wine aged in 80% new oak offers plenty of ripe fruit flavors, generous but not obvious oak shadings and a supple texture of soft tannins over a full body. Best now—2030. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$140

**93 Vinum Cellars 2018 Longhorn Ridge Vineyard Hoffman Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This luxurious, deep and dark wine offers abundant oak spices, dark chocolate and black fruit flavors on a firm and tannic texture. Black figs, blackberries and a hint of black pepper are accented by toast, wood char, cocoa and espresso notes. Ageable, the wine should drink best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$55

**92 Assiduous 2020 Bates Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Baked berry aromas are spiced by marjoram, cocoa and wood shavings on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard near the top of Mount Madonna. Pleasantly fresh flavors of ripe berry are dusted in peppery spices and shaved chocolate on the palate, where firm but not overbearing tannins ensure steady evolution. Drink now—2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**92 Brookdale Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Powerful oak spices dominate this full-bodied, firmly tannic wine. Cedar, cinnamon, toast and wood smoke make a big impression on the nose, while tightly wrapped blackberries and black cherries hold down the palate. Best from 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$85

**92 Clos de Napa Cellars 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

**92 Conn Creek 2019 AVA Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** This plush-textured and well-concentrated wine features deep black cherry and dark-chocolate flavors and a rich

mouthfeel laced with fine-grained tannins. The chocolate, fruit and oak-spice matrix is well integrated. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$130

**92 Elizabeth Spencer 2019 Proprietor Selected Special Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

**92 Fortunati 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This powerfully flavorful but supple-textured wine delivers rich black fruits and subtle oak spices on a smooth, velvety structure braced by ultra-fine tannins. Mint, dark chocolate and cream notes continue through a lingering finish. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$85

**92 Frelander 2021 District One Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A fun, friendly expression of Cabernet Sauvignon that still provides the depth and complexity that has become expected from the variety. Enjoy notes of red and black cherry, blackberry, crushed red roses and violets, freshly turned earth, black pepper, toasted wood, nutmeg, cardamom and star anise. Fine-grained tannins add a smooth, silky texture; elevated acidity provides a freshness that rides right down the center of the palate, pointing toward the long, lingering finish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**92 Lorenzi Estate NV El Tesoro Cabernet Sauvignon (Temecula Valley).** This unique non-vintage bottling is a 25-case blend of 12 vintages. Aromas of blackberry, anise, leather and pie crust kick off the nose. The palate hits with a tannic bite and then opens into licorice, coffee and blackberry flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

**92 Noble Vines 2020 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$12

**92 Quilt 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
abv: 15% Price: \$55

**92 Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 Bound + Determined Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$60

**92 Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 Hypothesis Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** For full review see page 13. —J.G.  
abv: 15% Price: \$75

**92 Scarlett 2019 McGah Family Vineyards Reserve Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** Very ripe fruit and tempting dark chocolate flavors form a delicious, concentrated core for this full-bodied, rich and velvet-textured

wine. Its rounded tannins and inherently luxurious fruit flavors make a delicious combination. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$150

**92 Stride 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This wine hits the sweet spot in the center of generous, ripe black fruit and chocolate flavors, integrated oak spices of cinnamon, cedar and vanilla, a velvety texture and good concentration. Best—2030. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$110

**92 V. Sattui 2019 Vangone Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This powerful and intense wine is a keeper. Its ample flavors are firmly held in tannins, subduing the concentrated blueberries, blackberries and dark chocolate, but time will loosen the grip as more complexity develops. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$110

**92 V. Sattui 2019 Vittorio's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** An almost-sweet aroma of cedar and ripe black fruits gives way to equally ripe and tempting flavors in this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine. Its sturdy structure will help it improve with time, so best to drink from 2027. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$85

**92 Whitehall Lane 2019 Leonardini Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Generous maple, brown sugar and milk-chocolate aromas lead to equally rich, ripe flavors of cooked cherries, cinnamon and nutmeg nestled in soft tannins. This full-bodied and gentle-textured wine is a pleasure to drink now. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$125

**91 Amulet 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This vividly fruity wine opens with red and black cherries, bay leaf and rhubarb, while the flavors are equally fruity and vibrant. The wine is lightly tannic, well balanced and ready to drink, although it should age nicely through at least 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$85

**91 Bread & Butter 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Bold aromas of toasted oak, cedar and cloves are echoed on the palate where smoky, tobacco-like flavors meet tangy black cherries. The texture is packed with firm tannins for a grippy mouthfeel. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**91 Chiron Wines 2018 Candor Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).** This tightly wound wine boasts red cherries, cranberries and tobacco flavors with firm tannins that make it grippy in texture now but should mellow with age. A micro production effort, the wine should drink best from 2028–2038. —J.G.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$115

**91 Hawk Watch Winery 2018 Solo Barrique Carolee Lee Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (South**

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**Coast).** This winery's "Solo Barrique" program excels most with this Cabernet Sauvignon, which begins with roasted fennel, dried cherry and toasty oak aromas on the nose. The palate is firm in texture and bolstered by long-lasting acidity that carries through the licorice, wild herb and baked cherry flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$58

**91 Precision Wine 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Precision Wine 2021 Pyramid Scheme Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 The Valedictorian Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This smooth, chocolaty wine offers good black fruit and oak spice flavors on a velvety texture. Milk chocolate, cocoa and blackberry preserves coat the palate. Best—2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$125

**91 Rutherford Ranch 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Schrader 2019 Double Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** A full body and ample tannins support ultra-ripe black fruit flavors in this bold, assertive wine. A touch of balsamic accompanies late-picked black cherries, blackberries and sage in this high-octane offering. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$80

**90 B Side 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Well balanced, engaging and even a bit interesting, this Cab Sauv, which incorporates small percentages of Petite Sirah, Merlot and Cab Franc in the mix, provides voluptuous aromas of black-cherry compote, blackberry, boysenberry jam, capsicum, toasted wood, cinnamon, vanilla, nutmeg with fennel and forest floor coming to play on the palate. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Bianchi 2018 Signature Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Blackberry, roasted wood, tar and cocoa aromas make for a dark and focused nose on this bottling. The palate is fresh and clean, offering blackberry jam and cracked pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$37

**90 Carson Scott 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Initial aromas of blackberry, blueberry, black plum, nutmeg, vanilla, chocolate, cranberry, raspberry and roses greet the nose. The palate opens to earthier tones of black-pepper spice, toasted wood and hints of leather and meat adding additional depth of flavor. Chalky tannins coat the palate while the acidity is high enough to add

a refreshing quality. An overall well-balanced and enjoyable Cabernet Sauvignon. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

**90 Cass 2019 C-A-B Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Geneseo District).** Dark berry aromas are spiced in damp wood and toasted herb on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe and fresh with strawberry and cherry flavors, as wood oil adds an intriguing spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Conn Creek 2019 LXXIII Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This attractive, full-bodied and lavishly oaked wine lets its generous fruit flavors shine through new-oak spices of cedar, cloves and toast. Soft blackberries and dried plums give it a warm, dense palate impression. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$200

**90 Ehlers Estate 2019 Jean Leducq Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena).** Super-ripe blackberry and black-cherry flavors give this wine an almost syrupy concentration that is deliciously rich. Moderate tannins and a smooth texture make it drinkable now—2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$110

**90 Evidence 2019 Immaculate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Coombsville).** Pretty blueberry and black-cherry flavors give this wine a charming, vividly fruity core, while moderate tannins add texture and balance. With 17% Cabernet Franc blended in, the wine is fresh and appealing, structured but not too serious. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$105

**90 Integrity 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Creamy purple aromas invite the nose into this bottling. The palate is layered in fennel pollen, tart cranberry, toasted herb and crushed peppercorn flavors, proving detailed and expansive. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$90

**90 J. Lohr 2003 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Young and tannic now, but impresses for balance and power, suggesting it will withstand cellaring. With its firm structure and deep core of cassis, blackberries, plums and anise, this wine should develop well over the next six to eight years. —S.H.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**90 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Valley View Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Matchbook 2020 The Herdsman CAB Giguiere Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Dunnigan Hills).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**90 Mueller 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Diamond Mountain District).** This firm-textured, beefy wine opens with light dried-herb and earth

aromas followed by dark-cherry fruit stiffened with moderate tannins and showing accents of black pepper and graphite. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$120

**90 Oak Farm 2021 Tievoli Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 18. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 One Stone 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This bottling deserves special attention, due to its support of the Dream Big Darling nonprofit that elevates women in the wine business. It's a solid Cab too, starting with engaging aromas of black-cherry compote, charred wood and tarry earth. The palate is grippy with young tannins, offering fresh berry, espresso and light vanilla flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$20

**90 Precision Wine 2020 Adorn Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Enjoy intense aromas and flavors of blackberry, black currant, plum, crushed-stone minerality, cacao dust and hints of barnyard and spiced meat—the latter two providing an appetizing quality to this wine. Well-integrated tannins add a lovely texture and highlights the decadence of the concentrated fruit structure. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**90 Precision Wine 2020 Method Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This big but supple wine offers rich blackberry jam and blueberry flavors wrapped in soft tannins on a full body. The wine is broad and mouth filling like a red blend, and luxurious to sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**90 Precision Wine 2020 Octopoda Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Richard Bruno 2019 Richard Bruno Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Smooth and very ripe-tasting, this medium- to full-bodied wine brings tasty black cherries and blackberries to the palate, backed by moderate tannins for an appetizing texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**90 Riley's Rows 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Big, bold, but extremely well balanced. This Cab Sauv, which integrates 20% Merlot in the mix, coats the tongue with course, grippy tannins—yet the acidity allows for a balanced freshness and for the flavors to be truly enjoyed. Find notes of black plum, blackberry, fennel, roasted coffee, toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$38

**90 Roots Run Deep Winery 2020 Educated Guess Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa County).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Scarlett 2019 McGah Family Vineyards Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford).** This smooth, indulgent wine layers milk chocolate, blueberries, cocoa and blackberries over soft tannins and soft acidity for a sweet-tasting palate and lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$90

**89** **Broadbent 2019 Auctioneer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This fruity but firm wine wraps ripe red and black cherries in moderate tannins for a slightly grippy texture while the fruit notes lend a tangy, fresh quality. The wine is medium bodied and ready for drinking. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Erosion 2019 Bankroll Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Boysenberry aromas, blackberry jam and chocolate flavors give a sweet impression to this mouth-coating, full-bodied wine as velvety tannins dissolve into the ripeness of the fruit flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$79

**89** **Erosion 2019 Is It Over Yet? Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Packed with cola, chocolate, espresso and graphite flavors, this big but smooth wine shows a touch of sweetness on the finish and will pair well with spicy barbecue or a chocolate dessert. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$79

**89** **Grady Family Vineyards 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** An overall well-balanced and enjoyable Cabernet Sauvignon, offering aromas and flavors of black fruits: currant, cherry, and plum, and capsicum, star anise, toasted wood, forest floor, hints of leather and baking spice. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Lúnasa 2019 Poston Crest Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga).** Cedar, menthol and eucalyptus aromas lead to equally piney flavors in this nicely concentrated, full-bodied and well-structured wine. The deep black fruit, mint and floral notes are distinctive and memorable. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$85

**89** **Pegasus Estate 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Tart and crisp aromas of cherry and rose petal show on the fresh-leaning nose of this bottling. There's a lot of garrigue-like influence on the palate, where wild thyme flavors decorate the core of cran-strawberry fruit, as a hint of leather lingers on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Precision Wine 2020 Limited Barrel Lot No. 23 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District).** Bright red—and black—fruit aromas from strawberries to blackberries are followed by equally fresh, juicy berry and black grape flavors in this unusual, full-bodied but friendly wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**89** **Precision Wine 2020 The Introvert Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Aromas and flavors are a bit shy, eventually opening up to notes of blackberry, black plum, violets, dried leaf litter, chocolate, nutmeg, hint of smoke and toasted wood. Tannins grip the palate; there's just enough acidity for balance. An overall well-balanced, quaffable wine. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 The Graduate Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** A generous core of black cherries and blackberries gives this full-bodied wine a mouth-filling fruitiness, while light tannins keep it smooth in texture. Subtle vanilla and cedar notes add some oaky complexity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$125

**89** **Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 The Ph.D. Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Almost-sweet strawberry and black-plum flavors give a soft, indulgent expression to this broad-textured, low-acid wine. A full body and relaxed tannins add to its mouth-filling profile. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$125

**88** **Bogle 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** The oak tannins in this wine give the illusion of sweetness, rounding out the voluptuous, ripe notes of blackberry, black currant and black cherry. Complementary secondary notes include chocolate, nutmeg, anise, black pepper, and clove, toasted wood and just a hint of leather. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**88** **Bogle 2020 Juggernaut Hillside Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A well-balanced red wine with an approachable soft, plush tannic structure and a solid finish. Find notes of blackberry, black currant, black cherry, fennel, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, cinnamon stick and toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Fortunati 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Aromas of cloves and charred oak carry over to equally oaky, brash flavors in this firmly tannic, assertively spicy wine. Its medium-fruit flavors of black cherries and blueberries are tasty and play second fiddle. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$150

**88** **Francis Ford Coppola 2020 Diamond Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A simple, straight-forward and overall balanced Cab. Find notes of black cherry, blackberry and black plum fruits with complementary notes of cinnamon, licorice, clove, nutmeg, all spice, tobacco and dark chocolate. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Hahn 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A well-balanced, easy-drinking Cab. Enjoy notes of black cherry, blackberry, chocolate, nutmeg, vanilla, capsicum and eucalyptus or menthol/

mint, walnut skins, nutmeg and toasted wood ending in a solid, but engaging, finish. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Kirkland Signature 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** An overall well-balanced and easy-drinking expression of Cabernet Sauvignon with notes of black plum, blackberry, black cherry, toasted wood, tobacco, allspice and pot-pourri. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8/1.5 L

**88** **Left Bend 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's a creosote darkness on the nose of this bottling, whose tarry, coffee-bean aromas weave around hints of blackberry paste. Dry flavors of bittersweet cocoa arise on the berry-washed palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$48

**88** **Long Meadow Ranch 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** This no-nonsense wine offers good red- and black-cherry flavors on a nicely firm texture and is well balanced for pairing with a variety of meats and other protein-rich dishes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**88** **McClellan 2020 Clemence Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Charred blackberry, tar and creosote aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a very strong sizzle of acidity on the palate, which is otherwise very jammy and gamy in flavor, with a light pepper spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.03% **Price:** \$20

**88** **McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88** **Michael David 2020 Earthquake Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** This wine is filled with over-ripe, jammy fruits that will appeal to many. Find aromas and flavors of blackberry and blueberry jam, boysenberry compote, black cherry pie filling, nutmeg, clove, vanilla, cinnamon, licorice and a touch of dried wood. The voluptuous fruits are well met by a mouthful of course tannins and elevated alcohol. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Michael David 2020 Rapture Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** An overall well-balanced Cabernet that incorporates 17% of Petite Sirah. Find notes of blackberry, black cherry, chocolate, capsicum, fennel, prune and cinnamon alongside mouth-coating tannins and elevated alcohol. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$59

**88** **Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 The Scholar Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Full tannins tightly wrap the flavors of this big and somewhat muted wine. Dark plums and blueberries show lightly on the palate along with dark chocolate and cedar. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$125



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**88 Royal Prince 2020 Ride Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley).** Light herbal, earthy aromas top bold blackberry and pomegranate flavors in this rather tannic and definitely full-bodied wine. Rustic black pepper and wood-smoke notes come out with more sipping. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$40

**88 Ryder Estate 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** An elevated acidity brings lightness and brightness to the darker-toned fruits of black cherry, blackberry, black currant, prune and raisin—all complemented by further notes of capsicum, toasted wood, chocolate and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Samuel Charles 2020 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Oak Knoll District).** Flavors of toasted oak, black pepper and grilled beef dominate this hearty, smoky and full-bodied wine as dried fruit flavors and a gently tannic texture provide a solid foundation. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$80

**88 Scaredy Cat Ranch 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Ramona Valley).** Ramona Valley is still yet to be proven as a prime place for grapes, but this bottling, which includes 7% Petit Verdot and 6% Merlot, shows promise. Dark and thick in the glass, this nose begins with ripe aromas of cassis and prune. Roasted black plum, cocoa dust and licorice flavors align on the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$40

**88 Scotto Family Cellars 2020 Anthony & Dominic Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Red-fruit forward on the nose and palate with aromas and flavors of red raspberry, wild strawberry and red plum—all uplifted by complementary notes of sea salt salinity, chocolate, vanilla and damp earth. The mouthfeel is full of plush tannins, well met by the concentration of fruits. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Testarossa 2017 Black Ridge Vineyard 200% New Oak Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This bottling saw new oak twice and it shows, though more so on the palate than the nose. Aromas of snappy red currant and blackberry meet with red flowers and cedar, while the palate wears the oak boldly, offering vanilla-soaked red fruit atop tight tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$99

**87 1924 2021 Bourbon Barrel Aged Double Black Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** The plushness of the fruits along with the strong oak tones and dusty tannins gives this wine an essence of sweetness. Find aromas and flavors of black plum, blackberry, black cherry, capsicum, toasted wood, cardamom, nutmeg and dusty earthiness. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15

**87 75 Wine Co. 2020 Feliz Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).** A balanced and basic red with notes of crushed roses and

violets, fully ripe red and black plum, blackberry and boysenberry, dried cranberry, cinnamon, licorice, prune and raisin. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$20

**87 Blazon 2020 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** A balanced and straight-forward Cabernet Sauvignon offering notes of black cherry, black plum, black currant, capsicum, anise, toasted wood and smoke. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Gnarly Head 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A well-balanced, simple expression of Cabernet Sauvignon with straight-forward notes of black cherry, blackberry, raspberry, red and black plum, crushed violets, hint chocolate and wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Josh Cellars 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** A straight-forward red wine with notes of blackberry and blueberry compote, licorice and cinnamon. Tannins are mouth coating; the finish, solid. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**87 McManis 2020 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** For full review see page 23. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Parducci 2020 True Grit Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino County).** This is a full-bodied red with course, grippy tannins to match. Find ripe, rich notes of blackberry, blueberry and black plum, complemented by licorice, cedar wood and a black peppery finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**87 Precision Wine 2021 Octopoda Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A straight-forward red wine offering dark notes of dried cherry, black currant, plum sins, prune, spiced meat and coffee. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$15

**87 Robert Mondavi Private Selection 2021 Bourbon Barrel-Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Extremely oak-forward with notes of fresh cedar wood, chocolate, anise, clove and nutmeg leading the way, eventually followed by fresher fruit flavors of red and black plum, blackberry and boysenberry. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Sean Minor 2020 Signature Series Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** Secondary aromas and flavors lead this varietal Cabernet Sauvignon with notes of menthol, dried eucalyptus leaf, damp forest floor, cinnamon and clove followed by very subtle blackberry and plum notes. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**87 Sterling 2021 Vintner's Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This is a drink-me-now wine with approachable tannins and a bal-

anced acidity. Find aromas and flavors of roasted coffee, toasted wood, blackberry, black cherry, black currant, black pepper, anise and nutmeg spice. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Wine Spots 2018 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** Dry and moderately tannic, this firm and full-bodied wine offers rather light plum and blueberry flavors wrapped in a grippy texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**86 Canyon Oaks 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Simple with just a dose of sweetness about it, find notes of blackberry, raspberry, black and red cherry, hint chocolate and wood with a palate that incorporates plushy tannins and a moderate acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

**86 Frey 2020 Biodynamic Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino).** Fruit aromas and flavors are almost candy-like in nature with notes of strawberry, cranberry and cherry, with secondary notes of cinnamon and licorice. Tannins are quite course and grippy, leading to a solid finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Oak Grove 2021 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Sweet aromas of red and black cherry, vanilla, nutmeg, chocolate, raspberry, cranberry and hints of florals. Soft, plush tannins are gentle on the palate. An overall easy-drinking expression of Cabernet Sauvignon. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**86 Sebastopol Oaks 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A fairly straight-forward red wine, incorporating notes of over-ripe black and blueberry, cinnamon spice, licorice, chocolate, clove and dried wood. Tannins are quite coarse as they coat the mouth. The finish is a solid medium length. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$18

**85 Dirty Minded 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A very simple red with straight-forward notes of red and black cherry candy and raspberry jelly alongside coarse, chalky tannins. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**85 Twisted Cedar 2020 Native American Owned Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi).** A simple red with notes of stewed black plums, blackberry and black currant alongside candy-like notes of licorice and cinnamon. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$15

## PINOT NOIR

**97 Domaine de la Cote 2021 Bloom's Field Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This estate bottling shows the most vivid and accessible fruit quali-

ties compared to the rest of the 2021 lineup. Dark berry aromas meet with rose, carnation, achiote and turned earth on the nose. The tightly structured palate's dark-fruit core is decorated in eucalyptus leaf, kalamata olive and strong, dank herb flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$100

**96 Assiduous 2021 Volkmann Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A transparent shade of ruby in the glass, this bottling is a lesson in purity, offering racy and clean aromas of raspberry, pomegranate and rose petal on the focused nose. There's a chiseled rock texture to the palate, where crisp red fruit and rosewater flavors pick up a slight violet tone. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**96 Domaine de la Cote 2021 La Côte Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Extreme cool-climate qualities show on the nose of this bottling, including asphalt, olive tapenade and truckloads of tumbleweed, with dark-cherry elements adding a fruit tone. Flavors of Pasilla chile in tomato broth show on the utterly unique palate, where cranberry sauce and cracked rainbow peppercorn add to the attention-grabbing complexity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$150

**96 Domaine de la Cote 2021 Sous le Chêne Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** From a parcel grown beneath a massive oak tree, this block-designated bottling begins with aromas of dark berry, toasted sage, bay leaf and sansho pepper dust, with just a hint of wood spice. Green and purple olive tapenade flavors are cut by citrus peel and baked red fruit flavors on the palate, which is loaded with umami qualities. Drink now–2041. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$125

**96 Waits-Mast 2019 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 4. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$52

**95 Alfaro Family 2021 Heirloom Clones Small Lots Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A lighter, beautiful shade of red in the glass, this bottling begins with crisp pomegranate, tangerine rind and red rose aromas on the engaging nose. The palate picks up a wet-stone minerality that cuts into the red currant, white pepper and grapefruit-rind flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**95 Alfaro Family 2021 Lindsay Paige Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A beautiful, vivid shade of purplish-red in the glass, this single-vineyard expression is vibrant on the nose with fresh aromas of crushed red fruit and sharp spices. The palate blends crisp, expertly captured raspberry and currant flavors with white pepper. Complex, delicious, refreshing. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**95 Domaine de la Cote 2021 DDL C Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Crumpled bay leaf and dewy peppercorns spice up the dark-plum aromas on the herbal nose of this bottling. The palate is firm and intense, delivering dark fruit and roasted cherry tomato flavors alongside peppery spices and an array of fog-soaked chaparral shrubs. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$55

**95 Domaine de la Cote 2021 Memorious Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This very young wine possesses an immensely layered profile, so expect lots of exciting evolution in the years to come. Dense aromas of bay leaf, wild mint, damp peppercorns and yerba santa relay the stem inclusion on the nose. Tense, angular tannins frame the palate, where muddled elderberry and plum flavors play against the intense herbaceousness. Drink 2025–2040. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$90

**95 Farm Cottage 2021 Trout Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Bold aromas of black raspberry, scarlet-red rose, red spice and smashed rocks make for a generous and floral nose on this bottling from a vineyard above Aptos. The dynamic palate starts with easy-going fruit-punch vibes before sailing across a firm texture and into flavors of herb and earth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$45

**94 Fennell 2019 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Focused black raspberry and boysenberry aromas meet with hints of sandalwood and violet on the nose of this bottling from Peake Ranch. It's rich on the palate with baked berry and baking-spice flavors, offering a ripe expression that stays tactile through the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Damp earth and porcini-dust aromas meet with dried meats, clove and crushed berry on the nose of this bottling. A black raspberry compote flavor is lifted by chai spice and salted pork elements on the layered palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$52

**94 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Strawberry compote and peppery spices meet with a umami-laced charcuterie depth on the nose of this bottling from a very coastally influenced site. Dried beef and smoked-pork flavors meet with the tart cranberry and strawberry core of the palate, making for a complex mix of fresh and savory. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$50

**94 Morgan 2020 Twelve Clones Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$38

**94 Sante Arcangeli 2021 Integrato Barrel Selection Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A blend of five top vineyards from around the region,

this bottling combines aromas of toasted herb and roasted red fruits on the nose. The palate offers layer after layer of intrigue, popping with plum, cranberry, orange zest and eucalyptus-leaf flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$45

**94 Thomas T Thomas 2020 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A bit shy on the nose, this deeper expression of Pinot Noir opens up beautifully to red and black plum, red and black cherry, chocolate, forest floor and toasted wood. Firm tannins coat the palate and are well met by the concentration of fruit, as well as the balanced, elevated acidity. This is a wine of excellent quality that with age will only gain in its depth and complexity. **Hidden Gem.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$70

**93 Cuvaison 2019 Spire Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Carneros-Napa Valley).** This rich, ripe and full-bodied wine offers abundant black cherries, dried plums, cedar, cloves and cinnamon as a generous mouthfeel; fine-grained tannins carry everything through a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 2A Rio Vista Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A lighter, almost-rusty shade in the glass, this clonal expression combines tart red fruit with citrus peel on the nose. The palate is laced in sanguine touches, combining tart cranberry, peppery herbs, licorice and charcuterie flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48

**93 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 Nielson Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Garrigue and game aromas enliven the roasted cranberry, hibiscus and mace elements on the nose of this bottling. Roasted red currant and strawberry flavors meet with fresh hibiscus sorbet and savory salumi characteristics on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$60

**93 V. Sattui 2019 Reserve Stock Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Pure, focused red and black cherry aromas lead to equally vibrant fruit flavors in this well-balanced, moderately tannic and full-bodied wine. Nice hints of grape stems, leafy herbs and redwood forest complement the vivid fruit notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$75

**92 Alfaro Family 2021 A Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This twist-top, priced-to-sell estate bottling is a stellar deal from a regional legend. Aromas of wild, tart cherry greet the nose, while the palate picks up complex layers of sagebrush, raspberry compote and peppercorn. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**92 Alfaro Family 2021 Trout Gulch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Floral tones of hibiscus meet with brisk raspberry and pepper on the clean, light and lovely nose of this

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bottling. Cherry candy and iced jamaica flavors are cut by a focused rocky minerality on the palate, where the texture is tight and young but ready to enjoy. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**92 Goldeneye 2019 Split Rail Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A light and lively Pinot Noir with notes of crushed roses and violets, red cherry, red plum, fennel fronds and forest floor. The gently chalky tannins make the wine texturally approachable, while the elevated acidity brings the fruit components to life and allows them to linger on the finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$88

**92 Holman Ranch 2019 Three Brothers Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley).** Comparably subtle to the other wines from the estate, this bottling begins with clean and direct aromas of red cherry and a touch of cinnamon spice on the nose. It's easygoing and fun on the palate, where red cherry, strawberry and a touch of mace make for a complete sip. —M.K.

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

**92 La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**92 Landmark 2019 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 11.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Goodchild High 9 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 12.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**92 Mira 2017 Hyde Vineyard Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Rich maple and macerated black cherry flavors give this full-bodied wine aged in all-new French barrels a vivid, delicious and ripe expression that rings all the flavor bells while a soft and very smooth texture seems to make it melt in the mouth. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**92 Waits-Mast 2021 Filigreen Farm Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Super light, easy and fun, this white expression of the Pinot Noir grape offers aromas and flavors of jasmine and orange blossom, honeysuckle, green apple, lime leaf, white peach, nectarine and just-ripe mango. There's a slight effervescence that adds a zing of freshness alongside a balanced acidic structure; a slight phenolic grip adds textural integrity and intrigue. The finish is long, lingering, inviting another sip. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.

**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$32

**91 Bianchi 2020 Solomon Hills Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Dried meat, thyme, sagebrush and crisp pomegranate aromas kick off the nose of this bottling, which also shows a rusty minerality. The palate is pleasantly rustic,

with pomegranate, orange rind and crushed-rock flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$71

**91 Chiron Wines 2019 Lucid Dream Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Ripe boysenberry jam aromas are wrapped in nutmeg, clove and oak on the bold nose of this bottling. The equally bold and likable palate carries that barrel-influenced style forward, showing jammy fruit and ample baking-spice flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$60

**91 El Pino Club 2021 High Haven Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 14.

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

**91 Flat Top Hills 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**91 Laetitia 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo Coast).** For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**91 Precision Wine 2020 Adorn Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 20. —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**91 Private Property 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This label translates to bargain in every bottling. The nose of this vintage pops with snappy red-fruit aromas, while the palate carries strawberry, red cherry, fennel pollen and wood oil flavors across a fine-tuned structure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

**abv:** 13.47% **Price:** \$35

**91 Wentworth 2021 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A balanced and engaging expression of Pinot Noir with gentle, chalky tannins and enough acidity to lend vivacity and brightness to the tasting. Find notes of red cherry, raspberry, chocolate, roses, forest floor and toasted wood. —S.B.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$78

**90 Castle Rock 2021 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** A well-balanced Pinot Noir with a high glut-ability factor and a great bang-for-the-buck value. Find pronounced aromas and flavors of wild strawberries, forest floor, crushed roses and violets, red and black cherry, pomegranate, rhubarb, fennel, tarragon and just a touch of damp tree bark. *Best Buy.* —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**90 Cooper-Garrod 2020 Two Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Light and slightly cloudy in the glass, this bottling offers muddled cranberry, earthy herbs and rocky iron aromas on the nose. Cranberry and orange-rind flavors converge on the palate, where those herbal elements return to add elegance. —M.K.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$43

**90 Domenico 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's a dominant amount of wood spice of clove and sandalwood on the nose of this bottling, but it manages to integrate well into the plum and strawberry notes. Oak is a prominent part of the palate as well, with nutmeg and mace leading bold edges to the core flavor of strawberry jam. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**90 Frelander 2021 District One Pinot Noir (California).** A fresh, vibrant, easy-drinking Pinot Noir, the vivacity of this wine truly comes alive on the palate with notes of red cherry, red plum, cranberry and tart strawberry with complementary tones of chocolate, black tea, tree bark and dried leaves. *Best Buy.* —S.B.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**90 Goldeneye 2019 The Narrows Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Allow this ripe, fuller-bodied Pinot Noir to open for at least 30 minutes for best enjoyment. Aromas and flavors open to notes of red cherry, red plum, licorice, cinnamon, cola, mushroom, chocolate and toasted wood. Concentrated fruit structure is well met by the textural tannins; there's just enough acidity to bring freshness through and through. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$88

**90 Integrity 2019 Muns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Hibiscus and dark-plum aromas invite the nose into this single-vineyard expression. The palate is packed with oregano, tart cranberry and orange-rind flavors, with a plush, generous texture. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$42

**90 Landmark 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 17.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$45

**90 Lepe 2021 McIntyre Vineyards Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling begins with fruity aromas of candied strawberry, red plum and cinnamon spice, with a lightly tart edge. The sip is fresh with baked cherry and raspberry jam flavors, as cracked pepper and toasted herb lead from the midpalate to the gingerbread finish. —M.K.

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

**90 Long Meadow Ranch 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Simple and straight-forward, this Pinot Noir has notes of bright red cherry, red plum and boysenberry complemented by subtle oak tones. Tannins gently coat the mouth; elevated acidity provides freshness. An overall well-balanced and fun expression of the grape. —S.B.

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

**90 Middleridge 2021 Beshke Family Pinot Noir (Palos Verdes Peninsula).** The new Palos Verdes Peninsula shows much promise for Pinot Noir in this bottling by a small family brand. Light in the glass, the nose hits with pronounced aromas



of cherry and sagebrush. The palate offers pomegranate, cranberry, citrus peel and rose petal, with just a touch of astringency. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$60

**90 Precision Wine 2020 The Introvert Reserve Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Rickshaw 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** This Pinot Noir shows integration of a variety of flavors and aromas that create a unique expression. Find notes of red cherry, cranberry, black tea, fresh and dried roses, basil, tarragon, toasted wood, and a desert-dust earthiness. The finish is pleasantly warm. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Theopolis 2021 Pinot Noir (Yorkville Highlands).** A well-rounded, balanced and enjoyable Pinot Noir out of the Yorkville Highlands. Enjoy notes of crushed roses and violets, red plum, cranberry and raspberry, hints of fresh basil and tarragon, forest floor and a river-rock minerality. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$48

**90 Thomas T Thomas 2020 Buster's Hill Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This is an interesting and engaging Pinot Noir that lovers of richer, more robust styles of Pinot Noir will cling to. Find notes of ripe red and black cherry, red plum, chocolate and toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$90

**90 Thomas T Thomas 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A deeper, darker expression of Pinot Noir with a grippy tannic structure to match. Find notes of boysenberry and blackberry jam, black pepper spice, star anise, chocolate, crushed roses and violets and damp forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$85

**90 Thomas T Thomas 2020 T Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Beautifully balanced and engaging with notes of ripe black cherry, boysenberry jam, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg and anise. Moderate acidity alongside coarse tannins give this wine a fuller body and robustness that lovers of bolder wines are sure to enjoy. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$49

**90 Wentworth 2021 Wentworth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** An overall well-balanced and engaging Pinot Noir with notes of ripe black and red cherry, raisin, mission fig, chocolate, basil, toasted wood and turned earth. On the palate, elevated acidity provides an elongated freshness; chalky tannins gently coat the tongue. Finish is a solid medium. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$114

**89 Dark Horse 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**89 Gnarly Head 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** An overall well-balanced and fun, medium-bodied Pinot Noir with chalky tannins that coat the tongue in a friendly manner. Find a plethora of aromas and flavors: raspberry, red cherry, roses, basil, vanilla, toasted wood, cumin and cacao. The finish is a solid medium in length. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**89 Goldeneye 2020 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Concentrated fruit ripeness gives this wine a soft, plushy quality that contrasts—and complements—the firm, chalky tannins. Find notes of red cherry, pomegranate, wet stone and river water with well-integrated oak tones. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**89 Hahn 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** An overall well-balanced riper expression of Pinot Noir with notes of red cherry, pomegranate, raspberry, chocolate, anise, wooded forest and damp forest floor. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 J Vineyards & Winery 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County-Sonoma County-Monterey County).** A well-balanced and overall enjoyable Pinot Noir with notes of roses, chocolate, wild strawberry, red and black plum, cherry, mission fig, damp forest floor and a hint of mushroom. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Kings Mountain 2019 Bacchus Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Baked strawberry aromas are doused in clove and mace on the spicy nose of this bottling. The palate lands with rich flavors of caramel and bourbon barrel, making for a viscous expression that slides into a strawberry jam finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**89 McClean 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Sandalwood, sharp cranberry and sour cherry aromas meet with an iron-like minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines snappy red fruit, oaky wood spice, a pinch of thyme and crushed-rock elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**89 Oak Grove 2021 Pinot Noir (California).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**89 Sketchbook 2021 Pinot Noir (Mendocino County).** Aromas lead with a floral perfume and move toward bright red fruits of cranberry and red plum, complemented with notes of chocolate, toasted wood, clove and nutmeg. A solid line of acidity rides through the center of the palate; moderate tannins coat tongue and cheek. The finish is solid. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Castle Rock 2021 Cuvée Pinot Noir (California).** A simple, straight-forward and well-balanced California cuvée. Find notes of pink rose petals, wet river-rock minerality, white mushroom,

forest floor, wild strawberry, pomegranate and cranberry. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**88 Integrity 2019 Block Seven Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Light in the glass, this bottling offers wild cherry, candied pomegranate, roasted tomato and light terpene aromas on the nose. Damp sage flavors meet with red currant and orange rind on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**88 Precision Wine 2020 Gabrielle Ashley Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Tasty black cherry and blackberry flavors and medium tannins highlight this well-structured, full-bodied wine that includes 5% Syrah. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Precision Wine 2020 Gearbox Pinot Noir (California).** This is a rounder, richer Pinot Noir showcasing soft, plush tannins and aromas; flavors of over-ripe cranberry, red plum, fig, prune and rhubarb complemented with dried violets, sweet tobacco and toast. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$10

**88 V. Sattui 2021 Boonville Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Find fresh aromas and flavors of cherry, red plum and cranberry fruits complemented by toasty tones of cinnamon, clove and wood—all encompassed in a forest-floor-like aura. Fine-grained tannins and an elevated acidity keep the wine well-balanced and light on its feet. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$49

**88 Wentworth 2021 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A fine, if just slightly over-ripe, expression of Pinot Noir with notes of red cherry, raspberry, macerated strawberries and black tea. Coarse tannins grip the palate; moderate acidity keeps the wine quite linear. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$54

**87 Kings Mountain 2019 Clone 13 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Very ripe aromas of prune and baked berry meet with clove on the extracted nose of this bottling, which spent 18 months in 100% new French oak. The fruit is very heavy on the palate as well, with ample clove and nutmeg spice; pinches of herb add nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**87 Simple Life 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** This Pinot Noir, which also contains small percentages of Tempranillo, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel, leads with oaky aromas and flavors of toasted wood. Following, find simple notes of black cherry, raspberry, red currant and black tea. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 The Crusher 2020 Pinot Noir (California).** A simple red wine with notes of over-ripe red cherry, red grape, macerated strawberries, black tea

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and a finish of dried wood and pepper spice. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Winemakers Selection 2020 Classic Series Pinot Noir (California).** This Pinot Noir gives off cooked and somewhat candy-like aromas and flavors of red cherry, red plum and strawberry. Tannins are coarse and mouth coating, leading to a short finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$5

## MALBEC

**92 Écluse 2020 Winemaker Series Malbec (Paso Robles).** Quite dark in the glass, this is a strong show for Malbec from Paso, starting with aromas of roasted red fruit, milk chocolate, anise and oak toast. The palate is hefty and textural, loaded with flavors of fudge and espresso bean as well as more stewed red fruit and a hint of violet candy. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$56

**92 Matchbook 2018 The Herdsman MAL Giguere Estate Malbec (Dunnigan Hills).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

**90 Hawk Watch Winery 2018 Solo Barrique Estate Vineyard Malbec (South Coast).** Liquefied oak aromas wrap around vanilla and anise on the caramelized nose of this single-barrel bottling. There's a licorice kick to the palate, where mocha and eucalyptus leaf elements add nuance to the core of rich, dark fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$58

**88 Peltzer Family 2019 Malbec (Temecula Valley).** Wood smoke, iodine, packed purple flower and dried-berry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. A brisk blackberry and elderberry flavor jumps from the palate, with a sharp, peppery spice pushing into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**87 Roots Run Deep Winery 2019 Hypothesis Reserve Malbec (Mount Veeder).** Flinty, smoky, charred aromas and flavors dominate this powerfully oaky wine, as firm tannins close around black pepper and grilled-beef flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**85 Peirano 2020 The Heritage Collection Malbec (Lodi).** Oak aromas take the lead with strong notes of pine resin, roasted coffee and cedar wood. Additional notes of blackberry, black plum, dried fig and prune eventually evolve on the palate, which incorporates a coarse tannic texture and a medium level of acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$15

**85 Twisted Cedar 2020 Native American Owned Malbec (Lodi).** A simple red wine with

candy-like aromas and flavors of black plum, blackberry, cinnamon and licorice. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$15

**93 Assiduous 2021 Kells Vineyard Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Joyous aromas of cherry, dark strawberry and black plum are edged by flecked graphite and subtle cocoa on the nose of this bottling, whose freshness comes from 10 days of carbonic fermentation. Fresh red fruit and cherry-pie flavors are cut by cinnamon, sumac and wet slate on the stony palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$25

## CABERNET FRANC

**96 Chappellet 2019 Cabernet Franc (Napa Valley).** Heady wood smoke and graphite aromas merge into concentrated, layered flavors of black currants, tobacco, dark chocolate and cloves that are gently carried by fine-grained tannins. This delicious, mouth-coating and spicy wine from a time-tested winery will drink best from 2027–2037. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$115

**90 Precision Wine 2021 Octopoda Cabernet Franc (North Coast).** This varietal Cabernet Franc is rich and decadent, yet incorporates a freshness and vibrancy, that makes it well-balanced, enjoyable and extremely appetizing. Find notes of fresh and dried violets, blackberry, black fig, prune, coffee, cacao, vanilla, smoked wood, leather and a meaty umami. A real bang for the buck at \$20. Enjoy now. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Silverado 2019 Mt George Vineyard Estate Grown Cabernet Franc (Coombsville).** Rich chocolate and maple aromas lead to a full, ripe-tasting palate where black cherries and blackberries meet buttery, vanillin accents on a lightly tannic texture. The wine was aged in 44% new oak barrels. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$65

**88 Hawk Watch Winery 2019 Solo Barrique Estate Vineyard Cabernet Franc (South Coast).** Powerfully minty aromas of anise and licorice decorate the nose of this bottling, which also offers berry-fruit scents. Roasted fennel, licorice and mint flavors are very strong on the palate as well, where dried berry and amaro elements also arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$58

**88 Michael David 2020 Inkblot Cabernet Franc (Lodi).** Over-ripe, jammy fruits pull the weight of this varietal Cabernet Franc with notes of blackberry and blueberry jam, vanilla, nutmeg, toasted bread, a hint of cacao and cinnamon spice and a touch of oak wood. Course tannins coat the palate; the finish is a solid medium in length. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**87 Little Redhead 2021 Camp 4 Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dark berry, pencil shavings, caramel, fennel and liquefied oak aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with anise-like flavors and a tart acidity, as bittersweet cocoa and dark berry add to the experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**87 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 Estate Grown Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley).** A full-bodied red with intense, grippy tannins, this varietal Cabernet Franc offers notes of red cherry, red currant, overripe strawberry, cinnamon and toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$40

## GRENACHE

**94 Optio 2020 Grenache (San Luis Obispo Coast).** For full review see page 6. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**92 Private Property 2021 Grenache (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$30

**88 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 Grenache (Livermore Valley).** Very pale ruby in the glass with aromas and flavors to match: find notes of strawberry, pomegranate, cranberry, a rose-petal perfume and just a touch of toasted wood. Overall well balanced and quaffable. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

## SYRAH

**94 Dunites 2021 Spanish Springs Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Zippy, spicy aromas of white pepper, wet ash, under ripe blueberry and black raspberry pop on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling from a newly approved appellation. The palate carries that energy forward, showing crisp, freshly crushed fruit flavors, a vivid acidity and ample pepper spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$38

**94 Farm Cottage 2021 Ryan Spencer Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A light but alluring hue of darkish red and purple in the glass, this single-vineyard Syrah is fresh and floral on the nose, bursting with violet, lavender, boysenberry and rocky soil aromas. The floral tone sails through the blueberry sorbet and pepper dust flavors of the lively palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**94 Fennel 2019 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Intense aromas of violet and lilac meet with dark berry on the pure and focused nose of this bottling from Peake Ranch. The dark-berry flavors of the palate are lifted by violet and framed in firm tan-

nins that will last for years. Drink now–2036. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Halter Ranch 2019 Syrah (Adelaida District).** This is a rich and roasty style of Syrah, starting with aromas of cocoa nibs, carob and espresso beans as well as blackberry paste and baking spice. Cocoa and coffee flavors give a nutty tone to the palate, which is warmed up by chai spices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$55

**92 Peltzer Family 2019 Syrah (California).** Charred meat, tar, asphalt and elderberry aromas make for a dark nose on this bottling. The palate is loaded with gamy flavors, offering roasted beef and soy sauce as well as violet, lilac and cherry cola flavors, with a coffee-syrup finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$50

**92 Robert Renzoni 2019 Syrah (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$33

**92 The Paring 2020 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** This Syrah clicks plenty of buttons and is sure to please a wide range of palates at the table. Aromas of fresh blackberry, toasted sage brush, light pepper and blossoming flowers entice the nose. The palate is vibrant in black currant and blueberry flavors, with that refreshing purple-flower character sailing into the finish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 McPrice Myers 2020 Cuvée Kristina Syrah (California).** This is a powerful Syrah, starting with aromas of cassis, thick boysenberry, asphalt and a tarry funk on the nose. The palate is quite ripe and lush, delivering ripe boysenberry and nearly sweet fig flavors as well as toasted oak and purple-flower elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$85

**91 Robert Renzoni 2019 Don Fernando Vineyard Riserva Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Baked berry and oak aromas are dusted in lavish French toast and gingerbread spices on the inviting nose of this bottling. There's a solid grip to the palate, where roasted-berry flavors range from rich to tart, as vanilla pops on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$76

**89 Robert Hall 2020 Cavern Select Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** There's a vivid amount of purple fruit and flower on the nose of this bottling, along with a touch of tar. The palate is tight at first, with tart black plum and lilac flavors, slowly opening into cracked pepper and more roasted coffee tones. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Mira 2017 Hyde Vineyard Syrah (Napa Valley).** Deep and dark, this opulent, high-alcohol wine overflows with milk chocolate, dark chocolate, blueberry and wood-smoke flavors on a

thick, soft texture and very full body that bring a sense of sweetness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$95

**87 Frey 2021 Biodynamic Syrah (Mendocino).** Well balanced and quaffable, find notes of blackberry, black plum, blueberry, crushed violets and toasted wood alongside crunchy tannins and a moderate acidity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

**87 Pacific Redwood 2021 Organic Syrah (California).** The ripeness of the fruit gives this medium-bodied varietal Syrah a confection-like essence. Find notes of blackberry, blueberry, licorice, cinnamon and chocolate alongside chalky tannins, moderate acidity and ending with a solid finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

## MERLOT

**92 Firestone 2019 The Chairman Series Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**92 Integrity 2019 Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This is a comforting style of Merlot, offering plump aromas of plum, berry, wood spice and iron on the bold nose. Grippy tannins frame the sip, but the generous flavors of baked red fruit and brown spices make for an expertly layered experience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$62

**92 Long Meadow Ranch 2018 Estate Grown Merlot (Napa Valley).** Nervy and savory, this medium-bodied wine mingles bay laurel, raspberry, tobacco and new leather on lightly tannic and slightly tangy texture. The wine is lively, a little grippy on the palate and makes the mouth water for the next bite of food. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Ultimate Vineyards 2020 Estate Reserve Merlot (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 14. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$45

**91 J. McClelland 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley).** A textbook Merlot. Earth and bay-leaf nuances complement a rich core of raspberries and blueberries in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. It's fine to drink now if aired out in a decanter, but will be best from 2025–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**91 Rombauer 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**90 Anthem Winery 2019 Estate Merlot (Mount Veeder).** This meaty, peppery wine frames black fruits, tobacco, earth and black-pepper flavors in moderate tannins and a full body for a good,

heartly, savory expression. The wine needs rich food to pair with. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$80

**90 Hahn 2021 Merlot (California).** Full bodied, approachable and absolutely appetizing, Hahn's Merlot, which integrates 22% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Zinfandel into the mix has rich, mouth-coating tannins well met by the concentrated fruit structure. Find notes of red and black plum, boysenberry, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, toasted wood, fennel fronds, cinnamon, star anise and walnut skins. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Parducci 2021 Small Lot Merlot (Mendocino County).** This varietal Merlot is decadent without being overbearing; indulgent without being guilty. Find aromas and flavors of black cherry, chocolate, vanilla, roses, raspberry, pomegranate, cranberry, with hints of cedar, dried fig and little prune. The palate incorporates chalky tannins and an elevated acidity that adds a balanced freshness. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

**89 Écluse 2020 Winemaker Series Merlot (Paso Robles).** Dark plummy fruit and purple-flower aromas show a slightly tart and funky edge on the nose of this bottling. There's a pleasant richness to the palate, which blends tangy red fruit with more lush black-fruit flavors; pepper adds spice. The texture lingers into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

**89 The Crusher 2021 78% Merlot (California).** With 19% Petite Sirah and 1% Petit Verdot in the mix, this Merlot has a bit more body and tannic texture than one might expect—but all is well integrated and balanced from start to finish. Find notes of wild strawberry, fresh red and black plum and crushed violets, complemented by oak tones of adding cedar, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Whitehall Lane 2019 Merlot (Napa Valley).** Ultra smooth, broad and buttery, this full-bodied wine offers roasted plums and cherries on a polished texture of good acidity and fine-grained tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**88 Bogle 2020 Merlot (California).** Oak tones lead with notes of cedar, eucalyptus, sweet tobacco followed by blackberry, black cherry and boysenberry fruits. Find full, mouth-coating tannins that are well balanced by the level of acidity and lead toward a solid finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**88 Cooper-Garrod 2018 Finley Vineyard Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Dried cranberry, sour cherry, anise and a hint of amaro show on the nose of this small-production, single-vineyard expression. There are waves of herbaceous flavors on the palate, from sage to fennel, with a dried, tart



# BUYINGGUIDE

red fruit element lingering atop a grippy, still-young texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$46

**88** **McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Merlot (Lodi).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Sterling 2021 Vintner's Collection Merlot (California).** Secondary and tertiary aromas and flavors lead this varietal Merlot with notes of dried violets, coffee, toasted wood, dried cherry, prune and leather. There's just enough acidity to keep the wine alive and balance against the chalky tannin structure. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

**85** **Bianchi 2019 Signature Selection Merlot (Paso Robles).** The cigar box spice is very prominent on the nose of this bottling, which also offers baked cranberry and wet-slate aromas. Baked cherry pie and strawberry flavors are wrapped in a damp clay and loam character on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**84** **Scott Family Cellars 2018 Anthony & Dominic Merlot (North Coast).** A simple, quaffable Merlot with aromas and flavors of crushed violets, boysenberry and blackberry jam, raisin and prune—spiced with a kick of cinnamon. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## PETIT VERDOT

**93** **Stride 2018 Petit Verdot (Napa Valley).** An inky dark color, potent fruit aromas and deep, ripe flavors characterize this full-bodied, firmly tannic wine that is destined for a long life. Blackberries and black currants are accented by wood smoke and anise from oak aging. Best from 2027–2040. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$52

**92** **V. Sattui 2019 Vittorio's Vineyard Petit Verdot (Napa Valley).** This tightly wound wine needs significant aging time to show its best side. Very dense and focused blackberries and blueberries are gripped by firm tannins that will need decanting to loosen up. Best from 2030–2040. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$52

**87** **Michael David 2020 Inkblot Petit Verdot (Lodi).** Shy on the nose, this red opens to blackberry, black cherry and toasted wood on the palate alongside chalky tannins and a moderate acidity. Overall, well balanced. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$30

## PETITE SIRAH

**93** **Wood Family Vineyards 2020 Petite Sirah (Livermore Valley).** Big, bold and beautifully balanced, this Petite Sirah offers aromas and

flavors of blackberry bush, bramble, fennel, capsicum, black cherry, smoke, toast and leather. Find firm, mouth-coating tannins and a full body well-matched by the intensity of the fruit and earth notes. Allow the wine to open for about an hour to get the best experience. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Two Angels 2020 Petite Sirah (Red Hills).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$27

**91** **Materra Cugat Family Vineyards 2018 Petite Sirah (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**91** **Robert Renzoni 2019 Riserva Don Fernando Vineyard Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley).** Focused aromas of cassis and violet meet with intense scorched earth and warm oak aromas on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Rounded flavors of baked fruit and oak are dusted with peppercorn, wild thyme and fennel pollen on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$76

**90** **McManis 2021 Estate Grown Certified Sustainable Petite Sirah (Lodi).** For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**90** **Michael David 2020 Inkblot Petite Sirah (Lodi).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Theopolis 2020 Petite Sirah (Yorkville Highlands).** This robust red wine leads with aromas of sea-air minerality followed by notes of black plum, boysenberry, toasted wood and some fennel. Some may find the tannins a bit overpowering, but the elevated acidity as well as the fruit concentration provides balance and nuance. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$42

**89** **Parducci 2021 True Grit Petite Sirah (Mendocino County).** While the nose is a bit shy, this wine opens on the palate to nuanced aromas and flavors of black plum, black currant, blackberry, bramble, black pepper spice, a hint of tarragon and oak tones of toasted wood. Full, grippy tannins coat the mouth, but is well balanced by an elevated acidity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Écluse 2020 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Very dark in the glass, this bottling begins with brooding aromas of roasted black currant and buttery caramel on the nose. The palate is wrapped in heavy tannins and the dark fruit core shows a slightly tangy side as well. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$54

**88** **Rowdy Bush 2020 Petite Sirah (Lodi).** A big red wine offering notes of fresh and dried black plum, black cherry, prune and blackberry jam with additional tones of black tea, pepper, smoke

and cinnamon and licorice candies. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

## SANGIOVESE

**92** **Robert Renzoni 2019 Estate Sangiovese (Temecula Valley).** This wine, which is made from the Brunello clone, shows a light hue in the glass, with soft aromas of strawberry, dried rose petal and sandalwood on the nose. The palate is tense in tannin yet lighter in mouthfeel, offering red fruit, smoke and charcuterie flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$476

**91** **Earthshine 2019 Sangiovese (Oakville).** Toasted oak aromas and flavors dominate the black cherry and black-olive notes in this full-bodied, richly textured wine that was aged in 70% new oak barrels. Fine-grained tannins support the rich fruits and spices for a spicy complexity. Best from 2025–2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**90** **Castello di Amorosa 2019 Voyager Vineyard Sangiovese (Napa Valley).** This well-balanced and full-bodied wine blends together flavors of leather, bay leaves, raspberries and olives for a good, classic rendition of the grape variety. Moderate tannins wrap around a rather rich fruitiness to good effect. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Frey 2020 Organic Wine Sangiovese (Mendocino).** A bang-for-the-buck find, this red exudes vivacious aromas and flavors of cranberry, rose, violet, red plum and strawberry with complementary tones of fresh-turned earth and forest floor. It's overall well balanced in its fruit concentration and elevated acid structure—and a fun, easy sipper at that. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Kwaya 2020 Organic Sangiovese (Mendocino).** An overall well-balanced red wine with notes of red cherry, red plum, cranberry, wild strawberry and a herbal background reminiscent of basil and tarragon. Coarse, chalky tannins coat the mouth; the finish is a solid medium in length. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Pope Valley Winery 2019 Sangiovese (Napa Valley).** This mature-tasting, full-bodied wine is nicely rounded in texture and offers well-developed wood, clove, maple and black-olive flavors. The mouthfeel is broad and rich. —J.G.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$42

## TEMPRANILLO

**91** **Wiens Cellars 2018 Artist Series Tempranillo (Riverside County).** Dark elderberry jam aromas meet with rich fennel and anise aromas on the

nose of this bottling. Incense pops on the palate at first, and then smooths into cola and black-plum flavors, with hints of amaro and myrtle on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$38

**88 Hungry Hawk 2019 BriArs Vineyard Reserva Tempranillo (San Diego County).** Zesty aromas of lavender and blackberry jam are spiced by wood on the nose of this bottling. Crisp berry fruit flavors show first on the palate before sandalwood and cedar elements take hold. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**86 Scaredy Cat Ranch 2019 Estate Tempranillo (Ramona Valley).** Dried berry aromas meet with a wooly funk on the wild nose of this bottling. There's a slightly sour edge to the palate, where salami, leather and dried-berry flavors show. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$45

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## ZINFANDEL

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**93 Hendry 2019 Block 28 Zinfandel (Napa Valley).** Floral scents and vivid, jammy blackberry and black-pepper flavors highlight this full-bodied, full-on fruity wine as accents of wood smoke and wild sage add a rustic, authentic complexity. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$38

**93 Michael David 2019 Lust Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$59

**92 Allan Hancock 2021 Zinfandel (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Intriguing and lovely aromas of elderberry, elderflower, acia and violet make for an enticing nose on this bottling. It's lighter bodied on the palate, where purple-flower flavors meet with blueberry juice and Earl Grey tea elements. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

