

THIS MONTH

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Landscape view of fields,
vineyards and greek villages Fira
and Oia on Santorini island, Greece

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MEDITERRANEAN VIEWS

Exploring new releases from coastal Spain and France

Editor's note: Mike DeSimone reviews wines from Spain, Croatia and Eastern Europe, while Jacy Topps reviews the wines of French regions Languedoc-Roussillon and Vin de France.

Mike DeSimone: This month my selections from Spain included classic red and white Rioja and red Ribera del Duero wines, bold Garnacha from Valencia, and a great selection of Sherry in a broad range of styles. My Croatian coastal roundup features Plavac Mali, a full-bodied red, and Posip, a crisp white, from Dalmatia as well as Teran, an earthy red, and an elegant, slightly floral white Malvazija Istarska from Istria. And how could I forget Cava from the coast near Barcelona? How was your month in the tasting room, Jacy?



Mike DeSimone

Jacy Topps: I believe Languedoc-Roussillon is the French region many are missing out on. It's one of the oldest wine regions in the world, and it offers a diverse range of wine styles. So, my time in the tasting room is always exciting. The red blends are awakening my palate with fruit-forward, herbaceous wines with bright acidity. I also had the pleasure of tasting some robust single varietal reds and floral white wines coming out of the area.

MD: I'm really excited about all the indigenous grapes I get to sample from my coastal regions. What's interesting to me is that in Mediterranean France winemakers craft a whole host of rosés, whereas Mediterranean Spain, for the most part, produces white wine and red wine, with very little rosé in the mix. My rosé comes from farther inland, closer to the Atlantic, except for some luscious pink Cava.

JT: Some rosé enthusiasts may not know, but Languedoc-Roussillon accounts for 30% of all French rosés and 11% of the world's production. From Grenache to Syrah, Languedoc rosés are robust, aromatic and well balanced. And speaking of indigenous grapes, I would be remiss not to mention the lovely sparklings made with Mauzac.

MD: Climate change is an issue in both Spain and Croatia. Fortunately, much of Jumilla is set up for minimal rainfall and long, hot summer days. Picking before the sugar gets too high helps maintain freshness. Jumilla also has the highest percentage of organic vineyards in the country. Farther up the coast, wineries like Familia Torres in Penedes and Priorat are seeking to ward off heat in the vineyards, and are working with indigenous varieties that are resistant to heat and drought.



Jacy Topps

Some rosé enthusiasts may not know, but Languedoc-Roussillon accounts for 30% of all French rosés and 11% of the world's production.

JT: Languedoc is home to 36% of all French organic vineyards, the largest area in France, and 7% of global organic vineyards. But rising temperatures and severe drought are testing the region's viticulture. Some producers are looking to produce more wine with indigenous grapes that are naturally well-adapted to the climate, such as Cinsault and Picpoul.

MD: Sounds like I'm going to have to cross the border and check out everything going on in Languedoc! I know that coastal Spain, France and Croatia are all "hot" vacation spots. Regardless of whether travel is in your immediate future, everyone should at least check out the great-value bottlings from these regions at their local wine shops.

The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by Wine Enthusiast magazine's editors and other qualified tasters. Regular contributors to our Buying Guide include Tasting Director Anna-Christina Cabrales (Burgundy, Rhone), Senior Editor, Tasting Jim Gordon (Napa, Sonoma), Senior Tasting Coordinator Craig Chamberlain (Virginia), Senior Editor, Print Stacy Briscoe (California), Assistant Editor Jacy Topps (Languedoc-Roussillon, Provence, 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, Champagne, Southwest France), Aleks Zecevic (Austria, Germany), Jeff Porter (Piedmont and Northern Italy), Danielle Callegari (Tuscany and Southern Italy) and Reggie Solomon (Beaujolais, Loire).

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.

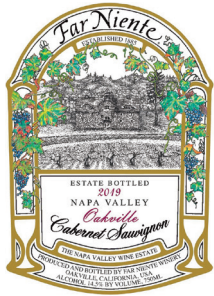
SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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. **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.

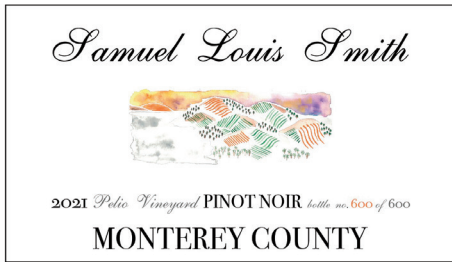
LABELS

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; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net

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98 Far Niente 2019 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Nicely restrained, like luxe dark chocolate, this well-balanced and brooding wine shows Far Niente at the top of its game, wrapping fine-grained tannins around superb cassis, black-cherry and blueberry flavors that will expand and gain complexity with time. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300



98 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Pelio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey County). A beautiful shade of reddish purple in the glass, this exquisite, three-barrel bottling begins with aromas of black raspberry, lilac extract and rose oil, proving pure and rich, while bright. The palate plays a similar trick, lifting up boysenberry and raspberry-jam flavors atop a granular texture into the fascinatingly long finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$54



98 Schramsberg 2004 Reserve Late Disgorged Sparkling Blend (North Coast). The deep, golden-amber hue in the glass is immediately visually engaging. One sniff enlivens the senses with aromas of baked baguette, baking spices, apple, poached pear, potpourri, hay, white pepper, and blond caramel. The palate is dry, with beautiful acidity that rides through the center adding midpalate lift to this full-bodied sparkler, complete with a finessed mousse structure and a finish that lasts forever. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$200



97 Fernández Rivera 2015 Tinto Pesquera Millenium Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This inky garnet-colored wine has a nose of black currant and cocoa powder, with a hint of summer farm stand. Plush tannins and flavors of black cherry, blackberry, mocha, menthol and a tiny touch of saddle leather ply the tongue and gums and linger there for a small eternity. Drink now–2040. Folio Fine Wine Partners. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145



97 Iron Horse 2006 Joy! Sparkling Blend (Green Valley). Enticing aromas of freshly baked bread and toasted baguette lead to lemon, crisp apple and hints of almond and smoky truffles on the palate. The flavors are subtle, the fizz is fine textured and the overall expression shows wonderful maturity and complexity. This rare, recently disgorged wine made from predominantly Chardonnay will drink best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$275/1.5 L



97 Schramsberg 2004 J. Schram Late Disgorged Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Intense aromatics engage and entice immediately with notes of fresh and roasted apple, nutmeg, clove, cumin, crusty pastry, baked quince, poached pear, lemon zest and peach skin. This is a fuller-bodied sparkler, balanced with an elegantly elevated acidic backbone, and a soft mousse structure. The finish is long and leaves the palate with a kick of spice. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$200

SPAIN WHITE WINES RÍAS BAIXAS

94 Torres 2019 Pazo Torre Penelas Blanco Granito (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 9. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$59

92 Adegas Gran Vinum 2021 Selección Especial (Rías Baixas). Aromas of white peach, grapefruit and freshly chopped green herbs pave the way for flavors of passion fruit, lemon-lime and honeysuckle. This richly textured wine has a nice vein of acidity and a bright floral-scented finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$32

92 Do Ferreira 2021 (Rías Baixas). This wine has a bouquet of mango and clementine. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of pink grapefruit, ripe summer peach and a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs that evaporates in a lemon zest finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Nora 2019 Nora da Neve (Rías Baixas). Pale yellow to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of Granny Smith apple and mango, with a delightful hint of coffee bean. A sophisticated touch of coffee makes its way to the palate, where it is joined by flavors of green apple, dried apricot, chopped thyme and lemon zest, all set into a velvety texture. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

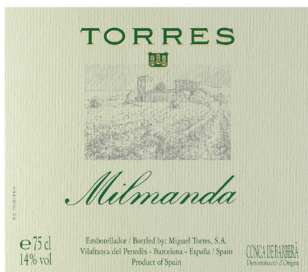
91 Paco & Lola 2020 (Rías Baixas). Light straw to the eye, this wine has a nose of pineapple and grapefruit. These flavors appear in the mouth as well, along with a creamy texture and notes of orange blossom and lemon zest. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 Pazo de Lusco 2021 Crianza Sobre Lias (Rías Baixas). For full review see page 18. Gonzalez Byass USA.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

RIOJA

92 Bodegas Lozano 2020 Vinas Viejas (Rioja). This light-yellow-colored wine has a bouquet of grapefruit and yellow cherry, with a hint of fennel pollen. Flavors of white peach, mango, roasted fennel bulb and dried sage wend their way to a soft, floral finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$60

Continued on page 23



97 Torres 2018 Milmanda (Conca de Barberà). This deep-yellow-colored wine has a bouquet of bergamot and river rocks. It offers clean flavors of lemon, pineapple and oyster shell. This vintage saw a significant decrease in the percentage that went through malolactic fermentation as well as in amount of time in oak, which allow the stony terroir and minerality to shine through. Drink now–2038 Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

Los DOMINIOS de
BERCEO



96 Bodegas Berceo 2015 Los Dominios de Berceo Prefiloxerico (Rioja). This inky, garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of cherry, milk chocolate and orange zest. Opulent tannins coat the palate, wrapped around flavors of black cherry, violet, dark chocolate and menthol that evaporate into a long-lasting, cool finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$105

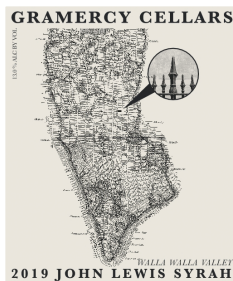


HARMONÍA
CAMPO ELISEO

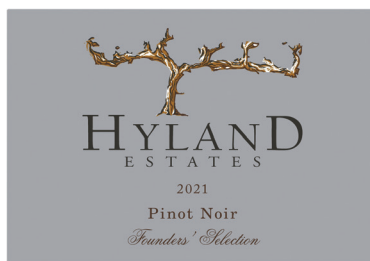
96 Campo Eliseo 2020 Campo Eliséo Harmonía (Rueda). Light yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of pineapple, grapefruit peel and orange blossom. It feels elegant in the mouth, offering flavors of white peach, passion fruit, lemon curd and vanilla bean, with a hint of cardamom. Barrel fermentation adds a layer of featherweight tannins that linger on the palate for a few moments. Pardela USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$150



96 Diogenes 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). This gorgeous, grand wine made in a tiny quantity is one for the cellar, as its firm tannins and powerful flavors promise more complexity and interest over time. The seriously deep black-fruit flavors and handsome, smoky oak nuances are tempting, but only hint at the wine's promise for the future. Made from certified organically grown grapes. It will be at its best between 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80



96 Gramercy 2019 John Lewis Reserve Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Made with fruit from Les Collines Vineyard, this breathtaking Syrah is balanced, with elevated acidity, plush tannins and restrained alcohol. Aromas and flavors of blackberries, saline, hibiscus flowers, black pepper and an almond croissant dazzle. Easily one of the best wines I tasted in 2022. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95



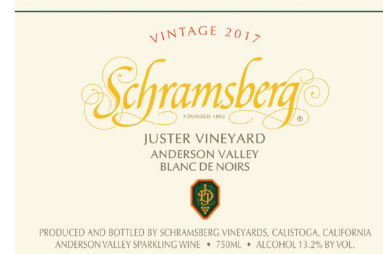
96 Hyland 2021 Founder's Selection Pinot Noir (McMinnville). Chelan cherry aromas say “come on in,” while a perfume of rose petals, strawberries, lavender and flox make you feel at home. The wine's bright acidity, restrained alcohol and fine-grained tannins offer hope of a long life filled with flavors of red raspberries, citrus and honeycomb. Enjoy 2025–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$110



96 Landmark 2019 Rayhill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Luscious, deep black-fruit flavors light up this stunning, concentrated and delicious wine that conveys power with polish. Black cherries, black currants, sparmint and pine boughs are just a few of the flavor elements that flood the palate while being supported beautifully by moderate tannins and balancing acidity. Best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



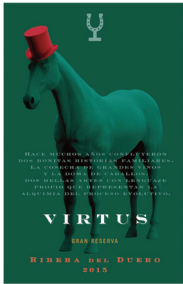
96 Manzanos 1961 (Rioja). Cherry red in the glass with a touch of brown at the rim, this 61-year-old wine has lots left to offer. It draws you in with aromas of freshly picked black fruits, butterscotch and a hint of caramel. In the mouth the fruit flavors are vibrant. Cranberry and pomegranate lead the way, backed by subtle notes of cedar and saddle leather. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$105



96 Schramsberg 2017 Juster Vineyard Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Anderson Valley). Aromas and flavors lead with earthy notes of dried grass, wet stone, lawn daisies. Fresh fruits follow: green apple and pear, just-ripe yellow nectarine, peach skin—complemented by savory tones of matchstick flint, crispy toast and baking spices. The palate is dry with racy high acid; supple mouthfeel with a creamy mousse structure; the finish is that perfect culmination of fruit, earth and spice. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$100



96 Seabold Cellars 2020 Olsen Prunetucky Sands Chardonnay (Monterey). This bottling from a vineyard near Highway 101 is driven by an intense minerality, boasting damp earth and crushed rock aromas alongside lime pith. The palate is marvelously stony in both flavor and texture, sizzling with yellow-grapefruit and more high-toned citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$40



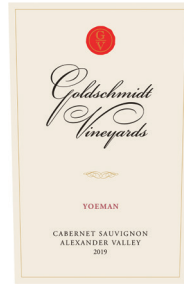
96 Virtus 2015 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Black cherry in color, this wine offers aromas of purple fig, black-olive paste and lavender. Gorgeous notes of menthol and anisette wrapped in a sheath of luxurious tannins are accompanied by flavors of blackberry jam, cherry pie, milk chocolate, orange zest and a whiff of chopped thyme. Cooling herb and dark berry flavors carry over into the smooth finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$120



95 Fakin 2019 Il Primo Teran (Istria). Inky garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black cherry, caramel and violet. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of blackberry, raspberry, chocolate covered caramel, dried thyme and violet talc. Silky tannins ply the palate and linger for a while. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$46



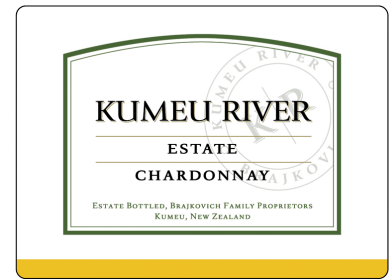
95 Foxen 2020 Block 43 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Crisp and pure aromas of pomegranate extract, crushed stone and Red Hot candies show on the vivid nose of this block-designated bottling. The palate is generous in cherry but vibrant in sumac-laced acidity, as a zippy acidity flies into the finish. Drink now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68



95 Goldschmidt 2019 Yoeman Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Concentrated but polished, deep but silky, this quietly powerful wine integrates velvety tannins and gorgeous black-fruit flavors. Made from old vines on a three-acre plot, the wine offers an inviting blend of black cherries and black currant, spearmint, cedar and dark chocolate that are delicious now, but will gain complexity and expand with time. Best from 2030–2045. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75



95 Ken Brown 2018 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This veteran vintner takes on the region's most iconic vineyard in this bottling. Aromas of blackberry sauce over pecan-topped brioche are rich and layered on the nose. The powerful palate is wrapped in impressive tannins, framing the black-cherry, cola and cardamom flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



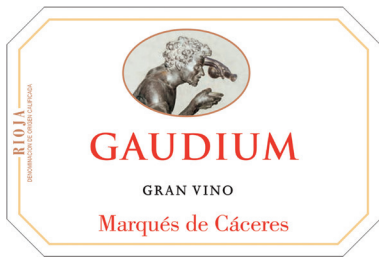
95 Kumeu River 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Kumeu). One of the best bargains around, from New Zealand's leading Chardonnay producer, this is restrained, creamy and downright delicious. Vibrant aromas of lemon peel, melon, toast and flint lead to a supple, slinky, elegant palate of tingly citrus acidity and supportive oak. Ultra food-friendly, this could also cellar for eight to ten years. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22



95 Louis Latour 2019 Grand Cru (Corton-Charlemagne). This wine delivers the richness and grace of this famed hillside. Cultivated from 30+-year-old vines, it offers notes of ripe citrus, fresh apple skin, orange blossom and almond. There's also a beautiful overlay of white lilies and baby's breath, framed by warm baking spices. Cellar through 2030 and beyond. Louis Latour Inc. —A.C.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$250



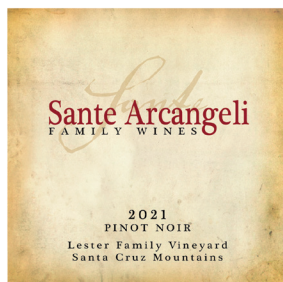
95 Mark Ryan 2020 Lonely Heart Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This outstanding wine delivers a bedazzling perfume of boysenberries and black cherries, with touches of leather, tobacco and peonies. Its velvety texture and slick acidity are perfect foils for concentrated blackberry and tangy mulberry fruit flavors joined by a bit of honey drizzled on corn bread. BBQ ribs, anyone? *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$100



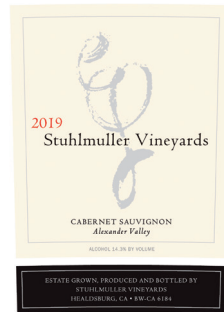
95 Marqués de Cáceres 2016 Gaudium (Rioja). Deep violet-red to the eye, this wine has aromas of black cherry, blackberry preserves and a hint of mint. Fruit of the wood flavors are joined by notes of freshly ground espresso, dark chocolate and touches of eucalyptus and orange zest. Opulent tannins make their way across the palate and linger for a while. Vineyard Brands. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51



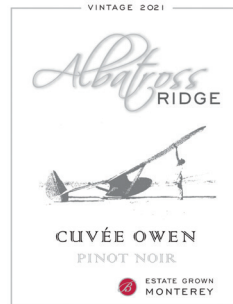
95 ONX 2019 Reckoning Rhône-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Rich and savory aromas of black plum, blackberry, roasted meat, black pepper and licorice show on the nose of this blend of 64% Syrah, 20% Petite Sirah, 8% Malbec and 8% Grenache. The structure stands up firmly on the palate, where dark and rich purple-to-black-fruit flavors are warmed by baking spices. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$58



95 Sante Arcangeli 2021 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Fresh aromas of raspberry and pomegranate pick up an earthy side of thyme and turned forest floor on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense in structure and focused on vibrant, brisk red fruits, as raspberry and wild-herb flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$59



95 Stuhlmuller Vineyards 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This estate-grown wine is a great find and a great value. Rich black fruits and intricate oak spices form a compelling blend in this well-saturated, deep and complex wine. Moderate to full tannins support blueberries, new leather and ginger flavors that expand on the palate and linger on the finish. It will be best from 2027–2037. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45



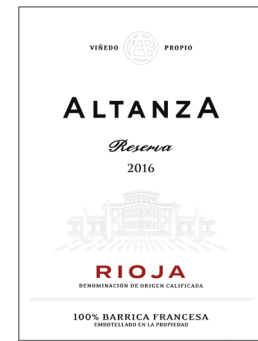
94 Albatross Ridge 2021 Cuvée Owen Pinot Noir (Monterey). Mulberry and cranberry aromas meet with earthy rhubarb, beetroot and fennel bulb on the nose of this bottling. Crisp and tart red-fruit flavors pop on the palate, alongside mace and cinnamon spices. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$66



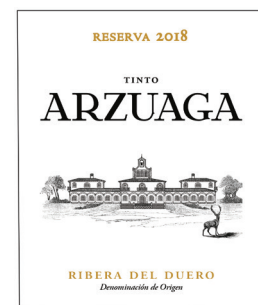
94 Alberto Orte 2012 La Antigua Clásico Reserva (Rioja). Inky ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood with a hint of pine needle. Substantial tannins and bold acidity are equally matched, while flavors of black cherry, blackberry, mocha, marjoram and orange zest sail into an enduring finish. Olé & Obrigado. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32



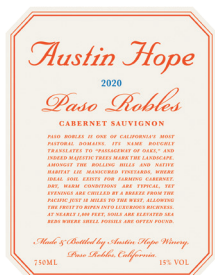
94 Alberto Orte 2017 A Portela (Valdeorras). Deep garnet in color, this wine has a bouquet of ripe summer cherry, raspberry and a hint of rose petal. Bright red fruits transfer to the palate, where they are met by velvety tannins and notes of slate, clove, aniseed and lavender that culminate in an enduring finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27



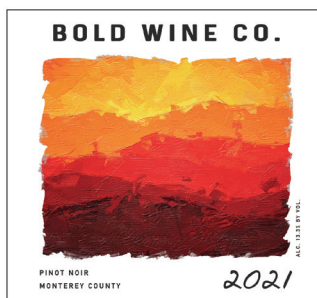
94 Altanza 2016 Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of blueberry pie, Luxardo cherry and freshly ground espresso. The coffee note continues onto the palate along with sumptuous tannins and flavors of cassia, blackberry, caramel, eucalyptus, cardamom and orange zest. The long finish closes out on a bright note. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



94 Arzuaga 2018 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This deep ruby wine has a heady bouquet of black cherry, espresso and anisette. It is round in the mouth, with opulent tannins. Flavors of blackberry, red currant, butterscotch and mocha glide into a long finish. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70



94 Austin Hope 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). The experience of this bottling is deliciously predictable vintage to vintage, serving as a rich and reliable expression of Paso Robles Cab. Aromas of black-cherry compote, caramel and clove remain fresh on the nose. The palate's smooth tannins wrap lusciously around fudge, more compote and baking-spice flavors, leading into a gingerbread finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$56



94 Bold 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Winemaker-sommelier Chris Miller uses this sub-brand to test out new vineyards, and this one is a winner. Crisp aromas of cran-raspberry meet with chaparral herbs and tarry game on the nose. The palate snaps with fresh purple-fruit and flower flavors, riding a brilliant acidity into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30



94 Bricoleur 2019 Kick Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Fountaingrove District). Lively fruit flavors and a great structure give excitement to this well-balanced wine as red and black cherries meet blueberries and dark chocolate on the palate. Firm but polished tannins and juicy acidity set it up nicely for further complexity with time. Best enjoyed from 2028–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85



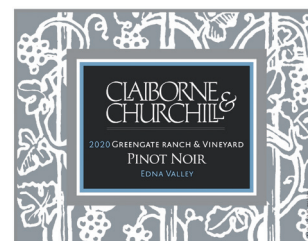
94 Bricoleur 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Attractively oaky, slightly nutty and floral, this full-bodied wine is not a fruit bomb, but tastes great because of its more subtle aromas and flavors. Light butter, Bosc pear and toasted almond notes give plenty to savor, while good acidity nicely counters the rich texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42



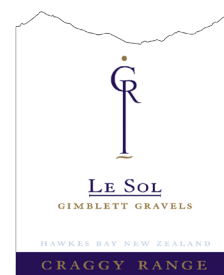
94 Castillo de Logroño 2019 Crianza (Rioja). This deep-ruby-colored wine proffers a bouquet of black cherry and caramel, with a hint of marjoram. A framework of compact tannins plays host to flavors of blackberry jam, anise, rose petal, cocoa butter and dried hillside herbs. Tannins come on pretty strong, but bright acidity from first sip to finish balances out the palate. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35



94 Château Peyros 2019 Cuvée 100 Tannat (Madiran). From selected old vines, this limited-production wine is impressive. It is rich, with dense black fruits and a texture that already shows great concentration. This is an ageworthy wine, with a powerful layer of tannins that are softening. Drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90



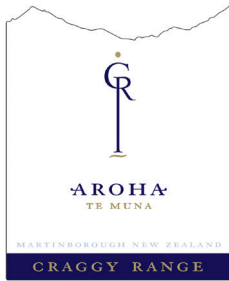
94 Claiborne & Churchill 2020 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Peppercorn and damp herb aromas elevate the baked strawberry core on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate picks up umami notes of shiitake and dashi broth, while slightly bitter tar and smoked plum flavors make for a cohesive and engaging experience. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$52



94 Craggy Range 2020 Le Sol Gimblett Gravels Syrah (Hawkes Bay). A deep purple hue, this opens with heady, savory herb and pepper aromas, quickly succeeded by deliciously succulent dark berry preserves, florals and a bit of vanillin oak. The palate is almost surprisingly lithe and sculpted, even austere at first pour. The distinctive sandpaper tannins give quite a grip. But those juicy, concentrated berry fruit notes persist. Kobrand. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$107



94 Craggy Range 2020 Sophia Gimblett Gravels Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). This Merlot-dominant Bordeaux blend opens with fragrant notes of black currant juice and blackberry jam. Sweet mocha, ground pepper, beetroot and violets add layers of perfume. The palate is full-figured but linear, pulsing with concentrated dark fruit and sculpted, highly textural tannins. The oak is better tucked than in previous vintages. Kobrand. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$76



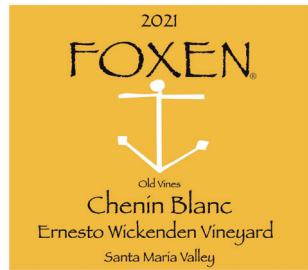
94 Craggy Range 2020 Te Muna Aroha Pinot Noir (Martinborough). Utterly likable with a perfume you could fall headfirst into, there's succulent purple fruit, blueberry jam and vanilla bean aromas with a soft underbelly of spice. The silky, juicy palate has a stony mineral nuance, underpinned by spicy tannins. Absolutely smashable now, this could also cellar until 2030. Kobrand. —C.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$107



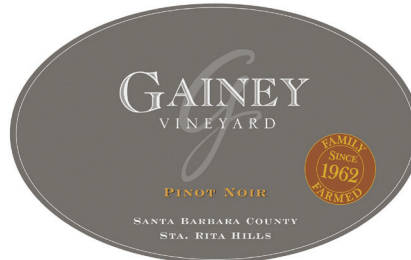
94 Craggy Range 2021 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). You can tell a Pinot-loving Aussie (winemaker Julian Grounds) made this. The focus is firmly on the succulent fruit and is it hard to resist. Plump juicy black cherry, blueberry and blackberry fruit come rushing out of the glass, followed by florals, spice and mushroom. The palate is round and silky, with oodles of fruit and a gentle line of supportive and softly spicy tannins. It's balanced and crowd-pleasing but also capable of aging—and becoming more savory and complex—until 2033 or so. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$29



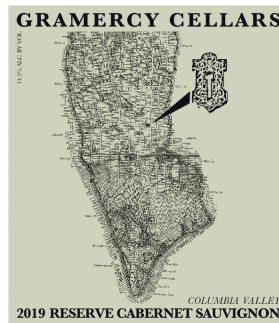
94 Famille Perrin 2019 La Gille (Gigondas). The nose of this Gigondas immediately brings back nostalgic aromas of freshly baked berry pie. On the palate, it is energetic with fresh fruits and garrigue. The wine is lovely and enjoyable now with braised meats, or on its own. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39



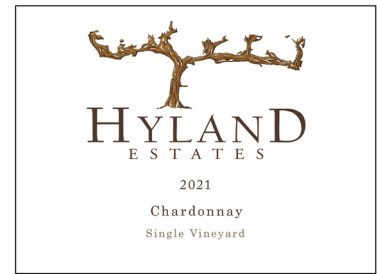
94 Foxen 2021 Ernesto Wickenden Vineyard Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Santa Maria Valley). Foxen was making Chenin Blanc off of these old vines before, during and after it was cool. It's cool again, and they're still doing it best. Aromas of smashed up sandstone, pomelo pith and melon rind lead into a palate wrapped in a leathery grip and expressive in unique lemon-verbena and dried apple flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28



94 Gainey 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This bottling always overdelivers, and this vintage is no exception. Aromas of black raspberry, cherry, licorice and dark spices are elegant and fresh on the nose. Powdery tannins frame the palate, where a broad mouthfeel carries flavors of ripe red fruit, cinnamon, mace and dried ginger. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35



94 Gramercy 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon with 5% Merlot is graceful and balanced like a Flying Wallenda. Red cherry and flaky pie crust aromas, along with a hint of pipe tobacco, fill the air. Black cherry and graphite flavors are fantastic, but the wine's sleek mouthfeel and silky tannins steal the show—a must-try. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$110



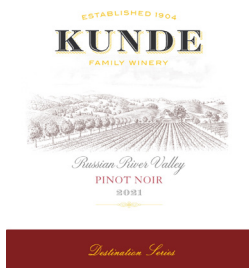
94 Hyland 2021 Single Vineyard Chardonnay (McMinnville). This magnificent expression of Chardonnay is the product of fruit grown on 40-plus-year-old vines. The wine's aromas of toasted filberts, lemon, honeydew melon, clarified butter and gun flint are pleasing. The lemon pastille, vanilla and fresh-baked sourdough bread flavors bring you back for a second glass. Enjoy now until 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$45



94 Hyland 2021 Single Vineyard Petit Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville). This fantastic introduction to the winery's lineup comprises fruit from the estate's "younger" 20 to 30-year-old vines. Herbal notes of sage and juniper tree foliage match blackberry and lemon peel aromas. A silky mouthfeel and plush tannins showcase blueberry, maple and orange pekoe tea flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30



94 Kunde 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). This young, firm and muscular wine wraps vivid black fruits in significant, sandy tannins that will need time to resolve for full appreciation of its potent blackberry, blueberry and black-pepper flavors. Best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70



94 Kunde 2021 Destination Series Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This gorgeous wine is packed with red and black fruits, cinnamon, vanilla and cedar nuances on a full body backed by moderate tannins. The almost-sweet fruit flavors and generous texture make it delicious and mouth-filling. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50



94 Manzanos 2015 Siglo Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of cassis, dark plum and orange zest. It is soft on entry, offering flavors of blackberry, raspberry, dark chocolate and black-olive paste. Plush tannins wind down towards a finish marked with rose petal and pomegranate. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



94 Matarromera 2017 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This dark garnet-colored wine profers a bouquet of fruits of the wood, dark chocolate and crumbled sage leaf. Bold flavors of cassis, blackberry, mocha, violet, citrus zest and a touch of dried thyme are set into plush tannins that sail into an enduring finish. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



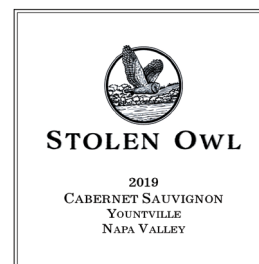
94 McGrail 2019 James Vincent Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Beautifully voluptuous fruits are complemented by mature tannins while the elevated acidity seamlessly cuts through the center of this full bodied red, highlighting the vivacity of those fruit notes. Complementary to the oak tones are deftly sprinkled spices further elevating the experience. Notes of black cherry, black plum, cassis, dried violets, anise, and toasted cedar. Approachable now, it will be best through at least 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$79



94 Peregrine 2017 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). With a bit of bottle age, this is elegant and opens with notes of spiced cherry, vanilla bean, mocha and cocktail bitters. There's a lightness to the palate, and a frame of spicy, sappy tannins. Drink now. Vineyard Brands. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42



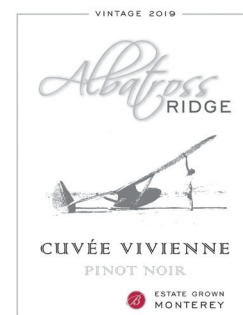
94 Quady North 2018 Flagship Syrah (Applegate Valley). This concentrated beauty takes your breath away. It has rich, thick black-and-blueberry aromas and flavors backed by the sturdiest tannins this side of a leather goods store. Sweet-pea flowers and chalk dust make aromatic appearances, while espresso shots complement the wine's dark-fruit flavors. Enjoy now—2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75



94 Stolen Owl 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). Complex, concentrated and just plain delicious, this full-flavored and full-bodied wine packs blueberry and dark-chocolate flavors in a firm but polished texture. Don't let the simple-looking label fool you, this wine offers subtle minty oak accents and centers on the irresistible black fruits. Best from 2028–2040. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125



94 Torres 2019 Pazo Torre Penelas Blanco Granito (Rías Baixas). This pale-yellow-colored wine has aromas of apricot and flint. It fills the mouth with flavors of nectarine, pineapple, orange blossom and herbes de Provence. It is full textured for a white wine, with a sense of weight on the palate that is offset by vibrant acidity. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$59



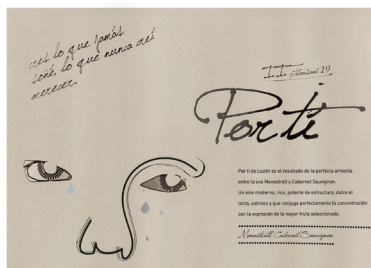
93 Albatross Ridge 2019 Cuvée Vivienne Pinot Noir (Monterey). Muddled cranberry and cherry-tomato aromas are lifted by peppercorn, bay leaf and mesquite elements on the nose of this bottling. Singed oregano and sage flavors meet with roasted cranberry and more smoke on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$64



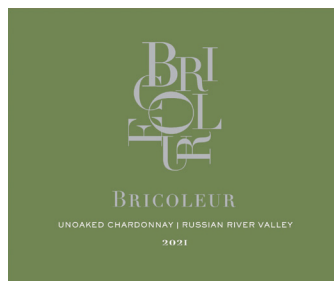
93 Antunović 2017 Tradition Grand Selection Graševina (Croatia). Aromas of green pear, tangerine and jasmine pave the way for flavors of yellow apple, lemon zest, vanilla, rose petal and a touch of nutmeg. This wine is creamy on the palate and offers a final note of mineral-rich salinity. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$59



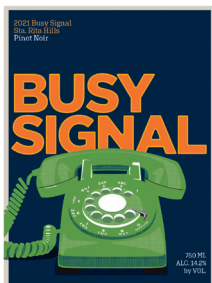
93 Belle Glos 2014 Taylor Lane Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). Oak spice aromas, powerful black-fruit flavors and a firm structure of acid and moderate tannins give this wine a nice heft to help it pair with rich foods. Having aged extra long at the winery, it still should develop more complexity starting from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$250/1.5 L



93 Bodegas Luzón 2019 Por Tí (Jumilla). This deep garnet-colored wine has a nose of blackberry, dried thyme and a touch of flint. Bold flavors of purple fig and black cherry are accompanied by notes of dark chocolate, butterscotch, rose petal and sage. Luxurious tannins ply the palate and glide into a persistent finish. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40



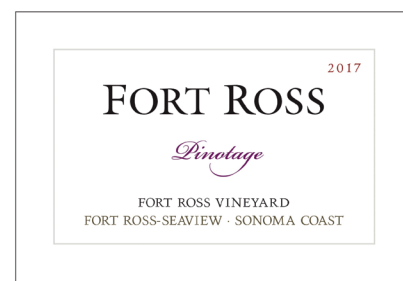
93 Bricoleur 2021 Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Very rich and ripe, this full-bodied wine, fermented and aged in stainless steel, shows that oak aging is not necessary to make a full-bore Chardonnay. The wine is loaded with golden apples, Bartlett pears, light butter and vanilla flavors on a nicely viscous texture that helps extend the finish. Pair this with something equally rich. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36



93 Busy Signal 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This new partnership between vintners Adam Lee and John Wagner features a throwback telephone label, and delivers satisfyingly juicy Pinot Noir at a great price. Strawberry-sorbet, black-cherry ice cream, chai-spice and red-flower aromas lead from the nose into a smoothly layered palate of boysenberry, mocha and violet flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39



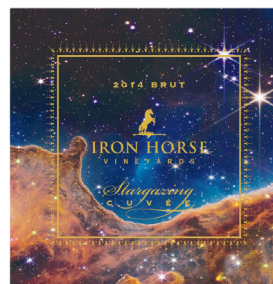
93 Elias Mora 2019 Crianza (Toro). Deep violet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of brambly fruits of the wood, dark chocolate and espresso. Bold cherry and blackberry flavors are joined by notes of mocha, orange zest and ground black pepper. Burly tannins assert their dominance on the palate shortly after the first sip. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40



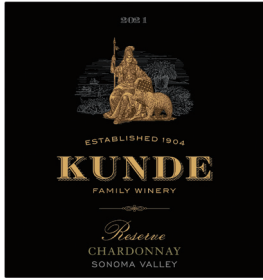
93 Fort Ross Winery 2017 Pinotage (Fort Ross-Seaview). This is a rare find in California, and tastes like what it is: a cross between Pinot Noir and Syrah (or Hermitage), showing the cherries and tanginess of the former and the black-pepper and meaty notes of the latter. Substitute this well-balanced and medium-bodied wine for a Cotes du Rhône. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$62



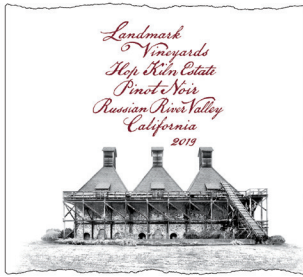
93 Halter Ranch 2019 Ancestor Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). Baked black-berry, leather, cocoa and espresso-bean aromas show on the nose of this blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Malbec and 17% Petit Verdot. The palate is generous in fruit, tense in tannins and very approachable, showing creamy blueberry, pepper and wild-herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85



93 Iron Horse 2014 Brut Stargazing Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley). This bone-dry, mineral-rich wine will start conversations and pair well with lots of fish and shellfish. Racy acidity, a tangy texture and light but bracing body are its hallmarks. Built for further aging, it should drink best from 2025–2035. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$195/1.5 L



93 Kunde 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Rich tasting but at the same time light in texture, this intriguing wine is very concentrated and creamy, offering baked apples, meringue and coconut nuances on a rather soft, luxurious mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45



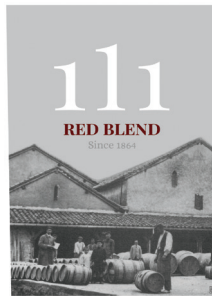
93 Landmark 2019 Hop Kiln Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Hints of toasted oak accent the ample black-cherry and blueberry flavors in this well-balanced, moderately tannic wine. It has the snappy texture to pair with roasts, grilled birds and steaks and should drink best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40



93 Landmark 2019 Lorenzo Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Complex and rich without being heavy, this wine offers tempting toast and nutmeg aromas followed by Bosc pears, vanilla and a touch of cream on the palate. Excellent balance and a medium body give it an elegant expression. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65



93 Landmark 2020 Damaris Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Complex oak and fruit aromas, a rich palate sensation and good, underlying acidity come together beautifully in this big but balanced wine. Hints of butter, toasted oak and toasted almonds keep the ripe pear and apple flavors from being too unctuous. Best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40



93 Manzanos 2021 111 Red Blend (Navarra). Aromas of Mission fig, black currant and mocha waft from the glass. Vibrant acidity and plush tannins play backup to black cherry, blackberry, butterscotch, star anise and dried sage flavors that dissolve into a pomegranate-splashed finish. W. Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27



93 Marqués de Cáceres 2019 Generación MC (Rioja). Inky violet-red in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of black currant, raspberry and bittersweet chocolate. A web of polished tannins plays host to flavors of black cherry, blackberry, caramel and clove. A hint of coconut shows on the bright, cherry-splashed finish. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38



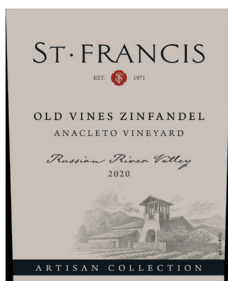
93 Paris Valley Road 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Paso Robles). Who knew Paso Robles could make such delicate and exquisite bubbles? This bottling entertains the nose with crisp nectarine, mandarin-rind and light white-flower aromas. The palate broadens into peach and melon, with a hint of dough arising on the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$39



93 Sangiaco 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Handsome oak spices and a dash of butter give a lot of flavor complexity to this medium-to full-bodied wine, as ripe pears and baked apples mingle with toast, vanilla and almond nuances. The texture is smooth and the finish lingers nicely. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58



93 Silvestri 2019 Red Ranger Syrah (Carmel Valley). Syrah from the Carmel Valley is a combination to watch for, as this bottling offers lush roasted plum, berry, nutmeg and violet aromas on the jammy but balanced nose. The cooler climate hints of iodine and nori come through on the leathery palate, which also shows a core of roasted black plum. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75



93 St. Francis 2020 Anacleto Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). This full-bodied, firm-textured, cool-climate wine is well packed with blackberries and black cherries on a tangy and moderately tannic structure that gives it good grip in terms of mouthfeel. Splash into a decanter and enjoy. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$52



93 Starfield 2019 Aglianico (El Dorado). This varietal Aglianico truly comes alive on the palate, offering notes of boysenberry, blackberry, bramble, cedar, violets, black plum and black currant. Tannins are a pleasant and friendly corduroy-like texture and a solid dose of acidity keeps this bigger wine relatively light on its feet. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$46



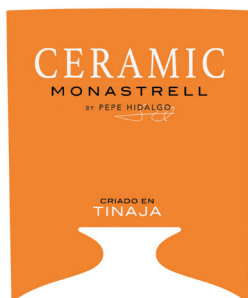
93 Trimbach 2020 Dry Riesling (Alsace). Intense aromas of grape skin hints at a developing petrol note show on the nose. On the palate, this wine is racy and rippling, shimmering with acidity. Notes of lemon zest and wet slate are both beautifully characteristic and incredibly food friendly. Pair this with a weeknight pasta or chicken, and you'll feel like you're enjoying a fancy weekend dinner. Taub Family Selections. —L.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30



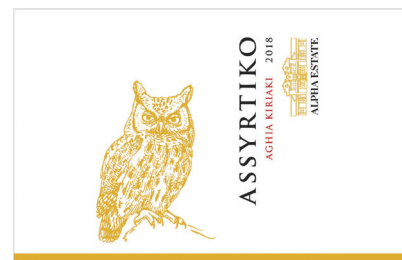
93 V. Sattui 2020 Ramazzotti Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Smooth and rounded in texture but nicely structured with moderate tannins, this full-bodied wine offers focused, concentrated black-fruit flavors, moderate tannins and light oak-spice accents. Best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48



93 V. Sattui 2020 School House Creek Dry Creek Valley Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Luscious black fruits are accented by black pepper, beef jus and cedar notes in this full-bodied, smooth and generous wine. Ripe and rounded, it offers ample blackberry and raspberry notes that flood the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$46



93 Vicente Gandia 2019 Ceramic Criado en Tinaja Monastrell (Valencia). Inky garnet in color, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, butterscotch and sage. Eleven months in oak and final aging in clay vats has added a healthy dose of palpable tannins that come bearing flavors of black cherry, blackberry, clove, rose petal and soft notes of dried thyme and oregano. As tannins fade on the palate, orange zest and olive paste dominate the lengthy finish. Vicente Gandia USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25



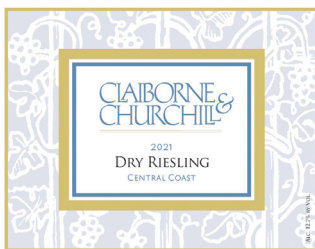
92 Alpha Estate 2018 Ecosystem Single Block Aghia Kiriaki Assyrtiko (Florina). Vinified with some skin contact, this estate-grown Assyrtiko has aromas of lemon and parmesan followed by a light-bodied palate with sweet white peach flavors plus bright acidity on the medium-long finish. Pair it with fish tacos, shellfish, cheese boards and more. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34



92 Angela Vineyards 2018 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This is a Pinot Noir for friends of the savory. It has a meaty aroma that conjures memories of a summertime steak on the backyard grill, with additional notes of blueberry compote and iodine. The wine's waxy texture showcases flavors of bright red cherries and vanilla. Great acidity and integrated tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38



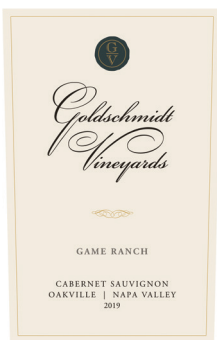
92 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 (Gigondas). Made from a blend of 60-year-old vines of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsault, this is a graceful expression of what cooler microclimates in Gigondas can deliver. The wine is enjoyable in its youth, with notes of blackberries, plums, wild rosemary, violets, green peppercorn, and sandalwood. However, cellaring this elegant wine another year or two will be rewarding. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65



92 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Dry Riesling (Central Coast). This is reliably one of the best Rieslings made in California every year, and this regional cuvée is even better than most single-vineyard showcases. Aromas of nectarine, white melon and lemon lead into a zingy, constantly interesting palate of lime zest and concrete that leaves the mouth engaged for days. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$25



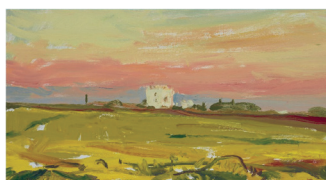
92 Craggy Range 2022 Te Muna Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). Craggy's latest vintages are vibrant, succulent, delicious creatures, as well demonstrated by this Sauvignon. Bright and aromatic, it exudes passion fruit, lime blossom, ruby grapefruit and grass. The palate is dry, crisp and slippery, with juicy citrus and dried herbs. This is everything we love about Kiwi Sauvignon Blanc, wrapped up with a bow on top. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25



92 Goldschmidt 2019 Game Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This brawny, full-bodied wine offers generous cedar, toast and mint aromas over tempting red- and black-cherry flavors, all on a firmly tannic texture that's great for pairing with grilled and braised meats. Best from 2025–2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90



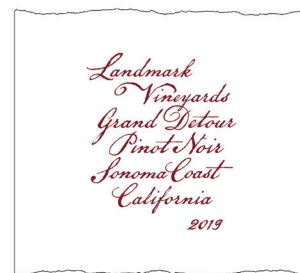
92 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Pinot Blanc (Alsace). While juicy apple aromas are present, this wine has a deliciously flinty nose that's an unexpected delight from a Pinot Blanc. The palate also walks that line between soft orchard fruit, lime zest and flint, held together with tight acidity. Light bodied and palate cleansing, the wine packs a lot of salinity into a long finish. Complex without being overbearing, this wine would do well with a cheeseboard or salad course. Quintessential Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25



92 Herdade do Esporão 2020 Reserva (Alentejo). The wine is structured with some firm tannins and a youthful texture. It is dense, with many layers of fruit, acidity and with a dry core. Age this impressive wine until 2024, when it will have softened into a powerful, generous wine. Now Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25



92 La Crema 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Hints of almonds and savory herbs in the aroma accompany Bosc pears and vanilla on the palate as this handsome, toasty wine balances fruitiness and an oak-aged spiciness for a complex and complete expression. Best through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23



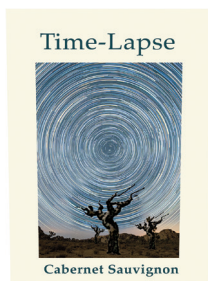
92 Landmark 2019 Grand Detour Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Very smooth in texture and nicely spicy in flavor, this full-bodied wine combines rich red and black cherries with cinnamon and clove nuances from oak aging. Moderate tannins support the generous flavors for a good structure. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$35



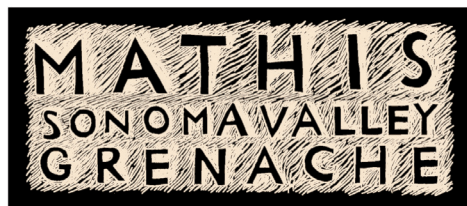
92 Landmark 2019 Rodgers Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Understated in aroma, this full-bodied wine is nevertheless quite flavorful and well balanced, offering crisp golden apples, hints of nutmeg and vanilla on a slightly firm texture of fruit acidity. It should open up with more time; best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50