**91 Klinker Brick 2020 Marisa Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** The elevated acidity and soft tannic structure gives this robust red wine a friendliness. Find aromas and flavors of ripe black cherry, blackberry, black plum, fresh fennel, star anise, black olive, black pepper, chocolate and a hint of leather. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28

**91 Klinker Brick 2020 Old Ghost Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$40

**91 Peirano 2021 The Immortal Zin Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 15. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Rombauer 2020 Twin Rivers Single Vineyard Zinfandel (El Dorado).** for full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$45

**89 Big Smooth 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** With 80% Zinfandel and 20% Petite Sirah, this is a full-bodied red packed full of deep, brooding flavors, all with a deliciousness factor. Notes of black cherry, blackberry, black fig and fig leaf are enhanced by the acidity. Notes of cacao and roasted coffee add a pleasant, balanced bitterness. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Grady Family Vineyards 2019 Estate Grown Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** Full bodied and robust, find initial aromas of red cherry, red plum, wild strawberry, macerated cranberry, cinnamon spice, star anise and gently toasted wood. The palate follows through, adding dried-fruit notes as well. Chalky tannins coat the tongue, yet the elevated acidity maintains cuts right through and maintains the needed freshness. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$15

**89 Michael David 2020 Earthquake Zinfandel (Lodi).** A solid Zinfandel expression that's sure to please lovers of big, bold reds. Find notes of blackberry and blueberry jam, black plum compote, black-cherry pie filling, vanilla, nutmeg and cacao all wrapped in a cologne-like aroma. Mouth-coating tannins are soft, plush and fairly well balanced by acidity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 McManis 2021 Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Michael David 2020 Freakshow Zinfandel (Lodi).** An overall well-balanced Zinfandel with notes of black cherry, black plum, river water, sandy minerality, cinnamon, licorice spice and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Oak Farm 2020 Tievoli Zinfandel (Lodi).** Full bodied with an aggressive tannic structure, find aromas and flavors of fresh and dried black cherry and blackberry along with notes of prune and prune juice, forest floor and turned earth. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**88 ZinPhomaniac 2021 Old Vines Zinfandel (Lodi).** An overall well-balanced and quaffable Zinfandel showcasing notes of black and red plum, blackberry, boysenberry, wild strawberry, prune, black tea, roses, tarragon and damp forest floor. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Artezin 2020 Zinfandel (Mendocino County).** A very simple Zinfandel with straight-forward aromas and flavors of fresh and dried black-

berries, black plum, prune, raisin, licorice, vanilla and black pepper. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$20

**87 Peltzer Family 2018 Aged Bourbon Barrel Zinfandel (California).** This is a relatively pleasant version of this essentially flavored style of wine. Aromas of charred oak and boiled red fruits on the nose land into a palate that clearly reveals the bourbon-barrel influence. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$64

**87 Precision Wine 2021 Hierogram Vineyard Block No. 8 Zinfandel (Lodi).** This wine incorporates both fresh- and dried-fruit notes of cranberry, boysenberry, prune and raisin with complementary tones of black tea, potpourri, chocolate and toasted wood. It lacks a bit of acidity to give it a needed lift in the midpalate, but an overall quaffable sipper. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$13

**87 Rombauer 2020 Zinfandel (California).** A well-balanced and simple Zinfandel in which the oak adds minor tones of sweetness. Find aromas and flavors of fresh and dried fruits, including black cherry, fig, and plum alongside those oak notes of cacao and toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$38

**86 Precision Wine 2020 Gearbox Zinfandel (Lodi).** A fairly simple red wine with rich, almost sweet, aromas and flavors of black cherry, truffle, blueberry compote, hazelnut, vanilla essence, crushed violets and lavender. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

**85 Twisted Cedar 2020 Native American Owned Zinfandel (Lodi).** This Zinfandel includes small percentages of Barbera, Petite Sirah and Teroldego. On the palate, find mouth-gripping tannins, both ripe and dried fruit expressions, including prune, raisin, black fig, black cherry along earthier tones of farmland and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$15

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## RED BLENDS

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**97 Arkenstone 2019 Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Howell Mountain).** This mountain-grown blend of Bordeaux varieties, mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, offers power with polish. Massive but fine-grained tannins saturate a rich palate of black currants, blueberries and dark chocolate, giving the structure for aging. While tempting now for its suave texture and rich flavors, the wine will gain even more complexity and smoothness from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$225

**96 Caraccioli 2021 Passetoutgrain Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir-Gamay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 4. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

**94 Amulet 2019 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** While firmly tannic, this opulent and flavorful wine made from 93% Cabernet Sauvignon also has a well-rounded texture to let its potent black currant and blueberry flavors shine through. Notes of graphite, espresso and dark chocolate weave through the nose and palate. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$300

**94 Dunites 2021 Syrah-Grenache (San Luis Obispo Coast).** Crisp aromas of rose, carnation and black-raspberry sorbet are both juicy and elegant on the nose of this blend of 64% Syrah and 36% Grenache. The palate's texture is very engaging and excellent for pairing with many foods, as flavors of hibiscus and more raspberry entertain through the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**94 Robert Renzoni 2019 Riserva Meritage (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$76

**94 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 The Captain Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** Pop the cork and become immediately engaged—and appetized!—by the pronounced aromas of this robust red blend. Notes of black cherry, black plum, chocolate, vanilla, anise, wet forest floor and toasted wood waft out of the glass and follow through just as intensely on the palate. Firm tannins are well met by the concentrated fruit structure and well balanced by elevated acidity. The finish is long. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**93 Ashes & Diamonds 2019 Mountain Cuvée No. 4 Saffron Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Mount Veeder).** This well-proportioned wine blended from Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon offers good black-fruit flavors, nice hints of cinnamon and toasted oak, and a slightly firm texture due to fine-grained tannins and balancing acidity. It's an elegant wine that won't tire you out. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$95

**93 50 Harvests 2016 Meritage Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$70

**93 Markus Wine Co 2020 Nero Red Blend (Lodi).** This beautiful blend with its lovely ruby-hue is deeply concentrated yet extremely approachable. On the palate, soft, silky tannins gently coat the tongue; aromas and flavors incorporate lively fruits, complemented by earthy and oak tones. Find notes of black and red plum, boysenberry, bramble, forest floor, wet stone and fresh cedar. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$31

**93 Markus Wine Co 2020 Sol Red Blend (Lodi).** This red blend is full and intense, but the balanced acidity adds an excellent dose of freshness against the firm, grippy tannins and elevated alcohol. Find concentrated, rich aromas and flavors

of black cherry, black plum, black currant, sweet tobacco, toasted wood, cacao and a hint of meatiness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$41

**93 Mira 2018 Jimmy D's Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 9. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**93 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 G-S-M (Livermore Valley).** This medium- to full-bodied wine maintains a lightness and brightness about it, with its elevated acidity and texturally friendly tannins, making it not only approachable but engaging from start to lingering finish. The aroma and palate are beautifully integrated with notes of smoke, dusty earth, strawberry, cinnamon, licorice, a hint cacao and toasted wood. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$36

**92 Baldacci 2019 Fraternity Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Full of dried plums, dark chocolate and black figs, this full-bodied, ultra-smooth wine is mouth coating, mouth filling and backed by fine-grained tannins. An earthy, toasty, almost funky expression makes it extra interesting to keep sipping. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Beaulieu Vineyard 2019 Tapestry Reserve Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This smooth and velvety wine offers a rich, supple mouthfeel and ripe, indulgent black currant and black-cherry flavors. Light tannins counter the wine's richness, for good balance. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

**92 Castello di Amorosa 2015 La Castellana Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This powerful, concentrated and firmly structured wine blends Cabernet Sauvignon grapes with Merlot, Sangiovese, Malbec and Petit Verdot. The wine is laced with fine-grained tannins that support its deep black cherry, black olive, iron and leather nuances. While extended aging at the winery has begun to soften it, there is no hurry to pop the cork. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$105

**92 Markus Wine Co 2020 Ancient Blocks the Church Red Blend (Mokelumne River).** With excellent depth of flavor and layers of texture, this red highlights the art of blend. Elevated acidity brings the palate to life with engaging notes of black cherry, blackberry, black plum, boysenberry, river-rock minerality and damp forest floor. Chalky tannins coat the tongue in a friendly manner. The finish lingers and invites another sip. Very well integrated and interesting. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$41

**92 Materra Cunat Family Vineyards 2019 Midnight Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$44

**92 Precision Wine 2020 Octopoda Opulent Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This layered, concentrated and intense wine boasts deep and long-lasting blueberry, black cherry, black currant and dark-chocolate flavors knit together with fine-grained tannins. The wine's good balance and structure should help it age well. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Shannon Ridge 2019 Home Ranch Red Blend (Kelsey Bench).** Beautifully integrated notes of blackberry, black plum, boysenberry, toasted oak wood, chocolate, damp earth, fennel, clove and nutmeg saturate the senses. The fruit has a voluptuousness as well as a vivacity enhanced by elevated acidity. Tannins are soft and mature, structurally supporting the wine without ever overwhelming the palate. This red blend is easily enjoyable now but can also improve with age. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Ultimate Vineyards 2020 Rouge Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$68

**92 Whitehall Lane 2019 Tre Leoni Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$36

**91 Bacio Divino 2019 Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Rich flavors and a gentle, broad texture make this full-bodied wine comfy and spicy to sip. Chocolate, dark plums, cloves and cinnamon coat the palate as rather soft tannins and seemingly low acidity add a relaxed mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$135

**91 Écluse 2020 Ensemble Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Clean lines of baked blackberry, cassis and roasted coffee bean show on the nose of this blend of 26% Malbec, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 16% Petit Verdot and 16% Cabernet Franc. The palate is rich with lively berry pie flavors as toasty wood spice carries into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$56

**91 Europa Village 2019 Midday Repast En Vie Artist Series Rhône-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** This blend of 50% Syrah, 35% Grenache and 15% Mourvèdre is a strong showing for Temecula, offering aromas of fig, cardamom and clove on the nose. A chalky texture frames the sip, where stewed red fruit, roasted meat and cardamom pod flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$38

**91 Jax 2020 Y3 Taureau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Fruity, almost-sweet black fruits and dark chocolate give this deep, dark wine an easy-going expression despite its full body and moderate tannins. Made from Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$25



**91 LVE 2019 Legend Vineyard Exclusive Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Rich, lush and mouth filling, this deceptively full-bodied blend of mostly Merlot and Petite Sirah shows a soft touch on the palate, oozing milk chocolate, mocha and cooked cherry flavors on a soft frame of melted tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**91 Oak Farm 2019 Raffaele Estate Red Blend (Lodi).** Enjoy lovely aroma and flavors of black cherry, black plum, black currant, black pepper spice, crushed violets, garigue, dessert-dusty earthiness, hints of dried thyme and rosemary and both fresh and toasted wood. Pair this with your favorite gamy meats. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**91 Paraduxx 2019 Co-Ferment Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Enticing toasted oak aromas lead to tasty, ripe black fruits and accents of dark chocolate and espresso in this full-bodied, moderately tannic and well-balanced Rhône-style blend. Enjoyable now through at least 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$62

**91 Precision Wine 2020 Navigator Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Ripe and juicy tasting, this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine boasts late-harvest and dried-fruit flavors of black figs, dried plums and blackberry jam. It has a gushy, effusive fruit expression that really attracts attention. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Robert Mondavi 2019 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Deep in fruit and dark spice flavors, this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine made with 74% Cabernet Sauvignon plus Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot shows good ripeness, a velvety texture and handsome oak notes of cocoa, nutmeg, coffee and vanilla from the aroma through the finish. Best now–2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$45

**91 The Paring 2018 Red Blend (California).** This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 18% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot shows a slightly reductive, meaty funk on the nose, offering charred beef, black pepper and asphalt aromas. That carries into the savory palate, where charred wood and tar flavors recall roasted short ribs in a blackberry compote. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$25

**91 V. Sattui 2019 Paradiso Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** This beefy, well-oaked wine starts with heady cedar and rosemary aromas before rich black cherries and blackberries kick in on the palate, where moderate tannins give a good grippy mouthfeel. No hurry to drink this bold wine; best from 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$110

**90 Écluse 2020 Rendition Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Blackberry, cardamom and oregano aromas converge on the nose of this

blend of 44% Grenache, 31% Syrah, 19% Mourvèdre and 6% Petite Sirah. There's a wild herbaceous and black-olive character to the palate, where fresh red- to black-fruit flavors meet with a hint of tar. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$54

**90 Cougar NV Kaleidoscope Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** This unique blend of equal parts Teroldego, Sangiovese and Cabernet Sauvignon begins with plum and peppercorn aromas on the rich nose. The palate picks up an herbal array of wild peppercorn and thyme, which add intrigue to the deep and dark-roasted red-fruit flavors, as tobacco pops on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.25% **Price:** \$45

**90 Hungry Hawk 2019 Recon Red Rhône-style Red Blend (San Diego County).** Dedicated to the memory of military companies who fought during Vietnam, this blend of 42% Grenache, 38% Syrah and 20% Mourvèdre is soft, smoky and pleasurable for backyard enjoyment. Aromas of sandalwood, mesquite and red fruit lead into a cedar-kissed palate of smoked cherry. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$52

**90 Markus Wine Co 2020 Blue Red Blend (Lodi).** Allow this wine to open for about an hour for best enjoyment to allow the concentrated fruits and firm tannins to relax just a bit. Find notes of black cherry, black currant and blackberry fruits with complementary tones of chocolate, baking spice and toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$41

**90 Oak Farm 2019 Geneviève Estate Grown Meritage (Lodi).** An approachable and appetizing red blend with layers of flavors and textures. Find notes of black cherry, blackberry, black currant, star anise, fennel, cacao, nutmeg, black pepper and a hint of fresh cedar. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$42

**90 Trefethen 2019 Dragon's Tooth Estate Grown Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**89 Markus Wine Co 2020 Essenzo Red Blend (Lodi).** With an approachable tannic texture, elevated acidity and concentrated fruit structure, this is a people-pleasing red wine blend. Find engaging aromas and flavors of red cherry, strawberry, red plum, cinnamon, nutmeg, cacao, white pepper spice and capsicum. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$41

**89 Markus Wine Co 2020 Zeitlos Red Blend (Lodi).** This full-bodied blend with rich, firm tannins has excellent flavor concentration to match with notes of black cherry, black plum, fennel, vanilla, licorice, black-pepper spice and chocolate. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$41

**89 Napa Valley Quilt 2021 The Fabric of the Land Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Whiffs of licorice and wood char in the aroma signal how potent and oaky this wine is, while deep blueberries, blackberries, cloves, cinnamon and smoke flavors dominate the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**89 Oak Farm 2020 Tievoli Red Blend (Lodi).** This is a well-balanced red blend with a pleasant texture and vivacity of fruit. Find notes of raspberry, blueberry, boysenberry and lilacs on the nose with the palate opening further with complementary tones of toasted wood, nutmeg and a hint of anise. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Robert Renzoni 2019 1886 Insieme Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** Loads of wood and smoke kick off the nose of this blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, which also offers boiled berry and iodine aromas. The palate's baked berry core is surrounded by licorice and damp fennel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$42

**89 Scaredy Cat Ranch 2020 Rowdy Bunch Red Blend (Ramona Valley).** This blend of 35% Tempranillo, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Petit Verdot and 15% Malbec is a solid use of grapes from this region. Aromas of blackberry, smoke and wet wood on the nose lead into more wood and smoked-plum flavors on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**89 Twisted Cedar 2019 Native American Owned Petite Sirah-Petit Verdot (California).** Fine-grained tannins and an elevated acidity make this a fun and approachable Petite Sirah-Petit Verdot blend. Find aromas and flavors of red cherry, raspberry, wild strawberry, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, fresh cedar and cedar dust. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Cycles Gladiator 2020 Red Blend (California).** An approachable and quaffable blend consisting of 50% Zinfandel, 30% Petite Sirah and 20% Merlot. Find notes of just-ripe red and black cherry, boysenberry, blueberry, chocolate and raisins. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$13

**88 Écluse 2020 Intonation Winemaker Series Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Aromas of brisk blackberry, toasty wood and a hint of herb show on the nose of this mostly Bordelaise blend of 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Cabernet Franc, 12% Merlot and 11% Tannat. Tart black plum flavors meet with anise and peppery spices on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$54

**88 Frey 2021 Field Blend Biodynamic Red Blend (Mendocino).** An overall well-balanced and easily enjoyable red blend. Find notes of black cherry, black plum, chocolate, clove and anise on the nose, with the palate opening further with fla-

# BUYINGGUIDE

vors of boysenberry, fresh black fig, prune, raisin and a hint of leather. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$19

**88 Hahn 2021 G-S-M (California).** A classic Rhône-style mix of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre, this medium-bodied red offers aromas and flavors of red plum, raspberry, strawberry, fennel and toasted wood alongside ripe, plushy tannins. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Hess Select 2019 TREO Winemaker's Red Blend (California).** An overall well-balanced and easy-sipping red with notes of crushed violets, black plum, black cherry, chocolate, vanilla, prune and a hint leather. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Iron Hub 2019 Triad Proprietary G-S-M (Amador County).** Balanced, quaffable, this classic Rhône-style blend can go with a wide range of cuisines. Fine-grained tannins enhance the friendliness and approachability of the wine, while acidity allows for some freshness. Find notes of wild strawberry, fennel, basil, rhubarb and forest floor. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$34

**88 Paraduxx 2019 Pintail Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Oak spices such as toast, wood smoke, cloves and cedar top off this full-bodied, moderately tannic blend of Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a bold, robust fruit component of blackberries and black pepper, and needs meaty foods to pair with. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$52

**88 Robert Renzoni 2017 Big Fred's Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** Tart red plum, pomegranate and wild-rose aromas show on the nose of this blend. The palate combines tart black plum with fennel pollen and cracked pepper, leading into a minty finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$23

**88 Sterling 2019 Vintner's Collection Meritage Red Blend (California).** A simple, easy sipper of a red blend. Find notes of blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry, violet, gently toasted wood and tree bark. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**88 Wood Family Vineyards 2020 El Loco Rojo Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** An overall well-balanced red blend, incorporating firm, grippy tannins, moderate acidity and notes of candied black cherry, cola, cinnamon, turned earth, raisin and prune. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$44

**88 Thacher 2020 Working Holiday Cass Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Geneseo District).** This is a very herbal showcase of 54% Syrah, 37% Grenache and 9% Mourvèdre, starting with aromas of crumpled oregano, olive tapenade and oak-roasted berries. Thyme, marjo-

ram and green-olive flavors come through on the palate, which also shows tart plum flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$28

**87 DC Flynt MW Selections 2020 Kirkland Signature Red Blend (Napa Valley).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**87 Earthshine 2019 Super Tuscan Red Blend (Napa Valley).** A heady aroma of toasted oak leads to a robust palate full of roasted plums, wood char, beef juices and graphite. This smoky, rowdy, firm-textured wine needs a hearty pairing like pork barbecue. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**87 Est Cru 2020 No Middle Ground Red Blend (Clarksburg).** A simple, straight-forward red wine with notes of black cherry, raisins, fresh boysenberry, chocolate and nutmeg. Tannin structure is quite coarse and chalky; the finish, warm. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**87 Foppiano 2019 1896 Red Blend (California).** A simple yet quaffable red blend. Find notes of candied red and black cherry, plum and oak tones of chocolate, vanilla, star anise and wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Frey 2021 Slow Roads Organic Red Blend (California).** An interesting blend that showcases aromas of both fresh and dried fruits—black cherry, blackberry, mission fig—along with notes of chocolate, walnut and a kind of game-meat, sanguine quality. On the palate, it's a bruiser, with a full mouth of coarse, chalky tannins and with the fried fruits taking over the flavor profile. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$15

**87 The Crusher 2020 Red Blend (California).** This big, bold red blend is a combo of Tempranillo, Petite Sirah, Tannat, Syrah, Merlot and Petite Verdot. Full, coarse, grippy tannins coat the mouth. Flavors lead with notes of oak (toasted wood, chocolate), followed eventually by black fruits (plum, fig). *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Theopolis 2021 Theo-Patra's Cuvée Cerise Rhône-style Red Blend (California).** Find aromas and flavors of dried cranberry, dried fig, prune, cinnamon and licorice in this unique red blend comprised of 31% Petite Sirah, 25% Mourvèdre, 25% Syrah and 19% Grenache. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$36

**87 Trentadue 2021 OPR Old Patch Red Blend (California).** Ripe fruits and enhanced oak integration give this wine an essence of sweetness whilst also providing plushy, friendly tannins. Find notes of bright red cherry, raspberry, cranberry, pomegranate, chocolate, fennel and toasted wood. The finish is a solid medium in length. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Erosion NV Crued Reserve Red Blend (Napa Valley).** Extra ripe and extra-dark fruit flavors give this high-alcohol wine a concentrated core, while strong oak notes of cloves, cedar and charcoal add a thick layer of spices. —J.G.  
**abv:** 16.3% **Price:** \$49

**86 Puppione Family Wines 2021 Volta Red Blend (California).** Very simple and straightforward, this red blend gives aromas and flavors of raspberry, red plum, cinnamon and licorice. Tannins are coarse, chalky; the finish is solid. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**86 Witching Hour NV Stories & Spells Red Blend (California).** This oak-forward red blend leads with notes of chocolate, cedar wood, star anise and sweet tobacco followed by over-ripe fruits of black plum, blackberry and black cherry. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**85 Michael David 2020 Lodi Red Blend (Lodi).** A straight-forward red blend with simple notes of cranberry, raspberry and strawberry. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**85 Woodbridge by Robert Mondavi NV Rich Red Blend (California).** A very simple red blend with notes of candied black fruits and oak. The off-dry palate is quite soft; the finish, short. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$7

**85 Y Rousseau 2020 Son of a Butcher Red Blend (California).** A simple, light-intensity red that bursts with aromas of blackberry jam and follows through on the palate with just similar flavors along with a subtle tannic structure. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$23

**82 Black Box 2020 Red Blend (California).** Rich with plush tannins and over-ripe, almost sweet, fruit structure, this red blend is reminiscent of a Black Forest gateau, with aromas and flavors of macerated red and black cherry, boysenberry jam, chocolate, vanilla and espresso. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L

## OTHER RED WINES

**95 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A promising sign for this variety in this appellation, this bottling, of which 50% was whole-cluster and the other 50% fermented carbonically, offers aromas of plum currant and bay leaf on the nose. A zesty acidity and grippy texture frames lavender, turned earth and purple-fruit flavors on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$36

**94** Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 6. *Hidden Gem*.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$45

**92** Kinetic Cellars 2019 Silvaspoons Vineyard Tannat (Alta Mesa). For full review see page 11. *Best Buy*.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**91** Markus Wine Co 2020 Ancient Blocks Bechthold Cinsault (Mokelumne River). Vibrantly red fruited as a good Cinsault should be, find notes of wild strawberry, pomegranate and cranberry complemented with earthier tones of basil, forest floor and a river-rock minerality. Well integrated tannins add just a touch of texture; the finish lingers and invites another sip. *Editors' Choice*. —S.B.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$41

**91** Robert Renzoni 2019 Montepulciano (Temecula Valley). Baked black plum, toasted wood and fennel-pollen aromas decorate the nose on this bottling of a promising grape for this region. Charred wood leads the palate, where roasted cherry and boysenberry converge for a bold expression. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**90** Dogwood & Thistle 2021 Testa Vineyard Carignan (Mendocino). Vibrant, rich red fruits dance on the nose and palate with notes of red raspberry, red cherry, white strawberry and tart red plum. It's the lightness and brightness of the fruit that give this wine an undeniable vivacity. Earthier tones of fresh and dried roses, wet rock and toasted wood add depth and complexity, while grippy tannins endure from start to finish. —S.B.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$28

**90** Europa Village 2018 Vienza Montepulciano (Temecula Valley). Lovely strawberry aromas are dusted in cinnamon bark and sandalwood on the dynamic nose of this bottling. Zesty cherry flavors ride a lingering acidity on the palate, as licorice adds a touch of spice. —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$42

**90** Michael David 2020 Bechthold Vineyard Ancient Vine Cinsaut (Lodi). For full review see page 17.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**90** Mikami Vineyards 2020 Petite Syrah (Lodi). For full review see page 18.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$39

**88** Robert Renzoni 2019 Riserva Barbera (Temecula Valley). Vanilla, cherry and nutmeg aromas make for a rich, baking-spice-heavy nose on this bottling. The palate shows tart cherry against creamier spice-cake flavors, with hints of curry leaf also arising. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$72

**86** Cougar 2017 Estate Aglianico (Temecula Valley). Lighter in the glass, this bottling offers

roasted fennel, light cherry and amaro aromas on the nose. The palate carries that amaro element forward, picking up licorice and palo santo flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$36

**86** Iron Hub 2019 Barbera (Amador County). A fairly simple red wine with notes of over-ripe strawberry, rhubarb, red cherry, raspberry, basil, toasted wood and turned earth. —S.B.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$34

**85** Europa Village 2018 Bolero Monastrell (Temecula Valley). There is a stark amount of incense and anise on the nose of this bottling, alongside roasted fig and prune aromas. The palate is very much like amaro, with pine sap and prune flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$36

## DESSERT WINES

**98** Dolce 2014 Late Harvest Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection*.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$85/375 ml

**93** Tatomer 2021 4USL3S3 Riesling (Santa Barbara County). Light in the glass despite the residual sugar, this Auslese-style late-harvest bottling shows vibrant aromas of lemon glaze, nectarine flesh and apple peels on the nose. The palate is viscous in texture but not overtly sweet, as a zesty, pinpoint acidity slices through the midpalate, bringing citrusy verve to the stone fruit and pear flavors. *Editors' Choice*. —M.K.  
abv: NA Price: \$26/375 ml

**91** Fortunati 2017 Dessert Wine Syrah (Oak Knoll District). This Port-style wine is semisweet and fortified to elevate the alcohol content, so it's great for after dinner with a chocolate dessert, cheese or a cigar. Rich dried plum and black-cherry flavors come with moderate tannins that are offset by the sweetness for a smooth texture. Best—2030. —J.G.  
abv: 19.8% Price: \$85

**91** Los Angeles Vintners Association 2020 Mission San Gabriel Arcángel Mission-Vitis Girdiana (Los Angeles County). A ruddy, ruby hue in the glass, this fortified bottling from what's believed to be the oldest vine in California on the grounds of Mission San Gabriel opens with distinctive aromas of dried fruit and cigar box. Made in the traditional style of colonial Spanish friars, the palate is more enlivening, showing liqueur-like flavors of caramel and tobacco, yet with a brisk red-fruit core. *Hidden Gem*. —M.K.  
abv: 18% Price: \$25/375 ml

**89** Quady 2021 Electra Moscato (California). This is a highly perfumed wine, giving off immediate aromas of honeysuckle, agave nectar, rose water, lychee, potpourri, apricot, and ripe Granny Smith and Golden Delicious apples. The

palate is sweet with an excellent, elevated acidity that drives through the center, cutting through the sugar and allowing the fruits and florals to truly shine. *Best Buy*. —S.B.  
abv: 4.5% Price: \$16

**89** Quady 2021 Red Electra Moscato (California). Sweet, slightly fizzy with an electric acidity that truly brings the flavors to life. Find notes of fresh roses, watermelon, red cherries, white strawberries, cantaloupe and papaya. Serve chilled. Have fun. *Best Buy*. —S.B.  
abv: 5.5% Price: \$16

**89** Quady 2020 Essensia Orange Muscat (California). Deliciously enticing aromas jump out of the glass—caramel, toffee, coffee, blanched almonds, poached apple and pear, nutmeg, vanilla and anise. The palate doesn't disappoint, bringing these flavors to life on the palate with an excellently balanced elevated acidity. —S.B.  
abv: 15% Price: \$24

**89** Integrity 2019 Late Harvest Riesling (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lemon, wax, petrol and herb aromas show on the nose of this dessert wine, which is very lightly colored in the glass. It's viscous on the palate, with a brisk acidity that cuts through the wet stone and candied-apple flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 9.3% Price: \$28/375 ml

**87** Quady 2021 Electra Moscato Rosé (California). A sweet wine with pronounced, though somewhat muddled, aromas and flavors of rose water, lychee, agave nectar, strawberry syrup, watermelon juice and mandarin-orange zest. A zesty acidity is what keeps this wine alive on the palate. Serve chilled. *Best Buy*. —S.B.  
abv: 5.5% Price: \$16

**87** Quady 2021 Elysium Black Muscat (California). This sweet wine has notes of candied red cherry, strawberry and cranberry along with fresher tones of pink roses, lily of the valley and lilac, guava and papaya. —S.B.  
abv: 15% Price: \$24

## OREGON

### CHARDONNAY

**94** Appassionata 2019 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Anyone questioning Chardonnay's potential in the Willamette Valley should try this rich and sophisticated wine. A silky texture, is met with mouthfilling flavors of orange sorbet, pineapple and challah bread, as well as a hint of mint. The aromas of lemon curd and petrichor are equally delightful. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection*. —M.A.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

**92** Angela Vineyards 2019 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). Tangy ginger and white-pepper aromas will wake you right up, followed by bursts of juniper berries, wet rocks and tart Anjou



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pears. The wine's crisp texture is like biting into a chilled apple, with white-peach and pine-needle flavors, and it's lovely with goat-cheese pastry puffs. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$38

**92 Bethel Heights 2019 Justice Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine's aromas of European butter, Dungeness crab cakes and saline scream "road trip to the Oregon Coast." The Justices's vines even grow in marine-sedimentary soils. White-grapefruit, toasted filbert and green-tea flavors are a nice follow-up. Medium bodied, this has vibrant acidity and oceans of quality. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$56

**92 Granville 2021 Basalt Series Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This graceful, lighter bodied Chardonnay rested in neutral French oak for 12 months after partial malo. It is brisk and tangy, with aromas and flavors of peach skins, lemon drops, chamomile, green tea and chalk. This nimble wine wants to tango, and you should accept. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

**91 Division 2021 "Un" Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** A wine like this one, concentrated flavors yet light on its feet, is difficult to put down. Aged 10 months in a combination of stainless steel and French and Austrian oak, it is packed with aromas and flavors of orange peel, lavender, lemon curd, basil, cedar and toasted filberts. —M.A.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$30

**91 Ponzi 2019 Aurora Vineyard Chardonnay (Laurelwood District).** Aromas of lemon, pineapple, sage, straw and brioche drift lazily from the glass. Medium bodied, it offers flavors like yellow plums, caramel, toasted filberts and saline. This is classic Willamette Valley Chardonnay, with lively acidity and a crisp mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$75

**91 Ponzi 2019 Avelana Vineyard Chardonnay (Laurelwood District).** One of the loveliest sets of aromas I've encountered in years, with Meyer lemons, sweet-pea flowers, lemon verbena and a touch of wet slate forming an inviting perfume. Lemon, tonic water and almost ripe pineapple flavors complement the wine's invigorating acidity and extra-long finish. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$75

**90 Division 2021 "Quatre" Royer Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The aromas of a glowing lemon beeswax candle and salted butter melting in a pan are warm and comforting. The wine has a smooth mouthfeel with more than enough acidity to maintain a sense of liveliness. Lime, balsa-wood and mango-lassi flavors steal the show. —M.A.

abv: 12.3%

Price: \$40

**90 R. Stuart & Co. 2021 Autograph Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Made entirely of fruit from Temperance Hill Vineyard, this creamy, fuller bodied Chardonnay maintains its balance thanks to

elevated acidity. It is packed with lemon and lychee fruit and traces of green tea and brioche. The high-light is the nutty fino-sherry-like note on the nose. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$65

**89 Del Rio 2021 Del Rio Vineyard Chardonnay (Rogue Valley).** This graceful, lighter bodied Chardonnay will delight guava lovers everywhere. This tropical treat features guava on the nose and palate, along with toasted almonds, lime peel and freshly cut grass. The smooth mouthfeel is enjoyable, but a bit more acidity would be even better. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

**89 King Estate 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Aromas of peaches and filberts dance the night away with wee bits of lemon-scented baby powder and chamomile. A creamy texture is paired with soft acidity and flavors like thyme and a lemon tart with a nice butter crust. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

**89 R. Stuart & Co. 2020 Love, Oregon Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** This wine's aromas of melting lemon-scented candle wax and an amaro made with artichokes are wild, but it all works. Things normalize on the palate, with lemon gelato and toasted filberts as the primary flavors. It is light bodied, with crisp acidity. —M.A.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$30

**88 Bluebird Hill 2020 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Aromas of buttery lemon tarts, smoky gunflint and toasted filberts are joined by a note that reminded me of succotash soup. This lighter bodied wine has a crisp mouthfeel, with flavors like dried yellow apples and lemon zest. The finish is abrupt. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

**88 Cascadia Vineyards 2020 Vieille Quail Robas Vineyard Chardonnay (Applegate Valley).** Mirabelle plum and honeycomb aromas mix with notes of cumin and freshly made tortillas. Brisk acidity that is almost too tart supports copious amounts of fruit, ranging from tart lime to ripe pineapple. Give this wine some more time in the bottle. —M.A.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$34

**88 Peter William 2021 Gold Vineyard Chardonnay (Rogue Valley).** Grilled lemons and lime zest is a heady one-two punch, with touches of saline and the smell of a newly opened balsa-wood toy-airplane kit. This is a medium-bodied Chardonnay, with a slippery smooth mouthfeel. Flavors like sweet-tart Ginger Gold apples and white grapefruit pith keep things lively. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

**86 Bluebird Hill 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** At over 15% ABV, everything smells and tastes like it is dialed up to 11. Lemon gelato and coconut butter fight it out with toasted filberts and baked apples for aromatic supremacy. The wine's butterscotch-pudding,

chamomile and dill flavors join a lush mouthfeel and the need for more acidity. —M.A.

abv: 15.2%

Price: \$54

**86 Elouan 2020 Chardonnay (Oregon).** The Brach's Mandarin Orange Slices candy aroma sets the tone for this wine—everything is rich and amplified. Other aromas, like ripe pear and spearmint, are more restrained. The apricot and banana-pudding flavors are flanked by traces of rosemary and sage. —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$20

## PINOT GRIS

**96 Antiquum Farm 2021 Alium Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This is a Pinot Gris made with intention. The amber-hued Alium, with 40 days of maceration, dazzles the eye while aromas of dried apricots, peach skins and chalk dust spout poetry. Tart kiwi, walnuts, and herbs like oregano and thyme paint a savory flavor masterpiece. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$45

**91 Antiquum Farm 2021 Daisy Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Daisy is a poster child for minerality. Saline, peach and Golden Delicious apples dominate the wine's aromatic set. Supporting notes include sunflower seeds and wet pavement and dry chalk. Flavors of apricot and lemon curd join a salty-herbaceous note similar to La Panzarella's rosemary mini-cracker. —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$30

**91 Montinore 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This Pinot Gris is CCOF organic certified and made with Demeter-Certified biodynamic grapes. It is also certified delicious, with aromas and flavors of guava, freshly cut grass, juniper berries, chamomile and white peaches. It offers all of that plus invigorating acidity for \$20. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$20

**90 Antiquum Farm 2021 Aurosa Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Aged 10 months on lees in neutral French oak, the Aurosa has powerful aromas of orange marmalade, peaches and lemon. The wine's fine grained tannins and modest acidity match up with flavors of grilled pineapple, cranberry tea, roasted filberts and pear. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$38

**90 King Estate 2021 Domaine Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** for full review see page 17.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

**88 Bluebird Hill 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** There's not much fruit to pick up on the nose, perhaps a bit of yellow apple to go along with freshly cut grass and a butterscotch hard candy. The texture is lean and clean, with lively acidity and tropical flavors like pineapple and guava. —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$25

**88 Rock Point 2021 Pinot Gris (Oregon).** This is an uncomplicated, fun and fruity wine. Aromas of strawberries and kiwi slide across a wet slate patio. The flavors range somewhere in the lime zest and yellow Starburst candy range, with a wee bit of meringue. Light bodied, this offers a waxy mouthfeel and soft acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$15

**87 Del Rio 2021 Pinot Gris (Rogue Valley).** This wine is all fruit, with guava, orange and tangerine aromas and flavors galore. Tiny notes of yellow (lemon) Circus Peanuts candy and toasted filberts add interest. Stainless-steel fermented, this was aged on its lees for eight months. It is light bodied and low acid, with a creamy mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$18

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**93 Tekstura 2021 Redford-Wetle Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Appassionata 2021 Über Sauvignon Blanc (Chehalem Mountains).** Classic aromas and flavors of gooseberries, lime, green apple, and freshly cut grass show up, as does a dynamite one-two talc and saline punch. There's also an intriguing savory note similar to porcini mushrooms. Tart acidity combines with a surprisingly creamy texture. This is a fantastic drinking experience. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Peter William 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Rogue Valley).** This is the winery's first ever Sauvignon Blanc and it's made with an eye to Sancerre. The aromatics are spot on, with lots of gooseberries, freshly cut grass and a touch of smoky flint. Flavors like white grapefruit, white peach and lime zest are backed by modest acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

## RIESLING

**94 Appassionata 2017 GG Riesling (Chehalem Mountains).** For full review see page 5, *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**92 Love & Squalor 2018 Dry Riesling (Willamette Valley).** As dry and crisp as fall leaves crunching underfoot, this brilliant Riesling displays aromas and flavors of Granny Smith apples, Anjou pears and a not-quite-ripe honeydew melon. A plethora of herbs, from chamomile to lemon basil, make appearances. The acidity is brisk and so is the wine's texture. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89 Sokol Blosser 2021 Evolution Riesling (Columbia Valley).** If you put Parmesan cheese on your popcorn, here's your next wine pairing. Lemon,

beeswax, spearmint and powdered sugar aromas are just the beginning. The wine's slightly sweet flavors of an icy lemon granita and cherry Life Savers are propped up by crisp acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

## VIOGNIER

**91 Cascadia Vineyards 2020 24K Soloro Vineyard Viognier (Applegate Valley).** This is a thoroughly enjoyable medium-bodied Viognier, with a smooth, elegant texture. White peaches, toasted filberts and maple candy form an able trio on the nose, followed by flavors of cantaloupe, honeycomb and pineapple upside-down cake. It was aged in neutral French oak. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$34

**91 Dionystic 2021 Peach Skin Deux Vert Vineyard Viognier (Yamhill-Carlton).** This extended skin-contact gem smells like the kitchen after peeling pecks of peaches. The peaches are joined by bergamot, dried apricots and pine needles. It's medium bodied, with modest acidity, velvety tannins and a chalky texture. Aged for 10 months in neutral acacia puncheons, this is ready to enjoy now through 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.89% **Price:** \$25

**84 Clos Nowhere 2014 Wolf in Sheep's Clothing Viognier (Rogue Valley).** This barrel-fermented, single-vineyard Viognier has the richest nose and leanest palate combination I've encountered in some time. Aromas of caramel apples and French toast slathered in butter lead to tart lemon, green-tea and dill-pickle flavors, all backed by prickly acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

## WHITE BLENDS

**94 Vinous Obscura 2021 Grand Bazaar Field Blend White Blend (Tualatin Hills).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 11.47% **Price:** \$25

**93 Montinore 2021 L'Orange White Blend (Tualatin Hills).** I love this Pinot Gris-driven skin contact wine fermented and aged in everything from acacia to amphora. Its spring-like peach, hibiscus-flower and dried rose-petal aromas are rejuvenating. Rich tangerine and pear flavors coat the palate, with white-tea and spearmint notes on the ultralong finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**91 Golden Cluster 2021 "The First Row" David Hill Vineyard White Blend (Tualatin Hills).** The seven grape varieties used to make his stunning blend, including Flora, come from the first row of vines planted at the original Charles Coury Vineyard in 1966. It possesses brisk acidity, with aromas and flavors of roasted pork, blood oranges, goose-

berries, toasted filberts and spearmint—sip history. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.37% **Price:** \$40

**91 Vinous Obscura 2021 "Fenice" Skin Contact White Blend (Columbia Gorge).** This cofermented in neutral acacia blend of Orange Muscat, Muscat Ottonel, Iskoroka and Muscat Blanc à Petits Grains packs beautiful aromas and flavors of honeycomb, lemon, lanolin, gardenia, and candied ginger. With its floral firepower, silky texture and elevated acidity, this wine will convert many an orange-wine skeptic. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.15% **Price:** \$25

**90 Bluebird Hill 2021 Duology White Blend (Willamette Valley).** This 70% Viognier and 30% Chardonnay blend honors both varieties. Its aromas of an orange Creamsicle mixed with wet rocks and a nutty, spicy Ligurian olive oil are enchanting. Flavors like quince, green tea and toasted filberts glide over the palate. A viscous mouthfeel feels nice against brisk acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$20

**89 Day 2021 Vin de Days Blanc White Blend (Willamette Valley).** This blend of Müller-Thurgau, Riesling, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Gris and Muscat is wine's version of a picnic blanket on a warm beach. Aromas of chilled chunks of pineapple, icy limoncello, spearmint and gardenias pave the way for flavors like lemon curd, marzipan and crystallized ginger. The medium-bodied wine's acidity is modest, while the creamy mouthfeel is downright boastful. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94 Gamine 2021 Owens Vineyard Aligoté (Chehalem Mountains).** This is a gift to the jaded palate. Lightning bolts of acidity awaken you to aromas of a lemon granita matched with pine needles and chalky talc. This tangy dazzler seals the deal, with tangy citrus, pineapple and saline flavors. It was aged eight months in stainless steel and neutral French oak, with malolactic fermentation naturally in barrel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$30

**93 Müller? 2021 Müller-Thurgau (Yamhill-Carlton).** Tart aromas that suggest apple pectin or apple vinegar morphed into golden peppers. With serious swirling, guava and nectarine aromas emerge. The wine is bone dry, with and chalky texture and flavors like peach skins, apricots, wet bricks and saline. There's not another wine like this in Oregon. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.89% **Price:** \$25

**92 Cascadia Vineyards 2020 Apparition Soloro Vineyard Grenache (Applegate Valley).** This blushing white made from the Grenache Noir grape is a stunner. Orchard meets Christmas-tree lot when peach and pear aromas collide with ginger and

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pine needles. Incredible acidity and a crisp mouthfeel set the table for flavors of tangerines, basil, cinnamon and Marcona almonds. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$23

**92** **Tekstura 2021 Redford-Wetle Vineyard Albariño (Eola-Amity Hills).** Grilled peach, nectarine, orange-sorbet and saline aromas lead the way to flavors reminiscent of eating an apricot tart with a cup of bergamot tea. A wonderfully clean mouthfeel is delivered beside sharp acidity and a long finish. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$55

**91** **Golden Cluster 2021 “Ode to Chuck” David Hill Vineyards Sémillon (Tualatin Hills).** For full review see page 14. **Hidden Gem.**  
**abv:** 12.38% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Cooper Mountain 2021 Tocai Friulano (Willamette Valley).** The wine’s aromas of nocino and mushroom polenta took me to northern Italy. The notes of star fruit and lemons took me further south. A crisp mouthfeel also delivers zippy acidity and flavors like lemon sorbet, shredded coconut and yellow Life Savers. **Bellisima. Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90** **GC 2021 Stavig Vineyard Melon de Bourgogne (Willamette Valley).** Fermented in a combination of concrete eggs and acacia wood, this flinty, medium-bodied wine immediately wins you over with its aromas of wet slate, jackfruit, coconut water and saline. There’s a little tart green-apple fruit on the palate, but it’s mostly about the lemon, lime and fresh-cut grass—brisk acidity. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**90** **Raptor Ridge 2019 Zenith Vineyard Auxerrois (Eola-Amity Hills).** What a lovely, straightforward white wine that aims to please. Its aromas center around a beeswax and lemon oil combination that will take you straight to church. There’s also this lightly sweet note in the background that is similar to carrot cake. Nice acidity here, with tangy lemon-verbena and toasty filbert flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Dionystic 2021 Albus Alvarinho (Laurelwood District).** The fruit is muted on the nose, so I recommend decanting this wine. There is a bit of ripe melon that’s been drizzled with lime juice, as well as aromas of a clean sea breeze and golden pepperoncini. The wine’s acidity is modest, with flavors like a dandelion tisane served with lemon and honey. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.76% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Montinore 2021 Reserve Müller-Thurgau (Tualatin Hills).** Powerfully floral aromatics include sweet and citrus bursts of wild roses and mock-orange flowers. Melon and peach notes hide in the background. Flavors of lemon shortbread and ripe peaches are matched with modest acidity and

a velvety texture. It should be great with my next batch of tandoori chicken. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$35

**87** **Chris James 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Willamette Valley).** The wine’s aromas of guava, lime juice and star fruit are a tropical vacation. Flavors like Key lime pie and Major Grey’s Chutney do nothing to buck that feeling. While the texture of the wine tiptoes up to creamy, there’s also plenty of lively acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Kriselle 2021 Estate Albariño (Rogue Valley).** This stainless-steel Albariño features a nice combination of midpalate weight, a slightly creamy mouthfeel and elevated acidity. Aromas of lemon juice, dewy grass and salty green olives are brisk and invigorating. Tart flavors include tonic water, with a slice of lemon, guava and juniper berries. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$30

## SPARKLING WINES

**94** **Soter 2018 Mineral Springs Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Yamhill-Carlton).** Aged four years on its lees and disgorged in March 2022, this 79% Pinot Noir and 21% Chardonnay blend is frothy fun. Its aromas of wild strawberries, honey and hyacinth form a heady perfume. The wine’s smooth, almost creamy texture delivers flavors such as bright red cherries and white-peach olive-oil cake. **Editors’ Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$72

**93** **Argyle 2012 Extended Tirage Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This 60-40 blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay is made from the 2012 Vintage Brut base wine, which aged on its lees for an additional seven years before disgorgement. Elegant little bubbles and lively acidity lead the way to aromas and flavors of white peach, wet rocks and lemon Bundt cake. **Editors’ Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$85

**92** **Roco 2019 RMS Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 13. **Editors’ Choice.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**91** **Argyle 2019 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** Fresh and floral aromas of chamomile and the lemony Hyperion daylily highlight this méthode traditionnelle wine. The palate is light and lively, with crisp acidity and flavors like white grapefruit, toasted almonds and a wee bit of marzipan. This is an excellent sparkler for an excellent price. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Argyle 2018 Vintage Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This delightful méthode traditionnelle wine is a blend of 52% Chardonnay, 43% Pinot Noir and 5% Pinot Meunier. Its aromas of strawberries and a rhubarb

tart invite more than a few sniffs. Soft acidity and mild tannins support flavors of peaches, honeycomb, brioche and a trace of saline. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Roco 2018 RMS Brut Sparkling Blend (Willamette Valley).** This blend of 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay hits first with Golden Delicious apple, vanilla crème brûlée, orange blossom, sourdough bread and talc aromas. Flavors like lemon tarts, red grapefruit and toasted filberts float on a creamy mouthfeel. It shows great acidity and frisky bubbles. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**90** **Soter 2015 Mineral Springs Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Yamhill-Carlton).** Based on the energetic bubbles, it appears that after six years on the lees, this wine is anxious to get out into the world. Raspberry, brioche and dried rose-petal aromas make for a nice introduction. Flavors like peaches, sweet-tart Mirabelle plums, rosemary and saline seal the deal. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$100

## ROSÉS

**91** **Casa S 2021 Pinot Noir Block 3 Rosé (Willamette Valley).** This pink wine does not require a Mediterranean beach to be enjoyed—it is delicious in any climate. A clean saltwater breeze supports orange-peel, honeysuckle, and guava aromas. The crisp mouthfeel and zippy acidity are refreshing, with flavors of white peach and strawberries. **Editors’ Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$30

**89** **Bluebird Hill 2021 Estate Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).** The wine’s pale-salmon color is a good match to its aromas of peach skins, melon and lemon zest. Nice acidity is paired with a tangy, chalky mouthfeel and flavors like strawberries and hibiscus tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$25

## PINOT NOIR

**95** **Appassionata 2012 Fortissimo Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 4. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$175

**94** **Appassionata 2017 Andante Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Andante is a stroll through a Vienna café filled with aromas of cappuccinos and croissants lightly touched with butter and raspberry jam. This café also has flowers, with notes of gardenia and jasmine filling the air. Cherry and cranberry flavors, with traces of orange peel and nutmeg, are a happy bonus. **Editors’ Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$135



**94 Elk Cove 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14% Price: \$100

**94 Lemelson 2019 Chestnut Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** I definitely found my thrill on Chestnut Hill. This wine's aromas consist of Chelan cherries, Holger Danske orange pipe tobacco and talc. The fruit on the palate is primarily raspberry, along with juicy peaches and a touch of black pepper. Balanced and restrained it still delivers silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$60

**93 Bethel Heights 2021 Casteel Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This infant shows impressive potential. Its briary red-fruit aromas are shy, but they suggest a refreshing raspberry lime Rickey and dried cherries. Cherries mix with citra hops on the chalky textured palate as muscular tannins and bright acidity hold court. Enjoy this wine from 2024–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$75

**93 Division 2021 "Deux" Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Made with fruit from some of the oldest vines in the Willamette Valley, this is a wine you will want to put away for awhile. Its perfumed aromas of blackberries, orange peel, violets, basil and saline are seductive. Black-cap-raspberry, bittersweet dark-chocolate and lemon-peel flavors hang on a wall of sturdy tannins. Enjoy 2023 until 2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
abv: 12.9% Price: \$50

**93 Elk Cove 2019 Roosevelt Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** As powerful and magnificent as the elk it is named after, this wine is packed with aromas and flavors of cherry compote, black-cap raspberries, lime zest, cocoa nibs and cedar. Its round, smooth texture is inviting; its bright acidity invigorating. Beautifully balanced. —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$85

**93 Fairsing 2019 Sullivan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 13% Price: \$65

**93 Ponzi 2019 Avellana Vineyard Pinot Noir (Lauralwood District).** Woodsy aromas of cedar bark, earth and pine needles mix with raspberry and rose hips as each sniff of this wine is a wilderness walk. Flavors of black cherries dipped in dark chocolate coat the palate. The wine's opulent mouthfeel alone will bring you back for a second glass. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$110

**92 Casa S 2021 Maximus Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$40

**92 Fairsing 2019 Dardis Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$65

**92 Guarachi Family 2021 Fern Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The label says Willamette Valley, but this is the new Mount Pisgah, Polk County, Oregon AVA strutting its stuff. Blackberries, roasted pork shoulder, cacao and saline make for a mouthwatering aromatic set. A pronounced black-cherry flavor is complemented by saline and toasted marshmallow, with bright acidity. —M.A.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**92 On Wine Hill 2020 Noble Reduction Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills).** This intriguing, full-bodied wine was made with Pinot Noir clone 943, then aged in neutral French oak for 16 months. Aromas like blackberries, bittersweet dark chocolate and roasted pork shoulder are northern-Rhône-like. The mouthfeel is clean and the acidity is brisk as you enjoy flavors of blueberries, black tea, leather and lemon peel. —M.A.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$35

**91 Bethel Heights 2021 Aeolian Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The Aeolian is the Casteel family's exploration of younger sections of its estate vineyard, where vines were planted between 1994 and 2002. Strawberry and leather aromas unite with an earthy petrichor note. A buttery texture is a perfect match for flavors like a Linzer torte and a shot of espresso. —M.A.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$50

**91 Bethel Heights 2021 Justice Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Aromas of marionberries and earthy petrichor are a match made in Oregon. Chewy tannins in no way detract from the wine's black-cherry and black-pepper flavors. They are joined by a distinctly tropical note hinting at guava. The acidity is bright and so is the future of this wine. Enjoy 2024–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
abv: 13% Price: \$75

**91 Bethel Heights 2021 Lewman Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Ripe blackberries collide with oregano on the nose, along with tiny amounts of earthy forest floor and red pepper. There's real balance here, with silky tannins and a nice bit of acidity to match up with lots of tart red cherries, red raspberries and dark chocolate. —M.A.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$75

**91 Division 2021 "Cent" Cassin Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** If you believe that you don't care for natural wines, I dare you not to not enjoy this one. There's no sulfur or anything else added to this non-manipulated gem, and it's tasty. Sweet blackberry, saline and grilled meat aromas turn to flavors like mulberries, red currants and gin-

ger. It also features great acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$35

**91 Love & Squalor 2018 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** What an amazingly floral nose. Aromas of blackberries, seagrass, jasmine, hibiscus and orchids—it's like tasting wine with a Hawaiian lei around your neck. Dark-cherry and chocolate flavors and a touch of toasted coconut dominate the palate. Decant, as the tannins are still grippy. —M.A.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$45

**91 Sun Break 2021 Colette Cortell-Rose Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This fruit-driven gem is filled to the brim with aromas and flavors of ripe, juicy blackberries, a cup of Earl Grey tea and toast drizzled with strawberry preserves. The smooth, round mouthfeel, silky tannins and soft acidity are comforting, making it quite easy to pour a second glass. —M.A.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

**90 Appassionata 2019 Allegro Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** "Allegro" means play at a brisk, lively tempo. Talk about an aptly named wine, as its acidity is positively electric. White-peach and raspberry aromas mingle with touches of crunchy dried leaves, earth and grilled meat. A fresh, lively mouthfeel introduces flavors like blackberries and thyme backed by modest tannins. —M.A.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

**90 Benton-Lane 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's positively frisky texture and zippy acidity will awaken the most jaded palate. Aromas and flavors of raspberries and Craisins are joined by wee bits of Douglas fir bark, sweet-pea flowers, orange zest and dark chocolate. What's not to love? —M.A.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$30

**90 Casa S 2019 Block 3 Clone 91 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Very cherry on the nose and palate, the bright red cherries are joined by aromas and flavors of black tea, cranberries, earth, beeswax and rose hips. The wine's mouthfeel is fresh and lively, with silky tannins and crisp acidity. —M.A.  
abv: 12.7% Price: \$35

**90 Division 2021 "Un" Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Powerful black-cherry aromas are joined by a savory cast of seared steak, aged balsamic, bay leaves and saline. Black- and blueberries dominate the palate, along with flavors of black tea, lemon zest and chocolate Necco Wafers. Silky tannins meet with modest acidity and a plush mouthfeel. —M.A.  
abv: 12.9% Price: \$30

**90 Gooseneck 2021 Pinot Noir (Elkton Oregon).** Talk about "flower power." The first wave is vanilla-laden lilac. Next come rose petals, violets, red cherries and cedar. The wine shows a nice balance between velvety tannins and a nice bit of acidity, with flavors like blackberry muffins and black tea with a bit of lemon. —M.A.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$25

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Lemelson 2019 Jerome Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Everything about this Jerome is smooth, from texture to tannins. Blackberries, loam and a bouquet of violets swirl up from the glass. The wine is medium bodied, with flavors of bright red raspberries, beeswax and cedar. The Jerome is made with the vintage's best 10 barrels. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$68

**90 Montinore 2019 First Sight Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** A lovely perfume of Wild Cherry Life Savers and dried rose petals hits first, followed by interesting woody notes of pencil shavings and balsa. Blueberry-syrup, sweet red-cherry and vanilla crème brûlée flavors fill the mouth, backed by firm tannins and plenty of acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**90 Ponzi 2019 Laurelwood District Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Rich, almost liqueur-like cherry aromas with a trace of saline preview this wine perfectly. Each sip is like a bite from a blackberry tart, with black-pepper, lemon-mint and toasted chestnut flavors bringing up the rear. The tannins are sturdy, while the acidity is restrained. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

**90 Salt 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This is a nicely balanced wine, with modest tannins and acidity, restrained fruit and a smooth mouthfeel. The aromas of raspberries and rose hips are a perfect pairing, with additional notes of sweet tobacco leaf and a touch of maple. The fruit turns to blackberry on the palate, where it joins thyme and a mocha-like espresso and sweet dark-chocolate combination. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$18