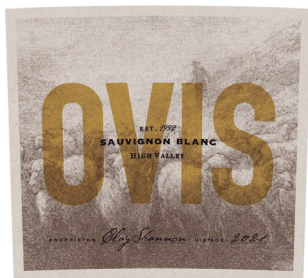
92 Landmark 2020 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). This well-balanced, lightly oaked wine tastes like sliced pears, with a drizzle of honey and twist of lemon. A medium body, smooth texture and touch of good acidity make it delicious now and through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55



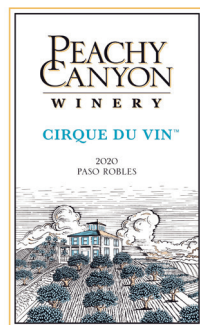
92 Manzanos 2021 Time-Lapse Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra). This Navarran Cabernet Sauvignon is ruby colored, with aromas of pencil lead, black plum and raspberry. In the mouth, flavors of red plum, raspberry and cassis have touches of baking spice. Plush tannins wend their way to an enduring finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



92 Mathis 2019 Grenache (Sonoma Valley). This well-concentrated wine made with native yeast and aged in neutral barrels offers buoyant strawberry and red-plum flavors backed by light tannins and a good, smoky, black-peppery undertone. It is complex, full bodied and ready to enjoy through 2028. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32



92 Ovis 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley). A beautiful mix of fruit and flowers waft out of the glass: cherry and apple blossom, lime leaf and pith, Meyer lemon juice and mandarin orange zest. On the palate, find a subtle of phenolic grip adds just a touch of texture and a bit of weight to this otherwise light-bodied white wine. The finish is clean, crisp and invites another sip (and then another). *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45



92 Peachy Canyon 2020 Cirque Du Vin Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This wine's label refresh comes with a more focused blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Petit Verdot and 6% Malbec inside but a similarly fair price. Baked plum, nutmeg and more barrel-spice aromas are well integrated on the nose. Chiseled tannins frame a palate of fresh red-fruit-jam flavors, along with cardamom and mace spices. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.98% **Price:** \$24



92 Silvestri 2018 Estate Barbera (Carmel Valley). Barbera is a smart choice for this region, as this bottling grabs the nose with intense aromas of dark red to blue fruit, with a loamy minerality. Leathery tannins frame the dry—but still rich—palate, where blueberry and purple-flower flavors come into alignment. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75



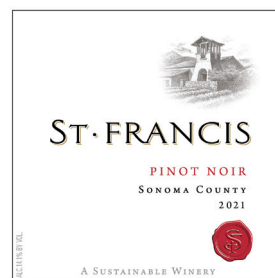
92 Silvestri 2019 Bella Sandra Chardonnay (Carmel Valley). Lemon, macadamia-nut-butter and soft buttercream aromas converge on the nose of this bottling from an estate about 15 miles from the ocean. The palate is pithy and tense, with flashes of apple, pear and lychee that lead into more tropical flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45



92 Silvestri 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Carmel Valley). Brisk and tight aromas of lemon rind and clean, wet river stones show on the nose of this bottling. Zesty flavors of citrus pair with richer hints of pear on the palate, where an intense rocky minerality adds to the bright expression. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32



92 Sobon Estate 2020 Zinfandel (Fiddletown). This is a full-bodied Zin filled with plush ripe tannins and a pleasantly soft mouthfeel—yet there is a lightness and brightness that rides right through the center. Its aromas and flavors are those of ripe blackberry, boysenberry, black cherry, vanilla, bramble, basil, chocolate, damp forest floor and a hint of wet stone. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$23



92 St. Francis 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). A plummy richness is backed by some raspberry snap in this full-bodied, focused and flavorful wine. Vivid black cherries, cloves and a touch of toasted oak give the wine plenty to savor. Best from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

STARFIELD
VINEYARDS

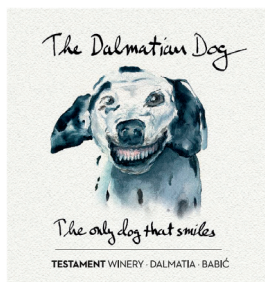
THE BIG CANYON
El Dorado

92 Starfield 2019 The Big Canyon G-S-M (El Dorado). This play on the classic GSM blend adds a small percentage of Petite Sirah and Counoise to the mix. The result is a red with excellent fruit concentration, fine-grained tannins and a refreshing backbone of acidity. Enjoy notes of plump black cherry, blackberry, black-pepper spice, gamy meat, cumin, coriander, toasted wood, dried forest floor and a hint of dried violets and rose petals. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

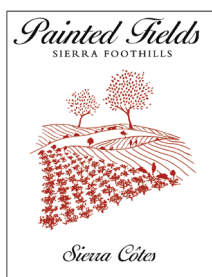
STARFIELD
VINEYARDS

THE MINER'S INCH
El Dorado

92 Starfield 2019 The Miner's Inch Rhône-style Red Blend (El Dorado). Overall, this is a well-balanced, engaging very good quality red blend. It features flavors of black cherry, blackberry, black plum, dried thyme, vanilla, cinnamon, star anise, and just a hint of (pleasant) barnyard funk. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36



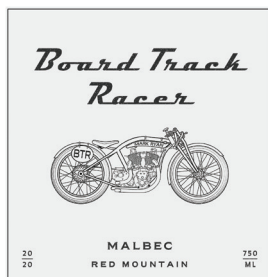
92 Testament Winery 2018 The Dalmatian Dog Babic (Dalmatian Coast). Deep brick red in color, this wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood, dried thyme and touches of tobacco leaf and lavender. It offers a feeling of fullness on the palate, with glossy tannins and flavors of raspberry, pomegranate, butterscotch, roasted yellow pepper and rose petal that fade into a smooth finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27



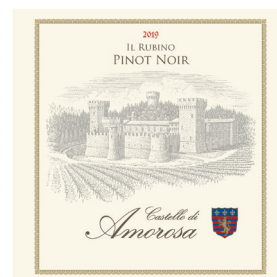
91 Andis 2021 Painted Fields Sierra Côtes Rhône-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). This Rhône-style red shows good depth of flavor, well-integrated oak and a supple tannic structure. You'll find notes of black cherry, black plum, violets, anise, cacao, nutmeg, pecan skins and forest floor. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



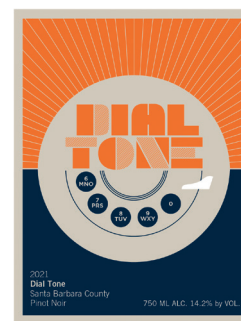
91 Banshee 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Intricate herbs and spices accompany concentrated fruit flavors in this well-balanced and well-built wine. High notes of minerals and thyme meet savory and citrus flavors backed by lively acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22



91 Board Track Racer 2020 Malbec (Red Mountain). 88% Malbec, with 6% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, this graceful blend shows off blackberry, honeysuckle, sage and cardamom aromas. A distinct black-cherry flavor is flanked by notes of orange peel, and a dark-chocolate croissant. Silky tannins, with elevated acidity and a slick, smooth texture. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$28



91 Castello di Amorosa 2019 Il Rubino Pinot Noir (North Coast). Savory notes of rhubarb, green olives and cedar lend extra complexity to this medium-bodied and moderately tannic wine. A slightly tangy mouthfeel keeps it nicely balanced and appetizing. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$42



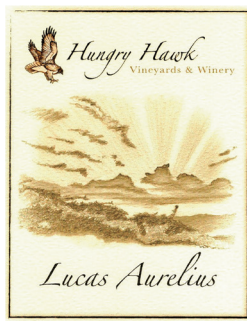
91 Dial Tone 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). An extremely good deal for the price, this bottling begins with pure cherry and berry aromas, with hints of blood orange and rose on the nose. Focused red-fruit flavors approach a candied state, but the feathery, tense tannins hold the package in check. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$29



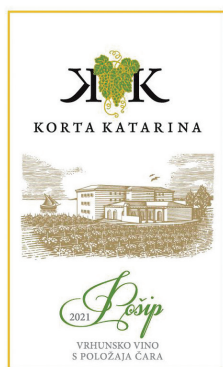
91 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Achleiten Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). There is a sense of potential in this white, but its polished style keeps enclosed the flavors of nectarine and white raspberry. With some time in the cellar this safety pin should dissolve and the wine will show a bit more. Best after 2025. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$51



91 Goldschmidt 2019 Singing Tree Dutton Ranch Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This full-bodied wine is unapologetically big and oaky, showing toasty, buttery aromas, rather smoky golden-apple and char flavors and a broad texture. It's a classic style of reserve Chardonnay that has lots of fans. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42



91 Hungry Hawk NV Lucas Aurelius Port (San Diego County). This Port-style blend of Mourvèdre and Petite Sirah would go excellently with cigars. Aromas of tobacco and dried red fruit lead from the nose into a woody palate of cigar box, berry jam and heavy baking spice. —M.K.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$44/375 ml



91 Korta Katarina 2021 Posip (Dalmatian Coast). Light straw colored to the eye, this wine has aromas of pineapple and lemon zest. It is full in the mouth, with flavors of peach, apricot, grapefruit peel and a touch of butterscotch on the smooth finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23



91 La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Both very well balanced and flavorful, this medium-bodied wine suggests red and black cherries backed by medium tannins for a good, appetizing grip in the texture. It's a versatile wine for food pairings, and best through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28



91 Landmark 2020 Overlook Chardonnay (Sonoma County). A traditional, toasty, buttery expression gives this full-bodied wine drinker plenty to appreciate as hints of woodsmoke, vanilla, ginger and Bartlett pears flood the palate. Pair this white with roast chicken, poached salmon or pork tenderloin. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$27



91 Le Vigne 2019 Di Domenico Syrah (Paso Robles). Snappy berry aromas are fresh and slightly tart on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very accessible, offering joyously ripe red fruit as well as layers in lush barrel spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42



91 Le Vigne 2019 Nikiara Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dried cherry and fresh red-flower aromas show on the nose of this blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 10% Petit Verdot. Bright strawberry flavors are spiced by cinnamon and sumac on the lively (rather than brooding) palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$54



91 Planeta 2020 Rosso (Etna). On the nose this wine blooms with cherry blossoms and wild strawberries that pop up through gravel and soil. Cherries and berries are joined by rose petals and tea leaves for a tannic, crunchy-fruit palate outlined with chalky tannins and vibrant acidity. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA



91 Portlandia NV Sparkling Rosé Syrah (Columbia Valley). This tasty méthode traditionnelle made of 100% Syrah was disgorged on 6/2/2022. Its tiny bubbles float lazily to the surface to deliver aromas of dried rose petals, strawberries, sour-dough bread and an icy lemon granita. Raspberry, brown sugar and orange zest flavors go on seemingly forever. —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22



91 Quady North 2020 GSM Red Blend (Rogue Valley). Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre unite to fashion a medium-bodied wine with mouth-drying tannins and a lot of character. Boysenberry and bacon fat aromas mingle with violets and a sweet herbaceous quality similar to tansy. A seductive note of maple-cured bacon graces the wine's dark raspberry and blueberry flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A. **abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$25



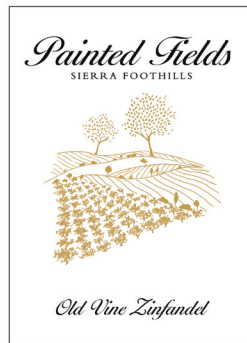
91 Tascante 2020 Ghiaia (Etna). Notes of tanned leather, spices, tree bark and soil make for an earthy nose on this wine. Sweeter, denser fruit appears on the palate, from cherry-strawberry pie to ripe tomatoes. Relaxed tannins but persistent acid keep the fruit rich but not velvety. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22



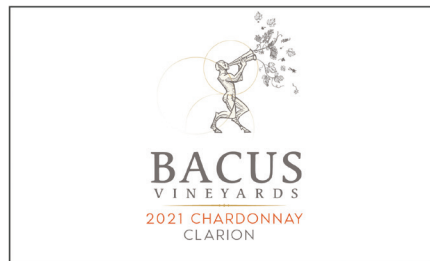
91 Trimbach 2021 Pinot Blanc (Alsace). Shy aromas of green-apple candy are playful but restrained on the nose of this wine. The palate follows suit, hinting at notes of Granny Smith, blanched almonds and Emmental. Light bodied and refreshingly bright, the wine is artfully balanced and nuanced. Despite the whisper-soft mouthfeel, it's complex in flavor. A slight alcohol burn on the finish diminishes as the wine opens up. Taub Family Selections. —L.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24



90 A to Z 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Floral jasmine and Daphne flower notes are mesmerizing, with aromas of blueberry fruit leather and orange peel joining the fun. While black cherries are the dominant fruit flavor, the wine's fig, nutmeg and bacon fat flavors are mouthwatering. Sturdy tannins with restrained acidity. —M.A. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22



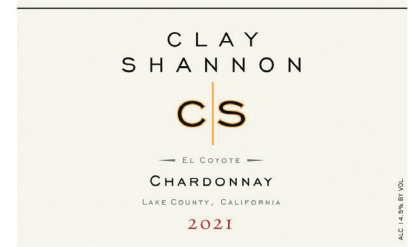
90 Andis 2021 Painted Fields Old Vine Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This big, full-bodied Zin offers a mouthful of chewy tannins that feel purposeful and balanced because of the excellent fruit concentration and well-integrated oak character. Its engaging aromas and flavors recall blackberry, black cherry, black plum, chocolate, star anise and tobacco. Pair this with a juicy burger. (Veggie and vegan burgers will work too!) —S.B. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$30



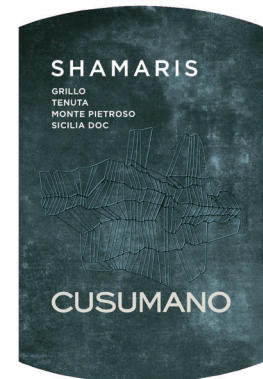
90 Bacus 2021 Clarion Reserve Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). A fuller-bodied Chardonnay with a creamy texture, gentle acidity and floral aromas of dried apricots, hyacinth and jasmine. The wine tastes like the lemon icing on a Bundt cake dotted with peach chunks. There's also a light and elegant note of lavender water in the background. —M.A. **abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$49



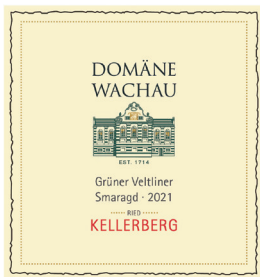
90 Bogle 2018 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). An overall well-rounded and easily enjoyable Pinot Noir, this delivers lush, silky tannins, elevated acidity and well-integrated, balanced aromas and flavors of red cherry, red plum, chocolate, nutmeg, toasted wood, dried cranberry and forest floor. —S.B. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24



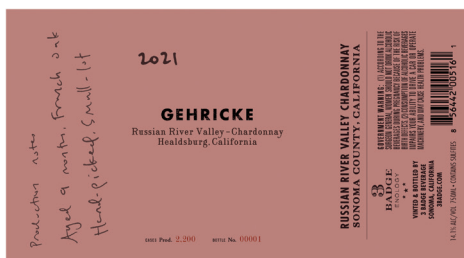
90 Clay Shannon 2021 El Coyote Chardonnay (Lake County). A well-rounded Chardonnay, this shows good fruit concentration and intensity of aromas and flavors. Enjoy notes of Meyer lemon, orange zest, citrus blossom, lime leaf, white peach and nectarine, along with a hint flint and wet stone. The mouthfeel is soft, almost rounded but for a slight phenolic grip that adds textural interest. —S.B. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



90 Cusumano 2021 Shamaris Grillo (Sicilia). The nose on this Grillo brings out fruit, from peaches to yellow apples to grapefruit. The palate stays bright with citrus and adds the metallic tang of top soil with wild herbs poking through. This wine is juicy and fun, but focused. Terlato Wines International. —D.C. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25



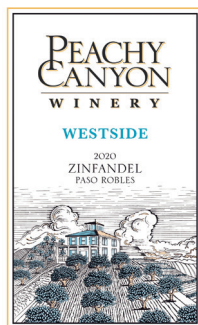
90 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Kellerberg Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This Smaragd is fresh in style, with plenty of spice, green apple and spice aromas and flavors. There is no risk involved, but this stays focused and solid throughout. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50



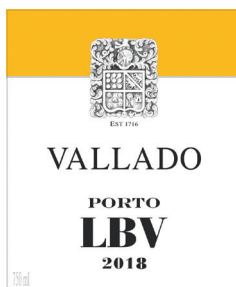
90 Gehricke 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Well-balanced, subtly fruity and topped with light oak spices like ginger and toast, this well-made wine opens up slowly in the glass and should continue to improve through 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29



90 Pazo de Lusco 2021 Crianza Sobre Lias (Rías Baixas). This wine has a nose of lemon curd and almond blossom. Flavors of caramelized pineapple, passion fruit, Golden Delicious apple and orange blossom lead to a zesty finish marked by a closing note of salinity. Gonzalez Byass USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21



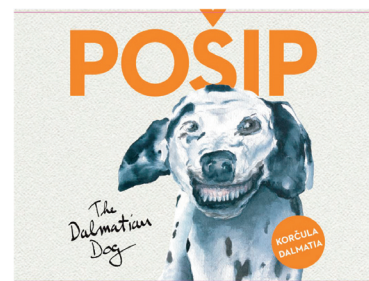
90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Westside Zinfandel (Paso Robles). This bottling overdelivers, starting on the nose with aromas of black plum, leather and fine oak. It's dry on the palate, though loaded with flavors of blackberry jam, light herb, pepper and licorice spice that work in harmony. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$24



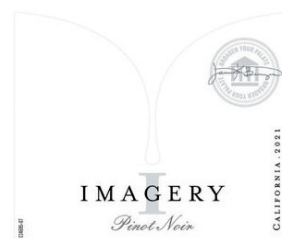
90 Quinta do Vallado 2018 Porto LBV (Port). A smoothly textured wine, ready to drink. Its tannins are subservient to the dried black fruits and balance of acidity and sweetness. This is an immediate Port, ready to drink now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$30



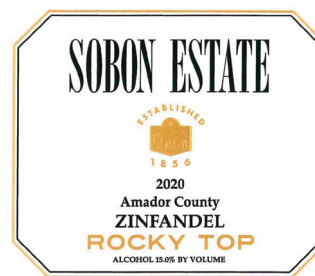
89 Bacus 2021 Aulos Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This wine's grippy tannins are matched by the elevated acidity that even manages to moisten the lips. The aromas are quintessential forest floor, with everything from crunchy leaves to fir needles. Bing cherries and ginger hover in the background. Elderberry and lemon flavors are faint. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55



89 Black Island Winery 2021 The Dalmatian Dog Posip (Dalmatian Coast). Aromas of apricot preserves, ripe summer peach and crumbled sage prep the palate for flavors of nectarine, clementine, dried Mediterranean herbs and a touch of flintiness that lingers on the palate after the last sip. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26



89 Imagery 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This Pinot Noir includes a dose of Petite Verdot and Zinfandel in the mix, yielding a red that leads with floral notes of fresh and dried roses and violets followed by forest floor, red and black cherry, plum and sweet tobacco. The palate offers smooth, fine-grained tannins and an aura of smokiness. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



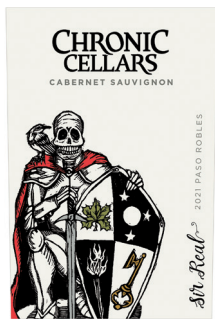
89 Sobon Estate 2020 Rocky Top Zinfandel (Amador County). This is an overall well-balanced and enjoyable wine—especially for those who like big boisterous reds. It delivers jammy notes of blackberry, black cherry and blueberry that are spiced with black pepper, anise, all spice, vanilla and toasted wood—all leading to a warm finish. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

BEST BUYS



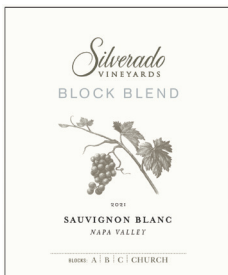
93 Bodegas Muriel 2017 Viña Eguía Reserva (Rioja). Dark garnet in the glass, this wine offers aromas of cassis, dried Mediterranean herbs and saddle leather. The nice mix of savory and fruity flavors includes black-olive paste, thyme, roasted fennel bulb, pomegranate and raspberry. Downy tannins hang on into the enduring finish. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19



92 Chronic Cellars 2021 Sir Real Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Lush and lovely aromas of black currant, violet and fruit-topped ice-cream sundae pull the nose into this hedonistic bottling. Those fresh, juicy flavors of blueberry sorbet and boysenberry syrup are dusted in cocoa on the finish, where the tannins hold firm. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.3%

Price: \$17



92 Silverado 2021 Block Blend Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This elegant, stylishly oaky wine shows minerals, ginger and sea salt on the nose and generous citrus on the palate, braced by tangy acidity for great balance. Subtle herb accents show through in the flavors and finish. This is best through 2028. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

BEST BUYS



91 Altanza 2019 Crianza (Rioja). This deep garnet-colored wine has aromas of cranberry and dark chocolate. It offers a sense of brightness on the palate, with good acidity and flavors of cranberry and pomegranate. The wine also has depth, with velvety tannins and notes of mocha, olive tapenade and dried oregano. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20



91 Aveleda 2021 Solos de Granito (Minho). Granite rock is ubiquitous in northern Portugal. Here it provides the texture for a wine that show density and concentration and a strongly mineral character. It is a ripe wine, the creamy character of Alvarinho coming through at the end. Drink from 2024. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12%

Price: \$20



91 Aveleda 2021 Solos de Xisto (Minho). Steeply mineral, the wine is concentrated and textured. From schist soil, the wine has spice as well as a creamy edge. Young acidity and vibrant fruits need to soften. Drink from 2024. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12%

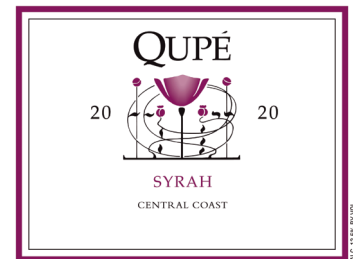
Price: \$20

BEST BUYS



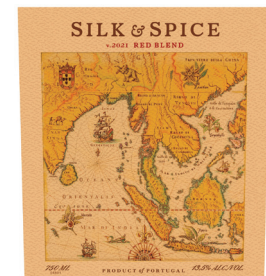
91 Campo Eliseo 2020 Hermanos Lurton (Toro). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of fruits of the wood and fennel pollen. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of pomegranate and cherry that join downy tannins and touches of milk chocolate, caramel and mint to head into a lingering, spicy finish. Pardela USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14%

Price: \$17



91 Qupé 2020 Syrah (Central Coast). This affordable appellation-based Syrah is in prime form in this vintage, offering aromas of elderberry, lavender and pepper on the clean nose. Black fruits, smoked meats and pepper-dusted herbs make for a classic expression on the palate—the ideal platform for sparking Syrah passion. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20



91 Sogrape 2021 Silk & Spice (Portuguese Table Wine). This rich, black-fruited wine has solid tannins that are balanced by a dense texture. A blend of fruit from different regions of Portugal and with five different grapes, the wine is still a little young. As its texture softens, this will be a smooth wine. Drink from 2024. Evaton, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

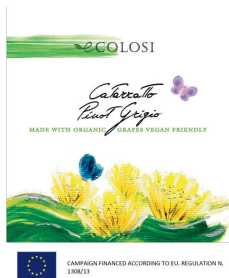
BEST BUYS



91 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Lamùri Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Rich floral and fruit aromas come off the nose of this wine, with black cherry, violets and rose petals plus stony notes of pavement and crushed rock. The palate brings an edge. A savory blend of spices, soil and a hint of balsamic vinegar push against more berries. Tannins are substantial and chewy, and acid kicks back. Trincherio Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

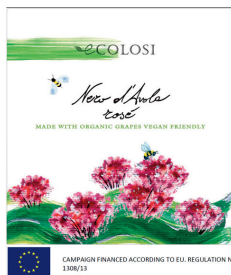


90 Braunewell 2019 Hands Off Low Intervention Limited Edition Pinot Noir (Landwein Rhein). Well-knit red, with enticing notes of violet and licorice up front, followed by dark cherry and damson plum flavors. Herbal and spice elements emerge midpalate and lead to a mouth-watering finish. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24/4 pk



90 Cantine Colosi 2021 Ecolosi Catarratto Pinot Grigio (Terre Siciliane). The nose on this organic and vegan Catarratto-Pinot Grigio blend has aromas of peaches, nectarines and pink grapefruit pushing up against savory notes of freshly poured cement, rubber balls and pencil shavings. The palate is juicy with lemons, limes and more stone fruits. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

BEST BUYS



90 Cantine Colosi 2021 Ecolosi Nero d'Avola Rosé (Sicilia). This organic and sustainably produced Sicilian rosé boasts rose petals, bricks, hibiscus iced tea and watermelon on the nose. Creamy and dense on the palate, it offers soil, flowers and now strawberry notes. The wine remains coherent and balanced through the finish and is an excellent value. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14



90 Cantine Colosi 2021 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Iron-rich soil, cherries, wild strawberries and sour plums meet umami notes of balsamic vinegar and mushrooms on the nose of the exceedingly well-priced wine. Lively fruit comes out on the palate, lifted by a little chile-pepper heat, firm tannins and buzzy acid. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16



90 Iron Side 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). There's notable depth and layers of flavors and aromas to this bang-for-the-buck Cab Sauv, integrating the fruit with the savory and oak tones quite well. There are notes of black cherry, black currant, toast, cassia, anise, violets, black pepper and a savory-salinity—all leading to quite an appetizing finish. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$12

BEST BUYS



90 Motif 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills). Coarse, grippy tannins coat the palate, but add good structural integrity and are well-balanced by a solid dose of acidity. Jammy notes of blackberry, boysenberry and marionberry appear along with savory tones of black pepper, fennel and licorice. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10



90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Incredible Red Zinfandel (Paso Robles). With added complexity from the 20% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre, this bargain Zinfandel is smooth and subtle on the nose with baked red-currant, cinnamon and mace aromas. There's a tarry tone and peppery spice to the red-fruit-laced palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18



90 Peirano 2021 The Heritage Collection Merlot (Lodi). This well-balanced Merlot offers a grippy tannic structure that is complemented by the integration of earth, fruit and oak flavors. It offers notes of blackberry, blueberry, damp forest floor, bramble, fennel and toasted wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$15

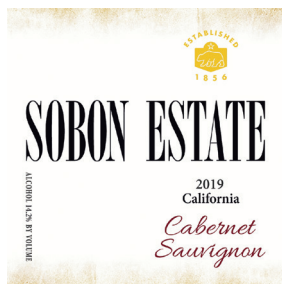
BEST BUYS



90 Peter Zemmer 2021 Vernatsch Schiava (Alto Adige). Lifted aromatics of cranberry and pomegranate mixed with violets and crushed stone define this fun mountain red. Plush and fruit forward, the palate offers flavors of sour cherry, savory spice and wildflowers. The wine is fresh and fruity. If you want to be transported to the mountains, here you go. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16



90 Planeta 2021 La Segreta Grillo (Sicilia). The nose this Grillo opens with vanilla and cedar turning into dense fruit aromas of cooked apples and lemon curd. The palate sings with mixed citrus, from lemon to orange and grapefruit, then yellow and green apples, and finally crushed stones, with grass and herbs arriving on the finish. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

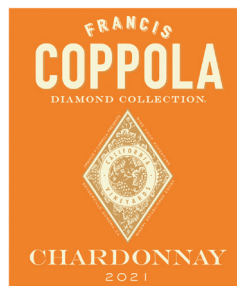


90 Sobon Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Aromas and flavors lead with oak tones of fresh cedar wood, tree bark, vanilla, clove, nutmeg and hint cinnamon stick. Then the fruits follow: black currant, black plum, and blackberry bush. Alcohol is well-met by the concentration of the fruit and the suppleness of the tannins. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18

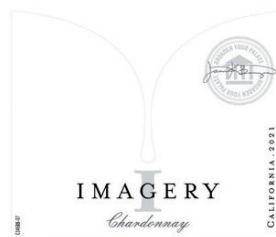
BEST BUYS



90 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Guarnaccio Perricone (Sicilia). Spicy and floral on the nose, this expression of the lesser-known but worthy Sicilian grape Perricone opens with white pepper and violets followed by metallic umami notes of black olives and graphite. The palate offers wild strawberry and Bing and black cherries along with more flintiness, stones and wild herbs. A medicinal finish is carried through with relaxing tannins and plenty of acid. Trinchero Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20



89 Francis Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Chardonnay (California). This is a light, lively and easy-to-like Chardonnay, with notes of lemon, lime, chamomile, green apple, wet stone, cheese rind, just-ripe white peach and lime leaf. The palate offers a delicate, and pleasant, effervescence that elevates the freshness of this white even further. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

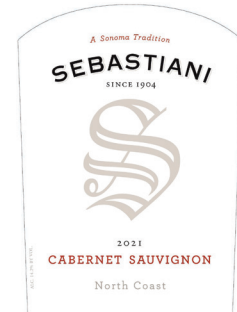


89 Imagery 2021 Chardonnay (California). Well balanced, light, and crisp, this white is easy to enjoy for any casual occasion. You'll find notes of lemon, lime, green apple, melon, wet stone and flint. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

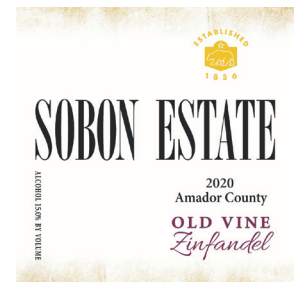
BEST BUYS



89 Kirkland Signature 2020 (Cotes du Rhone Villages). Surprisingly energetic, the bouquet of this wine bursts with fresh kirsch, dried cranberry and strawberry notes. It grows fruitier on the palate followed by a fresh rosemary and thyme midpalate, with a lingering herbaceous finish. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$7

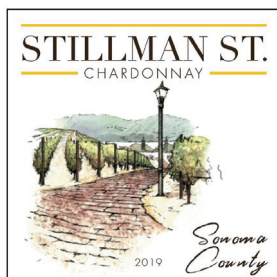


89 Sebastiani 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). A friendly and approachable Cab Sauv, this comes with a plush tannic structure, an acidity that highlights the vivacity of the fruits and well-integrated oak. There are notes of red and black currant, plum and cherry, with sprinklings of vanilla, clove, nutmeg and toasted wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18



89 Sobon Estate 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Amador County). This is a nicely balanced, quaffable Zin with a full body, chalky tannins and a decent dose of acidity. There are notes of blackberry, boysenberry, bramble, dried forest floor, damp river rock, and hints of cedar, vanilla and toasted wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

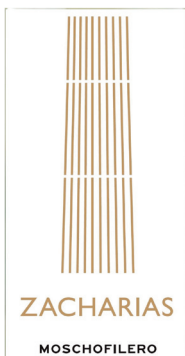
BEST BUYS



89 Stillman St. 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Rich in texture and nicely ripe in fruit flavors, this full-bodied wine feels smooth and rounded, tastes like Bosc pears and golden apples and shows very subtle butter and spice notes. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$17



89 Three Rivers 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven (89%) blend includes Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Its earthy nose features strawberries, chalk dust and a little blackberry tea. Darker fruit flavors abound on the palate, with dark plums dueling with blackberries for supremacy. The wine's acidity is restrained, but the tannins are grippy. **Best Buy.** —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$16



89 Zacharias 2021 Moschofilero (Peloponnese). Juicy white peach aromas precede mouth-watering acidity on the palate of this easy-drinking Peloponnesian Moschofilero that seems somewhat destined for aperitif hour. It's a bright and breezy, uncomplicated wine, with an eye-catching pale salmon color. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

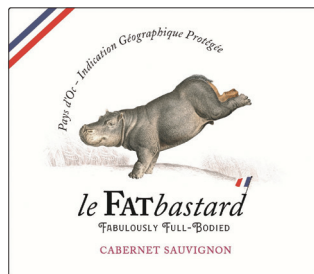
BEST BUYS



88 Ant Moore 2019 Estate Series Pinot Noir (Marlborough). A delicate perfume of red cherry and raspberry preserves is backed by savory herbs and some vanillin oak. The palate is lightweight but with a tannic chew. Though a little astringent on the short finish, it's a pleasant drop overall. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15



88 Candoni 2021 Pinot Grigio Made with Organic Grapes (Terre Siciliane). Summery notes of warm earth mix with lemon-lime soda overtones and slices of fresh honeydew on the nose. The palate has more sweet lemon-lime flavors but also citrus pith, more melon and green apple, made snappy with acid. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15



88 Le Fat Bastard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). Lively aromas of strawberry, lavender and vanilla show on the nose of this bottling. Moderate tannin and flavors of bell pepper, raspberry and strawberry form the easygoing palate. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

BEST BUYS



88 Rongopai 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). All the hallmark traits of young Marlborough Sauvignon are here, from pungent grass, green bell pepper, black currant leaf and grapefruit to crisp acidity and a slippery texture. Still young, it could benefit from another six months to a year in the bottle. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18



87 Kirkland Signature 2022 Ti Point Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Vibrant lemon-lime, passion fruit and grass aromas lead to a palate that's light and fresh but with some fruit weight, texture and length. Drink this chilled during the dog days of summer. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8



86 Bota Box NV Sauvignon Blanc (Chile). This wine has a tropical profile with a nose of sweet pineapple, honeydew and light citrus notes. Ripe stone fruit and pineapple flavors are backed by moderate acidity on the lightweight palate. Delicate Family Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23/3 L

Continued from page 3

92 CVNE 2019 Reserva (Rioja). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has aromas of green apple and Bartlett pear. It is bright on the palate, with flavors of pineapple, lemon curd, orange blossom and a hint of vanilla, culminating in an orange zest finish. Donna White Communications. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 Lopez de Haro 2012 Gran Reserva Blanco (Rioja). This amber-colored wine has a nose of honeydew melon, Turkish delight, toasted almond and eucalyptus. It conveys a sophisticated feel on the palate, with feathery tannins and flavors of white peach, apricot marmalade, roast hazelnut and almond blossom. This wine would pair beautifully with aged Manchego or Iberian ham. Vintae USA, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Villota 2021 Selvanevada Blanco (Rioja). This wine's nose of white peach, green pear and jasmine sets the stage for flavors of Valencia orange, passion fruit and white chocolate. A soft note of sage lingers into the vibrant finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Villota 2020 Blanco (Rioja). This wine has aromas of pineapple and lemon zest, with a touch of nutmeg. It feels good in the mouth, offering flavors of toasted pineapple, peach, rose petal and cocoa butter. The bright clementine finish also has a hint of flowers. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Baron De Ley 2019 Tres Viñas Blanco Reserva (Rioja). This medium-yellow wine has a bouquet of apple pie with a hint of baking spice. It is full in the mouth, with flavors of cooked apple, mango, white chocolate and a bit of mint that evaporates into a bright finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Manzanos 2021 Finca Manzanos Viñas Viejas (Rioja). Medium straw in the glass, this wine has aromas of green apple and nectarine. Flavors of apricot and Golden Delicious apple are joined by notes of white chocolate, dried thyme and orange blossom that wend their way towards an orange zest finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

86 Marqués de Cáceres 2020 Satinela Medium Sweet (Rioja). This wine has a nose of white peach, dried apricot and rose water. Softly sweet, it shows bold acidity and flavors of caramelized pineapple, canned peaches, lemon zest, cocoa butter and Turkish delight. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

RUEDA

96 Campo Eliseo 2020 Campo Eliséo Harmonía (Rueda). For full review see page 4. Pardela USA. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$150

92 Viore 2021 Verdejo Sobre Lías (Rueda). Medium straw in the glass, this wine has aromas of Bartlett pear, nectarine and Turkish delight. It feels good in the mouth, with medium body and flavors of grapefruit, clementine, brined green olives and a soft hint of lavender on the bright finish. Bodegas Riojanas. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Valdehermoso 2021 Lagar Del Rey (Rueda). This pale straw-colored wine has a nose of apricot, Valencia orange and honeysuckle. It displays elegance on the palate, offering a slightly creamy mouthfeel alongside flavors of white peach, guava, orange blossom and a slight hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Naia 2021 S-Naia (Rueda). Aromas of pineapple, grapefruit, chopped parsley and ground white pepper pave the way for flavors of grapefruit, passion fruit and a hint of rose petal. This refreshing wine is bright in the mouth from first sip through the zesty finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

87 Marqués de Cáceres 2021 Verdejo (Rueda). A lively nose of pineapple and passion fruit paves the way for flavors of white peach, grapefruit, roasted fennel bulb and grapefruit peel. This refreshing wine is bright in the mouth from the very first sip. Vineyard Brands. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

TIERRA DE CASTILLA

90 Uribes Madero 2019 Matelot (Tierra de Castilla). Medium straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of lemon curd, sage and orange blossom. It offers a full mouthfeel and flavors of lemon sorbet, mango, dried Mediterranean herbs and toasted almonds, culminating in an acid-splashed finish. Table 31 Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Dominio de Punctum 2021 Pablo Claro Special Edition Biodynamic (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Pale straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of grapefruit and roasted yellow pepper. It is round on the palate, offering flavors of lemon meringue pie, roasted fennel bulb and herbes de Provence. The finish is marked with a splash of grapefruit. Sandalo Organic Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Mureda 2021 (Tierra de Castilla). This wine offers aromas of Granny Smith apple and green pear. It is bright on the palate, with flavors of Bartlett pear, lemon zest and a touch of crumbled sage. Vinamericas, Inc.. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Dominio de Punctum 2021 Lobetia Organic Vineyards (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). This wine has a nose of lemon and cocoa butter. Flavors of clementine, mango, vanilla and a touch of dried hillside herbs make their way into a zesty finish. Sandalo Organic Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

OTHER WHITE WINES

97 Torres 2018 Milmanda (Conca de Barberà). For full review see page 4. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Cellar Selection.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

94 Mas Igneus 2020 La Capelleta (Priorat). Aromas of white peach, lemon meringue pie and a touch of flint waft from the glass. This light straw colored wine is round in the mouth, offering flavors of nectarine, caramelized pineapple, vanilla bean, mint leaf and sage, with a lingering backbone of minerality. W. Direct. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$113

94 Miguel Torres 2018 Familia Torres Son De Prades (Conca de Barberà). Aromas of mango and pineapple prepare the taste buds for flavors of Valencia orange, lemon-lime sorbet, vanilla and butterscotch. This medium-yellow Chardonnay is round in the mouth and offers a strong vein of acidity from first sip. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Mas Blanch I Jové 2021 Torballa Ous De Ciment I Granit (Costers del Segre). The color of vin gris, this Garnatxa Blanca has a nose of dried apricot, lemon tart and crumbled lavender. It fills the mouth with flavors of peach, green apple, lemon curd and rose petal that wend their way to a refreshing finish. Aviva Vino. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Otazu 2019 Con Crianza (Pago de Otazu). This light straw-colored wine has a nose of white peach, orange zest and toasted almond. A pleasant touch of oxidation shows through in roasted nut notes that back up bright flavors of pineapple, grapefruit, nectarine and a touch of vanilla. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

90 Luxus One 2021 (Catalunya). Notes of oregano and lavender join aromas of grapefruit and lemon. This wine is soft on the palate, with flavors of lemon-lime, passion fruit, tangerine and almond blossom. There is a bright lift on the

refreshing finish. State Wines Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Aroa 2021 (Navarra). This medium-straw colored wine offers a nose of Granny Smith apple, toasted almond and orange blossom. The palate has a sense of sophistication, with flavors of grapefruit, chirimoya, hazelnut and herbes de Provence that dissolve in a saline-splashed finish. Vintae USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 Herència Altés 2020 Benufet (Terra Alta). Aromas of quince, green pear and orange blossom pave the way for flavors of passion fruit and lemon, with soft hints of eucalyptus and aniseed. Bright on the palate from first sip to finish, this is a light, easy-drinking white. European Cellars. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

SPARKLING WINES

93 Raventós I Blanc 2018 De la Finca Extra Brut (Spain). This deep-yellow-colored sparkling wine has a steady stream of small bubbles and a bouquet of Granny Smith apple and brioche. It offers good effervescence in the mouth, with flavors of green apple, lemon-lime, baking bread, slivered almond and jasmine. A note of toasted almond shows on the otherwise bright finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$30

91 Manuel Manzaneque Suárez NV Paloma Minguet Brut Método Clásico (Cava). Bready aromas lead the way alongside notes of lemon preserves and baking spices. Pleasantly tart flavors of grapefruit, lime and passion fruit mingle with notes of pie crust and marzipan that dominate the lasting finish. Grapes of Spain. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Raventós I Blanc 2020 de Nit Conca del Riu Anoia (Spain). Light apricot in color, this wine offers a bouquet of strawberry and lemon zest. Strawberry and lemon zest transition to the palate alongside notes of vanilla and rose petal. This sparkling wine is bright in the mouth from first sip to the post palate. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

90 Sabate I Coca NV Castellroig Brut Reserva (Catalonia). This sparkling wine has a soft column of small bubbles and aromas of Granny Smith apple and brioche. It offers flavors of peach, pineapple and lemon zest, with a light touch of baking bread notes that dissolve into a bright finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Covides NV Ferriol Brut (Cava). Aromas of pineapple, mango and freshly baked pret-

zel set the scene for flavors of Bartlett pear, green fig, apricot jam and a touch of slivered almond. This easy-drinking sparkler offers an enduring column of bubbles and a lemon-splashed finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Raventós I Blanc 2020 Blanc de Blancs Conca del Riu Anoia (Spain). With a soft column of bubbles, this medium-straw-colored sparkler has a nose of green apple and rising bread. Granny Smith apple, lemon, vanilla and brioche hit the taste buds and then evaporate into a zesty finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

89 Vallformosa NV Mistinguett Brut Made With Organic Grapes (Cava). A bouquet of pineapple, nectarine and croissant pave the way for passion fruit, mango, and lemon-tart flavors. Slight effervescence tickles the tongue, and the finish has a note of candied orange. Ecosur Group, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Conde de Subirats NV Brut (Cava). A steady stream of effervescence helps to release aromas of nectarine, orange marmalade and toasted hazelnut. Flavors of white peach, toasted pineapple and marzipan dance on the tongue and evaporate into a refreshing finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Vallformosa NV Gran Barón Brut (Cava). Pale straw in color and offering a smattering of tiny bubbles, this sparkling wine has a nose of green apple and rising pizza dough. Flavors of Bartlett pear, marzipan and lemon zest wend their way to a high acid finish. Ecosur Group, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

82 Raventós I Blanc 2019 De La Finca Conca del Riu Anoia (Spain). With persistent fine perlage, this wine has a nose of apricot and orange blossom. It offers flavors of yellow apple, white peach, rising pizza dough, toasted almond and rose petal. Yeasty flavors overpower fruit and make it feel dull on the palate. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

SPAIN RED WINES

RIOJA

97 Casa Primicia 2016 Pensate Special Selection (Rioja). This deep-garnet-colored wine offers a bouquet of brambly fruits of the wood, aniseed and violet talc. It is smooth in the mouth, with polished tannins playing backup for flavors of black cherry, Chambord, cocoa powder, coffee bean and

lilac. The enduring finish is marked with notes of milk chocolate and orange zest. Drink now—2036. W. Direct. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$200

96 Bodegas Berceo 2015 Los Dominios de Berceo Prefiloxerico (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Manzanos Wines USA.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$105

96 Manzanos 1961 (Rioja). For full review see page 4. Manzanos Wines USA.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$105

95 Casa Primicia 2016 Pensante (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine proffers a bouquet of blackberry jam, butterscotch and dried thyme. Durable tannins support flavors of black cherry, black currant, menthol, dark chocolate, cigar box and lavender that power on into the lengthy finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$200

95 Covila 2016 Gran Reserva (Rioja). This dark garnet wine offers a nose of pomegranate, olive tapenade and orange zest. Opulent tannins support flavors of cherry, purple fig, cocoa butter, citrus zest and aniseed that evaporate into an enduring finish. The Marchetti Co. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

95 CVNE 2016 Viña Real Especial Gran Reserva (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine offers a nose of black cherry, black currant, vanilla and anisette. Well balanced tannins and acidity support flavors of dark red berries, butterscotch, dark chocolate and a hint of violet. Luxurious tannins settle in and slowly dissolve into a lingering finish. Donna White Communications. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

95 Familia Chávarri 2008 Izarbe Gran Reserva (Rioja). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of black cherry and red raspberry. On the palate, bright flavors of red and black fruits come with a hint of clove and voluptuous mouthfeel. The elegant finish goes on for days. Assa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

95 Marqués de Cáceres 2016 Gaudium (Rioja). For full review see page 6. Vineyard Brands.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51

94 Alberto Orte 2015 Sierra de la Demanda (Rioja). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, roasted red pepper and aniseed. A framework of durable tannins backs flavors of black currant, pomegranate, smoked paprika, dried thyme and espresso bean. A pleasant note of salinity marks the lasting finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

94 **Alberto Orte 2012 La Antigua Clásico Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 6. Olé & Obrigado. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

94 **Altanza 2016 Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 6. Schneider's of Capitol Hill.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

94 **Casa Primicia 2017 Pensante (Rioja).** Aromas of purple plum, raspberry, violet and saddle leather emanate from this black-cherry-colored wine. Notes of clove and mint are joined by firm tannins and flavors of blackberry, cassis, saddle leather, dark chocolate and espresso bean. Touches of star anise and rose petal punctuate the long finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$200

94 **Casa Primicia 2015 Pensante (Rioja).** This inky garnet-colored wine has aromas of black plum, cassis and forest floor. A nice layer of cool eucalyptus and clove notes underlie flavors of blackberry, black cherry, olive tapenade and fennel pollen. Tannins feel unyielding at first but gradually soften and fade away. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$200

94 **Castillo de Logroño 2019 Crianza (Rioja).** For full review see page 7. Manzanos Wines USA.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

94 **Manzanos 2015 Siglo Gran Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 9. Manzanos Wines USA.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

94 **Marqués de Murrieta 2015 Gran Reserva Finca Ygay (Rioja).** A nose of brambly dark berries with a touch of pine needle prepare the palate for flavors of blackberry, cassis, cocoa powder, coffee bean and eucalyptus. Tannins come on a bit heavy and then recede into a minty finish. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$79

94 **Sierra Cantabria 2012 Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Fruit of the wood and anisette aromas pave the way for flavors of black currant, dark plum, eucalyptus, mocha and cherry pipe tobacco. This wine coats the mouth with durable tannins that sit down and stay a while. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

93 **Bodegas Berceo 2006 Los Dominios de Berceo Reserva 36 (Rioja).** A beautiful garnet in color, this wine has aromas of ripe red raspberry, blackberry jam and baking spice. In the mouth it is very generous, with a full body and flavors of black fruits and ripe red plum. It has good intensity with smooth tannins and long persistence. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$87

93 **Bodegas Corral 2015 Altos de Corral Single Estate Reserva (Rioja).** Deep garnet in the glass this single-estate Tempranillo has aromas of red raspberry, black currant and forest floor. In the mouth it is full bodied, with soft tannins and flavors of ripe red and black fruits and a touch of tobacco in the post palate. Terroir Connections. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

93 **Bodegas La Eralta 2016 Señorío De La Eralta Reserva (Rioja).** Inky violet-red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cassis and mocha, with a hint of green bell pepper. It is bright on impact, with flavors of cherry, pomegranate, butterscotch, roasted fennel bulb, milk chocolate and clove. Plush tannins linger on the palate amid notes of cherry and white chocolate. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

93 **Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2019 147 Aniversario Crianza (Rioja).** Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood and violet talc. Vibrant acidity unfurls on the palate alongside glossy tannins and flavors of blackberry, black cherry, and chocolate-covered salted caramel. A tiny touch of dried thyme marks the lengthy closing notes. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

93 **Bodegas Muriel 2017 Viña Eguía Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 19. Quintessential Wines. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

93 **Bodegas Riojanas 2016 Monte Real Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Aromas of brambly fruits of the wood, dark chocolate and violet talc pave the way for flavors of cherry, cassis, mocha, dried hillside herbs and a touch of lavender. Sleek tannins and a note of coffee bean make for a satisfying finish. Bodegas Riojanas. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$48

93 **Carlos Serres 2014 Gran Reserva (Rioja).** This dark-ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of dark plum, dried Mediterranean herbs and cigar box. A layer of dense tannins plays backup to flavors of black currant, blackberry, licorice, black truffle and cedar chest. A touch of bright fruit makes its way to the long-lasting finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

93 **Familia Chávarri 2014 Izarbe Reserva (Rioja).** Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of blackberry, clove, oregano and violet. Notes of leather and forest floor slightly outweigh flavors of cherry, pomegranate, star anise and lavender, while opulent tannins power into a lengthy finish. This is a classic, traditional Rioja that will appeal to those who enjoy the style. Assa Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

93 **Ilurce 2019 Rio Mazos (Rioja).** Bright violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of cherry and raspberry, with a touch of orange blossom. A soft floral note shows on the palate as well, along with sleek tannins and flavors of black cherry, cassis, milk chocolate, clove and violet that linger into a floral-scented finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$35

93 **Lopez de Haro 2001 Gran Reserva Tinto (Rioja).** Comprised of Tempranillo and Graciano, this wine offers aromas of ripe raspberry, black cherry and dried aromatic herbs. In the mouth it has flavors of black and red fruits, smooth tannins and a bit of bright acidity in the post palate. Vintae USA, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$80

93 **Marqués de Cáceres 2019 Generación MC (Rioja).** For full review see page 11. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% Price: \$38

92 **Aldonia 2017 (Rioja).** This deep cherry-red wine has aromas of blackberry, clove and violet talc. A sheath of opulent tannins wraps around flavors of pomegranate, raspberry, menthol, aniseed and lavender that wind down to a long, floral-strewn finish. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

92 **Amaren 2017 Crianza (Rioja).** Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, clove and forest floor. It is full in the mouth, with a wall of concentrated tannins and flavors of brambly fruits of the wood, dark chocolate, freshly ground coffee, eucalyptus and violet that endure on the palate. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

92 **Bodegas Muriel 2012 Viñas Viejas Gran Reserva (Rioja).** Aromas of cherry, saddle leather and olive paste with a touch of green bell pepper lead to flavors of cassis, black plum, dark chocolate, sauteed mushrooms and truffle paste. Hefty tannins and earthy notes let you know this is classic Rioja, while a touch of bright fruit on the finish lightens the load on the palate. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 **Finca Montote 2016 Reserva (Rioja).** This deep-garnet-colored wine offers aromas of blackberry jam, butterscotch and clove. It is savory in the mouth, with flavors of black-olive paste, dried Mediterranean herbs, black plum, cassis, dark chocolate and orange zest. Plush tannins and strong acidity make their way into a lingering finish. State Wines Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

Continued on page 24

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92 Maisulan 2019 (Rioja). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry preserves, five-spice powder and pine needle. It is equal parts fruity and savory, offering flavors of black cherry, purple fig, dried Mediterranean herbs and olive tapenade, with a hint of rose petal. Grippy tannins coat the palate while vibrant acidity restores a feeling of brightness. The Artisan Collection. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Manzanos 2019 Siglo Crianza (Rioja). Aromas of blackberry and oregano with a touch of flint pave the way for flavors of black cherry, purple fig, roasted yellow pepper, milk chocolate and rose petal. A layer of rigid tannins coats the tongue and gums and slowly drops away. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Obalo 2017 Las Arenas Reserva (Rioja). This inky garnet-colored wine offers aromas of black cherry and caramel, with a touch of cedar chest. Black cherry and caramel appear on the taste buds as well, joined by flavors of mocha, spearmint and vanilla. Dense tannins and bold acidity make for a pleasing finish. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Valdelacierva 2019 Crianza (Rioja). This deep garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of black currant, caramel and clove. Silky tannins play backup to fruit of the wood flavors joined by notes of dark chocolate, truffle paste, butterscotch and anisette that wend their way towards a satisfying finish. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 Valdelacierva 2018 Reserva (Rioja). Aromas of red and black fruits with light touches of mint have a seamless transition to the palate, with flavors of red raspberry, black plum and cassis. Tannins are well structured and there is a fresh splash of acidity in the finish. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Altanza 2019 Crianza (Rioja). For full review see page 19. Schneider's of Capitol Hill. **Best Buy.**
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Manzanos 2021 111 (Rioja). A bouquet of black cherry, milk chocolate and aniseed prepares the palate for flavors of dark plum, cassis, eucalyptus and butterscotch that come encased in a long-lasting sheath of downy tannins. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Manzanos 2021 111 (Rioja). In this wine, aromas of black cherry, black currant and licorice prepare the palate for flavors of Chambord, cherry preserves, anisette and violet. Silky tannins dissolve into a long, spicy finish. W. Direct. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Manzanos 2019 Finca Manzanos Crianza (Rioja). Grapes for this enticing Crianza are sourced from the eponymously named Finca Manzanos. It is ruby colored, with aromas of ripe red plum, red raspberry and blackberry. In the mouth the fruit flavors are accented by touches of vanilla, tobacco leaf, and saddle leather. Tannins are silky smooth and the finish goes on and on. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Manzanos 2019 Voché Crianza (Rioja). This deep ruby-colored wine has a nose of cassis, star anise and charcuterie. There is an underlying note of black-olive paste along with plush tannins and flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, dark chocolate and violet that linger into a chewy finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Vinos del Atlantico 2020 Cortijo (Rioja). Dark garnet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, caramel and freshly ground black pepper. It offers a sense of brightness on the palate, with plush tannins and flavors of cherry pie, raspberry preserves, orange zest, milk chocolate and herbes de Provence that head into a fruit-filled finish. Olé & Obrigado Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Baron De Ley 2019 Varietales (Rioja). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of cassis, blackberry and roasted fennel bulb. Flavors of black cherry, black currant, dark chocolate, licorice and a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs wind down to an enduring finish. Carolina Wine Brands USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Bodegas Berceo 2021 Selección (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of cassis and mocha. It is bright on entry, with red berry flavors, supple tannins and notes of milk chocolate, rose petal and orange zest that head into a cherry pie finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Bodegas Berceo 2017 Los Dominios de Berceo (Rioja). This deeply hued wine has aromas of fruits of the wood and charcuterie. Jammy red berry flavors mingle with notes of dark chocolate, eucalyptus, violet, clove and dried Mediterranean herbs. Compact tannins linger on the gums long after the last sip. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Bodegas Lozano 2017 Montes De Leza Reserva (Rioja). Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, black currant and licorice. A framework of plush tannins wraps around flavors of black cherry, Chambord, clove, espresso bean and a hint of mint. The lasting finish is permeated by a bold note of cherry. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2020 Primi Crianza (Rioja). Cherry red in the glass, this wine has aromas of raspberry, red plum and black currant. In the mouth, ripe fruit flavors show a touch of lifted mint and eucalyptus. The wine is well balanced, with polished tannins and an enduring finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Bodegas Muriel 2020 Viña Eguía (Rioja). This deep cherry-colored wine offers aromas of black plum, mocha and a touch of summer farm stand. A framework of deep-set tannins plays host to flavors of cassis, raspberry, chocolate-covered espresso bean, roasted red pepper and lavender. Equally bold tannins and acidity stroll hand and hand into a lengthy finish. Quintessential Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Casa Primicia 2020 (Rioja). This dark garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of purple fig, lavender and olive paste. Bright flavors of cherry and pomegranate mingle with glossy tannins and notes of dark chocolate, sauteed mushrooms and orange zest. The lasting finish is marked with a splash of cranberry. W. Direct. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Hammeken Cellars 2019 Beloki Crianza (Rioja). Ruby-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of red plum, black raspberry and lifted whiffs of eucalyptus. It has good mouthfeel and ripe fruit flavors, with just a touch of tobacco and vanilla. Polished tannins are well integrated and the finish is persistent. MHW, Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Villota 2021 Selvanevada (Rioja). Dark garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of cherry preserves and a light hint of baking spice. Flavors of black cherry, raspberry, milk chocolate, citrus zest and mint wrapped in glossy tannins coalesce in a cranberry-splashed finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

89 Burgo Viejo 2021 Made with Organic Grapes (Rioja). Bright cherry red in the glass, this wine has aromas of blackberry preserves and orange blossom. Flavors of pomegranate and cranberry are joined by delicate tannins and notes of orange zest, roast grape tomato, fennel and dark chocolate. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$19

89 Castillo de Enériz 2021 (Rioja). This violet-red-colored wine has a nose of pomegranate and milk chocolate. It is soft in the mouth, with featherweight tannins and flavors of pomegranate, cherry, cocoa butter, orange zest and clove that wind to a bright finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 CVNE 2019 Viña Real Crianza (Rioja). This dark ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of blackberry, baking spice and rose petal. Flavors of

black cherry, raspberry, anisette, violet and milk chocolate are set into silky tannins that fade into a baking-spice finish. Donna White Communications. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Garcia de Olano 2021 (Rioja). This deep-hued wine has a bouquet of cherry pie and baking spice. It is slightly minty, with flavors of eucalyptus, spearmint, black cherry, raspberry and a hint of vanilla. Lush tannins drift off into a cooling finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

89 Gómez de Segura 2019 Crianza (Rioja). This deep violet-red-colored wine offers aromas of black plum, milk chocolate and saddle leather. It is bright on entry, with glossy tannins and flavors of cranberry, cherry, eucalyptus, thyme and lavender leading to a floral-scented finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

89 Ilurce 2021 Rio Madre (Rioja). Inky garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood, fennel seed and black pepper. Juicy berry flavors open up on the palate and are joined by notes of rose petal, orange zest and licorice. Soft tannins and a bright finish make for an across-the-board easy-drinking red wine. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Viña Bujanda 2019 Crianza (Rioja). Bright garnet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of pomegranate, cherry and roasted fennel bulb. The palate shows a nice touch of spice, with flavors of clove, eucalyptus, blackberry preserves and orange zest wrapped in downy tannins. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Carlos Serres 2019 Crianza (Rioja). Bright violet-red in color, this wine has aromas of cassis, black cherry and clove. Dark red berries and clove transition to the palate along with velvety tannins and flavors of milk chocolate, espresso and fennel seed. The finish is marked with a note of violet talc. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Tuerce Botas 2019 (Rioja). Aromas of brambly fruit of the wood with a touch of black pepper set the stage for flavors of pomegranate, cherry, spearmint, milk chocolate and aniseed. Potent tannins and a light floral note linger on the palate. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Viña Palaciega 2019 Crianza (Rioja). This garnet-colored Crianza has fresh, fruit-driven aromas. In the mouth it shows good acidity, with flavors of black raspberry and red plum. Tannins are pleasantly grippy with good mouthfeel and a touch of bright acidity in the post palate. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

87 Carlos Serres 2020 (Rioja). Bright violet-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, blackberry and milk chocolate. It is fresh on the palate, with featherweight tannins and flavors of pomegranate, cherry cola, white chocolate and a hint of lavender that dissolve into a bright finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

87 El Coto 2019 Crianza (Rioja). This wine offers aromas of purple plum and black-olive paste. Soft in the mouth, it has feathery tannins and flavors of pomegranate, cranberry, clove, orange zest and hints of oregano. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 El Coto 2019 Crianza Organic Grapes (Rioja). In this wine, a nose of blackberry and lavender sets the stage for flavors of cherry, purple plum, licorice and dried thyme. Soft tannins and a spicy finish make for a satisfying pour. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Bodegas Berceo 2021 (Rioja). This wine has aromas of blackberry and cherry pipe tobacco. It is a little too cool for some tastes, with flavors of menthol, clove and mint joined by notes of cherry, blackberry and orange zest. Bold tannins settle into the gumline and hang on. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

86 Zinio 2020 Street Art Collection (Rioja). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of black cherry, dark chocolate and dried hillside herbs. It is smooth in the mouth, with feathery tannins and flavors of cherry, raspberry, cocoa butter, roasted fennel bulb and lavender that glide into a bright finish. W. Direct. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

85 Beronia 2020 (Rioja). Aromas of black cherry, purple fig and caramel popcorn prepare the taste buds for flavors of blackberry, pomegranate, cocoa butter and lavender with a hint of salinity. An underlying light floral note lingers on the palate. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

85 Obalo 2020 San Roque (Rioja). Aromas of black cherry and butterscotch pave the way for flavors of blackberry pie, licorice and dark chocolate, with a tiny hint of green bell pepper. Glossy tannins and notes of pomegranate and rose petal on the finish make for a nice pour. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

NAVARRA

93 Finca Albret 2018 La vina de mi Madre Reserva (Navarra). This wine is garnet colored, with aromas of freshly picked red cherry, black currant and graphite. In the mouth it has fine-grained tannins and flavors of ripe red and black

fruits with a touch of saddle leather, all sailing into a lengthy finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Manzanos 2021 111 (Navarra). For full review see page 11. W. Direct. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

93 Manzanos 2021 Reino de Altuzarra (Navarra). Deep violet to the eye, this wine offers a nose of cherry, purple fig and saddle leather. Bright at first sip, it has flavors of pomegranate and raspberry. Slightly hefty tannins settle into the palate, with notes of milk chocolate, cherry pipe tobacco and black-olive paste. Bright fruit remains at the forefront, lingering in the mouth. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Agronavarra 2017 Pleno Reserva (Navarra). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry, clove and dried thyme. It is bright on entry, with plush tannins and flavors of black cherry, cassis, milk chocolate, orange zest and rose petal that wend their way to a soft finish. Votto Vines Importing. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

92 Bodegas Luis Gurpegi Muga 2021 Primi (Navarra). Dark red-violet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry, crème brûlée and clove. Rich dark-fruit flavors mingle with forceful tannins and notes of caramel, aniseed, clove and a touch of ground black pepper. A shining note of acidity brightens up the lengthy finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Finca Albret 2017 La Viña De Mi Madre (Navarra). This garnet-colored Cabernet Sauvignon from Navarra has aromas of ripe red and black fruits and toasted hazelnut. Soft on entry, it conveys flavors of cassis, black berry and pencil lead. It offers silky soft tannins and is nicely integrated, with a persistent finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 Finca Albret 2017 Lastra Reserva (Navarra). This inky, garnet-colored wine offers a bouquet of black currant and dark plum, with a touch of five-spice powder. Glossy tannins offer a backdrop to flavors of brambly fruits of the wood, dark chocolate, clove and marjoram that power into the lasting finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Manzanos 2021 111 (Navarra). This bright violet-red colored wine has a bouquet of black plum, caramel and orange zest. Silky tannins ply the palate, backed by flavors of pomegranate, cherry, milk chocolate and licorice. A note of orange zest dominates the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Manzanos 2021 Reino de Altuzarra (Navarra). Deep garnet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of pomegranate, raspberry and fen-

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nel pollen. Bright from first sip, it has plush tannins and flavors of black cherry, strawberry, roast yellow pepper, baking spices and orange zest that carry into a long-lasting finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

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

92 Manzanos 2021 Time-Lapse Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra). For full review see page 14. W. Direct.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

92 Manzanos 2016 Las Campanas Reserva (Navarra). This wine offers aromas of blackberry, red apple peel and dark chocolate that set the stage for flavors of black cherry, purple fig, mocha, clove and vanilla. A sense of tension between vigorous tannins and moderate acidity remains on the palate. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

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

92 Príncipe de Viana 2018 Edición Limitada Crianza (Navarra). Deep cherry red in the glass, this wine features aromas of cherry cola, dried sage and a touch of mint. It is slightly spicy on the palate, with flavors of eucalyptus, menthol and anise up front, backed by brilliant acidity and red-berry notes. Slightly grippy tannins fade on the palate as a final note of bright fruit and mint appears. The Sorting Table. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

91 Bodegas Luis Gurpegui Muga 2021 Primi (Navarra). Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, coffee bean and olive paste. Velvety tannins and flavors of blackberry pie, milk chocolate, clove and violet along with a lingering finish make for an all-around nice pour. W. Direct. —M.D.

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

91 Manzanos 2021 las Campanas (Navarra). A bouquet of blackberry, clove and dried thyme preps the taste buds for flavors of elderberry, cassis, coffee bean, sage and citrus zest. A soft note of clove wrapped in feathery tannins wends its way across the palate from first sip through the spicy finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

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

91 Otazu 2016 Reserva Classico (Navarra). This ruby-colored wine has a nose of cassis and blackberry, with a hint of green bell pepper. On the palate, dark berry and green pepper flavors join with durable tannins and notes of butterscotch, clove and fresh-ground coffee. Bold acidity keeps gum-coating tannins in check and wins out in the end. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Señorío de Sarria 2015 Reserva Especial (Navarra). Aromas of blackberry and butterscotch waft from this wine made with Cabernet Sauvignon and Graciano. Flavors of cherry, cranberry, black-olive paste, caramel and coffee bean are

set into firm tannins that fade into a pomegranate-splashed finish. Beviemo International. —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

90 Bodegas Caudalía 2017 Xi'ipal La Abejera Single Vineyard Baja Montaña San Martín de Unx Limited Edition (Navarra). Aromas of purple fig, dark chocolate and pipe tobacco prep the palate for flavors of pomegranate, cherry, chocolate-covered espresso bean, dried Mediterranean herbs and orange zest. Durable tannins hang on into a lasting finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Finca Albret 2020 La Loma (Navarra). Bright ruby in the glass, this wine has a nose of black cherry, pomegranate and baking spices. It is juicy in the mouth, with flavors of cherry, raspberry and orange zest. Notes of coffee bean and black pepper appear on the bright finish. Cuddihy Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Manzanos 2021 las Campanas (Navarra). This wine has aromas of cherry and cocoa powder, with a hint of green bell pepper. Flavors of dark fruits of the wood, mocha, black-olive paste and orange zest are set into firm tannins that dissolve into an enduring finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

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

90 Manzanos 2021 Reino de Altuzarra (Navarra). This deep violet-red-colored wine has aromas of dark plums, black currant and fennel bulb. There is a nice sense of spiciness, with notes of clove and mint mingling with flavors of cherry, pomegranate, dark chocolate and dried hillside herbs. The finish is marked with notes of orange zest and mocha. W. Direct. —M.D.

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

89 Aroa 2021 (Navarra). The color of blueberry pie, this wine has a bouquet of cherry preserves with a hint of sage. It is slightly tart at first sip, with flavors of cranberry and pomegranate that join notes of dried Mediterranean herb, leather and tobacco leaf wrapped in gauzy tannins. A bright note remains on the palate from first sip through the soft finish. Vintae USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

89 Manzanos 2020 Las Campanas Crianza (Navarra). This bright, ruby-colored wine offers a bouquet of cherry, clove and black-olive paste. Slightly grippy tannins back up flavors of lively red berries, dried hillside herbs and licorice. A note of salinity permeates the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Príncipe de Viana 2017 Reserva Viñedos en Propiedad (Navarra). This deep garnet-colored wine has a nose of cassis, dark chocolate and eucalyptus. Flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, mocha, mint and oregano are wrapped in a sheath

of silky tannins that peel away into an orange zest finish. The Sorting Table. —M.D.

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

88 Otazu 2019 Premium Cuvée (Navarra). This wine has aromas of dark plums, juniper berry and clove. Notes of menthol and eucalyptus are joined by midweight tannins and flavors of cassis, black cherry, chocolate-covered espresso bean and a hint of crumbled sage. A nice level of acidity is maintained from first sip through the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.

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

RIBERA DEL DUERO

97 Arzuaga 2015 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of pomegranate, dark chocolate and pine needle. It is bright on entry, with flavors of cherry and raspberry joined by opulent tannins and notes of chocolate-covered espresso bean, orange zest, eucalyptus and a touch of dried oregano. Bright fruit powers on into the enduring finish. Drink now–2042. United Cellars, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

97 Fernández Rivera 2015 Tinto Pesquera Milenium Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 3. Folio Fine Wine Partners. **Cellar Selection.**

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145

96 Resalte 2015 Gran (Ribera del Duero). Deep red-violet to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry, black currant, butterscotch and nutmeg. A sheath of polished tannins is wrapped around flavors of black cherry, purple fig, dark chocolate, orange zest and a hint of dried thyme. The lengthy finish is noted for its vivid acidity. Drink now–2035. Toros & Vinos LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

96 Vega Sicilia 2017 Valbuena 5º (Ribera del Duero). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of blackberry and black cherry, with a hint of rose petal. It is fresh yet well structured, with polished tannins and flavors of cherry, pomegranate, purple fig, milk chocolate and a dusting of floral and spice notes that carry into the smooth finish. Europvin USA. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$231

96 Virtus 2015 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 5. W. Direct.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Arzuaga 2017 Amaya (Ribera del Duero). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, mocha and aniseed. A layer of velvety tannins plays host to black cherry, blackberry, milk chocolate, freshly ground coffee, clove and lavender flavors. The lasting finish is marked

with notes of chocolate and bright red berries. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

95 Matarromera 2015 Gran Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Bright red berry and dried mountainside herb aromas waft from the glass. This deep ruby-colored wine has flavors of purple plum, brambly fruits of the wood, dark chocolate, truffle paste, orange zest and violet talc. Slightly grippy tannins are no match for bright acidity that lingers on the palate. United Cellars, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Protos 2017 Selección Finca El Grajo Viejo (Ribera del Duero). Inky ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black cherry, lavender and a hint of smoke. It is smooth in the mouth, with opulent tannins and flavors of blackberry, raspberry, chocolate-covered espresso bean and caramel that skate into a long-lasting finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

94 Arzuaga 2018 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 6. United Cellars, Inc.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

94 Cepa 21 2016 Horcajo (Ribera del Duero). This black-cherry-colored wine has aromas of cassis, blackberry and caramel. It is smooth at first sip, with flavors of black currant, cherry pie, clove, toffee and a touch of saddle leather. Plush tannins slowly build in volume and drift off into a spicy finish. Moro Brothers. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$79

94 Matarromera 2017 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). For full review see page 9. United Cellars, Inc.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2018 Tábula (Ribera del Duero). This wine is intense ruby in color, with aromas of red fruits and a touch of smoke. In the mouth the fruit flavors come alive and are enhanced by notes of mocha and caramel. The tannins are soft and well integrated, and the finish goes on and on. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Peñalba Herraiz 2016 Carravid (Ribera del Duero). In this wine, a tight nose of black cherry with a touch of violets leads to flavors of blackberry jam, Chambord, clove, rose petal and mocha. Velvety tannins build in volume and then fade into a spicy finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

93 Resalte 2017 Expresión (Ribera del Duero). The bouquet of this wine offers aromas of cassis, black raspberry and a touch of anise. Flavors of ripe black fruits are accented by powdered cocoa and espresso bean. Tannins are smooth and the finish lingers. Toros & Vinos LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Torres 2018 Celeste Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This dark garnet wine features aromas of cherry, milk chocolate and coffee bean. Coffee notes transition to the palate plus flavors of black cherry, purple fig, dark chocolate, roasted red pepper and herbes de Provence. Dense tannins briefly settle onto the tongue and gums and are washed away by bright fruit. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Valcozar 2015 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Ruby-garnet in the glass, this reserva from Ribera del Duero draws you in with aromas of dark fruits and red raspberry, with a touch of saddle leather. Flavors suggest ripe fruit and tobacco leaf. The tannins are silky smooth and the finish goes on and on. Vine Street Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Banisio 2016 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). This dark ruby-colored wine offers aromas of black cherry, caramel and marjoram. Brisk tannins provide a backdrop to flavors of raspberry, pomegranate, eucalyptus, clove and a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. The lasting finish is marked with a note of milk chocolate. Serge Doré Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

92 Lleiros 2015 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). This bright ruby-colored wine has a bouquet of dark berries, with a touch of dried thyme. Flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, milk chocolate, black-olive paste and saddle leather are set into plush tannins that evaporate into a savory finish. Beviemo International. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Altos De Aranda 2016 Crianza (Ribera del Duero). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of black currant, butterscotch and fennel pollen. Feathery tannins play host to flavors of purple fig, blackberry, cocoa butter, coffee bean and lavender that linger into a smooth finish. Artisans & Vines. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

91 Finca La Mata 2020 (Ribera del Duero). Deep violet to the eye, this wine has a nose of blackberry and anise. It is soft on the palate, with feathery tannins and flavors of blackberry pie, cassis, licorice, clove and violet that coalesce in a dark berry finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Peñalba Herraiz 2020 Apto 9 Meses en Barrica (Ribera del Duero). Dark violet in the glass, this wine offers a nose of black currant and anisette. Flavors of black cherry and blackberry with notes of dark chocolate, coffee bean, clove and eucalyptus are framed by plush tannins that last into an enduring finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Romero de Aranda 2017 Crianza Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of dried plum, blackberry preserves and cocoa lead into flavors of ripe black fruits, black licorice and toasted almonds. This well-structured wine features a strong tannic backbone and a long finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Viña Solorca 2017 Reserva (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of toasted almonds, mocha and licorice are found in the complex bouquet of this Tempranillo. In the mouth it has good structure and soft, well-rounded tannins, with flavors of ripe red and black fruits accented by powdered cocoa. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Alvides 2020 Roble (Ribera del Duero). This dark garnet-colored wine has aromas of black currant and milk chocolate. Dark berry and chocolate flavors are on the palate as well, along with polished tannins and notes of baking spice, orange zest and lavender. A splash of pomegranate appears on the fresh finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Arrocal 2018 Selección (Ribera del Duero). Made with 100% Tempranillo, this wine has aromas of ripe red and black fruits. Flavors suggest black plum and red raspberry, with just a touch of freshly ground black pepper. Tannins are smooth and well integrated and the wine offers a persistent finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

90 Bardos 2018 Suprema (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of black cherry, caramel and rose petal set the scene for flavors of cherry, pomegranate, dark chocolate, dried Mediterranean herbs and a hint of green bell pepper. Bold tannins coat the tongue and gums, and linger into a surprisingly bright finish. Vintae USA, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Bodegas y Viñedos Tábula 2020 Damana 5 (Ribera del Duero). This deep garnet wine offers aromas of elderberry and freshly ground coffee. Pleasant, cool herb flavors dominate the taste profile, with clove and menthol joined by black cherry, elderberry and mocha, all wrapped up in a sheath of satiny tannins. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

90 Miguel Sanz 2020 Alacer Roble (Ribera del Duero). Aromas of black currant, dark chocolate and espresso bean pave the way for flavors of black cherry, blackberry, clove, spearmint and milk chocolate. Plush tannins settle down and dissolve into a lengthy finish. Bodegas Riojanas. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Viña Vilano 2020 Black (Ribera del Duero). This dark garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of dark plum and black olive. Cherry liqueur and purple fig flavors are joined by fleecy tannins and notes of roasted fennel bulb, aniseed and

BUYINGGUIDE

dried thyme that coalesce in a smooth finish. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

89 **Dominio de Atauta 2018 La Celestina (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of freshly picked red plum and ripe blackberry transfer seamlessly onto the palate, with additional notes of pine, lavender and rosemary. Tannins are well rounded and the finish has a splash of bright acidity at the very end. Aviva Vino. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

89 **Teófilo Reyes 2020 4 Meses Barrica Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of cherry pie and clove prep the palate for flavors of cherry, raspberry, star anise, orange zest and a hint of marjoram. This wine is bright in the mouth, with soft tannins and a juicy finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 **Valdrinal 2018 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Garnet colored in the glass, this Crianza has aromas of wild fruits, bramble and mature blackberry. In the mouth it offers flavors of ripe red and black fruits and soft tannins. It is well balanced, with a long finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **Viña Vilano 2018 Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** Deep ruby to the eye, this wine offers a nose of raspberry, milk chocolate and violet talc. It is bright at first sip, with flavors of pomegranate, raspberry, chopped thyme and roasted red pepper. Slightly grippy tannins that are neutralized by bright fruit linger on the tongue and gums. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Manzanos 2020 Voché Roble (Ribera del Duero).** This wine has a nose of cassis and dark plum, with a touch of summer farm stand. Dark fruit of the wood flavors are accompanied by notes of cocoa bean, coffee, orange zest and saddle leather. Firm tannins sneak up on the palate and last into the savory finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

88 **Viña Mayor 2020 La Poda (Ribera del Duero).** Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of brambly fruits of the wood. It is juicy at first sip, with flavors of pomegranate, cherry, roasted grape tomato, licorice, dark chocolate and orange zest. Durable tannins settle on the palate and stay a while. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

85 **Patricia Beniez 2018 Quione (Ribera del Duero).** This deep violet-red-colored wine proffers a bouquet of cassis and chocolate-covered espresso bean. A wall of tight tannins and flavors of cranberry, tart red cherry, sage, roasted yellow pepper and tobacco leaf never seem to coalesce on the palate. Naked Wines. —M.D.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$36

TORO

94 **Bodegas y Viñedos Maires 2017 Ademán Valdecarreras Selección Especial (Toro).** This wine has a nose of blackberry jam, dark chocolate and anisette. Grippy tannins fill the mouth escorted by flavors of blackberry, Luxardo cherry, caramel, spearmint and roasted fennel bulb. The finish is marked with notes of orange zest and mint. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

94 **Campo Eliseo 2018 (Toro).** Inky violet-red to the eye, this wine has aromas of black plums, cherry pipe tobacco and dark chocolate. The palate presents a nice level of spice, with notes of clove and menthol consorting with black cherry, pomegranate and chocolate-covered-caramel flavors. Chewy tannins drift off into a cooling finish. Pardela USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$79

94 **San Román Bodegas y Viñedos 2018 San Román (Toro).** Aromas of blackberry, cocoa powder and caramel prep the palate for flavors of blackberry, cassis, butterscotch, mint and rose petal. Hearty tannins and notes of butterscotch power into the persistent finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 **Elias Mora 2019 Crianza (Toro).** For full review see page 10. Grapes of Spain.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 **Elias Mora 2018 Crianza (Toro).** Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of fruits of the wood and dark chocolate. Rugged tannins play host to flavors of black cherry, pomegranate, dark chocolate, clove and violet that endure into a long-lasting finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 **San Román Bodegas y Viñedos 2019 (Toro).** This dark garnet-colored wine offers a nose of cherry preserves and anise. Juicy at first sip, it has flavors of pomegranate and cherry alongside notes of butterscotch, milk chocolate and orange zest. Tannins sneak onto the palate and linger into the enduring finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 **Campo Eliseo 2019 Cuvée Alegre (Toro).** This dark ruby-colored wine has aromas of cherry, dark plum and baking spice. It is soft at first sip, and then lush tannins appear on the palate cloaked in flavors of Chambord, cherry pie, milk chocolate, lavender and eucalyptus that wind down to a cool finish. Pardela USA. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

92 **Carodorum 2019 Issos Crianza (Toro).** Aromas of blackberry pie and chocolate-covered mint pave the way for flavors of black cherry, pomegranate, mint, roast fennel bulb and violet encased

in plush tannins. Minty and floral notes go neck and neck into a lasting finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

91 **Campo Eliseo 2020 Hermanos Lurton (Toro).** For full review see page 19. Pardela USA.
Best Buy.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

91 **Finca Sobreño 2018 Crianza (Toro).** This deep ruby-colored wine has an enticing bouquet of blackberry, creosote and pine needle. The nice mix of fruit and savory flavors includes black cherry, cassis, dried Mediterranean herbs, eucalyptus and black olive alongside vigorous tannins that linger on the palate. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 **Gil Luna 2018 Lunas Nueva Made with Organic Grapes (Toro).** This dark garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of dark fruits of the wood, with a hint of clove. Notes of dried Mediterranean herbs and olive paste mingle with red berry flavors and a touch of iodine, culminating in a savory finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

BIERZO

93 **Godelia 2016 Selección (Bierzo).** Bold notes of blackberry, cassis and dried Mediterranean herbs emanate from the glass. This wine offers flavors of black cherry, black currant, dark chocolate, marjoram and a pleasant touch of saddle leather. Silky tannins and rich acidity make for a long-lasting finish. Europvin USA. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

92 **Raices 2017 (Bierzo).** Deep garnet to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of brambly fruits of the wood and a touch of butterscotch. It offers a generous mouthfeel, with velvety tannins and flavors of blackberry, cassis, chocolate and caramel. The bright finish is marked by a note of thyme. Crescent Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Ribas del Cúa 2019 Privilegio (Bierzo).** Aromas of cassis, vanilla and a touch of hillside herbs lead to rich, dark-berry flavors joined by notes of flan, dried thyme and oregano. Deep-set tannins are well matched by a streak of bright acidity. American Northwest Distributors Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

TIERRA DE CASTILLA

93 **Micaela Rubio García 2019 Alto Horizonte El Cerro Brujo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** In this wine, a bouquet of wild berry, olive tapenade and Earl Grey tea prepares the palate for flavors of cassis, raspberry, saddle leather, black pepper and fennel pollen, with a hint of citrus zest. Tannins

start strong and then peel away to reveal cooling herb notes. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$130

91 Micaela Rubio García 2019 Alto Horizonte Alto De La Cruz (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). Aromas of brambly berries, dried hillside herbs and aniseed prep the taste buds for flavors of blackberry, black cherry, clove, dark chocolate and a touch of olive tapenade. Rigorous tannins settle onto the tongue and gums but fortunately they are equally matched by a sense of brightness on the post palate. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

89 Micaela Rubio García 2019 +Altitud (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla). This deep-hued wine has a nose of purple fig, leather and star anise. Pomegranate and strawberry flavors are joined by notes of forest floor and truffle paste, with hints of rose water and clove. Midweight tannins ply the gums and are washed away by fruit-driven acidity. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$35

VALENCIA

93 Pago Casa Gran 2019 Falcata Arenal (Valencia). The color of blackberry jam, this wine offers aromas of dark berries, butterscotch and roasted fennel bulb. It is bright on entry, with flavors of black cherry and purple fig that are accompanied by durable tannins and notes of dark chocolate, truffle paste, violet and orange zest, leading towards an enduring finish. European Wine Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

93 Vicente Gandia 2019 Ceramic Criado en Tinaja Monastrell (Valencia). For full review see page 12. Vicente Gandia USA.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

92 Viveros Cambra 2020 Angosto tinto (Valencia). This bright, cherry-red wine has a nose of brambly fruits of the wood with a touch of smoke. Dark berry flavors transition to the palate as well, joined by notes of milk chocolate, rose petal, rosemary and tarragon. Polished tannins fade into a soft finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

90 Bodegas Neleman 2021 Garnacha Marselan (Valencia). Aromas of black cherry, blackberry and dried Mediterranean herbs waft from this dark garnet-colored wine. It is juicy at first sip, with black currant and raspberry flavors joined by feathery tannins and notes of milk chocolate, black-olive paste and a touch of mint. Notes of cranberry and rose petal dominate the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.
abv: 13% Price: \$27

90 Viveros Cambra 2021 La Tribuna (Valencia). Bright red-violet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of black plums, cassis and olive tapenade. It is soft on the palate, with satiny tannins and fla-

vors of pomegranate, raspberry, coffee bean, mint and violet that evaporate into a cooling finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Viveros Cambra 2021 La Peña de España (Valencia). This wine has aromas of black currant, purple fig and chocolate-covered espresso bean. Velvety tannins glide across the palate bearing flavors of black cherry, strawberry and herbes de Provence. The bright finish of the wine is marked with a note of freshly ground coffee. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$23

ALICANTE

93 Enrique Mendoza 2019 Estrecho (Alicante). This dark ruby-colored wine has aromas of brambly fruits of the wood and herbes de Provence. It is juicy at first sip, with flavors of ripe cherry and pomegranate followed by dark chocolate, coffee bean and black-olive paste that add a layer of sophistication. Plush tannins settle in and then back off into an unexpectedly bright, fruity finish. Winebow Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

93 Enrique Mendoza 2019 Las Quebradas (Alicante). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, black currant, dried thyme and lavender, and a touch of flint. Bright berry flavors are joined by chocolate-covered espresso bean and black truffle, with hints of menthol and asphalt. A sense of juiciness and a minty note show towards the finish. Luxurious tannins mellow out on the palate and linger for a bit. Winebow Imports. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

91 Bodegas Sierra Salinas 2019 Mira Salinas (Alicante). A nose of purple fig, ground coffee and dark chocolate sets the stage for flavors of blackberry preserves, clove, violet and espresso. Plush tannins and a lingering, spicy finish add to the appeal. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$20

89 Volver 2019 Tarima Hill Estate Bottled Old Vines (Alicante). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of blackberry pie, clove and violet. Flavors of wild berries, dark chocolate, baking spice and violets wrapped in satiny tannins settle onto the palate and evaporate into a floral-scented finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$17

86 Volver 2021 Tarima (Alicante). Inky garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of elderberry, dark chocolate and marjoram. It offers light-weight tannins and a nice mix of fruit and savory flavors, notably dark plum, cassis, dried Mediterranean herbs and slightly burnt caramel. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$13

85 Enrique Mendoza 2019 La Tremenda (Alicante). This wine has a nose of blackberry and raspberry, with touches of thyme. It is savory in the mouth, offering flavors of oregano and brined green olives alongside bright red-berry notes. A splash of cranberry sails across the finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14% Price: \$12

YECLA

93 Barahonda 2019 Heredad de Candela (Yecla). Deep ruby in the glass, this wine proffers a bouquet of slightly brambly fruits of the wood, licorice and black-olive paste. Flavors of elderberry and cassis mingle with notes of clove, menthol, coffee and dried sage overlaid on a network of enduring tannins that dissolve into a spicy finish. Olé & Obrigado Imports. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.
abv: 15% Price: \$37

90 Barahonda 2020 Barrica (Yecla). This garnet-colored wine offers aromas of dark berries, caramel and coffee. It is smooth in the mouth, with gauzy tannins and flavors of blackberry pie, chocolate-covered caramel, freshly ground black pepper and dried sage. Olé & Obrigado Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$18

90 Bodega Trenza 2020 La Nymphina (Yecla). This wine has a bouquet of black cherry, cassis and anisette. Sheathed in velvety tannins, spicy notes of clove and menthol are joined by flavors of pomegranate, cherry, espresso bean and dried sage that wend their way to a savory finish. International Cellars. *Best Buy.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

OTHER RED WINES

97 Mauro 2017 Terreus (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León). This dark ruby-colored wine offers aromas of black currant, lavender and anisette. It is bright in the mouth from start to finish, with flavors of black cherry, pomegranate, milk chocolate, orange zest, clove and violet. Luxurious tannins and vibrant acidity linger on the palate long after the last sip. Drink now–2042. Europvin USA. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$152

94 Alberto Orte 2017 A Portela (Valdeorras). For full review see page 6. Olé & Obrigado.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

93 Bodegas Luzón 2019 Por Tí (Jumilla). For full review see page 10. Aviva Vino.
abv: 15% Price: \$40

92 Obergo 2016 Parcelario (Somontano). Inky violet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, clove and dark chocolate. Bright berry flavors fill the mouth, joined by plush tannins and notes of mocha, black-olive tapenade, licorice

BUYINGGUIDE

and orange zest that evaporate into an elongated, bright finish. Terroir Connections. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Otazu 2010 Altar (Pago de Otazu). Aromas of ripe blackberry, black plum and cassis lead to a palate filled with black fruits, wet river rocks and whiff of cigar box. This well-made wine has a strong mineral backbone and soft, silky tannins that ply their way to an elegant finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Avancia 2018 Cuveé de O Mencia (Valdeorras). Garnet colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of black fruits and a touch of creosote. In the mouth there are flavors of ripe red and black fruits with notes of saddle leather, plush tannins and a gorgeous vein of minerality that carries into a fruit-filled finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

90 Lezcano-Lacalle 2018 Maudes (Cigales). This red is comprised of 85% Tempranillo and 15% Merlot. It has aromas of black and red fruits and flavors of black raspberry, red plum and a touch of tobacco leaf. Tannins are soft and the finish is persistent. Misa Imports. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

90 Marañoses 2019 (Vinos de Madrid). Bright red to the eye, this wine has aromas of black currant, eucalyptus and lavender. It offers a nice sense of cooling spice in the mouth, with eucalyptus and anisette alongside pomegranate and strawberry flavors. Fleecy tannins and an earthy note of black truffle drift into the finish. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Obergo 2016 Expression (Somontano). A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Garnacha, this wine has a nose of fruits of the wood, violet and black pepper. It is bright at first sip, with feathery tannins and flavors of cranberry, raspberry, dried Mediterranean herbs and a touch of coffee bean that lingers into the soft finish. Terroir Connections. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Legado del Moncayo 2020 Vendemia Seleccionada (Campo de Borja). This bright, garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of black cherry, lavender and licorice. It is slightly spicy, offering featherweight tannins and flavors of cherry, raspberry, clove, anisette, spearmint and violet that all arrive together on the bright finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Marañoses 2019 30,000 Maravedies (Vinos de Madrid). This cherry-colored wine offers a bouquet of blackberry jam, Chambord, thyme and saddle leather. Savory flavors of dried Mediterranean herbs, olive paste and pipe tobacco outweigh bright red-fruit notes. Plush tannins and a note of

salinity remain on the palate of the wine. USA Wine West. —M.D.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

87 Raices 2020 Las Pizarras Viña Alarba (Calatayud). Deep ruby to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cassis and black plum, with a touch of dried mountainside herbs. Slightly stiff tannins settle into the palate, bearing flavors of cherry, blackberry, bittersweet chocolate, thyme and a hint of lavender. Palpable acidity and a tangible feeling of minerality arrive on the finish. Crescent Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Agronavarra 2020 Perdido (Vino de la Tierra de las Tres Riberas). Aromas of blackberry, milk chocolate and violet talc set the scene for flavors of cherry, raspberry, butterscotch, roasted yellow pepper and anise seed. This is an easy-drinking red wine. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

85 Bodegas Aragonesas 2020 Don Ramón Oak Aged (Campo de Borja). This wine has aromas of blackberry, caramel and baking spice. It is cool at first sip, with flavors of clove, licorice and eucalyptus alongside cherry and cassis. Soft tannins and bright acidity keep it afloat into the postpalate. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$11

84 Agronavarra 2020 Perdido (Vino de la Tierra de las Tres Riberas). The color of blueberry jam, this wine has a nose of blackberry and rose petal. A soft floral note continues on the palate joined by flavors of pomegranate, ripe cherry, dried thyme and light baking spice. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

SHERRY

95 Bodegas Poniente NV Oloroso (Jerez). Aromas of cherry pipe tobacco, toffee, walnut and orange zest set the stage for flavors of apple, toasted nuts, vanilla and a touch of curry. This wine has a full body and rich texture that coat the palate, with an orange zest finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.
abv: 20.5% **Price:** \$152

94 Alvear 2014 Fino en Rama (Montilla-Moriles). This dry, Sherry wine from Montilla-Moriles near Cordoba has aromas of rising bread dough, green pear, grapefruit and salted cashew. Sophisticated flavors of mandarin orange, Golden Delicious apple, freshly baked focaccia, Provençal olives and white chocolate are bracketed by a backbone of bright acidity that lingers on the palate with a note of saline. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

94 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Bertola 12 Years (Jerez). This black-coffee-colored sweet Sherry offers aromas of stewed plum, orange

zest, milk chocolate and caramel. Almost syrupy on the palate, it has flavors of dried red and black currants, bergamot, candied violet and milk chocolate. Shimmering acidity stays the course and keeps the powerful sweetness at bay. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

94 González Byass NV Tío Pepe Fino en Rama (Jerez). This deep straw-colored wine has aromas of dried apricot, roast almond and rising pizza dough. Flavors of almond, hazelnut and pineapple with a touch of salinity fill the mouth and then evaporate into a bright and slightly salty finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18/375 ml

94 Bodegas Cruz Conde NV PX 1902 (Montilla-Moriles). Mahogany to the eye, this wine has an enticing nose of cherry liqueur, dried apricot, roasted almond and orange marmalade. A voluptuous texture and just the right amount of orange zest acidity play host to flavors of cherry preserves, baked apple, hazelnut, honeycomb and baking spices. Torgar Group. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

93 Alvear 2018 Pedro Ximénez de Añada (Montilla-Moriles). Aromas of preserved fig, orange zest and dark chocolate prepare the taste buds for flavors of dried black currant, caramel, candied orange and a hint of coffee bean. This luscious wine is syrupy on the palate, with a bold line of acidity that keeps it fresh from the first sip. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$33/375 ml

93 Alvear 2016 3 Miradas Paraje de Riofrio Alto (Montilla-Moriles). Mahogany in the glass, this wine offers a bouquet of fig and almond cake, clove and citrus zest. It is rich on the palate, with riveting acidity and flavors of candied chestnut, orange preserves and milk chocolate. A note of freshly ground coffee lingers into the bright finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Bertola Medium (Jerez). The color of strongly brewed tea, this off-dry Sherry has a nose of butterscotch, candied pineapple, macadamia and passion fruit. It feels voluptuous in the mouth. Flavors of almond paste, white chocolate, cinnamon, clove and pineapple wind down to a toffee and orange zest finish. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$26

93 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Pemartín (Jerez). The nose of this wine suggests Medjool date, cherry preserves, clove and nutmeg. Deeply colored and richly textured, the wine fills the mouth with flavors of holiday spice cake, raisin and chocolate-covered espresso bean, with a hint of orange marmalade. Black cherry on the finish keeps the palate fresh. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Bertola Palo Cortado 12 Years (Jerez). A bouquet of vanilla, almond, iodine and sea breeze sets the stage for flavors of peach, licorice and cinnamon. This wine is elegant and smooth in the mouth and offers a sense of warming the insides of the cheeks. Grapes of Spain. —M.D.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$40

92 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Pemartín Medium (Jerez). This deep-hued wine has aromas of candied chestnut, dried stone fruit and orange blossom. It offers flavors of holiday fruitcake, marzipan, chocolate-covered espresso bean and almond blossom. A luminous note of candied orange peel plies the palate from first sip and gently lingers. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$19

91 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Bertolo Fino (Jerez). Medium yellow to the eye, this dry Sherry has a bouquet of caramelized apple, toasted hazelnuts and seawater. Toasted nut notes continue onto the palate, where they are joined by flavors of guava, pineapple, dried apricot, salted fresh bread and a tiny hint of vanilla bean that evaporate into a nutty finish. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

91 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Victoria Manzanilla Selección (Manzanilla-Sanlúcar de Barrameda). This wine has aromas of green apple, rising pizza dough and grapefruit peel. It is simultaneously light and bright on the palate, with flavors of lemon, green pear, freshly baked salted pretzel and a hint of ground almond that lingers on the tongue. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