**89 Bethel Heights 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Everything about this wine, from texture to tannins, is soft and silky. Sweet, ripe peach and red-cherry aromas are counterpointed by traces of lemon verbena and red pepper. The wine's flavors are rich mix of dark, ripe raspberries, rose-water-flavored Turkish delight candy and lemon peel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$32

**89 Casa S 2019 Maximus Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine's aromatic blend of Strawberry Nehi Soda, orange zest, gardenia and cedar should be a perfume. Flavors like not-quite-ripe red raspberries and powdered orange drink are tangy and tart. With such grippy tannins, I look forward to trying this again in a few years. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$40

**89 Fairsing 2019 Kenney Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This is a lean, mean pinot machine. The wine's amped up acidity and crispy mouthfeel is like a slap on the cheek. Aromas of tart red cherries, wet cedar and crushed brick dust continue the theme. Serious tannins prop up tart

blackberry, butterscotch and apple-cider vinegar flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$65

**89 Lemelson 2019 Meyer Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's raspberry and citrus aromas are complemented by a spicy note that shifts from sandalwood to the dusty covering of a horehound candy. The fruit is muted for the moment, leaving flavors of orange-peko tea and bittersweet dark chocolate to hold down the fort. Decanting is suggested. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$56

**89 Lemelson 2019 Stermer Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This wine is like taking a deep breath in the woods, with aromas of duff, pine needles, crunchy leaves and muted notes of a red fruit that hovers between cranberry and raspberry. There's more tart red fruit on the medium-bodied palate, with wee bits of orange peel and sugar cookies. Plush tannins match the low acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$56

**89 Ponzi 2019 Aurora Vineyard Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Black-cherry, toasted coconut, vanilla and chalk-dust aromas trigger a craving for sweets, while raspberry tea and cherry pipe tobacco provide a satisfying dessert accompaniment. Look for a lot of cedar on the medium-bodied palate, along with velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$NA

**89 The Four Graces 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This medium-bodied Pinot Noir's tannins are lithe and lean—a perfect companion to its bright, fresh acidity. Aromas of tangy blackberries and lavender mix with a salty scent similar to the lining of a freshly shucked oyster. Raspberry coulis and ginger flavors are equally compelling. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$30

**88 Elk Cove 2019 Goodrich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** An interesting aromatic set starts things off as Amarena cherry, leather and puff-d-rice notes swirl up from the glass. The medium-bodied wine shows flavors of Bing cherries, orange peel, sage, chalk and a trace of blackstrap molasses to go along with velvety tannins and gentle acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**88 Fairsing 2019 Fairsing Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Piles of dark cherries and a warm, woody sandalwood spice patrol the air. They are joined by aromas of brick dust and straw. Integrated tannins and juicy acidity back flavors of tart raspberries, lemon peel and white chocolate. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$46

**88 King Estate 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Blackberries and a floral combination of sweet pea and lilac are joined by a trace of wet rocks. This elegant nose in no way prepares you for the wine's brawn and its grippy tannins. There

are flavors like black cherry and lime yearning to be free, but decanting may be in order. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**87 King Estate 2021 Inscription Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Inscription's sweet red-fruit aroma, reminiscent of a cherry snow cone, leads you to believe a fruit-driven experience is headed your way. Guess again. The wine's muted raspberry, leather and saline flavors are pinned to a wall of grippy tannins. Swirl hard or give it time. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$20

**87 Second Growth 2020 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** There is nothing complicated here, just a nice wine, with modest acidity, silky tannins and a smooth mouthfeel. The aromas and flavors run the range from boysenberry sorbet and raspberry lemonade to English breakfast tea and cranberry gelato. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$22

**86 Square, Plumb & Level 2021 Libra Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Aromas of freshly turned soil and raspberries picked next to a dusty dirt road are joined by equally earthy notes of oregano, leather and coriander seed. The wine's tannins are grippy, while its acidity is modest. Cassis, aged balsamic and tobacco flavors are complemented by a thick mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**83 Greetings 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aromatically, the fruit is muted, but a wisp of pie cherries joins notes of crushed blackberry leaves and rattan warming in the sun. The tannins are soft as a pillow, which matches acidity that barely tickles the tongue. Chocolate-covered cherries are the primary flavor. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$22

**82 Firesteed 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** Raspberry, lavender and bathwater infused with rose petals is a nice start. Unfortunately, there's little in the way of tannic structure or acidity to balance out all the jammy cherry and raspberry flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

## GAMAY NOIR

**92 Love & Squalor 2021 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley).** This partial carbonic maceration Gamay Noir is a "must try." It is fresh and vibrant, with enough acidity to light a small village. Aromas of black cherries and Emmental cheese are joined by a lively cucumber note. Strawberry and raspberry flavors are flanked by basil and apple pectin. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**91 Division 2021 "Lutte" Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley).** Ripe strawberries: hulled, quartered and drizzled with aged balsamic and freshly cracked black pepper. That's the Lutte. Add dried cranberries, dark chocolate, citrus and a fresh ocean breeze

to taste. The enjoy the wine's soft tannins and bodacious acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Division 2021 "Gala" Jubilee Vineyard Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The "Gala" is a new wine for this top Gamay Noir practitioner. It's a little rough around the edges at the moment, with chewy tannins. Still, some hard swirling coaxed out brambly black-fruit and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas. Black-cherry and citrus flavors fill the mouth. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Sokol Blosser 2021 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley).** Carbonic maceration was used to ferment this light, bright, juicy Gamay Noir. The wine's aromas are a perfume of violets and strawberries, with hints of lemon butter and basil. The wine's cranberry, lime, hibiscus-flower and coconut flavors are reminiscent of a mojito cocktail—very refreshing. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**90** **Tekstura 2021 Redford-Wetle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** This wine should bottled as a perfume so its aromas of ripe Hood strawberries, honeysuckle and dried Hidcote lavender can be dabbed on all nearby pulse points. The wine's tannins are grippy, with bright flavors of blackberry, lemon and buttered toast points. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$60

## RED BLENDS

**92** **Cliff Creek 2020 Red Red Wine Red Blend (Rogue Valley).** This is a confounding Syrah-Tempranillo-Sangiovese-Zinfandel blend that manages to be delicate and restrained at 14.5% ABV. It's also excellent, with aromas and flavors of cranberries, lingonberries, jasmine and Red Zinger tea. Everything from fruit to acidity is balanced. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**92** **Vinous Obscura 2021 "O Iberico" Field Blend Red Blend (Columbia Gorge).** This cofermented field blend includes Alfrecheirio and Sezão, two grapes largely unknown in the Pacific Northwest. The wine's crispy acidity, moderate tannins and silky texture join an earthy nose featuring grilled pork shoulder and blackberry aromas, followed by flavors of raspberry lemonade and saltine crackers. It's righteous juice. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.78% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Vinous Obscura 2021 Baroque Field Blend Red Blend (Columbia Gorge).** This cofermented homage to late-ripening Italian red grapes, like Nebbiolo and Corvina Veronese, dazzles with its brilliant acidity and slippery mouthfeel. Then there's the aromatic combination of Milagro figs, blackberries, saline and grilled lemons. Finally, velvety tannins support raspberry-sorbet, olive-oil and nasturtium-flower flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.12% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Vinous Obscura 2021 "Ciliegia" Field Blend Red Blend (Columbia Gorge).** A cofermented blend of Aleatico, Brachetto, Ciliegiolo, Primitivo and Vernaccia is not an everyday discovery in Oregon. Red cherries and fir needles show up on the nose, with black cherries and orange soda on the palate. A little chocolate pops up, with vigorous swirling. It's a lean mouthfeel, with searing acidity. Decant. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.57% **Price:** \$25

## OTHER RED WINES

**93** **Gamine 2021 Mae's Vineyard Grenache (Applegate Valley).** The wine's black cherry and dark-chocolate aromas are like a Tootsie Pop for adults. Throw in some violets and grilled meat notes and I was done for. This is a "yowza" wine, with velvety tannins, great acidity and flavors like blackberry, black pepper and guanciale melting on the tongue. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**93** **Vinous Obscura 2021 "Censer" Sagrantino (Columbia Gorge).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.57% **Price:** \$28

**91** **Ordeaux 2021 Rare Clones Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Gorge).** This is a wine of mystery, with the identity of the clones and the vineyard held close to the winemaker's vest. It is, however, a delicious mystery, with aromas and flavors like black cherries, dark raspberries, leather and dark chocolate. It's also light on its feet, with silky tannins, elevated acidity and a crisp mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25

## ARGENTINA CHARDONNAY

**94** **Bodega Catena Zapata 2020 Adrianna Vineyard White Bones Chardonnay (Mendoza).** This white comes from a plot within the famous Adrianna Vineyards in Gualtallary, Uco Valley. The soil profile includes calcareous layers, limestone and fossilized animal bones. It's vibrant and delicate, opening with aromas of eucalyptus, wet stone, lime and almond. A dry and harmonious palate with mineral texture offers lime, kumquat, apricot, herbs, honey and hints of smoke that linger in the delicious finish. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$140

**91** **Pyros 2021 Appellation Chardonnay (Pederal Valley).** Coming from San Juan, Argentina's second largest wine-producing region, this white offers delicate notes of white flowers, lime and herbs. A light note of honey adds to its complexity. The mineral-textured palate has weight and shows white peach, lime and chamomile that extend

to the lingering finish. Vigorous acidity balances it all out. Taub Family Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90** **El Enemigo 2020 Chardonnay (Gualtallary).** Delicate notes of mango, lime and honey form a delicious nose. On the palate, lime, mango and pineapple light up this medium-bodied wine as moderate acidity balances the flavors. A touch of chamomile tea and leafy notes add complexity to the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Domaine Bousquet 2021 Cameleon Organic Vineyards Signature Chardonnay (Tupungato).** The bouquet is full of lime, butter and vanilla aromas. On the palate, it's citrusy with notes of lime, grapefruit and oak spice. Lively acidity lifts the flavors and carries throughout the oaky finish. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Finca la Celia 2021 Pioneer Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** Light notes of grass blend with lemon and wet stone on the nose. This white is bone-dry and offers lime flavors over a mineral texture. Mouthwatering acidity makes it perfect for a summer day. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Salentein 2018 Single Vineyard Las Sequoias Vineyard San Pablo Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** This comes from one of the latest appellations in Uco Valley, San Pablo. This place is known for its high-altitude vineyards and cool climate. Gentle aromas of butter and citrus fruit shape the nose. This Chardonnay has light acidity and a rich palate. Flavors of linden tea, herbs, peach and oak spice lead to a citrus finish. Palm Bay International. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$59

**88** **Zolo 2022 Unoaked Sustainably Farmed Estate Grown and Bottled Chardonnay (Mendoza).** This unoaked white exhibits aromas of lime, white peach and mango. On the palate, it delivers layers of peach, lime and white grapefruit. Notes of grass are intense. Good acidity backs up the flavors. Vino Del Sol. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$12

**86** **Altus 2019 Gran Reserva Chardonnay (Gualtallary).** Hints of smoke shape the nose and lead to a concentrated palate. It has moderate acidity backing intense notes of butter and toasted oak flavors. Subtle notes of peach and lime join grass on the finish. Codipral, LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**86** **Domaine Bousquet 2022 Unoaked Made With Organic Grapes Chardonnay (Tupungato).** A citrus nose conveys aromas of lime. This is an almost neutral tasting wine that exhibits mild grass and lime flavors. It was made with organic grapes and has weight. Sharp acidity leads to a trim finish. WISD LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14



# BUYINGGUIDE

**84 Bodegas Bianchi 2021 Elsa Bianchi Chardonnay (San Rafael).** Grapes for this wine were sourced from the southernmost wine region in Mendoza, San Rafael. It offers ripe peach and apple aromas. The palate features light acidity alongside ripe lime, peach and grass flavors. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$12

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**90 Zolo 2022 Sustainably Farmed Estate Grown and Bottled Sauvignon Blanc (Mendoza).** For full review see page 20. *Vino Del Sol.* **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Cameleon Made with Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Tupungato).** Subtle aromas of mango and pineapple reveal on the nose. This is a Sauvignon Blanc with tropical fruit notes and nice acidity that is enough to freshen the palate. Flavors of mango, pear and lime are bright and mix with herbs on the crisp finish. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Made with Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Tupungato).** This white has gentle acidity and a ripe nose of lime that introduces the same notes on the lightweight palate. Lime and apple flavors are dense and lead to a short finish. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## WHITE BLEND

**89 La Posta 2022 Blanco White Blend (Mendoza).** This is a blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Torrontés. The latter contributes to the mix with notes of flowers on the nose that are joined by peaches. It has a lean texture with enough acidity to support herbs, green apple and lime flavors on the medium-weight palate. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$15

## SPARKLING WINES

**90 Jasmine Monet NV Limited Edition Blanc de Blancs Organic Brut Chardonnay (Mendoza).** Beautifully balanced, a delicate nose offers subtle aromas of brioche and wet stone. The palate reveals flavors of peach and lime with elegant acidity holding everything together. Fine bubbles lead to a long finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$27

**90 Alta Vista NV Brut Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** Made of 100% Chardonnay grapes from Uco Valley, this Charmat method sparkler is fresh and flavorful. It opens with aromas of white flowers, lime and yeast. A persistent foam

and good acidity balance out peach and apple flavors with hints of smoke. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$15

**90 Alta Vista NV Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** A rosé that delivers value, opening the nose with bright strawberry and cherry aromas. It was made with equal parts Malbec and Pinot Noir, resembling the blend of cultures that the French owner of the winery embraced when deciding to make wines in Mendoza. The bubbles are vigorous and support berry and yeasty flavors that extend to the finish. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89 Jasmine Monet NV Brut Organic Vineyard Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** This is a blend of 85% Chardonnay and 15% Pinot Noir organic grapes from Gualtallary. It offers a nose of lime aromas that leads to a mineral-textured palate. Flavors of lime and apple meet. Fine bubbles and brisk acidity lead to a crisp finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$23

**89 Jasmine Monet NV Rosé Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** Bright orange zest, apples and red fruit aromas open the nose. This fruit-forward sparkler has nice playful bubbles lifting flavors of strawberries and sweet apples. Vinovia Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$23

**88 Alta Vista NV Brut Nature Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** This youthful and crisp wine displays aromas of lemon. Made of 100% Chardonnay, it offers stone fruit and citrus flavors with hints of grass on the lightweight palate. With a fine fizz, the finish is short and refreshing. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$15

**87 Alta Vista NV Brut Malbec Rosé Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** Made with Malbec grapes, this sparkling wine reveals notes of strawberry and apple with hints of yeast. Lively acidity and berry flavors highlight its youth. Enjoy it with strawberry cheesecake. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Huentala Wines NV Sombrero Extra Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Mendoza).** A yeasty nose offers aromas of apples and berries. Made with Pinot Noir grapes, it's light-bodied with subtle berry flavors and playful bubbles leading to light notes of smoke on the short finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$20

## MALBEC

**94 Bodega Catena Zapata 2019 Argentino Malbec (Argentina).** This Malbec has a good balance of fruit and herbs with a delicate structure. The nose displays notes of berries and aromatic herbs that repeat on the palate. A smooth texture and lively acidity hold raspberry, blackberry and

blueberry flavors with hints of smoke. It has an elegant finish with subtle notes of chocolate. Drink now–2029. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$120

**93 Mendel 2020 Finca Remota Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** Hailing from vineyards planted in 1947 in Altamira in Uco Valley, this red offers delicious aromas of prune and chocolate with light notes of black olive. The palate is fruit-focused and has depth, delivering layers of cherry, prune and hints of chocolate and vanilla. Vigorous acidity and chalky tannins hold it all together and lead to a pleasant finish showing oak spice. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$115

**92 Argento 2019 Single Block Organic Malbec (Mendoza).** For full review see page 10. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Finca la Celia 2019 Heritage Single Vineyard Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** A fresh nose of eucalyptus is complete with notes of peppercorn and plum. It has an herbaceous character revealing thyme joined by tobacco and black fruits on the ample palate. Firm tannins provide support while vibrant acidity carries through the savory finish. It's full-bodied and energetic. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Luigi Bosca 2020 Los Nobles Single Vineyard Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).** For full review see page 12. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$60

**92 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 IV Generación Single Block Gran Malbec (Los Chacayes).** For full review see page 10. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Infinito 2020 Winemaker's Selection Malbec (Mendoza).** A blend of Malbec grapes from Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley, it presents an aromatic nose with blackberry, raspberry and plum. Delicate notes of violet and chalk add to its complexity. A fresh palate delivers bright red and black fruit flavors with hints of thyme alongside vibrant acidity. Hints of cedar extend the finish. W. Direct. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**91 Luca 2020 Historia de Familia Malbec (Uco Valley).** Sold in a magnum format, this red exhibits typical characteristics of big Malbecs that are sure to please everyone at a family gathering. Inviting jammy notes appear on the nose. It has supple tannins and moderate acidity backing layers of black fruit, oak spice and eucalyptus. It finishes with cedar notes. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$75/1.5 L

**91 Luigi Bosca 2019 De Sangre Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).** The grapes were sourced from old

vines giving this a classic Malbec concentration. Subtle notes of red fruit and violets emerge from the glass. The full-bodied palate features plenty of cherry and plum flavors over a lively texture. It's well balanced and a delicious fresh example of the wines from the Luján de Cuyo DOC. Hints of herbs and oak spice linger on the finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 Gran Familia Bianchi Malbec (Uco Valley).** For full review see page 16. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$30

**90 Bodegas Fabre 2020 Montmayou Gran Reserva Estate Bottled Malbec (Mendoza).** Cherry and vanilla are subtle. Crunchy acidity supports flavors of tart cherry, red plum and hints of herbs. The palate is dense and rich with a subtle smoothness. Light notes of toasted oak linger on the finish. Vinovia Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 La Posta 2021 Fazzio Malbec (Tupungato).** This winery is led by Laura Catena and features wines made with grapes from growers located in the largest wine regions in Mendoza. This one comes from Uco Valley and delivers aromas of licorice and vanilla followed by berries. With firm tannins, the brisk palate offers cherry, plum and thyme with notes of oak spice alongside vibrant acidity. Vine Connections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Loscano 2019 Grand Reserve Malbec (Uco Valley).** For full review see page 17. Vinocopia.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**90 Mauricio Lorca 2019 Gran Reserva Malbec (Uco Valley).** This is a rich red with attractive aromas of nutmeg followed by plum. The grapes come from vineyards located in the alluvial and calcareous soils of the Uco Valley, resulting in a mineral-textured and round palate that delivers layers of black and red fruit. The finish shows notes of oak spice. This is an enjoyable classic Malbec. Naked Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$28

**90 Mendel 2020 Malbec (Mendoza).** The grapes for this red are sourced from a vineyard planted in 1928 in Luján de Cuyo. It exhibits a dense and fruit-forward bouquet. The palate offers ripe plum, blueberry and rosemary, all intertwined. Moderate acidity and supple tannins provide support. It finishes with subtle coffee notes. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Salentein 2020 Numina Spirit Vineyard Malbec (Uco Valley).** For full review see page 18. Palm Bay International.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$41

**90 Scott Peterson 2020 ROX of the Andes Malbec (Argentina).** This is a bold red that

opens with aromas of cherry, black pepper and a dash of nutmeg. Ripe and firm tannins support the flavorful palate, where black fruit flavors blend with smoky notes. It has a lingering finish with black pepper and herbs. Naked Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$32

**90 Solar Del Alma 2021 Natural Malbec (Mendoza).** For full review see page 19. Wine For The World. **Hidden Gem.**  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$26

**90 Trapiche 2018 Medalla Malbec (Mendoza).** This wine is made in a classic Malbec style with lively acidity refreshing the palate. On the nose, it offers subtle ripe cherry and plum aromas that lead to black fruit flavors on the full-bodied palate. Chocolate and coffee notes add to its complexity. It's a smooth and enjoyable wine. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Altocedro 2021 Año Cero Malbec (La Consulta).** This is a good value red that opens with aromas of ripe cherry and plum. Good acidity and grainy tannins hold concentrated flavors of cherry and other berries mixed with notes of grass and cedar. Light notes of tomato paste and plum linger on the finish. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Cumpa 2019 Old Vines Malbec (Calchaquí Valley).** Light and fresh in style, this wine has a mineral character. It presents aromas of tart cherry and rosemary. Medium-bodied, the palate offers cherry and plum. Nice acidity balances out the flavors and leads them to a medium finish joined by hints of dried herbs. VinAccess International. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Etchart 2021 Cafayate Estate Malbec (Salta).** Coming from Argentina's northern wine region, this fresh red exhibits aromas of flowers, chalk and tart cherry. The soft palate features plum and cherry flavors that extend to the finish. Pernod Ricard. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Trapiche 2020 Broquel Malbec (Mendoza).** Red fruit and a dash of black pepper show in the glass. Medium tannins and moderate acidity make the wine enjoyable. The palate offers cherry, oak and grass. Hints of plum can be perceived on the finish. WX Brands. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Bodegas Bianchi 2019 Particular Family Estate Grown Malbec (San Rafael).** Christmas-like spices perfume the nose of this Malbec. Aromas of violets, ripe fruit, clove and cacao nibs are captivating. It's a full-bodied wine with medium acidity and slightly drying tannins. Chocolate-covered plum and blackberry flavors appear on the palate. It finishes with oaky notes. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$40

**88 Chakana 2019 Maipé Reserve Malbec (Gualtallary).** The nose shows shy aromas of plum. Sharp acidity and soft tannins are featured on the palate. Fruit notes of blackberry and tart cherry are accompanied by hints of coffee. It has a medium finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**88 Piattelli 2019 Limited Edition Malbec (Salta).** A fruit-focused nose offers raspberry, cherry and blackberry jam. The full-bodied palate features firm tannins and moderate acidity. Red and black fruit flavors lead to a warm medium finish with notes of coffee bean. Vinocopia. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$33

**87 Bodegas Bianchi 2021 Familia Bianchi Malbec (Mendoza).** The nose is austere, leading to a classic Malbec palate with red berries and toasted oak flavors. It has soft tannins and a medium finish with light notes of grass. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$20

**87 Bodegas Fabre 2021 Montmayou Reserva Estate Bottled Malbec (Mendoza).** Medium-bodied, this offers ripe plum and blackberry aromas. On the palate, plum and cherry join grass and coffee flavors. It has medium tannins and moderate acidity, making this a good option to pair with beef stew. Vinovia Wine Group. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 Domaine Bousquet 2021 Virgen Natural Organic Malbec (Tupungato).** The aromatic nose with hints of aniseed lead to a ripe palate. Notes of plum and cherry are framed by moderate acidity and light tannins. It's best to drink chilled. WISD LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87 Santa Julia 2021 El Burro Natural Malbec (Mendoza).** The grapes for this wine were sourced from organic certified vineyards in Maipú. This unfiltered red opens with aromas of sweet berries. The palate is light with moderate acidity lifting candied strawberry and cherry flavors. It finishes with earthy notes. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$16

**87 Solar Del Alma 2020 Malbec (Mendoza).** The nose is austere, with shy notes of eucalyptus showing after aeration. It has a green character, offering grilled bell pepper and berries on the slightly drying palate. Good acidity balances out the flavors and carries throughout the finish. Hints of oak complete the aftertaste. Wine For The World. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$18

**87 Staphyle 2020 581 Malbec (Mendoza).** Showing red fruit accented by light notes of grass on the nose, this wine leads to a palate with ripe flavors. Meaty cherry, prune and grass meet hints of smoke. It finishes short and slightly warm. Bottle Diplomacy. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Tomero 2019 Malbec (Mendoza).** A wine with a classic ripe style that opens with subtle fruit aromas. It's medium-bodied, with soft tannins and moderate acidity providing a smooth and light texture that supports meaty plum and berries on the palate. The finish is medium in length and has prune flavors. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Viniterra 2018 Select Malbec (Mendoza).** This medium-bodied red has a nose of prune, dried cherry and subtle hints of toasted oak. Prune repeats on the palate alongside slightly drying tannins and light acidity. The medium finish reveals coffee notes in the aftertaste. Arcadia Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$20

**86 Etchart 2020 Cafayate Terroir De Altura Malbec (Salta).** Fruity and medium-bodied, this red shows overripe cherry and cranberry flavors with hints of grass and a touch of toasted oak. It has soft tannins and light acidity. Pernod Ricard. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$24

**86 San Pedro 2019 1865 Selected Vineyards Malbec (Uco Valley).** A nose of cherry and light notes of black pepper lead to a palate with light tannins and good acidity. It has flavors of ripe plum and cherry that disappear in the short finish. VSPT USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**85 Alpamanta 2019 Natal Malbec (Mendoza).** Raspberry jam aromas open the nose of this red made with organic grapes. On the palate, a distinct mix of ripe red fruit and green olives is backed by good acidity and soft tannins. Drink it slightly chilled. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**85 Bodega Colomé 2019 El Arenal Malbec (Calchaquí Valley).** Fig, earthy cherry and light notes of aniseed show on the nose of this full-bodied red. It has a good concentration of red and black fruit flavors framed by thin tannins and gentle acidity. The finish is short with notes of grass. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Familia Mosso 2019 Malbec (Mendoza).** This red has a nose of meaty plum aromas. On the palate, high acidity backs black fruit flavors. It's an everyday Malbec with thin tannins and a short finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Graffigna 2021 Genuine Collection Malbec (Argentina).** Light notes of tomato leaf open the nose. Blackberry and plum flavors are backed by good acidity. With light tannins, the finish is medium with a fruity aftertaste. Shaw-Ross International Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$9

**84 Bodegas Orfila 2019 Estate Selection Malbec (Mendoza).** This wine has overripe black

fruit aromas that repeat on the palate with plum flavors. It has thin tannins and gentle acidity resulting in a light structure. The finish shows grassy notes. Palmateer Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$15

**84 Nieto Senetiner 2021 Camila Malbec (Mendoza).** This everyday red opens with aromas of flowers and berries. Modest acidity and light tannins struggle to hold the palate together. It delivers mild flavors of earthy red fruit and finishes short. Foley Family Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**84 Viejo Isaias 2020 Malbec (Mendoza).** This is a medium-bodied red with aromas of ripe berries. On the palate, smoke and grass meet red fruit flavors leading to a short finish. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**83 Bueyes 2021 Retinto Malbec (Mendoza).** This everyday red has a nose of stewed plums. It exhibits modest acidity backing plum and bell pepper mixed with notes of grass. The finish is short. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$16

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**90 Bridges Family Winery 2020 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** Oak spice, green bell pepper, peppercorn and a light note of chalk form the nose. Backed by balancing acidity, the palate shows an herbal character with notes of bay leaf followed by plum and bell pepper. It has ripe tannins and a lingering finish with a touch of cinnamon. BuenaVida Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

**90 DiamAndes 2020 de Uco Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** A fruit-forward nose displays cherry and vanilla. Full-bodied and featuring lively acidity, this red shows ripe cherry and red plum flavors blending with thyme. A smart use of oak provided structure and hints of vanilla and cinnamon that show on the persistent finish. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Piattelli 2021 Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** For full review see page 18. Vinocopia.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Wapisa 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Patagonia).** Coming from vineyards located only 25 miles from the Atlantic Ocean in Rio Negro, this red opens with aromas of black olive followed by blackberry. A ripe palate shows meaty blackberry and plum flavors blended with black olive and herbs. Hints of tobacco linger on the finish. It's savory, featuring supple tannins and moderate acidity. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$24

**89 Etchart 2020 Cafayate Terroir De Altura Cabernet Sauvignon (Salta).** Classic Cabernet Sauvignon aromas open the nose. The palate is fruit-forward, with cherry and green bell pepper flavors extending to the sweet finish. Good acidity makes it very approachable. Pernod Ricard. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Pascual Toso 2020 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Aromas of earthy cherry are followed by vanilla on this full-bodied red. Oaky notes on the palate are intense but well integrated. Red fruit flavors mix with a dash of chocolate. It finishes with oak spice. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Piattelli 2021 High Altitude Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Cafayate).** Coming from Argentina's northwest wine region, this red shows ripe fruit, green bell pepper and black pepper on the nose. It's medium-bodied and has an herbaceous character. Ripe fruit flavors meet green bell pepper on the soft palate. It has good varietal expression, moderate acidity and fine tannins. Vinocopia. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Bodegas Fabre 2021 Phebus Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Subtle aromas of raspberry and cherry emerge from the glass of this full-bodied wine. Cherries and hints of grass on the fruit-forward midpalate lead to leafy notes on the medium finish. Pleasant ripeness and good acidity make it easy to drink. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Finca la Celia 2020 Pioneer Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** Displaying a nose of red plum and herbs, this ripe red delivers value. Medium tannins support red plum and berries on the ripe palate. Hints of grass linger on the finish. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Marchiori & Barraud 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Herbaceous notes mark the character of this medium-bodied wine. The nose reveals green bell pepper and berries. On the palate, soft tannins support a flavorful mix of ripe berry, toasted oak and grass flavors. The Artisan Collection. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**88 Orfila 2020 Estate Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This red has a classic Cabernet Sauvignon character. Aromas of peppercorn are followed by cherry on the nose. Medium in weight, the palate presents meaty flavors of plum and green bell pepper. Moderate tannins and acidity are enough to make the wine enjoyable. Orfila Vineyards. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$15

**87 Manos Negras 2021 Atrevida Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** A wine with herbaceous character and ripe fruit flavors. The nose is shaped by aromas of red fruit and smoke. On the grainy pal-



ate, ripe cherry flavors mix with smoke and coffee. Acidity is gentle and finishes with the same warm ripeness found on the palate. *Vino Del Sol. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**87 Piattelli 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo).** It opens with an aromatic nose that offers cherry and raspberry. Ripe tannins hold a flavorful palate with layers of red fruit, bell pepper and rosemary. This medium-bodied red has gentle acidity and notes of toasted oak in the after-taste. *Vinocopia. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$17

**87 Santa Julia 2021 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** This good value red exhibits subtle red fruit aromas on the nose. It has a medium body and concentrated flavors of red plum, berries and green bell pepper. Gentle acidity and medium tannins hold the palate that finishes with notes of coffee. *Winesellers, Ltd. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$13

**86 Etchart 2021 Cafayate Cabernet Sauvignon (Salta).** This unoaked Cabernet is fruit-focused with hints of green bell pepper shaping the nose. Ripe black and red fruit flavors are long-lasting on a fresh finish. The palate is light on structure and grip. It's a budget-friendly wine for everyday consumption. *Pernod Ricard. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$10

**85 Argento 2020 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This red offers a nose of cherry and blackberry. High in acidity, the light palate delivers tomato paste, bell pepper and mild fruit flavors. It has a short warm finish. *Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$13

**85 Benegas 2020 Arraigo Benegas Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Meaty aromas of plum and grilled bell pepper reveal a ripe palate. Black fruit flavors join hints of oak and are framed by slightly drying tannins. It's lightweight and exhibits gentle acidity. *QW Wine Experts.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**85 Santa Julia 2021 Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Red fruit aromas on the nose are ripe and subtle. On the palate, this wine presents flavors of earthy plum framed by gentle acidity and light tannins. *Winesellers, Ltd. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$11

**84 Finca Flichman 2020 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Mild black fruit aromas lead to a soft palate with weak tannins and low acidity. It has subtle plum flavors. *Evaton, Inc. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$11

**83 Funckenhausen 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This Cabernet Sauvignon with a touch of Malbec comes in a large format. Sweet

notes of red fruit emerge from the glass. It has stewed black fruit flavors, light tannins and light acidity. The finish is short. *Global Vineyard Importers. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$15/1 L

**83 Pampa 2021 Pampa Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** An everyday red that opens with ripe berries and hints of coffee. Sharp acidity backs generic flavors of ripe berry. It's light in structure, featuring soft tannins and gentle acidity. *Pampa Beverages LLC.* —J.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

## CABERNET FRANC

**90 Bodegas Fabre 2021 Montmayou Reserva Estate Bottled Cabernet Franc (Mendoza).** A nose of berries and herbs guide the senses to a savory palate, delivering flavors of green bell pepper and strawberry intertwined. Barrel-driven spice notes are well integrated. A good structure and balancing acidity provide a pleasant mouthfeel. *Vinovia Wine Group. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

**89 Achaval-Ferrer 2019 Cabernet Franc (Perdriel).** Cabernet Franc seems to have found its home in Uco Valley. From fresh and light styles to oaky and big, there is a diverse range of wines made with this grape. This bottling belongs to the latter. The nose features smoke, peppercorn and ripe plum. On the palate, a mix of herbs, green bell pepper and black fruit join intense toasted oak flavors. *Stoli Group USA.* —J.V.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$20

**89 Agujón De Abeja 2019 Obrera Cabernet Franc (San Juan).** This Cabernet Franc from Pedernal Valley shows grape typicity, offering herbaceous notes mixed with fruits and toasted oak. Black pepper and plum form the nose. Smoky flavors blend with rosemary and plum on the medium-weight palate. It's juicy, displaying good acidity and a textured mouthfeel. *The Artisan Collection. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$18

**88 Domaine Bousquet 2021 Gaia Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Franc (Gualtallary).** A red from organic high-altitude vineyards. Notes of raspberry jam are inviting on the nose and palate. Medium-bodied, this is 100% Cabernet Franc with prominent oak flavors. Smooth tannins frame hints of smoke, herbs and berries. The finish reveals oaky notes and good length. *WISD LLC.* —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

**87 Enrique Foster 2021 Ique Cabernet Franc (Mendoza).** The nose opens with ripe fruit flavors blended with hints of toasted oak. It's ripe and medium-bodied with sharp acidity backing peppercorn, grass and plum on the palate. This is an everyday wine that pairs well with beef stew. *Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$13

## SYRAH

**91 Domaine Bousquet 2019 Ameri Syrah (Gualtallary).** Grapes for this wine were sourced from organic vineyards in Gualtallary, Uco Valley. The region is known for giving birth to wines with a mineral character and this is not the exception. The nose opens with aromas of cherry and raspberry. Lively acidity freshens the flavorful mix of thyme, cherry, raspberry, blackberry and hints of tobacco that invade the soft but firmly structured palate. *WISD LLC.* —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**90 Luca 2020 Laborde Double Select Syrah (Uco Valley).** This wine is well-balanced and has a restrained nose with subtle notes of strawberry and red plum. Lively acidity and soft but firm tannins hold ripe red fruit flavors and vanilla. It shows hints of herbs in the medium finish. *Vine Connections.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

**86 Pascual Toso 2020 Alta Barrancas Vineyard Syrah (Mendoza).** With a good concentration of fruit and heavy oak influence, this red opens with vanilla bean aromas. Red and black fruit flavors meet barrel-driven spices and are framed by grainy tannins. It has a medium ripe finish. *Quintessential Wines.* —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**85 Mauricio Lorca 2019 Reserve Syrah (Uco Valley).** The nose of this wine offers an interesting mix of thyme and overripe berries. Gentle acidity and soft tannins result in a light palate that holds ripe red fruit flavors. It has a short finish. *Naked Wines.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

## PINOT NOIR

**91 Luca 2020 G Lot Pinot Noir (Uco Valley).** A fresh and savory Pinot Noir from high altitude vineyards in Uco Valley, it opens with an aromatic blend of coffee, tart cherry and cranberry on the nose. Light notes of dried herbs and mushrooms add complexity to the bouquet. On the palate, there is a balanced mix of fruit and oak flavors, featuring tart cherry and hints of cinnamon. Lively acidity and smooth tannins hold it all together. *Vine Connections.* —J.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

**91 Otronía 2018 I Pinot Noir (Patagonia).** This wine was born in a young winery under extreme weather conditions in Sarmiento, Patagonia. The nose offers subtle notes of cinnamon and herbs mixed with bright aromas of cranberry and cherry. Delicate flavors of earthy cherry join thyme on the mineral-textured palate. Good acidity extends the pleasant finish and shows hints of cinnamon. *New Frontier Wine Co.* —J.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$85

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Estancia Uspallata 2018 Pinot Noir (Mendoza).** On the road to Chile from Mendoza, there are vineyards planted at 6,560 feet. This new extreme wine region is Uspallata and is home to this vibrant Pinot Noir. The nose shows earthy cherry aromas with hints of flint and clove. It has a mineral character and crunchy cherries on the fresh palate. Flavors are lifted by vigorous acidity carrying a bright finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Otronia 2018 45° Rugientes Pinot Noir (Patagonia).** From the southernmost wine region in Argentina comes this well-balanced Pinot Noir. After aeration the nose opens up and gives aromas of berries and nutmeg. The palate is broad, showing red fruit and herbs backed by firm tannins and lively acidity. It has a medium finish with delicious notes of baking spices. This is fresh and promising. New Frontier Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

## BONARDA

**90 El Enemigo 2019 Bonarda (Mendoza).** Light notes of berries and vanilla emerge from the glass. A rich palate offers ripe cherry, raspberry and hints of dark chocolate. It has gentle acidity and smooth tannins that leads to a pleasant finish. This is a classic Bonarda that is medium in weight and full of red fruit flavors. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 El Enemigo 2019 El Mirador Bonarda (Mendoza).** Black pepper on the spicy nose is followed by aromas of earthy berries. Red and black fruit mix with coffee and herbs on the rich palate. This is a full-bodied Bonarda with rich flavors and a lasting finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 El Enemigo 2019 La Esperanza Bonarda (San Martin).** This red from the winery's Bonarda single vineyard series comes from low-altitude vineyards planted at 650 feet in San Martin, located in Mendoza's warmer eastern region. The nose reveals hints of smoke blended with cherry and plum. A firm palate delivers savory notes of rosemary, ripe red fruit and hints of tobacco. It has just enough acidity to lift the flavors and freshen the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

## RED BLENDS

**92 Trapiche 2017 Iscay Syrah-Viognier (Mendoza).** The captivating nose opens with floral, clove, vanilla and raspberry aromas. A fresh accent of eucalyptus adds complexity. It has a full body that features plum, blueberry and raspberry on the palate. Herbaceous notes blend with oaky flavors that are balanced by nice acidity and plush tannins. It finishes with sweet notes of berries. WX Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**91 Luca 2020 Beso De Dante Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Uco Valley).** Give this wine a few minutes to open up. When it does, cinnamon and black pepper followed by cherry, plum and strawberry emerge from the glass. On the palate, it's full-bodied with ripe tannins and rich plum and cherry. Toasted oak flavors are intense, but medium acidity manages to balance it all out. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$41

**91 TeHo 2019 Tomal Vineyard El Corte Malbec Blend (La Consulta).** As it opens up, the nose shows hints of flowers followed by bright plum and blackberry. This blend of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon is rich on the palate, offering layers of earthy plums and berries. Oak is well integrated and provides subtle chocolate notes. It has just the right amount of acidity and grip. The finish is long and exhibits a drop of espresso. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Finca Flichman 2020 Paisaje De Tupungato Estate Bottled Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Uco Valley).** Bright berries and hints of peppercorn, nutmeg and vanilla form the nose of this blend of almost equal parts of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon. It's very enjoyable, with oak notes well integrated. A round palate reveals sweet notes of black and red fruit accented by hints of vanilla and cinnamon. It finishes with a dash of chocolate. Evaton, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Santa Julia 2020 Reserva Mountain Blend Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley).** This is a fruit-forward blend of 70% Malbec and 30% Cabernet Franc that opens with aromas of cherry. Medium-bodied and backed by good acidity, it offers berry, plum and bell pepper flavors. It's good for everyday consumption. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**86 Domaine Bousquet 2020 Virgen Organic Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Tupungato).** Medium in weight, this is a blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc that exhibits aromas of plum and hints of mint. It has high acidity and light tannins framing mild berry flavors on the palate. WISD LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$13

**85 Caligore 2020 Cuatro Vacas Gordas Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo).** Light notes of licorice and herbs on the attractive nose lead to a palate with ripe fruit flavors, light acidity and thin tannins. This is an everyday wine that finishes with notes of grass. Marquee Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**83 Caligore 2020 Staccato Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon (Luján de Cuyo).** A blend of 60% Malbec and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, it's light-bodied, with a nose that shows aromas of stewed cherry. Sharp acidity backs a palate with mild berry

flavors that fade quickly into a short bitter finish. Marquee Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

## CHILE ROSÉS

**90 Vik 2022 La Piu Belle Rosé (Cachapoal Valley).** An enchanting nose exhibits white flowers and fruity notes of strawberry and raspberry. This rosé has a mineral character and offers bright flavors of berries alongside a lively acidity. The lasting finish shows fresh citrus notes. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Casas del Bosque 2022 Botanic Series Estate Bottled Rosé (Casablanca Valley).** This is a lively rosé of Pinot Noir. Floral and strawberry aromas arise from the glass. A light note of salt denotes the maritime influence of the Pacific Ocean in the vineyards. The palate is fresh and shows cherry and strawberry flavors that disappear in a crisp finish. Southern Starz, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Maquis 2021 Gran Reserva Rosé (Colchagua Valley).** This is a mineral-textured rosé that opens with stone fruit, raspberry and strawberry. It's dry and fruit-forward. The palate has weight and displays citrus fruit, berries and herbs. It's made of Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes and has nice acidity that extends the freshness into the medium finish. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Garcés Silva 2021 Boya Certified Sustainable Rosé (Leyda Valley).** The nose of this rosé, which comes from a cool-climate region, displays aromas of flint and herbs. This is an herbaceous wine that has mild berry flavors, good acidity and a trim finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Gillmore 2021 Rose of Pais Rosé (Maule Valley).** A rosé made with País grapes that exhibits an inviting nose of orange zest and cherry. On the palate, it's austere and has subtle berry flavors. It has gentle acidity and a short finish. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## PINOT NOIR

**92 Matetic 2018 EQ Granite Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley).** For full review see page 12. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Daké 2019 Viñedo Maricerro Pinot Noir (Itata Valley).** A nose of baking spices offers cinnamon and vanilla guiding the senses to a fruit-focused palate. Cranberry, cherry and red plum are

accented by barrel-driven spices, adding pleasant sweet flavors. Moderate acidity provides balance while a light note of herbs freshens the finish. Sovereign Wine Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**90** **Viña Leyda 2021 Coastal Vineyards Las Brisas Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley).** This coastal wine has an aromatic nose, displaying hints of salt mixed with spices and thyme. An herbaceous and spicy profile makes a flavorful palate. It has medium acidity and chalky tannins. Notes of cherry and tobacco are bright in the aftertaste. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Viña Leyda 2020 Origin Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley).** Leyda Valley's cold weather makes it suitable for grapes like Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. This opens with delicate notes of licorice and cranberry. It's juicy and fruit-focused, revealing cherry and cranberry with a touch of spice on the fresh palate. Light notes of oak and herbs linger on the finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$65

**89** **Viña Leyda 2020 Lot 21 Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley).** This wine comes from a vineyard located less than three miles from the coast. A fruit-forward nose exhibits aromas of cherries and cranberries. The palate is light and austere. It has subtle red fruit flavors and citrus notes alongside moderate acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**87** **Cono Sur 2021 Made With Organic Grapes Pinot Noir (Chile).** The nose of this fruit-forward Pinot opens with notes of toasted oak, grass and berries. On the palate, subtle flavors of barrel-driven spices and berries are backed by medium acidity. Drink slightly chilled. Fetzer Vineyards. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**87** **Sol de Sol 2021 Pinot Noir (Malleco).** Viña Aquitania dared to go to new southerly latitudes and planted vines in Malleco Valley's cool climate. This Pinot Noir has an herbaceous character and slightly drying tannins. It shows aromas of dried cherry and herbs on the earthy nose. Notes of aniseed, tomato paste and ripe red fruit fill the palate. Good acidity carries grassy notes throughout the finish. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**86** **Terrapura 2021 Reserva Pinot Noir (Itata Valley).** This red presents an austere nose with hints of berries. Meaty red fruit flavors and cumin meet on the light palate and lead to a fruity finish. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**85** **François Lurton 2021 Hacienda Araucano Humo Blanco Pinot Noir (Lolol Valley).** This Pinot Noir comes from Lolol Valley in the Colchagua wine region, where the vineyards have maritime influence. On the nose, it's austere and unveils light

notes of red fruit. The slightly drying palate offers grass flavors that meet with ripe fruits and hints of toasted oak. It has gentle acidity and a trim finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$18

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**90** **Casas del Toqui 2019 Gran Toqui Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley).** A spicy nose reveals cumin and toasted oak aromas in the glass. This is a classic and enjoyable Cabernet with a soft palate, where spices and ripe berries meet. The finish exhibits hints of grass and vanilla. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Santa Ema 2019 Amplus Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Alto).** for full review see page 18. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Casas del Toqui 2021 Reserva Barrel Series Cabernet Sauvignon (Cachapoal Valley).** An attractive nose offers cherry aromas and leads to a plush palate with ripe fruity notes of berries and herbaceous flavors. Nice acidity gives freshness to this medium-weight Cabernet Sauvignon. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Santa Rita 2019 Floresta Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** The opening includes strawberry plus notes of tomato leaf and bell pepper. A ripe palate shows good acidity balancing grilled bell pepper, red plum and oak spice flavors. This wine is medium in weight and light in grip. Delicato Family Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Undurraga 2019 T.H. Terroir Hunter Cauquenes Cabernet Sauvignon (Maule Valley).** This has a nose of herbs followed by cinnamon. Vigorous acidity backs mild flavors of herbs and berries while balancing heavy oak influence. It has a grainy texture and a slightly warm finish. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Emiliana 2021 Natura Made With Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Chile).** It's a smooth and good value Cabernet Sauvignon made with organic grapes. Aromas of ripe berry and bell pepper are subtle. Hints of cinnamon blend with ripe cherry on the medium-weight palate. Banfi Vintners. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**88** **San Pedro 2021 1865 Las Piedras Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley).** An austere nose offers mild red and black fruit aromas. The palate is framed by grainy tannins and moderate acidity. Flavors of ripe fruit blend with soft notes of oak spice and grass. It's a good wine to pair with beef stew. VSPT USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**86** **Bodegas Tagua Tagua 2021 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Rapel Valley).** Light notes of peppercorn and green bell pepper show on the tight nose of this red. On the palate, stewed fruit flavors blend with bell pepper. It's an everyday red that has light tannins and gentle acidity. Marquee Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**84** **Bodegas Tagua Tagua 2021 Familia Correa Lisoni Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley).** This ripe wine opens with aromas of grilled bell pepper. It's light in weight with soft tannins and sharp acidity. Ripe plum mix with bell pepper and light notes of smoke on the thin palate. It finishes short. Marquee Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

## RED BLENDS

**92** **Viña Tarapacá 2020 Gran Reserva Etiqueta Azul Red Blend (Maipo Valley).** This is oaky in style, yet the barrel-driven notes add to the wine complexity. It opens with sweet vanilla and licorice over a core of cherry and blackberry. A smooth and broad palate exhibits balancing acidity. Flavors of herbs and green bell pepper are followed by black fruit. Notes of vanilla crème brûlée extend into the finish of this Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend. Brotherhood Winery. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Casa Donoso 2020 1810 Cabernet Sauvignon-Carmenère (Maule Valley).** The name of this wine marks the year of Chile's Independence Day. The winery honors the date with a flavorful blend. Aromas of raspberry, cherry and blackberry with hints of vanilla bean are lively in the glass. Equal parts of Cabernet Sauvignon and Carmenère deliver plenty of red fruit flavors and spices. It has a fine texture and moderate acidity extending barrel-driven flavors of coffee and vanilla throughout the medium finish. FWS Copaboca Distribution. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Undurraga 2020 T.H. Terroir Hunter Rarities Garnacha-Cariñena-Monastrell Red Blend (Maule Valley).** The nose bursts with aromas of ripe blackberry and cherry. As the wine opens up, it shows subtle notes of rosemary and grilled bell pepper. Chalky tannins and enough acidity provide a good mouthfeel where cherry and red plum flavors meet. Hints of herbs linger in the aftertaste. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Carmen 2020 Delanz Apalta Red Blend (Apolta).** A tight nose offers hints of black pepper. Light notes of berry show after aeration. This blend of 79% Carmenère, 15% Cabernet Franc and 6% Syrah is medium in weight and fruit-forward. Raspberry and light notes of bell pepper are framed by soft tannins. It has enough acidity to freshen the finish and make it enjoyable. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35



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**87 Carmen NV Vintages Blend IV Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Maipo Valley).** A nonvintage wine made with 75% Cabernet Sauvignon from 2020 mixed with Cabernet Sauvignon from 2018, 2019 and 2021. The nose of ripe plum is complete with light notes of eucalyptus. It's fruit-forward, presenting flavors of plum and hints of grass backed by gentle acidity and tannins. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## URUGUAY

### ALBARIÑO

**91 Bouza 2021 Albariño (Montevideo).** The nose of this wine is aromatic with notes of white flowers and yellow grapefruit. It has a mineral character and lively acidity supporting stone fruit and orange zest. The finish is long with saline notes in the aftertaste. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90 Bodega Garzón 2022 Reserva Albariño (Maldonado).** For full review see page 21. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Bodega Garzón 2021 Single Vineyard Albariño (Maldonado).** This wine shows a nose of citrus fruit and grass. Mouthwatering acidity lifts the palate, where lime and peach flavors combine. The finish is refreshing. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Establecimiento Juanico 2021 Don Pascual Coastal White Albariño (Juanico).** Celery and subtle notes of white peach make for a delicate nose. The palate delivers subtle stone fruit and ripe lime flavors with hints of salt. It finishes with a light note of smoke. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**90 Bresesti Winery 2020 Sur Lie Sauvignon Blanc (Canelones).** Notes of green pepper and white peach are fresh on this white. It has weight and notes of lime, adding complexity to the palate. The finish shows pleasant citrus notes. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Gimenez Mendez 2022 Alta Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Canelones).** Lime and wet stone are on the nose of this well-balanced white. It's complex enough to drink on its own and versatile enough to pair with food. The palate delivers peach, melon and lime accented by an herbal character. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**89 Marichal 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Canelones).** Subtle aromas of lemon, peach and

green pepper shape the nose. It has good acidity and a mineral character featuring white peach, apricot and hints of grass. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$16

**89 Montes Toscanini 2021 Reserva Familiar Sauvignon Blanc (Canelones).** This wine is aromatic, offering bright notes of stone fruit and celery. Moderate acidity backs up flavors of mango, peach, lime and grass. It has a citrus finish. Oak Beverages Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Bodega Garzón 2021 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Maldonado).** This is a crisp white wine with subtle notes of lime in the austere nose. On the palate, it shows herbs and citrus fruit alongside good acidity. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Bresesti Winery 2020 Orange Sauvignon Blanc (Montevideo).** A skin-fermented and unfiltered white wine, this has flavors of ripe green apple and pear alongside sharp acidity. To bring out its best attributes, drink it chilled. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Pizzorno 2021 Don Prospero Sauvignon Blanc (Canelones).** The aromatic nose offers peach and wet stone. On the flavorful palate, stone fruit and lime meet with hints of smoke alongside nice acidity. MYB Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Cerro Chapeu 2016 Sust Vintage Brut Nature Champagne Blend (Rivera).** Lime aromas are inviting in this traditional method sparkling wine made with 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir. Fine bubbles disappear quickly in the citrus palate, which has smoky notes. It has gentle acidity and a gentle finish. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

### WHITE BLENDS

**91 Bouza 2019 Riesling (Montevideo).** This dry wine has a delicate nose of white flowers, wet stone and lime. Well-balanced and mineral, the palate features citrus fruit and honey notes backed by crisp acidity. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90 Cerro Chapeu 2021 Castel Pujol Folklore Blanco White Blend (Rivera).** Subtle aromas combine notes of flowers, peach and grass on the nose of this blend of 70% Trebbiano and 30% Malvasia. Lime flavors follow, showing a fresh palate backed by crisp acidity and carrying citrus flavors through the lingering finish. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Cerro Chapeu 2019 1752 Reserva Petit Manseng-Viognier (Rivera).** The nose is rather austere, with subtle notes of lime and butter. This wine features vibrant acidity backing up yellow grapefruit and oak spice flavors. The finish is short in length. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**84 Bizarra Extravaganza 2020 Orange Natural, vegan White Blend (Juanico).** A blend of equal parts Gros Manseng and Petit Manseng, this wine tastes like ripe apple and shows notes of oxidation. It has gentle acidity and a short finish. Cork Alliance. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

### OTHER WHITE WINES

**90 Viña Progreso 2022 Overground Viognier (Canelones).** Honeysuckle, mango and lime fill the bouquet of this white. It's balanced, with pineapple, peach and lime on an oily mouthfeel that leads to a lingering citrus finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Bracco Bosca 2021 Ombu Moscatel (Atlántida).** Sweet notes of peach and pear blend with hints of orange on the palate of this dry wine. It's medium in weight and finishes with notes of ripe apricot. MYB Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**88 Bodegones Del Sur 2021 Chardonnay (Juanico).** Aromas of lime and melon are subtle. It has good weight in the medium-bodied palate and flavors of ripe lime and butter. It finishes slightly warm. Establecimiento Juanico. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

### SPARKLING WINES

**88 Pizzorno NV Clasico Sparkling Blend (Canelones).** The nose of this sparkler is austere, with subtle white peach and lime aromas. Citrus fruit blends with toasted biscuit alongside moderate acidity. This is a bone-dry sparkling wine that pairs well with spicy food. MYB Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Cerro Chapeu 2022 Castel Pujol Pet Nat White Blend (Rivera).** Subtle tropical fruit aromas lead to peach flavors and fizzy bubbles on the palate. It's lean and has a short finish. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## ROSÉS

**90 Bodega Garzón 2022 Pinot Noir Reserva Rosé (Maldonado).** For full review see page 21. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.*  
abv: NA Price: \$20

**89 Bresesti Winery 2020 Rosa Panterra Rosé (Montevideo).** Unfiltered and crisp, this wine offers subtle notes of berries and hints of wet stone on the nose. The palate features grenadine and a mineral character alongside good acidity. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

**88 Artesana 2021 Rosé (Canelones).** This rosé made of Tannat offers subtle flavors of watermelon and strawberry. The palate has weight and good acidity that carries through the lingering finish. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**87 Bresesti Winery 2020 Veranillo Rosé (Montevideo).** Herbal notes and ripe red plum shape the nose of this Tannat rosé. The palate echoes the nose with mild flavors of red fruit. Good acidity makes the wine easy to drink. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

**84 Montes Toscanini 2021 Reserva Familiar Rosé (Canelones).** Made of Tannat, this rosé has light acidity and ripe fruit flavors leading to a bitter finish. Oak Beverages Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

## TANNAT

**94 Bodega Garzón 2019 Petit Clos Block #212 Tannat (Maldonado).** For full review see page 5. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

**93 Viña Progreso 2018 Old Vines Tannat (Canelones).** Offering bright aromas of plum, licorice and a light note of vanilla, this wine is flavorful and well structured. The rounded palate delivers ripe plum, fig and grilled bell pepper framed by gripping tannins. It finishes long with hints of smoke in the aftertaste. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$36

**92 Bouza 2019 Pan de Azúcar Tannat (Maldonado).** Aromas of cinnamon and blackberry are inviting on the nose of this full-bodied red. The palate delivers delicious wood spice followed by cherry and blackberry framed by fine-grained tannins. A good concentration suggests this wine will age. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$43

**92 Montes Toscanini 2017 Criado en Roble Tannat (Canelones).** For full review see page 19. Oak Beverages Inc. *Best Buy.*  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**92 Viña Progreso 2011 Elisa's Dreams Barrica Abierta Tannat (Canelones).** Full-bodied and concentrated, this red was aged in open barrels. It shows pleasant chocolate aromas. After aeration, thyme and black cherry follow. On the palate, juicy fruit combines with herbs, supported by ripe tannins and good acidity. Light notes of coffee beans linger on the finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$66

**91 Bodegones Del Sur 2020 Private Collection Tannat (Juanico).** Well-balanced and full-bodied, this Tannat is very approachable and fresh. It has an inviting nose of cranberry, cherry and light notes of nutmeg. Gripping tannins and nice acidity provide a good structure. Cherry and red plum flavors are honest on the midpalate. The finish shows hints of tobacco. Establecimiento Juanico. —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**91 Cerro Chapeu 2018 Batovi T1 Single Tannat (Rivera).** Ripe red berries and grilled bell pepper aromas are prevalent on the nose. Dried herbs meet with meaty ripe cherry and blackberry flavors on the smooth palate. It's well structured and has a lasting pleasant finish. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$38

**91 El Capricho 2018 Aguara Special Reserve Tannat (Durazno).** This wine is full-bodied and ripe. The aromatic nose shows berry, bell pepper and licorice. It's full-bodied and has a generous palate that features silky tannins. Red fruit flavors blend with coffee notes on the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$55

**91 Montes Toscanini 2019 Gran Tannat (Canelones).** For full review see page 15. Vinaio Imports.  
abv: 14% Price: \$45

**91 Viña Progreso 2020 Overground Tannat (Canelones).** This well-balanced wine delivers red plum and tobacco accented by a light note of dried herbs. Silky tannins and moderate acidity provide a good structure. It's full-bodied and flavorful and has a lasting finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

**90 Artesana 2020 Reserva Tannat (Canelones).** Rich berry flavors are nicely blended with vanilla on the well-structured palate. This wine is full-bodied and has smooth tannins and enough acidity to lift the concentrated flavors. It has an enjoyable medium finish. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$23

**90 Bizarra Extravaganza 2020 Tannarone Natural Wine Tannat (Juanico).** Tart cherry

and red plum are bright on the palate of this well-balanced red. It's unoaked and has smooth tannins that provide a good structure. The finish is medium in length, with earthy and grassy notes in the aftertaste. Cork Alliance. —J.V.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$33

**90 Bodega Garzón 2020 Single Vineyard Tannat (Maldonado).** Full-bodied, this red offers cherry and herbaceous aromas. The palate is flavorful, offering concentrated plum, cherry and hints of rosemary. It has good acidity and gripping tannins. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**90 Bouza 2018 Parcela Unica A6 Tannat (Montevideo).** Coffee and black fruit aromas shape the nose and lead to flavors of grass and plum. Oak flavors are slightly intense but well integrated. It has a full body, smooth tannins and a long finish with hints of black olive and nutmeg. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$51

**90 Cerro Chapeu 2019 Ysern Gran Tradicion Reserva Tannat (Rivera).** This wine begins with ripe red fruit aromas and a light note of mint. It's full-bodied and has slightly rough tannins. The palate features ripe strawberry and red plum. Herbal and earthy notes add moderate complexity. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$25

**90 El Capricho 2018 Reserve Tannat (Durazno).** With an inviting nose of dried cherry, plum and mint, this full-bodied wine has flavors of black fruit, thyme and tobacco that linger into a persistent finish. It's full in weight and offers gentle, firm tannins. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**90 Gimenez Mendez 2020 Alta Reserva Tannat (Canelones).** This wine has a bouquet of cherry, plum and black olive. Tannins are smooth and firm, supporting a palate with meaty plum and oaky notes. Lively acidity balances out the flavors. It finishes with hints of coffee. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$31

**90 Marichal 2020 Tannat (Canelones).** This wine begins with floral and red berry aromas followed by hints of dried herbs. Unoaked and fruit-forward, it has smooth tannins, vibrant acidity and a mineral texture. Juicy red plum and cherry flavors lead to a pleasant finish. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$16

**90 Montes Toscanini 2019 Gran Reserva Tannat (Canelones).** This red begins with pleasant aromas of red berry, cassis and crushed gravel, accented by dark chocolate. The savory palate features flavors of cranberry and tart cherry combined with grass. Notes of toasted oak linger in the persis-

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tent finish. Gripping tannins and moderate acidity provide a good structure. Vinea Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Montes Toscanini 2019 La Cumparsita Edición Centenario Tannat (Canelones).** For full review see page 21. Oak Beverages Inc. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Pisano 2018 Reserva Personal de Familia (RPF) Tannat (Canelones).** Aromas of red plum, cranberry and dark chocolate show in the glass of this medium-bodied Tannat. It's balanced and fruit-focused with notes of grass and toasted oak lifted by a nice acidity. Total Wine & More. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90 Pizzorno 2018 Reserva Tannat (Canelones).** This fruity and concentrated wine offers ripe red plum and blueberry flavors supported by smooth tannins, making the wine very approachable. It's full-bodied and shows baking spices in the lingering finish. MYB Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Viña Progreso 2020 Revolution Tannat (Canelones).** This is a big Tannat with smooth, firm tannins. It opens with meaty red fruit aromas and hints of salt. Good acidity balances out concentrated cherry flavors followed by black olive. A light note of balsamic adds complexity to the palate. Copa Fina Imports CA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**89 Bodegones Del Sur 2021 Tannat (Juanico).** This wine has a nose of cherry and red plum with hints of salt. It's medium-bodied with good acidity and light tannins. The palate features bright flavors of red berries that persist in the lingering finish. Establecimiento Juanico. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Bresesti Winery 2019 Premium Tannat (Montevideo).** A sweet entrance led by overripe cherry and blackberry is framed by light tannins. This is a dry red featuring good acidity and hints of earth and herbs on the finish. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Establecimiento Juanico 2020 Don Pascual Coastal Tannat (Juanico).** This wine features strawberry and herbs framed by light tannins and high acidity. The finish is medium in length, with a light note of salt. Drink slightly chilled. Cork Alliance. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Pisano 2015 Arretxa Gran Reserva Tannat (Canelones).** This red offers baking spices followed by cherries, and hints of salt on the aromatic nose. Soft tannins frame ripe red berry flavors. It's concentrated and finishes with notes of grass. Total Wine & More. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**89 Pizzorno 2020 Mayúsculas Mac.** Carbonica Tannat (Canelones). This fruit-forward wine offers tart cherry and cranberry aromas. Hints of flowers are inviting. It's medium-bodied and light in tannins, and it features bright juicy red fruit flavors. Notes of grass show in the aftertaste. Enjoy it chilled. MYB Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88 Bouza 2019 Tannat (Montevideo).** This red opens with vanilla and nutmeg aromas. Herbaceous and red fruit flavors blend with oaky notes and are supported by smooth tannins and a rich mouthfeel. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

**88 Marichal 2019 Reserve Collection Tannat (Canelones).** Ripe red berries and grass show in the glass of this everyday wine. Concentrated red plum and cranberry flavors are backed by high acidity on the palate. It has soft tannins and a medium finish. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Pisano 2020 Rio de los Parajos Tannat (Progreso).** Subtle aromas of chalk and cherry show in the glass of this juicy wine. Red fruit flavors are backed by lively acidity and soft tannins, making the wine very approachable. Notes of smoke linger on the finish. Total Wine & More. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Bodegones Del Sur 2021 Pueblo del Sol Tannat (Juanico).** Medium-bodied and fresh, this red shows cranberry, tart cherry and flowers. It's fruit-focused and has sharp acidity. Drink slightly chilled. Establecimiento Juanico. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

**87 Bracco Bosca 2021 Lacertilia Tannat (Atlántida).** Fruit-forward, this red shows aromas with notes of blackberry, raspberry and licorice. On the palate, it offers red berry flavors framed by soft tannins and moderate acidity. MYB Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 El Capricho 2020 Art Collection Tannat (Durazno).** Aromas of cherry and a light floral note make for an inviting nose. The palate features berry and grassy flavors alongside sharp acidity. It's easy to drink. Classic Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87 Montes Toscanini 2021 Crudo 1 Limited Edition Tannat (Canelones).** Ripe blackberry, raspberry and hints of grass are framed by light tannins. This red is fruit-forward and easy drinking. Oak Beverages Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**84 Bresesti Winery 2021 Summer Tannat (Montevideo).** Subtle berry aromas lead to a palate with pomegranate and cherry flavors. It's light-bodied, with very light tannins and a warm finish.