91 Viña Palaciega NV Amontillado (Jerez). This bourbon-colored dry Sherry offers a bouquet of dried apricot, roasted almond and coffee bean. Dried apricot and roasted almond transition to the palate alongside notes of vanilla, rose petal, sautéed mushroom and orange zest. The bright finish is marked with a nice note of salinity. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$20

91 Viña Palaciega NV Medium Dry (Jerez). Aromas of mixed nuts, milk chocolate and honeysuckle prep the tastebuds for flavors of roasted apple, peach nectar, gingerbread spice, delicata squash, slivered almonds and clementine. This Sherry rides a fine line between sweet and dry, with a vein of vivid acidity keeping it alive on the palate from start to finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$115

91 Viña Palaciega NV Pedro Ximinez (Jerez). This deeply hued wine has aromas of cassis, licorice and freshly baked gingerbread. It is velvety on the palate, offering flavors of black cherry preserves, chopped dates, mocha and a touch of tangerine. The strong sweetness is balanced by a lingering sense of bright citrus fruit. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.
abv: 17% **Price:** \$25

90 Bodegas Cruz Conde NV Fino 1902 (Montilla-Moriles). This pale-yellow wine has a bouquet of dried fruit, mixed nuts and rising bread. It offers a sense of brightness on the tongue, with flavors of apricot, peach, saline and toasted almonds, with a lingering note of lemon zest. Torgar Group. —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

90 Viña Palaciega NV Oloroso (Jerez). The color of brewed tea, this dry Sherry offers aromas of apricot, toasted hazelnut and caramel. It has a gorgeous nutty oxidative quality, with flavors of hazelnut, dried apricot, toasted pineapple, honeysuckle, a hint of iodine and a brilliant finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$15

89 Viña Palaciega NV Fino (Jerez). A nose of peach, apricot, mixed nuts and lemon zest with a hint of iodine sets the scene for flavors of cashew, grapefruit, button mushroom and lemon zest. This dry Sherry has a full texture, a strong vein of acidity and a lingering note of Marcona almond. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: NA **Price:** \$15

88 Bodegas y Viñedos Diez Merito NV Pemartín Fino (Jerez). Deep straw in the glass, this dry Sherry features aromas of Granny Smith apple, lemon pith, marzipan and a touch of petrol. It is equal parts bright fruit and nutty notes on the palate, with flavors of apricot, grapefruit, hazelnut and slivered almond. Fruit dominates the finish, offering a splash of citrus-laced brightness. Grapes of Spain. **Best Buy.** —M.D.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$14

CROATIA

MALVASIA

92 Crvik 2021 Tezoro Malvasia (Dalmatia). This medium-yellow wine has aromas of apricot, lemon and herbes de Provence. Full mouthfeel and flavors of white peach, orange marmalade, butterscotch and a soft touch of lavender that lingers into the smooth finish make for a satisfying pour. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Dubrovački Podrumi 2019 Malvasia (Dalmatia). This light-yellow-colored wine has a nose of passion fruit, dried apricot and rose petal. Flavors of green pear, white peach, honeysuckle and lemon zest sail into a bright, floral-scented finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Fakin 2020 La Prima Malvazija (Istria). Light yellow to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Valencia orange, white peach and honeysuckle. It feels good on the palate, offering flavors of lemon, nectarine and orange blossom that cul-

minate in a bright finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

POSIP

92 Volarević 2020 Posip (Dalmatian Coast). A bouquet of lemon, green apple and dried thyme set the scene for flavors of Valencia orange, lemon-lime sorbet and herbes de Provence. It is bright on the palate from first sip through the zesty finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

91 Korta Katarina 2021 Posip (Dalmatian Coast). For full review see page 16. Katharine's Garden LLC.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Black Island Winery 2021 The Dalmatian Dog Posip (Dalmatian Coast). For full review see page 18. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$26

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Saints Hills 2021 Le Chiffre Chardonnay (Istria). Straw colored in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of nectarine, lemon zest and almond blossom. It is full in the mouth, with bold acidity and flavors of pineapple, lemon tart, vanilla and peach. A bright note of grapefruit washes over the finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

93 Antunović 2017 Tradition Grand Selection Graševina (Croatia). For full review see page 10. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. **Hidden Gem.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$59

93 Saints Hills 2021 Frenchie Bordeaux-style White Blend (Istria). A Bordeaux-style blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, this wine has a nose of Meyer lemon, freshly chopped parsley and Granny Smith apple. It is round in the mouth, with a nice note of eucalyptus mingling with flavors of lemon-lime, green apple and a tiny hint of dried Mediterranean herbs that fade into a smooth finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉ

90 Korta Katarina 2021 Rosé Plavac Mali (Pelješac). Medium pink to the eye, this wine offers a nose of apricot, raspberry and almond blossom. Flavors of strawberry, clementine and jasmine sing on the palate and wind their way to a bright, pomegranate-infused finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

PLAVAC MALI

99 Saints Hills 2019 Ernest Tolj Plavac Mali (Dingac). Deep violet to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of blackberry pie, black fig, vanilla and aniseed. It is full on the palate, with enduring tannins and flavors of dark fruits of the wood, milk chocolate, clove and lavender with a slight hint of dried tarragon. There is a beautiful soft floral note that appears at first sip and remains through the drawn out finish. Drink—2034. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —M.D.

abv: NA **Price:** \$150

94 Saints Hills 2019 Dingac Plavac Mali (Dingac). Aromas of blackberry pie and baking spice with a hint of tobacco prepare the palate for flavors of cherry preserves, Chambord, dark chocolate, coffee bean and clove with a hint of dried Mediterranean herbs. Luxurious tannins coat the tongue and gums and drift off into a lengthy pomegranate finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

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

94 Saints Hills 2019 St Roko Premium dry Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). This dark-ruby-colored wine has aromas of black cherry and milk chocolate with a touch of flint. There is a nice sense of spice on the palate, with velvety tannins and flavors of licorice, menthol, cassis, raspberry and a touch of dried thyme that wind down to a violet finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

94 Saints Hills 2018 Dingac Plavac Mali (Dingac). Deep garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of cassis, dried thyme and smoke. It is pleasantly minty, with flavors of eucalyptus, clove, blackberry, cherry and sage. Silky tannins make way for a floral-scented finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

94 Saints Hills 2018 St Roko Premium Dry Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). Inky garnet in the glass, this wine has a gorgeous nose of cassis, blackberry, thyme and lavender. A layer of sleek tannins is wrapped around flavors of purple fig, raspberry, milk chocolate, dried Mediterranean herbs and a hint of espresso. The smooth finish is marked with soft notes of butterscotch and orange zest. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

94 Saints Hills 2017 St Roko Premium Dry Plavac Mali (Komarna). This deep-red-violet wine has a bouquet of red currant, purple fig and herbes de Provence. It is surprisingly soft on entry, offering flavors of pomegranate and black cherry set into a sheath of polished tannins. Notes of milk chocolate, dried thyme and sage, freshly ground coffee and lavender drift into the enduring finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

93 Jako VINO 2017 Stina Majstor Barrique Plavac Mali (Dalmatia). Aromas of purple plum,

black currant, espresso and saddle leather set the scene for flavors of blueberry, blackberry, dark chocolate, fresh ground coffee, olive paste and sage. Plush tannins coat the tongue and gums and fade into a satisfying finish marked with a note of salinity. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

93 Volarević 2018 Gold Edition Plavac Mali (Croatia). Bright garnet in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, violet talc and clove. It is soft at first sip and then enduring tannins coat the tongue and gums along with flavors of black cherry, blackberry, chocolate covered espresso bean, crumbled sage and a hint of anise that marks the lengthy finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Korta Katarina 2015 Plavac Mali (Dingac). Aromas of purple plums, dried thyme and olive tapenade set the scene for flavors of blackberry, black cherry, bittersweet chocolate, truffle and eucalyptus set into plush tannins. There is a bright note of cranberry underlying the palate that holds on and dominates the long finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.

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

92 Saints Hills 2019 Black Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). This dark-garnet wine has a bouquet of purple plums, cassis and charcuterie. It is softer than expected on the palate, offering velvety tannins and flavors of black currant, purple fig, spearmint, clove, thyme and just a hint of honey-glazed ham. The persistent finish is strewn with notes of mint and lavender. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: NA **Price:** \$27

92 Saints Hills 2018 Black Plavac Mali (Dalmatian Coast). Dark ruby in color, this wine offers a nose of pomegranate, milk chocolate and aniseed. It opens with vibrant cherry and pomegranate flavors, quickly followed by lush tannins and notes of dark chocolate, anisette, crumbled sage and a touch of roasted yellow pepper. Bold acidity is a good match for the tannic structure. Massanois Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

TERAN

95 Fakin 2019 Il Primo Teran (Istria). For full review see page 5. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$46

93 Fakin 2021 Teran (Istria). This deep violet-red wine offers a bouquet of blackberry, cassis, dark chocolate and fennel seed. Vibrant flavors of cherry and pomegranate are accompanied by velvety tannins and notes of mocha, aniseed, black-olive paste and dried sage. The finish is marked with a splash of cranberry. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

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

92 Kabola 2016 Amfora Teran (Istria). Aromas of raspberry, black truffle and forest floor waft from the glass. This wine has flavors of cranberry, tart cherry, roasted yellow pepper and sage. It is bright on entry and then deep-set tannins settle into the palate bearing flavors of dark chocolate and molasses that remain into an otherwise bright finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

OTHER RED WINES

92 Testament Winery 2018 The Dalmatian Dog Babic (Dalmatian Coast). For full review see page 15. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

92 Bibich 2017 G6 Grenache (Dalmatia). Red-violet in color, this wine has a nose of blackberry, violet and a touch of leather. Smoky and complex on the palate, it offers flavors of brambly fruits of the wood, black-olive paste, dark chocolate and saddle leather that glide into an enduring finish. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

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

91 Korta Katarina 2018 Zinfandel (Dalmatian Coast). This black-cherry-colored wine has a bouquet of raspberry, red apple peel and menthol. It is bright at first sip, offering flavors of cranberry, cherry preserves, dried hillside herbs and a hint of tar. Luxurious tannins and bold acidity head hand in hand into a minty finish. Katharine's Garden LLC. —M.D.

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

90 Dubrovački podrumi 2016 Zinfandel (Dalmatia). This deep ruby-colored wine offers aromas of black plum and cassis with a touch of dried Mediterranean herbs. A web of polished tannins supports flavors of cranberry, pomegranate, cocoa powder, coffee bean and a touch of green bell pepper. The bright finish is marked with a note of ripe summer cherry. Croatian Premium Wine Imports, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

ALSACE WHITE WINES

RIESLING

93 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Riesling (Alsace). Tart apricot and barely there petrol aromas introduce this as a Riesling for people who love Riesling. Restrained and silky, the wine carries currents of grapefruit zest and wet slate into a long, savory finish. For lovers of Alsace Riesling (which should be everyone), this is a classic and deliciously approachable pour. Quintessential Wines. —L.S.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Trimbach 2020 Dry Riesling (Alsace). For full review see page 12. Taub Family Selections. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Joseph Cattin 2021 Sauvage Riesling (Alsace). Pear and white blossom mingle on the nose with a slate scent. The palate is vibrant, with a bit of petillance that brings that slate characteristic to life. This wine is savory, with a note of apricot heft on the backpalate to add softness heading into the long, lingering impression of fresh-squeezed lemon. Cuvée Imports. —L.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Joseph Cattin 2021 Riesling (Alsace). This is a lean, angular wine on both nose and palate. It's driven by pithy lemon, stony minerality and a bit of salinity, with a slight pinprick sensation on the tongue. Alive and electric, it pulsates with acidity that is flavorful, not sharp. Adding softness is the hint of a brioche note that will hopefully develop with age. Serve this as an aperitif to make mouths water. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Best Buy.** —L.S. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

PINOT BLANC

92 Gustave Lorentz 2021 Réserve Pinot Blanc (Alsace). For full review see page 13. Quintessential Wines. **Editors' Choice.** **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Trimbach 2021 Dry Pinot Blanc (Alsace). For full review see page 17. Taub Family Selections. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

WHITE BLENDS

95 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2018 Schlossberg Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). An almost confectionery nose gives way to a wine that's lean and driven. Notes of chèvre and tart white peach are complemented by slate and salinity in a smooth, medium body. A vein of searing acidity runs through into the long finish. This wine cries out for a cheese platter to accompany. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$102

95 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Schoenenbourg Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). An intense but sophisticated nose has restrained notes of pear, lychee and vanilla. In the mouth, this wine is round and smooth, with pleasing weight on the tongue. Sweet lychee notes are met with refreshing lemon acidity. An off-dry finish has wonderful reed notes that support that intriguing hint of vanilla. This wine could go just as well with duck breast as with an apple tart. Keep it on hand for dinner parties. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$115

95 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2016 Burg White Blend (Alsace). Intense petrol and spring-onion notes will excite anyone who loves wines that veer savory. Although sweet with melon flavors, this

wine has plenty of white pepper and fines herbes to create a balanced garden party on the palate. The finish is long and creamy, with sweetness and tang hanging in delicate balance long after the final sip. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

94 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2019 Schlossberg Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). This wine is restrained on the nose, smelling like sun-warmed grape vines and a bit of petrol. It's lithe on the sip, with notes of Granny Smith and vanilla bean stretching gracefully across the palate, bolstered by fresh acidity. Apple carries into the finish, suggesting that this wine would go great alongside a nice block of aged cheddar. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$102

94 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Altenberg de Bergheim Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). Lychee meets dill and eucalyptus on a fragrant nose with just a hint of petrol. This sweet wine is refreshing, thanks to herbaceous notes, sunny acidity and a relatively light body. The medium-length finish carries a mineral note. All of these factors come together into a sweet wine perfect for pairing with savory dishes. Try alongside drunken noodles or Thai green curry to cut the food's heat and add complementary flavors. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$102

94 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Rotenberg White Blend (Alsace). Celery seed and tomato leaf fragrances almost invoke a Bloody Mary. But if this wine is bold and spicy on the nose, the palate is all restraint. A satiny texture is lively with acidity and faint notes of vanilla bean, lemon zest and fennel seed. The finish is long and clean. Everything is balanced, the flavor and structure flowing smoothly together. It's also delicate, with muscles flexing below the surface. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

94 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2016 Schoenenbourg Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). Strong, custardy apple and pear aromas get a hint of dill and mustard seed, for a wine that's strong and balanced from the first sniff. This slightly sweet wine has a languid, expansive feel across the palate, carrying lychee and orchard fruit notes, as well as fresh spring herbs like dill and chive. With intense aromas and flavors, this wine is bold and elegant. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$115

94 Domaine Schoffit 2019 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Auxerrois (Alsace). Hay-redolent and tart-apple-laden, the nose on this wine is reminiscent of a fall day. Although light bodied and marked by electric acidity, it has a soft, round mouthfeel. Notes of apple candy, wet rocks and something piquant, like mustard, carry through into a long, well-balanced finish. This wine carries the plush apple hallmarks of a classic Alsace Pinot Auxerrois, but with a modern outlook that's defining the region these days. Weygandt-Metzler. —L.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2018 Engelgarten White Blend (Alsace). Cantaloupe and straw aromas are elegant and sunny. A creamy, savory Alpine cheese characteristic leads into this satiny, medium-bodied wine. The acidity is searing and prickly to balance out the lushness. A summer-sweet hint of cantaloupe—think farmstand, not breakfast fruit salad—works its way back into the long, savory finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2018 Langenberg White Blend (Alsace). Bright aromas of nectarine and grass invoke summer. This wine is slender and prickly with acidity, but juicy peach notes manage to shine through. A backbone of minerality adds body to this otherwise ethereal pour. Overall, this wine is refreshing, easy to drink and light on its feet, perfect for summer days enjoying the outdoors. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2018 Zellenberg White Blend (Alsace). A savory, ever-so-slightly charred aroma leads into a deliciously smoky sip. A light, silky texture and lemon-drop background keep this wine balanced in an otherwise savory, mineral- and smoke-driven profile. Although this wine is very enjoyable on its own, it seems destined to be served with grilled fish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Grasberg White Blend (Alsace). Bold aromas of brioche, cream and honeysuckle are contrasted by just a bit of allium flower and smoke. This sweet wine is silky, bright and led by acidity, with that intriguing hint of smoke to mirror the nose. The finish is clean. It's a wine that balances elegance and boldness in one sweet, nuanced package. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$58

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Mambourg Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). Lemon zest aromas are bolstered by a tangy, yogurt quality and a hint of toasty toffee for a nose that's intriguingly epicurean. The palate of this wine is clean and plush, with searing acidity that balances a soft mouthfeel. A hint of toasty toffee notes segues into a long, cleansing and tangy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —L.S. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$115

93 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2016 Altenberg de Bergheim Grand Cru White Blend (Alsace). Peach and pear aromas are bright and herbaceous, with a welcome hint of cedar that adds intrigue. This sweet wine is luxuriously mouthcoating, but stays refreshing in fruit. A surprising hit of melon on the back palate keeps that fun and fruity impression alive, but cedar and mineral notes, along with heaps of brightness, keep this sip sophisticated. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S. **abv:** 12% **Price:** \$102

92 Christophe Mittnacht 2020 Gyotaku White Blend (Alsace). Popcorn aromas are mild on the nose, hinting at an oak presence. Don't be fooled. On the palate, this wine is light and springy, fresh with lemon drop and nectarine. It does have a bit of grip on the backpalate, for a long, mineral-driven finish with soft, plush notes of pear. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2020 Alsace Complattation White Blend (Alsace). A nose of celery and peach skin is elegant and refreshing. Juicy and mouthfilling, this wine carries a shock of acidity that keeps it from feeling flabby or too round. Juicy apple balances saline and slate notes into a long, clean, apple-y finish, which has a hint of black-tea astringency to keep you on your toes. As an entry-level Marcel Deiss wine, this is a good introduction to the producer's style. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2019 Zellenberg White Blend (Alsace). Juicy McIntosh apples meet fennel fronds and nutmeg on the nose, for a light and breezy but undeniably autumnal aroma. With notes of gremolata and hazelnut on the palate, though, this is a year-round wine. It's zippy and epicurean, great as an aperitif or alongside appetizers. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —L.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

92 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2017 Schoffweg White Blend (Alsace). Anise, honeydew and toast mix in a tantalizing aroma. Light and delicate, the palate of this wine carries flavors of lemon cream and, again, slightly burnt toast. Although quite culinary, this wine would come up a little delicate alongside a meal. Pour it before dinner to get excited about things to come. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

92 Domaine Marcel Deiss 2016 Grasberg White Blend (Alsace). This wine is vivacious and playful on the nose, with aromas of pear, Twizzlers, fennel frond and wild jasmine. It gets more serious on the sweet but bracingly acidic palate, which has a smooth, well-muscled mouthfeel. The wine is clean and hefty, better suited for a cheese plate than dessert. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —L.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Cave de Ribeauvillé 2016 Clos du Zahnacker White Blend (Alsace). Fresh strawberry leaves, with the hint of earthiness they bring, impart a nostalgic yet refreshing aroma. Some red fruit roundness is a surprising front-palate note to this wine, but it quickly gives way to river rock, sun-warmed grass and, most predominantly, a bright lemon-peel acidity. The wine finishes clean and tangy. Serge Doré Selections. —L.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

91 Dopff & Irion 2018 Crustacés White Blend (Alsace). Pear and vanilla aromas are soft and inviting. This smooth, rippling wine is restrained in its fruit, but pear is definitely present, alongside

notes of mild Gruyere and lime zest. Acidity that is bright but not searing makes for a clean break, with a medium-length finish. The wine is clean, pretty and eminently drinkable. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Best Buy.* —L.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Pierre Sparr 2020 One White Blend (Alsace). Rose petal and lychee aromas jump out of the glass. The palate of this wine is lean and driven by stony minerality, as well as brightness. However, those fruit and floral aromas carry through the entire sip, restrained and elegant, into the medium-length, peppery finish. This is an easygoing, flirtatious wine that you'll want to keep sipping. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —L.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

BURGUNDY WHITE WINES

CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE

95 Louis Latour 2019 Grand Cru Chardonnay (Corton-Charlemagne). For full review see page 5. Louis Latour Inc.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$250

94 Joseph Drouhin 2019 Grand Cru Chardonnay (Corton-Charlemagne). Harvested from just under an acre, this classic expression exudes ripe, charming layers from the first sip. Rich and structured, it offers notes of yellow apples, orange oil, white pepper, fines herbes and white button mushrooms, with crushed river rocks and a lingering acacia and fresh vanilla-pod finish. Approachable now, the wine can easily be cellared through 2030+. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$270

93 Arnaud Baillet 2019 Grand Cru Chardonnay (Corton-Charlemagne). Powerful, generous and concentrated, this full-bodied wine reveals additional intricate layers of ripe citrus and stony minerality with proper aeration. Cellar beyond 2028 to enjoy these complexities. Private Cask Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

93 Louis Jadot 2019 Chardonnay (Corton-Charlemagne). Round and silky, the nose initially seems a bit shy. Upon revisiting, it reveals beautiful bursts of ripe pineapple, lemon verbena and fresh pears, along with fresh hay, vanilla pod and a creamy buttery finish. Balanced with a nice cut of acidity, the wine shows cellaring potential for well beyond 2030. Kobrand. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$265

CORTON

93 Domaine Chanson 2019 Vergennes Grand Cru Chardonnay (Corton). Powerful, intricate layers of fresh citrus and pulverized white stone

play back on forth on the palate, revealing more complexity with aeration. Creamy and mouthwatering, the impressive finish has notes of freshly baked lemon bread. Cellar through 2028 and beyond. Vin-tus LLC. —A.C.C.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$198

BEAUJOLAIS WHITE WINES

BEAUJOLAIS BLANC

89 Domaine Mélinon 2020 Beaujolais Blanc (Beaujolais Blanc). This wine is rich with spice and generous white fruits. Touches of mango contrast with the wine's citrus freshness. Drink now. Clear Sky Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

89 Famille Chasselay 2021 Terroir de Chatillon (Beaujolais Blanc). Named after the area in which it is grown, this wine has a dense texture that brings out a fine perfume and rich texture. With its concentration, the wine needs a few months more before drinking. Leave until late 2023. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Dominique Piron 2021 (Beaujolais). This wine is about white fruits and gentle acidity. Ripe, fresh and balanced, it is lifted with apple and cut with lemon juice. Drink now. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Famille Chasselay 2021 Eparcieix Blanc (Beaujolais Blanc). Full of ripe tropical and fresh apple flavors, this is an attractive, fruity wine. A zesty texture adds extra depth. Drink this rich wine now. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

87 Collin-Bourisset 2021 Louis Bourisset Pierres Dorées (Beaujolais). Black fruits, ripe tannins and plenty of freshness give this wine a generous, open character. It is ready to drink. Wine Wine Situation. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Famille Chasselay 2021 Beaujolais is not Dead (Beaujolais). This soft wine is attractive and full of gentle red fruits. Drink this ripe, easygoing wine now. And, yes, the name is correct. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Jean-Paul Brun 2021 L'Ancien Vieilles Vignes Terres Dorées (Beaujolais). Bright and juicy, this wine offers red cherry flavors and plenty of freshness from the acidity. The wine is lively and

crisp at the end. Drink now. Louis/Dressner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$23

86 J. M. Aujoux 2021 La Collection (Beaujolais). Bright and fruity, this wine has a gentle texture and lively acidity. It is soft, offering plenty of red cherries and a lively aftertaste. Drink now. Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

86 Michel Guignier 2021 (Beaujolais). A ripe, fruity wine with juicy acidity and an open texture, this is immediately attractive. Its lightness and freshness mean that it is ready to drink. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES

90 Gérard Brisson 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages). A succulent, warm wine, this has soft tannins and a depth of black fruit flavors. It is full and generous, with a welcoming character. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

89 Jean Loron 2020 Château de la Pierre (Beaujolais-Villages). This producer, a member of the esteemed Loron family, owns this estate amongst others. The property has produced a wine that is rich, structured and worth aging. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine André Colonge 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages). A fragrant, fresh wine, this has poise and lightness. Ripe berry fruits give it vibrancy. Drink now. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine Mélinon 2020 Tirage Précoce (Beaujolais-Villages). Juicy and fruity, this wine is softly textured, with a light core of tannins set against red fruits. Drink the wine from late 2023. Clear Sky Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Jean Loron 2021 Château de la Pierre (Beaujolais-Villages). For a Beaujolais Villages, this is a slow developer, luxuriating in tannins that are still opening out. With its black fruits and richness, the wine will likely be ready from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Louis Jadot 2021 (Beaujolais-Villages). This Beaune negociant that also owns Château des Jacques produces a regular, red-fruit-flavored Beaujolais Villages. It is an easy wine, made to enjoy young with its light texture and fruitiness. Drink now. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Domaines Dominique Piron 2020 Beaujolais Lantignié - Fructus Agapé (Beaujolais-Vil-

lages). The Romans were in the city of Lyon and the Beaujolais region. This bright wine is attractively balanced between ripe red fruits and acidity. It is ready to drink. Beaune Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Georges Duboeuf 2021 Sans Sulfites (Beaujolais-Villages). Bottled without added sulfites, this light wine offers some pure black fruits. It is fresh, the texture gentle and easy. Drink the wine now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 J. M. Aujoux 2021 La Collection (Beaujolais-Villages). A light structure justifies this wine's Villages appellation and gives shape to the black cherry fruits and acidity. The wine will be delicious from 2024. Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

87 Jean Loron 2021 Domaine de Cornillac (Beaujolais-Villages). Attractive fruity and juicy, this wine is fresh and packed with black cherry flavors. Tannins are soft and the texture is open. Drink now. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Jean-Michel Dupré 2021 Le Bojo de Jean-Mi (Beaujolais-Villages). An easygoing wine with juicy acidity and light tannins, this is immediately approachable. Light and fruity, the wine is ready to drink. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Georges Duboeuf 2021 Flower Label (Beaujolais-Villages). Lightly structured, this wine has ripe berry flavors and fresh acidity. It's attractive, full of fruit and ready to drink. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

SAINT-AMOUR

92 Domaine de la Pirolette 2020 La Poulette (Saint-Amour). A dense structure and tannins give this wine concentration plus the promise for further aging. The black fruits and touch of spice add up to a wine that will be great to drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$44

92 Domaine de la Pirolette 2019 Le Carjot (Saint-Amour). This wine's structure suggests promise. Along with the blackberry fruits and layers of tannins, the wine is just ready to drink. It shows a touch of spice at the end from wood aging. Drink now. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

91 Collin-Bourisset 2021 Douce-Folie (Saint-Amour). This wine has bold, ripe black fruits, structured and still firm. The juicy backdrop is already delicious, with great freshness that is developing well. Drink this wine when it is fully balanced, from 2025. Wine Wine Situation. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Les Sources d'Agapé 2020 Côte de Besset (Saint-Amour). Acidity and fresh red fruits contrast with a layer of tannins and firm structure. This wine has poise, balance and juicy flavors, along with a backbone from the young, dry core. Drink the wine from 2024. Pierreclos Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine de la Pirolette 2020 (Saint-Amour). This still-young wine shows the tannic side of Saint-Amour. It has full berry flavors along with a solid texture. Acidity and freshness are hints in background. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Les Sources d'Agapé 2020 Mont-Besset (Saint-Amour). Perfumed and juicy, this wine is fresh with acidity and ripe black fruits. With its tannic edge and spicy aftertaste, the wine could age. Drink from 2024. Summit Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$36

89 Domaine de la Pirolette 2021 L'Age de Raisin (Saint-Amour). From a selection of parcels of vines, this limited-edition wine is juicy and fruity, with freshness and acidity etched in the palate. Red fruits and a crisp aftertaste complete the ensemble. Drink now. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

89 Les Sources d'Agapé 2020 Petit-Besset (Saint-Amour). This wine is fresh and fruity, with an attractive perfumed character. It has plenty of red fruits that are becoming delicious. Drink this wine from 2024. Pierreclos Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Patrick Tranchand 2021 Coeur de Gamay (Saint-Amour). A play on the name of the village, this wine is juicy with red fruits and ripe tannins. A fresh lift adds attractiveness. This ripe wine will be ready from 2024. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

CHÉNAS

92 Yohan Lardy 2021 Les Deschamps (Chénas). The structure found in a Chénas is very evident in this wine. Its tannins and dry core are dense and need time to soften. Drink this concentrated wine from 2025. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Pascal Aufranc 2021 En Remont (Chénas). While light in texture, this wine also has concentration from the layer of firm black fruits that offers richness. Drink this wine from 2024. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 J. M. Aujoux 2020 La Collection (Chénas). Some of the appellation's characteristic structure comes through in this ripe wine. It has a dry core of tannins alongside the black fruits and

BUYINGGUIDE

good acidity. Worth aging, the wine will be ready from 2024. Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$26

JULIÉNAS

93 Laurent Perrachon et Fils 2021 Les Vignes Centenaires (Juliénas). A firm and textured wine, this has ripe black fruits over solid tannins. The wine is rich and concentrated, to be expected from old bush vines. It will age well, so wait to drink until 2025. International Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

91 Pascal Aufranc 2020 Probus (Juliénas). Named after the Roman emperor who restored vine planting in France, this wine has structure and a dense texture. It is balanced with a good freshness to it and a poise in its step. Drink from 2025. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

90 Henri Bonnerue 2021 (Juliénas). This wine is structured, with firm tannins set against the bright acidity and black fruits. It will age to give a ripe wine full of fruit, with a balanced structure of tannins and acidity. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

90 Pascal Aufranc 2021 Les Crots (Juliénas). The structure and rich black fruits of a Juliénas are all here. With brilliant fruit alongside firm tannins and richness, the wine will age. Drink from 2024. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

89 Jean Loron 2020 Domaine de la Vieille Eglise Clos des Poulettes (Juliénas). Perfumed with ripe black fruits, this wine is full of succulent acidity to match its structure and firm tannins that are now softening. Drink the wine from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

88 Jean-Claude Debeaune 2021 Domaine de la Seigneurie (Juliénas). Offering fresh red fruits and light tannins, this wine is open and attractively light. Lightly perfumed, it finishes with a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

85 Les Sources d'Agapé 2021 Les Mouilles (Juliénas). This wine is light, a contradiction for a Juliénas. Its tannins and structure show little tension. Drink the wine now. Summit Selections. —R.V.
abv: 11% Price: \$27

MOULIN-À-VENT

94 Château des Jacques 2020 Le Moulin (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine is a true celebration of Beaujolais. Powerful black fruits are accompanied by dense tannins that still need time to soften. This

wine is impressively rich, softened by some wood aging. It will mature well, so drink from 2025. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$63

94 Domaine Anita 2021 Coeur de Vigneronne (Moulin-à-Vent). One of the top wines from the estate, this shows richness and structure. It is perfumed and the ripe black fruits deliver a delicious, juicy edge. This wine will be ready from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$33

94 Domaine Labruyère 2020 Le Clos (Moulin-à-Vent). This single-vineyard wine from one of the best sectors of Moulin-à-Vent conveys singular power. It has density and concentration, with layers of black fruits and tannins. The wine has a fine future. Drink from 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$116

93 Château des Jacques 2020 Clos de Rochegrès (Moulin-à-Vent). The potential of this solid, dense wine is enormous. With rich black fruits and dense concentration, it has a fine future. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$47

93 Château des Jacques 2020 Clos des Thorins (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine is full, ripe and structured, with tannins still playing an important part. It is dense and powerful, with layers of black fruits and texture. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$47

93 Château des Jacques 2020 Clos du Grand Carquelin (Moulin-à-Vent). One of the single-vineyard wines from this producer, this bottling has power and density. Its richness is without question, needing time to soften. It is likely to be ready from 2025. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$47

93 Domaine Anita 2021 Très Vieille Vigne les Caves (Moulin-à-Vent). The concentration of this wine comes from the old vines, giving richness and generous black fruits as well as dense tannins that will soften. Drink this wine from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

93 Domaine Labruyère 2020 Coeur de Terroirs (Moulin-à-Vent). The density of this wine is impressive. It brings out generous black fruits and a structure that, while cushioned by the richness, are very ageworthy. The wine's future is assured. Drink from 2025. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$43

93 Domaine Richard Rottiers 2021 Les Thorins (Moulin-à-Vent). This single-vineyard wine comes from plantings close to the eponymous windmill. While it has a light texture, it still packs a punch of generous fruits and firm tannins. As it

softens it will open up deliciously. Drink from 2025. Milton Road Trading Co. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

93 Piron & Lamelois 2020 (Moulin-à-Vent). This rich wine's dark fruits and tannins are cushioned by the generous texture. It is a full-bodied wine, packed with black fruits and finished with spice. Drink from 2024. Beaune Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

93 Yohan Lardy 2021 Vieilles Vignes de 1903 (Moulin-à-Vent). Vines that are 120 years old have given impressive concentration to this wine. It shows density and richness, with a spicy character and ripe tannins. The wine is all fruit and still young. It needs to age to bring out the underlying richness and structure. Drink from 2025. Bonhomie Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

92 Domaine Anita 2021 Aux Michelons (Moulin-à-Vent). One of the many fine Moulin-à-Vent wines from this estate, this bottling has spice and touches of wood as well as layers of black fruits and acidity. Its future is assured as it matures. Drink from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

92 Domaine Bertrand 2020 Les Petits Bois (Moulin-à-Vent). This wine is ripe with generous black fruits. These are balanced by still-young acidity that brings freshness to a wine that could still age. Drink this fruity wine with an edge of structure from 2024. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$21

92 Domaine Mee Godard 2020 Au Michelon (Moulin-à-Vent). This juicy wine is structured, with excellent black fruits and a dense texture. It is still developing and young, but has a good future. Drink the wine from 2024. Grand Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$37

92 Domaine Richard Rottiers 2021 (Moulin-à-Vent). A juicy wine with a good structure, this is young and has firm tannins. Its black fruits and perfumed character are full of promise. Drink from 2025. Organic. Milton Road Trading Co. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

92 Michel Guignier 2020 Amethystes (Moulin-à-Vent). One of a pair of Amethystes wines from different appellations, this is structured with solid tannins. It is young, full of black fruits and has a ripe structure. The juicy aftertaste gives the wine a lift. Drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

92 Yohan Lardy 2021 Les Michelons (Moulin-à-Vent). This firm and structured wine promises a great deal. It is rich, with impressive black fruits and solid tannins. The wine needs to age to

bring out its fruit and structure. Drink from 2025. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

91 **Château des Jacques 2020 (Moulin-à-Vent).** Ripe, juicy and full of black fruits, this is a full-bodied wine. It is an amalgam of grapes from different parts of the Moulin-à-Vent vineyard, giving fruit and structure in abundance. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$34

91 **Château des Jacques 2020 La Roche (Moulin-à-Vent).** A bitter edge gives this wine a firmly structured character. With spice and black fruits it will develop slowly but surely to become a balanced wine, full of black fruits. Drink from 2025. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$47

91 **Domaine de la Chapelle Bizot 2020 Chapelle de Beauville (Moulin-à-Vent).** This single-estate wine is structured and firm, with solid tannins that match the black fruits. An attractive juicy element shows at the end. Drink from 2025. Boutinot USA, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

91 **Georges Duboeuf 2021 Flower Label (Moulin-à-Vent).** This full-bodied wine offers juicy black fruits and some tannic structure. It is fresh but has a ripe, full core. Drink the wine as it ages, from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

91 **Henri Bonnerue 2021 (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine's firm tannins presage aging and future richness. A ripe wine, it's full of berry fruits and freshened at this stage with acidity. The wine will age well. Drink from 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

91 **Nathalie et Bernard Remuet 2021 Cuvée 1924 - Vieilles Vignes (Moulin-à-Vent).** Old vines, planted in 1924, have given a wine with great concentration and distinction. It has a rich taste, juicy black fruits and elegant tannins. Drink the wine from 2024. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$27

91 **Patrick Tranchand 2021 Rocheigrès (Moulin-à-Vent).** This dense wine is structured, with swathes of black fruits and ripe berry flavors. It has a good future, softening and releasing its richness. Drink from 2025. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

91 **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2021 Les Trois Roches (Moulin-à-Vent).** This ripe, spicy wine offers a touch of smokiness and has a tannic structure. With its firm character, the wine is still aging. Drink this ripe wine from 2025. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 **Domaine Mélinon 2020 Les Petits Bois (Moulin-à-Vent).** Rich with some solid tan-

nins, this wine is worth aging. It has structure as well as open black fruits. The wine will be ready from 2024. Clear Sky Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

90 **Jean Loron 2021 Xavier et Nicolas Barbet (Moulin-à-Vent).** This structured, firm wine has ripe tannins and rich black fruits. With its spice and firmness, the wine promises well. Drink from 2025. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

89 **Château de la Terrière 2020 Le Moulin (Moulin-à-Vent).** With some maturity, this wine is still structured but offers plenty of ripe red fruits as well as acidity and spice. Drink this juicy wine now. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$44

88 **Domaine Fond Moiroux 2020 Gros Vosges (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine is bright, with both acidity and red fruits in balance. Lightly structured, the wine is generous and richly ready to drink. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

87 **Domaine du Granit 2021 Tradition (Moulin-à-Vent).** Acidity and red fruits still dominate this juicy wine. It has structure that needs to soften. This will be an attractive wine from 2024. Bertrand's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

86 **Trenel Fils 2021 (Moulin-à-Vent).** A surprisingly light wine, this has red fruits and bright acidity. Drink this wine from 2024. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$33

FLEURIE

93 **Château Bellevue 2020 Montgenas (Fleurie).** This wine is still not quite ready to drink. It would be a shame to let the still-dominant tannins have the last word. The wine's rich black fruits and juicy character are almost ready. Drink from 2024. Cognac One, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

93 **Château des Jacques 2020 (Fleurie).** Owned by Beaune producer Louis Jadot, this estate produces some fine wines. Ripe black fruits and layers of tannins show that this is still developing into a ripe, floral wine. The wine is full, packed with fruit and structure. Drink from 2024. Kobrand. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$34

92 **Albert Bichot 2021 Domaine de Rocheigrès (Fleurie).** This is a finely textured wine, ripe with firm tannins under black fruits. It comes from a domaine owned by the Bichot family of Beaune. Its style is ripe, rounded and Burgundian. Drink the wine from 2024. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 **Albert Bichot 2021 La Madone (Fleurie).** This perfumed wine is full of juicy black fruits over firm, underlying tannins. From one of the iconic sites in Fleurie, it has potential and structure. Drink from 2024. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 **Château Bellevue 2021 Montgenas (Fleurie).** This young wine is rich in both tannins and black fruits. Its structure is cushioned by the generous fruits and balanced acidity. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 **Château Bellevue 2019 Montgenas (Fleurie).** This ripe, concentrated wine is now mature, with the beginnings of rich, secondary flavors and a juicy character. It is ready to drink now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 **Clos de Mez 2021 Mademoiselle M (Fleurie).** This wine is rich and full of black fruits. Still not fully ready to drink, the wine has layers of juicy acidity, tannins and berry flavors. Wait to drink until 2024. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$29

92 **Famille Chasselay 2021 Cuvée III (Fleurie).** Smoky aromas and ripe black fruits give a wine with density and spicy concentration. This ripe, perfumed wine offers dense tannins and full black fruits. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$39

92 **Gilles Copéret 2020 Les Roches (Fleurie).** Black and firm, this wine is structured. Rich berry flavors in the background are still developing, showing the promise of black fruit flavors and spice. Drink from 2025. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 15% Price: \$21

91 **Château Bellevue 2018 Montgenas (Fleurie).** Owned by the Loron family, this property can produce some fine wines, such as this. This wine is still firm with ripe tannins and a rich texture while also showing maturity. Drink the wine now. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

91 **Clos de Mez 2020 La Dot (Fleurie).** This wine is still very firmly structured. Perfumed and full of potential, it is ripe, juicy and generous with black fruits. But it needs time, so wait to drink until 2024. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$32

91 **Domaine André Colonge 2021 Les Grandes Vières (Fleurie).** Plenty of firm tannins underly this ripe wine. The black fruits are concentrated, giving the wine depth. Let it soften and open up. Drink from 2025. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

91 Gilles Copéret 2020 La Madone (Fleurie). One of Fleurie's best-known vineyards, clustered around the hilltop chapel, has produced this ripe, rounded wine. Its red berry fruits are still right up front and will soften. Drink the still-structured wine from 2024. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

91 Jean Loron 2020 Château de Fleurie La Madone (Fleurie). Named after the chapel at the top of the hill, this vineyard can, as here, produce some ageworthy wines. This wine is young, still structured with layers of black fruits over tannins. It needs to mature further. Drink from 2025. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Cyril Copéret 2201 La Madone (Fleurie). From one of the best-known vineyards in Fleurie, this wine has a perfumed character. Its red fruits and light tannins are already attractive, giving the possibility of aging. Drink this attractive wine from 2024. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 Gilles Copéret 2021 La Madone (Fleurie). This wine is still tight, with the potential for aging. Berry fruits are dominant along with a firm layer of tannin. The wine needs to age, so drink from 2025. XXI Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$21

90 Jean Loron 2020 Pur Gamay (Fleurie). Fine tannins support the developing black fruits and general richness of this generous wine. A touch of spice adds to the wine's balance. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Patrick Tranchand 2021 Côte de Poncié (Fleurie). This wine is ripe with black fruits and a layer of tannins. An attractive juicy edge gives it freshness on top of the core of dryness. Wait to drink until 2024. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Yohan Lardy 2021 Le Vivier (Fleurie). This juicy, red-fruit-flavored wine has spice and a very fresh feel. As it softens, the wine will open into a broad, full-bodied richness. Drink from 2024. Bonhomie Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

89 Collin-Bourisset 2021 Domaine des Communaux (Fleurie). Still young, this wine has plenty of potential from its black fruits and concentrated tannins. It is a generous wine, the fruitiness sure to come through over the next few months. Drink from 2024. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Collin-Bourisset 2021 Montgenas (Fleurie). This solid wine has some firm tannins that need time to soften. It has a bright edge, with layers of black fruits just waiting to develop. Drink the wine from 2024. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Georges Duboeuf 2021 Domaine du Prieure Saint Romain (Fleurie). This is a ripe, soft wine, the fruits shining with richness while also cut with acidity. It is fruity, but the structure is still there. The wine needs to soften. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2021 (Fleurie). This wine has some structure and a layer of firm tannins that balance the potential of the fresh fruit. It could do with some aging. Drink from 2024. Valkyrie Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Jean-Claude Debeaune 2021 Château des Déduits (Fleurie). Soft, open and with just a hint of tannin, this wine is pleasingly ripe. It is fruity and ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

CHIROUBLES

91 Michel Guignier 2021 Amethystes (Chiroubles). This one of a pair of wines from different appellations has a firm structure and layers of tannins. It is still young, with black fruits and acidity that are full of vitality. Let the wine soften more and drink from 2025. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine de la Chapelle Bizot 2021 (Chiroubles). This wine offers attractive fresh fruits and acidity. It has a cool structure that comes from the high-elevation vineyards. Drink from 2024. Boutinot USA, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Georges Duboeuf 2021 Flower Label (Chiroubles). A cool, mineral-textured wine, this is fruity but has a layer of firm tannins. It offers acidity and a floral character at the end. The textured aftertaste needs to soften. Drink from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Fabien Collonge 2021 L'Aurore des Cotes (Chiroubles). This warm, ripe wine is rich, with layers of black fruits and acidity set against a firm, ageworthy character. Drink the wine from 2024. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2021 (Chiroubles). From Chiroubles, the highest appellation in Beaujolais, this wine is fresh with lightness and lively acidity. This attractive wine will age quickly. Drink from late 2023. Valkyrie Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Domaine Joncy 2021 Le Pont (Chiroubles). This wine has structure, with solid tannins under the cool red fruits. It is perfumed and bright

with acidity. Drink from 2024. Organic. Private Cask Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

MORGON

94 Domaine Mee Godard 2020 Côte du Py (Morgon). This wine is still structured, firm with tannins. The black fruits are still young, behind the texture. But the ensemble of the wine promises serious joy once it ages. Drink from 2025. Grand Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Château Bellevue 2021 Côte du Py (Morgon). The famed and impressive slope of vines that form the Côte du Py is rightly known for its structured wine. This rich wine has that structure in bucket loads. It is firm, solid with tannins while still showing richness and concentration. The wine will develop well. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

93 Domaine Gaget 2020 Cuvée Joseph (Morgon). This Morgon-based producer has created an impressive, ripe and structured wine. Rich tannins give spice and a dry, solid edge that is set for aging. Drink this wine from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$41

93 Domaine Mee Godard 2020 Corcelette (Morgon). Ripe and juicy, this wine offers swathes of black fruits and a backdrop of tannins. Full of acidity and fruit, the wine is held together by a structure that is still softening. Drink from 2025. Grand Cru Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

93 Domaine Mee Godard 2020 Grand Cras (Morgon). This is a structured, ripe and juicy wine. Fine tannins go with the black fruits and acidity to create a generous, balanced wine that is likely to age further. Drink from 2024. Grand Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Domaine Mee Godard 2020 Passerelle 577 (Morgon). This wine has structure, layers of generous black fruits and powerful tannins. Acidity gives it further promise. Drink this long-lasting wine from 2025. Grand Cru Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

93 Laurent Gauthier 2021 Cote du Py (Morgon). Structured and still firm, this young wine shows good potential. Ripe tannins that will soften and succulent black fruits come together with final acidity. Drink from 2025. American Northwest Distributors Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

93 Ludovic Montginot 2021 Côte du Py (Morgon). The structure of this wine is impressively apparent. Layers of tannins accompany the

ripe black fruits, while acidity and spice add further complexity. Drink the wine from 2025. New Wave Wine Co.. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$25**

92 **Château de Pizay 2020 Les Sybarites (Morgon)**. This wine has structure alongside its ripe fruits. Acidity and tannins sustain the still-young fruit. The wine is dense and worth aging further. Drink from 2024. David Milligan Selections. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$30**

92 **Château de Pougelon 2021 Corcelette (Morgon)**. This family-owned estate has produced a full, rich wine from one of the sectors of Morgon. It has the tannins, black fruits and concentration to age well. Drink from 2024. Still Point Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$35**

92 **Domaine des Gaudets 2020 Côte du Py (Morgon)**. This perfumed wine has soft tannins but is full of structure. Its juicy black fruits shine. Although still young, the wine shows its potential. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$26**

92 **Domaine Gaget 2021 Côte du Py (Morgon)**. Properly tannic and structured, this wine has black fruits over a firm core. It is set for some good drinking with its richness and dense texture. Open this promising wine from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price: \$33**

92 **Domaine Gaget 2021 Les Compères (Morgon)**. A complex wine, this has dense black fruits and layers of firm tannins. Spice and a rich structure give extra flavors. Drink this wine from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$40**

92 **Domaine Striffling 2021 Les Charmes (Morgon)**. Fermented in barrique, this wine is rich and already smoothly textured. With big tannins and ripe black fruits, it has density and a firm structure. The wine conveys weight and definite aging potential. Drink from 2025. Cape Classics. *Cellar Selection*. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$43**

92 **Famille Chasselay 2021 Corcelette (Morgon)**. This wine is ripe and dense. It is concentrated and structured, with firm tannins and solid black fruits. With its acidity, spiciness and a closed, tight texture, the wine will need time. Drink from 2025. Organic. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price: \$38**

92 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2021 Côte du Py (Morgon)**. The best-known vineyard in Morgon provides, yet again, a structured wine. This is dense and full of generous black fruits with a rich, min-

eral and concentrated character. Drink from 2025. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$30**

92 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2021 Le Griottier (Morgon)**. A griottier is an orchard of bitter cherries. It seems vines are a better use for the land, giving a wine with ripe berry flavors and generous black fruits. The wine's structure indicates that it will age well. Drink from 2025. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$25**

92 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2021 Vignes de 1935 (Morgon)**. This wine has the concentration to be expected from old vines. Its ripe tannins and rich black fruits are full of potential. The wine should be aged further. Drink from 2025. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$22**

92 **Laurent Gauthier 2021 Grands Cras (Morgon)**. Big and juicy, this wine shows its origins well. Tannins and ripe black fruits are evident along with the underlying structure. The wine is obviously young, so drink from 2025. American Northwest Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$22**

92 **Laurent Gauthier 2018 Javernière (Morgon)**. Ripe and succulent, this wine is full of red fruits and well-balanced acidity. With a structure that is now mature, it is smooth and well textured. Drink the wine now. American Northwest Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$35**

92 **Laurent Perrachon et Fils 2021 Côte du Py (Morgon)**. A firm and structured wine from the slope of the Côte du Py, this is rich with potential. Dense tannins go along with juicy black fruits and a solid texture for a complete wine. Drink from 2025. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$27**

91 **Clos de Mez 2020 Château Gaillard (Morgon)**. This rich wine, maturing well, is dense and full of black fruits. It has a rich texture, lined with acidity. A layer of tannins is still developing, holding the wine's structure together. The wine will evolve. Drink from 2024. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price: \$32**

91 **Collin-Bourisset 2021 Grand Cras (Morgon)**. From one of the top sectors of Morgon, the wine is still tight and closed. Its tannins and dry core need time. It does have the fruit weight to develop into a full-bodied wine. Wait until 2025. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$24**

91 **Domaine des Gaudets 2021 Grand Cras (Morgon)**. This Morgon-based producer has realized a rich Grand Cras. Structured and still young, it has impressive black fruits and tannins that remain

firm. Drink from 2025 when the wine has softened. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$25**

91 **Domaine Mélinon 2018 Les Charmes (Morgon)**. This structured, perfumed wine has rich tannins accompanied by juicy black fruits and acidity. It's a solid wine worth aging. Drink from 2025. Clear Sky Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$24**

91 **Gérard Brisson 2021 Les Charmes - La Louve (Morgon)**. This wine comes from the Charmes sector of Morgon. It is structured but offers an appealing array of black fruit and spice flavors. The youthful, vibrant character will soften. Drink from 2024. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$29**

91 **Jean Arthaud 2021 Morgon Côte du Py (Morgon)**. This rich wine has layers of black fruits alongside juicy acidity. Its dense texture and firm structure promise well. Drink this full wine from 2025. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$29**

91 **Jean-Michel Dupré 2021 Grands Cras (Morgon)**. This wine is firmly structured. Bold tannins and ripe black fruits combine in a wine that is textured and dense. It offers freshening acidity at the end, but does need to age. Drink from 2025. Elliott Bay Distributing Co. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$22**

90 **Annick Bachelet 2021 Les Charmes (Morgon)**. This wine is structured, with some firm tannins and black fruits that are developing. The juicy freshness will soften to give this balanced wine the natural richness of the appellation. Drink from 2024. Organic. W. Direct. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price: \$32**

90 **Château Bellevue 2021 Les Charmes (Morgon)**. This young wine still has a slightly earthy character, but that will blow away because the black fruits and rich structure are promising. Wait until 2025 for the wine's full richness to show. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price: \$25**

90 **Domaine Gaget 2021 Grands Cras (Morgon)**. This wine is fresh, maybe missing some of the normal structure from this appellation. But its black fruits and acidity are enticing and already delicious. Wait to drink until 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$30**

90 **Domaine Striffling 2021 Grand Charmette (Morgon)**. The wine's texture is promising with a layer of tannins set against the fresh black fruits. It has plenty of potential, the tannins ready to soften and release fine perfumed. Drink the wine from 2024. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price: \$25**

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Georges Duboeuf 2021 JE Descombes Côte du Py (Morgon). This wine has structure alongside firm tannins and rich black fruits. It offers juiciness as well as plenty of tannins to allow it to mature well. Drink this ageable wine from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

90 Ludovic Montginot 2021 (Morgon). This wine is currently closed and tight. Behind the severe façade awaits a ripe wine that is full of black fruits and has a balanced structure. It needs aging, so wait to drink until 2025. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Domaine des Gaudets 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Morgon). Juicy black fruits and a firm line of tannins indicate both the concentration of old-vine low yields and a full, rich structure. This wine can certainly age. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 J. M. Aujoux 2021 La Collection (Morgon). A fruity wine with a backdrop of tannins, this is fresh and juicy. The dry core indicates aging potential. Drink from 2024. Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Château de Pizay 2021 La Centenaire (Morgon). Produced from old vines, this wine is rich and dense, with spice and layers of red fruits. Juicy acidity gives it freshness and suggests further aging. Drink the wine from 2024. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Famille Sornay 2021 (Morgon). This wine has a light structure, with fresh, smoky berry fruits. After its vibrant acidity softens, the wine will be generous. Drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Georges Duboeuf 2021 Flower Label (Morgon). A structured, juicy wine with generous tannins and perfumed red fruits, this will age for a few more months. Drink this firm wine from 2024. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

88 Vignobles Bodillard 2020 Corcelette (Morgon). A ripe, perfumed wine, this is dense and full of berry flavors. The bright, juicy fruitiness will soften as the wine matures further. Drink from 2024. The Artisan Collection. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Château de Pizay 2021 Grands Cras (Morgon). Soft and juicy, this is a ripe wine from one of the Morgon sectors. Its texture and tannins are firmly buried in the wine's fruitiness. Drink now. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

RÉGNIÉ

90 Jean-Michel Dupré 2021 (Régnié). Old vines give a wine that is solid and concentrated. It has layers of black fruits and tannins, with a dense texture. This wine is ripe and will age well. Drink from 2024. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Domaine des Capréoles 2021 Chamodère (Régnié). This wine has a structured edge. Its tannins and acidity are still up front, offering a good future. Drink the wine from 2024. Organic Vineyard Road. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

88 Domaine Striffling 2021 Cret d'oeillat (Régnié). This fresh, juicy wine is lightly perfumed with acidity and bright cherry flavors. It's already drinkable but will better from late 2023. Cape Classics. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Jean Loron 2021 Château de la Pierre (Régnié). The lightest tannins give a gently structured wine. They back the ripe black fruits and acidity to give a wine that is developing well. Drink from 2024. Bowler Wine. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2021 (Régnié). This wine is soft, warm with generous black fruits and juicy red-berry flavors. A layer of acidity is set against the underlying richness. Drink from 2024. Valkyrie Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

87 Domaine des Gaudets 2021 Sornay (Régnié). Soft with a light texture and plenty of red fruits, this wine has acidity and juicy freshness. It is developing fast, so drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

86 Château de la Terrière 2021 Vini L'Ourson (Régnié). With a bear riding a bicycle depicted on the label, it's obvious that this wine has a light-hearted side. The fruit is open and attractive with acidity and red berry flavors. Drink the wine now. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

BROUILLY

92 Robert Perroud 2021 L'Enfer des Balloquets (Brouilly). This generous, powerful wine comes from a vineyard that gets plenty of heat. It is solid and dense, a wine that should age. Wait to drink until 2025. Opici Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

91 Château de Pougelon 2021 Voujon (Brouilly). This wine is firm, with solid tannins that need to soften. It has weight and richness, show-

ing the potential of fine Brouilly. The wine is set for aging. Drink from 2024. Still Point Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

91 Robert Perroud 2020 Romain (Brouilly). This wine, while softly textured, is still young. The bright fruits and freshness need to round out to bring out the full, fine structure of the wine. Drink from 2024. Opici Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

90 Domaine André Colonge 2021 (Brouilly). This wine is ripe, with solid tannins as well as rich black fruits. It has weight as well as fresher juicy acidity. The wine is well worth aging, so drink from 2025. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine Bertrand 2020 Vuril (Brouilly). This wine is mature, with generous berry flavors supported by a layer of tannins that have softened into the fruit. Drink the wine now. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Emmanuel Fellot 2021 Rossignol (Brouilly). This perfumed wine offers ripe berry fruits and a firm structure. The fruitiness, succulent acidity and texture are immediately attractive. Drink this balanced wine from 2024. Vinea Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Les Frères Perroud 2021 Amethyste (Brouilly). A juicy wine with just a bite of tannins, this promises well. The ripe structure will soften well into a generous, blackberry-flavored wine. Drink from 2024. Authentique Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Les Frères Perroud 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Brouilly). This wine's concentration is impressive, giving richness and density to the black fruits. This solid base will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2024. Authentique Vin. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Domaine Bertrand 2019 Pissevieille (Brouilly). This wine is mature. The tannins have totally softened, giving a wine with fruit that has lost its freshness but gained depth. It is ready to drink. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Famille Chasselay 2019 Les Balloquets (Brouilly). With some maturity, this wine has both richness and a smooth texture. Its ripeness and immediate attractiveness mean it is ready to drink. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Pierre-Marie Chermette 2021 Pierreux (Brouilly). This wine comes from the Pierreux region of Brouilly. It is lightly structured but well textured, with juicy red fruits and light tannins. The fruity wine will be ready to drink from 2024. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

88 Albert Bichot 2021 Roche Rose (Brouilly). Ripe red-berry fruits and soft tannins mark this wine from the southern cru of Brouilly. It is generous, open and ready to drink from late 2023. Albert Bichot USA. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

88 Château de la Terrière 2020 Cuvée Jules du Souzy (Brouilly). There is a bitter edge to this wine that still needs to soften. At that point, the balance of ripe black fruits and light tannins can come together. Drink the wine from 2024. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

88 Château de Pougelon 2021 Clos Reisser (Brouilly). This is a light wine from a single vineyard. It has juicy red fruits and a bright character that is developing quickly. Drink the wine from 2024. Still Point Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

88 Collin-Bourisset 2021 Domaine Dames de la Roche (Brouilly). This wine is still young, carrying firm tannins and layers of dark-chocolate flavors. It has the potential to be a ripe and juicy wine with shining black fruits as it matures. Drink from 2024. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

88 Domaine Nicolas Boudeau 2021 Pierreux (Brouilly). This juicy wine also has a good structure that gives it weight. Acidity and fresh berry flavors provide contrast and suggest the wine needs to soften further before drinking. Wait until 2024. G. Montot Wines. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

88 Domaine Olivier Pezenneau 2021 Combiaty (Brouilly). This fresh wine is full of succulent red fruits. Its tannins are soft, giving freshness and layers of acidity. Drink the wine now. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 Jean-Claude Debeaune 2021 Domaine de Grand Croix (Brouilly). Juicy with layers of easy red fruits, this wine is generous and ripe. A light core of tannins gives some structure. Drink the wine now. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

87 Château de la Terrière 2021 Tradition (Brouilly). Soft and fruity, this wine is juicy with a tight edge of acidity. Black cherry flavors show strongly against the wine's texture. Drink now. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

87 Georges Duboeuf 2021 Flower Label (Brouilly). Soft and juicy, this wine shows the gentle side of Brouilly. It has freshness and acidity along with a warm core. Drink now. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

87 J. M. Aujoux 2021 La Collection (Brouilly). While this wine has freshness and acidity, it also offers vibrant red fruit flavors that are likely to dominate in the next few months. Drink this bright wine from 2024. Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

87 Jean-Claude Debeaune 2021 Domaine de la Martingale (Brouilly). Light tannins and fresh acidity give this wine open, perfumed character. The structure is fully integrated with the fruit, giving a wine that is ready to drink. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

CÔTE DE BROUILLY

90 Famille Chasselay 2021 Chardignon (Côte de Brouilly). This dense, perfumed wine comes from the slopes of the old volcano of Mount Brouilly. It has ripe fruits and a solid structure that still needs to soften. The wine is ripe and has potential. Drink from 2024. Organic. Martine's Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$34

90 J. M. Aujoux 2021 La Collection (Côte de Brouilly). This wine is firm, structured with tannins that come through strongly against the fresh berry fruits. It is set for aging, so wait to drink until 2024. Bridge Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$24

89 Domaine Nicolas Boudeau 2021 L'Héronde (Côte de Brouilly). This fruity wine also has a fine layer of tannins. The wine's structure enhances the blackberry flavors and juicy texture. It will develop well. Drink from 2024. G. Montot Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

89 Domaine Olivier Pezenneau 2021 La Poyebade (Côte de Brouilly). This rich wine is full of blackberries and ripe, dark fruits. Its structure and light tannins promise further aging. Drink from 2024. New Wave Wine Co.. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

89 Jean-Paul Brun 2021 Terres Dorées (Côte de Brouilly). This wine has structure and a firm core of tannins, promising aging and richness it matures further. Drink from 2024. Louis/Dressner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

88 Emmanuel Felot 2021 Les Cailloux (Côte de Brouilly). This ripe wine is full of bright strawberry flavors. A light texture gives it shape while leaving the flavors shining and intact. Drink the wine from late 2023. Vinea Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

87 Château Haut-Domingue 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers). This wine is smooth with bright citrus fruits and light acidity. It is a warm wine, soft with hints of apple and pears. Drink the wine in late 2023. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

CRÉMANT DE BORDEAUX

89 Calvet 2020 Brut Rosé (Crémant de Bordeaux). A ripe, fresh and crisp wine, this offers acidity and an attractive hint of red fruits. It has a bright aftertaste. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

88 Calvet 2020 Brut Classic (Crémant de Bordeaux). Fresh and pure fruits give this wine plenty of acidity and citrus flavors. It is soft, lightly textured and ready to drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

BORDEAUX RED WINES

92 Château Franc Lartigue 2020 (Saint-Émilion). Under the ownership of Jean-Pierre Toxe, this estate has produced an elegant wine. Firm tannins promise aging while juicy black fruits hide a layer of structure that will allow it to age. Drink this wine from 2026. Lanterna Distributors Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

90 Jean-François Reaud 2020 Terre Océane (Bordeaux Supérieur). There is already a good balance in this wine. Ripe tannins and black currant fruits co-exist easily with the overall smokiness of the wine. It shows potential. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Domaine du Rouchet 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur). This wine is obviously young but is full of potential. The freshness of the Merlot black currant fruits is right up front with the acidity and crisp aftertaste, in keeping with the vintage. Drink from 2024. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

93 André Brunel 2020 Les Cailloux (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This energetic wine

BUYINGGUIDE

aged in concrete vat quickly evolves on the palate with vibrant acidity. The palate offers ripe orchard fruits, quince and white flowers. Structured yet elegant, it conveys the ripeness of fruit and warmth from the Cailloux stones. Cellar through 2028 and beyond for additional complexity. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

92 Château La Nerthe 2020 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Powerful and pure, this wine presents fresh orchard fruit, white pepper and tea leaf. Aging in old oak barrels provide notes of nutmeg, fresh vanilla and fresh almond. Cellar hold until at least 2028 as the palate is quiet at the moment. Kobrand. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$34

92 Château Simian 2020 Les Clefs du Caladas (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). The name alone is a beautiful entry into the region. “Clefs” means keys and “Caladas” refers to the large path that ran from Orange to Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Round and medium bodied, the palate entices with notes of fresh almonds, green pears and wildflowers. It’s quite enjoyable in its youth. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$56

92 Domaine des Sénéchaux 2021 (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Grown on 7.5 acres of sandy-clay soil on a southwest aspect, this juicy and elegant wine is a blend of Roussanne, Clairette, Grenache Blanc and Bourboulenc aged in a mix of old barrels and stainless steel tanks. Enjoy its silky texture and profile of citrus pith, acacia, quince, white tea leaf and marzipan. Wineberry America LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$45

VENTOUX

94 Domaine des Anges 2020 Archange (Ventoux). Beautiful and seductive, this blend of 95% Rousanne and 5% Bourboulenc is gently vinified in barrel, with no malolactic conversion so as to preserve its racy vibrancy. Fresh citrus, peach blossoms, honeysuckle and white flowers integrate seamlessly with light oak spice. Enjoy now or delve into deeper honey tones with additional bottle age. DHI Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Château Pesqué 2020 Quintessence (Ventoux). Impressive and energetic, this rich, medium-bodied wine is deep gold in the glass. It exudes a seductive profile of dried yellow flowers, honeysuckle, straw, thyme stem and lemon oil, with a chalky finish. Cellar—2028+ European Cellars. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

92 Domaine des Anges 2020 (Ventoux). A blend of 60% Bourboulenc and 40% Rousanne, this wine refreshes the palate with every sip. Notes of fresh hay and honeysuckle frames a harmonious midpalate of ripe lemon verbena and fresh

vanilla pod, finishing with stone minerality. A versatile wine to pair with delicately poached or grilled lean proteins. DHI Selections. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

RHÔNE VALLEY

RED WINES

CÔTE DU RHÔNE

94 Gabriel Meffre 2019 Domaine De Longue Toque (Côtes du Rhône). Big and impressive, this wine has a signature saline nerve that runs through a core of fresh blackberries and blueberry compote. The wine is concentrated, with vibrant acidity and supple tannins. While the wine will hold well beyond 2030, it will be difficult for this reviewer to resist now. Vision Wine & Spirits. *Editors’ Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

90 Domaine de la Présidente 2020 (Côtes du Rhône). Reminiscent of a freshly baked pie full of dark cherries, blackberries and plums, this medium- to full-bodied wine is pleasurable, with refreshing acidity and a long cassis and black-peppercorn finish. Easily pair this with beef carpaccio or mushroom-driven recipes. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$15

89 Domaine La Réméejeanne 2020 Monte Lune (Côtes du Rhône). Youthful and fresh, this wine offers a layered bouquet of spice and smoke on top of lush cherries, fleshy strawberries and withered rose petals. The palate is livelier, with a good cut of acidity that carries a gentle lull of wet earth. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$20

89 Pont du Rhône 2020 (Côtes du Rhône). Deep ruby in color, this medium-bodied wine opens with fresh cinnamon stick and eucalyptus leading to mulled black and red licorice and raspberries. A fruity, food-friendly wine for everyday enjoyment. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$12

89 RhonéA 2020 Légende des Toques (Côtes du Rhône). Heady and juicy, this wine offers a generous palate of rich black cherries, cranberries, and baked rhubarb. The sandy-textured finish carries lingering notes of green peppercorn. A very straightforward wine to be enjoyed immediately. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$12

88 Domaine Berthet-Rayne 2020 (Côtes du Rhône). This 100% certified biodynamic Rhône blend is lively and vibrant, with primary flavors of crab apple, plum, green pear, prune, black olive and licorice stick. The fine, sandy texture with a lengthy, pulverized-black-peppercorn finish

makes this a fun pairing with braised meat dishes and stews. Elite Wines Import. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$18

CÔTE DU RHÔNE VILLAGES

91 Vignobles et Compagnie 2020 Les Combelles (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Luscious in texture, this wine is quite enjoyable. Unfolding layers of ripe blackberry, tangerine, blood orange, pomelo, thyme stems and violets coat the palate and finish with a soft stone finish. Vignobles & Compagnie. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$20

90 Domaine des Gravennes 2020 Terre d’Histoire Suze la Rousse (Côtes du Rhône Villages). Made from 65% Grenache and 35% Syrah, this wine boasts luscious dark fruits with a pronounced layer of blood orange and moves towards a savory finish with eucalyptus and peppercorn. Briefly decant this wine before pairing with gamy stews or explore with recipes that include chocolate. Drink now—2026. Domaines et Saveurs. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$9

89 Boutinot 2020 La Ruchette Dorée (Côtes du Rhône Villages). This full-bodied, ready-to-drink Grenache and Syrah blend exudes dark brambly fruits balanced by scorched earth. Grippy fine tannins coat the palate along with notes of black peppercorn, smoke, tobacco leaf and dried earth on the finish. Boutinot USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$18

89 Kirkland Signature 2020 (Côtes du Rhône Villages). For full review see page 21. DC Flynt MW Selections. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$7

CÔTE RÔTIE

94 Vidal-Fleury 2018 Brune et Blonde (Côte-Rôtie). An outstanding bold expression, this wine offers lush black raspberries, fresh plums, licorice and roasted meat wrapped in fresh herbs. Additional cellaring will allow the tannins to meld, releasing additional complexities. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

93 E. Guigal 2018 Brune et Blonde de Guigal (Côte-Rôtie). Approachable and gentle, this wine has a dense core of brambly black and red berries, oak spice, warm earth and a stone minerality. It is balanced with round tannins, making the wine enjoyable now but it has enough structure to be easily cellared well past 2030+. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

93 E. Guigal 2017 Brune Et Blonde De Guigal (Côte-Rôtie). Deep garnet colored, this expression of Côte-Rotie leads with an intense nose of entwined red fruits, crushed roses and violets.

Fresh blackberries, charcuterie, dried herbs and oak spice linger on the finish. Beautiful and complex, but the wine can easily be cellared for the long haul. Hold through 2030+ Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

92 Vignoble de Boisseyt 2017 Côte Blonde (Côte-Rôtie). Powerful and rustic, this wine offers an intense bouquet of juicy dark blackberry compote, fines herbes, charcuterie, smoke and an earthy finish with a warm stone minerality. Currently the tannins are pronounced and will benefit from additional cellaring. Enjoy after 2028. Wineberry America LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$115

CROZES-HERMITAGE

93 Domaine Belle 2019 Roche Pierre (Crozes-Hermitage). Although this bottling is currently austere, additional cellaring should reveal a charming wine with great depth. Bold yet silky, it offers notes of cedar, cinnamon stick, cranberry, blackberries and licorice. Cellar now—2028. W. Direct. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$50

93 Domaine du Colombier 2018 Cuvée Gaby (Crozes-Hermitage). This wine is deliciously savory, with blackberries, cornichon, violets and rosemary, like a savory charcuterie board. Pair with semifirm cheeses. The good lift in acidity gets you ready for another sip of this delicious wine Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

92 Domaine Michelas St Jemms 2020 Fleur de Syrahne (Crozes-Hermitage). This wine is a beautiful expression of the region and vintage. It is elegant, with a harmonious profile of concentrated red fruits mingled with blackberries, plums, mint, eucalyptus and subtle oaks spice. Enjoy now—2028. Wine Wine Situation LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

91 Domaine des Remizières 2020 (Crozes-Hermitage). Currently this full-bodied wine is showing beautifully, with pure, destemmed Syrah fruit. The palate offers blackberries, green olives, peppercorn, licorice, violets and black-cherry skin, with juicy tannins. Enjoy now—2028. French Libation. —A.C.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

91 Domaine des Remizières 2020 Cuvée Particulière (Crozes-Hermitage). Deep and lush, this Syrah from 45-year-old-vines offers a captivating herbaceous nose. The palate is silky in texture, with beautiful concentration of black plums, prunes and clove. Cellar the wine for an additional two to three years to allow for its full expression to shine through. French Libation. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

91 Domaine Melody 2020 Friandise (Crozes-Hermitage). Fresh and lively, this medium-

bodied Syrah is enjoyable with any charcuterie platter. Straightforward, the energetic wine offers notes of bramble fruit, clove and coriander that are already well integrated. Drink now. Cognac One, LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$NA

91 Laurent Fayolle 2018 Clos les Cornirets (Crozes-Hermitage). Made from 70+-year-old Syrah vines from a historic vineyard, this wine conveys impressive tension. The wine is taut, with a core of black fruits framed with an abundance of olive, thyme, rosemary and bacon. It offers great concentration and persistent sandy tannins, which round out after a gentle 30-minute decant. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$48

91 Laurent Fayolle 2018 Les Pontaix (Crozes-Hermitage). From 40+-year-old vines grown on limestone-rich soils, this wine is approachable now. Well-integrated notes of fresh blackberries, violets, thyme, garrigue and granitic minerality are lengthened on the palate by vibrant acidity and a silky texture. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35

89 Delas Frères 2020 Les Launes (Crozes-Hermitage). Deep garnet in color, this youthful, medium- to full-bodied Syrah exudes Mirabelle plums, dark cherries, violets and crème de cassis, with a stony finish. Matured mainly in tank, it has a round, fruity profile that's inviting and enjoyable. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$26

88 Jean-Claude et Nicolas Fayolle 2019 La Rochette (Crozes-Hermitage). Deep ruby in color, this Crozes-Hermitage offers plenty of red and black fruit up front. The midpalate of cinnamon and cardamom spice fuses with a finish of fuchsia flowers and raspberries. Allow for a proper decant before serving. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$77

RASTEAU

92 La Réserve Saint Dominique 2020 (Rasteau). This well-made, robust blend expresses intense layers of roasted plums and beef jerky, finishing with subtle garrigue notes, spice and firm bitter tannins. It's round and rich, yet quite elegant. Europvin USA. —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$23

90 Crous Saint Martin 2020 Les Garde-corps (Rasteau). This full-bodied blend of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre conveys a captivating note of funky cheese rind that is hunger inducing. Generous on the palate, it has a concentrated core of ripe plums wrapped in fine flint minerality. A great go-to for a cheese-charcuterie night. Grape Expectations (CA). *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$24

89 RhonéA 2020 Terroir Daranton (Rasteau). Made of 55% Grenache, 25% Mourvèdre and 20% Syrah, this full-bodied wine leads with pronounced savory notes of cured meat and peppercorn. Taut black fruits woven with wild thyme and fine silty minerality round out the finish. A wonderful accompaniment for aged, salty and crumbly cheeses. La Ville Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$17

89 RhonéA 2020 Tradition (Rasteau). This plush blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre is approachable now. It is palate coating, with a concentration of blackberries, plums, subtle violet and dried herbs leading to a silty stone finish. La Ville Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$20

GIGONDAS

95 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 Le Poste (Gigondas). From vines planted in 1963, this expression of Grenache is powerful and intense. The precise wine offers deep notes of blackberries, fresh rhubarb, licorice, dried herbs and smoke that coat the palate with cheek-puckering tannins. While additional cellaring would be beneficial, the wine can be enjoyed with a proper decant. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —A.C.C.

abv: 16%

Price: \$160

94 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 Hominis Fides (Gigondas). Graceful and refined, this wine bursts with fresh cassis, blackberries, black cherries and blood orange on the palate. Framed by fine tannins, notes of fresh wild herbs and black peppercorn linger on the long, saline-mineral finish. Winebow Imports. —A.C.C.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$160

94 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 Le Claux (Gigondas). Grown from the estate's oldest vineyard, which is composed of yellow limestone marl, this wine is immediately captivating. A vibrant entry of wild berries and orange peel leads to a midpalate of blackberries, roses and violet petals, with Asian spices on the finish. Refined, precise and gorgeous, this wine would benefit from additional cellaring but is difficult to resist now. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.

abv: 16%

Price: \$160

94 Famille Perrin 2019 La Gille (Gigondas). For full review see page 8. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$39

93 E. Guigal 2019 (Gigondas). This wine provides a wonderful introduction to the region, especially for the price-point within its class. Juicy ripe rhubarb, wild strawberry, blackberry and savory herbs coat the palate with an impressive saline finish. Enjoy its youthful concentration now or cellar through 2030+. Vintus LLC. —A.C.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$35

BUYINGGUIDE

93 Gabriel Meffre 2019 Sainte Catherine (Gigondas). Generous and silky in texture, this full-bodied wine offers depth and freshness. It is mouthcoating, with black and blueberries framed by dusty powerful tannins. Cellar through at least 2028 before enjoying. Vision Wine & Spirits. *Editors' Choice.* —A.C.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

92 Château de Saint Cosme 2020 (Gigondas). For full review see page 12. Winebow Imports.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Dauvergne & Ranvier 2020 Face Nord (Gigondas). Rustic and bright, this Gigondas provides a lens into the limestone terroir of the region. Its tight core of wild cherries, cranberries, ripe sugar plums, licorice and rose petals sits over a layer of forest floor. Black fruits become present on the mouthwatering finish. Massanois Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2019 Bois des Mours (Gigondas). This full-bodied wine opens immediately with dill, black pepper spices, dried and fresh cranberries. It is reminiscent of a profile that would also satisfy a Rioja drinker. Dark, lush berries evolve in the glass along with hints of green peppercorns, bay leaf and eucalyptus. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.C.C.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$38

91 Domaine de la Tourade 2019 Font Des Aieux (Gigondas). While currently wound in its youthful state, this blend from old vines has plenty to offer. Fresh with a primary profile of garrigue and fresh mint, the wine after a 40-minute decant reveals soft tannins. Notes of soft black currants and plums grow in the glass. Kindred Vines. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$33

VACQUEYRAS

91 Domaine la Ligière 2019 Le Mourre De La Caille (Vacqueyras). Made from 50-year-old Grenache vines, this wine is vibrant and balanced, with rich notes of Indian spices, fresh red berries and fines herbes that persist on the finish. It has beautiful depth and texture without being excessive. Easily enjoyable now. AP Wine Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Clefs des Murailles 2019 (Vacqueyras). This wine is rich, with a concentrated core of fresh and sappy cassis, black currant, licorice, rhu-barb, eucalyptus and baking spice over warm earth. The mouthfeel is round, with a long-textured finish. Notes of red berries are sprinkled with crushed black pepper. An easy, winning match with barbecue. Planet Wine. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Domaine du Terme 2019 Vacqueyras (Vacqueyras). Classic and juicy, this Vacqueyras

coats the palate with a fresh basket of ripe plums and blackberries. Very refreshing! The tannins are a bit coarse at the moment, but decanting the wine before preparing the grill should do the trick. Shiverick Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Alain Jaume et Fils 2018 Château Mazane (Vacqueyras). Deep ruby in color, this medium-bodied blend leads with 60% Grenache and offers pure, dark fruits of boysenberry and Bing cherries, then moves toward sliced apples, licorice and cassis. Rustic and earthy with dusty tannins, this is a perfect warming red for cool weather. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Domaine la Ligière 2019 Fumitarde (Vacqueyras). Grown on clay terraces, this focused Rhône blend exudes flavors of ripe cherries and blackberries, dark plums, licorice and coffee. Fleshy and balanced with grippy tannins, this wine would pair seamlessly with seared or grilled proteins. AP Wine Imports. —A.C.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$33

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

WHITE WINES

PAYS D'OC

90 Gérard Bertrand 2021 Cote des Roses Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Intense aromas of acacia, pear, yellow wildflowers and vanilla make the nose of this bottling impressive. Green melon, apples and pear taste baked into the palate. Bright acid on the finish balances out the intense fruit. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 Famille Fabre 2021 Grande Courtade L'Instant Rare Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Pleasing floral and herbal notes dominate on the nose of this wine. The palate is full of honeydew melon and cantaloupe flavors, while the finish has a warm, citrus kick. Lompian Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

88 Julien & Fils 2020 Cabrials Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Pear and nutty aromas come through after a little aeration in the glass. The palate of this wine is bright with ripe berries, melons and tropical fruit, while spice lingers on the finish. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Les Janelles 2019 Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Floral notes with plenty of vanilla and dried herbs spice up the nose of this bottling. The palate is lush with round tannin plus flavors of orange peel, tart green apple and underripe pear. Grape Juice Group. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Aegerter 2019 Les Enfants Terribles Chardonnay (Pays d'Oc). Fragrant floral notes, melon and juicy pear jump off the nose of this wine. Tart green apple, kumquat and Earl Gray tea make up the easygoing palate. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$7

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON

RED WINES

CORBIÈRES

93 Château de Caraguilhes 2020 Cochon Volant (Corbières). Vibrant and bright aromas of pomegranate, raspberry, fresh herbs and purple flowers all showcase the elegance of this bottling. The palate offers juicy red cherry and raspberry supported by fine tannins, with a perfect pop of acidity on the long finish. BNP Distributing. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

92 Les Domaines Auriol Claude Vialade 2019 Chateau Ciceron In Memoriam (Corbières). This elegant, violent-hued wine has explosive aromas of juicy plum, blackberry and earthy spices. The palate is rich and loaded with black olive, mushroom and juicy red fruit. The vibrant acidity and medium finish keeps this bold wine in balance. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Castelmaure 2019 Col des Vents Cuvée Spéciale (Corbières). Expressive notes of jammy strawberry, hints of garrigue and olive show on the nose. Medium bodied, this bottling offers supple tannin and flavors of ripe black cherry and black olive. Enjoy now but the wine will drink well through 2026. Kysela Père et Fils. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

LANGUEDOC

92 Gérard Bertrand 2020 Héritage Kosmos 888 (Languedoc). Intense aromas of wild boysenberry, raspberry, dark plum and spice make for an intense nose on this blend. The palate is juicy, offering notes of jammy blackberry, strawberry, marjoram and spice on the finish. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Commanderie Des Hospitaliers 2020 Grenache-Syrah-Mourvèdre Pays Cathare (Languedoc). Expressive on the nose, this bottling begins with rich raspberry, blackberry and black peppercorn aromas. The palate shows juicy black fruits with rustic spices, medium tannin and bright acid. Aquitaine Wine Company. —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

89 Gérard Bertrand 2016 Art de Vivre (Languedoc). Aromas of cracked black pepper, tart cherry and strawberry arise on the nose after a little aeration in the glass. Cranberry

and vanilla flavors show on the palate of this wine. Moderate acidity brightens up the finish. USA Wine West. —J.T.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

89 Jeff Carrel 2019 Les Darons (Languedoc). Robust aromas of black cherry and cranberry take the lead, supported by dried herb and vanilla notes. The palate of this wine offers medium tannin, spice and flavors of red fruit, with lingering spice on the finish. Hand Picked Selections. —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

PAYS D'OC

90 D'Autrefois 2020 Alfio Moriconi Selection Malbec (Pays d'Oc). Light notes of dried herbs alongside aromas of jammy strawberries and raspberries shape a delicate nose on this wine. The palate reveals plums, bell peppers and traces of black olives supported by moderate acidity and tannins. It's well balanced and has a good concentration of flavors. Saranty Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

90 Les Jamelles 2019 Cepage Rare Malbec (Pays d'Oc). Elegant aromas of strawberry, black pepper and vanilla complement juicy plum, black olive and blackberry flavors in this nicely structured, moderately tannic wine. Grape Juice Group. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

89 Famille Fabre 2020 Baron Coulon L'Instant Rare Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). The impressive nose of this bottling offers aromas of black fruit and garrigue. This wine has nice structure and bold red fruits that envelop the tannins. A pop of spice enlivens the short finish. Baron Francois Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Famille Fabre 2020 Domaine de Luc L'Instant Rare Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). Aromas of purple flowers and vanilla draw you into this rich wine. Flavors of olive tapenade, raspberry and black pepper are supported by a medium body and smooth tannin. Lompian Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Le Fat Bastard 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Pays d'Oc). For full review see page 22. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Vinitrio 2019 Malbec (Pays d'Oc). Aromas of violets, plum and bell pepper provide an excellent backdrop for flavors of blueberries, cracked black pepper and raspberries. The finish of this wine is short, with a hint of spice. Loubaton Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

OTHER RED WINES

88 Cave de Roquebrun 2020 Terrasses de Cabrio (Saint-Chinian). Subtle aromas of cranberry, vanilla and acacia form the nose on this wine. The same notes repeat on the palate, but the cranberry is more pronounced. Moderate tannin and acid form the structure of this red blend. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.T.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER FRENCH WINES

94 Château Peyros 2019 Cuvée 100 Tannat (Madiran). For full review see page 7. Baron Francois Ltd.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

88 Michel Vattan 2021 O-P (Sancerre). Still young, this is a bright and fruity wine. Crisp and zesty grapefruit and lemon flavors and a touch of spice give freshness. Drink from 2024 when it has softened somewhat. USA Wine West. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

NORTHEAST ITALY WHITE WINES

ALTO ADIGE

94 Andriano 2020 Doran Chardonnay (Alto Adige). At first, this wine verges on hedonism...but don't we all deserve a little sometimes? Aromas of rich and ripe baked pears covered in cinnamon and cream have just enough minerality to keep the wine on the edge. The palate is rich and full in body, with notes of roasted nuts, brown butter and baked apples. The wine finishes with mineral notes and a vibrant kiss of acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$66

94 Erste Neue 2020 Puntay Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). This stunning alpine wine has ripe aromas of McIntosh apples, pressed white flowers and gravel. Aged in large wooden casks for seven months on the lees, it has a lush palate, textured and round. Yet fresh and bright acidity is found from start to finish, giving the wine near-perfect balance. The mineral-driven wine finishes with a lemon curd note. Try it with roasted asparagus or butter-roasted fish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

94 Tiefenbrunner 2021 Anna Weissburgunder (Alto Adige). This wine seesaws between lush tropical fruit notes and tart green apples on the nose. In between the fruit are fresh aromas of wild yellow flowers and gravel. The palate is waxy with honey, roasted hazelnuts and baked pears. On the long, complex and captivating finish, each aroma and flavor transports you to the mountains

of Alto Adige. Drink now–2030. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

93 Andriano 2021 Finado Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Aromas of green apples and yellow flowers greet you upon the first whiff of this wine. On the second, the wine changes gears and presents notes of crushed rock and fresh alpine herbs. Although the palate is creamy, it pops with flavors of green apple skin and tart acidity, leading to a strong and defined mineral finish. The wine will surprise you in a few years as well. Drink now–2030. Banville Wine Merchants. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

93 Cantina Terlano 2021 Tradition Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). If you are looking to have a different grape in the fridge, grab this Pinot Bianco from Alto Adige. Fresh aromas of green apples and tart cider pears along with fresh white flowers leap out of the glass. The wine highlights mountain rocks and a touch of alpine herbs on the palate followed by a mixture of apples and lemon on the finish. This wine is great with a composed salad or a variety of fish dishes. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

92 Cantina Valle Isarco 2021 Aristos Kerner (Alto Adige). Kerner is one of the most interesting grapes of Alto Adige. A cross between Riesling and Schiava (a red grape) the wine is aromatic and supertextural. This bottling is a shining example of this super-fun grape. Aromas of citrus oil, lemon-grass, white flowers and river rock dance out of the glass. On the bright and vibrant palate, zingy acidity intensifies the citrus flavors. The wine finishes with amazing texture on the palate. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

92 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Vial Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). Aromas of fresh apples, white flowers, river stones and a touch of lemon zest waft out of the glass. This textured and layered Pinot Bianco evolves with each sniff and sip. Twenty percent of the wine is aged on the lees for five months in large casks, giving richness that is tempered by the vibrant acidity. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2020 Quintessenz Pinot Bianco (Alto Adige). "Quintessenz" is the estate's selection of its best grapes, grown between 1,800 feet and 1,970 feet high in Alto Adige. The high elevation gives this wine vibrancy and freshness, while the ripeness provides lush aromatics of fresh apples, pears and alpine herbs. Aged in 500-liter wood barrels with continual stirring of the lees, the wine is rich and full in body. It ends with a mineral note on a lingering finish. Drink now–2030. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Nals Margreid 2018 Nama (Alto Adige). This is a special cuvée of and tribute to two of

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the estate's best vineyards. The blend is mainly Chardonnay (90%) with a touch of Pinot Bianco (7%) and Sauvignon Blanc (3%), with a minuscule production of about 2,000 bottles. The wine is deep in color, with aromas of ripe apples, bananas Foster, mixed tropical fruits, lemon curd and baking spices. The palate is unctuous with rich cream, roasted nuts, burnt honey and baking spices from the time in wood. Drink 2024–2030. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$200

92 Tiefenbrunner 2021 Turmhof Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Forward and inviting this beauty of a Pinot Grigio is loaded with aromas of ripe pears, melon, candied lemon zest and roasted nuts. The time in wood rounds out the wine while the lees aging gives it a rich texture. Apple flavors dominate the palate but something awaits in the wings, asking you to pause a bit. Drink now or age the wine for up to 10 years (or more) to see what happens. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Andriano 2021 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Aromas of brown pear, baby's breath flowers and wet river stone waft from the glass on this pleasing Pinot Grigio. The palate is layered between ripe orchard fruits and mineral notes. Medium in body, it has an intriguing texture and finishes with a solid amount of acidity to keep the ripe fruit in balance. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Cantina Terlano 2021 Tradition Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). This wine reminds me of lace, delicate yet strong and intricate at the same time. Aromas suggest ripe apples, cider, lilies, crushed stone and lemon zest. Refined and elegant, the palate shows the depth and beauty of Pinot Grigio. Each sip brings out a new side of the wine, with the focus on structure and texture. Flavors mirror the nose. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Cantina Valle Isarco 2021 Aristos Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). The subtle and interesting nose of this pretty wine highlights minerality and fresh apple aromas. As the wine develops in the glass, hints of lemon oil and white flowers emerge and captivate. The palate is medium in body, with lees aging giving texture and length. This wine finishes with a solid core of apple and lemon notes with bright acidity. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

90 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2021 Mock Sauvignon (Alto Adige). This vibrant mountain Sauvignon Blanc pops from the glass with aromas of mixed citrus zests, thyme, tart tropical fruit and stone. The palate is loaded with flavors of kiwi fruit, green herbs, fresh grass and crushed rock. Zingy acidity wraps it all together and keeps the wine fresh with each sip. Matchvino. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

90 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2021 Weissburgunder (Alto Adige). This super-floral Weissburgunder (better known as Pinot Blanc or Pinot Bianco) leaps out of the glass, interweaving ripe pears, Alpine herbs and crushed rocks. Crisp with zippy acidity, the palate focuses on minerality and fresh green apples. The wine transports me to the mountains and makes me want to find a pot of fondue and just chill. Matchvino. —J.P.

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

90 Erste Neue 2020 Puntay Chardonnay (Alto Adige). Alto Adige is known for its apple orchards and this wine seems to bottle their aromas into one place. Fresh apple notes mix with white flower aromas and crushed rocks. Flavors of Fuji apples, fresh herbs, lemon oil and crème fraîche shine on the palate. The wine is mineral driven and bright on the finish. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Erste Neue 2020 Puntay Sauvignon (Alto Adige). At first, this wine is shy on the nose but with a bit of time, it discloses mixed citrus aromas, orange and lime blossom, and marble dust. The palate is vibrant, with lively acidity keeping each sip fresh and clean. Flavors of lime, lemon and grapefruit zest combine with fresh herbs to complete this tasty and fun wine. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Soll Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). This breezy Pinot Grigio has delicate aromas of white peach, green apple and white flowers. As the wine develops in the glass, it reveals hints of fresh bread and crushed rock. The palate has a creaminess, with flavors of baked pears and roasted nuts finishing with a decent amount of acidity. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

90 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Stern Sauvignon (Alto Adige). Slate and crushed rock aromas drive this Sauvignon Blanc from the first sniff. As the wine opens, aromas of lemon zest, fresh herbs, alpine grass and white flowers express themselves seamlessly. The palate is clean and fresh. Citrus and tropical fruit flavors are balanced by hints of green pepper and wild herbs. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

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

90 Kurtatsch 2021 Kerner (Alto Adige). The nose of this wine is a tad reserved, with delicate aromas of freshly cut white flowers, Meyer lemon zest and pine trees. The palate is clean and focused, with bright acidity turning to flavors of lemon verbena, lime zest and orange. It finishes with a cool crispness and focused minerality. Vineyard Brands. —J.P.

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

90 Meran 2021 Festival Weissburgunder (Alto Adige). This Pinot Blanc is a beauty and a steal. Captivating aromas of apples, white flowers and a touch of citrus oil home in on the intense minerality of this mountain wine. Medium in body

it has a roundness that is balanced with fresh acidity on the finish. Wine Icons. **Best Buy.** —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

90 Nals Margreid 2021 Punggl Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). As much fun to say as it is to drink, the "Punggl" Pinot Grigio (named for the hill on which it grows) is loaded with ripe and inviting aromas of waxy pears, yellow flowers and sandy minerality. The wine is medium in body, with notes of baked pears and wildflower honey. It finishes with a texture that makes you want pair an alpine cheese. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

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

90 Weingut Niklas 2021 Kerner (Alto Adige). This wine is a great example of the delicious grape Kerner. Fleshy fruit aromas of quince and white peach evolve into more citrus, pine needle and lemongrass. The palate is medium in body with great texture and flavors of fresh herbs, crushed rocks and loads of citrus. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.

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

90 Weingut Niklas 2021 Pinot Bianco Weissburgunder (Alto Adige). Subtle at first, this wine opens to aromas of fresh leafy herbs, wild ginger and fresh pears. The palate is textured and layered making each sip intriguing. Flavors of green apples, white flowers and crushed rocks dominate, finishing with vibrant acidity. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.

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

89 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Alto Adige). This fresh and vibrant Sauvignon Blanc has aromas of lemon and grapefruit zest, fresh herbs, pine needles and river rock. The palate is clean and fresh, with bright acidity and flavors of candied lemon on the finish. Matchvino. —J.P.