As its name suggests, it's a wine to drink chilled on a hot summer day. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

## CABERNET FRANC

**91 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Cabernet Franc (Maldonado).** For full review see page 20. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Bracco Bosca 2020 Gran Ombu Cabernet Franc (Atlántida).** A delicate nose offers licorice, cherry and hints of cocoa. This is a well-balanced and fresh red with intense red fruit and herbal flavors. It has firm tannins and enough acidity to freshen the pleasant, earthy finish. MYB Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**91 Viña Progreso 2020 Overground Cabernet Franc (Canelones).** Aromas of ripe raspberry and blackberry followed by peppercorn make for an aromatic nose. A smooth structure frames red berry flavors and hints of bell pepper and smoke. It has a very enjoyable finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90 Bodega Garzón 2018 Petit Clos Cabernet Franc (Maldonado).** The nose of this red offers grassy and earthy aromas followed by plum and light notes of chalk. It has a mineral character with juicy plum flavors accented by licorice. The finish is fresh, with hints of mint. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90 Bodegones Del Sur 2020 Vineyard Select Cabernet Franc (Juanico).** The elegant nose offers aromas of cherry and eucalyptus. Fruit-forward, the palate delivers honest cherry and blackberry flavors supported by fine-grained tannins and good acidity. It's tasty and easy to drink. Establecimiento Juanico. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Bresesti Winery 2018 Familia Pequeñas Colhecciones Cabernet Franc (Montevideo).** This wine has an inviting nose of ripe blackberry aromas and hints of green pepper. A good balance of black fruit and herbal flavors on the palate are supported by firm tannins and lively acidity. The lingering finish shows notes of smoke. Farley Brothers Selection. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

## PETIT VERDOT

**91 Bodega Garzón 2020 Single Vineyard Petit Verdot (Maldonado).** Ripe black cherry and cranberry aromas shape the nose of this delicate red. Full-bodied, it has depth and lively acidity. Bright berry and herbaceous flavors blend with cedar on



the palate. The finish is long and has a light note of leather. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**91 Gimenez Mendez 2020 Alta Reserva Petit Verdot (Canelones).** Plum and blueberry jam blend with notes of coffee bean. This red delivers juicy ripe black fruit flavors alongside nice acidity. It's well structured, with fine-grained tannins supporting the flavorful and balanced palate. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**88 Bracco Bosca 2019 Ombu Petit Verdot (Atlantida).** Aromas of vanilla, ripe red fruit and cassis are inviting. On the palate, it shows red berry flavors framed by soft tannins. The finish is medium-long. MYB Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## RED BLENDS

**92 Bouza 2018 Monte Vide Eu Red Blend (Montevideo).** With an oaky and fruit-forward opening, this wine is well balanced and smooth. Blueberry and blackberry jam meet with dark chocolate flavors. A blend of Tannat, Merlot and Tempranillo, it's bold with supple tannins and cedar notes in the aftertaste. Elixir Wine Group. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$67

**91 Familia Deicas 2016 Preludio Barrel Select Lote N106 Red Blend (Juanico).** Inviting, the nose displays aromas of ripe blueberry and black cherry with a dash of cocoa. This is a blend of 34% Merlot, 25% Tannat and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon that includes small percentages of other red grapes. On the palate, it displays blueberry flavors blended with green bell pepper and supported by smooth tannins. Licorice and chocolate linger in the persistent finish. World Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Alto de la Ballena 2016 Tannat-Viognier (Maldonado).** This wine is a blend of 85% Tannat and 15% Viognier. It offers stewed black fruit and bell pepper aromas followed by a hint of toasted oak. The palate delivers blackberry and raspberry alongside soft but firm tannins. It finishes with notes of herbs. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**90 Artesana 2020 Devocion Red Blend (Canelones).** Aniseed, ripe red berries and hints of baking spices shape the nose of this blend made of 40% Tannat, 30% Cabernet Franc and 30% Merlot. It has good weight on the smooth palate with red fruit, green pepper and vanilla notes in a slightly oaky profile that's lifted by lively acidity. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Artesana 2020 Reserva Red Blend (Canelones).** Cherry and licorice with hints of toasted oak shape the nose of this blend made of 55% Tannat, 30% Merlot, and 15% Zinfandel.

This is a full-bodied wine with chewy tannins and good acidity. It has concentrated tart cherry and red plum with hints of blackberry jam. American Estates Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$23

**90 Cerro Chapeu 2021 Castel Pujol Folklore Tinto Red Blend (Rivera).** This is a fresh blend of 80% Tannat that includes 20% Petit Manseng. The aromas offer notes of ripe plum and bell pepper. It has plenty of black fruit flavors supported by good acidity and smooth tannins. A slight chill on this will bring out its best attributes. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Establecimiento Juanico 2020 Don Pascual Red Blend (Juanico).** for full review see page 21. Cork Alliance. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**90 Pisano 2020 Rio de los Pajaros Blend Red Blend (Canelones).** Maraschino cherry aromas are inviting in the nose of this blend of 55% Tannat, 40% Syrah and 5% Viognier. It has good acidity and gripping tannins that add a nice texture to the mouthfeel. Raspberry and cherry flavors lead to chocolate notes in the medium finish. Total Wine & More. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 El Capricho 2018 Rserve Tannat-Cabernet (Durazno).** Aromas of red berries are fresh on the nose. Bell pepper, toasted oak and hints of salt add complexity. The palate delivers juicy red plum and raspberry with soft tannins making the wine easy to drink. Hints of smoke linger on the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Montes Toscanini 2020 Crudo Barricado- Unfiltered Red Blend (Canelones).** Black olive, cherry and herbaceous aromas shape the nose of this blend. Concentrated, it has an herbal character and astringent tannins. Ripe cranberry and cherry blend with thyme alongside moderate acidity. Oak Beverages Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$36

**88 Pisano 2020 Cisplatino Tannat-Merlot (Canelones).** Berry aromas on the nose of this blend of 60% Tannat and 40% Merlot. Mild cherry flavors are framed by soft tannins alongside enough acidity to freshen the medium finish. Enjoy slightly chilled. Total Wine & More. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Alto de la Ballena 2018 Red Blend (Maldonado).** This Tannat-based blend has a nose of bell pepper and black olive. It's bold with gripping tannins and lively acidity. The palate shows candied berry and herbaceous flavors. Classic Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER RED WINES

**90 El Capricho 2017 Reserve Tempranillo (Durazno).** This wine is attractive, with aromas of mint, clove and plum all intertwined. It's medium-bodied and has good acidity and firm tannins, adding a smooth texture to the mouthfeel. Black fruit flavors and notes of oak spice show on the palate. Hints of tobacco linger on the finish. Classic Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Pisano 2018 Reserva Personal de Familia (RPF) Cabernet Sauvignon (Canelones).** Full-bodied and concentrated, this well-structured wine shows fresh strawberry, raspberry and a light note of cinnamon that lead to a palate with firm tannins providing good texture. It has green bell pepper and red fruit flavors. A lasting finish offers hints of vanilla. Total Wine & More. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**89 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Marselan (Maldonado).** Blackberry, thyme and wood spice are subtle on the nose. This red has smooth tannins and oaky flavors combined with light notes of black fruit. It's full-bodied and slightly warm on the smoky finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Cerro Chapeu 2018 Reserva Nebbiolo (Rivera).** Full-bodied, this wine opens with subtle blueberry and blackberry aromas. Hints of herbs add complexity to the nose. The palate features an herbal character with subtle black fruit flavors alongside sharp acidity. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Pisano 2020 Rio de los Parajos Pinot Noir (Canelones).** This easy-drinking red opens with wet forest floor aromas followed by cherry. Light in weight, it offers plenty of fruit flavors and a light note of mushroom. It has a medium finish of smoke and herbs. Total Wine & More. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**86 Montes Toscanini 2020 Reserva Familiar Merlot (Canelones).** Aromas of baking spices are followed by strawberry in this medium-bodied red. Light tannins support subtle fruit and grass flavors combined with toasted oak that lead to a short finish. Oak Beverages Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## PERU

**88 Intipalka 2021 Malbec (Ica).** This red opens with subtle berry notes in the glass. A fruit-forward Malbec from Ica Valley in Peru, it offers ripe plum and cherry on the light palate, finishing with hints of grass. Good acidity and soft tannins make

# BUYINGGUIDE

the wine easy to drink. Santiago Queirolo S.A.C. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Intipalka 2019 N°1 Gran Reserva Red Blend (Ica).** A blend of 45% Malbec, 25% Tannat, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot, it exhibits aromas of tomato paste and red plum. A dash of peppercorn and chocolate adds to the bouquet. On the palate, this red offers meaty plum supported by soft tannins. Santiago Queirolo S.A.C. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$49

**87 Intipalka 2021 Reserva Malbec-Merlot (Ica).** A blend of 60% Malbec and 40% Merlot offers ripe red plum, cherry and bell pepper. Tannins are a bit drying but have enough grip to support rich fruit flavors that linger on the finish alongside hints of oak spice. Santiago Queirolo S.A.C. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Intipalka 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Ica).** Aromas of lemon are bright but disappear after aeration, giving way to herbaceous notes and guava. On the palate, grass joins mild flavors of tropical and citrus fruit. It has light acidity and a short finish. Santiago Queirolo S.A.C. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## BOLIVIA

**90 2018 Único Tannat (Bolivia).** For full review see page 16. Llamas Wine LLC.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$33

**88 Campos De Solana 2019 Tri Varietal Reserva White Blend (Bolivia).** Bright yellow in color, this Viognier-based blend opens with floral, ripe lime and vanilla aromas. On the palate, toasted oak is followed by white grapefruit alongside light acidity. Sweet notes of oak spice are displayed on the finish. Llamas Wine LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## NORTHEAST ITALY

### WHITE WINES

#### COLLIO

**93 Primosic 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Pale copper in color, with lacy and wafting aromas, this is a unique and worthwhile Pinot Grigio. Aromas of white cherry, lemon pith and green apple set the stage for more subtle aromas of pressed flowers and river stones. The palate is broad and ample. A solid core of baked pear and citrus skin wrapped in vivid acidity gives it a sturdy backbone. Drink now–2030. Panebianco. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Primosic 2018 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Macerated for over 28 days, this golden-hued wine jumps out of the bottle with aromas of spiced

dried apricots, roasted honey, dried yellow flowers and dried earth. The palate is rich and full in body, with a nuttiness mixed with dried peach flavors. The wine finishes with exotic spice and dried floral notes. Drink now–2030. Panebianco. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$56

**93 Raccaro 2021Q Malvasia (Collio).** This wine is one of the standard bearers of Malvasia in the Collio. Elegant aromas of white peach, jasmine, magnolia, crushed rock and fresh herbs all ebb and flow with each whiff of the glass. Pine and fresh herbs meld with fresh apples and apricot on the palate, with layers upon layers of ever-evolving flavors. This wine also ages super well, so give it a try. Drink now–2030. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**93 Raccaro 2021 Collio (Collio).** This wine is vibrant and complex from the start. Aromas of lily, white peach and almond leap from the glass. The palate is textured, with loads of minerality plus hints of peach pit, apricot and fresh herbs. Drink now–2030. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**93 Raccaro 2021 Rolat Friulano (Collio).** Raccaro has made wine in the heart of the Collio since 1928, producing bottlings of place and beauty ever since. Aromas of apricot, white peach and magnolia spill out the moment you pull the cork. The focused palate dances between showing off the intense minerality of their vineyards and the vibrant fresh fruit flavors that drive the wine. It finishes with balanced acidity, keeping each sip fresh. This wine ages very well so drink now through 2035. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**93 Ronco Blanchis 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This pretty wine offers gentle aromas of cherry blossom, fresh apple and river stone. The palate is well crafted between orchard fruits and minerality. Bright, clean and crisp, it shows a subtle herbal note on the finish. It's a very attractive and delicious wine. Arte Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Due del Monte 2019 Ronesco Chardonnay (Collio).** Reserved at first, this wine can use a bit of oxygen, but once it opens up you will be excited. Aromas of Meyer lemons, roasted apples and dried flowers mingle with roasted nuts and sweet baking spice. The palate is rich and full in body, with hints of crème fraîche and baked lemons. It finishes with a subtle note of minerality and a balanced pop of acidity. Free Run LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**92 Livon 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This wine jumps out of the glass with verve and vigor. Aromas suggest a fresh bushel of apples, wildflowers and beeswax, with subtle hints of crushed stone and wild mint. The palate is both lush and crisp, with vibrant acidity keeping the ample citrus fruit notes in line. Angelini Wine. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**92 Livon 2020 Manditocai Friulano (Collio).** For three generations, the Livon family has farmed the hills of the Collio. The “Manditocai” highlights the grape’s lively aromas of white peach, fresh white flowers and crushed stone. The palate of this wine is layered and textured. Aging in Hungarian barriques has given the wine body along with subtle spiced fruit notes. Angelini Wine. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Mario Schiopetto 2021 Friulano (Collio).** Sometimes you can just smell “pretty” and this is one of those times. Wafting and almost lacy aromas of white peach, apricot and Fuji apples dance out of the glass. Hints of wet river stone and fresh herbs peek through after the wine has been opened. On the palate, the wine focuses on perfectly ripe stone fruits, wildflowers and crushed rocks. Balanced acidity keeps the wine moving forward with each sip. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Primosic 2019 Friulano (Collio).** Golden in color this macerated Friulano opens with aromas of candied orange zest, dried yellow rose and light caramel. The palate is textured with loads of depth. Earthy notes combine with dried apricot and crushed rock to form a triad of deliciousness. Panebianco. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$44

**92 Sturm 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Fresh Pink Lady apples meet Anjou pears, sprinkled with mint and a pop of sea salt. The palate is fresh and vibrant, with a solid core of orchard fruit grounded by mineral and floral notes that make this wine a true pleasure. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**92 Zuani 2021 Vigne (Collio).** In this wine, upfront and ripe aromas of pear, golden apple and white peach leap out of the glass. In the background fresh herbs and lemon zest add character to the nose. This wine is a blend of Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio and Friulano. Each grape plays its part well on the palate giving density, texture, minerality and balance. Drink now–2030. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Draga 2018 Miklus Malvasia (Collio).** This macerated version of Malvasia opens with aromas of dried mandarin orange peel, dried apricot and pressed yellow flowers. The palate is rich but balanced, with dried stone fruits and dried flowers taking the lead. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$70

**91 Gradis'ciutta 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Aromas of yellow flowers, Comice pear and river stone waft out of the glass of this elegant Ribolla Gialla. The palate is vibrant and fresh with notes of Golden Delicious apple and sea salt. Vibrant acidity keeps each glass as refreshing as the first. This is a

tasty wine to start off a meal or better yet with some prosciutto. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Mario Schiopetto 2021 Pinot Bianco (Collio).** This mineral-driven and focused wine highlights the beauty of the Collio region. Ponca, the local name for the soil in the Collio, is a chalky clay and sandstone conglomerate, which this wine shows off in spades. The first note of Ponca leads into ripe apples and white flowers. Layered and textured, the palate has a creaminess that is balanced with bright acidity. It's a wine that highlights the soil of this special place. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Mario Schiopetto 2021 M Friulano (Collio).** From the moment the bottle is opened, this wine leaps out with aromas of white peach, cut stone and balanced almond. The palate is supertasty with a core of ripe and fresh stone fruits, wild herbs and white flowers. It has fantastic balance between weight and acidity. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$85

**91 Venica & Venica 2021 Jesera Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Rose gold or copper in color, this Pinot Grigio evokes aromas of white cherries, apricots and wildflowers. The textural and layered palate showcases nectarine, turmeric and fresh herbs, finishing with bright acidity. Grand Cru Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Venica & Venica 2021 Ronco del Ceró Sauvignon (Collio).** Candied orange zest, fresh wildflowers and crushed rock leap from the glass of this Sauvignon Blanc. Clean and fresh on the palate, the supertasty wine offers notes of mandarin orange, sweet lime and passion fruit balanced by well-defined minerality. Grand Cru Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Venica & Venica 2021 Ronco delle Cime Friulano (Collio).** White peach, fresh-cut apple, yellow flowers and crushed stone define the nose on this classic Friulano. Well structured and supremely enjoyable on the palate, it shows hints of apricots and wild herbs. Grand Cru Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Venica & Venica 2021 Ronco delle Mele Sauvignon (Collio).** Dynamic and exciting, this 100% Sauvignon Blanc leaps out of the glass with aromas of apricot, Fuji apple, lemon zest, fresh bay leaf and crushed rock. The palate is textured, with a tension between fruity and earthy notes that evolves with each sip. Vibrant acidity and focused minerality keep the mind engaged and the heart happy. Drink now–2030. Grand Cru Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Zuani 2021 Sodevo Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Heady floral aromas dominate the glass in this very pretty wine. As you swirl the glass, fresh yellow pear and honey notes mingle with the floral essences. The palate is light, lively and fresh, with

green apple and wet rock notes on the finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Borgo Conventi 2021 Friulano (Collio).** Yellow wildflowers mixed with fresh apricots and almonds drift from the glass and evolve into subtle earth notes. The palate of this wine is medium in body, with hints of peach, fresh herbs and a long finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Borgo Conventi 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Honeydew, Bosc pear and Golden Delicious apple aromas lift out of a glass of this delightful Pinot Grigio. On the palate, the wine shows the minerality of Collio region and the more savory sides of the varietal. Medium in body, it has a bright and sumptuous finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Conti Formentini 2020 (Collio).** Wild honey, lily, apple and peach aromas jump from the glass in this forward and fun wine. The palate switches between crushed rocks, persistent minerality and juicy stone fruits. It finishes with vibrant and fresh acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Draga 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This wine captures your attention from the moment the cork is pulled, with aromas of white cherries, orange zest and crushed stone. The palate is textured, with layers of orchard fruits, wildflowers and honey intermingling with refreshing acidity on the finish. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Due del Monte 2019 Friulano (Collio).** This wine explodes with aromas of a fruit salad, wildflowers and hints of earth. The palate is round and soft with peach pit, white cherry and touch of fresh wild herbs on the finish. Free Run LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Ferruccio Sgubin 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This creamy and textured Pinot Grigio opens with fragrant fresh apple, Bosc pear and white flower, with a hint of wet rock. Medium in body, the wine has creamy pear and blanched almond notes. It's very well balanced and each glass becomes more interesting than the one prior. Bacchus Cellar. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**90 Fiegl 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Slightly golden hue, this pretty Ribolla Gialla opens with baked pear and apple tart aromas plus some sea salt. The palate is intriguing, with jasmine tea notes and an earthy undertone that adds seriousness and ups the need for either cured meats or roasted mushrooms. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Gradis'ciutta 2018 Bratinis (Collio).** From the get-go this wine has personality. Big and bold aromas of ripe apples, roasted honey, hazelnuts smothered in vanilla and a kiss of minerality leap out of the glass. The palate is lush and full bodied, with notes of tropical fruits, dried yellow plums, and roasted pineapple with lemon zest and pith. Though rich the wine is well balanced, finishing with great structure and elegance. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**90 Gradis'ciutta 2017 Riserva (Collio).** This wine is loaded with aromas of fresh peach, apple, wildflower and crushed rock. The palate is lush with vibrant acidity highlighting more stone fruit than anything else. It's elegant and pretty on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Primosic 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** This vibrant 100% Sauvignon Blanc opens with aromas of candied lemon zest, freshly cut white flowers and gravel road. The palate is lifted with loads of lemon and lime zest, star fruit and a pleasant grapefruit-pith note that keeps fruitiness in check. It finishes with a subtle hint of crushed rock and tangy acidity. Panebianco. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Ronco Blanchis 2021 Chardonnay (Collio).** This wine exemplifies the beauty of Chardonnay. Aromas of ripe apple, melon, lemon and white flowers waft effortlessly out of the glass. The palate highlights the apple notes and then adds roasted hazelnut, yellow broom and a fresh, bright finish. Arte Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Sturm 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Upfront and vivid aromas of lemon peel, lime zest and fresh wild herbs define the nose of this giving Sauvignon Blanc. The palate is fresh, fruity and shows good balance, finishing with vibrant acidity and a musky finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**90 Venica & Venica 2021 Petris Malvasia (Collio).** Aromas of grilled peaches kissed with sea salt and white flowers leap out of the glass of this wine. Vibrant and fresh on the palate, it has a texture that screams for seafood while a pop of acidity keeps each sip refreshing. The wine finishes with ample hints of ripe stone fruit and crushed rock. Grand Cru Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**89 Borgo Conventi 2019 Luna Di Ponca (Collio).** Concentrated aromas of ripe and juicy peach and mixed citrus zest evolve into white flower and mineral notes. The palate is rich and lush. A blend of Friulano, Chardonnay and Malvasia, the wine shows flavors of apricot, sea salt and magnolia. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75



# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 Draga 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Aromas of fresh-made apple sauce covered in honey and vibrant white flowers rise out of the glass from this forward Ribolla Gialla. The palate is lush and layered with ample pear and apple notes, with a touch of lemon. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Draga 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Pretty aromatics of pressed flowers, tropical fruits and fragrant fresh herbs leap out of the glass. Flavors of Meyer lemon and Fuji apple combine with river rock, giving an easiness that makes this a great wine for an aperitivo or with a first course. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**89 Ferruccio Sgubin 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** This classic Sauvignon Blanc shows aromas of lemon, fresh green herb and boxwood. The palate is vibrant and fresh with lively acidity and tons of mixed citrus notes. It has a pleasant grapefruit-pith finish. Bacchus Cellar. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

**89 Mario Schiopetto 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Roasted tropical fruit, lemon zest and guava enliven the nose of this dynamic Sauvignon Blanc. It's super pretty, with green herbal notes, pithy citrus flavors and bright acidity that make the wine pop on the palate with each sip. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Mario Schiopetto 2021 Malvasia (Collio).** This classic Malvasia offers upfront aromas of mixed stone fruit, wildflowers and sea salt. The palate is loaded with apricot, lemon zest and a touch of wet stone. It finishes with a kiss of acidity. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Mario Schiopetto 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This classic Pinot Grigio opens with aromas of white peach and Bosc pear followed by dried white flowers and wet stone. The palate is lively and fresh, with hints of ripe apple, lemon zest and almond. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Primosic 2021 Friulano (Collio).** Pretty aromas of peach, apricot and yellow flowers show on the nose of this wine. The palate is textured, with fresh apple and stone fruit in syrup balanced by a decent amount of tangy acidity. Panebianco. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Primosic 2017 Chardonnay (Collio).** Aromas of ripe pineapple, orchard fruit, coconut and baking spice leap out of the glass. The palate of this wine is full in body, with a creamy texture that finishes with bright acidity. Panebianco. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**89 Ronco Blanchis 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** As you pour this wine, you will be greeted with

upfront aromas of grapefruit pith, candied lemon peel, fresh herbs and lime blossom. The fruity palate concentrates on mixed citrus notes, with subtle mineral and herbal accents that weave around the fruit flavors. Tangy acidity keeps the wine in balance. Arte Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Sturm 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This light and fresh Pinot Grigio opens with Granny Smith apple, pressed white flowers, peach skin and honey. The palate is more savory, with hints of wild herbs, Bosc pear, and lemon and lime zest finishing with bright acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**89 Terre del Faet 2020 Pinot Bianco (Collio).** Aromas of Golden Delicious apple, honey and beeswax roll out of the glass. This wine alternates between ripe fruit notes and subtle minerality. The palate highlights orchard fruit, finishing with a hint of bitter almond. Origen Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Zorzon 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This wine has a slight copper color, indicating it had a slight maceration on the skins. Aromas of baked pears, apples with sweet spice, fresh Rainier cherries and crushed rocks create an intriguing opening to the wine. The palate is layered and textured with a creaminess and fruit flavor reminiscent of ambrosia salad. All of this is balanced with a fresh pop of acidity on the finish. Ribevi Wine Int. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Zuani 2018 Zuani Riserva (Collio).** Honeyed baked apple and roasted lemon peel aromas waft out of the glass on this blend of Friulano, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio. The palate is loaded with orchard and stone fruit that's balanced by saltiness that keeps the wine fresh. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**88 Ascevi Luwa 2021 Grappoli Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Exotic aromas of tropical fruit, citrus and peach jump out of the glass. The palate of this wine has hints of roasted orange peel, dried flowers and wild mint. Medium in body, it offers a kiss of acidity on the finish. LK Wine Sales LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88 Borgo Conventi 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Classically styled, this Sauvignon Blanc has forward aromas of ruby-red grapefruit, green apple, fresh bay leaf and river stone. The palate is bright spotlighting a mélange of citrus fruits and white flowers. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Cantina Produttori di Cormòns 2021 Chardonnay (Collio).** This easy and quaffable Chardonnay begins with fresh apple, white flowers and roasted lemon on the nose. The palate is soft and easy. A crescendo of ripe pears finishes with a

lovely textural note that gives the wine more depth. Enotria Wine Import. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Cantina Produttori di Cormòns 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Aromas of wildflowers and farmers-market apples open this wine. Both ripe and tart at the same time, it offers notes of lemon zest and pith, finishing with a touch of minerality. Enotria Wine Import. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88 Colmello di Grotta 2019 Coldigrotta Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This wine leaps out of the glass with loads of mixed citrus notes that suggest orange, lemon, lime and grapefruit, with a touch of orange-flower water. The bright palate highlights citrus notes and a touch of green apple, finishing with a pop of acidity. Beviameo International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Conti Formentini 2021 Chardonnay (Collio).** This well-balanced Chardonnay begins with aromas of tropical fruits, roasted apples and lemon zest. The palate is plush with notes of mango, spiced baked pear and a faint hint of crushed rock. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**88 Conti Formentini 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Ripe fruit aromas of banana, apple, melon and white flowers are layered atop each other in this generous wine. On the plush palate, the fruit notes become more amplified but a squeeze of lemon gives the wine pep. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Due del Monte 2019 Sauvignon (Collio).** Roasted apples and Meyer lemon zest are upfront in the glass on this well-crafted Sauvignon. Subtle hints of white flowers, honey and sweet spices add to the unique character. The palate is soft and creamy from 50% of the wine seeing wood while the remainder was aged in steel, giving the palate flavors of green apple and grapefruit. This wine finishes with faint crushed rock and herbal notes. Free Run LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$9

**88 Due del Monte 2019 San Giovanni Sauvignon (Collio).** From the heart of the Collio, this Sauvignon Blanc is forward and fruity. Aromas of Granny Smith apple mixed with sweet ruby-red grapefruit and roasted lemon zest abound in the glass. The fruit is balanced by dried white flowers and oak spice. Layered and textured, the palate offers lemon curd, crème fraîche and baked-apple flavors, with a touch of acidity. Free Run LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88 Fiegl 2021 Friulano (Collio).** Subtle and light aromas of white peach and apricot waft from the glass of this Friulano. It's medium in body, with fleshy fruitiness. Bitter almond notes and

a touch of minerality on the finish make this wine easy and fun. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Marco Sclaris 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Wafting aromas of fresh orchard fruits, white flowers and blanched almonds make this Pinot Grigio intriguing. The palate is light, with more tart green-apple flavors finishing with a hint of savory herbs. Masciarelli Wine Co. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88 Pascolo 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** This light and bright Sauvignon Blanc has aromas of lemon, lime, citrus blossom and fresh herbs. The palate is crisp and easy, with mixed citrus flavors and a touch of pineapple and grapefruit pith on the finish. Jace Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**88 Tenuta Villanova 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** Rich aromas of pear and apple leap out of the glass, with a touch of honey and wildflowers. The palate of this wine is medium in body, with notes of lees and ripe McIntosh apple flesh. Vino Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88 Zorzon 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Aromas of Meyer lemon, lime zest and white flowers leap out of the glass. Bright and fresh, the palate of this wine is mouthwatering, with a core of tropical fruit, aromatic herbs and grapefruit. The wine finishes with a tart pop of acidity, leaving the palate ready for the next sip. Ribevi Wine Int. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Ascevi Luwa 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Jasmine, spiced apples and banana chips lead the way on the nose of this lush Ribolla Gialla. The palate is plush with loads of mango, roast pineapple and creamy pear. The wine finishes with a touch of acidity and pleasant minerality to balance out the luscious fruit. LK Wine Sales LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 Ascevi Luwa 2021 Ronco dei Sassi Sauvignon (Collio).** This aromatic wine jumps from the glass with pine, mixed citrus zest and yellow flower aromas. The palate has hints of fresh apple, fresh thyme and cut grass, with medium body and moderate acidity. LK Wine Sales LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**87 Colmello di Grotta 2019 Coldigrotta Sauvignon (Collio).** Lemon zest, lime pith and grapefruit mix with subtle fresh herbs and crushed rocks on the nose of this wine. The light Sauvignon Blanc focuses on citrus and fresh herbal flavors, with a bright pop of acidity on the finish. Beviemo International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**87 Colmello di Grotta 2019 Coldigrotta Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Concentrated aromas of dried apricot and baked peach define the nose of

this wine. Subtle hints of pressed flowers drift in and out of the juicy fruitiness. The palate continues the focus on fruits, with more fresh white peach and pear flavors giving way to a touch of stone and kiss of acidity on the finish. Beviemo International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Draga 2021 Friulano (Collio).** Rich and concentrated aromas of peach syrup, wildflower honey and pineapple jump from the glass. Lush and ripe apricot flavors mix with dried floral hints, finishing with a kiss of acidity. AP Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**87 Fiegl 2021 Sauvignon (Collio).** Aromas of pine, mint and lime zest waft from the glass, while faint aromas of wet rock drift in and out. The palate of this wine is light and fresh with mixed citrus, cucumber and herbal flavors. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87 Fiegl 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Collio).** Mixed apple and pear aromas combine with fresh wild mint and pine in this unique wine. Soft and round, the palate focuses on creamy apple and pear notes, with a touch of dried white flowers on the finish. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Terre del Faet 2020 Malvasia (Collio).** Mineral driven and salty from the get-go, this Malvasia has subtle peach and apple notes plus a touch of white flowers. The palate centers on crushed rock and salt, with apricots and fresh herbs rounding out the palate. Origen Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**87 Terre del Faet 2020 Vino Da Uve Autoctone White Blend (Collio).** This wine opens with aromas of ripe peach, apple, wet stone and wildflowers. The palate is lush and creamy with subtle hints of baking spice, pear, apricot and roasted honey. It finishes with a kiss of acidity. Origen Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**86 Fiegl 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio).** This crisp Pinot Grigio opens with tart apple notes mixed with white flowers and citrus zest. The palate has vibrant acidity and focuses on tart apple notes, with a touch of minerality on the finish. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**86 Pascolo 2021 Friulano (Collio).** Reserved at first, this wine needs a touch of air before aromas of citrus zest, fresh herbs and crushed rocks unveil themselves. The palate is light, with a touch of bitter lemon pith mixed with ripe apricot on the finish. Jace Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**85 Terre del Faet 2020 Friulano (Collio).** Ripe and lush canned peaches with syrup, dried white flowers and baked apples are found on the

nose of this big Friulano. The palate is rich with ripe orchard and stone fruit, finishing with slight bitterness. Origen Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$212

## FRIULI

**93 Jermann 2020 Vintage Tunina (Friuli).** For full review see page 9. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Jermann 2021 Vinnæ Ribolla Gialla (Friuli).** For full review see page 16. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 Jermann 2020 Where Dreams Have No End Chardonnay (Friuli).** For full review see page 16. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Vigneti Le Monde 2021 Pinot Bianco (Friuli).** Pretty and delicate aromas of McIntosh apple and Anjou pear slowly drift from the glass. Subtle mineral notes intertwine with the fruit aromas. This wine's palate is refreshing and high-lights green apple notes, yellow plum and gravel. The wine's texture and vibrant acidity will make you reach for the second glass quickly. The Sorting Table. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**89 Vigneti Le Monde 2021 Pinot Grigio (Friuli).** This pretty Pinot Grigio has a slight copper color due to 24-hour-plus maceration on the skins. Vibrant aromas suggest fresh apples, white cherries and white flowers. The palate is crisp and refreshing with flavors of green apple skin and lemon zest. The Sorting Table. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88 Bosco del Merlo 2021 Turranio Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli).** This clean-cut Sauvignon Blanc is vibrant and zippy the moment it is poured. Aromas of lemon, lime and lemongrass waft out of the glass, with a touch of sliced fresh jalapeno in the background. The palate pops with lively acidity marked by lemon zest, pith and fresh-cut grass. Franco Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88 Tenuta del Morer 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Friuli).** Aromas of tart lemon candy, fresh-cut grass and wet stone waft from the glass. The palate of this wine is light and easy, with a core of citrus flavors mixed with herbs and white flowers on the finish. Vine & Vine Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Zuani 2021 Sodevo Pinot Grigio (Friuli).** Fresh and crisp, this wine offers bright citrus, green apple and crushed rock aromas. The palate is clean, vibrant and refreshing, hinting at lemon and lime zest, white flowers and almond. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Masut da Rive 2021 Chardonnay (Isonzo del Friuli).** This wine starts out shy and needs a bit of time in the glass to show its true self. Gradually the wine offers aromas of candied apple, dehydrated lemon and pressed white flowers on the nose. The palate is bright and clean with a hint of minerality and zippy lemon zest on the finish. Vignaioli Selection. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Masut da Rive 2021 Pinot Grigio (Isonzo del Friuli).** Rose-gold in color indicating a slight maceration on the skins, this Pinot Grigio is light and easy. Aromas of white peach, Golden Delicious apple and white flowers waft from the glass. The palate is creamy with moderate acidity, finishing with a slight peach-pit note. Vignaioli Selection. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**86 Tenuta del Morer 2021 Pinot Grigio (Isonzo del Friuli).** This easy and fresh wine opens with candied pear, ripe banana and white flowers on the nose. Fresh and fruity on the palate, it offers a mixture of Fuji and Granny Smith apple flavors followed by a whisper of acidity. Vine & Vine Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## ALTO ADIGE

**95 Tiefenbrunner 2019 Vigna Au Riserva Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** Grown at elevations between 853 feet and 1,050 feet on the steep slopes of this single vineyard, this wine is serious. Reluctant at first to show itself, the wine eventually opens up to showcase aromas of fresh red and green apples, lemon zest and hints of oak. The palate is rich yet well balanced, and fresh with quince and pear flavors. This refined wine will reward you with a few years in the cellar. Drink 2025–2035 Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

**94 Cantina Produttori San Michele Appiano 2020 Sanct Valentin Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** Since 1907 this historic winery has made great white wines. Today, the 350 members of this cooperative work together to grow site-specific grapes that make serious wines, such as the Sanct Valentin Chardonnay. Aromas of ripe pear and apple with roasted citrus notes bathed in sweet baking spice and vanilla leap out of the glass. The palate is both rich and energetic, with a lush texture from extended lees contact and bright acidity that keeps the palate fresh. This wine can go the distance. Drink now–2035. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$54

**92 Tiefenbrunner 2021 Turmhof Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** This wine highlights the estate's history of winemaking in the Alto Adige. Concentrated aromas of roasted pear and quince join with notes of banana and sweet spice. The palate is creamy and lush but ample acidity keeps everything fresh. Flavors of roast apple, dried flow-

ers and mountain minerality work in unison to elevate this wine. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Castelfeder 2019 Burgum Novum Chardonnay Riserva (Alto Adige).** Roasted oak spice and baked apple lift out of the glass on the first pass of this rich Chardonnay. Baked citrus and a touch of minerality dance around the ripe fruit aromas. The palate is rich and full in body, with roasted pear and vanilla taking center stage. Thankfully, the cool evenings of the Alto Adige provides ample acidity to balance out the intense richness. Drink now–2030. Volio Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Elena Walch 2022 Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** This lifted and bright Chardonnay hails from the steep slopes of Alto Adige in northern Italy. Aromas of fresh apples, tropical fruits and pressed white flowers float from the glass with each swirl. Gentle in texture, with a slight mineral edge, the wine shows off the exotic fruit notes on the palate. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 Peter Zemmer 2020 Chardonnay (Alto Adige).** This mineral-driven Chardonnay highlights the unique soils of Alto Adige. Aromas of green apple and lemon zest balance out the austere minerality. The palate is vibrant with a hint of crème fraîche and vanilla ending with kiss of acidity. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$11

## CARSO

**92 Castelveccchio 2021 Sauvignon (Carso).** The Carso DOC is basically one giant slab of limestone and this wine takes you directly into the vineyard. Aromas of fresh ripe McIntosh apple, lemon zest, and orange blossom play second fiddle to the intense and dynamic mineral note that evolves with each whiff. Minerality is firmly planted on the palate, supported by vibrant fruit. Textured with lively acidity on the finish, this wine is worth seeking out. Drink now–2030. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92 Castelveccchio 2021 Pinot Grigio (Carso).** This stunner of a wine hails from one of the most unique appellations in Italy. The distinctive chalky soil of the Carso DOC—karst—produces refined and elegant wines. This Pinot Grigio's aromas are forward, with notes of pressed flowers, honey and ripe Anjou pears. The palate is rich with striking acidity and flavors of mint, hops and citrus pith. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Castelveccchio 2021 Dileo Malvasia (Carso).** Malvasia is a heady grape but becomes ethereal in the right hands—as this wine demonstrates. Aromas of jasmine and white rose join with fresh peach and crushed chalk. The palate is upfront, with

a plush core of stone fruits mixed with almonds. It finishes with a bright pop of acidity. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Castelveccchio 2021 Vitovska (Carso).** Fresh-cut wildflowers, ripe and juicy peaches, Fuji apples and a touch of limestone help define the aromatics of this unique grape. The palate shines through with vibrant minerality that melds well with unctuous stone fruits on the palate. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**87 Castelveccchio 2021 Malvasia (Carso).** Bright gold in color, this wine offers aromas of freshly cut peach, mint and jasmine tea. The palate is light and vibrant with lots of wildflowers, apricot and hints of limestone. Friuli Italian Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**92 Alois Lageder 2021 Gaun Chardonnay (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** This 100% Chardonnay from the mountains of Alto Adige leaps out of the glass with aromas of fresh Fuji apple, wet rock and apple blossom. This wine is beautifully layered and textured with notes of cream and lemon curd. Vibrant acidity keeps the wine in check and will allow it to age. Drink now–2030. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**91 Alois Lageder 2019 Löwengang Chardonnay (Vigneti delle Dolomiti).** This big and rich Chardonnay deftly balances ripe unctuous fruit and vibrant acidity. It opens with roasted apples bathed in butter, sweet baking spice and a touch of crushed rock. The palate is bold and mouthfilling with loads of ripe pear and lemon curd, finishing with a pop of acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$65

**90 Italo Cescon 2021 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** This pretty Pinot Grigio is full of aromas of warmed pears and apples, white flowers and hint of mineral. Bright and fresh on the palate, it's like biting into a perfect Granny Smith apple. Medium in body, the wine shows some almond on the finish. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Puiatti 2021 Ribolla Gialla (Venezia Giulia).** Ribolla Gialla is one of the unique local grapes of Friuli and this bottling provides a textbook example of this worthwhile variety. The moment you pour the wine, it is as if you are picking the freshest and ripest apple in an orchard. In between hints of apples, the wine offers freshly cut white flowers, sea breeze and gravel. The palate continues with pear, wildflower honey and a distinct minerality that adds nuance on the finish. Taub Family Selections. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20



**88** **Lechthaler 2020 Torre Di Luna At The Dawn Of The Moon Chardonnay (Trevenezie).** Roasted Bosc pears and tropical fruits leap out of the glass of this opulent Chardonnay. The palate is creamy and plump with loads of Fuji apple. A touch of crushed rock gives the wine a touch of finesse on the finish. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Tommasi 2021 Le Rosse Pinot Grigio (Venezia).** This easy-drinking Pinot Grigio opens with a fresh bouquet of flowers, green apples and wet stone. The palate is crisp and refreshing, with a touch of lemon zest on the finish. Vintus LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

## NORTHEAST ITALY

### RED WINES

#### ALTO ADIGE

**93** **Castel Sallegg 2020 Pinot Noir (Alto Adige).** This deep and dark Pinot Noir benefits from time in the glass or quick decant. Aromas of black cherries, mountain herbs and forest floor make the wine enticing. The palate is dense and loaded with dark fruit notes and game. Earthy and round, the wine is mouthfilling on the palate. Crimson Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**91** **Castelfeder 2020 Mazon Pinot Nero (Alto Adige).** Sweet oak spices, spiced cherries and a touch of underbrush waft out of the glass. Medium in body, this wine has a creamy texture with loads of tart red fruits, fine tannins and a bright pop of acidity on the finish. Volio Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**91** **Elena Walch 2019 Ludwig Pinot Nero (Alto Adige).** This vibrant Pinot Noir opens with aromas of wild, tart mixed berries, clove and star anise. Savory herbs and forest floor lift out of the glass as the wine opens. Juicy and fruit forward on the palate, the wine is balanced by acidity and dark earth notes. USA Wine West. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**90** **Castelfeder 2019 Burgum Novum Pinot Nero Riserva (Alto Adige).** Sweet dried cherry, sweet spice and forest floor leap out of the glass of this lush Pinot Noir. The wine is medium in body and loaded with high-toned red fruit on the palate balanced by earthy and mineral notes, making each sip more interesting than the last. Volio Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Nals Margreid 2021 Angra Pinot Noir (Alto Adige).** Tart cherries, fresh herbs and sweet baking spices lift out of the glass. Vibrant and pure, the palate of this wine is energetic with sour red fruits, savory spices and understated earthy notes. A joyous wine. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**89** **Cantina Kurtatsch 2019 Glen Riserva Pinot Nero (Alto Adige).** This wine opens with medicinal herb notes along with tart red fruits and a hint of cherry cola. The palate is medium in body with flavors of underbrush, roasted mushroom and dried cherry. This wine finishes with soft tannins and high-toned acidity. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

### OTHER RED WINES

**90** **Jermann 2019 Red Angel on the Moonlight Pinot Nero (Venezia Giulia).** This elegant and graceful Pinot Noir opens with high-toned red fruit, sweet spice, fresh bay leaf and fresh mushroom. The palate offers vibrant acidity, fine tannins and a core of wild cherry that lifts the palate with each sip. Jermann Wines USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Tenuta del Morer 2020 Pinot Noir (Isonzo del Friuli).** This wine offers vibrant and focused aromas of wild forest berries, fresh herbs and clove. Ripe on the palate, it delivers loads of tart cherry, forest floor and fine tannin. Vine & Vine Inc.. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Le Colline 2020 Pinot-Noir (Trevenezie).** Dark and almost brooding in color this rich Pinot Noir is laced with aromas of ripe black cherry, sweet hay and roasted game. The palate is firm and medium in body, with upfront fruitness balanced by dried forest floor and savory spice. Silver Lake Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

## VENETO

### WHITE WINES

#### VENEZIA

**87** **Barollo Winery 2019 Chardonnay (Venezia).** Deep gold in color, this Chardonnay wafts out of the glass with roasted honey, hazelnut, and baked apples with spice. The palate is ripe and fruit forward, dominated by flavors of apple pie and vanilla. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$46

**87** **Cà di Rajo 2021 Chardonnay (Venezia).** Fresh, light and bright, this wine opens with green apple and yellow flower aromas. The palate focuses orchard fruit flavors, with a subtle note of wet stone on the finish. Cork Alliance. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

### PROSECCO

**91** **Bisol 2021 Relio Rive di Guia Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Named in honor of Aurelio Bisol, who dedicated his life to Valdobbiadene and Prosecco, this wine comes from the steepest and best vineyard of Bisol, Rive

di Guia. This distinction is immediately noticeable on the nose, with aromas of freshly picked apple, honeysuckle and crushed rock. The palate is lithe and vibrant with fresh pear and white peach. Most importantly the characteristic mineral note of this vineyard is steely and omnipresent in the wine. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$42

**91** **Nino Franco 2021 Primo Franco Dry (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene Superiore).** Lively and vibrant from the first pour, this wine shows why Nino Franco is a leading Prosecco producer. Aromas of Pink Lady apples, tropical fruits and candied ginger intermingle with distinct minerality. The palate is creamy with a soft mousse highlighting orchard fruits with a touch of candied citrus. Terlato Wines International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$37

**90** **Ruggeri & C. 2021 Giustino B. Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This is a classic. Vibrant aromas of McIntosh apples mix with lilies and wildflower honey. The wine dances on the palate. A soft and textured mousse offers flavors of green apple and candied lemon zest, finishing with perfectly timed acidity. WinesU. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$38

**89** **La Tordera 2021 Otreval Rive Di Guia Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco).** This single-vineyard Prosecco highlights the precision and focus of Valdobbiadene. The wine opens with ripe and forward green apple and Anjou pear aromas, while a squeeze of fresh lemon gives way to wet stone. The palate is light and fresh, amplifying the pear and apple and adding a pop of acidity on the finish. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Alessandro Berselli 2019 Signature Collection (Prosecco di Valdobbiadene).** Forest fruits, fresh bay leaf and roasted mushrooms waft out of the glass on this Pinot Noir. Earthy with subtle baking spice notes, it has fine tannins and a medium body, making it a classically styled Pinot Noir. Inbo Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

## LOMBARDY

### WHITE WINE

#### OLTREPÒ PAVESE

**94** **Cordero San Giorgio 2020 Rivone Chardonnay (Oltrepò Pavese).** This focused and pure wine opens with aromas of fresh and ripe Fuji apples, yellow flowers and distinct chalky notes. The palate is bright with vibrant acidity layered by roasted lemons and cream. Well balanced and intriguing, it's a wine to drink now through 2030. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

## LOMBARDY RED WINES

### OLTREPÒ PAVESE

**93 Cordero San Giorgio 2020 Ti&#257;mat Pinot Nero (Oltrepò Pavese).** This 100% Pinot Noir from the rolling hills of Oltrepò Pavese brings it all to the table. Aromas of ripe and warm Bing cherries cooked with wild mushrooms and thyme swirl in the glass. The palate has a lovely core of red fruits mixed with sweet and savory spices. Well balanced with fine tannins, the wine has great texture and bright acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**90 Alessandro Berselli 2017 Agit Optima Reserva Pinot Nero (Oltrepò Pavese).** Dark-turned earth and roasted cherries combine with fresh herbs, sweet spices and roses on the nose of this exotic Pinot Noir. Lush on the palate, it offers loads of red fruit, with crushed rock minerality on the finish. Inbo Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

### PIEMONTE

**92 Viberti 2021 Filebasse Chardonnay (Piemonte).** For full review see page 14. Opici Wines.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**88 Sassaia 2021 Chardonnay (Piemonte).** Ripe and juicy tropical fruit aromas mix with green apple and lemon zest. The palate of this wine highlights upfront, ripe notes of banana, pineapple and a touch of sweet spice. It's medium in body, with a kiss of acidity. Sassaia LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

### LANGHE

**95 Gaja 2020 Gaia & Rey Chardonnay (Langhe).** A wine that started a movement when it was first released in 1983, "Gaia & Rey" continues to set the standard of Chardonnay in the Langhe. Reserved at first, the wine opens with white floral aromas mixed with ripe orchard fruits that evolve into nutty and chalky mineral notes. The palate is well balanced with vibrant acidity that keeps the wine lively with each sip. Drink now–2035. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$366

**91 La Spinona 2021 Chardonnay (Langhe).** From organically farmed vines in the Barbaresco region, this Chardonnay exudes the beauty of this grape planted in these special soils. Aromas of wild mint, roasted lemon and ripe apple all work in con-

cert. Lush and rich, the palate has enough tension due to the acidity and texture, so the wine is not too fruit-forward. The wine finishes with finesse and vibrancy that highlight the minerality. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2020 Grésy Chardonnay (Langhe).** This 100% Chardonnay from the village of Treiso is loaded with baked apple, white flower, sweet spice and crushed rock on the nose. Fermented and aged in French barriques for 22 months, the wine has a rich and layered texture. Ripe orchard fruit, lemon curd and vanilla flavors express themselves, all balanced by vibrant acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**88 Luca Bosio 2021 Passato Chardonnay (Langhe).** Upfront, roasted orchard fruit dominates the aromas of this Chardonnay. Subtle hints of white flowers, sweet baking spice and crushed stone appear once the wine wakes up. The palate is light and fresh, with a touch of roasted coconut and cream on the finish. Quintessential Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Paola Lanzavecchia 2020 Parole Chardonnay (Langhe).** Bruised apples, pastry dough and subtle minerality lead off the nose of this wine. The palate offers roasted lemon zest and white flowers, with moderate acidity. Saranty Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