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

89 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2019 Stegner Chardonnay Riserva (Alto Adige). This Chardonnay has aromas of apple pie, crème fraîche and sweet baking spices. The palate is plump, juicy and lush with notes of Greek yogurt with fresh-cut apples, honey and hazelnuts. It finishes with a fresh pop of acidity to balance out the richness. Matchvino. —J.P.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

89 Cantina Terlano 2021 Tradition Chardonnay (Alto Adige). Tart and tasty, this vibrant mountain-born Chardonnay explodes with aromas of fresh green apple, lemon, and wet stone. The vibrant palate focuses on the bright fresh orchard fruit first found on the nose. It finishes with structure, texture and minerality. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Schiava (Alto Adige). Aromas of tart cherries, laurel and wildflowers gently waft out of the glass. The palate of this wine is light and fresh focusing on tart red

currants, raspberry and herbal flavors. It finishes with a slightly earthy edge, adding complexity and depth. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2020 Quintessenz Sauvignon (Alto Adige). This Sauvignon Blanc has intense aromas of grapefruit, white flowers, green chiles and musk. Fresh and vibrant, the palate showcases flavors of lemon and lime zest and pith plus fresh leafy herbs. The wine finishes with a tangy pop of acidity and mineral notes. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

89 Strasserhof 2021 Kerner (Alto Adige). Aromas of lemon zest, crushed rock and pine needles lift out of the glass and entice you with each sniff. The palate is fresh with hints of white flowers, kumquat and minerals. It finishes with grace and balance. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Andriano 2021 Somereto Chardonnay (Alto Adige). Aromas of baked apples, pressed white flowers and crushed rocks are the most prevalent on the nose of this wine. The palate perks up with flavors of green apple, lemon zest and a touch of mixed baking spices. A creamy finish is brightened by a pop of acidity. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Pinot Grigio (Alto Adige). Reserved aromas of pear, white flowers and honeydew melon waft from a glass of this Pinot Grigio. Bright notes of green apple skin, river stone and lemon pith on the palate give the wine a linear and focused finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Saleit Chardonnay (Alto Adige). This wine begins with aromas of warmed apples, pie crust and sweet spices. The palate is soft, inviting and round, with flavors of baked apples, ripe pears, a kiss of lemon zest and a touch of acidity on the finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

ALTO ADIGE TERLANO

94 Cantina Terlano 2020 Vorberg Pinot Bianco Riserva (Alto Adige Terlano). Grown high on the south-facing slopes of Monzocollo, this is one of the historic wines of Alto Adige. Warm sun gives the wine aromas of ripe apples, baked lemon and honey. Meanwhile, the cool mountain air provides cool, crisp acidity and lifted floral aromas. The palate shows baked pears with honey, a touch of lemon and pressed wildflowers. Ample acidity on the finish showcases how long this wine can age. Drink now through at least 2035. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Cantina Terlano 2020 Kreuth Chardonnay (Alto Adige Terlano). This Chardonnay showcases the importance of Alto Adige as a serious wine terroir. Aromas recall fresh apples, pears, lemon zest, fresh cream, baking spice and alpine herbs. The palate is rich with notes of baked apples with clove, cream and crushed rocks. Finishing with a balance between richness and acidity, the wine can keep going for ages. Drink now—2035 Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Cantina Terlano 2021 Winkl Sauvignon (Alto Adige Terlano). Aromas of candied lemon and orange zest lead the way on this vibrant alpine Sauvignon Blanc. As the wine develops in the glass, aromas of wild mint, jalapeño and crush rocks interplay with the fruit fragrances. The palate is juicy, driven by mandarin orange, lime, and tropical fruit flavors, finishing with bright acidity and distinct mineral undertones. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Livio Felluga 2019 Sauvignon Potentilla Sauvignon (Friuli Colli Orientali). The name of this wine derives from the flower of the same name, “Potentilla”. The name combines the Latin “potenza” for power with the diminutive form of “illa” thus meaning a small flower with great power. The name perfectly describes this delicious Sauvignon from the historic Livo Felluga estate. Aromas of white peach, citrus oil and yellow flowers leap out of the glass. The palate is round and textured due to oak aging, finishing with nectarine, crushed rock and a touch of herb. Beautifully balanced this wine will age well. Drink now—2030 Mionetto USA. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

92 Livio Felluga 2021 Sauvignon (Collio). This classic Sauvignon Blanc from Friuli has aromas of fresh pear and apple mixed with lemon and mandarin orange. Notes of yellow and white flowers along with stone and fresh herbs waft out of the glass with time. The palate is layered between vibrant citrus and fresh herbal notes, finishing with a beautiful structure and clean, crisp acidity. Mionetto USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Livio Felluga 2021 Pinot Grigio (Collio). This wine is vibrant, fresh and graceful from the start. Aromas of fresh-cut white flowers, Bosc pear, sweet spice and crushed rock arise from the glass. The palate shows ripe McIntosh apple, with creaminess that is perfectly balanced by a zap of acidity on the finish. Mionetto USA. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

NORTHEAST ITALY RED WINES ALTO ADIGE

94 Cantina Terlano 2020 Monticol Pinot Noir Riserva (Alto Adige). This Pinot Noir benefits from growing at high elevations between 1,310 feet and 1,970 feet. Temperatures are warm during the day and very cool at night. This wine highlights its prized location with ample juicy fruits and well-balanced freshness. Aromas suggest ripe cherries, raspberries, alpine herbs and baking spices. The palate is elegant, combining mixed berry flavors with the earthiness of black tea. This complex wine will show well for years. Drink now—2035. Banville Wine Merchants. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

93 Cantina Terlano 2021 Tradition Pinot Noir (Alto Adige). This Pinot Noir shows the beauty of the grape as well as the region of Alto Adige. Vibrant and upfront aromas of Bing cherries, wild raspberries, fresh flowers and baking spices fill the glass. On the palate, the wine highlights the interplay between the ripe fruit flavors, savory herbs, silky texture and vibrant acidity on the finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

93 Cantina Terlano 2019 Porphy Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). Named after the famed volcanic rocks of the region, this bottling highlights the depth and complexity of the Lagrein grape. Aromas of plum, cassis, fig, white pepper, pine trees and iron combine to create a complex and intriguing nose. The palate is lush with superfine tannins that allow the flavors of blackberry, black cherry, dried herbs and violets to shine through. A long and spell-binding finish keeps this wine intriguing to the end. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$87

93 Erste Neue 2021 Puntay Kalterersee Classico Superiore (Alto Adige). Vivid aromas of tart plums, wild raspberries and violets leap out of the glass. This wine is like walking into a field of flowers with the best bowl of berries you have ever had. The palate pops with fresh acidity, giving the wine a refreshing lightness. Tart berries combine with slight hints of earth on the finish making this a compelling and fun wine. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

93 Gottardi 2016 Südtiroler Blauburgunder (Alto Adige). Aromas of dried cherry, sweet spices and crushed rocks waft out of the glass of this elegant Pinot Noir. As the wine evolves, hints of dried flowers and savory herbs show themselves. The palate is regal with the fruit, herbal and earthy flavors all working in concert. Fine tannins and vibrant acidity lift the palate with each sip. This wine cries for food, so look for earth-driven dishes to showcase its qualities. Vias Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Andriano 2021 Pinot Noir (Alto Adige). This mountain Pinot Noir is full of aromas of sour cherries, cranberries, dried leaf and shitake mushrooms. The wine is medium in body. Wild strawberry and floral notes bounce along the palate with bright and fresh acidity. A final earthy note makes this wine a great pairing with trout, salmon or vegetable dishes. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

92 Castelfeder 2020 Buchholz Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). This vibrant and high-toned Pinot Noir offers aromas of sour cherry, black tea, dried herbs and a whiff of baking spices. The palate is full of cranberry, clove, thyme and iron, finishing with fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Volio Vino. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

92 Kellerei Kaltern Caldaro 2021 Quintessenz Kalterersee Classico Superiore (Alto Adige). The aromatics on this Schiava are driven by forward and ripe raspberries, red currants and cranberries mixed with fresh wildflowers and savory herbs. The palate is full of life. Tart red berries are the focus but subtle earth and mineral notes show with each sip, giving the wine deeper complexity and intrigue. Try it with pan-seared trout or a plate of cheese and cured meats. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

92 Meran 2021 Graf von Meran Lagrein (Alto Adige). Upfront aromas of ripe blackberry, cassia and boysenberry mix with savory herbs and white pepper on the nose of this super-classic Lagrein. The palate is lush, plush and mouthfilling, with flavors of tart plums, wild blackberries and loads of violets. Soft tannins and a pop of acidity on the finish bring the wine together. Wine Icons. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Meran 2021 Meraner-Schickenburg Schiava (Alto Adige). This vibrant and fresh light red from the native grape, Schiava, is a true delight. Mixed tart berries, fresh flowers and savory spice gently roll out of the glass. The palate pops with fresh acidity, highlighting the sour cherry and raspberry flavors. The wine finishes with hints of violets and cured meat. Serve it with a slight chill and you will be very happy. Wine Icons. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2018 Thalman Pinot Nero Riserva (Alto Adige). Sweet and sour cherries with crushed dried herbs waft out of the glass of this earth-driven Pinot Noir. Silky and smooth on the palate, the wine dances between vibrant red fruits and more savory notes of thyme, bay leaf and dried mushrooms. Matchvino. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

91 Cantina Terlano 2020 Gries Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). Intense aromas of black plum, blackberry, violet and stone roll out of the glass with a density that shows the quality of this wine. Lush and rich, the palate is balanced by proper acidity. Flavors of Black Forest cake, espresso, white pepper

and dried herbs work well together to showcase this wine's depth. If you like Syrah, you will really enjoy this Lagrein. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Erste Neue 2020 Puntay Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). Ripe and lush aromas of blackberry, violets, white pepper and sweet baking spices pop out of the glass. The palate of this wine is dense and layered. Each sip tells a new part of this wine's story: black plum, wildflowers, vanilla, bay leaf, dried flowers and iron. Firm tannins and vibrant acidity show that this wine could age but is also very enjoyable today. Drink now–2030. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Peter Zemmer 2019 Raut Lagrein (Alto Adige). This wine is a tad shy on the nose and can use a decant prior to drinking. Once the wine opens it is full of aromas of black cherry jam, blackberries, white pepper and sweet baking spices. The palate is lush and loaded with flavors with tart plums, sour dried cherries and savory herbs. It finishes with elegant tannins and a bright pop of acidity. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Andriano 2021 Rubeno Lagrein (Alto Adige). Candied plums, wild blackberries, sweet spices and lavender jump out of the glass of this Lagrein. It is well structured, with fine tannins and vibrant acidity. Flavors of black cherry, bay leaf, iron and cured meat show the need for food with this spicy wine. Braised or roasted veggies and/or meat dishes will complement it well. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Castelfeder 2021 Rieder Lagrein (Alto Adige). This super-pretty Lagrein showcases the varietal at its best. Aromas of ripe blackberry and sweet and savory spices fit together perfectly. The palate is juicy but not overblown. Savory herbs, wildflowers, and black plum intertwine and lead to fine tannins and a touch of acidity. Volio Vino. *Best Buy.* —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Castelfeder 2018 Burgum Novum Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). This dense and rich Lagrein has aromas of ripe blackberries, plums, savory herbs and wildflowers. Spicy on the palate, it offers fine tannins and bright acidity to match the juicy and plump black cherry flavors. The wine finishes with a savory and earthy note that would make a good match for herbed lamb and roast pork. Volio Vino. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Elena Walch 2019 Vigna Castel Ringberg Riserva Lagrein (Alto Adige). This rich and forward Lagrein is loaded with aromas of sweet baking spices, savory herbs and blackberry compote. The palate is velvety with silky tannins. Dense dark berry flavors covered in vanilla and sweet spices evolve into dried violet petals, crush iron and savory

herbs. This wine would be stellar with pan-seared ribeye or a savory cauliflower steak. USA Wine West. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

90 Erste Neue 2020 Puntay Pinot Nero Riserva (Alto Adige). This Pinot Noir is super forward with vibrant aromas of crushed red fruits, sweet baking spice and subtle earthy notes. The palate is lush and fruit driven, with ripe red cherries plus both savory and sweet spice. A touch of dried bay leaf and purple flowers evolve with time, revealing a wine with a lovely depth of flavor. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Meran 2018 Segen Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). This Lagrein is pumped full of luscious aromas of black cherry jam, sweet plums, candied violets and savory spices. The palate is very well structured, with fine tannins, and ample acidity to balance this lush and fruity wine. Wine Icons. —J.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Peter Zemmer 2021 Vernatsch Schiava (Alto Adige). For full review see page 21. HB Wine Merchants.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

90 Peter Zemmer 2018 Furggl Lagrein Riserva (Alto Adige). Aromas of dried wild blackberries wrapped in savory green herbs and sweet baking spices waft out of the glass of this lush Lagrein. The palate is plush, with a good balance between fruit and savory notes. Flavors of black plums cooked in clove and cinnamon with hints of dried bay leaf, olives and white pepper finish the wine off in style. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Weingut Niklas 2021 Schiava (Alto Adige). This supple and light Schiava has aromas of sour cherries, pomegranate and a fresh bundle of herbs. The palate pops with bright acidity, highlighting tart red fruit flavors that are complemented by mineral and herbal notes. It finishes lifted and fresh, making each glass even more enjoyable than the previous. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2021 Huck am Bach St. Magdalener (Alto Adige). If you have never tried a wine from Santa Maddalena, this classic Alto Adige blend of Schiava and Lagrein should be on your radar. Tart red cherry, sour plum, wild herbs and game try to compel you to just keep smelling the wine. But take that sip and you will be greeted with plump mixed red fruits, a touch of pepper and more savory herbs, all wrapped up with light tannins and fresh acidity. Matchvino. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

89 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2021 Moar St. Magdalener (Alto Adige). This juicy and tart wine is loaded with aromas of cranberry, pomegranate and wild raspberries along with hints of fresh

herbs, white peppercorn and forest floor. The palate is fresh with sour cherry and plum flavors combined with sage and thyme for a wine that is perfect for cured meats and cheeses. Matchvino. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

89 Cantina Produttori Bolzano 2021 Perl Lagrein (Alto Adige). Juicy blackberries, black cherries, bay leaf and notes of cured meat waft out of the glass of this spicy Lagrein. On the palate, flavors of cherry compote, candied violets, lavender and white pepper vie for attention. Tannins are supple and easy, making the wine supersilky, with enough acidity on the finish to keep things together. Matchvino. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Castelfeder 2020 Glen Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). Bright and fresh aromas of red currant, sour cherry, and savory and sweet spice waft from the glass. Well structured with fine tannins and bright acidity, this Pinot Noir shows ample red fruit flavors and dried flowers on the palate. The wine lingers and finishes with supple tannins. Volio Vino. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Kellerei Kaltern Caldarò 2021 Blauburgunder Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). This light and refreshing Blauburgunder (aka Pinot Noir) has aromas of cranberry and tart strawberries, with loads of freshly cut flowers and fresh herbs. The palate is bright with vibrant acidity. Flavors of pomegranate, sour cherry and black tea give the wine a subtle and pleasing bitter note, with fine tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Kellerei Kaltern Caldarò 2020 Saltner Pinot Nero Riserva (Alto Adige). Ripe black cherry, macerated strawberry and sweet baking spices gently waft out of the glass. The palate of this wine is plush with flavors of mixed wild berries, savory herbs and wildflowers, finishing with fine and elegant tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

89 Peter Zemmer 2019 Vigna Kofl Pinot Noir Riserva (Alto Adige). Dark ruby red in color this Pinot Noir has aromas of dried cherries, savory herbs, baking spices and potting soil. The palate is mouthfilling with sweet berry flavors mixed with savory herbal notes, a touch of iron, fine tannins and a kiss of acidity. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Weingut Niklas 2020 Lagrein (Alto Adige). Aromas of ripe black plum, blackberry compote and a touch of white pepper greet you upon the first sniff. As this wine opens, aromas of dried flowers and game waft out of the glass. The palate is soft and plush with notes of cassis, sweet spices, and iron. Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Peter Zemmer 2021 Rolhüt Pinot Nero (Alto Adige). This charming Pinot Noir has fruit-

forward aromas of sour cherry, bruised strawberry and cranberries. On the second pass, aromas of fresh herbs and river rock peek out. The vibrant palate features high-toned red fruit with cranberries taking center stage, supported by a herbal and earthy flavors. The palate is soft, finishing with fine tannins. HB Wine Merchants. —J.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

87 Meran 2021 Festival Blauburgunder (Alto Adige). Aromas of ripe cherries, raspberries and wildflowers mixed with sweet spices leap out of the glass of this Pinot Noir. The wine is light in body, with flavors of cranberry, dried rose petals and bitter herbs. It finishes with a light pop of acidity keeping the palate fresh. Wine Icons. —J.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Nals Margreid 2019 Jura Pinot Noir Riserva (Alto Adige). Upfront aromas of candied cherries, cinnamon and rosemary permeate the glass. This Pinot Noir is tart on the palate with bright red berry fruits mixed with cedar, pine and clove flavors on the finish. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

OTHER RED WINE

88 Marinushof 2020 Pinot Noir (Südtirol Vin-schgau). Earthy aromas of forest floor, dried mushrooms and savory herbs captivate from the get-go on the nose. As the wine opens subtle fruit aromas of dried cherries dusted with clove emerge. The palate has fine tannins and continues its focus on earthy notes. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

SICILY WHITE WINES

SICILIA

91 Feudo Montoni 2021 Timpa Grillo (Sicilia). This wine offers grapefruit and Cara Cara orange on the nose, with coppery tones of loose change and stone-fruit aromas of peaches and nectarines. The palate turns to more fruit, with candied peaches, apricots, orange and grapefruit zest, along with slightly spicy, herbal notes of wild oregano and thyme. A deeply aromatic white, this nonetheless holds the line between savory and sweet. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Assuli 2021 Donna Angelica Lucido (Sicilia). Honey, vanilla, white flowers and a spritz of lemon show on the nose of this Catarratto made with organic grapes. All these carry over onto the palate along with a hint of sourdough funkiness and some denser stone fruit notes. It's rich and mouth-filling, but still lively. Keystone Importers. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Baglio di Pianetto 2021 Catarratto Made With Organic Grapes (Sicilia). The nose of this Catarratto made with organic grapes is honeyed and rich, balanced against notes of capsicum, peppercorns and a bit of lemon zest. Lemons, honey and peaches come together on the palate for a sun-tea profile, with fresh-cut yellow and green apples lingering on the finish. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Baglio di Pianetto 2021 Timeo Grillo (Sicilia). Freshly brewed Earl Grey tea, copper, herb garden, soil and lemon define the nose of this Grillo. The palate reiterates these into deeper expressions, with lemonade-iced tea, thyme and oregano in hot olive oil, plus apple slices near the finish. Fiery acid lights up the herbal citrus blend for an overall sun-drenched effect. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Cusumano 2021 Shamaris Grillo (Sicilia). For full review see page 17. Terlato Wines International.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Feudo Montoni 2021 Fornelli Inzolia (Sicilia). Lemon, lime, green and yellow apple, stone and bike tire come out on the nose of this wine, before a palate of lemonade and mixed nuts. Hon-eyesuckle on the finish is brought back around to savoriness, with briny notes emphasized by a quick streak of acid. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Feudo Montoni 2021 Masso Catarratto (Sicilia). Lemons, honey-roasted nuts, stones and bike tire appear on the nose of this wine. There's also a whisper of spicy heat that is confirmed on the palate, where more lemons as well as limes, grapefruit, white peaches and nectarines emerge. A dose of acid sneaks up and provides the energy for a lingering finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Planeta 2021 La Segreta Grillo (Sicilia). For full review see page 21. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Cantine Ermes 2021 Quattro Quarti Grillo (Sicilia). A nose on this wine of citrus and flowers evokes a fine Sicilian soap, joined by metallic notes of copper and refreshing lemon-lime soda. These roll onto a very salty lemon palate that offers creaminess to push back against perceptible acid. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Castellani 2021 Oynos Pinot Grigio (Sicilia). Fresh briny notes waft off the nose like a seabreeze, suggesting grass, citrus and lots of green apple. The green-apple-candy palate of this wine is alive with acid and emphasized with more citrus, bringing a little excitement to the Pinot Grigio game. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$13

BUYINGGUIDE

89 Cottanera 2021 Barbazzele Catarratto (Sicilia). This wine has a nose of lemon-lime, bike tire, green apple, white pepper and nectarine. The palate offers more stone fruit and citrus, with salty but stony notes of toasted spices. Green apple slices brighten the finish. Indigenous Selections. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

89 Cusumano 2021 Tenuta Ficuzza Angimbè (Sicilia). On the nose of this wine, lemons and oranges dressed with honey and nuts push up against savory aromas of gravel and tree bark. More honey, almonds, apples and lemon peel on the palate are buoyed by rolling acid through a mostly savory finish. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 Assuli 2021 Carinda Insolia (Sicilia). This wine offers a quintessentially Sicilian nose of lemons, oranges and bergamot, with a bit of marzipan. The palate is lit up with citrus, sugared and raw almonds, and cooked yellow apples, all buzzing with acid. Keystone Importers. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Baglio di Pianetto 2021 Insolia Made With Organic Grapes (Sicilia). Lemons, pine nuts, sesame paste and grassy herbaceous notes show on the nose of this Sicilian white. The palate remains lemony and nutty but gains sweet undertones of almond flowers and almond paste, carried by lively but not searing acid. Opici Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Cantine Ermes 2021 Vento di Mare Grillo Made with Organic Grapes (Sicilia). This Grillo made with organic grapes offers an unexpectedly nutty and rich nose of apples, nuts and buttery pastry, cut with wild bitter greens. The palate treads a similar line, oscillating between lemonade, apple juice and more notes of wild greens for a refreshing sip. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Tenimenti Zabù 2022 Sensuale Grillo (Sicilia). Green and yellow apples show first on the nose of this wine, before white peach, peach blossoms and savory notes of thyme, wild herbs and grass. The palate conveys peach candy and ripe melon before a stony, briny finish with a bite of citrus-pith astringency. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

TERRE SICILIANE

90 Cantine Colosi 2021 Ecolosi Catarratto Pinot Grigio (Terre Siciliane). For full review see page 20. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Candoni 2021 Pinot Grigio Made with Organic Grapes (Terre Siciliane). For full review see page 22. Arel Group Wine and Spirits Inc. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Cantine Ermes 2022 Vento di Mare Pinot Grigio Made with Organic Grapes (Terre Siciliane). Classic notes of limes, white peaches, rubber balls, lemon and white flowers jump off the nose of this wine. The peachy and citrusy palate comes with a bit of honeycomb and melon for mouthfilling, easy enjoyment. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

ETNA

92 Benanti 2021 (Etna). Woodsmoke and burning leaves flicker on the nose of this wine before darker peach notes, pennies, soil and the perfume of bergamot emerge. The palate is alive with an almost Sichuan peppercorn-style buzz, followed by lemons, peaches and finally more smokiness. It's mouthcoating but still restrained and delicate. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Benanti 2017 Pietra (Etna). The nose on this Carricante shows the complexity of age with incense and burning leaves, grilled chicken, spices and cooked lemons. Lemons and seashells appear on the saline-citrus palate, before revealing sweet tea and cooked apples. Palpable heat magnifies the still-animated acid. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$128

92 Cottanera 2021 Bianco (Etna). White peaches and apricots appear on the nose of this wine before contouring notes of limes and pencil eraser. Mixed citrus and more white peaches mingle on the palate, while a through line of acid balances the dense fruit for lovely tension. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Cusumano 2021 Alta Mora (Etna). This wine has a restrained nose, with notes of tar, fresh pavement, lemons and limes. The palate is bright with citrus but also stony and peppery, before a long finish carried by substantial acid. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$31

92 Tenute Bosco 2021 Piano dei Daini (Etna). The gravelly nose on this wine opens with salt and pepper notes and a squeeze of citrus that foretells a lemon-lime palate set against a salty backdrop. The wine is breezy and fun but not boring or limited, with a finish that lingers. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Benanti 2020 Contrada Rinazzo (Etna). this Sicilian white has a mostly savory nose of salty dirt, grass, stones, bike tire and finally yellow apple. More apples and also pears appear on the palate, given depth by toasted nuts and pastry, and lifted by lemon zest, brisk acid and a sprinkle of Maldon salt. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Pietradolce 2022 (Etna). The savory nose on this wine departs from dirt, tar and stones up front, layering spices and nuttiness on top of astringent bergamot and pithy lemon. The juicy lemonade palate keeps that stoniness and adds a peppery backbone. This wine is coherent and substantial, with elevated acid. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$31

89 Cottanera 2020 Calderara (Etna). This wine offers a nose of finger lime, graphite, pencil eraser, sesame paste, stones and white flowers. The palate stays firmly citrusy with bergamot, lime, green lemons and wet gravel. It's very savory overall, with acid lifting the citrus tones and briny stoniness underneath. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Pietradolce 2021 Archineri (Etna). A restrained nose on this wine opens into a bouquet of Mediterranean scrub, white flowers and notes of lemon, orange and bergamot. The palate stays citrusy and salty with crushed rocks, sand and oven-dried lemon slices, with a bitter bounce of lemon pith and acid on the back. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$59

MARSALA

91 Florio 2009 Vergine Riserva Grillo (Marsala). Intense gold in the glass, this wine offers honeycomb and almonds on the nose, given depth by notes of buttered toast and zest of orange and bergamot. The palate stays warm and citrusy, with more nuts and honey that linger in a triangulation of bitter, sweet and savory through a lengthy finish. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 18.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Florio 2015 Semisco Superiore Riserva Grillo (Marsala). A warming, walnut-brown hue in the glass, this wine has a nose of honey, cooked apples, stewed apricots and figs, with buttery, leathery undertones. The palate feels delightfully indulgent with maple syrup, French toast, brown butter and rum raisin—the wine almost demands a cheese pairing. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Florio 2018 Vecchioflorio Superiore Sweet White Blend (Marsala). Deep, dark notes of stewed and dried fruit contrast with notes of leather and parchment on the nose of this wine. The palate offers dried apricots, peaches and figs, finishing with a sweet and spicy kick of heat, like spiked hot chocolate. Banfi Vintners. —D.C.
abv: 18% **Price:** \$NA

SICILY ROSÉ WINES

SICILIA

90 Assuli 2021 Fiordispina Perricone Rosato (Sicilia). Honeydew, big underripe strawberries, pink grapefruit and white peach are on the nose of this copper-pink rosato from Sicily. The palate leans savory with peach tea, wet gravel, rose petals and white raspberries coming together with a mouthfilling texture, tannic backbone and prickly acid. Keystone Importers. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Cantine Colosi 2021 Ecolosi Nero d'Avola Rosé (Sicilia). For full review see page 20. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

89 Morgante 2021 Rosé di Morgante (Sicilia). The nose on this wine springs up like a garden, with blossoms, top soil, petals, a bit of wild cherry and finally brick paving and gravel. The palate is juicy but savory, with watermelon, cherry, pennies and flower petals. Acid fires through the finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

TERRE SICILIANE

90 Le Casematte 2022 Rosematte (Terre Siciliane). Top soil, pennies and cherries that still have snappy skin on the bite balance perfumed floral notes on the nose of this wine. Fruit flavors of Gala apple and watermelon-cherry come through on the palate, along with savory meatiness and grapefruit with pith, all dancing with substantial heat and acid. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Purato 2021 (Terre Siciliane). Graphite meets ripe berries and tea leaves on the nose of this wine, with some unexpected flowery notes jumping out after a swirl. The palate offers cherries, raspberries and stone fruit, with the flinty saltiness of crushed stones and the crisp edge of red-apple skin. The wine is coherent and savory. Vias Imports. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

88 Tenimenti Zabù 2022 Riporta Rosato (Terre Siciliane). Watermelon candy, white peaches and wild strawberry get a salty lift from notes of crushed seashells and tahini on the nose of this wine. These savory notes come through more powerfully on the palate, with sesame paste and rose water evoking Turkish delight, and citrus astringency on the finish. Pio Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Tenimenti Zabù 2022 Sensuale (Terre Siciliane). The transparent-pink appearance

of this wine belies the almost electrically charged aromas of peach candy, strawberry fruit leather and wild watermelon on the nose. On the palate, notes of pink grapefruit, strawberries and rose petals come together in a creamy intensity. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

ETNA

91 Benanti 2021 Rosato (Etna). A rose-petal-pink color in the glass translates seamlessly to rose petals on the nose of this wine, along with Bing cherries, strawberries and a hint of vanilla, before notes of tar peek out. A juicy but tannic palate offers sour cherries, more rose petals and now gravel, with tannins proudly making themselves known against the fruit. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Palmento Costanzo 2021 Mofete (Etna). This wine has a spring-like floral nose. Baby's breath and lilies become luxurious with berries and cream before a slight flintiness emerges. The palate is a study in complementary contrasts with citrusy notes of Meyer lemons and clementines merging into strawberry candy, accentuated by vibrant acid. Artisanal Cellars. —D.C.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

91 Pietradolce 2022 (Etna). Exotic aromas of ripe banana and lychee lead into melon, citrus and grassy notes on the nose of this rosato. The palate emphasizes all these impressions, with gravel, grass, melon and citrus. More pith comes through for a warming bitter bite at the end. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

90 Tascante 2021 Tefra (Etna). A citrusy nose of lemons, pink grapefruit and tangerines also strikes savory notes of gravel, pavement and a final hint of sesame. The palate of this wine stays citrusy, with some spiciness lifted up by acid. Peach candy comes through on the finish, which stays lively with acid. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

89 Massimo Lentsch 2021 OMA (Etna). A copery, sweet nose on this wine opens with peach tea and citrus but gets depth from caramelized sugar and nuts. Metallic tangs of copper and iron-rich soil light up the palate as well, along with more citrus and the skin of sour cherries and plums, nonetheless producing a surprisingly lush mouthfeel. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

SICILY RED WINES

SICILIA

92 Feudo Montoni 2018 Vrucara Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose on this wine opens like an old book—leathery and dusty—with dried flowers and then peppery herbs. Cherries, strawberries, vanilla and cola come out on the palate, followed by more herb and pepper notes. Integrated and elegant, the wine offers firm tannins and sparkling acid. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$62

91 Feudo Montoni 2020 Core Perricone (Sicilia). Hints of firewood and camphor light up behind black cherries, vanilla, cedar and spices on the nose of this red from the Perricone grape. Fresher notes of tomatoes and herbs come out on the palate. An undercurrent of stony brininess and more berries come through at the back, with the tension held by mellowing tannins but vibrant acid. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Morgante 2019 Don Antonio Nero d'Avola Riserva (Sicilia). Tanned leather and top soil dominate the nose of this wine, before turning to graphite, black pepper, herbs and finally black cherry. Savory notes take center stage on the palate, with meaty, fermented flavors shining through cherries and plums. Structured, solid tannins and peppery acid hold everything in balance. Winebow Imports. —D.C.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

91 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Lamùri Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). For full review see page 20. Trincherio Family Estates. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Assuli 2019 Lorlando Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Made with organic grapes, this wine has a nose that leans heavily toward umami notes of soy sauce, seaweed and black sesame alongside graphite and pencil eraser. Tart cherries pop out from a savory and briny background on the palate, with vibrant, almost bubbly, acid and warming heat at the back. Keystone Importers. *Best Buy.* —D.C.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Assuli 2018 Lorlando Riserva Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Stones, crushed flower petals and black cherries feature on the nose of this wine, with a hint of mocha at the end. Crunchy, fresh red and black fruit stand out on the palate with some wild herbs and more coffee and chocolate. Tannins are present but not ostentatious, and the acid zippy but not excessive. Keystone Importers. —D.C.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Cantine Colosi 2021 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). For full review see page 20. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

90 Cortese 2020 Senia Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). The nose on this Nero d'Avola made with organic grapes is all coconut and old leather at first, with a bit of cocoa, mossy underbrush and finally some dark berries. Berries sit backstage on the palate that turns spicy with acidity and chile-pepper notes. A long savory finish is held up by fiery acid and significant heat. Saranty Imports. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Tasca d'Almerita 2020 Tenuta Regaleali Guarnaccio Perricone (Sicilia). For full review see page 21. Trinchero Family Estates. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Assuli 2021 Arcodace Perricone (Sicilia). Wet slate, soy sauce and mossy underbrush dominate the nose of this wine, with hints of brambles crushed under stones. Umami notes continue on the palate with more soy sauce, vinegar and graphite joined by tart cherries and wild berries. With tannins standing at attention and buzzy acid, this is an ideal introduction to a grape mostly known for its role in Marsala. Keystone Importers. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Assuli 2018 Furioso Perricone (Sicilia). Iron-rich soil, graphite, cherries and strawberries come through on the nose of this wine, with a bit of leather and tobacco leaf. The palate has more meaty, metallic notes and deeper, darker cherry flavors, but also chocolate, coffee beans and anise. Tannins and acid are both right where they need to be. Keystone Importers. —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

89 Baglio di Pianetto 2020 Nero D'Avola Made With Organic Grapes (Sicilia). The stony, savory nose on this Nero d'Avola has notes of fresh tar joined with umami aromas of soy sauce and grilled meat. The palate stays savory with more grilled meat and pepper, but also a bit of sour plum, highlighted by acid that dances on the tongue. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Cantine Ermes 2021 Quattro Quarti Nero d'Avola Appassimento (Sicilia). Vanilla and spices on the nose of this wine give way to richer, woodsy scents of bark, damp soil, brambles and berries. The very berry palate advertises the appassimento process, with cherries, raspberries, blackberries and more soil and brambles. Firm tannins stand up to the exuberant fruit. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Cantine Ermes 2019 Epicentro Nero d'Avola Riserva (Sicilia). This wine offers a very berry nose of cherries, strawberries, raspberries,

blackberries, vanilla, spices and a tiny bit of earth. The palate is all cherries and more stony earthiness. Lush fruit is offset by firm tannins and plenty of acid to strike a healthy balance. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

89 Cusumano 2021 Estate Bottled Nero D'Avola (Sicilia). Umami notes of soy sauce and black olives, a bit of mossy underbrush and berries swirl together on the nose of this wine. The palate pops with the snap of cherry and sour-plum skin, the astringency of bark and top soil, angular tannins and lively acid. Terlato Wines International. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Cusumano 2020 Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Wild cherry and long-stem strawberries with a green freshness contrast with vanilla, cedar and white pepper on the nose of this wine. Bright berry notes continue on the palate, staying light and juicy rather than macerated. Tannins are firm but forgiving, with acid and heat palpable. Terlato Wines International. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Tenimenti Zabù 2021 Riporta Nero D'Avola Appassite (Sicilia). Blood and bricks jump off the nose of this Nero d'Avola, then joined by white pepper, wild herbs and cherries. The more concentrated palate reflects the appassimento, with cherries, plums, and chocolate notes but also soil and the metallic tang of black olives. Chewy, chalky tannins and medium acid hold the tension between savory and fruity. Pio Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

88 Cantine Ermes 2021 Vento di Mare Nero d'Avola Made with Organic Grapes (Sicilia). Black cherries, plums, prunes and figs show on the nose of this Nero d'Avola made with organic grapes, with a whisper of dark chocolate and mint. The palate stays fresh and juicy with cherries, more chocolate and an undercurrent of wet slate and soil. Tannins are flexible and the acid punchy. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Castellani 2020 Petraio Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Cherries and dark chocolate spiked with chile peppers jump off the nose of this wine, with a bit of chalky soil and crushed stones. The palate offers juicy cherries, strawberries, vanilla and cola, with a hint of a metallic note. Tannins are softening but not quite plush, backed up by enough acid to balance the lush fruit. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Morgante 2020 Nero D'Avola (Sicilia). In this wine, a brooding nose of black cherries, blackberries, dark chocolate and chile pepper leads to a palate of cherry-vanilla cola, sarsaparilla and medicinal cherry flavors. Mouthclearing tannins,

fiery acid and serious heat keep everything high toned. Winebow Imports. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Tenimenti Zabù 2021 Riporta Nero D'Avola (Sicilia). Woodsy notes on the nose of this wine mingle with vanilla, spices and red fruit before turning medicinal with herbs and roots. The palate grows dense with cherries, figs and raisins, and then camphor and soil, held together with chalky tannins but restrained acid. Pio Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Morgante 2020 Rosso di Morgante Nero d'Avola (Sicilia). Cranberries, cherries and pomegranate show on the nose of this wine, followed by freshly potted plants and hints of nutmeg and clove. The savory palate emphasizes the notes of potting soil, flower petals and crunchy red fruit, with tannins that stay relentless through the finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

TERRE SICILIANE

96 Franchetti-Passopisciaro 2020 Contrada R (Terre Siciliane). On the nose of this wine, a lush blend of cranberries, raspberries, red and black cherries and blackberries is offset by the classic allure of tar and rose petal notes. The palate echoes the nose, holding the line between crunchy and velvety, sweet and sour, spicy and sweet. This Nerello Mascalese forces you think about texture, and celebrates the effort of making wine at this elevation on the volcano. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Franchetti-Passopisciaro 2020 Contrada G (Terre Siciliane). Contrada Guardiola always stands out in the Passopisciaro cru line-up for its seamless expression of the territory and this 2020 vintage is no exception. Cherries and cherry blossoms meet blood and bricks, graphite and gunpowder on the nose, and a tart and mouthwatering palate adds sour strawberry and rhubarb. Chewy tannins and pronounced acid can wake up the palate right now or develop through 2033. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$90

95 Franchetti-Passopisciaro 2020 Contrada S (Terre Siciliane). Passopisciaro's Sciaranuvola Contrada gives life to a wine with length and depth. The nose of this wine suggests cherries, strawberries, rhubarb, bricks and gunpowder, with hints of fennel and wild mint. Berries, bitten lip and sour-plum skin plus spicy, peppery heat amped up by alcohol results in a welcoming, floral warmth. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$83

94 Franchetti-Passopisciaro 2020 Contrada C (Terre Siciliane). Umami aromas are first up on the nose of this wine, followed by soil, pencil shavings, and finally crunchy red fruit and spicy heat that evoke cranberry-jalapeño jam. The bal-

ancing act between sweet and heat continues on the palate, oscillating between cherries, strawberries and red chile flakes. Rich and round but also taut and precise—the fruit is perfectly ripe without tipping even for a second into excessive maturity. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.

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

94 Franchetti–Passopisciaro 2020 Contrada P (Terre Siciliane). Cherries, cranberries, a little vanilla and old leather make for a rich and luxurious if restrained nose on this wine. The cranberries and cherries are met with freshly turned soil, wild mint and fennel on the palate, with a fleeting whiff of smoke. Very tightly wound tannins and perky acid make it all feel like a crisp fall day. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.

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

ETNA

93 Benanti 2020 Contrada Dafara Galluzzo (Etna). A restrained nose of new books, new leather and sharpened pencils turns raw and tannic with cherries and steak jus. Wild strawberries, pomegranate seeds and brick paving reinforce this impression on the palate of this wine. With tightly coiled, clingy tannins and acid firing straight down the middle there's time to spare here. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Benanti 2016 Rovittello Alberello Centenario Particella No. 341 Riserva (Etna). The nose on this wine is floral at first, but becomes rich with new leather and strong aromas of tar. Wild strawberry and cranberry on the palate contrast with metallic notes of black olive and touches of wild herbs. The taut ensemble shows the maturity of age but remains vibrant. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$128

92 Alta Mora 2017 Guardiola (Etna). The nose on this Etna rosso shows stones, fresh mixed berries and new leather shoes, while the juicy but savory palate has notes of grilled meat, olives and crushed stones, before wild strawberry and raspberries creep through. Round juiciness is contrasted by a backbone of acid that keeps the finish dynamic. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$64

92 Benanti 2020 Contrada Monte Serra (Etna). Medicinal cherry, camphor, cedar and flint float over fuller fruit notes of prune and dried fig on the nose of this wine. The palate still leans toward fig and plum but with high tones of hibiscus, cranberry and fresh cherry. Tannins just starting to give in a bit and bouncy acid tie everything together in loose bow. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Cottanera 2018 Contrada Feudo di Mezzo Rosso (Etna). This wine offers a nose of fresh pansies, strawberries, cherries and bricks, opening to notes of new leather and a bit of tar. The

palate stays crunchy and lively with fresh strawberries, hibiscus, cranberry, stones and soil. Structured but forgiving tannins and fizzy acid make for a deeply enjoyable sip. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

92 Massimo Lentsch 2019 Cosentino (Etna). Rich aromas of vanilla, spices and leather are first on the nose of this wine, with tiny wild strawberries and rocky soil emerging. The palate echoes these aromas with cinnamon-sugar notes, berries and some peppery, herbaceous notes. Forgiving tannins and bright acid allow everything to harmonize happily. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$66

92 Pietradolce 2019 Contrada Rampante (Etna). The restrained nose on this wine opens up to reveal bricks, soil, red berries and crushed rose petals. Metallic notes of iron and volcanic rock dominate the palate, interspersed with wild strawberry and wild herbs. Tannins and acid maintain an elegant balance against substantial heat. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

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

91 Cottanera 2020 Contrada Diciassettesalme Rosso (Etna). A wet, gravelly scent of fresh rain on cobblestones joins red apples and cherries on the nose of this wine. The palate offers cherries, strawberries, vanilla and cola, with warm spiciness at the back. Polished tannins coat the mouth before acid punches through. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.

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

91 Cottanera 2017 Contrada Zottorinotto Rosso Riserva (Etna). This Sicilian red opens with aromas of graphite and iron-rich soil alongside tomatoes, strawberries, cherries, oregano and other wild herbs. The palate strikes a balance between bright and bouncy notes of berries and deep savory tones of leather and herbs, supported by present but pliable tannins. Indigenous Selections. —D.C.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

91 Pietradolce 2021 Rosso (Etna). Iron and mineral-rich notes of soil, bricks and blood on the nose of this wine gain a fruity tang from Bing cherries and strawberries. These impressions continue on the palate, with spicy notes of black peppercorns and red chile flakes. Earthiness follows all the way through, balanced by spirited acid. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

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

91 Planeta 2020 Rosso (Etna). For full review see page 16. Taub Family Selections.

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

91 Tascante 2020 Ghiaia (Etna). For full review see page 17. Dalla Terra Winery Direct.

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

90 Alta Mora 2019 Etna Rosso (Etna). A subtle and floral nose on this wine offers violets, cherries and blackberries, with soil and crushed stones underfoot. The palate turns leathery and

meaty before cherries and medicinal notes of wild herbs and fennel join in. Tannins are approachable and a streak of acid keeps everything bright. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

90 Massimo Lentsch 2019 San Teodoro (Etna). The fun and funky nose on this Etna rosso offers raw meat and fresh tar backed up with strawberries and raspberries, followed by darker accents of blackberries and black cherries. The palate is lively and juicy with fresh cherries, strawberries and notes of volcanic soil and crushed rocks pointed up by lightning-hot acid. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

OTHER ITALIAN WINE

86 Cantine di Ora 2020 Il Casato (Italy). This inky-dark red wine is loaded with blackberry, blueberry and campfire notes. The palate is juicy with loads of cooked plum, black cherries and hints of roasted herbs. The wine finishes soft with supple tannins and an easy finish. Tri-Vin Imports.

Best Buy. —J.P.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

GREECE

WHITE WINES

ASSYRTIKO

93 Kalliston 2018 Grand Reserve Assyrtiko (Santorini). A round, dynamic wine, this honey-hued Assyrtiko has notes of lemon and sugar cookie on the palate, denoting time spent in French oak followed by another year of bottle aging. The medium body is balanced and structured, with lovely acidity on the finish. Santorini Wines & Food LLC. —E.S.