### MOSCATO D'ASTI

**90 Elvio Cogno 2021 (Moscatò d'Asti).** Intense aromas suggest wild fruits of lychee, yellow peach and white flowers. The palate of this wine is bright, with zippy acidity and flavors of fresh mint, apple and apricot. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$29

**89 Bava 2020 Bass Tuba (Moscatò d'Asti).** Aromas of stone fruits and white flowers waft out of this light and vibrant Moscato. Freshly cut white peach, mint and wildflower honey combine for a lush and rich palate, but the wine finishes with bright and balanced acidity. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$18

## TUSCANY WHITE WINES TOSCANA

**95 Le Macchiole 2021 Paleo (Toscana).** Opening aromas of rubber bouncy ball and green apple on the nose belie the seriousness of this Chardonnay. It subsequently suggests salted lemon peel, damp cobblestones and more lush tree fruit and

spices. The palate turns to crisp green-apple slices and lemon-lime candy, with salted peanuts on the back and searing acid that lifts it all into an ethereal plane. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$100

**93 San Felice 2020 Ancherona Chardonnay (Toscana).** Hot pavement, lemon and the salty grit of seashells make for a warm, spicy nose on this wine. That remains the rule for the palate, which stays reduced and citrusy. Mouthfilling and savory, this Chardonnay lingers with more citrus, flowers and crushed rock on a long finish. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**92 Petrolo 2020 B Trebbiano (Toscana).** Proving how sophisticated the so-called workhorse grape Trebbiano can be, this wine has a restrained, reduced nose with apples, pears and honeyed nuts. The palate leans even more savory, offering toffee, brown butter and toasted coconut. Delicate flowers seem to bloom on the finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Valiano 2021 Donna Di Valiano Chardonnay (Toscana).** This Chardonnay offers aromas of prickly pear, pink grapefruit, wild grasses and herbs, especially oregano. Grapefruit jelly candy and Haribo sour peaches on the palate contrast with nuttiness and toasted spices for a fun play between sweet and salty, pointed up by bouncy acid. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 Fattoria Fibianno 2021 Vermentino (Toscana).** A classic, delicate nose on this wine offers almond and almond flowers, jasmine and citrus, with hints of stone fruit and pineapple. Meanwhile, the palate is more about pineapple, raw and roasted almonds, and tahini. The creaminess of the nutty, macerated tropical-fruit flavors is set off by lots of lemon through a substantial finish. Artisanal Cellars. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**90 Geografico 2021 Contessa di Radda (Toscana).** Green and yellow apple aromas on the nose come with hints of grapefruit and almond flowers plus summer flavors of garden hose and grass. The palate of the wine offers more apples joined by pears, peaches and a salty edge highlighted by acid, like licking quartz, leading to the savory astringency of grapefruit pith. USA Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90 Salcheto 2021 Obvius Bianco Senza Filtri (Toscana).** This low-intervention, unfiltered celebration of indigenous Tuscan white grapes has a nose of cooked apples, lemons and ripe bananas. The savory spices that finally emerge carry over onto the palate, joined by tahini, toasted almonds and almond flowers, seeded toast and tarte Tatin. The savory palate contrasted with the lush

fruit of the nose is intriguing and eminently drinkable. Massanois Imports. *Hidden Gem*. —D.C.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**88** **Pietro Beconcini 2020 Veia Macerato Trebbiano (Toscana)**. This fun and distinctive macerated white has lilies, marzipan and buttermilk on the nose, with citrus and apples that carry over to the palate. More apple flavors, from tarte Tatin to applesauce with honey-roasted almonds, make for a round and rich if unique sip. Savorian Inc. —D.C.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**87** **La Bastarda 2021 (Toscana)**. Stone fruit and melon characterize the nose of this playful and juicy Tuscan white, with apricot, peach, yellow and green apple, honeysuckle, lemon-lime and a hint of gasoline. More apricot shows on the palate, plus peach candy, melon, and lemon juice and pith. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy*. —D.C.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

**89** **Poggio Mori 2020 Boreo Trebbiano-Malvasia (Tuscany)**. Pears and Golden Delicious apples with savory notes of nuts and earth are highlighted by a squeeze of citrus on the nose of this wine. Lemon come through even more powerfully on the palate, alongside pineapple and kumquat. It's salty and nutty on the finish. Chloe Wines. —D.C.  
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**90** **Carpineto 2021 Valcolomba Vermentino (Maremma Toscana)**. The nose of this wine explodes with lemons in all forms, from zest to curd. This gives way to saltiness and savory notes of spice underneath creamy lemon notes on the palate, like lemon custard in a graham cracker crust. A hint of orange zest adds a last, sweet and acidic burst. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**90** **Rocca delle Macie 2021 Famiglia Zingarelli Campo Maccione Vermentino (Maremma Toscana)**. Fresh grass, stone, citrus and the peppery herbaceousness of new olive oil show on the nose of this Vermentino. The wine remains savory on the palate with brine and stones but also toasted nuts, tahini and shortbread. These contrast with the bright acidic pop of lemon juice alongside rich lemon curd. Palm Bay International. *Best Buy*. —D.C.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**90** **Usiglian del Vescovo 2018 MilleEsettantotto (Costa Toscana)**. This macerated and amphora-aged white honors the medieval Countess Matilda of Canossa. Toasted nuts, orange marmalade, cooked apples and biscotti show on the nose. The palate is bone dry despite the honeyed aromas and a little oxidized, with deep citrus notes of lemon and orange, and echoes of its time in terracotta. Unique and delicious. Offredo Selections. —D.C.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

## TUSCANY ROSÉ WINES TOSCANA

**90** **Pietro Beconcini 2021 Fresco di Nero, Rosé of Tempranillo (Toscana)**. A rare example of a 100% Tempranillo rosato produced in Italy, this wine has a nose of cranberry iced tea and cooked strawberries. The palate suggests raspberries, wet slate and red pepper. Tension between savoriness and fruit holds through a substantial finish. Savorian Inc. *Hidden Gem*. —D.C.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**87** **Il Poggione 2021 Brancato (Toscana)**. This rose-petal-pink rosato starts with a nose of wild strawberries, rhubarb and the greenest part of the watermelon. The palate is a sweet and lively mix of watermelon and wild strawberry candy, with notes of bike tire, pavement and a rigid spine of acid. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

**87** **Tenuta del Buonamico 2021 Dea Rosa (Toscana)**. Coppery pink in the glass, this rosato offers melon, peach and citrus on the nose. Surprisingly intense notes of banana and a bit of lychee show on the palate, with more melon, grapefruit and bouncy acid. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

## TUSCANY RED WINES TOSCANA

**96** **Masseto 2019 Massetino Merlot (Toscana)**. Dense fruit and woody, medicinal notes brood on the nose of this iconic Tuscan expression of Merlot. Aromas range from black cherry, plum, fig and raisin to eucalyptus, fennel, wild mint and damp soil. The palate feels austere, with unrelenting tannins and acid that nearly vibrates. It has a pure linearity that will only reveal itself with quite a bit more time. Drink 2029 through 2039, perhaps beyond. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —D.C.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$350

**95** **Fattoria Le Pupille 2019 Saffredi (Toscana)**. This Bordeaux blend has a celebratory nose, like eating a slice of birthday cake in a comfortable armchair. Cherries, blackberries, vanilla, spice and leather emerge on the palate, alongside candied orange peel and dark chocolate, with herbs and soil at the end. There's a lot of room to breathe with tannins this tightly wound. Drink from 2024–2037. Ethica Wines. *Cellar Selection*. —D.C.  
abv: 15% Price: \$87

**95** **Marchesi Antinori 2019 Tignanello (Toscana)**. The nose on the 2019 vintage of this Super Tuscan benchmark is soft and dense, with

dark macerated berries in tension with green and black pepper, a hint of hibiscus or a cranberry tea, followed by tanned leather, wet soil and moss under a tree. The palate echoes the nose but adds more decadent notes of plum, fig and chocolate mousse, with tannins that feel like a good pair of loafers—supportive, but comfortable. It's long and harmonious. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.  
abv: 14% Price: \$140

**94** **Bibi Graetz 2020 Colore Sangiovese (Toscana)**. Cherries, strawberries, raspberries, seaweed and soy sauce mingle with the scent of freshly paved road, gun flint and pencil on the nose of this wine. It offers a very cherry palate, with wet stone, white pepper, rose petal and chocolate-covered orange slice. A bright and lively wine, it balances structure with playfulness, and delivers fruit that is mouthfilling without turning velvety. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$250

**94** **Brancaia 2019 Ilatraia (Toscana)**. For full review see page 5. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$70

**94** **Cantalici 2016 Tangano (Toscana)**. The nose on this Tuscan red blend feels like a desert buffet of vanilla, rum raisin, fig cake, Luxardo cherries and caffè corretto. The palate keeps that richness, but adds savory notes of balsamic vinegar, black pepper and top soil. Searing heat, sticky dense tannins and unapologetic acid come together with confidence. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
abv: 15% Price: \$60

**94** **Castellare di Castellina 2018 I Sodi Di S. Niccolò (Toscana)**. This wine has a restrained nose that nonetheless shows notes of oak, vanilla and spice before cherry, herbs, top soil and finally a bit of coffee and chocolate emerge. The palate remains indulgent, with cherry, orange peel, milk chocolate and a metallic peppery note of black olives. It's lush but balanced, with tannins that rumble quietly. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
abv: 14% Price: \$120

**94** **Colombaio di Cencio 2019 (Toscana)**. Mushrooms, soy sauce and spicy red-pepper notes lay a savory foundation on the nose of this Tuscan red blend, backed up with ripe tomato and wild oregano. The palate stays spicy with pepper and herbs, contrasted with cherries and cranberries. Tannins are firm but flexible, and the acid powerful but not severe, leading to a rolling, substantial finish. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
abv: NA Price: \$50

**94** **Luce 2019 (Toscana)**. Violets, fresh mint and raspberry come together with reductive notes of tar as well as tobacco, leather and spices—cardamom jumps out in particular—on the complex nose of this wine. Dark berries emerge on the palate, with more herbs, spices, bitter chocolate and coffee grinds. The dusty tannins and searing acid



# BUYINGGUIDE

confirm time will elevate this even further. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$135

**94 PoderNuovo a Palazzone 2018 G33 (Toscana).** The nose of this wine begins with tomato and tomato leaf, oregano and pepper, before moving on to fruitier notes of sour plums, cherries and finally soil and bricks. Bright and crunchy fruit jumps off the palate, suggesting cherries, plums, raspberry and strawberry, with chocolate and coffee and soil on the back. Slightly gritty tannins hang on tightly to the plush fruit. Barone Trading. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$150

**93 Bibi Graetz 2020 Testamatta Sangiovese (Toscana).** The subtle nose on this wine releases oak notes first, then cherries, soy sauce, herbs, pencil shavings and eraser, and finally a little orange peel. Graphite and soil come through on the palate alongside more cherries, orange and dried herbs. Tannins hold their shape but let the fruit speak, while acid cuts right down the tongue. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$99

**93 Brancaia 2019 Il Blu (Toscana).** For full review see page 8. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$115

**93 Carpineto 2016 Farnito Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** The restrained, reduced nose on this wine offers tar, roses and coffee, with a certain freshness from wild fennel and wet rocks. The palate stays savory with more tar and rocks, but also dense fruit including figs, raisins, dark cherries and chocolate. Assertive tannins are propped up by similarly substantial acid. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Fattoria Le Pupille 2019 Poggio Valente Sangiovese (Toscana).** Vanilla, chocolate and cherry set a sweet tone to the nose of this Sangiovese, before opening up to a woodiness of herbs and soil. The palate maintains the chocolate-cherry notes, with some strawberry, herbs and wet rock. Polished, approachable tannins align with peppery acid in a strong finish. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$50

**93 Fattoria Le Pupille 2018 Le Pupille (Toscana).** The wintry comforts of woodsmoke, tiny wild berries, crushed stones, leather polish and new books swirl together on the nose of this wine. Wild blueberries appear again on the palate alongside deeper, savory notes of grilled meat and old leather. The tannins and acid are just beginning to resolve this into something greater than the sum of its parts. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$133

**93 Monte Antico 2017 Supremus (Toscana).** Savory, sweet and perfumed, the nose on this wine gives dark chocolate, dried figs and old leather. Juicy and berry rich, the palate conveys strawberries, cherries, more figs and more chocolate. Tannins make themselves felt and an acid kick

is here, for a wine that's lush but not spineless. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**93 Muralia 2019 (Toscana).** Pencil shavings, graphite and slate arise first on the nose of this Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese blend, with suggestions of blood and roses. Tomatoes, peppers and cherries contrast with stones and soil on the palate, with an umami undercurrent. Firm tannins need time to relax. Tradizione Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**93 Petrolo 2020 A Sangiovese (Toscana).** The time spent in amphora is evident on the nose of this wine, which has an earthy, umami nose of bricks, clay, and the salt and sand of mixed soil. Hints of Bing cherry and flowers float up and eventually become more powerful on the palate, underscored by dusty, grippy tannins and plenty of acid. It's a wine that treats the line between rustic and graceful. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Querceto di Castellina 2019 Podalirio Merlot (Toscana).** A classic Old World nose starts with tar, leather and pencil shavings before cranberry and blackberry notes emerge. Mixed berries dominate the palate. Cherries, raspberries and more blackberries join with orange peel, savory black olives and thyme. Tannins are confident but relaxed, with punchy acid that lifts the fruit and results in length and depth. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93 Capezzana 2018 Ghiaie della Furba (Toscana).** This wine starts with pine needles and crunchy red fruit on the nose, with wet slate, cedar and tobacco leaf slowly emerging. The palate turns richer, with cherries, blackberries, dark chocolate, a little tar, coffee and sambuca. Tannins are very firm and the acid vibrant through a long finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**92 Fossacolle 2019 Riesci (Toscana).** Luxardo cherries and balsamic vinegar arise on the nose of this Tuscan IGT, and again on the palate, joined by darker berries, black pepper and soil, with hints of woodsmoke and underbrush. A fresh and approachable option from this Brunello producer. Vias Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$52

**92 Geografico 2018 La Pavera (Toscana).** This wine has a quiet nose, with raisins, dates, figs and chocolate followed by Luxardo cherry and old leather. The palate is also restrained, offering chocolate-covered raisins enhanced by chalky tannins. Still-powerful acidity makes for a thoroughly enjoyable sip. USA Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$34

**92 La Regola 2017 Strido Merlot (Toscana).** A rich nose offers vanilla, spices, red cherries,

milk chocolate, soil and wild herbs. The palate continues this theme, but adds welcome savory notes of grilled meat, black pepper, cardamom and cumin. Tannins are at attention but beginning to relax and acid is soaring, suggesting there's still room for this wine to grow. Lionstone International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Le Forconate 2017 Nove Legni Merlot (Toscana).** A warm blend of vanilla and spices on the stove wafts off the nose of this Tuscan Merlot, followed by leather, cherries and blackberries. The palate brings more cherries and blackberries plus figs and plums, with bitter cocoa and coffee at the back. Firm tannins and bright acid hold through a substantial finish. Pazzione Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$83

**92 Ornellaia 2020 Le Volte (Toscana).** Aromas of pencil shavings, tree bark and soil open the nose of this blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Sangiovese, before blackberries, blueberries and wild herbs emerge. More berries and brambles show on the palate, with flavors of wild mint, pepper and dark chocolate. Elegant and satisfying. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Petra 2020 Quercegobbe Merlot (Toscana).** The nose on this Tuscan Merlot is all umami at first. Mushrooms, seaweed and moss roll into olives and balsamic vinegar, before a bit of wild cherry and fresh plum skin. Cherries, strawberries and chocolate arrive on the palate even with the savory notes still present, held together with substantial tannins and decisive acid. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Petra 2019 (Toscana).** This Bordeaux-style Tuscan red has a peppery, herbaceous nose, with spices, pencil lead and a hint of sour cherry. The palate is more cherry, now Bing, and dark with dried figs, raisins and chocolate. Herbs reappear on a lengthy, integrated finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$79

**92 Querceto di Castellina 2019 Venti (Toscana).** This Sangiovese-Merlot blend has cherries and medicinal herbs on the nose, before soil and darker macerated fruit emerge. The palate brings more cherries, with blackberries, plums, chalky milk chocolate, black olives and top soil. Structured but forgiving tannins and plenty of acid accompany a mouthfilling finish. Vinity Wine Company. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**92 Riecine 2018 TreSette Merlot (Toscana).** Violets, raspberries and passion fruit on the nose of this Tuscan Merlot join with savory notes of graphite, wet stone near a running stream, and black olives. Juicy fruit bursts through on the palate, offering cherry, strawberry and raspberry. Firm if forgiving tannins strike a tension between powerful and graceful. Soilair Selection. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

**92 Rocca delle Macie 2019 Roccato Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** For full review see page 13. Palm Bay International.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Tenute di Mansalto 2020 Butia Sangiovese (Toscana).** Savory notes of balsamic vinegar and soy sauce are up front on the nose of this Sangiovese, with quieter flavors of sour plums, sour cherry, wild fennel and black licorice. The palate holds onto the umami vinegar notes but adds bright Bing cherry and coffee-chocolate on the back. Tannins are softening but acid continues to draw a tight line around the tongue through the finish. Trinity Beverage Group. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$62

**91 Barbanera 2018 Vecciano (Toscana).** Notes of dark berries, dried figs and candied cherry on the nose are contrasted with herbs and stones at the back. Cherry-vanilla cola soaks the palate, before savory notes of bay leaf and other herbs emerge. Tannins are easygoing and ready for drinking, given shape by a through line of acid. Lionstone International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Carpineto 2018 Farnito Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** Tar and graphite contrast with quiet but dense notes of dark berries and herbs on the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate gets even juicier with berries, and more savory with camphor, grill smoke and peppery astringency. Tannins are coiled tight still and acid kicks back softly. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Luce 2019 Lucente (Toscana).** This wine has a subtle but classic and delicate nose, with vanilla, cherry blossom and candied orange peel before slate and graphite emerge at the back. The palate is richer, with cherry pie, orange zest, herbs and gravel. Harmonious and elegant. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Riecine 2019 Riecine Di Riecine Sangiovese (Toscana).** A nose characterized by fresh, red notes of cranberry, hibiscus, soil, blood, cherries and raspberries becomes peppery on the palate, with tomato jam and bitter roots. Pliable but present tannins and fizzy acid come together for a vibrant Tuscan red. Soilair Selection. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**91 Tenute di Mansalto 2020 Stroncoli (Toscana).** Savory notes arise first on the nose of this Tuscan red blend, offering capsicum, wild oregano, oven-dried tomatoes, tomato leaf and a bit of graphite before cherries and strawberries arrive. The palate brings more cherries and strawberries alongside dark chocolate and spicy red pepper that lingers through the finish. Trinity Beverage Group. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**91 Tolaini 2019 Al Passo (Toscana).** This wine has a deeply umami nose, with notes of

mushroom, moss and balsamic in addition to crunchy cranberries. The combination of red fruit and greens with vinegar recalls a Waldorf salad. Bouncier than expected, the palate offers cola flavors, medicinal cherry and plenty of heat. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**90 Antica Fattoria La Parrina 2020 Radaia Merlot (Tuscany).** The nose on this wine is deeply savory at first, with graphite, slate and green pepper, before berries and dark chocolate appear and carry over onto the palate. Macerated berries and chocolate remain rich on the palate but contrast with savory notes of herbs, balsamic and chunky, chalky tannins. Alloravino LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Cafaggio 2019 Basilica del Cortaccio Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** Black and red fruit play together on the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon, offering cranberries, cherries, blackberries and currants, with notes of vanilla and pepper. The palate leans into darker fruit, including blackberry and fig, with more pepper and a successful balance among tannins, acid and heat. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Cafaggio 2018 Basilica del Pruneto Merlot (Toscana).** A stony nose that gives graphite and slate with cherry skins and sour plums turns to a palate that's juicier, with fresh and candied cherries, pepper and spices. Tannins are firm and acid bouncy, with overall good length and integration. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**90 Montauto 2021 Silio Ciliegio (Toscana).** This wine has vanilla, Bing cherries, black cherries and raspberries on the nose, with a bit of graphite and gunflint coming through after a moment of air. The palate is all cherries, with a rich milk-chocolate finish. Present but flexible tannins and bouncy acid keep the fruit flavors punchy rather than velvety. Webster Barnes LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Petra 2020 Potenti Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** A nose of vanilla, cedar and cigar box are joined by herbs—especially bay leaf—and intense white pepper that could almost prompt a sneeze. Blackberries, figs and more herbs come through on the palate, joined by cherry liqueur and sambuca flavors pointed up by substantial heat. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Petra 2019 Zingari (Toscana).** A reduced nose of freshly poured tar and sulfur meets a luxurious contrast of muddled raspberry and strawberry, before hints of top soil and tobacco emerge. The palate of this wine turns to fresher red fruit, mostly cherry, with soil and gravel. Linear but substantial tannins and a firm backbone of acid work well together. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Rascioni e Ceconello 2020 Poggio Ciliegio (Toscana).** Dusty cherries and wet stone show on the nose of this wine, along with mint chocolate chip ice cream and raspberry candy. Cherries, mint and chocolate also appear on the palate. Tannins feel smooth like river stones rolled in the current, but balanced acidity make for pleasant drinking now. Premium Brands. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Selvapiana 2016 Fornace (Toscana).** Reduced notes of tar and copper underscore cherries and herbs on the nose of this wine. The palate is equally savory, with medicinal cherry, bricks and leather. Firm but pliable tannins and plenty of acid even after some time aging make for a structured sip. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Tenuta del Buonamico 2018 Cercatoja (Toscana).** Tart cherries and wild herbs emerge right away on the nose of this wine, followed by pepper, orange slices and hints of reduction. Cherries, herbs and more pronounced licorice with coffee beans and grinds show on the juicy and lush palate. Tannins are firm enough to push back and the acid pops. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Tenuta del Buonamico 2018 Il Fortino Syrah (Toscana).** Vanilla, cedar and spice start out on the nose of this wine, with a little stone, graphite and then dark berries. The palate offers more blueberry and blackberry against dark chocolate, cocoa and an espresso finish. With tannins and acid in good balance, the wine is ready to drink. Eagle Eye Brands. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**90 Usiglian del Vescovo 2019 Mora del Roveto (Toscana).** On the restrained side, the nose on this Tuscan red blend offers cherries, cranberries, medicinal herbs and eucalyptus. The palate has richer, brighter fruit, including cherry and plum, and dark chocolate. With superfirm, mouthpeeling tannins and lots of acid, the wine will pair with grilled meat. Offredo Selections. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Antica Fattoria La Parrina 2020 Muraccio (Tuscany).** Damp wood chips surround the perfume of fresh roses on the nose of this wine. Next, grill smoke and red meat come out and continue onto the palate. Cherries, plums and the jus of the meat arrive in time to stand up to the rigid tannins and significant acid that guarantee length and depth. Alloravino LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Cafaggio 2020 Sangiovese (Toscana).** The nose on this Sangiovese offers tar, gunpowder, dark cherries, figs and raisins. Dried fruit continues on the palate, bringing cherries, cranberries, figs, raisins, chocolate and black pepper. Tannins are firm but polished. Ethica Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

# BUYINGGUIDE

**89 Casanova di Neri 2020 IrRosso (Toscana).** A fun and vibrant nose on this wine gives lots of red fruit, from hibiscus to cranberry to cherry, before turning to underbrush, iron and top soil. The palate offers cherry, mixed berries and a little vanilla. An easygoing and approachable red from a top Brunello producer. William Grant & Sons. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Donna Laura 2021 Ali Sangiovese-Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** Cranberries, raspberries and hibiscus on the nose of this wine contrast with savory notes of dried herbs, soil and pencil shavings. The palate is all juicy red fruit, with more cranberries along with cherries and strawberries. Flavors then take a spicy turn toward meat jus and pepper, with firm tannins and bright acid. Banville Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**89 Rascioni e Ceconello 2021 Rotulaia Ciliegio (Toscana).** Intense cherry on the nose of this wine joins with bricks, meat jus and rose petals. The palate offers cherry and fresh and freeze-dried strawberries, with final notes of bricks and soil. Fizzy with acid and taut with tannins, it's a fun and drinkable red. Premium Brands. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**89 Tenute di Mansalto 2022 Castello Rapale (Toscana).** A nose of copper, graphite, pepper, ginger snap and black olive transitions into a berry medley of a palate. Flavors suggest strawberries, cherries and raspberries, before some iron-rich soil and a little cola. The wine has good balance, with plenty of acid and structured but forgiving tannins. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Carpineto 2020 Dogajolo (Toscana).** A nose of pencil shavings, cherries, tar and stones gives way to a palate of cherries, strawberries, raspberries and chocolate, with a hint of licorice at the end. This wine has grippy tannins, punchy acid and warming heat on the back palate. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88 Petra 2021 Hebo (Toscana).** On the nose this Tuscan red blend offers black cherry, blackberry and meaty rich umami flavors including leather, woodsmoke and pepper. Lots of plum and cherry come out on the palate along with savory notes of soil and balsamic vinegar. Bright acid gives lift even as tannins are softening. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**87 Boscarelli 2021 Sangiovese (Toscana).** Lots of graphite and pencil shavings show on the nose of this Sangiovese, along with cherries, coffee and black olive. The palate maintains that metallic pepperiness, and adds the sourness of cherry skins and underripe plums echoed in crunchy tannins. Empson USA Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Il Bastardo 2021 Sangiovese (Toscana).** Cherries, cedar, underbrush and pencil shavings show on the nose of this wine. The palate conveys cherries, chocolate, orange zest and some deeper fig and raisin. Supersoft tannins and medium acid make for a lithe and easy sipper. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## COSTA TOSCANA

**92 Fattoria Fibbiano 2019 Sanforte Sangiovese (Costa Toscana).** Classic Sangiovese notes of bricks, cherries and gunpowder on the nose are lightened by vanilla-cherry cola, cedar box and violets. The palate tastes like wet rocks and currants, with some bitter cocoa and coffee grinds. Octopus-like tannins that reach all over the mouth are buoyed by intense acid. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92 Fattoria Fibbiano 2018 L'Aspetto (Costa Toscana).** The nose on this blend of equal parts Sangiovese and Canaiolo shows light reduction, with cherry blossoms, hibiscus, cranberry and flint. Leather and pepper emerge after a bit. The very-cherry palate is meaty as well, though chocolate and coffee soften the blow of tightly coiled tannins. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89 La Regola 2020 Ligustro (Costa Toscana).** Blackberries, plums, chocolate, leaves, soil and tobacco all come through on the nose of this Syrah-dominant Tuscan red blend. The palate of blueberry pie, more top soil and tree bark finishes with milk-chocolate mousse. Steady but flexible tannins and rolling acid create coherence. Lionstone International. —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Usiglian del Vescovo 2020 Il Grullaio (Costa Toscana).** Charcoal and fresh tar jump off the nose immediately, followed by pencil eraser, graphite, black cherries and fresh blackberries. Stony and woody, the palate doubles down on the nose with flavors of charred meat and berry compote. Tannins are firm but forgiving, with acid present but not excessive. Offredo Selections. —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

## MAREMMA

**91 Fattoria di Magliano 2018 Perenzo Syrah (Maremma).** A nose of mocha and berries gets an earthy boost from grass, dried herbs and rose hips. More fresh fruit flavors come out on the palate of this wine, from strawberry to red apple, with coffee and chocolate appearing as cold brew and bitter cocoa. The wine has angular tannins and peppery acid. Opici Wines. —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Volpaia 2018 Preluis Castelpile (Maremma).** The figgy and plummy nose on this wine con-

veys prominent oak notes of vanilla and cedar, but also spicy dandelion greens and new notebooks and pencils for school. Sweet and savory balance characterizes the palate, with figs, plums and macerated berries as well as graphite. Firm but flexible tannins hold it all together. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$57

**89 Tenuta Aquilaia 2020 Sangiovese (Maremma Toscana).** The nose on this red from the western Tuscan subregion of Maremma is light and bright, with fresh cherries, meat jus, top soil, espresso beans and sambuca flowers. The palate remains energetic and juicy, with cherries, orange, chocolate, soil and mushroom cooked around roasted meat. Pliable tannins make for good drinking now. DiVino International. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**89 Tenuta Aquilaia 2020 Ciliegio (Maremma Toscana).** Umami notes of balsamic vinegar, soy sauce and seaweed push up against cherry and cranberry on the nose of this Ciliegio. A tension between the savory seaweed and soy-sauce flavors and round, bright cherries continues on the palate, with polished tannins. DiVino International. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Volpaia 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Maremma).** Cranberry, plum and black currant are first on the nose of this Cabernet Sauvignon, followed by tobacco leaf and wet stone. The palate has more crunchy red and black fruit, herbs and pepper, with relaxed tannins and medium acid that all cohere nicely. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Podere La Pace 2019 Pittosco (Maremma).** A savory nose of dirt, mushroom, stone and tar opens up to dark fruit flavors of black cherry and dried figs before a palate of medicinal herbs, cherries and raspberries. With acid that's almost fizzy and mouthclearing tannins, this wine begs for pairing with fatty cured meats and aged cheese. Vigneti del Sole Imports. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

## CHIANTI CLASSICO

**94 Badia a Coltibuono 2016 Montebello (Chianti Classico).** Intense black pepper on the nose of this wine feels straight from the grinder, backed by cardamom pod, tree bark, cigar box, red berries, rose petals and finally chocolate. The palate is spicy and peppery like the nose. Acid highlights the heat before darker fruit, spices and bitter chocolate come out. It's long, deep and harmonious. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$61

**94 Gagliole 2018 Gallule Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The herbaceous and floral nose on this wine also has notes of iron, new bricks, sour plum and sour cherry. Cherry lingers on the palate, swinging into fig and raisin like a chocolate



fruit cake, with umami density from well-aged balsamic vinegar. Tannins are softened but hold their structure, and acid carries through a long finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$116

**94 Rocca delle Macie 2019 Tenuta Fizzano Single Vineyard Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 7. Palm Bay International.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**93 Brancaia 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 8. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**93 San Felice 2018 Poggio Rosso Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Savory notes on the nose of this wine recall balsamic vinegar, sesame crackers, black olives, plums and pomegranate seeds. The palate sinks into those darker fruits, with cherries, currants and blackberries turning macerated and medicinal. Tannins and acid balance nicely and are already easygoing at this age. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**93 Volpaia 2019 Castello di Volpaia Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The nose on this wine opens with cherry candy and candied orange peel joined by medicinal herbs and underbrush. The palate offers cherry, chocolate, fig and sugar plum. Dusty, gritty tannins and plenty of heat on the back-palate keep things lively. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

**92 Cantalici 2018 Baruffo Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Coffee, dried cranberries, cherries and candied orange slices combine with stones and herbs on the nose of this wine. The palate offers more cherry plus wild fennel and underbrush. Tannins still grip tightly and stand up to the bright fruit on the palate, joined by plenty of acid and heat through a lengthy finish. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Cantalici 2017 Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** Cranberry and hibiscus mix with gravel and soil for a crunchy red nose on this wine. The savory palate offers balsamic vinegar, black olives, strawberries and cherries still covered in dirt. The tannins are still unrelenting and are nicely balanced by the high acid. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Carpineto 2018 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Tar, stone and the umami of mushrooms, seaweed and soy sauce open the nose of this wine before juicier sour cherries and cranberries emerge. The palate has black cherries, blackberries, milk and dark chocolate, with bitter orange at the back. Well integrated with nice length. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Fattoria Ricudda 2017 Chianti Classico Riserva (Chianti Classico).** Balsamic glaze

with a certain meatiness shows on the nose of this wine, along with soil, cherries, rose petals and bitter orange jam. The palate offers more cherry plus oaky notes of vanilla, milk chocolate and spice. Tannins are easygoing but stand at attention, ready for sipping right now. Kysela Père et Fils. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 San Felice 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Top soil and underbrush emerge first on the nose of San Felice's benchmark Chianti Classico, followed by cherries, plums and finally crushed rocks and crumpled rose petals. Fresh cranberry and Bing cherry are enlivened by orange zest, a sprinkling of pepper and soil, and final whisper of dark chocolate. Fresh and crunchy is the vibe, confirmed by tannins that are still structured but broken in, like a good pair of jeans. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**92 San Felice 2018 Il Grigio Gran Selezione (Chianti Classico).** The alluringly reduced nose on this wine conveys fresh tar and the sulfuric warmth of natural hot-spring waters. This mellows into leather, soil, Luxardo cherry and sugar plum. The palate contrasts juicy bright fruit with meaty, chocolaty tones reminiscent of roast pork with balsamic glaze. Tannins forgive—but not too easily. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**91 Carpineto 2020 (Chianti Classico).** Strawberries, sour cherries and bubblegum pop off the nose of this wine, contrasted with fresh grass, wild fennel and licorice. The palate turns almost to mint chocolate chip, with cherries, macerated wild strawberries and more coffee. It's easy to love but not without mystery. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**91 Villa Calcinaia 2019 (Chianti Classico).** This wine toggles between rich and fresh. The nose suggests cigar box, with dark chocolate, Madeira, gunflint, leather and cherry-mint jelly. Crunchy but luxurious cherries and wild strawberries show on the palate. Tannins are still very austere but will mellow with time. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**91 Villa La Pagliaia 2019 Riserva (Chianti Classico).** The herbaceous nose on this wine gives way to cherries, tar, violets and fennel. Cherries and pomegranate juice flood the palate, with hints of licorice coming through before the backpalate brings in cherry liqueur and chocolate rum cake. Approachable tannins and bouncy acid give length and structure. Worldwide Libations. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Cantalici 2020 Baruffo (Chianti Classico).** Cherries bobbing in water, orange peel and fresh bricks on the nose of this wine are underwritten with wet rocks and soil. The palate offers cherries and dark chocolate with orange peel, finishing with coffee, soil and hint of herbaceousness at the

back. Tannins are firm and acid is bright lending overall coherence. Saranty Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Rocca delle Macie 2020 Famiglia Zingarelli (Chianti Classico).** For full review see page 18. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Castelli del Grevepesa 2020 Castelgreve (Chianti Classico).** The nose of this wine gives tanned leather and vanilla while the palate offers herbs, spices and dried cherry. Herbs and fruit simmering and deglazing a meaty pan provide a deep and structured finish, with elegant harmony. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**89 Castelli del Grevepesa 2018 Castelgreve (Chianti Classico).** The fresh nose of this wine opens with hibiscus and cranberry followed by blood and soil, finally arriving at restrained but rich vanilla, cherry and leather. Cherries and bitter orange jam on the palate get a savory kick of smoky grilled meat, leaning back into tannins that are grippy but polished. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

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## OTHER RED WINES

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**92 Marchesi Antinori 2020 Cont'Ugo Tenuta Guado Al Tasso Merlot (Bolgheri).** Spicy and peppery on the nose with new leather and graphite, this wine also offers wildflowers and berries. The palate echoes the nose but reveals more depth, with coffee, earthiness and richer fruit. Firm but flexible tannins and healthy acid provide the contours for a lengthy finish. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**89 Fattoria di Magliano 2019 Heba (Morellino di Scansano).** A fresh, flowery nose of cherry blossom, Bing cherries and orange zest is balanced by tar and fennel, with a palate of cranberries, pomegranate and hibiscus. The austere elements prevail in a good way, with gravel, pepper and just barely underripe fruit notes. Opici Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## LAMBRUSCO

**92 Medici Ermete 2021 Phermento Lambrusco Rifermentato in Bottiglia (Lambrusco di Sorbara).** This wild and funky wine is a joy. Aromas suggest watermelon juice, game and dried roses. The palate is similar to a sour beer but livelier, with tart wild berries and an earthy finish. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27

## OTHER ITALIAN WINES

### WHITE WINES

#### VERMENTINO

**92 Antonella Corda 2020 Ziru Vermentino (Sardinia).** A reduced nose on this wine gives way to flinty slate before Mediterranean citrus flavors of grapefruit and bergamot emerge. The palate is oily, rich and savory, with plenty of salt, nuts, spice and a hint of tropical fruit. Rich and complete. Shiverick Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Antonella Corda 2021 Vermentino (Sardinia).** Wet rock and a lovely combination of citrus and stone fruit mingle on the nose of this wine and continue on the palate. The candied and jellied density is balanced with the brine of seashells. So bright it sparkles, the acid dances on the tongue. This is a worthy introduction to the wines of this Italian island. Shiverick Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Sella & Mosca 2020 Montero Vermentino (Vermentino di Gallura).** The nose on this Vermentino is fresh and delicate, offering lemon, grapefruit, grass and jasmine. The palate adds green apple and savory notes of tahini on the back. It has substantial acid and good integration overall. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

#### CHARDONNAY

**89 Loretta 2020 Selin Di'Armari Chardonnay (Colli Piacentini).** Aromas of ripe and rich roasted apples dripping with honey leap out of the glass. This bold Chardonnay captures the grape's ability to show off tropical fruit, citrus and mineral notes harmoniously. The palate is lush with baking spice, roasted nut and vanilla flavors mixed with pear and subtle minerality. This giving and forward wine is enjoyable from the start. WineBee.co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## ALSACE

### WHITE WINES

#### PINOT GRIS

**94 Joseph Cattin 2021 Orange Pinot Gris (Alsace).** This pale coppery pour gives off gentle aromas of grass and apricot, like an ode to summer. It's all stone fruit on the palate, too. Plush in texture and ripe with juicy notes, the wine is reined in by zippy acidity and an earthy characteristic like white button mushrooms. The finish is long, with restrained stone fruit flavors, and you'll want to spend some time with it. Grape Expectations (CA). *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**93 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Pinot Gris (Alsace).** For full review see page 8. Quintessential Wines.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Trimbach 2017 Reserve Pinot Gris (Alsace).** For full review see page 10. Taub Family Selections.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**92 Joseph Cattin 2021 Pinot Gris (Alsace).** A strong aroma of buttery, charred brioche toast races out of the glass and matches the wine's rich golden hue, with just a hint of pear blossom for charm. But on the palate, this wine is very linear. It's got a creamy, mouthfilling mousse bolstered by bright notes of Granny Smith apples. The long finish offers a soothing, creamy sensation that would make this wine a good pick for serving alongside spicy dishes. Dionysos Imports Inc. —L.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**92 Joseph Cattin 2021 Sauvage Pinot Gris (Alsace).** Candied apple and spring onion come together harmoniously, if unexpectedly, on the nose. A lively, tongue-tingling effervescence delivers searing acidity. This wine is taut and racy on the palate, all straight lines with a savory, herbaceous edge. Serve it with rich dishes for a powerful, character-filled palate cleanse. Grapevine Of NC. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

#### RIESLING

**94 Pierre Sparr 2019 Schoenenbourg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** The nose is intense with grapefruit and guava, a surprising and delightful combination. On the palate, too, this wine's fruit characteristics are forward and lively. Grapefruit gummy candy dances across the tongue. On the finish, a savory hint of minerality and dry thyme comes into the picture, making for a long, eminently food-friendly finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**94 Trimbach 2020 Réserve Riesling (Alsace).** This wine has intense, savory petrol aromas that are pleasantly gritty and backed by a subtle hint of talc. It's quite savory and acidic on the palate, a mix of slate, fresh chives and lemon juice that's delicious. The long finish is reminiscent of sour apple. Serve this with a cheeseboard as both accent and palate cleanser. Taub Family Selections. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**93 Mure 2020 Clos Saint Landelin Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** This wine doesn't have any secrets. The nose is intensely mineral driven, with a mélange of lemon-, lime- and grapefruit-zest aromas adding life. The palate is the same, with a mouthfeel that's both muscular and nimble. This would make a handsome aperitif thanks to its mouthwatering sensations. Gargouille Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Trimbach 2019 Schlossberg Grand Cru Riesling (Alsace).** Warming clove meets grapefruit zest on the nose of this wine. A bit of petrol comes through on the very linear, racy palate, which gets added interest from hints of that cozy spice characteristic. The finish is long and spicy. Taub Family Selections. —L.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$130

**92 Trimbach 2019 Vieilles Vignes Riesling (Alsace).** A slightly nutty, slightly petrol aroma suggests that this light-bodied wine has gained some maturity. However, something more playful awaits on the palate, where a tangy sour orange or marmalade flavor prevails, with cleansing acidity and a slate note on the medium-length finish. Taub Family Selections. —L.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Trimbach 2014 Frédéric Emile Riesling (Alsace).** A bit shy on the nose, this wine is taut and zippy with lemon juice at first—impressively fresh for its age. As it opens up, it offers notes of reed and a hint of smoke that add great interest and pairing ability. The finish is a long, refreshing lemon squeeze. Taub Family Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

**91 Mure 2020 Nature Côte De Rouffach Riesling (Alsace).** An intense butterscotch aroma gives way to a lean, racy wine. Although a hint of that butterscotch flavor carries through to the finish, this is mostly an angular, acidity-driven sip. Bright lemon and lime mix with shale long into the finish. Gargouille Collection. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91 Mure 2019 Côte De Rouffach Riesling (Alsace).** Petrol aromas are pronounced and strong, with a hint of a grassy, asparagus scent. This wine is bodacious, but so much bright lemon acidity makes it feel lighter and brighter into the long, tart finish. Serve this with fish and you'll feel like your side dishes are already taken care of. Gargouille Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Willm 2020 Kirchberg De Barr Riesling (Alsace).** This wine has a bit of a sticky burnt-sugar aroma, lifted by grapefruit zest and petrol. It feels expansive in the mouth, spreading like sunrise on a lake. Juicy lemon notes add brightness and character to subtle petrol hints. The finish is long and tangy. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —L.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$23

**90 Pierre Sparr 2020 Grande Réserve Riesling (Alsace).** This wine is austere and stony, with aromas of wet rocks, lemon pith and a hint of aldehyde. It's light bodied and vivacious on the palate, shimmying in lemon-crème acidity that leads into a long, refreshing and slightly savory finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Best Buy.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

## ALSACE RED WINES

### PINOT NOIR

**94** **Domaine Marcel Deiss 2020 Alsace Rouge Pinot Noir (Alsace).** The nose on this wine is charming, with a combination of tart currant and cedar aromas that leap out of the glass. The fruit is more restrained on the palate, offering notes of red currant, red plum and cranberry over fine-grained tannins and lively acidity. A slightly cruciferous characteristic on the backpalate leads into a medium-length earthy and black-pepper finish. Although these elements sound disparate, they hang together nicely to create a wine of balance and great value. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**94** **Mure 2020 Argiles Rouges Pinot Noir (Alsace).** An oaky aroma dukes it out with achingly fresh red cherries and dill sprigs on the nose of this wine. Tannins are smooth and velvety. It's only in the wine's staying power that they take on a slightly more grippy quality. Green coffee, black pepper and dill add up to a wine that's uncharacteristically savory but utterly lovely and epicurean. Gargouille Collection. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**94** **Trimbach 2019 Réserve Pinot Noir (Alsace).** For full review see page 7. Taub Family Selections.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Mure 2020 V Pinot Noir (Alsace).** This wine has a buttery, oaky aroma, but the palate is smooth, creamy with bright red cherry notes. Well-structured tannins make a nice framework for plush fruit. The fruity finish is long lasting with a woody, reed note. Gargouille Collection. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**91** **Mure 2020 Clos Saint Landelin Pinot Noir (Alsace).** A fresh vegetal scent also carries aromas of cranberry. The palate of this wine is slightly more fruit forward, with cranberry and red cherry. Loofah-like tannins are lifted by red fruit and a cedar note, leaving the palate on a slightly herbaceous, cooling note, like fennel fronds. Gargouille Collection. —L.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

## LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES SANCERRE

**96** **Domaine Vacheron 2021 Le Pavé (Sancerre).** This full-bodied wine is complex. Richness comes from the intense white fruits and good balance between almond and ripe spice. Underlying everything is youthful minerality that is destined to

soften. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **Domaine Laporte 2021 La Comtesse (Sancerre).** Rich and vibrant, this wine has intense fruit with a youthful, zestful character. Grapefruit flavors are pushed forward with the balancing acidity, giving a wine that should age further. Drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**94** **Domaine Vacheron 2021 Chambrates (Sancerre).** This wine is balanced, full of white fruits and lightly spiced. The texture and edge of minerality make this wine, which will age for a good while. Try drinking from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **François Crochet 2020 Le Grand Chemarin (Sancerre).** A rich wine, this offers full fruits and spice from oak aging. The wine has powerful fruits and concentration. It still needs aging so take a risk and drink from 2025. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$43

**94** **Henri Bourgeois 2020 Jadis (Sancerre).** Firmly textured, this wine is powerful and rich. Its alcohol gives weight without taking away the ripe fruitiness. Grapefruit and green apple are at the core of the wine along with acidity. It has great potential and will be best from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**93** **Domaine Laporte 2021 Les Garennes (Sancerre).** From chalk soil composed of fossils, this wine is tight, taut and mineral. Still young, it shows hints of its rich future, with brilliant apple and citrus flavors. Drink this vivid wine from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**93** **Domaine Vacheron 2021 Les Romains (Sancerre).** Tight and youthful, this is still a textured wine. It has intense citrus as well as richer white fruits, shot through with acidity. The wine will take its time, so drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **François Crochet 2020 Exils (Sancerre).** This wine is dense and rich. Full in the mouth with white fruits, ripe pears and a touch of yellow fruits, the wine is just matured. It could age further. Drink the wine from 2024. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93** **François Crochet 2020 Le Chêne Marchand (Sancerre).** Aging in oak has softened the intense fruit of this rich wine. Along with concentration and density, it has ripeness and a smooth texture. Minerality is a hint in the background.

Drink from 2024. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Henri Bourgeois 2020 Sancerre d'Antan (Sancerre).** From flint soil, this rich wine with touches of spice is full and dense. Hints of toast and a tangy, still-youthful texture bring out power and potential. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**92** **Domaine Laporte 2021 Le Grand Rochoy (Sancerre).** A warm rounded wine, this has ripe white fruits and dense acidity and texture. The wine's future is assured. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**92** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2021 Thauvenay (Sancerre).** Balanced and fruity, this wine is dense, showing layers of white fruits and textured acidity. It is a ripe wine, the zesty character muted by the generosity. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$34

**92** **Domaine Vacheron 2021 Guigne-Chèvres (Sancerre).** This wine is tightly textured and concentrated, with piercing acidity and lemon flavors. It has a fine future as it softens and opens up. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Domaine Vacheron 2021 Le Paradis (Sancerre).** Mineral and steely, this is a taut, tight wine. It has the texture to age, bringing out white fruit and grapefruit flavors. The wine should be ready from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Henri Bourgeois 2021 La Côte des Monts Damnés (Sancerre).** This vineyard famed for its steep slope above the village of Chavignol has produced a balanced wine, textured and with ripe white fruits and tight acidity. Still young, it will develop well and further. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Jean-Max Roger 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Sancerre).** Rounded and fruity, this wine also shows considerable depth and concentration. Partially aged in wood, it has a smooth texture and promises aging ability. Drink from 2024. Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92** **Roger et Didier Raimbault 2019 Côteline (Sancerre).** This wood-aged wine comes from one of Sancerre's oldest vineyards. It is rich, the wood aging contributing spice and tropical fruit flavors. Weight and the ripe fruit give the wine intensity. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65



# BUYINGGUIDE

**91** **Domaine Anthony & David Girard 2020 Les Monts Damnés (Sancerre).** A touch of wood aging has given this already rich wine layers of ripeness. White fruits and acidity are well integrated into the wine's texture. It is full, dense and ready to drink now. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Durand 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Sancerre).** A bright wine, this shows the concentration that comes from old vines. It is ripe, now softening well. Drink this ageworthy, perfumed wine now. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91** **Domaine Gérard Fiou 2021 Terroir Silex (Sancerre).** This tangy, dense wine offers ripe white fruits and a mineral texture. The wine is full bodied, with intense acidity to show against the white and citrus fruit flavors. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Matthias et Emile Roblin 2020 Ammonites (Sancerre).** Concentrated and full of white fruits, this rich wine has a grassy character, illuminated with citrus. Ripe and full in the mouth, it is ready to drink. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91** **François Crochet 2021 (Sancerre).** This full, ripe wine offers red apple and kiwi flavors. It has a generous character, the fruit pure and with good acidity to balance the smoothness. Drink from 2024. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Jean-Marie Reverdy et Fils 2020 Le Paradis (Sancerre).** Aged in wood, this wine is now smooth, hinting at spice. The rich white fruits and touches of apricot emphasize the ripe, full character of the wine. It is now ready to drink. Wine Collection Holding. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Roger et Didier Raimbault 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Sancerre).** With the extra aging, this wine is both rich and softly textured. The tamed acidity gives the wine freshness while not detracting from its maturing white fruits and touches of minerality. Drink the wine now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**91** **Roland Tissier et Fils 2019 Etincelle (Sancerre).** Rich with white fruits and a generous texture, this wine is maturing well. A touch of spice adds complexity while the long lees aging brings depth and ripeness. Drink the wine now. Consortium Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Vincent Grall 2021 Le Grall (Sancerre).** Packed with zesty fruits and with tight acidity, this is a textured wine. Steely and mineral, it is full of potential. The wine should be ready from 2024. Canon Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Vincent Grall 2021 Le Manoir (Sancerre).** Fermented in wood, this wine has a touch of spice as well as citrus and pink grapefruit flavors. It is an open wine, its fruit balanced by ripeness. Drink from 2024. Canon Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Domaine Alban Roblin 2021 Château la Rabotine (Sancerre).** This wine is crisp, with a citrus character that brings out the mineral edge. A young wine, it's full of brightness and fresh acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Domaine Anthony Girard 2021 Le Chêne Fourchu (Sancerre).** Tight and nervy, this steely wine is packed with acidity and youthful lemon and white fruit flavors. The wine has potential. Drink from 2024. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine des Trois Noyers 2021 Cuvée Silex (Sancerre).** The Reverdy-Cadet family has produced this full, generous wine from a flint soil vineyard. A mineral edge in the texture is filled out with ripe fruits and balanced by acidity. The wine should age further. Drink from 2024. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90** **Domaine Durand 2021 (Sancerre).** Fresh and fruity with lively acidity, this wine shows a touch of minerality along with bright citrus flavors. Tension in the wine suggests it will soften and age. Drink from 2024. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Domaine Sautereau 2020 Le Vignoble des Sarottes (Sancerre).** With the extra year of aging, this full, ripe wine has softened and begun to show richness. A mineral edge that comes from the chalk soil of the vineyard will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2024. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Domaine Vacheron 2021 (Sancerre).** Ripe fruits and a tight texture give this wine a dense character. Lemon and grapefruit flavors balance the wine's texture. Drink from 2024. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Henri Bourgeois 2020 La Bourgeoise (Sancerre).** This wine is rich, generous with both acidity and white fruits. Laced through all this, a citrus streak brings intense freshness that suggests the wine needs to age. Drink from 2024. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Jean-Marie Reverdy et Fils 2020 Les Villaudes (Sancerre).** Now rounded after an extra year in bottle, this wine is rich, with a textured character that comes through strongly. It is

generous, a ripe wine that has more time to mature. Drink from 2024. Wine Collection Holding. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Jean-Max Roger 2021 Cuvée les Caillettes (Sancerre).** A ripe wine, concentrated from the lees aging, this has a light edge and refreshing acidity. It is bright and tangy, with the citrus flavors and white fruits in harmony. Drink now. Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Michel Vattan 2020 M-K (Sancerre).** As it matures, this wine has developed great richness and density. It is intense, almost overwhelming in its concentration. It still needs time. Drink from 2024. Bandol Wines Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$31

**90** **Pierre Riffault 2021 L'Eclat Cuvée Silex (Sancerre).** Grown on flinty soil, this textured, mineral wine has taut acidity and a nervy, crisp character. Still young, the wine will broaden out as it matures further. Drink from 2024. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Roger et Didier Raimbault 2021 Les Belles Côtes (Sancerre).** This wine is rich. While young, it shows a fine depth of flavor and concentration. The wine is juicy, full of acidity and fruit. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**89** **Domaine Reverdy-Ducroux 2021 Les Vignes Silexsauv (Sancerre).** This tangy, textured wine is young and still full of baby fruit. As the wine fills out, it will show a mineral character and ripe white fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**89** **Domaine Roger Champault 2021 Les Pierris (Sancerre).** Tangy and bright with some softness and sweetness, this wine is gentle, juicy and vibrant with white fruits. It is enjoyable already, so drink now. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2021 Fretoy (Sancerre).** This Pouilly Fumé producer has ventured across the Loire to produce this richly textured Sancerre. It is a generous wine, with light crispness at the end. Drink from 2024. Maverick Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**89** **Guilleraut-Fargette 2020 Chassenoy (Sancerre).** A rounded wine, this is full in the mouth, with apple and Bartlett pear flavors. Acidity is the key, well modulated and balanced with the white fruits. Drink the wine now. T. Elen-teny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Michel Vattan 2021 M-K (Sancerre).** Tight and zesty with a dense crisp texture, this

wine is full in the mouth. A green edge gives it freshness that demands some aging. Drink from 2024. Boivin Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$28

**89 Pierre Prieur et Fils 2021 Les Silex (Sancerre).** The mineral character of this young wine comes directly from the flinty and the white chalk soil of the vineyard. It is a perfumed wine, ripe with white fruits and cut with acidity. The wine needs to age, so drink from 2024. Vineyard Road. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**89 Pierre Riffault 2021 Domaine du Carroir Perin (Sancerre).** This individual domaine has produced a ripe, concentrated wine. It is packed with fruit, acidity and a tight texture. Drink now. H. Mercer Wine & Spirit Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$30

**88 Alain Girard et Fils 2020 L'Infidèle (Sancerre).** This wine offers a fine tang of citrus and acidity. It's zesty and textured, with a layer of minerality. The wine has opened well, the intensity softened. It is ready to drink. Blicher Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**88 Aurore Dezat 2021 (Sancerre).** This juicy wine offers good acidity, with white fruit and citrus flavors. A young wine, it has vivid freshness that will be attractive as it matures. Drink from 2024. Premier Wine Co. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$21

**88 Domaine Anthony Girard 2021 Le Clef du Récit Il était une fois (Sancerre).** This crisp wine offers lively acidity and layers of lemon and grapefruit. Young and still textured, the wine will open as it softens. Drink from 2024. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**88 Domaine de la Chézatte 2021 (Sancerre).** Produced in stainless steel, this wine is all about fruit. Offering fresh citrus filled out with apple and tangy fruitiness, the wine will soften well. Drink from 2024. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$28

**88 Domaine des Trois Noyers 2021 (Sancerre).** Tight and packed with acidity, this wine is fruity and zingy. Freshness is balanced by the edge of white fruits that fills out the citrus flavors. Drink the wine from late 2023. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**88 Domaine Reverdy-Ducroux 2021 Beau Roy (Sancerre).** This is a ripe, fruity wine, bright with acidity and generous with citrus and white fruits. The wine is still young but shows its potential richness and concentration. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**88 Domaine Sautereau 2021 (Sancerre).** Crisp and tightly textured, this wine is fruity. Apples are cut with citrus that gives the wine a taut

edge. Drink this refreshing wine from late 2023. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$29

**88 Jean-Max Roger 2021 (Sancerre).** Fresh and fruity, this textured wine is full of grassy acidity and bright citrus. It comes from stony, chalky soils that give the wine a mineral edge. Drink this very approachable wine from late 2023. Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**88 Maison Foucher 2019 Les Monts Damnés (Sancerre).** Now richly mature, this wine has white fruits that have a touch of nuttiness. The wine shows the benefit of aging and is now at its peak. It is ready to drink. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**88 Saget la Perrière 2021 Domaine de Terres Blanches (Sancerre).** The name of the estate, white land, is a good indicator that this wine comes from a chalk vineyard. It is textured although it also offers softness and ripe fruit. Drink the wine from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

**88 Stéphanie et Arnaud Dezat 2021 Cellier des Marnes (Sancerre).** Rich and tightly textured, this wine is full of citrus fruits. It has a steely edge with minerality, which both need to soften. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$33

**87 Compagnie Vinicole de Val de Loire 2021 Le Pré Vaujour (Sancerre).** A light wine, this has gentle fruit and ripe citrus flavors. It is already drinkable, with bright fruitiness at the end. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$35

**87 Domaine Paul Thomas 2020 La Côte des Monts Damnés (Sancerre).** For a white Sancerre, this wine is preposterously rich. The alcohol shows in the pepper edge of the superripe white fruits. This wine is fully ready to drink. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$50

**87 Maison Foucher 2021 Le Mont (Sancerre).** This full-bodied wine offers acidity and crisp citrus surrounded by a rich texture. The wine is zesty, with hints of grapefruit and a grassy texture. Drink now. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$29

**87 Nicolas Girard 2021 (Sancerre).** This ripe wine with attractive citrus fruits is lightly textured. The acidity and steely edge will soon soften. Drink from 2024. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**87 Roland Tissier et Fils 2021 (Sancerre).** A zesty, fruity wine with a taut texture and bright acidity, this is lively and fresh. It is just right

now, a vibrant wine that is ready to drink. Lanval Wine Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

## MENETOU-SALON

**91 Domaine Pellé 2021 Le Carroir (Menetou-Salon).** Flint soil gives this wine a tight minerality and textured edge. It is fruity as well, with bright acidity and intense freshness. The wine should age well, so wait to drink until 2024. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**90 Domaine Pellé 2021 Vignes de Ratier (Menetou-Salon).** A softly textured, smooth wine, this offers ripe white fruits. Laced with acidity, the wine is perfumed, hinting at the scent of lemon. A bright wine from a single parcel, it is ready to drink. Organic. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**90 Domaines Minchin 2021 La Tour Saint-Martin Honorine (Menetou-Salon).** This is a superrich wine. Richness and an extra year in bottle have softened the intense crispness. The wine has ripe apples, touches of spice and a generous aftertaste. Drink now. European Cellars. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

**90 Joseph Mellot 2021 Les Thureaux (Menetou-Salon).** This tightly textured wine offers great acidity and lots of potential. White fruits and citrus balance well with the mineral edge that is beginning to soften. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$27

**89 Domaines Minchin 2021 La Tour Saint-Martin Morogues (Menetou-Salon).** In this fruity wine, fresh citrus is supplemented with bright acidity and textured with hints of minerality. It offers juicy acidity as well as a touch of sweeter apricots. Drink from late 2023. European Cellars. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**89 Domaines Minchin 2020 La Tour Saint-Martin Fumet (Menetou-Salon).** A smoothly textured wine, this conveys white fruits and balanced acidity. A background of grapefruit brings out freshness. Drink the wine from late 2023. European Cellars. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**89 Joseph Mellot 2021 Clos du Pressoir (Menetou-Salon).** This wine has a tangy, vibrant character, with great acidity and a lively, bright aftertaste. The wine is textured, full of acidity while also having some weight. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**89 Stéphanie et Arnaud Dezat 2021 Cellier des Marnes (Menetou-Salon).** Zesty with grapefruit and gooseberry flavors, this wine bursts with energy. As it matures and softens, it will bring out

# BUYINGGUIDE

riper apples and apricots. Drink from 2024. T. Elen-  
teny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88** **Domaine Pellé 2021 Morogues (Menetou-Salon).** Packed with ripe white fruits, this wine is young, bright and buoyant. It has a lively character, the fruitiness cut with citrus. Drink from late 2023. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Isabelle et Pierre Clément 2021 Classique (Menetou-Salon).** Classic by name and classic by nature, this wine brings out the softer approach to Sauvignon Blanc so typical of Menetou-Salon. With a rounded texture and ripe fruits, the wine is ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88** **Jean-Max Roger 2020 Morogues (Menetou-Salon).** This Sancerre-based producer has made a rounded wine, perfumed and ripe. With its light acidity and apple flavors, the wine is ready to drink. Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$32

**87** **Domaine Anthony Girard 2021 Le Clef du Récit (Menetou-Salon).** This wine comes from a steep, sloping vineyard in the village of Morogues. It has good acidity along with a fresh, tangy character. The wine is fruity now and ready to drink. T. Elen-teny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Domaine Durand 2021 (Menetou-Salon).** A soft wine with an open character, this is easy and fresh. The wine could age further to bring the white fruitiness even more. Drink from 2024. Hand Picked Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**87** **Nicolas Girard 2021 Terres Blanches (Menetou-Salon).** This wine is rounded, with ripe apple and citrus flavors. It has an edge of crispness as well as a lightly mineral texture. Drink the wine now. Last Bottle Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## POUILLY-FUMÉ

**94** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2020 D'Or et Diamant (Pouilly-Fumé).** Gold and diamonds is the name and this is certainly a rich and scintillating wine. It has a dense texture, with delicious white fruits that are shot through with a mineral texture. The wine should age some more. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**93** **Domaine A. Cailbourdin 2019 Triptyque Calcaire (Pouilly-Fumé).** This mature wine shows both richness and a texture that has filled out and rounded. It has hints of almonds, channeling the fruit into secondary flavors. The wine is ready to drink. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**93** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2020 Tradition Cullus (Pouilly-Fumé).** This lightly wood-aged wine is smooth and offers ripe white fruits. Its hints of toast are beautifully judged, giving a rounded wine that will be ready to drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**92** **Domaine Landrat-Guyollet 2020 La Rambarde (Pouilly-Fumé).** As a showcase of a new style of rich Pouilly Fumé, this is exemplary. The wine offers great ripeness and generous citrus and apple fruits. It also has a tight texture, with a mineral edge balanced by acidity. Drink this full-bodied wine from 2024. Canoe Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**92** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2021 Les Pierres de Pierre (Pouilly-Fumé).** Bright and fruity, this lightly textured wine has juicy acidity and a crisp texture. It is young, with intense fruit and zesty citrus flavors. Drink from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$34

**92** **Domaine Roger Pabiot 2020 De la Terre aux Etoiles (Pouilly-Fumé).** Rich and full of ripe fruit, this wine is concentrated and powerful. It has alcohol weight, the grapefruit flavors giving both freshness and intensity. The wine needs to age further, so drink from 2024. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2021 Arelles (Pouilly-Fumé).** In this richly concentrated wine, white fruits are shot through with tight acidity and powerful pink-grapefruit flavors. It is still young, its energy untamed by age. Wait to drink until 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$57

**91** **Domaine A. Cailbourdin 2021 Les Racines (Pouilly-Fumé).** Full in the mouth, this wine is rich. Flavors of white fruits, kiwi and green apple are shot through with acidity. Grapefruit and bright lemon juice show this wine's youth and freshness. Drink from 2024. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**91** **Domaine A. Cailbourdin 2020 Les Racines (Pouilly-Fumé).** With the extra time in bottle, this wine has softened and developed a gentle fruitiness. It still has acidity but this is absorbed by the mineral texture and ripe aftertaste. Drink the wine now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**91** **Domaine Chauveau 2020 Cuvée Sainte Clélie (Pouilly-Fumé).** Aged on its lees for a year, this generous wine offers full grapefruit and lemon flavors. It is textured with a mineral edge, impressively rich. The wine is worth aging further, so drink from 2024. BPW Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Domaine La Croix Canat 2021 La Chantepleure (Pouilly-Fumé).** A ripe wine with full acidity

as well as white fruits, this has depth and concentration. It comes from the Tinel-Blondelet family, who also have a domaine under their own name. Drink the wine from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**91** **Domaine Laporte 2021 Les Duchesses (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine is rich, full in the mouth. White fruits are cut with ripe lemon and textured with tight minerality. It is a rich wine, needing more time. Drink from 2024. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Domaine Roger Pabiot 2021 Cuvée Silex (Pouilly-Fumé).** A tight and mineral-driven wine, this comes from vines planted on flinty soil. It is textured and full of juicy acidity along with fragrant white fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Francis Blanchet 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Pouilly-Fumé).** From the famed Kimmeridgian chalk soil, this wine has concentration from the old vines and richness from the texture. It is balanced and fruity, but can age. Drink from 2024. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Henri Bourgeois 2020 La Demoiselle de Bourgeois (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine is rich, full-bodied with a dense texture. Its concentration and packed white fruits are cut with citrus acidity. The mineral edge is beginning to soften. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Jean-Marie Reverdy et Fils 2021 La Villaudière (Pouilly-Fumé).** A perfumed wine from this branch of the Reverdy family, this is fruity, with a juicy character that adds to the freshness. From a single vineyard, it is a full wine with concentration. Drink from 2024. Wine Collection Holding. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Bouchié-Chatellier 2021 Premier Millésimé (Pouilly-Fumé).** This wine is full, with ripe white fruits and layers of good acidity. It has both freshness and perfumed richness. Drink this concentrated wine from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine A. Cailbourdin 2021 Les Cris (Pouilly-Fumé).** Still young, this wine is packed with white fruits. The steely edge will meld into the full-on fruit and acidity. Drink from 2024 when the wine has softened. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Domaine Chauveau 2021 Croq Silex (Pouilly-Fumé).** Shaped by the flint soil of the vineyard, this wine is edgy, mineral and tight. The steely character will soften to give a complex, balanced wine, full of acidity and fruit. Drink from 2025. BPW Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23



**90** **Domaine La Croix Canat 2021 L'Épinette (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Tensely textured with minerality and a steely edge, this wine is still young. Its future is good, the white fruits with balanced citrus coming through as it matures. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$34

**90** **Domaine Marielle Michot 2021 Cuvée M (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Aged on its lees for six months, this wine offers concentration, with great acidity and citrus flavors. Still young, it has impressive richness and depth of flavor. Drink the wine from 2024. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Domaine Roger Pabiot 2021 Coteaux des Girarmes (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This wine is really fruity, with a good balance between citrus acidity and ripe apple and white-fruit flavors. Drink this flavorsome wine from 2024. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2021 Arret Bufatte (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This is a fruity wine, full of acidity and both freshness and richness. A tangy texture gives the young wine a bite. Drink from 2024. Maverick Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**90** **Francis Blanchet 2021 Calcite (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This wine is rounded. Ripe white fruits are cut with citrus and a mineral texture that gives the wine a taut character. Drink this textured wine from 2024. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Francis Blanchet 2021 Kriotine (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Fresh and full of white fruits, this wine is immediately attractive. It is crisp, its texture set for softening over the next few months. Citrus comes through strongly at the end. Drink from 2024. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Mauroy Gauliez 2021 Les Chemins de l'Abbaye (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This is a rich wine, with white fruits and full acidity and texture. The wine has a minerality and chalky character that is very Pouilly Fumé. Drink the wine from 2024 when it has softened. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**90** **Saget la Perrière 2021 La Perrière L'Origine (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Intense and zesty, this wine has grapefruit and spice flavors, with a tang of pepper. The wine is full of citrus fruits, likely to age until 2024. Taub Family Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**89** **André et Edmond Figeat 2021 Les Craies (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Lees aging gives this wine depth while enhancing the ripe white fruits and fine line in citrus. It is a fresh wine, crisp with bright acidity at the end. Drink from late 2023. Novovino Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**89** **Domaine A. Cailbourdin 2019 Triptyque Silex (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Spicy with hints of toast and a smoky character, this wine is rich and now mature. A bite of alcohol spoils the rest of this full, generously textured wine. Drink now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**89** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2021 Villa Paulus (Pouilly-Fumé)**. With tangy, fresh acidity and a crisp texture, this wine is bright and full of grapefruit flavors. It is ready to drink now. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Domaine Tinel-Blondelet 2021 Genetin (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Tight with a concentrated texture, this mineral wine is still very young. Its vitality and taut acidity add a fine bite of green fruits. Drink from 2024 when it will have softened some more. Winecraft, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**89** **Mauroy Gauliez 2021 Domaine de BelAir (Pouilly-Fumé)**. The richness of a Pouilly Fumé is tempered by the steely edge of this young wine. It has total freshness, a taut texture and youth. Age the wine and drink from 2024. Wine Traditions. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Château de Tracy 2021 (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Quite a grassy, with a youthful herbal character, this wine is perfumed, ripe and also fresh. The mineral texture gives the wine a youthful bite. Drink from 2024. Vance Vine Selection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Favray 2021 (Pouilly-Fumé)**. A crisp, lemon- and apple-flavored wine, this is lightly textured, relying on its fruits and fresh acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Free Run LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Domaine Chauveau 2021 (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This ripe wine has poise and lightness. Acidity is muted by the rich apple flavors and smooth texture. The wine will age further, so drink from 2024. BPW Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Domaine Masson-Blondelet 2021 Les Angebots (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Fresh, zesty and with layers of citrus and crisp acidity, this is an easy-going wine. It is light, bouncy and vibrant. Drink now. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**88** **Francis Blanchet 2021 Cuvée Silice (Pouilly-Fumé)**. The flint soil gives this wine a tight, mineral character. It is textured and taut, a steely wine that needs to soften into something more rounded. Drink from 2024. North Berkeley Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**88** **Gilles Blanchet 2021 Les Champs des Planètes (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This is a warm wine, rounded and with a soft edge. It is full of ripe white fruits, with balanced acidity and a smooth after-taste. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Joseph Mellot 2021 Le Troncsec (Pouilly-Fumé)**. An open wine, this comes with an edge of citrus and white fruits, encased in a tangy texture. The wine is still young and will be at its best from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Stéphanie et Arnaud Dezat 2021 Cellier des Marnes (Pouilly-Fumé)**. A youthful bitterness shows in this wine. As this softens, it will reveal a concentrated wine, rich in citrus and with tight acidity and the potential for aging. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**87** **Bouchié-Chatellier 2021 Argile à S (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This rounded, fruity wine offers acidity and attractive citrus fruits. Lightly textured, the crisp wine is ready to drink. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Gilles Blanchet 2021 (Pouilly-Fumé)**. Crisp and mineral, this wine is vibrant and textured. Tangy with bright citrus flavors, the wine is all fruit. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Bouchié-Chatellier 2021 La Renardière (Pouilly-Fumé)**. This wine is thin, with whispers of acidity and citrus flavors. It will be ready from late 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Compagnie Viticole de Val de Loire 2021 Le Pré Vaujour (Pouilly-Fumé)**. A soft wine with a light texture and fresh white fruits, this is immediately attractive and drinkable. With a fresh combination of citrus and acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

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## QUINCY

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**89** **Domaine Adèle Rouzé 2021 (Quincy)**. Bright, crisp and fresh, this is an attractive and lively wine. Full of acidity and with a tight edge of citrus, the wine could soften to its advantage. Drink from 2024. Charles Neal Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Domaine Lecomte 2021 (Quincy)**. Very much in the Quincy style, light, poised, fresh and fruity, this wine is perfumed. It has a light texture with a touch of minerality and refreshing white fruits. Drink the wine from 2024. Winedom LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88** **Domaine Siret-Courtaud 2021 (Quincy).** Bright and ripe white fruits bring out zesty flavors in this wine. It is fresh and crisp at the end. Drink now. Grand Cru Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Nicolas Girard 2021 (Quincy).** From a small region west of Sancerre, this wine is soft and open. It has poise and lightness, balancing citrus flavors with a zesty texture and bright acidity. Drink now. Last Bottle Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Domaine Anthony Girard 2021 La Clef du Récit Sauvignon Blanc (Quincy).** Bright with apple and citrus fruits, this wine also has a light touch and freshness. Poised, elegant and attractive, it will be ready to drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

## ANJOU

**90** **Domaine de la Petite Roche 2021 Origine (Anjou).** Bright green apple and almond flavors emanate from this attractive wine. It has great fruitiness along with a tight texture that brings out perfumes and final acidity. Drink from late 2023. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château de la Roche Bousseau 2021 (Anjou).** This textured wine has potential. In youth, it is nervy, with a steely edge that will soften. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Domaine de la Petite Roche 2021 (Anjou).** Softly textured, this wine offers attractive fruitiness and apple and pear flavors. Creaminess gives it an open character, full of ripe fruits. The wine is ready to drink. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

## COTEAUX DU GIENNOIS

**89** **Domaine Chauveau 2021 Silex (Coteaux du Giennois).** This soft, fruity wine has ripe acidity and green apple flavors. It is open and easy, the balanced palate refreshing and hinting at minerality. Drink the wine from late 2023. BPW Merchants. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**89** **Domaine de Villargeau 2020 Les Abeilles (Coteaux du Giennois).** This rounded wine offers ripe apple and crisp pear flavors. A fresh edge gives it a lift and a tight mineral aftertaste. Drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Benoît Chauveau 2021 Calcaire (Coteaux du Giennois).** This textured wine comes from the chalk soil for which it is named. A mineral edge backs up the citrus fruits and acidity, giving a fresh

wine that's ready to drink. BPW Merchants. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Domaine de Villargeau 2021 (Coteaux du Giennois).** From a region north of Pouilly Fumé, this wine is soft, with layers of white fruits. Acidity keeps everything fresh. Drink this attractive wine from late 2023. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Domaine Poupat et Fils 2020 Rivotte (Coteaux du Giennois).** From an appellation on the Loire north of Pouilly-sur-Loire, this wine is softly textured and full of attractive white fruits. It is ready to drink. Santa Maria Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**88** **Domaine Cordailat 2021 Tradition Sauvignon Blanc (Reuilly).** A rounded wine, this is rich with white fruits that are cut with light citrus acidity. This is a generous wine, wearing its vibrant fruits on its sleeve, giving an immediately attractive wine. Drink now. Artisanal Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Domaine de Reuilly 2021 Les Pierres Plates Sauvignon Blanc (Reuilly).** This wine's tangy acidity is tamed by ripe white fruit flavors. Fresh and fruity, the wine is bright, lively and ready to drink. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Domaine Roger Pabiot 2021 L'Ancestral Chasselas (Pouilly-sur-Loire).** From the other and much less well known Pouilly appellation, this wine offers a light freshness. In existence before Sauvignon Blanc was planted, this appellation should be better acclaimed. Drink the wine now. Integrity Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$21

## SPARKLING WINES

**91** **Domaine de la Petite Roche NV Origine Brut (Crémant de Loire).** Ripe and tangy, this is a classic blend of Pinot Noir with Chardonnay. It is an elegant sparkling wine, the fruit and acidity working well together. The wine could age another few months, so drink from late 2023. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90** **Château de la Roche Bousseau NV Brut (Sautemur).** Made with 80% Chenin Blanc and 20% Chardonnay, this wine has an attractive nutty character. Full of apple and spice flavors, it is fragrant and ready to drink. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**88** **Domaine de la Petite Roche NV Origine Rosé Brut (Crémant de Loire).** This wine is fresh, tightly crisp and pale in color. An edge of tannins is

muffled by bright fruitiness and appealing apple and citrus fruits. Drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**87** **Domaine de la Petite Roche NV Brut (Sautemur).** Blending Chenin Blanc and Chardonnay, this sparkling wine is full of fruit, vivid and with lively acidity. It is a light, bright and ready to drink. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

## LOIRE VALLEY ROSÉ WINES

### SANCERRE

**90** **Domaine Delaporte 2021 Chavignol (Sancerre).** A ripe and fruity wine, this offers a tang of minerality and red currant fruits. It is bright, with depth and concentration. The wine is ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**88** **Domaine de la Chézatte 2021 (Sancerre).** Rounded with red fruits and background acidity, this is a refreshing wine. Its crisp texture is balanced by the soft aftertaste. Drink now. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**88** **Domaine Reverdy-Ducroux 2021 Le Rosé (Sancerre).** Attractive and fruity, this wine offers soft red fruits and a rounded texture that is open and balanced. Red fruits and acidity are cut with citrus freshness. Drink the wine now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Jean-Max Roger 2021 Cuvée La Grange Dimièrre (Sancerre).** Fragrant from Pinot Noir, this rosé is full of red fruits, acidity and freshness. It has some weight behind the vivid exterior, giving a wine that is ripe and ready to drink. Mas-sanois Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**88** **Michel Vattan 2021 (Sancerre).** In this ripe and fruity wine, red currants are laced with citrus and a perfumed spice. It is delicious already, refreshing and packed with fruit. Drink now. USA Wine West. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**88** **Nicolas Girard 2021 Domaine des Brosses (Sancerre).** A soft style of rosé, this offers attractive acidity that has a lift of red currants and a light edge of tannin. The wine is ready to drink. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Domaine Sautereau 2021 (Sancerre).** A rounded style, full of red berry fruits, this wine conveys a tang of crisp acidity. It is zesty, fresh and ready to drink. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**87 Pierre Prieur et Fils 2021 Domaine de Saint-Pierre (Sancerre).** A bright and fruity wine, this is full of red currant flavors and layers of juicy acidity. The wine is totally fresh and ready to drink. Vineyard Road. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## REUILLY

**88 Domaine de Reuilly 2021 Pinot Gris (Reuilly).** Taking advantage of the naturally pink hue of the Pinot Gris, this wine is fruity and light. Fresh red currant hints are set alongside the acidity and tangy character of this wine. Drink now. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88 Domaines Tatin 2020 Grisée (Reuilly).** Almost a white wine in both color and white-fruit flavors, this suggests fresh apples and the merest hint of red fruits. Bright and fresh, it is ready to drink. VOS Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Domaine Cordailat 2021 (Reuilly).** A pale rosé drawing on the pink hue in the skin of the Pinot Gris grape, this is fruity and crisp, with lively acidity and bright fruitiness. The wine is ready to drink. Artisanal Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## OTHER ROSÉ WINE

**87 Domaine de Villargeau 2020 (Coteaux du Giennois).** With ripe wild strawberry flavors alongside the rich fruit, this wine is textured and needs to soften. Drink from late 2023. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Ferrand et Sons 2021 (Coteaux du Giennois).** Tight red currant fruits intensify the acidity and crispness of this young wine. Fresh and zesty, it needs to age. Drink from late 2023. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## LOIRE VALLEY

### RED WINES

#### SANCERRE

**95 Domaine Vacheron 2020 Les Marnes (Sancerre).** This perfumed wine takes its name from the chalk and clay soil on which the vines are planted. It shows how well the Vacheron family has, over decades, mastered the art of making great red wines in Sancerre. Age this powerful wine further and drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Domaine Delaporte 2020 Le Cul de Beaujeu (Sancerre).** For full review see page 6. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$59

**94 Domaine Vacheron 2020 Belle Dame (Sancerre).** Dense and rich, this concentrated wine has spice and flavors from the wood aging. Potential smoothness is beginning to come through. Age this wine to open up the black fruits and ripe tannins. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Domaine Laporte 2020 Les Grandmontains (Sancerre).** This ripe wine is still developing. Full of black fruits, spice and rich tannins, it is structured and generously endowed with weight and concentration. The wine will be ready to drink from 2025. Martine's Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**93 Jean-Max Roger 2020 Vieilles Vignes Cuvée Marnes et Caillottes (Sancerre).** Structured and with a serious layer of tannins, this is an age-worthy wine. It is rich, dense, spicy from wood aging and full of ripe black fruits. Drink from 2025. Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**93 Roger et Didier Raimbault 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Sancerre).** This ripe wine is almost mature. It has dense black fruits and concentration from old vines. The wine's richness also reveals tannins that sustain its aging. Drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**92 Aurore Dezat 2020 (Sancerre).** This ripe, smooth wine offers great black fruits and generous tannins. Aged in wood, the wine is rich and worth aging further. Drink from 2024. Premier Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**92 Domaine Delaporte 2021 Silex (Sancerre).** This wine is smooth and velvet textured. Ripe with black fruits, layers of spice and wood-aging richness, the wine is well balanced and will age further. Drink from 2025. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$49

**92 Domaine Gérard Fiou 2019 Terroir Silex (Sancerre).** A full, rich wine, this is structured and dense, with spice and polish from wood aging. To accompany the texture, the black cherry fruits and ripe tannins are just now mature. Drink the wine now or better from 2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Domaine Vacheron 2020 (Sancerre).** Still showing structure and tannins, this wine is ripe and concentrated. The black fruits and texture will soften over the next few years to round the wine

out. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 François Crochet 2020 (Sancerre).** The Pinot Noir shows distinctive black cherry flavors in this wine. Oak aging has filled out the fruit with spice and a ripe, smooth texture. The wine has a good future. Drink from 2025. Organic. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**91 Pierre Prieur et Fils 2018 Domaine de Saint-Pierre (Sancerre).** This mature wine has a generous level of ripe black fruits and structure. Dense with blackberry and cherry flavors, the wine is very ready to drink. Vineyard Road. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Domaine Alban Roblin 2020 Château la Rabotine Terres de Droux (Sancerre).** This wine is still structured, with firm tannins alongside the black cherry fruits. The wine has plenty of potential and demands time. Drink from 2025. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90 Domaine Gérard Fiou 2018 Le Grand Roc Terroir de Silex (Sancerre).** This estate has produced a dense wine, with dark tannins and black fruits. The wine is perfumed, potentially ripe and still developing. Drink the wine from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Domaine Matthias et Emile Roblin 2020 Origine (Sancerre).** This wine has a smoky, velvet character. It is ripe with black cherry fruits, with a perfume that permeates right through. The wine has a final lift of acidity and touches of wood aging. Drink from 2024. Vintage '59 Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**90 Domaine Paul Thomas 2021 Chavignol (Sancerre).** A big, juicy wine with ripe red fruits and a layer of softening tannins, this is spicy, with a succulent aftertaste. It is still a little young, so drink from 2025. Shiverick Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$32

**90 Michel Vattan 2019 B-C (Sancerre).** This wine is structured, with firm black fruits. It has matured well so is almost ready to drink, although another few months will soften the wine further. Drink from 2024. Boivin Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$31

**89 Domaine Alban Roblin 2020 Château la Rabotine (Sancerre).** Still a bit raw around the edges, this wine has structure and layers of tannins. Spice from wood aging brings a softer aftertaste. Drink from 2025. APS Wine & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Domaine Anthony Girard 2020 Le Clef du Récit (Sancerre).** This wine still shows tannins from firm extraction. These need to soften



# BUYINGGUIDE

before the wine is ready to enjoy. Wait for the red fruits to show more emphatically. Drink from 2025. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**89** **Domaine Sautereau 2020 (Sancerre).** This smooth wine is lightly textured, giving a comfortable feel along with ripe berry fruits. There is good tension between the fruit and gentle tannins that give everything shape. Drink from 2024. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$29

**89** **Jean-Max Roger 2019 Cuvée La Grange Dimière (Sancerre).** Half of the fermentation and aging of this wine was in wood, giving warmth and richness to the red cherry fruits and gentle tannins. The wine is worth aging over the medium term. Drink from 2024. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$32

**88** **Michel Vattan 2020 B-C (Sancerre).** This wine is young, still packed with tannins. It has weight, as shown in the high alcohol and a touch of bitter extraction that does the wine no favors. The wine should soften, so wait until 2025. Boivin Selections. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$31

## MENETOU-SALON

**93** **Domaine Pellé 2018 Le Carroi (Menetou-Salon).** Dense and now mature, this full, opulent wine is powerful and rich. It comes from a single parcel planted on flint soil, giving the wine its texture. The wine is ready to drink, but will age further. Old World Imports LLC. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**92** **Domaine Pellé 2020 Morogues (Menetou-Salon).** This is a ripe style of Pinot Noir, with black cherry flavors and a rich, generous texture. Still young, it is dense and powerful. Drink from 2025. Organic. DB Wine Selection. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**92** **Domaines Minchin 2020 La Tour Saint-Martin Célestin (Menetou-Salon).** This is a dense wine, structured with some firm tannins. It is full of blackberry fruits balanced by youthful acidity. Drink this concentrated wine from 2025. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

**90** **Domaines Minchin 2020 La Tour Saint-Martin Pommerais (Menetou-Salon).** The potential of this wine shows in its rounded character and ripe black fruits. Juicy acidity works with the smokiness and spice. Drink this wine from 2025. European Cellars. —R.V.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**87** **Domaine de la Chézatte 2020 Cuvée Silex (Menetou-Salon).** A stinky wine with red fruits and layers of tannins, this is young and tex-

ured. While it will soften, it lacks some depth. Drink from 2025. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

## CHATEAUMEILLANT

**88** **Domaine Hubert 2020 (Châteaumeillant).** This small appellation south of the main Loire appellations is best known for its red wines. This bright and fruity wine, softly textured and with fresh red berry flavors, is rich and ready to drink. —R.V.

abv: 15% Price: \$NA

**87** **Domaine Goyer 2020 (Châteaumeillant).** This balanced wine with a good marriage between Pinot Noir and Gamay comes from a small appellation south of the Loire. The wine has some structure and generous red fruits. Drink now. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**87** **Domaine Siret-Courtaud 2020 (Châteaumeillant).** This ripe blend of Pinot Noir and Gamay is juicy and rich. Lightly structured and with a fresh-faced acidity as well as fruitiness, the wine is ready to drink. Free Run LLC. —R.V.

abv: 14% Price: \$NA

## ANJOU

**88** **Domaine de la Petite Roche 2020 (Anjou).** This wine is bright, stinky and smoky, with tannins and acidity. Red fruits and spice come together in a wine that is still young and needs to soften. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

abv: 13% Price: \$18

## BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

### CHABLIS

**95** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Les Clos Grand Cru (Chablis).** Silky and lactic, this golden-yellow wine offers complex layers of Meyer lemon, lime skin, citrus oil, tangerine, mangosteen, geranium and toasted almond, with a firm yet subtle mineral finish. The wine should hit peak in the next three to five years and hold well beyond 2030. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$95

**94** **Domaine Laroche 2020 Les Blanchots Grand Cru "Reserve de l'Obedience" (Chablis).** For this reviewer, the delicious umami midpalate of this wine is everything. Framed by fresh verbena skin, lemon oil, acacia spice, dandelion, celery leaf and black peppercorn, the wine is exciting now but can benefit from cellaring through at least 2028. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 14% Price: \$156

**93** **Domaine Billaud-Simon 2019 Mont De Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** Sustainably grown from vines 50-years-plus in age, this wine is reductive, with good tension. It is medium-bodied yet powerful and vibrant with a palate loaded with fresh pears and apple flesh, white mushroom and chalk, with a warm toasty finish from roughly 14 months of barrel aging. While enjoyable in its youth, cellaring for another three to five years is recommended. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**93** **Domaine L. Chatelain 2021 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** This medium-bodied wine is vibrant on the palate, with notes of white peach, nectarine and freshly cut apple. It moves toward an enticing and creamy midpalate of white truffle and kelp. The saline-seashell finish is persistent and mouthwatering. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

**93** **Domaine Laroche 2020 Les Bouguerots Grand Cru (Chablis).** Bold and linear, this bottling shows plenty of pent-up energy. Welcoming warm tones of acacia, primrose and white lilies are present but this is only the beginning of this wine's evolution. Drink the wine from 2027 on. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$141

**93** **Domaine Vincent Dampit 2020 (Chablis).** This multifaceted wine is quite enjoyable, with layers of fresh citrus, green pear and melon skin, then moves toward savory notes of white button mushrooms, English pea and dry thyme. While round in body, it is bright and graceful on the palate. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**93** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Blanchot Grand Cru (Chablis).** A powerful and generous bottling, this offers beautifully interlaced notes of sweet-pea flower, fresh yellow citrus, caramelized pineapple, toasted almond and pulverized white stone. Drink—2027. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

**93** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Valmur Grand Cru (Chablis).** Grown from a select plot of old vines, this beautiful expression of Valmur is full bodied and rich, with warm oak spices, ripe citrus, white peach, acacia and honeycomb. Approachable in its youth, the wine will cellar well through 2030. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$95

**92** **Domaine Billaud-Simon 2019 Vaudésir Grand Cru (Chablis).** Grown from approximately 12 acres, this wine is flashy and crisp. The palate offers a beautiful balance between white flowers, acacia, citrus pith and fresh almond. Enjoy now. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 13% Price: \$NA

**92** **Domaine de Vauroux 2019 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** This wine is energetic, underpinned with lively acidity that beautifully

elevates the palate of fresh ripe citrus and red apple with a floral perfume of dandelion and white rose. Its fine saline, chalky and earthy mushroom finish leave the palate yearning for another immediate sip. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Domaine Vocoret and Fils 2019 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** Focused and concentrated, this wine's crisp acidity refreshes the palate after an intense attack of underripe salted apple, wet grass, dried fines herbes and a gentle wet stone finish. Enjoy the wine now. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**92** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Mont De Milieu Premier Cru (Chablis).** For full review see page 11. Boisset Collection.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**92** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Montmains Premier Cru (Chablis).** Focused and structured, this generous wine offers a freshly picked basket of ripe lemon verbena, Bosc pear, Gala apples and pomelo balanced by a delicate, nervy finish of freshly cut grass, wet stone and button mushrooms. Enjoy now or cellar through 2026. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Domaine Billaud-Simon 2019 (Chablis).** Sourced from the finest communes, this stainless-steel-fermented Chablis immediately presents intense, warm notes of ripe apple flesh, lemon verbena leaf, white mushroom and underripe stone and melon fruits. While fleshy and round in body, the wine will benefit from holding through 2024, since the palate needs time to catch up. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**90** **Domaine de Vaux 2018 Bougros Grand Cru (Chablis).** Perfumed and elegant, this Bougros shows plenty of promise. Flavor of candied pear, fresh apricot, citrus pith, white flowers and rainwater, with a soft stony mineral finish. Drink now. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine Laroche 2021 Chablis Saint Martin (Chablis).** This wine opens with classic aromas of creamy lemon curd and underripe white peach, followed by delicate white flowers and fines herbes. On the palate, bright mouthwatering acidity darts through the midpalate, leaving behind a persistent, chalk mineral finish. Enjoy now as an aperitif with soft cheeses. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36

**90** **Domaine Vocoret and Fils 2019 (Chablis).** This is a beautiful and classic textbook example of Chablis. The palate is energetic and complex, with fresh tangerine skin, white peach and white florals. It finishes with refreshing acidity balanced with slight nuttiness and crushed stones. Terlato Wines International. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Fourchaume Premier Cru (Chablis).** Everything about this wine is fresh, opulent and complex. It offers notes of hay, honeysuckle, underripe apple, melon skin and saline minerality, with an almond-butter finish. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**90** **J. Moreau & Fils 2019 Vaillons Premier Cru (Chablis).** While this wine is currently quiet, it shows a lot of promise. Mouthwatering and long on the palate, it offers attractive citrus pith, delicate white flowers and fresh almonds. Cellar hold for 5-7 years. Boisset Collection. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

## BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

**87** **Trenel Fils 2021 Rochebonne (Beaujolais).** This ripe, juicy wine offers direct red fruit flavors. Bright and full of high notes, it is ready to drink. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Château de Pizay 2021 (Beaujolais).** Light, juicy and full of red fruits, this is a simple, attractive wine. With fresh acidity and the lightest touch of texture, the wine is ready to drink. David Milligan Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## BEAUJOLAIS-VILLAGES

**88** **Domaines Dominique Piron 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages).** This wine is dense and ripe. Rich black fruits are lightly structured with berry flavors and a juicy aftertaste. Drink from later 2023. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Trenel Fils 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages).** This firm wine has red cherry flavors alongside a layer of youthful tannins. The wine has weight and a solid core of red fruits. Drink from late 2023. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Domaine de Bel-Air 2021 Les Granits Bleu (Beaujolais-Villages).** This wine has lightness and poise. Fresh red fruits and bright acidity give it a shine that is attractive. Drink now. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Domaine du Clos du Fief 2021 la roche (Beaujolais-Villages).** An open wine with a light texture, this is full of red cherry flavors. It has density as well as bright acidity. Drink the wine now. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Domaine Raphaël Chopin 2021 La Savoye (Beaujolais-Villages).** This juicy wine offers

vivid black fruits and a background of tannins. Perfumed and bright, it will be ready from 2024. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**87** **Famille Descombe 2021 Granite (Beaujolais-Villages).** A ripe, fruity wine with a touch of smokiness and spice, this has already developed well. Light tannins and freshness come at the end. Drink now. European Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Nathalie et Bernard Remuet 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Beaujolais-Villages).** A fruity, juicy wine with only the lightest structure, this is immediately drinkable. It is bright and fresh at the end. Enjoy now. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**86** **Domaine des Nugues 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages).** This is a surprisingly hard-edged wine, shot through with tannins. The red berry fruit should have shown more strongly by now. JAE Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**86** **Domaine Joncy 2021 Beaujolais Quincé - Empreinte (Beaujolais-Villages).** Lightly textured with bright red fruits and plenty of acidity, this is an open wine. A gentle underlining of tannins gives the wine shape. Drink now. Organic. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**85** **Domaine des Nugues 2021 Cuvée Sans Soufre (Beaujolais-Villages).** Bottled without added sulfur, this wine is ripe but has a metallic edge. The red berry flavors need to assert themselves, so drink the wine from late 2023. JAE Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## BROUILLY

**91** **Château des Tours 2020 Brouilly Combiaty (Brouilly).** From a specific area of Brouilly, this wine has weight and layers of black fruits and ripe tannins. The wine is solid with texture and has plenty of potential. Drink from 2024. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$34

**91** **Domaines Dominique Piron 2020 (Brouilly).** This wine has power and density with its richness and concentration. A light layer of tannins offers aging potential. It is a bold wine, ready to drink from 2024. Beaune Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château de Corcelles 2020 Les Roches (Brouilly).** This wine is ripe with juicy black fruits along with the tannins. It has potential and will be at its best from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Gilles Copéret 2021 (Brouilly).** Lightly structured, this wine is full and ripe. The edge of tannins promises further aging that will soften the dry core and beef up the red currant fruitiness. Drink the wine from 2024. XXI Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Château de Corcelles 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Brouilly).** This wine offers good concentration, with ripe tannins and juicy black fruits. Good acidity and a succulent character partner with its richness. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château de Pizay 2021 Château de Saint-Lager (Brouilly).** This attractive, fruity wine is lightly textured. It has a fresh feel, enhancing the red fruits and acidity. Tannins bring up the rear and give the wine shape. Drink from late 2023. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88 Domaine de Bel-Air 2021 Briante (Brouilly).** This fruity wine is packed with ripe berry flavors and acidity. It has a light structure and open texture that is attractive. Drink from late 2023. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Manoir du Carra 2021 Terre de Combiaty (Brouilly).** With black cherry flavors and a dry core, this wine is still young, but has richness and a good future. From a sector of Brouilly, the wine shows the possibilities of this appellation. Drink from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

## FLEURIE

**91 Domaine de Bel-Air 2021 Les Granits Roses (Fleurie).** This wine is structured as well as perfumed. It has a velvet texture that is softening well. With its generous feel and ripeness, the smoky wine has a good future. Drink from 2024. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**90 Domaines Dominique Piron 2021 (Fleurie).** A juicy wine, this has layers of acidity that need to soften into the fruit and structure. This will happen over the next few months, giving a balanced wine that is fresh and textured. Drink from 2024. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Manoir du Carra 2020 Vers Le Mont (Fleurie).** This wine has a good structure, firmly sustaining the black fruits and juiciness. A mineral edge gives a fine texture. Drink from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**90 Trenal Fils 2021 (Fleurie).** This is a young wine, perfumed and with an edge of tannins and full black fruit flavors. Its berry flavors are

still developing, so the wine will be best from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**89 Domaine des Nugues 2021 (Fleurie).** This wine offers structure cushioned by comfortable black fruits. It is well balanced, with a fresh, fruity aftertaste and potential for aging. Drink from 2024. JAE Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**89 Manoir du Carra 2021 Clos des Déduits (Fleurie).** This wine's structure gives it richness as well as potential. With blackberry flavors and dense tannins, the wine has a good future. Drink from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

## JULIÉNAS

**91 Château de Durette 2021 Colline des Mouilles (Juliéñas).** This is a ripe, dense wine, full of tannins and black fruits from a specific parcel. It is packed with plums and tannins laced with acidity. Drink from 2024. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Manoir du Carra 2021 Les Bottières (Juliéñas).** The structure of Juliéñas is very apparent in this wine with its dry core. Density vies with the black fruits to make a balanced wine, ready to drink from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**90 Domaine du Clos du Fief 2021 Tradition (Juliéñas).** Ripe and full of fruit, this wine also has a layer of firm tannins that give it richness and a good future. The structure promises much. Drink from 2024. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Famille Descombe 2021 Pierres Bleues (Juliéñas).** A balanced, fruity wine with attractive tannins and fresh black fruits, this is lightly structured. The wine should age a bit more, so drink from late 2023. European Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

## MORGON

**91 Domaine Raphaël Chopin 2021 Les Charmes (Morgon).** Rich with tannins as well as black fruits, this wine is also light and bright. The wine lives up to the charming name of the sector in Morgon from which it comes. Drink from 2024. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Gilles Copéret 2020 (Morgon).** A generous wine, perhaps too alcoholic, this offers rich black fruits and tannins. It is solid, dense and structured enough to age further. Drink from 2024. XXI Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**91 Michel Guignier 2021 Canon (Morgon).** This is a structured wine. Bold tannins underline the blackberry fruits and acidity, giving power to what is in fact a light wine. The tannins demand further aging, so drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90 Domaine de Bel-Air 2021 Les Charmes (Morgon).** From the Charmes sector of Morgon, this structured wine has a firm texture. Black fruits and concentration give the wine weight and a good future. Drink from 2024. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Michel Guignier 2020 Tradition (Morgon).** This wine's tannins are right up front at this stage, giving dryness and the potential for concentration. Full bodied and ripe, it will likely age well. Drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Nathalie et Bernard Remuet 2020 (Morgon).** This wine is structured, with solid tannins that will allow it to age. While the tannins are still up front, a backdrop of ripe blackberry fruits provide balance. Drink from 2024. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine des Nugues 2021 (Morgon).** Properly structured, this wine is rich and concentrated. Generous black fruits offer good freshness at the end. This dense wine is worth aging. Drink from 2024. JAE Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château de Durette 2021 Cuvée Les Charmes (Morgon).** Tannins dominate this solid wine at this stage, giving it structure but not much fruit. It needs to age to bring out the fruitiness. Drink from 2024. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## MOULIN-À-VENT

**91 Domaine de Bel-Air 2020 Les Burdelines (Moulin-à-Vent).** This powerful and dense wine offers fine tannins and ripe black fruits. A spicy touch adds to the promise of this wine. Drink from 2024. Vigneron Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**91 Manoir du Carra 2020 Les Burdelines (Moulin-à-Vent).** This solid, structured wine has a firm backdrop of tannins. It offers concentration, with black, juicy fruits and a bold texture. Drink the wine from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$31

**90 Château de Durette 2021 Les Gimarets (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine is structured and young. The vibrant fruit with blackberry flavors still bursts with energy and juiciness. Wait



until it all comes together. Drink from 2024. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$26

**88** **Domaine des Nugues 2020 (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine's structure gives it richness as well as density. The relatively high alcohol brings an unfortunate bite that hopefully will soften, allowing the black fruits to shine. Drink from 2024. JAE Wine Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$20

## RÉGNIÉ

**91** **Domaine des Caprèoles 2020 Diaclase (Régnié).** This wine has structure, but its charm lies in the red fruits and spicy tannins. The wine is juicy, with great fruitiness and an open, delicious freshness at the end. Drink from late 2023. Organic. Vineyard Road. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$32

**90** **Domaine Raphaël Chopin 2020 Les Braves (Régnié).** With ripe black fruits, this wine is generous and full of blackberry flavors. Its open structure has promise, blending the fruits with tannins. Drink from 2024. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$39

**90** **Domaine Tano Péchard 2021 Nuances de Grès (Régnié).** This wine is smooth, with ripe black fruits and generous tannins. Its structure and juicy, balanced acidity are just right, giving a ripe wine ready to drink. Pierreclos Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**88** **Château de Durette 2021 Vieilles Vignes Les Bruyères (Régnié).** This wine has concentration from the old vines. The acidity is still powerful and will soften into the black cherry fruit and light texture. Drink from late 2023. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**88** **Domaine Raphaël Chopin 2020 La Ronze (Régnié).** Bright, fruity and juicy, this wine celebrates black cherries and well-balanced acidity. The light texture suggests that the wine will develop quickly. Drink the wine from late 2023. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$35

**88** **Gilles Copéret 2020 Les Chastys (Régnié).** A dense, fruity wine, this offers ripe tannins and juicy red fruit flavors. It is already delicious, with richness and a light texture. Drink from late 2023. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$19

**87** **Château de la Terrière 2021 Vin Sauvage à Poil (Régnié).** Made without added sulfur, this wine is juicy and fruity. Its freshness is palpable, giving a bright edge to the berry fruit flavors. Drink the wine from late 2023. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

**86** **Domaine des Caprèoles 2021 Sous la Croix (Régnié).** This wine is toasty, with a smoky character that smothers the fruit. It seems the producer has over-oaked this wine, which is a shame. Vineyard Road. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

**86** **Domaine Tano Péchard 2021 Les Bruyères (Régnié).** Acidity and tannins dominate this lean wine. Touches of brightness give the wine some fruitiness. Drink from late 2023. Pierreclos Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

## OTHER RED WINES

**89** **Château Bonnet 2020 Le Clos (Chénas).** This wine is structured, with firm tannins accompanied by ripe black fruits. It is a solid wine, its fruit and tannins working well together. Drink from late 2023. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

**89** **Château de Durette 2021 Cuvée Les Bureaux (Chénas).** The tannins and structure of this firm wine indicate potential. They come with black fruits and layers of succulent acidity. Drink this wine from 2024. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**89** **Nathalie et Bernard Remuet 2021 Granit Rose (Chiroubles).** A smoky wine suggesting some wood aging, this is also ripe and mineral. As the wine matures, it will develop riper black fruits and become more dense. Drink from 2024. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$24

**90** **Domaine du Clos du Fief 2021 Les Capitans (Saint-Amour).** This bright and fruity wine still shows considerable structure. Its tannins burst with energy while keeping a dry edge to soften over time. Drink the wine from 2024. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**89** **Château Bonnet 2021 Côte de Besset (Saint-Amour).** This perfumed wine comes from the northernmost of the Beaujolais cru villages. Full of juicy black fruits and ripe tannins, it has a structure that's set to soften. Drink from 2024. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$24

## BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

### BORDEAUX BLANC

**95** **Château Margaux 2021 Pavillon Blanc de Château Margaux (Bordeaux Blanc).** The wine, as always, shows a tropical side of Sauvignon Blanc. Having said that, the wine also has the purity of mineral acidity and citrus freshness. Wood aging

has softened the intensity of the fruit and rounded out the wine. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$275

**92** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2020 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This wine is poised between the citrus and riper tropical flavors, giving it weight and the promise of richness to come. The wine will be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$138

**91** **Le Nardian 2020 (Bordeaux Blanc).** This blend of Sauvignon Blanc with Sémillon and Muscadelle is very balanced, the richness tempered by the crisper citrus. It is an attractive, wood-aged wine, ready to drink now. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

**90** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2020 Les Pagodes de Cos (Bordeaux Blanc).** Very Sauvignon Blanc, this has a grassy character. Fresh citrus and bright acidity give total freshness to the wine. The lightness is delicious. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$54

**90** **Château Valandraud 2020 Valandraud Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc).** This is a powerfully rich wine, with ripe citrus and yellow fruit flavors. Acidity is balanced by the dense texture and spicy undercurrent. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$85

**89** **Château Valandraud 2020 Virginie de Valandraud (Bordeaux Blanc).** Crisp Sauvignon Blanc gives this wine freshness and citrus acidity. At the same time it has weight and great concentration. Drink the wine from 2024. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

## GRAVES

**92** **Château de Cérons 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** Vines have been grown on this estate since the 17th century. This vintage is a ripe, wood-aged wine, rich in lime and apple fruits. This wine from the Perromat family wine is delicious. Fragrant and with good acidity, the wine will be ready in late 2023. Alain Junguenet Selection. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**92** **Château Lagrange 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** This spicy wine was wood aged and offers ripe citrus and apple flavors. Full of promise, it has lively acidity and a perfumed character. Drink from late 2023. Organic. Misa Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

**91** **Clos Floridène 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** A full, ripe wine, this offers great acidity and ripe white fruits in balance. The wine is

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spicy, full of fruitiness and promise, finishing with a swathe of freshness. Drink from 2024. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**90** **Château de Portets 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves)**. Lightly spicy, this wine balances fresh acidity against white fruit flavors. Dominated by Sémillon from a 12-acre vineyard, it will be ready to drink from late 2023. Sommailier. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Château Ferrande 2021 (Graves)**. This wine is rich and full of bright white fruits from nearly equal portions of Sémillon, Sauvignon Gris and Sauvignon Blanc. That medley gives plenty of ripe apples and pears, with a shot of citrus. Drink the wine now. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**90** **Château Lassalle 2021 (Graves)**. From a six-acre site, this bright, spicy wine offers acidity and a tangy texture. A blend of Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc and a splash of Muscadelle, it will be ready to drink from late 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Lugaud 2021 (Graves)**. With a hint of spice, this wine is fruity and generously textured. Apple and citrus flavors give it lift and balance. From a typically tiny 11-acre, white Graves vineyard, the wine is ready to drink. CK French Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Château Moutin 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves)**. This wine is reticent at this stage. But its promise shows in the white fruits, edge of spice and texture. Drink this Darriet family wine from late 2023. Aliane Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Château de la Brède 2021 (Graves)**. Perfumed, fruity and with a hint of spice, this wine comes from a five-acre vineyard. The Sauvignon Blanc/Sémillon/Muscadet blend is textured, with an herbal edge and freshness. Drink now. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Château de Respide Callipyge 2021 (Graves)**. A light barnyard aroma will blow off, leaving this as a rounded wine with good acidity and a crisp texture. Fresh and tangy, it will be ready from late 2023. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**89** **Château des Places 2021 (Graves)**. A fruity wine from a 10-acre vineyard, this is full of apple flavors, with some ripe melon. The acidity is soft and rounded, giving a lightly zesty wine that is delicious to drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**89** **Château Haut Selve 2021 (Graves)**. Bright with a rounded texture and creamed apple

flavors, this is full and likely to age well. Drink from late 2023. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**89** **Vieux Château Gaubert 2021 (Graves)**. Fruity apples, pears and bright acidity combine in this Sémillon/Sauvignon Blanc blend. It is lightly spicy and textured. Drink from late 2023. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Caillivet 2021 (Graves)**. From a five-acre vineyard, this wine is fruity, with perfumed acidity and a fresh apple character. It has a fine tang at the end. Drink the wine now. Kindred Vines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château de Vimont 2021 (Graves)**. This fruity, tangy Sémillon-dominant wine from a 10-acre vineyard has great acidity and white fruits. With layers of grapefruit and acidity, the wine is full of life. Drink now. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**88** **Château Doms 2021 (Graves)**. A good amount of creamy, ripe Sémillon in this wine adds richness. From a 12-acre estate, the wine will be generous. Drink from 2024. Lanterna Distributors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88** **Château du Mouret 2021 (Graves)**. Full of citrus and apples, this wine is crisp and fragrant. It is lightly textured with acidity and vibrant. Drink now. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Château La Rose Sarron 2021 La Magine 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves)**. This wine is grassy, showing acidity and citrus fruits alongside an herbal character. The intense fruitiness will soften over the next few months. Drink from late 2023. Tru Wines LLC. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Château les Clauzots 2021 (Graves)**. A ripe wine that is softly textured, this is full of bright acidity alongside smooth apple flavors. The wine will still develop, so drink from late 2023. Palomar Imports LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Pont de Brion 2021 (Graves)**. From a five-acre, primarily Sémillon vineyard, this wine is ripe, with red apple, sweet melon and pear flavors. It has richness, spice and plenty of fruit for the future. Drink from late 2023. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**87** **Château Beauregard Ducasse 2021 Cuvée Albert Duran (Graves)**. From a vineyard first planted by Albert Duran in 1850 and still in the family, this wine is herbal, bright and crisp. Vibrant

and worth aging, it will be ready to drink from later this year. Heritage Wine Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Château Calvimont 2021 (Graves)**. This soft wine offers ripe apple and pear flavors. The texture promises further aging that will bring out soft acidity. Drink now. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Château Cazebonne 2021 Grand Vin (Graves)**. This floral wine offers ripe white fruits set against fresh acidity. The wine is lightly textured, full of green apple flavors and hints of lemon. Drink now. Terra Firma USA Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**87** **Château le Bonnat 2021 (Graves)**. Textured and tangy, this is a crisp green- and citrus-fruit-flavored wine. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Château Peyrat 2021 (Graves)**. Sémillon dominates this wine that was made using natural yeasts, cement vats and 10% wood barrels. With ripe white fruit and apple flavors, the wine is full of freshness and richness that are well in balance. Perfumed and lightly spicy, it is ready to drink now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**87** **Château Roquetaillade la Grange 2021 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves)**. From a vineyard of Pope Clement V's 14th-century family castle, this ripe wine delivers white and yellow fruit. Acidity is fully absorbed by the richness. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$22

**86** **Grand Enclos du Château de Cérons 2021 (Graves)**. This wine is crisp with acidity and a tangy character. It is fresh and herbal, with a tangy texture. Drink now. The Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

## PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

**94** **Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2020 (Pessac-Léognan)**. Dominated by Sauvignon Blanc that has been wood aged, this wine offers lovely ripe lemon and spice flavors. With its acidity and mineral texture, the wine will be ready to drink from 2025. Total Wine & More. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**93** **Château Brown 2020 (Pessac-Léognan)**. This white wine is rounded and rich, with spice as well as mineral tightness. Still young, its creamy character shows the future direction of its development. Drink the wine from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**93** **Château Picque Caillou 2021 (Pessac-Léognan)**. Mainly Sauvignon Blanc with a

soupon of Sémillon, this wine has lemon freshness along with a floral character. The oaking has performed its smoothing magic while retaining the youthful fruitiness. The wine needs to age for several years. Wait to drink from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$70

**90** **Château Brown 2021 Le Colombier de Brown (Pessac-Léognan)**. Like most estates in Pessac-Léognan, Brown makes white wines. The second wine, this is mainly Sauvignon Blanc, with a grassy edge and bright acidity. Its freshness is softened by wood aging. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## OTHER WHITE WINE

**87** **Château le Virou 2021 Sublimus (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This wine's perfumed softness is light, bright and textured. Touches of minerality give tension while acidity balances with the citrus fruits. It's ready to drink. My Houseland. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

## DESSERT WINES

**96** **Château Suduiraut 2020 (Sauternes)**. This wine is pure Sémillon, giving richness. The weight gets a massive lift from acidity and aromatic, spicy honey. The wine's balance is impeccable, with poise and elegance, and it will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**86** **Château Cornélien 2021 (Loupiac)**. This sweet wine with hints of botrytis is dominated by Sémillon. Rich and honeyed, the wine is developing well. Drink from 2024. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