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

92 Alpha Estate 2018 Ecosystem Single Block Aghia Kiriaki Assyrtiko (Florina). For full review see page 12. Diamond Importers Inc.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Domaine Sigalas 2018 Kavalieros Assyrtiko (Santorini). Aromas of lemon, juicy peach and fresh jalapeño headline this elegant Assyrtiko, while the palate has notes of white peach and lemon chiffon. It's a refreshing pour with a hint of roundness to the body thanks to the 18 months the wine spent sitting on its lees. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$97

92 Khaos Wines 2021 Kaldéra Assyrtiko (Cyclades). A perfect aperitif for a hot summer day, or pairing with seafood and salads, this is a beautifully balanced, light-bodied wine. Aromas include ripe pineapple, lemon and lime, and the pal-

BUYINGGUIDE

ate has a long, racy finish. Trinity Wine and Spirits. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

92 Skouras 2021 Wild Ferment Assyrtiko (Peloponnese). Almost translucent in the glass, this refreshing, Peloponnesian wine has ripe pineapple aromas offset by faint notes of petrol and black pepper. Bright acidity headlines the palate, with the slightest hint of funky intrigue, thanks to the four months this wine spent on its lees in stainless steel. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Argyros 2018 Cuvée Monsignori Assyrtiko (Santorini). Made from grapes of the oldest Assyrtiko vines on a 1903 Santorini estate, this zippy wine has lemon, white peach and dried sage aromas, plus a light, bright body with lots of fresh lemon flavor. It would make a lovely aperitif but could also complement grilled fish or other light proteins and all sorts of vegetable preparations. Athenee Importers. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$57

91 Domaine Papagiannakos 2020 Assyrtiko (Attiki). Aromas of white peach, cantaloupe and the faintest hint of vanilla headline this pale straw-colored wine, while a squeeze of fresh lemon juice keeps things in balance. It's light-bodied and easy-drinking. It would be an excellent wine to open at cocktail hour or the dinner table. Winebow Imports. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

91 Gaia Wines 2019 Wild Ferment Assyrtiko (Santorini). A straw-colored Santorini Assyrtiko, this is an intense, electric wine with a round, flinty body with mineral notes and a tart, faintly bitter finish. Complex aromas include fennel, white pepper and fresh citrus. Winebow Imports. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Santo Wines 2021 Assyrtiko (Santorini). From a prominent cooperative winery on sunny Santorini comes this inviting, zippy wine with bright lemon rind and floral aromas. It was vinified in stainless steel and sat for 14 months on its lees, giving the palate ripe, juicy tropical fruit flavors balanced by a flinty backbone. Pair it with salads, seafood and any and all grilled proteins. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Douloufakis 2020 Ala'rgo Assyrtiko (Crete). From a small producer in the hills south of Crete's capital, Herakleion, comes this elegant, light-bodied sipper with balanced notes of lemon juice and zest that are followed by a pleasantly acidic finish. Pair with crudité, grilled fish or tofu, or nothing at all. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$64

90 Gaia Wines 2021 Assyrtiko by Gaia Wild Ferment Assyrtiko (Santorini). This engaging Assyrtiko introduces itself with notes of sage and white pepper on the herbaceous nose, plus the

faintest hints of vanilla thanks to fermentation in both stainless steel and acacia, French barrique and American oak barrels. There are lovely lemon pound cake flavors on the palate, with savory flavors and a citrus-driven finish that keeps perceptible sweetness beautifully balanced. It's also vegan, in case that's important to you or your drinking companions. Winebow Imports. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

90 Gaia Wines 2020 Monograph Assyrtiko (Peloponnese). Food-friendly and easy-drinking, this pale straw-colored wine has lots of bright lemon notes on the nose, plus hints of white peach and honeydew. The light body is acid-driven but balanced, with a tart, medium-length finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Santo Wines 2020 Kontarades Single Vineyard Assyrtiko (Santorini). A citrus-forward Assyrtiko, this crisp, easy-drinking wine is made of grapes from vines grown in volcanic soils and formed into basket-shaped koulouras on one wind-swept vineyard. It's light-bodied and refreshing, with bright lemon flavors upfront and in the long, tart finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Santo Wines 2020 Volcanic Terroir Assyrtiko (Santorini). With zesty lemon and lightly floral flavors complemented by aromas of lemon rind and petrol, this wine is both interesting and crowd-pleasing. Despite ample acidity, it has a pleasantly round feel and long, tangy finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$21

90 Wine Art Estate 2021 Idisma Drios Assyrtiko (Drama). Savory spices, including lots of whole cloves, play off sage and petrol on the aromatic nose of this straw-colored Assyrtiko. The palate is bright and balanced, with a lingering, citrus-driven finish. R&R Selections LLC. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Gaia Wines 2020 Thalassitis Assyrtiko (Santorini). The grapes for this zesty Assyrtiko hail from the southeastern slopes of Santorini's Episkopi, Akoritiri and Pyrgos regions. It has notes of lemon and ripe summer peach on the nose, while the light body has fresh-picked lemon flavors upfront, followed by a balanced, tangy finish. Winebow Imports. —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

89 Kalliston 2019 Assyrtiko (Santorini). This aromatic, pale golden wine has both floral and fruity notes somewhat reminiscent of lemon-scented desserts. The medium body is pleasantly balanced with bright citrus as well as flinty, mineral notes, plus a nice hit of acidity at the finish. Santorini Wines & Food LLC. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

88 Gaia Wines 2021 Thalassitis Assyrtiko (Santorini). With its pale straw color and sweet

honeysuckle aromas, this is a subtler Assyrtiko than many of its tarter, citrus-centric brethren. There are, however, notes of lemon juice and rind on the palate, with a bit of viscosity akin to the oil from a citrus peel. Winebow Imports. —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$43

88 Vassaltis 2019 Assyrtiko (Santorini). A lemon-yellow Assyrtiko from Santorini, this medium-bodied wine has white peach and citrus aromas plus an easy-drinking palate with notes of freshly squeezed lemon juice, lemon zest and delicate sea spray. Pair it with ceviche or other light fare. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

MOSCHOFILERO

90 Nasiakos 2021 Moschofilero (Mantinia). Whether you're sipping this after a day at the beach or just wish you were, this is a transportive, easy-drinking wine with citrus and tropical fruits on the nose. In addition to lemon-lime flavors, there's the slightest hint of spicy pepper on the palate, giving it ample food-pairing potential. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

90 Nasiakos 2021 Mantinia Moschofilero (Mantinia). Pale and translucent, with an almost green tinge in the glass, this aromatic Moschofilero has bright Mandarin orange, lemon and guava aromas. The acidic finish on the easy-drinking, light-bodied palate might have you reaching for your next sip while you're still savoring the first. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

89 Greek Wine Cellars 2019 Flowers Moschofilero (Mantinia). Aromatic and easy-drinking, this breezy white wine has tropical notes of passion fruit, guava and papaya, plus a sneaking hint of citrus zest to keep everything balanced. There's a similarly even-handed interplay of fruit and acidity on the palate, with a slightly bitter lemon pith finish. Nestor Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Zacharias 2021 Moschofilero (Peloponnese). For full review see page 22. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

90 Skouras 2021 Moschofilero (Peloponnese). Delicately floral notes offset the ripe pineapple and subtle sage aromas on this light-bodied Moschofilero from Skouras, named for groundbreaking winemaker (and Peloponnesian hometown hero) George Skouras. Fermented in stainless steel, the wine saw the briefest contact with its skins before sitting on its lees, and there's ample acidity and a bit of salinity on the refreshing palate. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

90 Skouras 2019 Salto Moscofilero (Peloponnese). A bright and zesty nose with peach, floral and citrus notes headlines this high-altitude white wine from the northeast Peloponnese. Fermented in stainless steel vats, this is a light-bodied, refreshing wine with faint salinity, making it perfect for aperitifs and warm weather. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Skouras 2021 Salto Wild Yeast Moscofilero (Peloponnese). There is ample acidity and salinity on the palate of this bright, almost bracing wine made from Greece's indigenous Moscofilero grape. The green, faintly soapy notes on the palate suggest it might need a bit more time in the bottle before it's at its peak. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

SAVATIANO

89 Domaine Papagiannakos 2020 Old Vines Savatiano (Markopoulo). Lovely acidity on the palate and finish gives this medium-bodied Savatiano ample food pairing potential, from cheese and charcuterie boards to sushi or salads. The nose has notes of white peach and pine with a hint of resin. The wine's fresh, fruity character is thanks to the stainless steel fermentation overseen by the third-generation winemaker at this family-run operation in Central Greece's Attica region. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Mylonas 2021 Savatiano (Attica). Fresh, ripe summer peaches headline the aromatic nose of this straw-colored retsina. On the palate, the wine is considerably less fruit-forward than its aromas might have you believe. Its balanced if lean body has bright lemon flavors and a tart, almost effervescent finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Domaine Papagiannakos 2019 Vientzi Single Vineyard Savatiano (Markopoulo). The majority of this 150-acre vineyard in Central Greece's blazing hot Attica region is planted to Savatiano, and this iteration has a distinctively turpentine-driven nose. On the palate, the honey-hued wine offers notes of stone fruits, resin, pine and fresh, juicy lemon. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Mylonas 2021 Naked Truth Savatiano (Attica). Gold in the glass, this aromatic Savatiano expresses honey and floral aromas with faint notes of butter-rich pastry, indicative of the six months it spent on its lees. A single-vineyard wine, it's made via spontaneous fermentation and bottled unfiltered. The body is leaner than the rich nose might suggest, with a tart, lingering finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

WHITE BLENDS

92 Gaia Wines 2020 Notios White Blend (Peloponnese). This bright, easy-drinking wine features a blend of three white wine grapes indigenous to Greece: high-altitude Roditis Alepou, Moschofilero from Arcadia, and Santorini Assyrtiko. There are clementine, melon and lemon notes on the nose, and a lovely, tartly balanced palate. The long, clementine-driven finish will leave you craving your next sip. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Domaine Costa Lazaridi 2020 Amethystos Blanc White Blend (Drama). A blend of Assyrtiko and Sauvignon Blanc, this white wine leads with lemon and peach aromas, plus a whiff of tropical pineapple. The light body has pleasant viscosity reminiscent of the oils you get from a lemon rind, and it's followed by a long, tart finish. A perfect white wine for aperitif hour, with enough body to stand up to hearty vegetables, seafood and other light proteins. Nestor Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

89 Ktima Brintziki 2020 Enipeas White Blend (Iliia). So pale it's almost translucent in the glass, this light-bodied Peloponnesian white wine has notes of sage and thyme on the herbaceous nose. The majority of the blend is Malagouzia, an indigenous white wine grape that provides aromatics and a bit of weight, and the rest is bright, tart Assyrtiko. Wine For The World. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Santo Wines 2020 ASPA Volcanic Terroirs White Blend (Santorini). From a major wine cooperative on the volcanic soils of Santorini comes this golden-hued Assyrtiko. Aromas and flavors of lemon shortbread suggest time spent in oak, and there's slight astringency on the finish. A weightier pour with more viscosity than other Assyrtikos, this would be a great partner to shrimp, scallops and other shellfish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

86 Ktima Brintziki 2020 Melios White Blend (Iliia). Lean and crisp, this white wine blend pours almost translucent in the glass. What it lacks in aromatics it makes up for in its balanced, easy-drinking palate. The finish is short but bright. Wine For The World. —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Douloufakis 2021 Aspros Lagos Vidiano (Crete). Made from Vidiano, an indigenous Cretan variety, this honey-colored wine expresses citrus and petrol aromas with a faintly buttery undertone that hints at the five months the wine spent aging in acacia and French oak. The balanced palate has lemon and juicy melon flavors balanced

by petrol, and a lovely, long-lasting finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 Douloufakis 2021 Dafnios Vidiano (Crete). From an esteemed Cretan winery comes this lemon-colored Vidiano, an ancient, nearly extinct indigenous grape revitalized by historically minded producers like Douloufakis. It has bold lychee and cantaloupe aromas, followed by citrus and floral notes on the medium-bodied palate. Aged entirely in stainless steel, this food-friendly wine has a crisp, acidic finish. Diamond Importers Inc. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

GREECE RED WINES AGIORGITIKO

89 Gaia Wines 2019 Agiorgitiko (Nemea). This Agiorgitiko from Gaia, one of Greece's largest wineries, has tart raspberry, cranberry and faint leathery aromas. The fruit notes continue to a medium-bodied palate that has some black licorice notes and strong tannins. If you're cooking beef or lamb, consider ditching your go-to Cab for this one. Winebow Imports. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Nasiakos 2019 Agiorgitiko (Peloponnese). Blackberries, cranberries and tart currants highlight the fruit-forward nose on this Peloponnesian red wine. It has a medium-light body and faint vanilla flavors, making it a good match for meaty swordfish or hearty roasted vegetables. Expect grippy tannins on the long, savory finish. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Nasiakos 2018 Nemea Agiorgitiko (Nemea). You might catch a whiff of freshly cracked black pepper among the red fruits on the nose of this ruby-colored Peloponnesian wine. On the palate, the wine's fruit flavors take a back seat to balanced acidity and a strong tannic finish. Serve with food. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. —E.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

87 Greek Wine Cellars 2018 Agiorgitiko (Nemea). Tart cranberries and juicy summer tomatoes lead the nose of this light-bodied, garnet-colored wine. While the finish is on the shorter side, the palate is balanced and savory, with some black tea notes for intrigue. Nestor Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15/1.5 L

RED BLENDS

87 Domaine Costa Lazaridi 2018 Oenotria Land Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon-Agiorgitiko (Attica). Fans of firm, tannic wines will appreciate this Cabernet Sauvignon-Agiorgi-

tiko blend, which is made with grapes from organic vineyards. The nose features ripe red and black fruit aromas and flavors, and the palate combines those fruits with faint vanilla and chocolate notes due to the 18 months this wine spends in 50% new French oak. Nestor Imports. —E.S.

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

89 **Domaine Costa Lazaridi 2020 Amethystos Rouge Red Blend (Drama).** A mix of indigenously and Bordeaux varieties, this dry red wine pours a rich, almost purple color in the glass and leads with black cherry aromas. Notes of wood and tobacco hint at the 12 months the Cabernet, Merlot and Agiorgitiko blend spent in barrels, 25% of which were made of new French oak. It has a structured tannic finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —E.S.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

87 **Domaine Costa Lazaridi 2018 Oenodea Red Blend (Drama).** The slightest hint of cloves complements the ripe cherries, raspberries and other red fruits on this richly ruby-colored wine. Made with organic grapes, this is a heavy-hitting, highly tannic wine made to serve with hearty roasts, preferably in front of a roaring fire. Nestor Imports.

Best Buy. —E.S. **Price:** \$14 **abv:** 14%

85 **Achaia Cellars NV Mavrodaphne of Patras Red Blend (Patras).** A lovely garnet hue in the glass, this dessert wine has a sharply boozy nose followed by a very sweet palate, with raisinated fruit notes on the long finish. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —E.S.

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

OTHER RED WINES

89 **Zacharias 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Greece).** A pleasant interplay of fruit and acidity leads the palate of this dry red wine, followed by a strong tannic finish. Look for red fruit and faint anise aromas as well as the faintest whiff of cedar thanks to the six months it spent in French oak before bottling. Stellar Importing Company, LLC. **Best Buy.** —E.S.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 **Greek Wine Cellars NV Kourtaki Sweet Mavrodaphne (Mavrodaphne of Patras).** Made with Mavro, a dark-skinned Cypriot grape used in red blends and dessert wines, this sweet pour has a very sharp nose with red currant and cherry notes. The tart finish keeps things from getting too cloying, though the unctuous palate is not recommended for anyone who lacks a sweet tooth. Nestor Imports.

Best Buy. —E.S. **Price:** \$13 **abv:** 15%

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

DOURO

93 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2020 Grande Reserva (Douro).** A dense and complex wine, aged in wood and now showing richness and concentration. The wine has power and spice, white fruits laced with citrus. Drink this rich wine from 2024. Douro Vino Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

91 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2021 Reserva Branco (Douro).** The wine's richness is right there, along with minerality and a layer of spice from wood aging. The fruit, apples, ripe melon and pear, is full bodied and intense. Drink the wine from 2024. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 **Maçanita Vinhos 2019 Los Doios Folgasão (Douro).** A bright, fruity and fresh wine from high altitude vineyards. This has touches of wood aging and along with fresh acidity and ripe yellow fruits. The wine is light, poised and ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$42

89 **Maçanita Vinhos 2019 Gouveio by Joana (Douro).** Ripe with layers of citrus and yellow fruits, the wine shows touches of minerality in its texture. It has a fresh character, all about fruitiness. Drink the wine now. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

88 **Quinta do Vallado 2021 Branco Reserva (Douro).** A fresh and fruity wine with a light backdrop of spice, this is crisp. A mineral texture gives it a very Douro character as do the layered acidity and citrus flavors. Drink the wine from later this year. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

88 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2021 Mesmotino (Douro).** A grape usually found in the north of Vinho Verde is an odd choice for a Douro wine. Yet it is fresh and fruity, red-berry flavors and bright acidity. Drink the wine from 2024. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2020 Reserva Branco (Douro).** The wine has an earthy aroma probably from the wood aging. The texture is tangy and rich, dense with spice and toastiness. Once the funky aroma goes, drink from 2024. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

DÃO

93 **Sogrape NV Quinta dos Carvalhais (Dão).** From a large estate in the heart of the Dão region, this wine is rich and full. Wood aging has smoothed the corner with rich white fruits, spice and structure. The wine is concentrated and deserves further aging. Drink from 2024. Evaton, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

91 **Textura Wines 2020 Pura (Dão).** Dominated by Encruzado, this is a ripe, fruity wine that is spicy and toasty from wood aging. The wine's richness is palpable, full of both fruit and ripe texture. It is ready to drink. JD Selections. —R.V.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

91 **Textura Wines 2020 Textura da Estrela (Dão).** Aged in wood, the wine has richness as well as white and citrus fruit flavors. It is a ripe wine, blending Encruzado and Bical, with a fresh lift at the end. Drink from later this year. JD Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

90 **Madre de Agua 2018 Encruzado (Dão).** This wine brings out the rich creamy character of the Encruzado grape. It is lightly spicy with plenty of citrus and white fruit flavors. A fine wine, it is ready to drink. 31 Seven Degrees. —R.V.

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

90 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2020 Rabo de Ovelha (Dão).** The rare Rabo de Ovelha grape has produced a textured, fruity wine. It is full of citrus and spice, a bright wine that has depth and concentration. Drink this unique wine later this year. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.

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

90 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Ribeiro Santo Vinha da Neve (Dão).** Aged in barrels for eight months, this wine is spicy, the wood aging giving it a polished feel and broadening the white fruits. It is a ripe wine that is ready to drink. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.

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

90 **Textura Wines 2021 Pretexto (Dão).** Encruzado and Bical make a good pairing in this creamy wine. It has poise and lightness along with a touch of pear and apricot ripeness. Drink the wine from later this year. JD Selections. —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Pinha (Dão).** Perfumed with attractive acidity and white fruits, this wine has a creamy edge from Encruzado enhancing the Malvasia that gives it its aromatic character. Drink now. Iberian Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

TEJO

89 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2021 Grande Reserva (Tejo).** Wood aged, this ripe wine is spicy and full of white fruits. It is a fine wine, full of both fruit and texture. It is ready to drink, but will be better from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$21

89 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2021 Reserva Arinto & Chardonnay Portuguese White (Tejo).** This ripe blend of Arinto and Chardonnay is generous and textured. It is rich, full of apple and melon fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

88 **Fiuza 2022 3 Castas Reserva (Tejo).** The blend of three grapes is fresh and fruity. There is an attractive touch of spice and the wine is ripe. Drink this generous wine now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

87 **Fiuza 2022 Verdelho (Tejo).** Lightly perfumed, the wine is tangy. The apple peel and spice combination is attractive, giving the wine both freshness and texture. Drink the wine now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2022 Vinhas Velhas (Tejo).** A light, poised and fresh wine, this is fruity bright. Apples and light-citrus flavors add to the wine's crispness. The wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

ALENTEJANO

90 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2021 Viognier (Alentejano).** Viognier thrives in the warm climate of the Alentejo. This wine has fine acidity, delicious hints of tropical fruits balanced by ripe citrus. It is a fruity, textured wine that is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2020 Amantis Reserva (Alentejano).** Ready to drink, this is a spicy wine, its fruit now less dominant. It is complex, mature, toasty and full of rich secondary flavors. Drink this fine wine now. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2021 (Alentejano).** A fresh blend of Antão Vaz, Viosinho and Arinto, this is fresh, crisp with plenty of citrus acidity and a bright face. It is attractive now, ready to drink. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

87 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2019 Arinto (Alentejano).** The wine, now mature, shows a toasty edge as well as the hints of brightness from

its younger days. It is at its peak, totally ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

OTHER WHITE WINES

91 **Aveleda 2021 Solos de Granito (Minho).** For full review see page 19. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

91 **Aveleda 2021 Solos de Xisto (Minho).** For full review see page 19. Aveleda Inc. **Best Buy.**
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

91 **Sogrape 2018 Série Impar Retorto (Alentejo).** This limited production wine is full of textured white fruits. It is bright yet full with apple skins and spice over touches of wood aging. Drink this juicy, structured wine from 2024. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$100

90 **Maçanita Vinhos 2021 Nuno Faria Caracol dos Profetas (Madeirense).** Produced by Nuno Faria for Maçanita Vinhos, this is a ripe, satisfying wine. With touches of tropical fruits and a fine texture, it is tangy and ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

88 **Casa de Vila Verde 2022 Tiroliro (Vinho Verde).** From the northern part of Vinho Verde, is this rich and full wine. Its creamy character contrasts with the tight texture, minerality and green fruit acidity. Drink from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 **Maçanita Vinhos 2021 Nuno Faria Listraão (Madeirense).** This rare grape makes a delicate, perfumed wine. It is ripe with a soft texture, apple and tangy orange fruits and balanced acidity. It is ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$120

87 **J. Portugal Ramos 2022 Marquês de Borba Colheita (Alentejo).** Full of spice and acidity contrasting easily with each other, the wine is brightly textured. Green fruits and a tangy texture complete an attractive wine. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉS

90 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2018 Reserva Rosé (Douro).** A rich, spicy wine with fresh acidity. It has maturity, with a bright character that is still there even after nearly five years. Drink now. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

87 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2021 Quasetinto Rosé (Douro).** Made from 100% Alvarelhão, a red grape usually found in Vinho Verde, this is a soft wine with bright acidity and a fine tang in its tex-

ture. Drink the wine now. Douro Vino Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

95 **Casa Ferreirinha 2019 Quinta da Leda (Douro).** From one of the top vineyards in the Douro Superior region, the wine is impressive. Its balance and richness are matched by the wine's concentration. Powerful black fruits and a dense texture promise further aging. Drink this rich wine from 2025. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Maçanita Vinhos 2019 Letra A Touriga Nacional (Douro).** The wine's name refers to the classification of Douro vineyards with A being the top of the list. So this wine comes from a fine vineyard and that shows in its richness and power. The black fruits and tannins need more time, so drink the wine from 2026. Olé & Obrigado Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 **Quinta dos Avidagos 2018 Grande Reserva (Douro).** A powerful, black-fruited wine, this is just approaching drinkability. It is packed with rich tannins, embedded in black-plum fruits. It could still be aged and will be best drunk from 2025. Douro Vino Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 **Casa Ferreirinha 2020 Callabriga (Douro).** Named after a Roman city that harks back over 2,000 years, the wine is smooth and finely textured. It is still young, but its black fruits and generous texture are fine and give a juiciness to the wine. The wine will age gracefully, ready to drink from 2024. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

92 **Casa Ferreirinha 2019 Castas Escondidas (Douro).** A blend that includes some rarer grapes such as Rufete, the wine is structured and still firm. Its tannins and richness are both solid but promise ripe black tannins and dark-berry flavors. The wine needs to age, drink from 2025. Evaton, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Maçanita Vinhos 2019 Cima Corgo Touriga Nacional (Douro).** This rich wine comes from the Douro heartland. It shows plenty of dark tannins and a mineral texture that is very fine. The wine's structure needs to soften before fully revealing its full potential. Drink from 2025. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Quinta do Vallado 2019 Douro Superior (Douro). This historic estate has produced a rich, solid wine. Its firm structure and ripe berry flavors are impressively balanced. Acidity and finely woven spice are behind the structure of this age-worthy wine. Drink from 2025. Quintessential Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 Quinta Dona Mafalda 2019 Vinhas Velhas (Douro). Vinified in open-top stone lagars, this wine is dense, spicy with ripe, generous black fruits. It has acidity and a core of tannins that will soften as it matures. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Williams Corner Wine. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

92 Quinta dos Avidagos 2018 Lenuma (Douro). This rich blend has spice, layers of wood flavors and intensity. It is still young, with tannins and dark-berry flavors. The wine is ready to age further. Drink from 2025. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Broadbent 2019 Reserva (Douro). A well structured wine, this shows minerality and fine spice, wood aging and layers of black fruits. It is a fine wine, concentrated and developing well. Drink from 2024. Broadbent Selections, Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

91 Duorum 2019 Reserva Field Blend (Douro). A field blend of old Douro vines, this wine has great concentration and bold black fruits. It is a powerful wine showing the minerality and texture of the region. The wine will be ready from 2025. Winebow Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$46

91 Quinta dos Avidagos 2019 Reserva (Douro). Big, dark-chocolate flavors and ripe black fruits meet in this rich, dense wine. It has a fine, juicy character, full of a mix of integrated tannins and powerful fruit. Drink the wine from 2025. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Quinta Dona Mafalda 2020 Grande Reserva (Douro). With nine months partial wood aging, the wine has a firm character, tannins and acidity. This is a rich wine but still developing. Drink from 2025. Williams Corner Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Quinta dos Avidagos 2021 Extinto Blanc de Noirs (Douro). The wine, made from the white juice of a red-skinned grape, is full, ripe with apple and touches of toast from barrel fermentation. This rich wine is ready to drink. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

90 Quinta dos Avidagos 2018 Além Tanha (Douro). A dense wine with black cocoa and licorice flavors. Rich with tannins and black fruits,

it still needs time and has a good future. Drink from 2025. Douro Vino Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Santos & Seixo 2020 Santos da Casa (Douro). A dense, perfumed wine, this is rich in tannins and firm black fruits. It has berry fruits alongside a structure that is maturing beneficially. Wait until 2025 for this wine to be ready. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

89 Quinta Dona Mafalda 2019 Touriga Nacional (Douro). The is a young wine, structured with a mineral edge and layers of acidity. Black fruits are developing into richness and potential. Drink the wine from 2025. Williams Corner Wine. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

88 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Tom de Baton dos Heredias (Douro). A blend that comes from the Tabuaço region in Cima Corgo, the heart of the Douro. The wine is structured and dense with fresh tannins and acidity to keep it developing. It is full bodied and will develop well. Drink from 2025. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Quinta dos Avidagos 2020 Avidagos Tinto (Douro). Fruity with fresh tannins and bright red-fruit flavors, this is a young and perfumed wine. The wine is likely to be ready to drink from 2024. Douro Vino Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Santos & Seixo 2019 Perspectiva (Douro). Blending Touriga Franca, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Amarela, the wine is rich, structured and now approaching maturity. It is full of ripe red fruits and generous tannins. Drink the wine from 2024. Diniz Cellars. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

DÃO

93 Madre de Agua 2017 Touriga Nacional (Dão). Ripe and perfumed, this is a rich, dense wine. Its tannins and black fruits are fully integrated, giving ripeness and density to a powerful, while also stylish wine. Drink from 2024. 31 Seven Degrees. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

93 Madre de Agua 2017 Vinhas Velhas (Dão). This dense wine with its rich tannins and dark, layered fruits is just opening up. The result is a very fine wine with a core of dryness and black-fruit flavors. The wine is now ready to drink. 31 Seven Degrees. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Madre de Agua 2019 Alfrocheiro (Dão). Ripe, young and juicy, this is a full, rich wine. Black fruits and concentrated tannins are present, promising a perfumed, spicy wine as it ages. The wine's

density and dark texture will soften. Drink from 2025. 31 Seven Degrees. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Textura Wines 2019 Vinha Negrosa (Dão). This blend of Alfrocheiro and Jaen is powerful and dense. It is a rich wine, with firm tannins and some potential to age. The wine's blackberry fruits are bursting with energy, ready to soften. The wine is likely to be ready from 2024. JD Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Madre de Agua 2017 Jaen (Dão). The wine has dark fruit and still-firm tannins. Its concentration and spicy character are very fine, showing the power of ripe Jaen fruit. Drink the wine from 2024. 31 Seven Degrees. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Textura Wines 2021 Pretexto (Dão). Lightly tannic, the wine is full of black fruits and acidity, laden with spice. The wine is fresh, bright and should be allowed to age further. It is an attractive wine that will be fine from 2024. JD Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Textura Wines 2019 Encoberta (Dão). A wood-aged wine, this is polished and smooth. It is balanced already with ripe black fruits, concentrated and layering tannin and acidity. Drink the wine now. JD Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

89 Textura Wines 2019 Textura da Estrela (Dão). One of the lesser grapes of the Dão region, the Jaen gives a spicy, edgy wine with tannins and dark fruits. The wine needs to age; drink from 2024. JD Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

88 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2020 Ribeiro Santo Bastardo (Dão). The Bastardo grape, so called because it is difficult to grow, has given a ripe black-fruited wine with soft tannins. It is juicy, still maturing and will be its best from 2024. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Textura Wines 2019 Textura da Estrela (Dão). This blend of Jaen, Touriga Nacional and Alfrocheiro is structured and still firm. The acidity and berry flavors are succulent and will soften further. Drink the wine from 2024. JD Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

87 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Pinha Ribeiro Santo Reserva (Dão). The wine has weight as well as fine black fruits. It is still young, exhibiting juicy, vivid fruits and a fine future. Drink the wine from 2024. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

TEJO

92 **Fiuzza 2021 Ikon Reserva (Tejo).** Dense, rich and full of black fruits, this is a ripe, concentrated wine. It is solid with some serious layers of fruit, richness, spice and concentration. The wine should be aged further, drink from 2024. Votto Vines Importing. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2020 Reserva (Tejo).** This is a dense, ripe wine. It has great fruit and soft tannins, concentrated berry flavors and a potentially rounded future. It is a fine wine that will be ready from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Fiuzza 2021 Canto do Pedro Reserva (Tejo).** A rich, dense and darkly colored wine from the Sousão grape, more commonly found in the Douro. The wine is full of ripe fruit, just hinting at tannins. With its generous black fruits, the wine is ready to drink. 4Front Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Fiuzza 2021 Premium Reserva (Tejo).** Dark in color, the wine has a rich character and solid, dense fruit. Black plum and ripe fruitiness reinforce the richness of this wine. Drink from 2025. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Barrel Selection (Tejo).** Rich black fruits, Syrah and Touriga Nacional, are now mature. The wine is layered with black fruits, spice and perfume. A ripe wine, this is now fully developed. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **Fiuzza 2021 Oceanus Reserva (Tejo).** A juicy, ripe blend of Touriga Nacional and Alicante Bouschet, this is structured with a firm core of tannins. The wine's black fruits and generous texture will keep it in good stead as it ages. Drink from later this year. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Santos & Seixo 2021 Pena Vermelha (Tejo).** Fresh, ripe red fruits mark out this wine. There is a layer of tannins along with the acidity, giving a young fruity wine. Juicy and vibrant, the wine will be ready from 2024. Diniz Cellars. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Fiuzza 2021 Miratejo Reserva (Tejo).** A blend of fruit from the Tejo region whose river feeds the Lisbon estuary, this wine is finely made with dense blackberry fruits and a smooth texture. It is very ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2021 Flor da Lagoalva (Tejo).** A blend of Syrah and Touriga Nacional with both structure and freshness. These two elements will come together to give a rich, full-bodied and balanced wine. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2021 Vinhas Velhas (Tejo).** An old vine blend of Alfrocheiro, Touriga Nacional and Castelão gives a fruity, fresh wine. Still young and with dense black fruits, the wine should age well. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Quinta da Lagoalva Vinhos 2019 Reserva (Tejo).** With its acidity and spicy character, the wine is developing well. It has a contrast between the wine's tannins and red fruits and is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 **Quinta Monteiro de Matos 2021 Reserva do Paul Touriga Nacional (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. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 **Quinta Monteiro de Matos 2019 Reserva do Paul Syrah (Tejo).** Dense black fruits have spice and tannins. There is also a juicy character from the blackberry flavors that promise balance and ripeness as the wine matures. Drink from 2024. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 **Fiuzza 2022 3 Castas (Tejo).** For a young wine, this is surprisingly soft. Its ripe tannins and open texture have a fine juicy character that is fruity with some underlying freshness. Drink the wine when it is fully softened from 2024. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

86 **Fiuzza 2021 3 Castas Reserva (Tejo).** The three grapes (castas) in this blend are Touriga Nacional, Alicante Bouschet and Sousão. Together the result is a rich, juicy wine that is full of black fruits. It is ready to drink. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

ALENTEJO

92 **Herdade do Esporão 2020 Reserva (Alentejo).** For full review see page 13. Now Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2018 Amantis Reserva (Alentejo).** A serious, wood-aged wine, this has plenty of spice and tannins. It is a firm and structured wine, still young but with aging

potential. The wine's structure retains the tannins and these will be long lasting, giving shape. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 **Herdade do Peso 2019 Revelado (Alentejo).** Velvet smooth with rich tannins and fine spice, this comes from the Sogrape property in the Alentejo region. It has dense black fruits with a fine balance between spice and ripe tannins. Drink this wine from later this year. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **J. Portugal Ramos 2019 Marquês de Borba Reserva (Alentejo).** A densely textured wine, this is ripe, smooth and ready to drink. It has bold black fruits, solid and concentrated. This is a rich wine, lightly textured, delicious now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2017 Grande Reserva (Alentejo).** This dense wine, with its concentration and layers of fruit and acidity, is fine, rich and age worthy. It has a dense texture along with freshening acidity. Drink from 2025. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **J. Portugal Ramos 2020 Marquês de Borba Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo).** The wine is young, full of dense black fruits and ripe berry flavors. The old vines give the wine density and concentration. The wine should age further and will be ready from 2024. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2018 (Alentejo).** A bold, ripe wine with soft tannins and balanced black fruits and acidity, this is attractive and accessible. Its spice and gentle texture are the signs of a wine that is ready to drink. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

ALENTEJANO

88 **Cortes de Cima 2015 Tussock Jumper João's Reserva (Alentejano).** This mature wine is a fine blend of four grapes. It is mature, rich and smooth with plenty of spice and a light texture. Tannins are fully integrated in this very drinkable wine. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2018 Touriga Nacional-Petit Verdot (Alentejano).** The wine is structured with some firm tannins and ripe blackberry flavors. It has spice and a juicy fruitiness that will develop further. With its texture and its youthful firmness, drink from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

86 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2021 Flor de Maio (Alentejano).** A ripe, fresh wine with a light touch of acidity and red fruits. This is an

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attractive wine that is ready to drink. Iberian Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

OTHER RED WINES

88 Quinta do Conde 2020 2U Duas Uvas (Lisboa). Duas Uvas means two grapes, though this wine is made from four grapes. The result is a ripe, smooth wine with soft black fruits and generous density. It has a succulent feel and is developing well. Drink from 2024. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Maçanita Vinhos 2021 Nuno Faria Tinta Negra (Madeirense). The workhorse grape of Madeira makes a simple table wine. Lightly perfumed and with strawberry fruits, the wine is soft and ready to drink. Olé & Obrigado Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Sogrape 2021 Silk & Spice (Portuguese Table Wine). For full review see page 19. Evaton, Inc. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

PORT

96 Quinta do Vallado NV 50-Year-Old Tawny (Port). This dark-colored tawny Port with its great age is more than a curiosity. It is a very fine, mahogany-polished wine, dense with a refined texture that gives such concentration and balances acidity with black raisins and concentration. Drink the wine now. Quintessential Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$400/500 ml

95 Quinta do Noval 2020 Vintage (Port). The Port has an amazingly dense texture. Its richness comes from this and from its dense power. This is a fine vintage, built to age many years with its structure and great concentration. Drink from 2030. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Quinta do Vallado 2020 Vintage (Port). While it is, of course, still young, it is possible to discern the wine's rich future. With sweetness as well as dried fruit and dense tannins, the structure is there as is the wine's flesh. It is sure to age well. Drink this fine Port from 2029. Quintessential Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 20.5% **Price:** \$110

91 Sandeman 2018 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). This velvet-textured Port is a fine Late Bottled Vintage. Its density and poise between sweetness and a dry core come from the mix of dried and red fruit flavors. The wine could be aged, but it is ready to drink. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$31

90 Quinta do Vallado 2018 Porto LBV (Port). For full review see page 18. Quintessential Wines.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Ferreira 2017 LBV (Port). A rich, dense wine with berry flavors, dried fruits and a juicy character. The Port is a little young still, its smoothness not quite there. Drink the wine from 2024. Evaton, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$26

88 Santos & Seixo NV Porto Tawny (Port). A fruity style of Port showing its short aging in wood. It is full of red fruits and sultana sweetness. The wine is easy, ready to drink. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 19% **Price:** \$15

GERMANY WHITE WINES

RIESLING

97 Reinhold Haart 2011 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Impressive integration of elements marks this beautifully aged Spätlese that shows subtle power and density. The mix of passion fruit, mango, white raspberry and star anise all mingle at the core, complementing each other as they unravel in layers. This just keeps coming at you. It shows impeccable balance, hence its impression is effortless. Ethereal finish doesn't let you put the bottle down. Drink—2035. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$48

95 Reinhold Haart 2015 Piesporter Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Tasting a Spätlese Riesling with some age is a privilege, but it should become a common practice. This wine has developed beautifully in the last seven years, as the baby fat has rendered. Today, it shows gorgeous notes of glazed apple, orange-blossom honey, quince reduction and slate-like minerality, which clearly points that this is from Mosel. This has another 10 years at this sweet spot, but it might go for longer. The German Wine Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$38

94 Pffeffingen 2021 Herrenberg Ungstein GG Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Intensely flavored version, with savory mineral undertones behind the ripe peach and nectarine, while white pepper and cardamom echo in the background. This combines power and finesse. It has great structure, lending verve and cut. The finish is long and infused with notes of sea salt. Best after 2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Tesch 2021 Laubenheimer St. Remigiusberg Trocken Riesling (Nahe). This is enticing, capturing your attention from the first sniff. It features an exotic, tropical, fruit cast to the apricot and

passionfruit flavors, with laser-precise acidity. It is really its mineral backbone that plumbs the depth, supported by the supple texture. Best after 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Domdechant Werner 2021 Hochheimer Stielweg Auslese Riesling (Rheingau). Silky and refined with a rich, mineral essence to the peach and yellow-apple flavors. It is still unevolved with super-silky texture and good harmony between its richness and vibrant acidity. It needs time, but can be enjoyed now with a dessert. Best after 2028. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Domdechant Werner 2021 Kirchenstück Im Stein GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). This offers an engaging floral aroma on the nose, while the palate features razor-sharp acidity underscoring the flavors of lemon curd, quince and savory herb. Notes of dried apple and spice prime the finish. It is powerful and complex, but it needs several years to integrate fully. Best after 2026. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Fritz Allendorf 2019 Jesuitengarten Trocken GG Riesling (Rheingau). Juicy acidity underscores the floral and herbal elements with a mineral streak gliding under the surface. Flavors of blood orange and quince emerge midpalate. It shows energy with great harmony and a complex finish. Best after 2026. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Pffeffingen 2021 Weilberg Ungstein GG Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Precisely crafted Riesling, with notes of star anise and lavender framing the core of crunchy pear and kumquat flavors. The acidity is firm and juicy, giving way to the flavors and spice accents, but also provides support and structure. Savory mineral details mark the long finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$70

93 Reinhold Haart 2019 Piesporter Goldtröpfchen GG Riesling (Mosel). This is a rich version, showing signs of botrytis, with lavender honey and glazed pear notes, but its acidity is so prominent that it cuts through the flesh, bringing elegance and leaving a long-lasting, dry impression on the finish. This is for the fans of the style. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

93 Robert Weil 2021 Kiedrich Gräfenberg Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). Intense acidity matches the even more intense flavors of baked pineapple, mango and lemon pith in this blockbuster off-dry white. Minerality fights itself through and emerges on the finish, leaving a long wet-stone note. It is hard to put down now, but those who cellar it, will be rewarded. Best after 2026. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$90

93 Tesch 2021 Laubenheimer Karthäuser Trocken Riesling (Nahe). This is a bit intense at the beginning, but it rounds up midpalate and reveals an array of orchard and stone-fruit flavors. Its acidity, although powerful, seamlessly flows through and delivers a savory finish. Best from 2025–2035. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Karthäuserhof 2020 Eitelsbacher Karthäuserhofberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Nicely knit, this shows an enticing mix of fruity and savory elements. Apple, white peach and lime match the sea-salt details as this glides to a long, elegant finish. Best after 2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$44

92 Karthäuserhof 2018 Bruno Slate Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Aroma of tropical fruits leads to flavors of ripe apple, citrus jelly and quince-blossom honey. This has an intense mineral component as well, which lingers on the vibrant finish. Best after 2026. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$27

92 Prinz Salm 2019 Bingen 1G Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). This leans towards the lighter side of the spectrum, yet it is very expressive. Lovely floral notes of jasmine and Earl Grey tea emerge at the start, with a juicy core of quince and orange. Finish is focused and inviting. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$41

92 Tesch 2021 Langenlonsheimer Löhner Berg Trocken Riesling (Nahe). Bone dry with biting acidity, but also with a rich yellow plum, Bosc pear and ginger-spice flavors that are in no way overpowered by the structure. Drink this with food now or wait several years for this to unravel. Best after 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 Tesch 2021 Laubenheimer Krone Trocken Riesling (Nahe). Elegant, but pure and ripe, this white offers a savory note that wraps around the ripe peach and quince flavors. Accents of gooseberry and hints of dandelion extend onto the fresh and crunchy finish. Best after 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Von Buhl 2019 Forster Pechstein GG Riesling (Pfalz). This has developed nicely, showing a sense of openness with its nutty flavors up front, until the alluring mix of orchard fruit, peach and lavender take over. It is nicely structured, with elegantly integrated acidity that keeps it all together and leaves a mouth-watering impression on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$112

92 Von Buhl 2019 Forster Ungeheuer GG Riesling (Pfalz). This is on the esoteric side, showing notes of durian and green tea covering up the

subtle mix of stone fruit at the core. Juicy acidity flows through, giving this the verve and energy for long-term cellaring. Finely knit finish is marked by stony mineral elements. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$112

92 Wittmann 2021 Westhofen Morstein Kabinett Riesling (Rheinhessen). A graceful, yet expressive white, this exudes peach, ripe apple, brown spice and wet-stone aromas and flavors. Everything is wrapped in a silky texture with a finish that echoes ripe fruit and mineral notes. This will get even better in a few years. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$47

91 Domdechant Werner 2021 Hochheimer Kirchstück Trocken Erste Lage Riesling (Rheingau). This white offers mouth-watering acidity behind the flavors of ruby grapefruit, green apple and ripe lime. White-pepper accents emerge towards the finish along with some savory details as well. Pair it with some food, as it can be intense on its own. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Domdechant Werner 2021 Hölle Im Neuenberg GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). This spicy, dry Riesling shows elegance and delivers apricot, apple and white-cherry flavors with hints of gooseberry in the background. It is all linked by powerful acidity, which can be intense now, so best to give it a few years. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65

91 Dr. Heidemanns-Bergweiler 2021 Bernkasteler Badstube Auslese Riesling (Mosel). This is lively and juicy, with a lanolin note up front, followed by a crisp offering of apple and white-cherry flavors. Savory herb note emerges midpalate and lingers on the mineral-infused finish. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$NA

91 Karthäuserhof 2021 Bruno Slate Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Snappy with tangy Mandarin orange, lime and slate mineral accents. Vibrant acidity runs through, fueling the flavors and providing harmony and support. Almost ethereal on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$22

91 Mönchhof 2021 Slate Spätlese Riesling (Mosel). Racy and almost searing in its intensity, thanks to the mouth-watering acidity that fuels the flavors of lemon, apple and orchard-blossom honey. The finish completes the flavors spectrum with notes of baking spice. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$35

91 Nik Weis 2021 St. Urbans-Hof Wiltinger Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel). This is what you are looking for in a Riesling of this value—great balance, an immediate appeal, but also potential for short-term aging. The palate is decorated with a

beautiful fruit profile and balancing acidity. Drink now–2030. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$27

91 Reverchon 2019 Filzener Herrenberg GG Trocken Riesling (Saar). Juicy and fruity, with crushed stone, cardamom and tarragon flavors that show good depth and lots of vibrant acidity. Crunchy in texture, the midpalate shows nectarine and quince notes that extend on the finish. Wine-sellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Tesch 2021 Langenlonsheimer Königsschild Trocken Riesling (Nahe). This shows nice purity to the notes of quince blossom, nectarine and guava, with baking spice accents lingering in the background. Offers a slight grip midpalate, where it firms up. It is very pretty, but can be intense, so try with food. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Domdechant Werner 2021 Hochheimer Domdechane Trocken Erste Lage Riesling (Rheingau). This shows a lot of up-front zest, with flavors of lemon and ripe lime accented by some custardy hints. It features elegance and electric acidity overall. Notes of dried mint and sage emerge on the mouth-watering finish. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Kühling-Gillot 2021 Qvinterra Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). Perfect intro to a dry Riesling from Germany, this shows charming aromas and flavors of flint, matchstick and jasmine up front, followed by yellow apple and quince. Mouth-watering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

90 Mönchhof 2021 Ürzig Würzgarten Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Tropical version, featuring persimmon, pineapple and mango, flecked with sweet baking spice. This is beautifully balanced, with mouth-watering acidity that extends on the mouth-watering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Pfeffingen 2021 Dry Riesling (Pfalz). A real charmer with a gorgeous palate, featuring an exotic mix of bergamot, lavender and star fruit. Stony mineral undertones echo in the background, emerging to the surface on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$23

90 Reinhold Haart 2019 Wintricher Ohligsberg GG Riesling (Mosel). This shows some oxidative notes, but there is still plenty of freshness, as the bergamot, yellow apple and quince flavors emerge midpalate. The acidity is still vibrant, keeping everything in tact. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$75

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90 Robert Weil 2021 Kiedricher Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Here's a graceful example of a dry German Riesling that really shows the characteristics of the vintage—cool in feel, with firm acidity and a leaner profile. Try this with fried food or fattier fish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$38

90 Robert Weil 2021 Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). This is on the more elegant style of Spätlesen, with vibrant acidity giving energy to the notes of quince paste, yellow apple and lanolin. It has a pleasant mouthfeel with a lasting impression on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$45

90 Tesch 2021 Unplugged Trocken Riesling (Nahe). Laser sharp and focused, this white shows interesting flavors of white raspberry and dragon fruit. Its firm acidity keeps everything in tact and leaves a mouth-watering finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Willems-Willems 2021 Oberemmel Altenberg Saar Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This is sleek and graceful, with lime, roasted pineapple and mineral aromas and flavors. Its acidity is vibrant and gives it focus. Long and inviting finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$26

90 Wittmann 2021 Estate Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). Flavors of peach, baked apple and tropical floral notes introduce this Riesling, which is suave and vibrant. There is a slight hint of sea salt that echoes in the background. It shows a pure finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

89 A. Christmann 2021 Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). This shows a charming reductive note up front, reminiscent of white raspberry, but is quickly blown off to reveal orange zest and white cherry. It is pretty expressive with good length. MS Walker. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$19

89 August Kessler 2020 R Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). This Kabinett falls on the drier side of the spectrum, with smoky sea-salt notes gliding along the peachy center. It shows good balance overall and length. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$19

89 Carl Ehrhard 2020 Herr Ehrhard Unfiltered Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). This offers plenty of spice and floral notes that are a bit pronounced today, but they do integrate with some air, as the green-apple flavor emerges. Nicely knit finish. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

89 Domdechant Werner 2021 Hochheim Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A very pure apple note extends from start to finish in this well-structured

Riesling. It is a bit direct, but has enough substance and complexity with a long finish. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Dr. Fischer 2021 Bockstein Ockfen Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This features intense acidity that drives through, bringing out the flavors of lemon, green apple and shaved ginger. Try with some food for best enjoyment. MS Walker. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$25

89 Fritz Allendorf 2020 Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). Notes of crushed stone bring out the mineral in this version that combines razor-sharp acidity with hints of peach and lime flavors. It shows fine balance. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Schloss Vollrads 2021 Estate Riesling (Rheingau). Enticing notes of quince and melon mark the core in this vibrant white. There is a sense of delicacy on the finish, which shows savory mineral notes. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$30

89 Schloss Vollrads 2021 Estate Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). This shows a myriad of citrus fruit at the core, with vibrant acidity that serves as the backbone. Mango and pineapple add a touch of sweetness to the midpalate, as this dissipates on the finish. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Schumann-Nägler 2019 Off-dry Riesling (Rheingau). This shows light hints of paraffin and singed lemon peel, before yellow apple and quince emerge midpalate. Finish is stony and mouth watering. Artisans & Vines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

89 Von Buhl 2021 Armand Kabinett Riesling (Pfalz). A lively and pretty Kabinett, this leans towards the drier side, but still has the off-dry flavors of apple and pear. Savory mineral details mark the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$26

89 Von Buhl 2021 Bone Dry Riesling (Pfalz). Extremely light and graceful, this is carefully detailed, with subtle aromas and flavors of Bosc pear, quince and apricot. Mouth-watering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Willems-Willems 2021 Saar Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Fruity style, with lots of jammy notes underscored by vibrant acidity. Spice and floral notes mark the inviting finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$24

89 Willems-Willems 2018 Saar Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Ripe and jammy orchard-fruit notes are balanced by the vibrant

acidity of this white. Baking spice and mineral notes mark the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Carl Ehrhard 2021 Rudesheim Berg Roseneck Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). This is nicely knit, with sage and chamomile notes gliding along ripe peach and lemon-compote flavors. Moderately long on the inviting finish. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$22

88 Carl Ehrhard 2020 Old School Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). A subtle hazelnut note opens this up, but pleasant quince and clementine notes takes over midplate. It shows nice acidity and poise. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Domdechant Werner 2021 Guts Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). This can be a bit tough now because of its acidity, although it has pretty apple and peach flavors. With the right food, it will be a good match. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Lucashof 2021 Forster Kabinett Riesling (Pfalz). This shows intensity and drive, with good energy from the vibrant acidity; flavors of quince and clementine add to the charm. Solid length. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

88 Schloss Vollrads 2021 Dry Riesling (Rheingau). Intense acidity overpowers aromas and flavors of orchard blossom and stone fruit in this Riesling. Still, with nice food, this would be very enjoyable. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$30

88 Schloss Vollrads 2021 Estate Spätlese Riesling (Rheingau). A tactile start to this Spätlese gives the sense of freshness, as the vibrant acidity takes over bringing out flavors of lemon parfait and custard. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$48

88 Wittmann 2021 100 Hills Dry Riesling (Rheinhessen). This shows almost a light fizz up front, as some German Rieslings do, but that blows off quickly. Tropical notes give it charm for easy sipping. Loosen Bros. USA. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$17

87 August Kessler 2021 The Daily August Riesling (Rheingau). There is an interesting saffron note in this elegant Riesling, which glides along the edges of the stone-fruit core. Pretty finish. Vineyard Brands. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

87 Domdechant Werner 2021 Hochheim Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). This off-dry white offers enticing notes of peach jam and orange blossom, with firm acidity for balance. Moderate length. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Dr. Fischer 2021 Dr. Fischer Riesling (Mosel). Nice juice, with an expressive midpalate that will please the masses. What it lacks in depth and complexity, it compensates with its charm. MS Walker. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$11

87 Dr. H. Thanisch (Erben Müller-Burggraef) 2020 Bernkasteler Kabinett Feinherb Riesling (Mosel). Direct notes of green apple and pear lead the way in this off-dry Riesling, which leaves a stony impression on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$21

87 Gustav Adolf Schmitt 2021 Niersteiner Gutes Domtal Spätlese Riesling (Rheinhessen). Tropical, candied fruit takes over this direct version. Crowd pleaser that can match spicy food. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$15

87 Karl Erbes 2021 Riesling (Mosel). This shows slight sweetness, which is underscored by high acidity. It shows balance and moderate complexity. Artisans & Vines. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Pflüger 2020 Bunstandstein Trocken Riesling (Pfalz). Delicate white, this exudes notes of white peach and chamomile that mingle on the light frame. Firm acidity gives it focus. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 Prinz Salm 2020 Two Princes Riesling (Germany). This is starting to show notes of petrol and blanched almond as oxidation creeps in, but roasted pineapple brings to the charm. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$20

87 Prost 2021 Dry Riesling (Rheinhessen). This is light and graceful, with a juicy core featuring white raspberry and dried-mango notes. Stony details emerge on the finish. The German Wine Collection. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