## BORDEAUX RED WINES

**88** **Château de l'Orangerie 2021 Petit Verdot (Bordeaux)**. The Petit Verdot gives proper richness and major structure to this wine. It is dark, dense with black fruits and concentrated tannins. It will gradually soften into a ripe wine with black currant and spice flavors. Drink from 2026. David Milligan Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **G. Brochard 2020 Cuvée 1511 (Bordeaux)**. This wine is full of blackberry fruits, generous tannins and spice. The balance is happening, with fruit and structure coming together. Acidity gives essential freshness. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **G. Brochard 2020 Cuvée 1601 (Bordeaux)**. The black currant fruit and balanced texture are held together by the tannin core that will soften. This forthright wine is developing well. Drink from 2024. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Mauvais Garçon 2020 (Bordeaux)**. This wine is structured and well textured, full of berry flavors and freshness. It offers ripe black fruits with acidity and a light dryness at the core. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Château Cabredon 2020 (Bordeaux)**. Spicy and full of blackberry fruits, this wine is structured and juicy. Mainly Merlot, it has good acidity that keeps it fresh and bright. Drink from 2024. Arcadia Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**87** **Château Roquefort 2019 (Bordeaux)**. Mainly Merlot, this lightly wooded wine is fruity and attractively textured. The tannins are almost smoothed out to give a juicy wine with freshness as well as richness. Drink from late 2023. Duclot La Vinicole. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Domaine Virginie Thunevin 2020 (Bordeaux)**. This juicy, fresh wine has plenty of acidity and a bright, crisp texture. The wine is attractive, fruity and ready to drink. DHI Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Domaines de Malet Roqfort 2020 Comtesse de Malet Roquefort (Bordeaux)**. This soft wine is packed with ripe black fruits and gentle tannins. Its juiciness and freshness are already delicious. Drink from 2024. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**85** **Château Haut-Bicou 2020 (Bordeaux)**. This wine has a stinky character. Tannins and black currant fruits give structure and freshness, but the texture of the wine is lean. It will soften, maybe, and be better from 2024. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

## BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

**89** **Château de l'Orangerie 2020 Premier Vin (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. From old vines, this wine is full of rich berry fruits and dense wood flavors. The wine is ripe, with lots of tannins to soften. Drink from 2025. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**89** **Château Roquefort 2018 Cuvée Jean Bel-langer (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. A tribute to the present owner's father, this wine is both rich and dense. Very much a product of this structured vintage, the wine has a bite of pepper as well as

solid tannins. It still needs to soften and should be better from late 2023. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**88** **Château Bel-Air 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Already soft and with open tannins, this wine is all about fruit. Black currant flavors and acidity combine in a wine that has freshness with a dry edge. Let the wine mature and drink from 2024. Sovex Woltner. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**88** **Château de Bleyzac 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. In this wine, black coffee and licorice flavors mask the berry fruits. Density and considerable weight add to the firm tannins. The wine needs time, so drink from late 2023 when the fruits should open out. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château de Langalerie 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This is a firm, dry wine, packed with tannins. Dark chocolate bitterness and pepper spoil the fruit. The wine has the potential to reveal more of its black fruits, so wait to drink from 2024. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Gandoy-Perrinat 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This estate in the heart of Entre-deux-Mers has produced a smooth, soft wine. Approachable with its ripe Merlot flavors, the wine is juicy and structured. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Lamothe-Vincent 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Black fruits come through strongly with this wine. The soft tannins and bright ripe fruits are generous and spicy. Acidity and freshness come out in this attractive wine. Drink from 2024. La Ville Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Lauretan 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This attractive blend includes 10% Petit Verdot, which gives structure and color to the wine. It is fruity, with blackberry flavors and a highlight of tannins. Drink this wine from 2024. Organic. Lionstone International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Domaines de Malet Roqfort 2020 Château Chapelle d'Aliénor (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine is rich, with generous tannins and equally generous black fruits. From vines just outside Saint-Émilion, it has a succulent character and will develop quickly. Drink the wine from 2024. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Château de Bleyzac 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. Now ready to drink, this wine offers blackberry fruits and bright acidity. Finely tuned tannins support the fruitiness. Drink now. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA



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**87** **Château Jalousie Beaulieu 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This bright, red-fruited wine offers juicy acidity alongside a core of tannins. Full of fruit, it will soon soften. Drink from late 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**87** **G. Brochard 2018 Cuvée 1070 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine is smooth and dense. The preponderance of Merlot has brought out the concentration of black fruits. Acidity mitigates this power by adding a touch of freshness at the end. Drink now. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**86** **Château David Beaulieu 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur)**. This wine shows its wood strongly, giving spiciness and toast. The fruit is there, promising to come through over the next months. Wait to drink until 2024. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**89** **Château Cabredon 2019 (Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A ripe, juicy wine, this has some remaining tannins balanced with the black currant fruits. Full of Merlot ripeness, the wine is juicy, with layers of fruit and acidity. Drink from 2024. Arcadia Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Château Cabredon 2020 Tradition (Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This is a bright, spicy wine, with light wood aging that sustains the blackberry fruits. Mainly Merlot with touches of the two Cabernets, the wine is packed with berry flavors and lightly structured tannins. Drink from 2024. Arcadia Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château de Langalerie 2019 (Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Blackberry flavors go with still-firm tannins that indicate aging potential. This wine has a solid structure, with a touch of pepper as well as future juiciness. Drink this wine from 2025. New Frontier Wine Co. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## FRANCS CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**92** **Château Thomas 2020 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. For full review see page 19. Misa Imports. **Best Buy**.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**90** **G. Brochard 2018 Clovis (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Clovis was one of the first kings of France, a figure of myth as well as history. This richly textured wine with black fruits is balanced with a light edge of acidity that promises to bring freshness to the firm structure. Drink from 2024. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **G. Brochard 2015 Cuvée 508 (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Now comfortably mature, this wine shows soft tannins and a ripe texture. The wine is dense, although acidity gives it a fresh streak and light final touch. Drink the wine now. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**92** **Domaine de l'A 2020 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Dense and rich, this wine also has stylish black fruit freshness, with acidity and structure shaped subtly. The wine is set for medium-term aging. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91** **Château Tour d'Horable 2020 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. With a pinch of Cabernet Franc in the blend to add further structure and perfume, this is a ripe wine. Richness comes from blackberry flavors and juicy acidity. Drink the wine from 2025. Organic. Misa Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Château Galot la Chapelle 2019 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Clay and limestone in the soil give this wine richness along with structure. Generous black fruits are warm, rich, full in the mouth and perfumed. Drink this wine from 2025. AHD Vintners. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Domaine d'Argilius 2018 Les Truffards (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Dominated almost entirely by Merlot, this wine is ripe and structured. Big black fruits and firm tannins combine in this young wine with a good future. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Château Mauperey 2019 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux)**. A juicy, generous wine full of black fruits, this is still young but showing well. The fruits and ripe tannins partner well to make up the structure. Drink the wine from 2025. Sovex Woltner. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

## MARGAUX

**98** **Château Margaux 2020 (Margaux)**. This is a big wine, smoky and rich. With a higher proportion of Petit Verdot than in the past, it offers complexity and bold black fruits. The wine is structured while always ripe and generous. Drink this magnificent wine from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$641

**98** **Château Palmer 2020 (Margaux)**. Massively rich already with density and opulence, this powerful wine is half-and-half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. The dark tannins presage aging for many

years. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Editors' Choice**. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$342

**97** **Château Durfort-Vivens 2020 (Margaux)**. In this wine, the tannins are velvety, with black fruits that are immensely concentrated. The texture and powerful tannins provide superb foils for the fruit. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$67

**96** **Château Rauzan-Ségla 2020 (Margaux)**. This wine has a fine structure, with dense tannins from the Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. It is a full wine, the spicy character mingling with black currant flavors. The wine has an excellent future. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$103

**95** **Château Ferrière 2020 (Margaux)**. This wine has a dense character, with rich fruits and blackberry flavors heightened by the tannins. Because of the heat of Margaux, the wine is rich while always elegant. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$44

**95** **Château Lascombes 2020 (Margaux)**. In this stylish wine, fruit and tannins are in harmony. Black plum flavors are richly concentrated with the firm structure. The wine is set for long-term aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Editors' Choice**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**95** **Château Margaux 2020 Pavillon Rouge de Château Margaux (Margaux)**. This wine is dense, with rich black fruits that give elegance and considerable potential. Powerful tannins are cushioned by the ripe fruits. The wine has a great future. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$202

**94** **Château Palmer 2020 Alter Ego (Margaux)**. In this wine, the initial acidity gives way to richness and ripe tannins. With freshness and ripe acidity, the wine is balanced and has a great future. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$77

**93** **Château la Gurgue 2020 (Margaux)**. With nearly 25% Petit Verdot in the blend, this wine has weight and powerful tannins that are tempered by the quality of fruit. Juiciness gives a fresh lift at the end. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Editors' Choice**. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$22

**92** **Château Rauzan-Ségla 2020 Ségla (Margaux)**. Ripe and juicy, this wine delivers fresh fruit, with a proper second-wine softness and accessibility. With its brightness and warm berry flavors, the wine will develop quickly. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Château Dauzac 2021 Aurore de Dauzac (Margaux)**. With textured and richly structured black fruits, this Cabernet Sauvignon is still full of tannins. It will take a few years to soften into its ripe berry flavors. Drink from 2026. Suitable for vegans. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## PAUILLAC

**100** **Château Lafite Rothschild 2020 (Pauillac)**. Structured, dense and with great concentration, this wine is magnificent. Its black fruits and density indicate the power of the wine and its longevity. At the same time, the wine has the elegance that is always associated with this estate. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$709

**99** **Château Mouton Rothschild 2020 (Pauillac)**. This is a massive, impressive wine. Dense tannins and succulent black fruits are the outward manifestation of the hidden power of this concentrated wine. The fruit is opulent, full of possibility. Drink this wine from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$640

**98** **Château Pichon Baron 2020 (Pauillac)**. Made with a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine offers dark tannins that give density and massive black fruits. With a magnificent combination of dark fruits and rich structure, it is set for long-term aging. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$166

**97** **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2020 (Pauillac)**. Tannins and fruits march in step with each other to give this wine style and elegance. The structure is supple and the tannins smoothing, while still keeping great aging potential. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$199

**97** **Château Pontet-Canet 2020 (Pauillac)**. The magnificent structure and balance of this wine are powerful. It shows poise between the black fruits and the freshness of the vintage, while the texture is almost velvet. The wine is juicy and seriously structured at the same time. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$115

**95** **Château Clerc Milon 2020 (Pauillac)**. Rich and smoky, this wine has great presence. Tannins are almost sweet with their roundness, the wine enveloping the structure with the jammy black fruits. The wine will age well. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$88

**95** **Château Lafite Rothschild 2020 Carruades de Lafite (Pauillac)**. This is a very fine second wine. Its powerful tannins and rich structure show complexity as well as freshness and acidity. The wine's density promises much over the long term. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$254

**94** **Château Duhart-Milon 2020 (Pauillac)**. This ripe wine has some serious tannins and rich black fruits. Behind the structure, a swathe of black fruits gives the wine concentration and ripeness. Drink this textured wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$83

**94** **Château Haut-Bages Libéral 2020 (Pauillac)**. Bold and rich, this wine shows power and structure. But it also has delicious black currant fruitiness to go with the tannins. The wine will age well. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$44

**94** **Château Pichon Baron 2020 Les Griffons de Pichon Baron (Pauillac)**. This wine is firm, its balance of Cabernet Sauvignon giving rich concentration and structure. The wine is dense, offering ripe tannins over the black currant fruits. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**94** **Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2020 Pichon Comtesse Réserve (Pauillac)**. Ripe black fruits and rich tannins are piled high in this wine. It shows finesse in the tannins and in the blackberry flavors. This second wine is likely to age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$54

**93** **Château d'Armailhac 2020 (Pauillac)**. Ripe and juicy fruits go along with intense background tannins, giving this wine richness as well as structure. Open and full of fruit, the wine still needs time. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$52

**93** **Château Lafite Rothschild 2018 Anseillan (Pauillac)**. Named after a hamlet on the Lafite estate, this new creation from Lafite-Rothschild comes from selected parcels of the vineyard. It is a rich wine, worthy of the vintage and the estate. Balancing elegance with ripe black currant fruits, the wine is restrained and has some aging potential. It should be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**93** **Château Mouton Rothschild 2020 Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild (Pauillac)**. This second wine of Mouton Rothschild is dense, the tannins and black fruits giving intensity. It has a softer side, with sweet black fruits that are generous

and rounded. Drink this wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$256

**92** **Château Artigues 2018 (Pauillac)**. Cabernet Sauvignon structure kicks in strongly in this dense wine. Rich black currant fruits are shot through with succulent acidity as well as still-youthful tannins. The wine has a great future. Drink from 2025. Sovex Woltner. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**92** **Château Haut-Bages Libéral 2020 Chapelle de Haut-Bages (Pauillac)**. This wine is structured, with great black fruits alongside swathes of tannins. This second wine of Haut-Bages Libéral is rich and needs aging. Drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$34

**92** **Château Pichon Baron 2020 Les Tourelles de Longueville (Pauillac)**. This Merlot-dominated wine is ripe and soft. Juicy freshness is enriched with a core of tannins and soft black fruits. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**90** **Château Clerc Milon 2020 Pastourelle de Clerc Milon (Pauillac)**. This rich wine is full of black fruits, with spice and light tannins. This second wine is delicious, generous with its berry flavors. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**90** **Château Pibran 2020 (Pauillac)**. This wine is ripe and smooth, with red fruits and great juiciness. The structure is hidden in the ripe fruits. This wine will age relatively quickly. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**87** **Château Plantey 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Pauillac)**. Half and half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is structured. The prominent tannins are dense, giving the black currant fruits the promise of serious aging. Drink the wine from 2026. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

## SAINT-ESTÈPHE

**97** **Château Calon Ségur 2020 (Saint-Estèphe)**. This wine has a touch of spice to go with its powerful black currant flavors. It is concentrated, and the 78% Cabernet Sauvignon gives great structure and power. The wine has immense aging potential. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$121

**96** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2020 (Saint-Estèphe)**. This wine's complex structure and powerful tannins are shot through with freshness. It is already impressive, the spice and black fruits in harmony with the texture. The wine will

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age well. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$224

**95** **Château de Pez 2020 (Saint-Estèphe).** This wine is dense, classic for Saint-Estèphe. Bold black fruits and dark hues are set to give a wine that will take its time. Tannins are surrounded by berry fruits and richness. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$64

**94** **Château Haut-Marbuzet 2020 (Saint-Estèphe).** Big and bold with dark tannins, this wine is full, complex and has great aging potential. Its texture, richness and juicy acidity are impressive. Drink from 2027. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **Château Le Crock 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Saint-Estèphe).** This big, smoky wine is well crafted and concentrated, with rich tannins and a dense structure. The black fruits and juicy character are sustained by the intensity of the tannins. Drink this wine from 2027. Aleph Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**93** **Château Cheval Blanc 2020 Le Petit Cheval (Saint-Estèphe).** This second wine shows so many of the rich, dense qualities of the top wine. Bold black fruits are sustained by serious tannins and a dry core. It will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$176

**93** **Château de Pez 2020 Le 2nd Vin (Saint-Estèphe).** This wine is dense, juicy with bold black fruits and ripe tannins. The concentration does not mask the forward nature of the bright black currant fruits. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Château Capbern 2020 (Saint-Estèphe).** This ripe wine has rich tannins and an open, juicy character. Blackberry flavors are warm from the wine's richness. With its density, the wine needs some time. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$27

**92** **Château Cos d'Estournel 2020 Les Pagodes de Cos (Saint-Estèphe).** This second wine is complex and structured. At same time, it has the proper openness and precocity of a second wine. Likely to age smoothly, the wine will be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

**92** **Château Morin 2018 (Saint-Estèphe).** This wine shows its Saint-Estèphe origin with its solid, firm tannins. It has perfumed black currant fruit flavors for the future. Ripe and still maturing, the wine will be ready from 2026. AHD Vintners. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**92** **Château Tour Haut Vignoble 2020 (Saint-Estèphe).** The Cabernet Sauvignon in this wine gives it a good structure. Ripe tannins are still young, with black currant fruits and structure promising a good future. The wine should be ready from 2026. MHW, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Château Léo de Prades 2019 (Saint-Estèphe).** This wine still has plenty of tannins to go with its juicy black currant flavors. A straightforward blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, the wine is packed with structure and a firm texture of tannins. Drink from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Château Saint-Pierre de Corbian 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Saint-Estèphe).** The Cabernet Sauvignon gives this wine great structure and potential. Spice and ripe tannins add richness to the structure and firm edge. Drink from 2026. MHW, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

## SAINT-JULIEN

**96** **Château Léoville Barton 2020 (Saint-Julien).** Dense and with velvety tannins, this wine has great structure and concentration without being too weighty. This solid wine is sure to age. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$96

**95** **Château Talbot 2020 (Saint-Julien).** Spicy, structured and dense, this is a complex, smoky and powerful wine. With polished fruit and structure, it comes from an increasingly impressive estate. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$61

**94** **Château Langoa Barton 2020 (Saint-Julien).** The tannins in this wine are velvety, supporting the black fruits and richness. The wine has fruitiness but also structure and potential. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**92** **Château Léoville Barton 2020 La Réserve de Léoville Barton (Saint-Julien).** This second wine of both Langoa and Léoville Barton is full of ripe fruit. Tannins are initially gentle and then show a firm structure to support the blackberry flavors. The wine will be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## POMEROL

**98** **Château Pétrus 2020 (Pomerol).** Wonderfully aromatic, this wine offers ripe tannins that give the appearance of softness. That's deceptive because the wine's structure is massive

and concentrated. Velvet black fruits are embedded in the texture, superripe without losing freshness. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$4900

**97** **Vieux Château Certan 2020 (Pomerol).** This wine has a surprising amount of Merlot in the blend for the estate. That gives richness and density to a wine that is already structured and stylish. The dense texture promises long-term aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$364

**94** **Château L'Evangile 2020 (Pomerol).** A powerful expression of Merlot, this wine has a dense structure, with serious tannins and concentration. Spicy flavors and dark chocolate are set against the black fruits and final acidity. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$270

**94** **Château Petit-Village 2020 (Pomerol).** A powerful and dense wine, this shows concentration. A good amount of the two Cabernets brings structure behind the great black fruits. It is a wine for aging. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$134

**93** **Château l'Enclos 2020 (Pomerol).** Full of bright fruit, this wine is juicy and structured. Richness comes from impressive blackberry flavors allied to concentration. The wine should be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Vieux Château Certan 2020 La Gravette de Certan (Pomerol).** Produced from young vines, this second wine is juicy, perfumed with a dominance of Merlot. Its balance is just right, ripe and juicy, with acidity and structure in all the right places. The black fruits show sweetness as well as richness. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**92** **Château Hermitage Mazeyres 2020 (Pomerol).** A firm, rounded and young wine, this has tense acidity and a strong stalky character. All that will soften as the wine matures to bring out black Merlot richness. Drink this balanced wine from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Château L'Evangile 2020 Blason de l'Evangile (Pomerol).** In this ripe wine, softness masks some firmer tannins. This second wine has a juicy character that also gives spicy density. It is full and rich, concentrating the black fruits. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$69

**92** **Château la Truffe 2020 (Pomerol).** Almost entirely Merlot, this wine has a dark, black fruit character. It is still young and the black cof-



fee flavors will go as it develops further. The berry fruits have a promising future. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**92** **Château Rocher-Bonregard 2020 (Pomerol)**. Big and rich, this spicy, Merlot-dominated wine has smoky flavors, structure and a sense of concentration and power. The wine needs aging. Drink from 2025. AHD Vintners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Le Clos de Beau-Père 2020 (Pomerol)**. While this wine has structure, its tannins are embraced by ripe black fruits. Generous and full bodied, the wine doesn't show its alcohol. The wine will should be ready to drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$56

**91** **Château Esprit de la Commanderie 2020 (Pomerol)**. Celebrating Merlot, this generous wine is full and dense. Its black fruits are vivid in their youth, ready to open and fill out into richness. The wine will be ready to drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Château Hermitage Mazeyres 2019 (Pomerol)**. A bold and rich Merlot-dominated wine, this is full of black fruits and dark tannins. The wine is dense and opulent, with a good balance of acidity. It should be ready from 2025. Advantage International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## LALANDE DE POMEROL

**92** **Château Garraud 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol)**. This smoky, ripe wine is full of black tannins and has a complex structure that balances black fruits and solid tannins. Drink this Merlot-dominant wine from 2025. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Domaine du Grand Ormeau 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol)**. Mainly Merlot and from old vines, this wine is opulent and juicy, with touches of perfume from the Cabernet Franc in the blend. The wine is still developing. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

**89** **Château Petites Ranga 2020 Cuvée Jean-Jules (Lalande de Pomerol)**. Dark tannins from rich Merlot give this wine structure and concentration. Behind are blackberry fruits and acidity that promise a fresher aspect as the wine matures. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Clos de l'Hermitage 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol)**. This ripe and juicy wine offers ripe tannins and black Merlot fruits. Spicy from wood aging, with a firm structure that needs to

soften, the wine will develop well. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**89** **Domaine des Sabines 2020 (Lalande de Pomerol)**. This wine offers bold, black Merlot flavors, with generous tannins and concentration. It is juicy, with berry flavors and spice. Drink from 2025. Heidelberg Distribution. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Château Bel Rose 2021 (Lalande de Pomerol)**. This wine may be young, but it already has a veneer of maturity. The black fruits have smoothed out satisfyingly, while the dominant Merlot is ripe and full in the mouth. The juicy after-taste gives a touch of freshness. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

## SAINT-ÉMILION

**98** **Château Troplong Mondot 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This firmly structured wine with its high percentage of Merlot is powerful and dense. The bold black fruits and perfumed density are impressive. It will age, ready to drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**97** **Château Cheval Blanc 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This wine has power and density. It also offers a perfumed intensity of black fruits and ripe tannins. The shape of the wine is already there even if it is still very young. Ripe and sweet, the fruit is delicious and open, bringing great freshness behind the structure. Drink this wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$576

**97** **Château Valandraud 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This 17-acre vineyard gives a wine with an explosion of black fruits. It offers sweetness balanced by acidity and impressive tannins. The wood aging gives a polished texture with richness and style in balance. Drink this wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$150

**97** **Le Dôme 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This Cabernet Franc-dominated, single-parcel wine is rich, with a great structure and dense tannins. The perfumed black fruits are impressively textured and the wine promising long aging. Drink from 2027. World's End LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$250

**96** **Château la Gaffelière 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This wine's ripe tannins and fine perfumes come from the 40% Cabernet Franc in the blend. The structure is powerful even if masked by the generous black fruits. The wine has great potential. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**96** **Château Pavie Macquin 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This full wine's ripe black fruits are velvety in texture and density. Inherently powerful, the wine keeps a great sense of proportion and balance. It has good acidity, with the freshness and balance coming together. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**96** **Clos Fourtet 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This wine's structure is massive. Serious tannins are matched with generous black fruits. Acidity gives a succulent character at the back of all this dense texture. It's a wine to age. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$121

**94** **Château Guadet 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. The estate has evolved considerably, and this latest release continues the development with ripe black fruits and beautifully textured tannins. With its balance and structure, the wine will develop. Drink from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **Château Valandraud 2020 Virginie de Valandraud (Saint-Émilion)**. This second wine has a good structure, with black fruits underneath the spice and solidity. The wine's density is balanced by good acidity at the end. Drink from 2026 Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**94** **Vieux Château Mazerat 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. The firm tannins of this wine are powerful with concentration. A solid wine, it offers acidity as well as tannins. The wine needs aging and will be ready from 2026. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$130

**93** **Château Berliquet 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. A big wine with rich tannins and a dense structure, this is solid. The clay soil shows both in the wine's ripeness and its power. It is concentrated, with layers of black plum flavors. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Hidden Gem*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$56

**93** **Château Calon Ségur 2020 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur (Saint-Émilion)**. This second wine has firm tannins and ripe black fruits. It has the density and structure of classic Saint-Émilion, giving a wine with weight that needs time to develop. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**93** **Château de l'Annonciation 2020 (Saint-Émilion)**. This ripe, fruity and juicy wine dominated by 80% Merlot is full and dense. It has a generous texture and polish from 18 months in wood. The wine will age further, so wait to drink until 2026. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**93 Château Fonplégade 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This dense wine has some serious tannins as well as layers of black fruits. Its acidity and freshness are impeccable, giving finesse and a balance with the structure. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Château La Tour Figeac 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A good amount of Cabernet Franc in this wine gives structure to the dense black fruits. It is ripe and fruity, the tannins well embedded in the fruit. The wine needs to age. Drink from 2027. MacArthur Beverages. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Château les Grandes Murailles 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This tiny vineyard of less than five acres in the shadow of the ancient arched walls of Saint-Émilion is planted entirely with Merlot. Juicy, ripe and packed with black currant flavors, this wine is back by tannins. Its texture is rounded, velvet with just a bite of tannins. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**93 Château Puyblanquet 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** For full review see page 8. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$59

**93 Château Valandraud 2020 3 by Valandraud (Saint-Émilion).** This wine's richness is balanced by a good structure and considerable elegance. The third wine of Château Valandraud, it is balanced, intense and offers great black fruits. Drink from 2025. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Château Cormeil-Figeac 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine is still structured, with full tannins and the ripe blackberry flavors bursting with energy. The wine needs time. Drink from 2025. Luneau USA Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**92 Château Haut Veyrac 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine's weight and density come from the rich Merlot in the blend. Structure comes from the 25% Cabernet Franc that shapes the wine and propels it forward. The ripe black-fruited wine will be ready to enjoy from 2025. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**92 Château la Gaffelière 2020 Dame de Gaffelière (Saint-Émilion).** For full review see page 10. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**92 Château Laforge 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This is a rich, dark-chocolate and spice wine. The dense texture gives freshness to the black fruits and concentration. A ripe wine, it is full of structure and fruit. Drink from 2025. World's End LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Château Palais Cardinal 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** A dense wine full of dark Merlot flavors and rich tannins, this is showing well. The 64-acre estate, large for Saint-Émilion, has produced a wine that will age well. Black fruits and structure should allow it to be ready from 2026. Latitude Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Château Quinault L'Enclos 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This vineyard in the heart of the city of Libourne is now showing great quality. Ripe black fruits dominate the tannins, giving a wine of great freshness. It is succulent, with generous fruitiness while keeping an good structure. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**92 Château Sanctus 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This dense, spicy wine has ripe tannins and a concentrated texture. Black fruits burst with energy, giving a push to the structure. Drink this layered wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**91 Château Armens 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** An estate in the east of Saint-Émilion has produced this structured, finely textured wine. Juicy acidity and hint of spice bring shape and succulent fruit. Drink from 2026. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Château Canon 2020 Croix Canon (Saint-Émilion).** Dark chocolate and powerful black fruits give this wine density and concentration. They also bring a hard edge that needs to soften. With its smoky character and polished wood texture, the wine is developing well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Château Cormeil-Figeac 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine is young, firm and still densely structured. Black fruits shot with succulent acidity and rich tannins indicate aging potential. Drink this wine from 2026. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**91 Château Cormeil-Figeac 2018 (Saint-Émilion).** This is a dense, full-bodied wine. Generous black fruits and powerful tannins guarantee the richness that still keeps some freshness from acidity. The wine is not yet ready, so wait to drink until 2025. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**91 Château Larcis Ducasse 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine is in a classic style. Tannins and structure are as important at this stage as the vibrant black fruits. It's good for long-term aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

**91 Château Louvie 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** With up to 18 months barrel aging, this blend dominated by Merlot is fruity and smooth, bringing

structure along with it. A rich wine, it has density and concentration. The vibrant fruits will soften well. Drink from 2025. Michael Corso Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**91 Château Palais Cardinal 2019 Le Palatin (Saint-Émilion).** This wine is firm, structured with solid tannins and polish from partial wood aging. It is dense, the textured black fruits still young. Drink this second wine from Palais Cardinal from 2026. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$40

**91 Château Rocher-Figeac 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** One of the many wines that have Figeac in their name, this wine therefore comes from the west of Saint-Émilion. It is ripe, structured with dark fruits and solid tannins that need aging. Drink this young wine from 2025. Mortier. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Château Côte de Baleau 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** A ripe, full-bodied wine, this has rich tannins and plenty of spicy character from the wood aging. It is dense, structured with powerful black fruits and a generous, velvet texture. The wine has enough structure to age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**90 Château Haut Filius 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** A smooth, rich wine, this hasn't lost its sense of tannins but also has generous black fruits. The full wine is lightly spiced, perfumed and already well balanced. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Château Lapelletrie 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** With 90% Merlot, this is already a luscious wine. Juicy acidity brings a welcome contrast to this richness, giving balance and the potential for aging. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Château Rol Valentin 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** This wine is elegant, with plenty of rich blackberry fruits that are concentrated and have a lovely, succulent texture. The wine will age. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**90 Château Teyssier 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** With ripe black currant flavors, this is an immediately attractive wine. Soft tannins and rich berry fruits are balanced by fresh acidity. Drink from 2024. World's End LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Château Palais Cardinal 2019 La Réserve (Saint-Émilion).** A young, structured wine dominated by Merlot, this is one of a pair of second wines of Palais Cardinal. Juicy with light tannins, it is full of fruit and likely to age relatively quickly. Drink from 2025. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**87** **Château Haut Veyrac 2017 (Saint-Émilien).** This wine is now mature. Lightness and red fruit flavors bring out the freshness of the vintage. The wine is juicy and softly textured. Drink now. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**86** **G. Brochard 2019 Cuvée 750 (Saint-Émilien).** This superrich wine has dark chocolate and black fruit flavors, with spice and touches of pepper burn from the alcohol. Hopefully, the wine will calm down from its excesses. Drink from 2024. Hemispheres LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

## MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

**91** **Château Barrail Tapon 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** This Merlot-dominated wine has big black fruits, with solid tannins and a sense of youth and possibility. The wine has acidity and blackberry flavors in equal measure. Drink from 2025. Organic. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Château Gachon 2019 Cuvée Jean-Jules (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** A dense wine, full of black fruits and rich tannins, this has spice and rich black plum flavors. These contrast and balance with the wine's freshness and acidity. Drink from 2025. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château Grand Barail 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** This is an attractive, bright wine. Black currant fruits and attendant acidity lift the wine's still-young texture. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Vieux Château Goujon 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** This wine's dense texture and richness are balanced by intense youthful acidity. It is a succulent wine, still very young. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

## LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

**89** **Château de l'Abbaye de Giraudon 2020 (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** Tannins and dark chocolate go alongside this wine's blackberry fruits. A good proportion of smoky Cabernet Franc in the blend gives the wine spice and structure. Drink from 2026. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château Lagrange 2020 (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** Get beyond the barnyard smells and this is an appealing and rich wine. Young tannins give structure and blackberry flavors are developing. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Château les Vieilles Pierres 2019 (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** From one of the villages surrounding Saint-Émilien, this wine is spicy and perfumed. Solid tannins come from the black fruits and balanced acidity. It is an open wine, still structured but capturing great fruitiness. Drink from 2024. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

## CÔTES DE BOURG

**92** **Château du Luc 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** For full review see page 19. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**91** **Château Baron Bellevue 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** This wine's structure, still young, is full of concentration. Acidity and solid tannins are behind this balanced, Merlot-dominated wine. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**90** **Château Moulin des Blais 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** A juicy, black-fruit-flavored wine, this is ripe and dense. It has a smoky edge, with plenty of acidity that promises further development. Drink this ageworthy wine from 2025. Organic. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Château Moulin des Richards 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** This wine has ripe tannins within a firmer configuration. Still restrained by the structure, the black fruits have great potential, promising richness and a juicy aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château de la Haute Libarde 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** This comfortable blend includes Malbec in its makeup. The wine is structured and juicy, with spice and tannins that give it an edgy quality in its youth. Drink the wine from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Château Moulin de Gauriac 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** This Merlot-dominated wine offers layers of ripe fruit. The textures have already softened to enhance the juicy black fruits and potential ripeness of this wine. It will be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Moulin Eyquem 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** As is often the case in this appellation, Malbec makes its appearance, giving this wine its structure and dense color. Some dark chocolate flavors suggesting extraction that needs to soften. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Château Sirac 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** This wine's tannins give promise of aging as the structure softens. For now, the black currant fruits

are waiting to come through the structure. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## FRONSAC

**91** **Château Barrail Chevrol 2020 (Fronsac).** With flavors of black currant and berry fruit, this 80% Merlot wine is ripe, generously textured and opulent. It has ripe flavors and soft tannins, all pointing to a wine that will develop quickly. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Château Mayne-Vieil 2020 (Fronsac).** This smooth, black-fruit-flavored wine is rich in softening tannins. Acidity and spice from wood aging come through as does the wine's potential. Drink from 2025. Pinnacle Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Château Mayne-Vieil 2020 Cuvée Aliénor (Fronsac).** Rich and texturally opulent, this dense Merlot offers black fruit and dark coffee flavors. It is full of power and superripe blackberry fruit. With the polish from wood aging, the wine is showing well. It needs time, so drink from 2026. Pinnacle Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$24

## GRAVES

**92** **Château de Cérons 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** Dense and with firm tannins, this is a concentrated wine. Black fruits show well against this solid core. The wine has a fine future and should be ready from 2025. Alain Junguenet Selection. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**92** **Château Lusseau 2020 (Graves).** This wine holds great promise. Rich both in tannins and black fruits, it is concentrated, the structure a providing a great vehicle for aging. Dense blackberry flavors are powered with ripe tannins. Drink from 2025. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Château Martignac 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** Produced under co-owner Thierry Labuzan's watch, this perfumed wine offers generous tannins and ripe black fruits. It has structure, a dry core and a powerful layer of fruits. Drink from 2025. Knows Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**92** **Château Roquetaillade la Grange 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** This wine comes from an estate that was originally part of the family holdings of Pope Clément V. Prominent with Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is rich both in tannins and juicy blackberry fruits. It has a good structure, concentrating tannins and fruit. Drink this wine from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33



# BUYINGGUIDE

**91 Château de Chantegrive 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** This is a fruity wine, with blackberry flavors to the fore. Offering acidity and firm tannins to complement the fruit, the wine has a good future. Drink from 2025. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**91 Château de la Brède 2020 (Graves).** A serious, wood-aged wine, this offers ripe black fruits and rich tannins. From a 10-acre Dominique Haverlan vineyard, the wine promises a good future. It has concentration and a solid structure, ready for aging. Drink from 2026. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**91 Château de Portets 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** This is a ripe, perfumed wine, full of black fruits and rich tannins. Made under the direction of Marie-Hélène Yung-Théron, the wine is 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Its density and full fruits promise good aging. Drink from 2025. Sommailier. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Château des Places 2020 (Graves).** A ripe wine balancing tannins and black fruits, this has great potential. It is richly textured, with concentration and power. This wine will age well. Drink from 2025. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**91 Château Ferrande 2020 (Graves).** This young wine, full of tannins, is also rich in fruit. It has density and a dry core that will soften. Black fruits are currently in the background but are full of promise. Drink from 2025. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**91 Château Haura 2020 (Graves).** Smoothly textured, this wine has tannins under velvet black fruits. It shows density, potential richness and a youthful, firm edge. As the wine comes together, it will show well. Drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Chateau Caillivet 2020 (Graves).** The tannins and smoky character of this wine from a 20-acre vineyard show both its youth and its potential. With its firm edge, the wine needs time for the black currant fruits to soften. Drink from 2025. Kindred Vines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Château Ducasse 2020 (Graves).** A structured wine from an estate on the highest Graves hilltop, this has rich tannins and firm concentration. It is ripe, the black fruits showing potential. With the acidity at the end, the wine has a fine future. Drink from 2025. Heritage Wine Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Château Lassalle 2020 (Graves).** This structured, fruity wine offers ripe tannins and blackberry fruits. It is balanced, concentrated

and firm. The wine's future is assured. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Château Méjean 2020 (Graves).** Ripe and fruity, with soft tannins, this wine has concentration plus lots of black currant fruits. Its ripe background, strengthened by tannins, will allow it to age well. Drink from 2025. Planet Wine. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Château Tour Bicheau 2020 Grand Vin (Graves).** A ripe, juicy and perfumed wine, this is full of great promise. Structure and black currant fruits are in harmony, giving a wine with good acidity and balance. The wine should be ready from 2024. B&Bs French Wine Club. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**90 Vieux Château Gaubert 2020 (Graves).** Smoky and juicy, this is a full-bodied wine. Tannins are still firm but the blackberry fruits are mingling with the structure. Drink this wine from 2025. SAWM Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$36

**89 Château Crabitey 2020 (Graves).** This wine's acidity and ripe tannins indicate a rich future. A smoky character lies behind both freshness and blackberry flavors. The wine will be ready from 2024. Vegan. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**89 Château La Rose Sarron 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** This is a blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and a pinch of Petit Verdot. Ripe black fruits are concentrated with tannins, giving the wine a good structure as well as a smoky edge. The wine will age, so drink from 2025. Tru Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Château Lagrange 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** This ripe and juicy wine is structured with tannins and open with black currant fruits. It will age well, the freshness softening to give a ripe aftertaste. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Château Lugaud 2020 (Graves).** This is a juicy wine, full of black fruits and rich in tannins. With the structure still present, it needs time to soften. Drink from 2025. CK French Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Château Moutin 2020 (Graves).** A bright, black-fruited wine, this has tannins and juicy acidity. Mainly Merlot with some Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is full of structure and freshness in equal quantities. Drink from 2024. Sovex Woltner. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Château Pont de Brion 2020 (Graves).** At present, this wine is dry and stinky but it

has sufficient black fruits to develop well. The tannins, firm for now, will soften. Drink from 2025. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89 Grand Enclos du Château de Cérons 2020 (Graves).** This wine is juicy, with a backdrop of fine tannins. Rich in black fruits, it has a dry core that will allow it to age well. Drink this ripe wine from 2025. The Wine Source. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Château Bichon Cassignols 2020 La Grande Réserve (Graves).** Slightly stinky, this wine from just five acres also has attractive black currant fruits and potentially ripe tannins. Its structure and acidity presage a good future. Drink from 2024. BBR Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**88 Château Calvimont 2020 (Graves).** A perfumed wine, this is rich in soft textures and light tannins. It is ripe and shows well already. The wine will develop, but drink from 2024. Opici Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Château d'AS 2020 (Graves).** Fresh and fruity, this well-made wine has ripe tannins and potential juiciness. Abundant black currant flavors are balanced with acidity. Drink from 2024. The Wine Trust. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Château de Beau-Site 2020 (Graves).** A ripe wine, this offers juicy acidity under the bold black fruits. The wine has a good future, the berry flavors developing well. Drink from 2024. Village Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Château de Respide Callipyge 2020 (Graves).** This wine is structured and firm. Tannins and black fruits mingle and look set to soften. From selected plots, the wine has blackberry flavors shot through with acidity at the end. Drink from 2025. Dionysos Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Château des Gravières 2020 (Graves).** This juicy, perfumed wine has ripe tannins under the black plum flavors. Acidity and fruitiness go well together. Drink from 2024. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Château Rahoul 2020 (Graves).** This is a fruity wine, softly textured with fresh acidity and plenty of black currant flavors. A backdrop of tannins gives it enough structure. Drink from 2024. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**88 Clos Floridène 2020 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves).** While this ripe wine is firm, it has

plenty of berry fruits that are waiting to develop. Drink from 2025. Saranty Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**87 Château Cazebonne 2020 Grand Vin (Graves).** This wine is juicy, although the black fruits are still developing. It has potential, with a stalky edge and a spicy aftertaste. Drink from 2024. Terra Firma USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87 Château Dorleac 2020 (Graves).** Although mouth and juicy up front, this wine also holds firmer tannins and a young, black-currant stalkiness. The wine will coalesce over time. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87 Château les Clauzots 2020 (Graves).** This wine is dry, highlighting tannins as much as fruit. It will soften and open, although the tannins will remain. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**87 Château Ordonnat 2021 (Graves).** Freshness is the keyword here. Bright black currant acidity and light tannins are still developing. This fruity wine will be ready to drink from 2025. Sovex Woltner. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Château Trébiac 2020 (Graves).** This full-bodied wine with firm tannins also has plenty of blackberry fruitiness. Drink from 2024. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Château Langlet 2020 (Graves).** Along with a dark character, this wine has a hard edge that will probably not completely soften. Acidity and fruits are hints rather than real promises. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**85 Château Toumilon 2020 (Graves).** This is a dry wine, with acidity and black currant flavors well under the tannins. The wine needs time, although its future remains uncertain. Steep Hill Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**84 Château de Castres 2020 (Graves).** This wine is overripe, with soft fruits and firm tannins that have no real connection. It is unlikely to really improve. Village Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**84 Château de Vimont 2020 (Graves).** This wine is curiously perfumed, highlighting tannins rather than fruit. It should soften, but it may never quite balance. Vitis Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## MÉDOC

**92 Château la Tour de By 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** An attractive wine, this new vintage has found a happy medium between dense fruits and firm, concentrated tannins. With its intensity, the wine is set for a long aging. Drink from 2026. DJK Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**92 Château Pey de Pont 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** Four grapes varieties including Petit Verdot and the two Cabernets come together in this balanced wine. Black currant fruits are right up front, backed up by ripe tannins. The wine is textured, still young. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Château Fleur la Mothe 2020 (Médoc).** Big, fat and juicy, this is a richly textured wine. Juicy blackberry flavors are surrounded by firm tannins. The wine is set for long aging. Drink from 2025. Kirkcrest Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**91 Château Moulin de Canhaut 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** Firm tannins mark out this wine with a solid structure. Underneath the tannins, the wine is packed with ripe black fruits. It will likely be ready to drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**91 Château Noailac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This ripe and fruity wine offers good acidity and spice. Juicy berry fruits are right up front, full of freshness against the structure. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Château Poitevin 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This is a ripe, smoky wine, the tannins and texture still firm under the black fruits. The wine is balanced, with freshness set against the dry core. It will age well. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**91 Château Ricaudet 2019 (Médoc).** A generous, warm wine, this is velvet textured and rich. It is juicy, with weight and tannins that have been absorbed by the fruit. The dry background indicates the wine will age further. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90 Château l'Argenteyre 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This wine is dense and full of tannins, with the acidity and black fruits still in the background. The structure and texture will soften over the next few months to give a ripe wine. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Château la Douce 2020 (Médoc).** A complete wine, this has all the elements in place. It is ripe, with black fruits and a core of solid tannins. The wine is pure Merlot, unusual for the Médoc where blends are the norm. It still has the freshness of the vintage and the appellation. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90 Château la Valière 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** A smoothly textured wine, this is packed with dense black fruits and ripe tannins. It is concentrated, its balance between tannins and ripe fruit showing a promising future. Drink from 2025. DJK Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Château Méric 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** The tannins are firm, with solid black fruits and tannins. This wine is ageworthy, with its structure and dry core. It needs to mature, so drink from 2025. Wines Unlimited. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**89 Château Beauvillage 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This wine is dry, with dark chocolate flavors that need to soften. Dense fruits are embedded in tannins that are still firm. The wine needs time. Drink from 2025. BNP Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**89 Château Haut-Maurac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** A balanced, stylish wine, this may be young but it already shows fine tannins and ripe black currant fruits. The structure will soften to give a textured wine with equilibrium between the fruit, the acidity and the core of tannins. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Château Labadie 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This wine offers a fine combination of juicy Merlot and structured Cabernet Sauvignon. It is developing gradually and should be ready from 2026. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Château Aimée 2020 Cuvée Jean-Jules (Médoc).** Petit Verdot forms a formidable 30% of the blend of this wine, giving density, structure and spicy black fruits. The wine is worth aging. Drink from 2025. AHD Vintners. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**88 Château Cos d'Estournel 2020 G d'Estournel (Médoc).** A ripe wine with soft red fruits, this has fine tannins under the juicy freshness. Drink this attractive wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

**88 Château l'Evasion 2020 (Médoc).** This wine's ripe black fruits are now firmly embedded in the structure and acidity. A worrying edge of bitter extraction spoils the wine's bright-

# BUYINGGUIDE

ness. Hopefully this will go. Wait until 2024 to see. Sovex Woltner. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château la Roque de By 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** A fresh and perfumed wine with juicy acidity and supporting tannins, this is juicy and bright. The wine's structure will support aging. Drink from 2025. DJK Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Moulin de Cabanieu 2019 (Médoc).** This wine is young, still stinky with black currant fruits giving a juicy character. The wine's texture is promising, suggesting that it will age well. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**88** **Château Prignac 2018 (Médoc).** A lightly textured wine, full bodied with packed dark fruits, this is rich and dense. Acidity and a dry edge give structure and a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Vignerons d'Uni Médoc 2019 Comte de Marsac (Médoc).** A firmly textured wine with a dry core of tannins, this is still young. Wood aging has added a polished edge to the texture, subduing the black fruits. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## HAUT-MÉDOC

**93** **Château Bernadotte 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This wine's ripe black fruits are solid and as attractive as the firm, smoky tannins. The wine is dense, with a supportive texture and rich concentration. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Château Cissac 2020 (Haut-Médoc).** Rich with black fruits and underlying tannins, this wine has balance and elegance throughout its structure. Drink this serious wine from 2026. Elite Wines Import. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**93** **Château d'Agassac 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This estate with its fairytale castle is one of the closest to Bordeaux in the Médoc. It has produced a balanced, fresh and fruity wine, with black fruits and good structure. Drink the wine from 2020. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Château d'Issan 2016 Le Haut-Médoc d'Issan (Haut-Médoc).** From the same winemaking team as Château d'Issan in Margaux, this wine has a sophisticated character. Ripe tannins and structure from Cabernet Sauvignon are perfumed with wood aging. The wine is ready to drink. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Hidden Gem.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**92** **Château de Malleret 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** Ripe and juicy, this wine with black currant fruits and structure from Cabernet Sauvignon is set for some good aging. It offers plenty of acidity and freshness at the end. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Château du Raux 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This is a ripe wine. Black fruits and a great balance between tannins and fruit suggest the future development of this structured, juicy wine. It will age, ready to drink from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**91** **Château Malescasse 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** Bright and fruity, this wine comes from the heart of the Haut-Médoc. It offers ripe black fruits and some firm tannins. Drink the wine from 2026. AHD Vintners. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Château d'Issan 2017 Le Haut-Médoc d'Issan (Haut-Médoc).** From vines owned by Issan to the west of the main estate in Margaux, this wine is fruity, with attractive red fruits and a dry edge. It has a good balance between acidity and spiced fruit. Drink the wine now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château Dauzac 2021 Le Haut-Médoc de Dauzac (Haut-Médoc).** Dense Cabernet Sauvignon gives this wine a good structure while bringing out juicy black currant fruits. The wine comes from vines owned by Dauzac in Haut-Médoc and shows quality and ripeness. Drink from 2026. Suitable for vegans. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château du Moulin Rouge 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This is a juicy wine from the heart of the Haut-Médoc. With dark tannins set against blackberry fruits, it will age well. Drink from 2026. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**89** **Château Moulin de la Mothe 2020 (Haut-Médoc).** Aging in tank without wood means this wine is about blackberry fruits and a youthful, stinky edge. It has a juicy character, attractively textured. Drink from 2025. W. Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**88** **Château Barreyres 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** A ripe and smoky wine, this offers acidity and spice alongside black currant fruits that lie behind the tannins. It all needs to soften. Drink from 2026. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**88** **Château Dauzac 2021 Comte de Dauzac (Haut-Médoc).** This simple balance of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot is made from fruit purchased outside the estate. It is softly textured, with juicy blackberry flavors. The wine

should be ready from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Château Haut-Bages Libéral 2021 Ceres (Haut-Médoc).** From the region of Vertheuil, this wine is all about fruit. Its freshness and bright cherries are delicious and bubble with excitement. The wine was bottled without added sulfur. Organic and biodynamic Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Château d'Arcins 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This wine is concentrated and dense, with layers of powerful tannins. The fruit seems to be subservient to the structure, with the only fresh hints in the background. Drink from 2026. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

## MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

**92** **Château Caroline 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Moulis-en-Médoc).** This wine is rich, with dense tannins and shining black fruits. It is luscious and the fruit promises a great future. Full of tannins at the end, the wine will age. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Château Mauvesin Barton 2020 (Moulis-en-Médoc).** Made with 59% of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has a good structure and some solid tannins. It also has brilliant fruit, bright with black currant flavors and acidity that will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Château Rose Cantegrive 2019 (Moulis-en-Médoc).** A fruity wine, this manages to have ripe berry flavors alongside a core of Cabernet Sauvignon structure. The wine offers juiciness, spice, freshness and tannins. Drink from 2025. Sovex Woltner. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

**94** **Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** This estate, at the top of its game, has produced a structured wine with great berry fruits and a good future. A series of impressive tannins are fully integrated into the wine's freshness. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Château Brown 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** Already showing some softness, this wine with a generous texture is dense. Black fruits have some sweetness beneath the young berry flavors. Plenty of acidity contrast with the full, ripe berries. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



**93** **Domaine de la Solitude 2020 (Pessac-Léognan)**. From convent vineyards that are managed by Domaine de Chevalier, this wine is elegant, with a good proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon and berry flavors to match the structure. It has an attractive, fruity backdrop. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88** **Château Brown 2020 Le Colombier de Brown (Pessac-Léognan)**. This second wine is dense with black fruits and dark chocolate flavors, giving a sense of extraction that needs to soften. When that happens, it will be ripe and full bodied. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

## OTHER RED WINES

**96** **Château Canon 2020 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This wine is rich while also stylish. Big tannins and structure are sublimated into a wine poised between great fruit and long-lasting structure. The wine will age well. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$103

**93** **Château Fonréaud 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Listrac-Médoc)**. This Listrac estate has produced a full, ripe and structured wine. Its concentration is full of tannins that show well against the black fruits. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**93** **Clos Badon-Thunevin 2020 (Sainte-Foy Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This small vineyard has produced a structured wine. Rich tannins and the solid structure are given elegance and freshness by black currant flavors. Drink the wine from 2026. Heidelberg Distribution. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$52

**92** **Château Lestage 2020 Cru Bourgeois (Listrac-Médoc)**. A ripe and succulent wine, this has great fruitiness as well as rich tannins. The wine's balance shows well, with acidity and berry flavors beginning to develop. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château Fage 2020 (Graves de Vayres)**. A fresh and juicy wine with a smoky edge, this is full of acidity and spice. Bright berry fruits are succulent and young, with acidity and freshness just beginning to calm down. Drink from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**89** **Château la Diligente 2020 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion)**. This wine's firm texture and full-bodied character presage aging potential. Black fruits and spice go with the richness. There is nothing shy about this wine. Drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Château Haut Colombier 2020 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. This blend includes 20% Malbec, a reminder that the grape never left Blaye. The result is a structured wine with a firm structure and dense black plum flavors. The wine needs time. Wait to drink until 2026. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**88** **Château Puisseguin la Rigodrie 2020 (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion)**. High extraction gives a licorice bitterness to this wine. If that lessens, the black fruits could soften and fill out. Potentially full and juicy, the wine will be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Château Macquin 2020 (Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion)**. From the smallest of the appellations surrounding Saint-Émilion, this wine has some dark-chocolate extraction flavors. These need to go so that the blackberry fruits can come through. Wait until 2025. Sovex Woltner. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

## RHÔNE VALLEY RED WINES

### CAIRANNE

**93** **La Bastide Saint Dominique 2020 Les 2 Arbres (Cairanne)**. This wine is an even blend of Grenache, Syrah, Carignan and Mourvèdre. It offers a dynamic and layered palate of blackberry, rhubarb and cassis liquor over a persistent layer of dried cranberries, fines herbes and black peppercorn, with a stony finish. It is quite impressive and accessible after a short decant. Europvin USA. *Editors' Choice*. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**92** **Domaine de la Présidente 2020 Vieilles Vignes (Cairanne)**. This is a flashy blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah. The palate starts with blackberry-mint compote fused with green peppercorn, bringing harmony to this intensely savory and meaty wine. Powerful and energetic, the wine is enjoyable in its youth or cellar through 2028 or a bit longer. Saranty Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**91** **Vignobles et Compagnie 2020 Les Terrasses de l'Aygues (Cairanne)**. Fresh and energetic, this Rhône blend offers tart black cherries, mandarin orange, white grapefruit, black tea and an herbaceous finish of wild thyme and rosemary. Robust with sandy tannins, this wine is accessible now and will pair seamlessly with dishes similar to duck à l'orange. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Domaine de la Présidente 2020 (Cairanne)**. A meaty blend of 50% Grenache and 40% Syrah, this intense wine is well structured. Rich blackberries and currants meld harmoniously with

the strong presence of eucalyptus and clove. Drink the wine after a 40-minute decant and serve with BBQ dishes such as grilled Galbi. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy*. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Vignobles et Compagnie 2019 Domaine Font De Salignan (Cairanne)**. Heady with an abundance of Pink Lady and crabapple, this wine's aromas also offers tart cranberry, grapefruit and Bing cherry framed by cedar and clove. Rich meaty stews or shellfish including meaty langoustines would be perfect pairings for this wine. Vignobles & Compagnie. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

## VACQUEYRAS

**92** **Domaine la Fourmone 2019 Le Poète (Vacqueyras)**. This homage to family poet Roger Combe is stylish, with rich dark fruits upfront and an herbaceous midpalate. The textural and mineral finish reflect the sandy-silt and limestone soils from which it is grown. While it has plenty of finesse, the wine's slow evolution in the glass hints that it could offer more by cellaring until 2030. Bruno Lafon. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**91** **Domaine de l'Espigouette 2019 (Vacqueyras)**. The juicy palate of this wine offers abundant dusty, juicy red berries, cherry liqueur, fresh blackberries, black cherries, purple plums and thyme stems, with a firm and stony mineral finish. Though the wine has great texture, it requires additional cellaring through 2026 to 2028. Serge Doré Selections. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Gabriel Meffre 2019 Laurus (Vacqueyras)**. This well-structured wine is layered with red apple skin and fresh blackberry. Next comes the classic garrigue signature of rose, mint, black and green peppercorn, with a limestone-pebbly finish. While this wine has plenty to offer, drink 2026 and beyond. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$35

**91** **Lavau 2019 (Vacqueyras)**. This wine is rich, with an intense onslaught of stewed red apple, red berries and sugar plums. The midpalate brings bright cranberries, fresh thyme, warm earth and a saline finish. Enjoyable with at least a 30 minute decant, the wine should pair well with braised proteins Kinson The Future of Wine. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**88** **Domaine de la Tourade 2019 L'Euse (Vacqueyras)**. This full-bodied, ruby-colored blend shows plenty of structure and limestone minerality. Currently a bit austere, the palate has whispers of licorice, garrigue and warm stones. Hold until at least 2027. Kindred Vines. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$33

## CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

**92 Cellier des Dauphins 2019 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Serious and focused, this silky wine offers layers of Gala apple skin, mint, eucalyptus and green peppercorn. It moves toward a fresh midpalate of bright Bing cherries and black cherry, with a singed orange-skin finish. The wine is enjoyable now with a gentle decant and mild semifirm cheeses. Plume Ridge. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**92 Domaine Albin Jacumin 2019 La Bégude Des Papes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This wine has good tension and energy, waiting to release notes of stewed ripe strawberries, Morello cherries, eucalyptus and a bouquet of violets and rose hips that becomes even more expressive in a wide, bowl-shaped glass. The wine is accessible now with a gentle decant or hold for another 1-3 years to fully enjoy its complex layers. BPW Merchants. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$65

**92 Domaine Benedetti 2019 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Your mind will travel immediately into the vineyard with intense aromas of warm and dusty gallet de roulet. Primroses, violets and ripe red berries are prominent, with a touch of black olive, baking spice and a saline finish. Its a perfect segue to welcome New World drinkers into the Southern Rhône. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**91 Château La Nerthe 2019 Les Granières (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Made from the estate's younger vines, this juicy blend exudes fresh black currant and purple plums with a squeeze of orange oil, and finishes with a firm mineral finish. Sandy tannins are gentle to the palate, making the wine approachable in its youth. This should pair beautifully with braised protein dishes such as Osso Bucco. Kobrand. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$53

**90 Domaine Benedetti 2019 Les Larmes Papales (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** This wine is prominently dark fruited with fresh blackberries, black olives, purple plums mulled with warm baking spices, sweet paprika and mint. Lush with sandy tannins, this wine would be a lovely accompaniment to complex dishes which include various spices. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80

## GIGONDAS

**94 Château la Croix des Pins 2019 Les Dessous des Dentelles (Gigondas).** This is a great expression of the region for those who have yet to dive into Gigondas. Rich and focused, the wine exudes fresh cherries and a touch of cherry liquor, fresh rhubarb and strawberries, and stewed red berries. Thyme, oregano and mint wrap this berry mix beautifully. Cape Classics. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Domaine des Bosquets 2019 Le Lieu Dit (Gigondas).** The generous palate of this full-bodied wine is enjoyable now, with notes of fresh figs, raspberries, plums, wild berries, thyme and violets. Grown on cooler parcels, this Grenache is pure and elegant. This beautiful bottling will be hard to stay away from, but cellaring through 2028 to 2030 will reward those who can possibly wait. European Cellars. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80

**92 Domaine de la Tourade 2019 (Gigondas).** This powerful wine immediately covays pressed ripe cherry, elderflower, rhubarb peel, fresh fuchsia flower and ripe Gala apple. All are elegantly carried by the vibrant acidity with moderate tannin structure. The wine is enjoyable to drink now. Kindred Vines. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$32

## COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

**91 Domaine de Poulvarel 2019 (Costières de Nîmes).** This fresh and opulent wine exudes fresh dark cherries with a splash of blackberry liqueur, freshly plucked oregano leaves and a pop of fresh strawberries. It has a bright limestone mineral finish with a touch of black peppercorn. Enjoyable now, the wine should pair beautifully with roasted root vegetables. BPW Merchants. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Domaine de Poulvarel 2019 Les Grès (Costières de Nîmes).** This wine delivers intense aromatics reminiscent of strolling through a pine forest after a quick rain shower. Fresh leaves wrap around Bing cherries and rhubarb, followed by a bouquet of rose petals and dried lavender. It finishes with a fine stony texture. Lush and quite enjoyable on its own, this wine will surely impress dinner party guests. BPW Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**91 Domaine Gassier 2019 Nostre Païs (Costières de Nîmes).** This focused wine is a blend of 50% Grenache, 20% Syrah, 20% Mourvèdre, 5% Carignan and 5% Cinsault. The palate offers fresh potpourri mixed with fleshy black cherries, blood orange pith, rhubarb mulled with kirsch liqueur, baking spice and rosemary. Balanced and accessible in its youth, this bright blend can be enjoyed immediately with grain salads with a citrus base. W. Direct. —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**90 Halos de Jupiter 2019 (Costières de Nîmes).** This wine is round and lush. The palate delivers ample notes of ripe sugar plum, juicy cassis and fresh blackberry flesh, with a finish of black peppercorn, dried oregano and clove. This wine should be an easygoing pairing with asado dishes or carnitas tacos. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

## VIN DE FRANCE

**93 Domaine Vacheron 2020 MMXX L'Enclos des Remparts Sauvignon Blanc (Vin de France).** A small parcel planted on its own rootstock is the source of this concentrated, full wine. Richness smooths out the tang of the fruit, giving a wine that is generously textured and ripe. Drink from 2024. Terlato Wines International. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Domaine Casanova 2020 Vin di Gène Carcajolu (Vin de France).** The lightness of this wine belies its structure and ripe berry flavors. The density and attractive black fruits are juicy, with a smooth, lightly tannic texture. This wine is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27

**90 Fournier Père et Fils 2020 F de Fournier Pinot Noir (Vin de France).** A smoothly textured wine, this has both richness and concentration. Black fruits and ripe acidity are balanced by layers of firm tannins, meaning the wine needs to age further. Drink from late 2023. David Milligan Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**88 Complices de Loire 2020 Les Collines Rouges Pinot Noir (Vin de France).** Yeasty aromas and spicy black fruits suggest a wine that faces in a fruity direction over a more textured one. It is an attractive, approachable wine, with red berry flavors and an edge of tannins. It is ready to drink. Artisan Wine Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**88 Domaine Casanova 2020 Vermentino (Vin de France).** This is an orange wine bottled without sulfur. It has a typically oxidative character that is an acquired taste but is well done. Drink the wine now. Suitable for vegans. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Vignobles Ducourt 2020 Metissage Cabernet Jura (Vin de France).** This cross between Cabernet Sauvignon and an unknown variety produced in the Jura region of Swizerland has given a fruity wine with a stalky texture and black fruits. It is ready to drink. BNP Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Domaine à Deux 2021 Pinot Noir (Vin de France).** This wine is soft, cushiony with ripe black fruits. Its connection with Pinot Noir is questionable to taste, however it is a pleasing wine that is ready to drink. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Patient Cottat 2020 Le Grand Caillou Pinot Noir (Vin de France).** This is a soft style of Pinot Noir from this Sancerre-based importer. Ripe berry flavors and hints of black cherry come through the light tannins and acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Vignobles Ducourt 2021 Le Chant de Sirènes Gris de Sauvignon (Vin de France).** This rosé wine highlights perfumed Sauvignon Gris with its light acidity and edge of red fruits. It is immediately drinkable. Europvin USA. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER FRENCH WINES

**92** **Château Miraval 2021 Muse de Miraval (Côtes de Provence).** A new super cuvée from this Brad Pitt owned estate, this is as pale in color as is possible. To taste, it is velvet, with some weight and fresh acidity. Red berry flavors are very present on a wine that seems young and yeasty. It needs to age a bit. Drink from 2024. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$304/1.5L

**90** **Château Yssole 2020 Pyxis Provence red blend (Méditerranée).** Aromas of wild herbs linger over this wine. Since it was made without wood aging, the fruit of this Carignan and Alicante Bouschet blend sings. It has a ripe black fruit character, with ripe tannins that could still age. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Domaine du Prince 2017 Lou Prince (Cahors).** This bold wine with rich tannins has density and packed black fruits. It is just reaching maturity, with powerful tannins and juicy fruits now fully integrated. It is a big wine that would be even better if the alcohol was not so high. Drink now. Petit Vin. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Domaine Petroni 2019 Red Blend (Corse).** A blend of Nielluccio, Syrah and Grenache, this wine has a richness from spicy black fruits. It is elegantly perfumed, with a layer of tannins that has come into balance. Acidity comes through and freshens the aftertaste. Drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Domaine Casanova 2021 Vermentino (Ile de Beauté).** This perfumed Vermentinu (as it is spelt in Corsica) is brightly fruity, with lemon and pear flavors. Its freshness and vitality are delicious. The wine is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Domaine du Prince 2019 L'Envoi des Princes (Cahors).** There are powerful tannins behind this rich wine. It has concentration and structure, along with ripe black plum and spice flavors. The wine will age further. Drink from 2025. Petit Vin. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Domaine du Prince 2019 Le Chêne du Prince (Cahors).** Full and ripe, this is a rich black-fruit-flavored wine. Big tannins and a dense texture contrast with juicy acidity that permeates the

wine. The wine has the potential to be very fine as it matures further. Drink from 2025. Petit Vin. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Domaine Santa Giulietta 2019 Vermentino (Corse).** This deliciously perfumed wine has gentle acidity and a balance between citrus and riper yellow fruits. The wine is poised, with vivid fruitiness and acidity at the end. Drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Château Yssole 2021 Pyxis Viognier (Méditerranée).** This perfumed wine is fresh, with yellow fruit and spice flavors. The light texture and tangy edge are balanced with the wine's attractive openness. Drink now. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Domaine Casanova 2021 Rosé (Ile de Beauté).** Made from the Nielluccio variety, this bright and fruity rosé is soft and full of red berry fruits. The freshness has softened into a ripe texture. It is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Domaine Casanova 2020 Red Blend (Ile de Beauté).** This spicy, tangy wine has a bite of pepper along with acidity and dense red berry fruits. Its smoky character comes from obvious wood aging. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. JP Bourgeois. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

## SPAIN WHITE WINES PENEDÈS

**89** **Joan Sardà 2021 Blanc Mariner (Penedès).** Aromas of ripe peach and orange blossom prepare the taste buds for flavors of Bartlett pear, pineapple, nectarine and rose petal. There is a nice sense of brightness that lingers on the palate. Vinos Libres. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

**86** **Alsina & Sardà 2020 Cromàtic (Penedès).** Light yellow to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of pineapple, lemon and vanilla bean. Flavors of green apple and apricot are joined on the palate by notes of eucalyptus and menthol that carry into the soft finish. Afinity Imports Co. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**86** **Mont Rubí 2021 White (Penedès).** This wine has aromas of peach and green apple with a whiff of petrol. It is bright on entry, with flavors of lemon, pineapple, grapefruit and honeysuckle, as well as a note of mint that lasts on the taste buds. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**90** **Dasca Vives 2019 Llunàtic (Tarragona).** This amber-colored wine offers a nose of dried apricot, orange zest and baking spices. There is a nice blend of fruit and savory notes such as clementine, caramelized pineapple, roasted fennel bulb, nutmeg and lemon zest. A soft touch of rose petal dominates the post-palate. Wine For The World. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Vicente Gandia 2020 El Miracle Nº03 (Valencia).** Medium-yellow to the eye, this wine has a nose of honeydew melon, Bartlett pear and a hint of dried mountainside herbs. It is bright in the mouth, offering flavors of peach, white melon, grapefruit zest and vanilla, with a touch of lavender that lingers on the palate. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89** **Dasca Vives 2020 Ancestral (Tarragona).** This amber-colored wine has a soft column of bubbles and a nose of green apple and rising pizza dough. Flavors of Granny Smith apple, white peach and honeysuckle move across the palate and fade into a Valencia orange-splashed finish. Wine For The World. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Bodegas y Vinos de Léccera 2021 Independent Garnacha & Macabeo (Bajo Aragón).** This light-yellow wine has aromas of apricot, grapefruit and aniseed. It feels good in the mouth, offering flavors of peach, green apple, vanilla and fennel bulb that wind down to a bright finish. Artisans & Vines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Mas Blanch I Jové 2021 Petit Blanc Saó (Costers del Segre).** Aromas of apricot, peach and a whiff of rose petal lead the way for flavors of green pear, nectarine, vanilla, mint and Turkish delight. Bright fruit and softer floral notes carry into the finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**85** **Bodegas Luzón 2021 Luzón Colección Blanco (Jumilla).** This wine has a bouquet of Golden Delicious apple and apricot. It is zesty on the palate, with flavors of Valencia orange, pink grapefruit, Granny Smith apple and a touch of jasmine that lingers into the bright finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$9

**83** **Côte Basque 2021 (Spain).** This light-straw-colored wine has aromas of nectarine and green pear, with a whiff of pine needle. It is bright at first sip but then falls flat, offering tart flavors of clementine and pink grapefruit, with notes of eucalyptus. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$27



## SPAIN RED WINES

### RIOJA

**97 Muga 2019 Aro (Rioja).** For full review see page 3. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$400

**96 Cuenta Viñas 2019 El Tizado (Rioja).** Aromas of dark plum, cassis and herbes de Provence pave the way for flavors of black cherry, purple fig, cocoa powder, espresso bean and violet, with touch of black-olive paste. Durable tannins and brilliant acidity play on the palate and stay for a while. Drink now through 2039. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$350

**96 Viñedos de Paganos 2019 La Nieta (Rioja).** This wine has a nose of black currant, coffee bean and butterscotch. It is smooth in the mouth, with satiny tannins and flavors of black cherry, raspberry, milk chocolate, anisette and lavender that evaporate into a floral-strewn finish. Fine Estates From Spain. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$190

**94 Cuenta Viñas 2019 Alomado (Rioja).** Aromas of black currant, cherry and baking spice set the scene for flavors of pomegranate, purple fig, caramel, dark chocolate and orange zest. Slightly chewy tannins are offset by brilliant acidity that lingers on the palate and is joined by a closing note of butterscotch. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 CVNE 2018 Real de Asúa (Rioja).** Deep-violet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of slightly brambly fruits of the wood and a hint of lavender. Dark chocolate and caramel open on the palate, joined by plush tannins and flavors of pomegranate, cherry and orange zest that wend their way towards a lingering finish. Arano LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**94 Gómez de Segura 2018 Finca Ratón Reserva (Rioja).** This dark-garnet-colored wine has a nose of cassis and purple plum, with a touch of forest floor. Cassis and plum continue onto the palate, accompanied by notes of lavender, dried Mediterranean herbs and black-olive paste. Hefty tannins make their presence felt and stick around. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**94 Ukan 2019 (Rioja).** This deep-violet-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, caramel and clove. Plush tannins coat the tongue and gums alongside flavors of cassis, black cherry, anise, violet and orange zest. A sense of brightness lights up the palate from first sip and stays there. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$110

**93 García de Olano 2018 3 de Olano (Rioja).** Inky ruby in color, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, blackberry and a touch of cigar box. It opens up with bright notes of pomegranate and ripe summer cherry that are displaced by dense tannins and flavors of dark chocolate, freshly ground coffee and cherry pipe tobacco. A well-marbled piece of beef or a few years in the cellar will help to mellow out the tannins. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93 Viña Leizaola 2019 Camino de Scarmento Alavesa (Rioja).** Dark-garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of cherry, dark chocolate and cedar chest. It starts out soft in the mouth, and then opulent tannins set in, bearing flavors of pomegranate, purple fig, chocolate-covered espresso bean and violet. A nice note of cranberry marks the bright finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92 Casa Primicia 2018 Carravalseca Crianza (Rioja).** This dark-violet-red-colored wine has a bouquet of cassis, violet and clove. A framework of bold tannins provides a backdrop for flavors of black cherry, Chambord, lavender, anisette and orange zest. The balance between tannins and acidity makes for a pleasurable sip. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**90 Palacios Remondo 2018 La Montesa (Rioja).** Dark-ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cherry, blackberry and dried hillside herbs. It is bright on entry, with flavors of cranberry, raspberry, mint and lavender. The finish is marked by notes of orange zest and butterscotch. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Manzanos 2017 Palacio de Manzanos (Rioja).** This wine has aromas of cherry, strawberry and milk chocolate. It is bright on entry, with flavors of ripe summer cherry, pomegranate, orange zest, milk-chocolate-covered mint and rose petal. It stays bright straight into the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$105

**89 Proelio 2018 Viñedos Viejos (Rioja).** Inky purple in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, purple fig and smoke. It offers a pleasant note of salinity alongside flavors of brambly fruits of the wood and notes of charcuterie, orange zest and dried Mediterranean herbs that culminate in a bright finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**85 Manzanos 2021 Castillo de Logrono (Rioja).** Dark violet in the glass, this wine has a nose of purple fig, caramel and black olive paste. Flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, eucalyptus and honey-suckle wend their way towards a soft, minty finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Borsao 2021 Selección (Spain).** This deeply colored wine has aromas of dark plums and

butterscotch. It is soft in the mouth, with flavors of black cherry, blackberry, caramel, orange zest and black pepper. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11



**92 Tightline Organic Vodka (USA; Tattersall Distilling, River Falls, WI).** Distilled from Midwestern corn, this vodka skews lightly sweet on nose and palate. Look for a distinct cocoa powder note and a mouthwatering baking spice finish. Mix into White Russians, Espresso Martinis and other sweeter-style cocktails. **Best Buy.** —K.N.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$20



**91 Drumshanbo Sausage Tree Irish Vodka (Ireland; Palm Bay International, Boca Raton, FL).** Look for a neutral aroma and earthy palate tinged with vanilla, clove and black pepper heat. The clear liquid within the bright-red bottle is a grain neutral spirit distilled with wild Irish nettle, Irish grain and “sausage tree” fruit, which resemble elongated potatoes (some say sausages) hanging from the branches of the Kigelia Africana tree. —K.N.  
**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$30



**90 Dirty Devil Vodka (Canada; DDV Spirits, Harrisburg, PA).** This vodka’s high-tech claim is that it’s blended with hyper-oxygenated water. So how does it sip? Hints of coconut and clove segue into a mouthwatering salt-and-pepper finish. —K.N.  
**abv:** 42% **Price:** \$25

## NEW VODKAS

There is one for every customer and occasion.

**E**sspresso Martini. Dirty Shirley. Cosmopolitan. Dirty Martini. Lemon Drop.

What do these five drinks have in common? Each ranked within the 10 top-trending drinks-related searches on Google in 2022—and all are made with vodka. Yes: fully half of the top 10 are vodka cocktails, handily outpacing drinks made with any other spirit (two rum drinks, one whiskey, one gin, and the Aperol Spritz comprise the rest of the top 10).

Vodka’s versatility and mixability explains why the spirit remains the top seller, year after year. Several studies show that in 2021 and 2022, vodka sales grew more slowly than in previous years, while sales of tequila accelerated rapidly.

While vodka provides a blank-canvas backbone to build drinks around, it’s worth noting that it’s also seen as a blank canvas from a marketing standpoint. There’s a vodka for every customer and occasion, whether you’re seeking a bottle that prioritizes luxury ingredients (hello, gold flakes) or a sustainable POV.

“Vodka’s versatility and mixability explains why the spirit remains the top selling year after year.”

That can mean shining a spotlight on local ingredients, or running the same ingredients through high-tech molecular equipment that promises to build a better, faster or cleaner liquid.

Flavored vodkas are on the rise: online retailer Drizly reported that flavored vodkas have grown between 2019 and 2022, driven

by citrus flavors—the key ingredient in the Cosmopolitan and some versions of the Lemon Drop.

Vodka-based ready-to-drink (RTD) cocktails are top sellers too, according to data analysis firm IWSR.

“Vodka overtook tequila as the leading RTD spirit base in 2021, bolstered by the fact that around half of the most popular cocktails in the U.S. are vodka based,” IWSR explains, predicting a further increase in vodka-based RTD sales in 2022.

We’re not taking our eye off tequila—but as long as cocktail culture is going strong, vodka isn’t going anywhere.

—Kara Newman



**91 Tina’s Planet Vodka (USA; Tina’s Planet Vodka, Valley Village, CA).** Distilled from organic corn, this vodka has a mildly savory profile, offering mouthwatering salinity and a robust, almost oily feel. A grind of black pepper enlivens the finish. Get ready to mix it into Dirty Martinis. —K.N.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**94 Royal Mash Vodka (England; PACE, Morristown, NJ).** Distilled from potatoes, this soft, silky vodka offers hints of grapefruit pith and pink peppercorn heat. The finish is pleasingly crisp. Mix into vodka martinis with a citrus peel twist.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$43

**93 Ovo Vodka (USA; Ovo Vodka, Jersey City, NJ).** This corn-based vodka has a relatively neutral aroma and flavor, landing lightly with a vanilla tinge on the warming exhale. A versatile choice for Vespers and other cocktails.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$27

**92 Fête Vodka with Pure Gold Flakes (USA; Elixir, Eugene, OR).** As a festive take on vodka, the name is apt. It’s fun to shake the bottle and watch the gold flakes swirl, though once poured, they don’t stay suspended for long. Distilled from sugar cane,

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the liquid has soft vanilla sweetness and a wave of cinnamon heat into the finish.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**92 Ocean Organic Vodka (USA; Hawaii Sea Spirits, Maui, HI).** This is packaged in a notably heavy, globe-shaped bottle, while the vodka inside is feather-light on the palate, with hints of almond and graphite, finishing crisp with black pepper heat. Distilled from organic sugar cane and blended with “deep ocean mineral water.”  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**92 Singularity Organic Molecular Vodka (England; Eighty8, Miami, FL).** Look for a faintly citrusy aroma and full-bodied, almost syrupy, texture. Lemon peel astringency marks the brisk exit framed by pink peppercorn and cubeb pepper heat. Distilled by Linden Leaf Botanicals in Cambridge.  
**abv:** 45% **Price:** \$39

**92 Streeter Flynn Vodka (USA; Denver Distillery, Denver, CO).** Brisk and neutral on nose and palate, this versatile vodka has a light, soft feel and just a shadow of nutty flavor. Faint lemony acidity creates a tingly finish. Distilled from organic sugar cane. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$24

**92 Tightline Organic Vodka (USA; Tattersall Distilling, River Falls, WI).** For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$20

**91 Drumshanbo Sausage Tree Irish Vodka (Ireland; Palm Bay International, Boca Raton, FL).** For full review see page 23.  
**abv:** 43% **Price:** \$30

**91 Griffio Vodka (USA; Griffio Distillery, Petaluma, CA).** This limited-release, pot-stilled vodka offers a neutral aroma and creamy, plush palate. Each sip finishes with lingering coconut sweetness, perked up with black pepper sparks. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$24

**91 Marina Bay Vodka (USA; Dissident Spirits, Richmond, CA).** The aroma is faintly sweet, with a fruity tinge. The palate echoes that fleeting but distinctive red fruit hint, leading into an otherwise neutral palate with black pepper sparks on the rounded finish.  
**abv:** 45% **Price:** \$39

**91 Tina's Planet Vodka (USA; Tina's Planet Vodka, Valley Village, CA).** For full review see page 23.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**90 Dirty Devil Vodka (Canada; DDV Spirits, Harrisburg, PA).** For full review see page 23.  
**abv:** 42% **Price:** \$25

**90 Florena Organic Vodka (USA; Armen's Barrels, Pittsburgh, PA).** Named for the distiller's wife, Florena, this vodka has a clean, neutral

aroma and flavor, showing a faint vanilla note on the tingly, peppery exhale. Distilled from organic corn.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$25

**90 P1 Vodka (USA; Patel Spirits, Fort Myers, FL).** Expect a mild almond aroma and distinctly sweet palate with brown sugar and toasted coconut tones. Sparks of cinnamon and ginger warm the exit. Distilled from corn. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$22/L

**90 Timberline Vodka (USA; Hood River Distillers, Hood River, OR).** This was distilled from grain and Pacific Northwest apple. The palate is lifted by a mild but bright citrus note, finishing with marshmallow sweetness and white pepper zing.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$25

**90 The Community Spirit Vodka (USA; MHW, Manhasset, NY).** The light, mostly neutral palate shows a soft vanilla tinge, plus white pepper and cayenne heat into the faintly savory finish. Distilled from American corn in the USA, bottled in Mexico, and then “reimported” to the U.S.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**90 Vestal White Label Vodka (Poland; Total Wine & More, Bethesda, MD).** Distilled from a variety of Polish potatoes and filtered once, this vodka has a neutral aroma and soft palate with a hint of almond. Black pepper glow intensifies into a warming finish. Mix into vodka sodas, or lengthen with other mixers. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$20

**89 1933 Vodka (USA; HS Beverage/NOLA Distillery, New Orleans, LA).** This vodka was named for the year that Prohibition was repealed in the U.S. The faintly fruity aroma leads into a light palate tinged with charcoal and marshmallow, winding into a prickly black pepper finish. Distilled from grain.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$22

**89 Halftone Vodka (USA; Halftone Distillery, Brooklyn, NY).** Look for a faint minty scent. The assertive palate opens with grapefruit peel, and finishes with a coriander hint and some alcohol bite.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$38 for 700 ml

**89 Monkey in Paradise Vodka (USA; Monkey in Paradise, St. Petersburg, FL).** Distilled from corn, this vodka has a neutral aroma and light palate tinged with vanilla and citrus. The exhale shows graphite, black pepper and a hint of anise. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$20

**89 Nightbloom Vodka (USA; Nightbloom Spirits, Woodbury, TN).** Distilled from potatoes, this vodka has a neutral aroma and mouthwatering, slightly savory flavor. Cardamom and coriander lead into a distinct sea salt hint on the finish.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$35

**89 Pollinator Vodka (USA; Catskill Provisions Distillery, Long Eddy, NY).** Distilled from New York State corn and honey, this vodka has a

warm, malty aroma and sweet-and-spiced palate. A soft, subtle honey note leads into a long finish accented with clove and black pepper heat. The overall effect is pleasing, but just don't expect neutrality.  
**abv:** 45% **Price:** \$35

**89 Steel 43 Vodka (USA; Steel Dust Spirits, San Antonio, TX).** A faint almond aroma leads into a light, relatively neutral palate. Mild salinity and a faint lemony hint create a mouthwatering finish. Distilled from corn. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$16

**88 Astrid Vodka (USA; The Aimsir Distilling Co, Portland, OR).** The slightly higher proof means this is intended for mixing into cocktails. Look for a neutral aroma and lightly sweet palate with lingering hints of vanilla, cocoa and baking spice. Distilled from French wheat.  
**abv:** 45% **Price:** \$30

**88 Louisiana Tradition Vodka (USA; HS Beverage/NOLA Distillery, New Orleans, LA).** Distilled from corn and filtered over 30 times, this vodka has a neutral aroma and light, mouthwatering feel. Hints of brown sugar and vanilla linger into a generously spiced finish showing cardamom and clove.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$25

**88 Upstate Vodka (USA; Sauvage Distillery, Charlottesville, NY).** Distilled from New York State apples, this robust vodka opens with cocoa and vanilla, echoed more faintly in the aroma. The lingering finish is framed with clove and cayenne bite.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**86 Vestal Vodka Unfiltered (Poland; Total Wine & More, Bethesda, MD).** Made from a single estate and a single potato variety, this vodka was rested in steel tanks for four years, then bottled unfiltered. The end result of this experiment is definitely different: bold and pungent, with ripe banana funk, grassy and vegetal flavors, and a peppery exhale. A reminder that not all vodka is neutral.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$28

## FLAVORED VODKAS

**95 Hanson of Sonoma Pink Grapefruit Flavored Vodka (USA; Hanson of Sonoma Distillery, Sonoma, CA).** Like concentrated grapefruit-peel essence in a glass. Look for a pale straw hue and authentic peel and pith aromas, like a whiff of citrus rind. The light palate opens appropriately bitter and drying—like grapefruit peel. A hint of sweetness emerges on the mouthwatering exhale, plus a pink peppercorn note. It's a grape-based vodka.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$40

**90 Black Infusions Dark Cherry (USA; Bend Spirits, Bend, OR).** This flavored vodka is infused with dried cherries, no sugar or flavors added. The result is a deep, dark black-cherry hue



and concentrated aromas that suggest berry compote, dried dates and prunes. The palate echoes those dried and cooked fruit notes, creating a bold, slightly sweet, palate-coating spirit that almost reads like a liqueur, exiting with a cocoa hint.

**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$32

**90 Polugar No 10 Juniper (Poland; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** While this vodka drinks like a mild gin, the producer assures this is a flavored vodka, not a gin. Perfumed with white flowers and juniper, the light palate has a delicate, powdery feel, with an elderflower hint. The crisp finish is accented with coriander.

**abv:** 38.5% **Price:** \$49

**89 Boardroom Spirits Fresh Citrus Flavored Vodka (USA; Boardroom Spirits, Lansdale, PA).** Look for a pale yellow hue and sweet lemon-curd aroma. The palate is distinctly bitter and dry, with not a trace of the sweetness promised in the aroma, leading to a lemony exhale warmed by ginger and white pepper sparks. What's in the bottle is a corn-based vodka infused with citrus peel, no sweetener added. Mix into Lemon Drop cocktails.

**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$25

**89 Live Proud Dill Pickle Flavored Vodka (USA; Live Proud Spirits, Carmel, IN).** While it's not infused with pickles, all the components to make them are here. This corn-based vodka is scented with cucumber and dill, while the palate has a savory salted cucumber note, refreshed by spearmint on the exhale. Get ready to mix dirty martinis and Bloody Marys with this flavored vodka "inspired by the famous pickle back shot."

**abv:** 35% **Price:** \$25

**89 Polugar Cherry (Poland; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** This flavored vodka has a vibrant garnet hue, suggesting cherry pie filling on the bold aroma and sweet-tart palate. The drying finish adds lemony pucker, creating a cranberry-like exhale.

**abv:** 38.5% **Price:** \$49

**88 Polugar No. 5 Horseradish (Poland; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** Don't be afraid. Yes, the aroma is bracing, nose-wrinkling horseradish. But the palate is more complex, showing vegetal bell pepper and mint alongside the horseradish pungency, leading into a clean, peppery finish with a final menthol exhale. It seems tailor-made for Bloody Marys.

**abv:** 38.5% **Price:** \$49

**87 Boardroom Spirits Fresh Cranberry Flavored Vodka (USA; Boardroom Spirits, Lansdale, PA).** This is a corn-based vodka flavored with cranberries, with no sweetener added. The effect is a tawny hue and mild fruit aroma. The palate is full-on tart and mouthwatering. Hints of berry and a fleeting rosewater note wind into puckery lemony acidity.

**abv:** 30% **Price:** \$25

**87 Nightbloom No. 3 (USA; Nightbloom Spirits, Woodbury, TN).** It's certainly original: potato vodka infused with smoked dates. Look for a tawny orange hue and assertive mesquite smoke and incense aromas. The palate is dry, smoky and spiced: think chipotle and ancho peppers laced with cumin and cardamom. Mild honey lingers into the exit, though it's soon enveloped by rings of smoke.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$45

**85 Vestal Black Cherry Vodka (Poland; Total Wine & More, Bethesda, MD).** This is a single-distilled Polish potato vodka macerated with Polish black cherries. The end result is an inky plum-skin hue and aromas suggesting cherry lollipop and cherry lozenge. The medicinal palate echoes the cherry lozenge note, layering a sticky-sweet bubble gum hint.

**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$21



**96 Grimm Weisse Grimm Artisanal Ales (Hefeweizen; Grimm Artisanal Ales, NY).** Break out the tall Weiss glasses and give this a vigorous pour. Spicy clove and underripe banana aromas are prominent and always present, with an herbal spiciness that grows a bit with each sip. It remains refreshing and enjoyable from start to finish. —J.H.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

**96 Boulevard Tank 7 (Saison; Boulevard Brewing, MO).** The flagship of the Missouri brewery, this lively, well-carbonated saison has some earthy hops, spicy pepper and mulled citrus on the nose and palate. A full body hides the high abv well. Pair with mussels.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**96 Yazoo The Lost Butcher (Saison; Yazoo Brewing Co., TN).** Part of Embrace the Funk, this soft and elegant saison has a lively herbal nose and grain-forward body that brings forth gentle sweetness. Just a touch of aged hop bitterness adds extra dimension that keeps the taste buds engaged.  
**abv:** 5.1% **Price:** \$6/375ml

**95 Perennial Saison Milieu (Saison; Perennial Artisan Ales, MO).** Bright and tart, this has earthy complexity that brings forth country grass and aged hops. Golden in the glass with slight chill haze and a fluffy, big-bubbled white head, this saison makes the most of Brettanomyces by offering up a complex, tangy leather finish. A collaboration with Embrace the Funk of Nashville.  
**abv:** 4.7% **Price:** \$12/12oz 4 pack

**95 Side Project Saison du Blé (Saison; Side Project Brewing, MO).** This gently tart, earthy saison makes the most of its time in wood. With some oaky tannins midpalate and on the finish, this thoughtful saison shows what time and attention can achieve. Blend number 11.  
**abv:** 6% **Price:** \$20/750ml

**95 Yazoo Saison de Bois (Saison; Yazoo Brewing, TN).** Batch 5 of this beer from Embrace the Funk is an earthy, full-bodied and low carbonation saison that plays into the funkiness of the yeast and time in barrels. Pair with smoked chicken and root vegetables.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$10/375ml

**94 Blackberry Farm Brett Classic (Saison; Blackberry Farm Brewery, TN).** Robustly carbon-

# SAISON

The beer for all seasons and meals

**T**here is complex simplicity to the saison. It is often called a Belgian farmhouse ale, thanks in part to its history. The well-repeated story has this rustic style being served to farmers in the field during the growing and harvest season. This is fitting since the style evolved as a means to use the late-harvest grains.

While not as flashy as India pale ales in the eyes of consumers, nor with the same behind-the-scenes brewers push that craft lagers achieve, the saison has a dedicated and passionate following among producers and drinkers who appreciate the combination of earthy hops, wheat, rustic grain and often Brettanomyces.

The beer is typically yellow straw in color, although some are lighter and others slightly darker, with varying degrees of haze. Most versions have been aged in some kind of wood, from neutral oak to former wine casks.

The wild yeast strain adds soft complexity to the beer, often with aromas of funk and barn-

yard, pepper, spice and leather. Combined, the ingredients have a field-esque quality that make this beer ideal for outdoor drinking.

The name, meaning “season” in French, is apt. Specifically the ones that fall in the later parts of the year, have helped this beer be associated with food. Because of its versatili-

ty, saison is an ideal companion to soups and stews of all kinds. For big feasts like Thanksgiving, a well-made saison pairs with nearly everything on the table, from turkey to sweet potatoes.

Standout offerings typically come from brewers who appreciate tradition, have respect for the wild microbes, and who maintain correct patience during the fermentation process.

Several brewers are experimenting with the style. Some versions are lightly fruited, while others have been brewed with shellfish, or have begun to incorporate darker grains.

Still, tradition reigns supreme with saison and it is very much a style that deserves time in any drinker’s glass.

— John Holl

“Standout offerings typically come from brewers who appreciate tradition... and who maintain correct patience during the fermentation process.”

ated and brimming with lively vinous aromas, this saison has faint aromas of soft leather, pepper and white stone fruit. A touch of hop bitterness on the finish adds contrast to an overall floral experience.  
**abv:** 6.8% **Price:** \$15/750ml

**94 Side Project Le Saisonier (Saison; Side Project Brewing, MO).** Woody with a tart tang, this saison combines floral and earthy hops with a soft citrus-acid prick on the finish. Blend one of this series from the brewery, it would be well suited with roast chicken.  
**abv:** 4% **Price:** \$20/750ml

**92 Alesong Silver Lining (Saison; Alesong Brewing and Blending, OR).** Pineapple and white stone fruit combine in a soft, lovely bouquet in the glass, leading to an oaky finish. This is brewed with El Dorado hops giving it further fruity and earthy characteristics.  
**abv:** 7.3% **Price:** \$18/500ml

**92 Side Project Le Saisonier (Saison; Side Project Brewing, MO).** Blend five of this beer from the brewery reveals a pillowy-soft body with tart grape and underripe peach followed by sweet orange. A tangy delight that pairs well with midday sun.  
**abv:** 4% **Price:** \$20/750ml

**92 Yazoo Briny (Saison; Yazoo Brewing, TN).** This offering from Embrace the Funk brings forth a lively, salty and sea-forward base with a nutty body, thanks to a recipe that uses both oysters and spelt. Soft and light with a toasted sweetness, it pairs well with shellfish, of course.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$10/375ml

**91 Alesong Pacific Bliss (Saison; Alesong Brewing and Blending, OR).** Soft aromas of tropical fruit blossoms and sweet citrus emerge from this clear, clean and golden saison. Easily acidic with a

semisweet finish, the woody ale is a good pairing for hearty salads.

**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$18/500ml

**91 The Bruery Saison Ardennes (Saison; The Bruery, CA).** Part of the Terreux line of beers, this tart saison has melon and berry undertones with a funky, spry yeast thread that brings lemon and faint leather to the background. It's a lively sipper suited pair with bitter greens and root vegetable salads.

**abv:** 6.3% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

**91 Yazoo Saison Colada (Saison; Yazoo Brewing, TN).** This tropical twist on a classic style brings lots of warm coconut, island fruits and a touch of herbal to the glass in a way that combines funk and tiki cocktails. Brewed by Embrace the Funk.

**abv:** NA **Price:** NA/16oz 4 pack

**90 Blackberry Farm Foeder Classic (Saison; Blackberry Farm Brewery, TN).** With a warm but subtle combination of honey, vanilla, oak and funk, this saison has a rich body and an herbal tea citrus flavor that comes on midpalate and lasts. From the Flew the Coop series, this is version 6, v.1.

**abv:** 6.5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

**90 Buried Acorn Ghoster Blanc (Saison; Buried Acorn Brewing, NY).** Aged in wine barrels, this picks up lots of vinous qualities from start to finish. Sweet and earthy, with a woody finish, it conveys happy hour vibes.

**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$14/500ml

**90 The Lost Abbey Carnevale 2022 (Saison; The Lost Abbey, CA).** A deft use of Brettanomyces brings a funky and peppery essence to the soft-bodied ale that has a country field flavor. Add orange and pine aromas to the mix, and the result is a nuanced and intriguing ale that is ready for the next party.

**abv:** 8% **Price:** NA/750ml

**90 Moonlight Wee Nibble (Saison; Moonlight Brewery, CA).** This "petit saison" is light in body and easy drinking, offering a nuanced, small-beer take on a style that can sometimes be robust and assertive. Pleasant and easy sipping, it brings flavors of rustic malt, bright but faint lemon and aged, slightly garlicky hops.

**abv:** 4.8% **Price:** \$16/16oz 4 pack

**90 Yazoo Brett Saison 2022 (Saison; Yazoo Brewing Co., TN).** Released by Embrace the Funk, this saison puts Brettanomyces front and center, offering up rustic and juicy fruit, orange peel and light leather, with peppercorn aroma and flavor. A robustly carbonated ale, it has light tropical flower aromas that appear near the finish.

**abv:** NA **Price:** NA/375ml

**89 Barrique Barrel Quarrel (Saison; Barrique Brewing and Blending, TN).** This hop-forward saison offers up herbal, tropical and earthy hops mixed with a lively blend of white stone fruit

and light berry syrup. A beer to pair with a good book and comfortable chair.

**abv:** 6.7% **Price:** \$15/500ml

**89 Side Project Bière du Pays (Saison; Side Project Brewing, MO).** Refreshing and medium bodied, this oak-forward saison has a good amount of earthy hops in the background that are restrained on bitterness, but offer a farm and field-esque experience. Blend number 11.

**abv:** 4% **Price:** \$20/750ml

**88 Cellar West Montego Moon (Saison; Cellar West, CO).** This full-bodied but low-carbonation saison focuses on herbal hops, with deep citrus flavors centered on aged flesh. It finishes with a slight spice snap.

**abv:** 5.9% **Price:** \$9/16oz 4 pack

**88 The Bruery Julietistes (Saison; The Bruery, CA).** Spicy and tart with pleasant waves of citrus blossom and peel, this saison has a woody and herbal weave that mixes well with cereal grain and a touch of faint white toast.

**abv:** 7.3% **Price:** NA/750ml

**88 Crane Small Ball 2021 (Saison; Crane Brewing, MO).** Clear and golden with berry undertones, this has a lively cereal grain bill that brings malt sweetness to the forefront before a dry finish. Enjoy on the days when the sun is high and the plans are scarce.

**abv:** 5.2% **Price:** NA/750ml

**87 Barrique Petite Afternoon (Saison; Barrique Brewing and Blending, TN).** This lively, herbal and easy-drinking small beer goes all in on pine-forward hops and spritzy carbonation. A strong mix of aged and fresh hops comes together to finish with a dried citrus-blossom bouquet.

**abv:** 3% **Price:** \$15/750ml

**87 Buried Acorn Whaddya Saison (Saison; Buried Acorn, NY).** An easy-drinking saison, this has even-keeled flavors of wheat, aged hops and a spry strain of Brettanomyces. Drink this over long catch-up conversations with good friends.

**abv:** 6.1% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

**87 Pure Endless Planets (Saison; Pure Project, CA).** This offers intriguing and pleasing aromas of fermented, fresh and underripe strawberry along with sweet cabbage mixed with peppercorn and sweaty hops. There's a lot to unpack here and flavor diversity is this saison's strength.

**abv:** 5.8% **Price:** \$15/375ml

**87 Side Project à la Table (Saison; Side Project Brewing, MO).** A woody and dusty saison, this leans into muted tart apple and subtle funk. Easy drinking, this is blend number three of this ale from the brewery. It pairs well with creamy, slightly funky cheeses.

**abv:** 2.5% **Price:** \$15/750ml

**86 Cellar West Farmhouse Saison (Saison; Cellar West, CO).** While low on carbonation,

this aged-hop-forward saison has delicate melon, lemon and earthy herbal aromas. Flavors start early and last in the glass. Drink at a quiet café in the mid-afternoon.

**abv:** 6.3% **Price:** \$9/500ml

**86 Crane Rare Circumstances (Saison; Crane Brewing, MO).** This rustic, medium-bodied saison plays into wild yeast that offers up leathery and lightly tart notes. Orange syrup and herbal wood combine for an earthy experience.

**abv:** 7.5% **Price:** NA/500ml

**86 Dovetail Saison (Saison; Dovetail Brewery, IL).** Lively with prickly herbal tones, this saison has a rustic quality that engages the tastebuds and brings on easy waves of Brettanomyces. Golden and nearly clear, with a quickly dissipating head, it would pair well with lightly grilled sausages.

**abv:** 6% **Price:** NA/16oz 4 pack

**86 Lamplighter The Upside Down (Saison; Lamplighter Brewing, MA).** Pouring chocolate brown with a quick-fading mocha head, this riff on the classic recipe offers up lively wild yeast aromas with the addition of toasted wheat, sweet coffee and red berry. An interesting twist to the norm.

**abv:** 8% **Price:** TK/16oz 4 pack

**85 AZ Wilderness Desert Wheat (Saison; Arizona Wilderness, AZ).** Lemony and tart with a mineral-water essence on the back end, this clear, straw ale has yeast-derived funkiness. Light bodied and easy drinking, it's brewed with locally grown wheat.

**abv:** 5.4% **Price:** \$18/16oz 4 pack

**84 Bruz Centreville Saisonier (Saison; Bruz Beers, CO).** This soft, low-bodied saison has mineral and faint citrus qualities coupled with rustic sweetness. It's a petit saison that works well post-workout.

**abv:** 4.1% **Price:** \$11/500ml

**84 Cellar West Nightingale Saison (Saison; Cellar West, CO).** Beginning with a woody, earthy and funky yeast note, this quickly pivots to hop bitterness that has aged citrus at the forefront. Finishes semi-dry with cedar-shaving aromas present.

**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$9/16oz 4 pack

**84 Crane Windfalls: Summer (Saison; Crane Brewing, MO).** Slightly spicy with a touch of sweetness towards the finish, this saison has a full body without weight on the palate. Finishes with a tart snap.

**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** NA/12oz 6 pack

**84 Our Mutual Friend Centennial Weiriding Way (Saison; Our Mutual Friend, CO).** Orange-forward and funky with earthy, whole-cone-hops aroma, this saison manages a touch of pepper and sweetness in the midpalate before ending on a pleasing hop bitter note.

**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$14/375ml



**84 Santinas Saison (Saison; Santinas Brewing, CO).** Funky fruit aromas mixed with country grass and fermented lemon come from the glass on this light-bodied and moderately carbonated ale. Deep straw-yellow, with a touch of leathery yeast on the finish, it is well suited for post-hike afternoons. **Abv:** 5.9% **Price:** NA/12oz 6 pack

**84 Vista Le Saison (Saison; Vista Brewing, TX).** A mix of green vegetal hops and damp grain, this rustic saison brings a well-fermented, sweet grape flavor to the forefront after a few sips. The sweetness grows as the glass empties. **Abv:** 6.5% **Price:** \$15/750ml

**83 Crane Windfalls: Autumn (Saison; Crane Brewing Co., MO).** Thin bodied with flashes of mineral water and aged citrus, and earthy vegetal, this seasonal saison finishes with a baking spice prick. Brewed with local honey. **Abv:** 5.5% **Price:** NA/12oz 6 pack

**83 Our Mutual Friend Year Ten (Saison; Our Mutual Friend, CO).** Created to celebrate the brewery's anniversary and fermented with wild-flower honey, this low-carbonated saison has aromas of peppermint and cola mixed with a rustic grain aroma. **Abv:** 6.8% **Price:** \$16/750ml

**82 Buried Acorn 1000 Tiny Michael Jacksons Break Dancing in Your Mouth (Saison; Buried Acorn, NY).** A collaboration with Full Boar Brewery and an homage to the famed beer writer, this thin, Belgian-style ale has vegetal hop harshness that comes on quick and lasts. It turns sour funky towards the finish. **Abv:** 6.4% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

## WHEAT BEERS

**96 Grimm Weisse (Hefeweizen; Grimm Artisanal Ales, NY).** For full review see page 24. **Abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$13/16oz 4 pack

**95 Boulevard Unfiltered Wheat (Wheat Ale; Boulevard Brewing, MO).** Pouring the color of ripe apricot and with a low head that dissipates quickly, this easy-drinking ale feels like a weekend out with friends. It's comfortable and full of nuance, has some life experience, and doesn't hide what it is. Wheat forward, with touches of citrusy hops and a little bit of spice, it finishes with a bit of sweetness, all ready for the next round. **Abv:** 4.4% **Price:** \$9/12oz 6 pack

**94 Parish Cane Brake (Wheat Ale; Parish Brewing, LA).** With sweet and pleasant wheat aromas that meld into brioche, this soft ale goes easy on the carbonation. Brewed with cane sugar, it has earthy and restrained sweetness, with pleasant flavors of lightly toasted crystals. Pair with a hot afternoon and a cooler filled with ice. **Abv:** 4.9% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

**92 The Bruery Mischief (Belgian Golden Ale; The Bruery, CA).** Boozy and hop forward, this strong golden ale has vinous qualities that come in quick and last on the palate. The earthy, waxy hops offer up herbal pleasantness, with a spicy finish. **Abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$15/16oz 4 pack

**92 New Glarus Bubbler (Hefeweizen; New Glarus Brewing, WI).** Sweet aromas of banana and mild clove from this golden-honey-colored ale mingle well in the glass. Clear and with a thin head, it has sweetness that continues on the palate, with a touch of bright, earthy hops towards the spicy finish. **Abv:** 4% **Price:** \$9/12oz 6 pack

**91 Nebraska EOS Hefeweizen (Hefeweizen; Nebraska Brewing, NE).** This has a country-bread-forward flavor backed with cereal grain, along with banana and clove notes derived from the yeast. It's a tailgating beer that offers up refreshment with distinction, and pairs well with grilled sausages. **Abv:** 5.2% **Price:** \$9/12oz 6 pack

**91 Wallenpaupack Lichtenhainer (Lichtenhainer; Wallenpaupack Brewing, PA).** Faint aromas of bacon are chased by a tangy yeast bite with the first sip. Refreshing and bracing, that smoked malt aroma grows slightly, like standing downwind and distant from a world-class pit barbeque spot. **Abv:** 4.2% **Price:** \$10/16oz 4 pack

**90 Blue Moon Belgian White (Witbier; Blue Moon, CO).** Refreshing and sweet-orange forward, this deep-golden ale has a touch of haze and white head that fades quickly after the pour. Spicy coriander and additional citrus blossom come on midpalate before finishing with an orange peel bitterness. **Abv:** 5.4% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

**87 Crane Farmhouse IPA (IPA; Crane Brewing, MO).** The brewery calls this a farmhouse ale, and it has a slightly juicy hop profile that is apparent on the aroma and towards the finish. With a medium body and low carbonation, it brings rustic, breadly refreshment to the glass. **Abv:** 6% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

## FRUIT SELTZERS

**88 Quirk Cranberry Apple Cinnamon (Hard Seltzer; Boulevard Brewing, MO).** This autumnal-aroma-forward seltzer has a pastel-pink color reminiscent of spring. Mulled cider aromas couple with a tart cranberry backbone. Hugely aromatic with cinnamon and mulled apple, it has a sweeter fruit that cleanses the palate, keeping it from being too heavy. 90 calories. **Abv:** 4% **Price:** \$20/12oz 12 pack

**88 Truly Strawberry Lime (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** Offering big aromas of fruity bubblegum, this is heavy on the sugared strawberry,

with an orange-limeade on the back end. The sweetness is subdued before a dry finish. 100 calories. **Abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/12oz 12 pack

**88 Truly Vodka Pineapple & Cranberry (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** This is a lively mix of tropical and winter holiday flavors. Pineapple dominates the palate, but is slightly restrained, in a good way, by the hearty and tart cranberry. Christmas on the islands is where this belongs. 110 calories. **Abv:** 5% **Price:** \$18/12oz 12 pack

**88 Untitled Art Prickly Pear Guava (Hard Seltzer; Untitled Art, WI).** Part of the Florida Seltzer line, this is more juice than seltzer. A thick guava body coats the tongue and a bit of pleasing sourness weaves through the tropical sugar. It's syrupy and satisfying without being too boozy. 110 calories. **Abv:** 5% **Price:** \$17/12oz 6 pack

**87 Truly Citrus Squeeze (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** With a faint peachy color, this lightly lime-and-orange-flavored seltzer is easy drinking. A little sweetness on the end is followed by a prick of citric acid. Mild flavor but well carbonated. 100 calories. **Abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/12oz 12 pack.

**86 Tio Rodrigo Margarita Sandia (Hard Seltzer; SLO Brewing, CA).** With rustic cucumber peel and underripe melon, this sweet, margarita-inspired seltzer pours a milky yellow-white and has a bit of a booze kick on the finish. Over ice, it works well for al fresco happy hours in the mid-summer. **Abv:** 7% **Price:** \$20/12oz 6 pack

**86 Truly Wild Berry (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** A mélange of berries, this deep, dusty-pink seltzer focuses on darker flavors with deeper sweetness. It's lively and sweet, and no one flavor dominates. 100 calories. **Abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15/12oz 12 pack

**85 Nebraska POG (Hard Seltzer; Nebraska Brewing Co., NE).** A burst of mixed fruit aromas intertwine ripe citrus flesh, with a tropical sweetness and touch of orange zest. Clear with medium carbonation, the seltzer has fruits that dissipate on the palate but it manages to remain refreshing. **Abv:** 5% **Price:** \$6/16oz draft

**85 Sun Fork Uni Barry (Hard Seltzer; West Fork Whiskey, IN).** This collaboration between West Fork Whiskey and Sun King Brewery is a berry-focused offering under the "mythological wonders" banner. Champagne colored with low strawberry, raspberry, and blackberry flavors, it's a refreshing palate cleanser for long days by the pool. **Abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$20/12oz variety pack

**85 Tio Rodrigo Margarita Mangonada (Hard Seltzer; SLO Brewing, CA).** This margarita-inspired hard seltzer uses mango puree and agave. Golden yellow and hazy in hue, the seltzer has flavors of tropical fruit and candied vanilla. Dusty

mango and Juicy Fruit gum come on towards the finish.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$20/12oz 6 pack

**85 Tio Rodrigo Margarita Pina (Hard Seltzer; SLO Brewing, CA).** Pouring a milky-yellow color, this margarita-inspired seltzer has strong, warmed pineapple aromas that continue onto the palate. A spicy, herbal kick comes on mid-sip and lasts into the finish, adding a fun pop to an otherwise sweet beverage.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$20/12oz 6 pack

**85 Truly Vodka Blackberry Lemon (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** This dusty purple seltzer comes alive with candied-lemon aromas followed by light berry on the first sip. The two come together in a muted, watered-down way. 110 calories.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$18/12oz 12 pack

**85 Truly Vodka Cherry & Lime (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** Big on candied cherry, this recalls the gummy candy that comes in a box, always stuck together. The clear purple seltzer has robust carbonation and some citrus pith towards the finish. 110 calories.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$18/12oz 12 pack

**85 Sun Fork Luscious Liger (Hard Seltzer; West Fork Whiskey, IN).** This collaboration between West Fork Whiskey and Sun King Brewery is a tropical-focused offering under the “mythological wonders” banner. Champagne colored, this has big flavors of coconut oil and sweet pineapple juice. For early mornings on vacation where a piña colada might be too much, this is a worthy substitute.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$20/12oz variety pack

**85 Sun Fork Sassy Nessy (Hard Seltzer; West Fork Whiskey, IN).** This collaboration between West Fork Whiskey and Sun King Brewery is a melon-focused offering under the “mythological wonders” banner. Champagne colored, it is big on cucumber peel and watermelon rind, like a Jolly Rancher that has been dropped into a bucket of spa water.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$20/12oz variety pack

**85 Brown's Solos Raspberry (Hard Seltzer; Brown's Brewing, NY).** This lightly tart and sweet berry-forward seltzer pours a dusty purple. Aromas of fresh-pressed juice with raspberry skin and fuzz make for a pleasant, made-from-real-puree experience. 225 Calories.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$12/12oz 4 pack

**84 Big Country Prickly Pear and Peach (Hard Seltzer; Willard's Brewery, TX).** This light and easy seltzer goes all in on desert-fruit flavors, with a touch of white stone fruit sweetness. A refresher for a hot day, it's good for a few rounds before becoming cloying. 90 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$25/12oz 12 pack

**84 HUM Tangerine Lemon Lime (Hard Tea; Hum Seltzer, CT).** This hard tea offers some

loose-leaf tannins and earthiness combined with a trio of fruits that favors citrus. Slightly tart but easy drinking, it has a dry finish that invites another sip. 125 calories.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

**84 Paradise Park Lime Cucumber (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA.)** This offers big aromas and flavors of cucumber peel and sweet lime. It's a combination between spa water and a base for a spring cocktail. 85 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**84 Paradise Park New Orleans Hurricane (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA.)** A spin on the classic cocktail, this dusty-pink seltzer has light cherry juice aromas and flavors of spun-sugar-coated berries. A fine way to start a long day in The Quarter. 96 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**84 Two Roads H2Roads Raspberry (Hard Seltzer; Two Roads, CT).** A dark-pink seltzer with aromas of plastic berry and a slight tartness on the back end. 100 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$18/12oz 12 pack

**84 Truly Vodka Peach & Tangerine (Hard Seltzer; Boston Beer Co., MA).** Cloying peach fuzz candy rings with a splash of citrus peel on the back end. The seltzer pours dusty gold, with robust carbonation and a sweet finish. 110 calories.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$18/12oz 12 pack

**84 Big Country Watermelon and Pineapple (Hard Seltzer; Willard's Brewery, TX).** Spicy watermelon and candied pineapple come together in this slightly cloying but light seltzer. It finishes with a touch of sugary syrup. 90 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$25/12oz 12 pack

**83 Big Country Prickly Passion Fruit and Kiwi (Hard Seltzer; Willard's Brewery, TX).** This weak tropical concoction occasionally comes alive with tart punches of kiwi. Spun sugar and bubble-gum flavors emerge towards the end of the sip. 90 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$25/12oz 12 pack

**83 Paradise Park Aloha Punch (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA.)** This is a watered-down combination of multiple fruits, with warm pineapple the most prominent. Some berry and citrus are in the mix but muted. 95 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**83 Paradise Park Electric Lemonade (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA.)** Clear and pale yellow with a green tint, this hard lemonade seltzer has a lessened citrus punch, with a bit of raspberry candy mixed in. It would be a hot afternoon refresher in the pool. 97 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**83 Paradise Park Passionfruit Orange Guava (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA.)** Prickly, pleasing tropical fruit bursts from the glass, with a

lip-smacking, orange-flesh finish. The island concoction keeps sweetness at bay in favor of fruity nuance. 95 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**83 Paradise Park Raspberry Limeade (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA.)** Plastic fruit is heavy on lime syrup, with muted berry. Light with a refreshing demeanor, this seltzer delivers on hot and humid days in the shade. 97 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$16/12oz 6 pack

**83 Wormtown Mango (Hard Seltzer; Wormtown Brewery, MA).** Light and plastic fruits verging on tropical are front and center in this easy-sipping hard seltzer. 100 calories.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$17/12oz 12 pack

**82 Big Country Blackberry and Grapefruit (Hard Seltzer; Willard's Brewery, TX).** This sweet and slightly tart combination of fruits offers up vague gestures towards both without landing on a specific fruit. Would work well for a mid-hike break. 90 calories.  
**abv:** 4.5% **Price:** \$25/12oz 12 pack