87 Reverchon 2020 Filzener Kabinett Riesling (Saar). Solid white, showing off-dry lime and apple notes, with a touch of spice and floral hints. It shows focus and balance with moderate length. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Schlink Haus 2021 Spätlese Riesling (Nahe). Tropical with sweet spice and silky texture. Juicy acidity will be a good match for Asian spices. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$13

86 Lucashof 2021 Riesling (Pfalz). Direct, but nicely knit Riesling, showing slightly sweet notes of yellow apple and lemon verbena. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Raimund Prüm 2021 Solitär Trocken Riesling (Mosel). This offers direct notes of orange zest and durian with moderate length on the finish. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Reverchon 2020 Trocken Riesling (Saar). This is a bit mellow for a Saar Riesling, yet floral and pine notes add charm before the nectarine flavor takes over. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Robert Weil 2021 Kabinett Riesling (Rheingau). There is a skeleton for a good wine here, but the flesh is missing. Slight sweetness makes it easy to sip. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Robert Weil 2021 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Very clean and direct, but lacking in charm, this white shows subtle orchard-fruit notes. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

86 The Seeker 2021 Riesling (Mosel). There is a lanolin element to this white, which shows peachy sweetness midpalate. Kobrand. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$16

85 Dr. Loosen NV Dr. Lo Alcohol Removed Riesling (Mosel). Shows a typical Mosel Riesling profile, but there is an awkward note that takes it slightly off balance. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$9

85 Köster-Wolf 2020 Trocken Riesling (Rheinhessen). Light and crisp white, with prominent daisy aroma and hints of fresh pear. Artisans & Vines. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$21/1 L

85 Nik Weis 2021 Urban Riesling (Mosel). This shows direct notes of peach, with bright acidity and an easy-drinking profile. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$13

84 Moselland 2021 Highdef Riesling (Mosel). Leaning towards the dry style with some floral and orchard fruit notes. Marchetti Co.. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$14

84 Schlink Haus 2021 Auslese Riesling (Nahe). Here is a lighter version for the category, with subtle and direct flavors of stone fruit. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 7.5% **Price:** \$15

83 Karl Josef 2021 Piesporter Michelsberg Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). This is very subtle with shy flavors of orchard and stone fruit. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.
abv: 8.5% **Price:** \$15

83 Schlink Haus 2021 Kabinett Riesling (Nahe). This shows nice sweetness, but it is a bit disjointed and straightforward. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$11

83 Schloss Vollrads 2021 Volratz Qualitätswein Trocken Riesling (Rheingau). Here's a pretty neutral showing for a Riesling with a short finish. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

82 Apollonia NV Shades of Blue Riesling (Mosel). This is straightforward, with a subtle pineapple juice flavor. Kobrand. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$NA

82 Karl Kaspar 2021 Kabinett Riesling (Mosel). Direct notes of grapefruit and apricot are a bit short in this white. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.
abv: 8% **Price:** \$14

81 Schmitt Söhne 2021 Crisp & Fruity Riesling (Rheinhessen). Light and tart with a canned pineapple-juice note. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$13

SCHEUREBE

91 Hans Wirsching 2021 Iphöfer Dry Scheurebe (Franken). Inviting aromas and flavors of kiwi and star fruit take the front seat in this white, while gooseberry and jasmine notes emerge towards the finish, adding to the complexity and charm. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$37

91 Pfeffingen 2021 Dry Scheurebe (Pfalz). This is alluring and aromatic, with tropical notes of mango, persimmon and clementine, with plenty of exotic spice and substance underneath. Beautifully made and textured. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

90 Hans Wirsching 2021 Trocken Scheurebe (Franken). There is plenty of spice behind the allure of passion fruit and orchard blossom notes that keep you reaching for more, as the mouth-watering finish sweeps it all. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Castell 2021 Scheurebe (Franken). Juicy and aromatic, with gorgeous orange-like acidity that links the elements of mango, clementine and cardamom. Mouth-watering finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA

SILVANER

94 Hans Wirsching 2019 Iphöfer Julius-Echter-Berg GG Silvaner (Franken). This is suave with terrific harmony between juiciness and its

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savory minerality connected by vibrant acidity that brings out exotic notes of violet, persimmon and durian. Its charm goes further with the mix of savory mineral elements and baking spice notes that mark the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$92

91 Hans Wirsching 2021 Iphöfer Kalb Erste Lage Dry Silvaner (Franken). This is somewhat neutral on the first impression, but flavors of saffron, white pepper and cardamom unravel, before the quince and kumquat arise. Its elegance and silky texture are the real highlights here, though. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$44

90 Hans Wirsching 2021 Iphöfer Dry Silvaner (Franken). This white offers lots of vibrancy, with beautiful texture, sporting white-chocolate notes and spice framing the citrusy core. This is long and shows complexity. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

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

88 Castell 2021 Trocken Silvaner (Franken). This white features a silky texture, decorated with notes of lemon zest and green apple. Savory spice elements emerge on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

88 Hans Wirsching 2021 Trocken Silvaner (Franken). This is a bit direct, but features plenty of white pepper, apple and lemon, that are nicely knit together. It shows persistence on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

87 Dr. Heyden 2020 Old Vines Silvaner (Rheinhessen). This shows slight nuttiness, which signals it is headed towards oxidation, but it has enough orchard fruit and spice to please a crowd. Inviting finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 Wirsching 2021 Dry Silvaner (Franken). This features a silky texture, with a graphite note that frames the orchard-fruit core. The finish is direct, but this is a solid sipper. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$26/1L

CHARDONNAY

92 Friedrich Becker 2019 Schweigen Chardonnay (Pfalz). This is a rich and juicy version of Chardonnay, with plenty of orchard and stone-fruit aromas and flavors, and firm, but finely integrated acidity. Well balanced. The finish is long with a touch of macadamia nut. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53

90 Kühling-Gillot 2021 Réserve Chardonnay (Rheinhessen). This sports a subtle maca-

damia nut note that extends to midpalate, where it is swept away by the mix of orchard fruit and blossom. It is slightly creamy in texture for added charm. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$33

88 Pflüger 2021 Quarzit Chardonnay (Pfalz). Easy-sipping white, with subtle notes of orchard and stone fruit that mark its vibrant structure. It shows a bit of complexity and verve. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

PINOT BLANC

92 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2021 Siebeldingen Vom Muschelkalk Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). This is suave, but with great acidity that gives it energy and highlights notes of orchard fruit and chamomile. Beautiful integration of elements is further upped by white pepper and saffron flavors that mark the long, mineral-infused finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$69

90 Friedrich Becker 2021 Family Dry Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). Intriguingly aromatic version, featuring clementine, roasted pineapple and quince blossom notes, which are supported by firm acidity that lends it power and juiciness. Persistent finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

90 Ökonomierat Rebholz 2021 Weisser Burgunder Trocken Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). This lovely white is filled with notes of baking spice and thyme, followed by yellow apple and quince. It features a suave texture with a crisp finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

90 Pflüger 2021 Quarzit Pinot Blanc (Pfalz). This shows slight lees reduction, but opens up to show plenty of quince and white cherry, coupled with lavender notes. It offers a pleasant mouthfeel with a finish that lures you in for more. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

90 Salwey 2021 Pinot Blanc (Baden). Intriguing white, featuring notes of singed lemon peel, tarragon and crisp apple. Its acidity is beautifully integrated, but flows with authority linking all the elements. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

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

89 Wagner-Stempel 2021 Dry Pinot Blanc (Rheinhessen). This is precise and clean, with lots of white pepper and cardamom mingling around the core of Bosc pear and quince. Lemon zest notes mark the mouth-watering finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

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

88 Wittmann 2021 100 Hills Dry Pinot Blanc (Rheinhessen). Sleek acidity frames this

well-knit white. A streak of stony minerality underscores citrus and orchard fruit. Ground ginger lingers on the zesty finish. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

PINOT GRIS

95 Salwey 2018 Eichberg GG Pinot Gris (Baden). This is a show stopper, especially for a variety that is often misinterpreted. It shows leesy reduction on the nose, which actually adds to the charm as it meets the complex palate filled with beautiful white raspberry, jasmine, flint and thyme notes. It is a mouthful, unraveling layer after layer, while remaining graceful and silky. Lip-smacking finish will invite you for more. Drink now–2030. The German Wine Collection. **Editors' Choice.** —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$87

90 Friedrich Becker 2021 Family Dry Pinot Gris (Pfalz). This is salmon-pink in color, featuring a crisp profile on the palate, with notes of cherry blossom and white raspberry. It has good structure and inviting, polished texture. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

89 Salwey 2021 Pinot Gris (Baden). This is a tad creamy, with a precise and clean palate that offers a mix of orchard and stone fruit. Classic expression that will please the crowd. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

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

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Wittmann 2021 Trocken Weissburgunder (Rheinhessen). This white shows nice harmony between fruit, acidity and savory mineral details. Yellow apple and chamomile lure you in and the suave texture makes you stay. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 Pfeffingen 2021 Blanc de Noir Pinot Noir (Pfalz). This is direct, but shows charming notes of white raspberry and freshly sliced apple. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

SPARKLING WINES

89 Dr. Loosen NV Sekt Extra Dry Riesling (Mosel). This features a beautiful texture that seduces upon the first sip. The fruit profile is a bit shy, but this drinks nicely and persists on the finish. Loosen Bros. USA. —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

87 Dr. Loosen NV Dr. Lo With Bubbles Alcohol Removed Riesling (Mosel). This gives off some pleasure, with a pretty mousse and direct

notes of tropical fruit and orchard blossom. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 0.5% Price: \$9

88 St. Urbans-Hof NV Nik Weis Cuvée Clara Brut Sparkling Blend (Mosel). This sparkler shows pleasant notes of brioche and apple pie, underscored by bracing acidity. It falls off on the finish, as the CO2 takes over. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$48

87 Ulrich Langguth NV Sekt Trocken Sparkling Blend (Mosel). There is a pastry note that opens up this Sekt, while crisp apple takes over midpalate. Moderate length. Miller Squared Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

86 Villa Wolf NV Pinot Noir Rosé Extra Dry Sparkling Blend (Germany). Pretty notes of rose water and white cherry are inviting in this straight-forward sparkler. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

ROSÉS

87 Villa Wolf 2021 Pinot Noir Rosé (Pfalz). This is pretty straight forward in terms of flavors, but there is some substance in the background. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$12

86 Günther Schlink 2021 Pinot Noir Rosé (Nahe). Direct notes of cherry are appealing in this rosé. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$11

85 Lucashof 2021 Pinot Noir Trocken Rosé (Pfalz). Here is a pretty basic rosé, but delivering enough to be enjoyed on a slow night. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$16

GERMANY RED WINES PINOT NOIR

95 Franz Keller 2019 Eichberg Oberrotwell Pinot Noir (Baden). A classic expression of Pinot Noir, with the juicy cherry flavor that is beautifully expressed against velvety texture, vibrant structure and dense harmony of tannins. Mineral and spice accents add depth and charm, before the acidity comes in a second wave and leaves a mouth-watering impression on the finish. Drink now–2035. Delicato Family Wines. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$99

94 Friedrich Becker 2017 Heydenreich Pinot Noir (Pfalz). This combines elegance and muscle, showing density and vibrancy. Pure cherry,

raspberry and earthy minerality form an intense mix on the palate. Its tannins and acidity form a firm, well-integrated structure that will give this a long lifespan. The long finish is marked by spice and herb, inviting you to explore more. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$374

94 Huber 2018 Alte Reben Pinot Noir (Baden). This is medium bodied, displaying great harmony and depth. It is silky and vibrant, brimming with cassis and black cherry that are in perfect harmony with bright acidity and palate-coating tannins. Refined on the finish, with stylish spice notes. Best after 2025. L_No Submitting Co. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$44

94 Piri Naturel 2020 Pinot Noir (Germany). Stunning showing of Pinot Noir, this is vivacious, yet deep and complex. Velvety in texture, with ripe tannins and bright acidity creating a vivid structure, to support vibrant fruit flavors. It feels incredibly open and free, yet with enough muscle to hold this momentum for years to come. Drink now–2032. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$35

94 Salwey 2018 Henkenberg GG Dry Pinot Noir (Baden). This is beautifully crafted, combining power and poise, with impeccable balance, showcasing wild, forest berry fruit and a floral mix of violet and hibiscus. Spice and mineral aromas and flavors also unravel, adding to the complexity and allure. It is sappy in texture, with a lingering aftertaste of herbal tea. Best after 2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$73

93 Huber 2018 Malterdinger Trocken Pinot Noir (Baden). This is still a bit shy on the nose, but it unravels on the palate, showcasing wild cherry, strawberry and mix of floral and spice elements. It's sappy in texture, with a lingering licorice accent. The finish keeps you asking for more. Best after 2024. L_No Submitting Co. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

92 Friedrich Becker 2018 Schweigen Dry Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Richer style of Pinot Noir, with a deep well of black cherry and violet notes at the core, while the frame is decorated with forest floor and loam. Tannins, although firm, are nicely integrated and together with acidity give this support and form good structure. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$53

92 Kühling-Gillot 2018 Bodenheim Trocken Pinot Noir (Rheinhessen). This is expressive in a graceful manner, sporting a juicy core of cherry, blackberry, earthy mineral and stony notes. It is solid in built, with a long, saturated finish that invites you for another sip. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$54

92 Pflüger 2020 Bunstandstein Trocken Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Lighter style, with bright acidity and a juicy fruit profile, displaying a mix of raspberry sorbet and violet aromas and flavors. Sangwine note sneaks its way in adding interest on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$29

92 Schnaitmann 2019 Simonroth Pinot Noir (Württemberg). Well knit, with a juicy and ripe profile, sporting ripe black cherry and mulberry flavors, flecked with hints of chocolate and subtle oak details. It is suave and complex and needs a few more years to show everything. Best after 2025. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$68

91 Salwey 2018 Kaiserstuhl Pinot Noir (Baden). This is a nicely perfumed version, featuring notes of violet and cherry blossom, with a Burgundian oak profile, which adds texture, but doesn't overpower the flavors of kirsch and mulberry. The finish is long and complex. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

90 Braunewell 2019 Hands Off Low Intervention Limited Edition Pinot Noir (Landwein Rhein). For full review see page 20. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. **Best Buy.**
abv: 13% Price: \$24/4 pk

90 Friedrich Becker 2019 Family Pinot Noir (Pfalz). This is alluring and juicy, with well-knit flavor mix, offering cherry and blackberry against earthy and gamy notes. Roasted herb marks the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

90 Pffeffingen 2018 Alte Reben Trocken Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Well-crafted red, sporting notes of red berries and violets, supported by juicy acidity and light tannins. Herbal accents mark the long, alluring finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

90 Salwey 2019 Dry Pinot Noir (Baden). Elegant Pinot with suave texture and ripe black cherry and pomegranate flavors that are supported by light, dusty tannins and vibrant acidity. Inviting finish lures you in for more. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Prost 2021 Pinot Noir (Pfalz). Super light and easy to drink, this features direct notes of red cherry and pomegranate that will charm. The German Wine Collection. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

RED BLENDS

90 Weingut Schmidt 2017 D.B. Rot Red Blend (Rheinhessen). This is nicely knit, with a gamy note introducing the flavors of damson plum

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and blackberry. It combines mineral, earthy elements with its juiciness, adding charm. The finish is long and focused. ZRS Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$17

89 Pflüger 2019 Cuvée Noir Trocken Red Blend (Pfalz). Polished red, with pretty blueberry and mulberry notes. It is pure and elegant, with silky tannins and good length on the finish. Valckenberg International, Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

84 Weingut Schmidt 2019 Frei.Körper.Kultur Rot Red Blend (Rheinhausen). Direct, wild and gamy notes give this an idiosyncratic profile. The finish is quick. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

89 2Naturkinder 2018 Grosse Wanderlust Regent (Germany). This gamy red beats to the rhythm of its own drum, with a savory note gliding along, while blueberry and clove notes mingle at the center. Earthy tannins emerge on the finish. Jenny and François Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$35

82 Villa Wolf 2021 Medium Sweet Dornfelder (Pfalz). Polished, semisweet red with ripe blueberry. A bit short and direct, but will find its fans. Loosen Bros. USA. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$12

AUSTRIA

WHITE WINES

GRÜNER VELTLINER

96 Prager 2021 Ried Achleiten Stockkultur Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). What a classic expression of Grüner Veltliner from the Wachau! This shows pedigree, combining vivacity, richness and elegance. Its firm structure is decorated with notes of cardamom, bergamot and thyme, underscored by bright acidity, while its silky texture adds extra charm. Nicely balanced from start to finish, it is showing beautifully now, but has the verve to age deliciously. Drink now–2041. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$95

95 Johannes Zillinger 2019 Numen Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Rich yellow and slightly cloudy in appearance, this white features a generous core of durian, Mirabelle plum and chamomile flavors, underscored by bracing acidity and corduroy-like texture. This Grüner is multilayered and complex with elegant acidity and a cool climate profile. Drink now–2032. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$55

95 Prager 2021 Ried Zwerithaler Kammergut Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This blockbuster Grüner is rich and expressive, yet incredibly vivacious and graceful. Aromas and flavors of orchard and stone fruit mingle at the core, framed by floral notes and a hint of white pepper. Its intense acidity cuts through the meaty profile, bringing out harmony, which makes this white a pleasure to drink now, but also makes it a great wine to put in your cellar. Drink now–2040. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$140

94 Prager 2021 Ried Achleiten Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This wine is intense, with loads of white pepper and spice upfront, paving the way for Bosc pear and white tea accents. Acidity, although powerful, is very well integrated and acts as both the fuel and backbone, giving energy to the overall experience. The finish is tactile and long. Drink now–2039. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 14% Price: \$85

94 Prager 2021 Wachstum Bodenstein Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This is a bit reserved today, but it is just waiting to unravel, as there is a great tension between its structure, acidity and floral and fruit elements. It is lighter in style, showing vivacity and complexity, featuring notes of quince and elderflower. Patience will be rewarded with this one. Best after 2025. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.
abv: NA Price: \$95

92 Johannes Zillinger 2021 JZ Velue 2.0 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). There is a sense of vivacity and originality to this Grüner that we don't see too often. It is slightly cloudy, its texture is silky yet crunchy, and the flavors of apricot, elderflower and clementine lead to sip after sip. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$25

91 Prager 2021 Ried Hinter Der Berg Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This shows a charming mix of orchard blossom, blood orange, spice and durian. It is very pretty, with enough vibrance and complexity to keep you interested. The finish is long and mouthwatering. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

90 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Kellerberg Smaragd Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). For full review see page 18. Gonzalez Byass USA.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

90 Schödl 2021 Löss und Lehm Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Spice and lemon notes introduce this white, giving way to the core of orchard fruit and elderflower flavors. Crunchy texture adds interest, before the mouthwatering finish takes over and makes you reach for more. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

89 Esterházy 2021 Estoras Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). This white shows enticing notes of white raspberry and orange blossom, with pepper notes decorating the mouthwatering finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

89 Schödl 2020 Blumenthal Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). This shows a slight fizz right off the bat, but it dissipates as the spice and orchard fruit notes take over. It shows good length on the finish. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

89 Sepp Moser 2021 Ried Gebling Reserve 1.ÖWT Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This has a charming start, with floral aromas and flavors, but tightens up on the midpalate. It remains focused and has a long orchard blossom note on the finish. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$29

88 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Liebenberg Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau). This plays on the safe side, with classic notes of orchard fruit and white pepper. The texture adds interest, and the finish is mouthwatering. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

87 Esterházy 2021 Klimt Grüner Veltliner (Burgenland). Aromatic and floral upfront, this white is attractive and refreshing, with a citrus note flowing through. It offers moderate length. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$16

87 Nastl 2021 Klassik Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich). Classic notes of Grüner are evident, with white pepper and lemon oil taking center stage. The finish is crisp and refreshing. Solstars. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

87 Sepp Moser 2021 Von den Terrassen Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal). This white shows direct notes of citrus and spice, wrapped around the core of orchard fruit. It offers a modest finish. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

87 Waldschütz 2021 Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal). Straightforward notes of citrus and ginger give this white zest and liveliness, but it just falls off on the finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$22

RIESLING

98 Prager 2021 Ried Achleiten Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). This intensely mineral version has a light golden hue, which hints at concentration, but its acidity makes it incredibly graceful. Integration of elements is seamless, and its lively profile is decorated with rich flavors of melon, clementine and peach that are sprinkled with meringue and

fleur de sel. The succulent, mouthwatering finish flows across the palate, inviting you for another sip. Best 2025–2045. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$85

97 Prager 2021 Ried Klaus Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). This is the absolute showstopper for a classic Riesling. It is a very expressive, medium-bodied version, with lots of flesh, offset by mouthwatering acidity that gives this ample energy and drive. Notes of elderflower, jasmine, yellow plum and kumquat impart charm on the midpalate, while hints of cardamom and orange blossom linger on the long finish. Best 2025–2045. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

94 Prager 2021 Wachstum Bodenstern Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). This is an epiphany of elegance embodied in a Wachau Riesling. It features seductive tropical notes, with citrus and juicy mango at the core, while its acidity cuts through, providing energy and support. It is silky in texture yet has a slight crunch on the prolonged finish. Best after 2025. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$95

92 Prager 2021 Ried Steinriegl Federspiel Riesling (Wachau). A firmly structured white, it displays a mix of tropical and citrus fruit at the core, while spice and floral notes glide along the edges. It is nicely chiseled, and its minerality comes through on the midpalate, leaving a savory impression on the finish. Winebow Imports. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

91 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Achleiten Smaragd Riesling (Wachau). For full review see page 15. Gonzalez Byass USA.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$51

91 Johannes Zillinger 2021 JZ Velue 2.0 Riesling (Niederösterreich). The crunchy texture of this Riesling, combined with focused aromas and flavors of clementine, rosemary and sea salt, creates a charming profile that will keep you enticed until the bottle is empty. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$25

90 Hajszan Neumann 2020 Ried Steinberg 1 ÖTW Riesling (Vienna). A touch of petrol opens this Riesling, but then an array of floral and orchard fruit elements takes over, bringing out the charm. A savory mineral element emerges on the mouthwatering finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$56

89 Waldschütz 2021 Strass Venesse Riesling (Kamptal). This displays a beautiful texture that caresses the palate, while the mix of orchard, stone and citrus fruit keeps you intrigued. It just falls off slightly on the finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

88 Domäne Wachau 2021 Ried Bruck Federspiel Riesling (Wachau). Crisp and refreshing, this Grüner has all the elements intact, supported by vibrant acidity and fresh flavors of apple and peach, and spice details on the finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$27

88 Sepp Moser 2021 Ried Gebling Reserve 1.ÖWT Riesling (Kremstal). This is pleasant and technically well-made but misses the awe effect in the glass, and the finish is just a tad short. Still, it's great for everyday enjoyment. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$34

86 Domäne Wachau 2021 Federspiel Terrassen Riesling (Wachau). Direct and predictable, this is a version that doesn't jump out, but is finely knit. Gonzalez Byass USA. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$21

WHITE BLENDS

92 Johannes Zillinger NV JZ Revolution White Solera White Blend (Niederösterreich). This is enticing, evoking notes of dandelion tea and macadamia nut, followed by clementine and white cherry, all linked by vibrant acidity. It is very charming. With a salty accent on the finish, this is a great wine to pair with seafood and steamed vegetables. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

92 Johannes Zillinger 2020 Parcellaire Blanc #1 White Blend (Niederösterreich). This shows a cool profile, featuring notes of licorice and tarragon, underscored by a bracing backbone of acidity, which builds structure and gives this length. It shows lots of energy from start to finish, with a lingering orchard blossom note. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$33

91 Hajszan Neumann 2020 Gemischter Satz Natural White Blend (Weinland Österreich). This is an aromatic skin-contact white, displaying an elegant profile and aromas and flavors of orange blossom, Korean pear, dandelion tea and cardamom. It firms up on the midpalate, so it would be a great match with food. Try with curry or chicken with za'atar. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13% Price: \$52

91 Michael Gindl 2020 Flora Austrian white blend (Austria). This is slightly reduced at first, with a matchstick note that blows off with air to reveal an array of tropical fruits, including papaya, bergamot and lavender notes. It's lighter, yet really expressive, and has good length on the finish. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$NA

90 Hajszan Neumann 2021 Nussberg White Blend (Wiener Gemischter Satz). This is expressive, featuring notes of Bosc pear, quince

and apricot, underscored by vibrant acidity and savory mineral accents. It shows persistence on the mouthwatering finish. Circo Vino. —A.Z.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

89 Gernot and Heike Heinrich 2021 Naked White Austrian white blend (Weinland Österreich). There is a light paraffin note to this white, which is taken over by Bosc pear, blanched almond and durian fruit on the palate. It shows good focus and length. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$21

89 Schmelzer NV Big Nature White Austrian white blend (Burgenland). Cloudy in appearance and light on its feet, this shows its idiosyncratic side upfront, but notes of lime and lemon-grass take over, delivering a fresh finish. ZRS Wines LLC. *Best Buy*. —A.Z.
abv: 11% Price: \$18/1 L

SPARKLING WINES

89 Johannes Zillinger NV Revolution Ancestral Sparkling Blend (Niederösterreich). A pretty sparkling wine, this has charming notes of elderflower and chrysanthemum, pinned on a pretty mousse, which fills the palate. It is refreshing and vibrant, with moderate length. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 11.5% Price: \$30

89 Schödl NV Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Niederösterreich). This shows a very leesy profile upfront, with notes of salted butter and brioche bun, while guava and lime emerge toward the finish. It's an idiosyncratic expression that will find its fans. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$38

88 Schödl NV Rosé Brut Sparkling Blend (Österreichischer Sekt). This shows charming notes of violet, raspberry and raw cashew, with a mousse that is light and gives this sparkler just enough lift on the midpalate to create a fresh impression. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

ROSÉS

93 Johannes Zillinger 2020 Numen Sankt Laurent Rosé (Niederösterreich). Light red or a dark rosé, this is on you to decide, as this white transcends boundaries of classification. Rather, it redefines the variety of Sankt Laurent, showing essentially a dark brooding side, filled with dark cherry and violet, and a light, vibrant and mouthwatering side with white raspberry and tamarind. It has a beautiful texture, too. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.
abv: 12% Price: \$60

90 Schödl 2021 Rosa Rosé Rosi Rosé (Niederösterreich). This real blockbuster rosé offers incredible freshness and a juiciness that carries

the flavors of crushed strawberries and rose water, along with blood orange acidity. Try with fish, but this will be easy to sip on its own, too. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.

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

81 Nastl 2021 Zweigelt Rosé (Niederösterreich). This is direct and a bit bitter, with a quick finish. Solstars. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12% **Price:** \$10

AUSTRIA RED WINES

BLAUFRÄNKISCH

93 Judith Beck 2017 Judith Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). Beautifully developed Blaufränkisch, combining power with grace and displaying notes of black licorice, Damson plum, blackberry and even a hint of cola. It firms up on the midpalate, with tannins that make themselves present, but also give this the structure and add to the complexity. The finish is long and inviting. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.

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

92 Günter & Regina Triebaumer 2021 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This is a lovely red, with roundness and juiciness combining the dark berry fruit with spice and subtle tobacco elements, but also some loamy minerality. The finish expands, adding to the charm and complexity. Circo Vino. —A.Z.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Günter & Regina Triebaumer 2019 Reserve Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This shows quite a bit of ripeness but has vivacity as well to balance the dark plum and blueberry fruit at the core. It is firm in structure and slightly gamy on the finish, which adds intrigue. Circo Vino. —A.Z.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$63

89 Esterházy 2019 Estoras Blaufränkisch (Burgenland). This is dark and extracted, but a bit tiresome, with notes of prune and forest floor at the center. It has moderate length on the finish. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

ZWEIGELT

92 Hajszan Neumann 2020 Natural Zweigelt (Weinland Österreich). Do not be scared by the initial whiff on the nose of this “Natural” red, as this blows off quickly to reveal an inviting hibiscus tea note. The palate is gorgeous, filled with juicy red fruit, which gains richness on the midpalate, where it meets well-integrated ripe tannins. Circo Vino. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

92 Meinklang 2015 Graupert Zweigelt (Burgenland). This opens with an idiosyncratic gamy note, which adds a savory element to the palate, before the Damson plum and currant fruit take over. The dusty tannic structure provides a good backdrop for the fruit before the mouthwatering finish. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.

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

91 Sepp Moser 2020 Ried Hedwighof Zweigelt (Burgenland). Gamy and forest floor kind of flavors open this enticing red, while dark red fruit emerges on the midpalate, followed by a spicy finish. It shows a beautiful balance between sweet and savory notes and keeps its focus. Barrel Down Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

90 Günter & Regina Triebaumer 2021 Zweigelt (Burgenland). This is juicy and pure, with good structure behind the blackberry and mulberry flavors that decorate the palate. This is very easy to sip but has enough substance to match slightly heavier dishes. Circo Vino. —A.Z.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

90 Johannes Zillinger 2021 JZ Velue 2.0 Zweigelt (Niederösterreich). Vibrant acidity underlies ripe berry fruit in this silky red. It shows juiciness and persistence and falls on the brighter side of Zweigelt. The finish shows good length and focus. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Esterházy 2019 Estoras Zweigelt (Burgenland). This is dark and brooding, with dusty tannins that stand behind subtle black fruit flavors. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

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

OTHER RED WINES

90 Johannes Zillinger NV JZ Revolution Red Solera Red Blend (Niederösterreich). This starts off with a savory, almost umami note, followed by black pepper and Damson plum. It is silky in texture and flows seamlessly. It would be a perfect match for roasted poultry or grilled lamb. Field Blend Selections. —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Schödl 2020 Dorflagen St. Laurent (Niederösterreich). This elegant red shows complexity and persistence, despite its modest facade. A beautiful mix of cherry and blueberry fruit lures you in, while baking spices and thyme notes add interest, leading to an inviting finish. Barrel Down Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Esterházy 2020 Estoras Pinot Noir (Burgenland). This silky red shows bittersweet balance between cherry, roasted herbs and bright and a juicy red fruit profile. Light tannins and acidity create a vivid structure. Wein Bauer Inc. —A.Z.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

96 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Everyone needs to get fired up by brisk, racy and mineral-driven Chardonnays like these—they’re the future. Aromas of just-ripe apple, Meyer lemon zest, white flower and stone drop into a palate of wet concrete, tight pear and delicate honeydew. —M.K.

abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$42

96 Seabold Cellars 2020 Olsen Prunetucky Sands Chardonnay (Monterey). For full review see page 5.

abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$40

95 Babcock 2021 Dream Field Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Pioneering vintner Bryan Babcock tapped two of his favorite vineyards, Peake Ranch and Bien Nacido, to craft this compelling wine. Sharp lemon and lemongrass aromas cut like a laser through the peach and honeysuckle of the nose. The palate is energetic with more sharp lemon alongside those warmer stone-fruit and almond flavors. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$55

95 Beaugard 2021 Bald Mountain Chardonnay (Ben Lomond Mountain). From vines planted in 1989 at about 1,000 feet above the sea in sandy soils, this bottling grabs immediate attention and doesn’t let go. Aromas of wet chalk, citrus zest and melon rind lead into a palate loaded with bright flavors of wet clay and zingy Eureka lemon peel. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.75% **Price:** \$65

95 Beaugard 2021 Beaugard Ranch Chardonnay (Ben Lomond Mountain). From vines planted in 2005 at 1,800 feet just 4.5 miles from the ocean, this bottling showcases this mountainous coast in all its glory. Aromas of lemon jelly and sliced apple lead into a chalky palate, where bright and zesty citrus flavors ride an intense acidity into the firm finish. —M.K.

abv: 12.12% **Price:** \$65

95 Cattleya 2021 Cuvée Number Five Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This superrich and mouthcoating wine is also silky in texture and has a light, lifting acidity to give it great balance. Poached pears, marzipan and a touch of butter give it full flavors to pair with sautéed fish, broiled shellfish or to savor by itself. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

95 Challen 2020 Talley Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley). Lime-laced sour cream and Greek yogurt aromas open toward richer elements with time on the fascinating nose of this bottling from a regional iconic site. The palate clings to a dynamic texture, offering bright lemon-

peel, orchard-fruit and sea-salt flavors through the detailed finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Farm Cottage 2021 Trout Gulch Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Wet river-stone, lemon-blossom and light honeysuckle aromas draw the nose into this delicate bottling that will age with grace and poise. The stony, mineral-driven palate picks up touches of chalk, tangerine and vibrant Meyer lemon freshness. Drink now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

95 Sandar & Hem 2020 Bruzzone Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a fascinating combination of sharpness and warmth to this bottling from a vineyard that was planted in 1998 and sits just four miles from the ocean. Aromas of lychee, sea salt and citrus on the nose leap into a grippy palate of lime pith, blanched almond, Asian pear and honey. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$46

95 Thomas Fogarty 2020 Albutom Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Alluring aromas of Asian pear and lemon glaze are delicate and yet addictive on the nose of this 36-case bottling, which comes from vines planted in 1981 at nearly 2,000 feet. The tantalizing palate entertains with alkaline notes of river stone, lemon zest, sea salt and sour cream, proving the wine to be both maritime-influenced and rich. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$78

94 Bricoleur 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

94 Foxen 2020 Tinaquic Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Crisp yellow lemon peel, wet stone and just-ripe pear make for an engaging nose of this bottling. The palate is both tightly wound and generous, offering mandarin orange and lemon-blossom flavors on a zesty frame. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$43

94 Outward 2021 Bassi Vineyard Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo Coast). There's a touch of briny sea salty on the nose of this bottling from an ocean-view vineyard, as white-peach, honeysuckle and lime-pith aromas complete the picture. It's bright and chalky on the palate, with flavors of white flower, lemon pith and grapefruit zest making for an edgy expression. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$38

94 Piazza Family 2021 Mt. Carmel Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). From a historic vineyard cofounded by proprietors Ron and Nancy Piazza, this bottling shows a minty, herbal side of Chardonnay in great ways, offering peppermint, verbena and lime balm aromas on the nose. The palate carries those elements into zesty lemon-juice flavors that ride very grippy tannins through the tense finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$50

94 Thomas Fogarty 2020 Damiana Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). From vines planted at 1,900 feet in 1978, this dynamic bottling begins with aromas of blanched almond, lemon glaze, crushed chalk and a hint of warm toast on the nose. There's a comforting, delicate hint of buttercream on the palate, where Meyer lemon juice and apple flavors align into a cohesive sip. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$72

94 Thomas Fogarty 2020 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Grapefruit peel and pith meet with honeysuckle on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard that's located less than nine miles from the ocean. Zesty citrus zest and fresh green-apple-peel flavors make for a vivid and sharp palate. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$72

94 Thomas Fogarty 2020 Portola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Muddled lemon-peel, wet rock and a zesty cream aromas invite the nose into this bottling, which comes from a two-acre vineyard that was planted at 1,920 feet in 1982. The palate is incredibly grippy in texture, showing bright and fresh flavors of citrus and lychee alongside a rocky minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$72

93 Albatross Ridge 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Monterey). Inviting aromas of brioche, macadamia nut and sea salt draw the nose into this estate bottling from the proposed Carmel Coast appellation. Fresh and zippy flavors of lime peel and green pear pair with a chalky minerality on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$68

93 Bargetto 2021 Regan Vineyards Reserve Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's almost a crystal bubbly-esque clarity to this bottling, which offers lime zest, white flower and coconut-soda aromas on the nose. Alkaline-leaning flavors of lime pith make for a very brisk and delightful palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$37

93 Bricoleur 2021 Unoaked Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
Hidden Gem.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

93 Challen 2020 Fiddlestix Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Eureka lemon zest cuts into the warm buttercream core of the nose of this bottling from a vineyard not much known for Chardonnay. Yellow-apple-peel flavors are cut by sea salt and lingering acidity on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60

93 Challen 2020 Zotovich Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Rounded aromas of peach blossom, white flower and citrus peel are generous and clean on the nose of this bottling. The palate is more brisk than expected, offering lemon-peel, salt and pear-flesh flavors, with a slightly nutty finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

93 Claiborne & Churchill 2020 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Lemon-glaze aromas are cut by chalky, wet rock aromas on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is firm and bright, showing lemon, Granny Smith apple and warmer pineapple flavors, proving complex and full. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$36

93 Foxen 2020 5 Rows Heritage Tinaquic Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). From select old-vine, dry-farmed rows, this bottling begins with tart and bright aromas of yellow lemon, grapefruit and lemongrass on the nose. The palate is driven by chalky, stony flavors, with waves of lemon acidity making for a very engaging and energetic expression. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

93 Foxen 2020 Block UU Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). There's a steely minerality to the nose of this bottling alongside lime-pith, jicama, white-flower and Asian pear aromas. The palate is brisk, tightly wound and refreshing, with crisp pear and lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$36

93 Kunde 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

93 Landmark 2020 Damaris Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

93 Landmark 2019 Lorenzo Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

93 Sandar & Hem 2020 Mountain Winery Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). American wine legend Paul Masson planted this property generations ago, long before it became more known for concerts than wine. This brand brings prestige back with this bottling, which offers citrus, lemongrass and light nut aromas. The palate is angular in acidity and tight in citrus flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$46

93 Sangiacomo 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

93 Seabold Cellars 2020 Eden Rift Reserve Block Chardonnay (Cienega Valley). Aromas of lemon-lime cream meet with wet chalk on the nose of this block-designated bottling from a reinvigorated vineyard south of Hollister. Lychee and white-melon flavors are cut by a lime-peel acidity and a chalky minerality on the lightly earthy palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Seabold Cellars 2019 Olson Prunetucky Sands Chardonnay (Monterey). Crisp apple and nectarine aromas are warmed up by hints of hazelnut and ripe melon on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard in the hilly community of Prunedale overlooking Highway 101. There are touches of almond, peach and butter to the palate, but a sharp and fresh acidity enlivens the sip through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$40

93 Seabold Cellars 2019 Upper Block Pelio Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey). From a vineyard in the proposed Carmel Coast appellation, this bottling offers rounded aromas of hazelnut, sea salt, Meyer lemon and baked apple on the nose. The palate extends that rich display into buttered lemon peels and slivered almonds served atop a brioche dough. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$40

93 Storrs 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Generous aroma lychee, Meyer lemon and pear flesh are clean and soft on the nose of this bottling. Buoyant flavors of white melon and honeysuckle are wrapped in a firm grip on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

93 Storrs 2020 Christie Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). The nose of this bottling is loaded with earthy aromas of damp wood and wet rocks, yet it is very clean and precise as well, with a bright lemon-glaze character. Jicama and Asian pear flavors are warmed by light honey on the palate, as a chalky tension provides textural depth. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$33

93 Testarossa 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). Warm croissant, white-flower and nectarine-compote aromas make for a comforting nose on this single-vineyard expression. A sizzle of acidity enlivens the sip, where stone-fruit flavors play against a chalky minerality and citrus hits of Meyer lemon and grapefruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Thomas Fogarty 2020 Langley Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Every one of this producer's wines will stand the test of the time in the cellar, and each is ready to rock right away as well. In this bottling from vines planted in 1980 at nearly 2,000 feet, tightly wound aromas of melon rind, Asian pear and jicama lead into a restrained palate of white-fleshed fruit that will only grow more intriguing with time. Drink now through 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$72

92 Beauregard 2021 Métallique Bald Mountain Chardonnay (Ben Lomond Mountain). For a steel bottling, there's a pleasant amount of brioche on the nose of this wine alongside the expected lime-peel and white-rock elements. It's leaner on the pal-

ate, with light almond-cream and lemon-candy flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.53% **Price:** \$65

92 Foley 2021 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). This bottling checks a number of boxes, from the zesty lemongrass to damp chalk to honeydew and pineapple-rind aromas. The fresh and full palate is tight in texture, with flashy citrus leading into rounded tropical-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Guarachi Family 2020 Sun Chase Vineyard Estate Grown Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). A creamy, viscous texture and subtle butter and pear flavors give this attractive wine a deliciousness and smoothness that is quite winning. The wine is medium to full bodied, showing mild almond and toast nuances on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Inner Circle 2021 Letterhead Brown Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros-Napa Valley). Generous fruit flavors and equally generous butter and baking-spice elements give this full-bodied wine a big, soothing presence. Poached pears, baked apples, vanilla and hazelnuts spread out on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Kunde 2021 C.S. Ridge Vineyard Estate Grown Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley). Subtle aromas and harmonious, intricate flavors give this full-bodied wine plenty of interest while a rich, creamy texture is soothing as you sip. Ripe pears, vanilla and cream dominate the palate of this relaxed, mouthfilling wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

92 La Crema 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$23

92 Landmark 2020 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

92 Landmark 2019 Rodgers Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$50

92 Royal Prince 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This buttery, full-flavored wine blends hints of white truffles with poached pear and toast notes that carry into a lingering finish. Good balance and a sense of freshness add to its appeal. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Silvestri 2019 Bella Sandra Chardonnay (Carmel Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

92 Silvestri 2019 Estate Chardonnay (Carmel Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$32

92 Stolo 2020 Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County). Baked lemon and melon aromas meet with salted butter and grapefruit peel on the dynamic nose of this bottling. Lemon butter, almond and sea salt are zingy with underlying citrus peel on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$42

92 Testarossa 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Focused aromas of lemon tonic cut through the nectarine flesh on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with a zippy texture, showing yuzu and mandarin flavors against an alkaline backbone. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

92 Thomas Fogarty 2020 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). This bottling amounts to a whopping 875 cases, which means a certain set of masses can taste what this producer is all about. Aromas of tangerine sorbet and macadamia nut lead into an alkaline-driven palate of wet rocks, blanched cashew and citrus pith. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

91 Alfaro Family 2021 A Estate Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Crisp Asian pear flesh, jicama and a light lemon glaze meet with a wet clay minerality on the nose of this twist-top bottling that gets a wider distribution than most of this brand's output. Subtle green-pear flavors are cut by a bright citrus-zest acidity and firm tension on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

91 Babcock 2021 Top Cream Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). A range of stone-fruit aromas, from poached nectarine to apricot cream, meet with lemon peel on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with prominent peach flavors, with citrus acidity providing an edge. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$55

91 Beauregard 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Tart aromas of lemon meet with richer tones of macadamia nut on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate is vibrant, young and fresh, with sharp citrus and lemon-candy flavors that satisfy those seeking acidity and flavor. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 DaFoe 2019 Chardonnay (Alisos Canyon). Toasted almond and peanut aromas meet with baked apple and sea salt on the nose of this bottling from a region not well-known for Chardonnay. The palate lands with a fat but acid-washed mouthfeel, offering hazelnut, butter-pecan and baked orange flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$46

91 Fleur de California 2021 Carneros Select Chardonnay (Carneros). A nice combination of

ripe fruits and moderate butteriness make this full-bodied wine appealing in flavor and smooth in texture. It offers good concentration, good balance and a lingering finish, too. —J.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

91 Goldschmidt 2019 Singing Tree Dutton Ranch Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$42

91 Kosta Browne 2020 El Diablo Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Firm-textured and holding its flavors rather tightly in fruit acidity, this intense and dry wine needs time to mature. The wine is well-balanced, lean, with light butter and toast tones over lemon-pith and not-quite-ripe Bosc pear flavors. Best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

91 Landmark 2020 Overlook Chardonnay (Sonoma County).

For full review see page 16.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$27

91 Saison 2018 Coastview Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey County).

Aromas of hazelnut paste and toasted brioche make for a warm and inviting nose on this bottling from a mountain vineyard on the east side of the Salinas Valley. The brioche and almond-cream elements pick up charred peach on the palate, which enjoys a long, toasty finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Sangiacomo 2019 Eden Dale Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).

Toasted oak, butterscotch and almond flavors dominate this rich, full-bodied wine as it coats the palate and leaves a lingering buttery note on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

91 Stolo 2020 Hillside Reserve Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County).

Toasted almond and buttercream aromas lead into a more alkaline, chalky mineral tone on the nose of this complex bottling. The palate seems to shed the warmer qualities, focusing instead just on the sharp, acid-driven elements of citrus peel and juice. —M.K.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$50

91 Stuhlmuller Vineyards 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Alexander Valley).

This well-rounded wine offers light butter and toast aromas followed by good, juicy apple and Bosc pear flavors, along with hints of toasted almonds. A full body and good concentration keep it echoing on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Albatross Ridge 2021 Cuvée Beton Chardonnay (Monterey).

A darker hue of yellow in the glass, this concrete-based bottling offers apple-glaze, dried honeysuckle and clay-like aromas on the nose. There's a zippy acidity on the palate, where earthy flavors of rock and even concrete wrap around the lemon touches. —M.K.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

90 Aptos Vineyard 2020 De Novo Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Yellow-apple, pineapple and honey aromas make for a ripe nose on this bottling from Lester Family Vineyard. Earthy flavors of damp rock meet with sharp lychee on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$36

90 Bold 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey County).

Grapefruit-zest and crushed rock aromas invite the nose into this bottling. The palate is sharp and energetic, with lime-zest and tart apple flavors showing most prominently. —M.K.

abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

90 Bravium 2020 Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).

What's become a 'classic' in the New World style of Chardonnay, Bravium's 2020 offers ripe fruit expressions balanced by well-integrated malo and oak. Enjoy aromas and flavors of almond, toast, vanilla, nutmeg, green and yellow apple, yellow peach and mango, baby's breath and matchstick flint. —S.B.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$30

90 Clay Shannon 2021 El Coyote Chardonnay (Lake County).

For full review see page 17.

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

90 Daou 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).

A deeply golden hue in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with hazelnut, wood-spice and honey aromas. The palate is broad and rich, with just enough tension to add balance, offering more hazelnut and baked apple flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

90 Gehrcke 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

For full review see page 18.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$29

90 Kunde 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Valley).

This smooth, supple wine exudes ripe pears and apples, with light touches of vanilla and cinnamon, so it's rich without being sweet. Soft acidity and a viscous texture make it feel luscious. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

90 Oakstone 2021 Chiu Vineyard Chardonnay (Fair Play).

A robust aroma of fresh apples opens, followed by more subtle tones of floral baby's breath notes, white cheese and lemon zest. The palate has just a touch of pleasant phenolic grip, adding a balanced bitterness. —S.B.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30

90 Old Tavern Farm 2021 Hen & Hay Chardonnay (California).

For those who love their Chardonnays with a snap of crispy acidity, this leaner expression that still offers a good variety of flavors. These include fine notes of steely wet stone, lanolin, wet grass (with dewy lawn daisies), green apple and green-apple skin, a white-pepper florality and matchstick flint. —S.B.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$22

90 Red Stitch 2021 Sierra Mar Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).

Gardenia, plum-meria, peach and coconut oil make for a very generous nose on this bottling. The wine lands softly on the palate, with tropical-flower, melon and ripe peach flavors, as lime peel adds edge. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Francis Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Chardonnay (California).

For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Frey 2021 Biodynamic Chardonnay (Mendocino).

Overall, this is a well-balanced and tasty Chardonnay, with a robust apple expression complemented with notes of apple blossom, white rose, yellow peach, clove, nutmeg, cinnamon and just a hint of wet stone minerality. —S.B.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

89 Goldschmidt 2021 Singing Tree Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).

Fresh apple flavors, a slightly tangy texture and medium body make this fruit-centered wine easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$22

89 Imagery 2021 Chardonnay (California).

For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Noble Vines 2021 446 Chardonnay (Monterey).

Subdued aromas of wet stone and citrus sorbet show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh and energized, with lime-sorbet, lychee, melon-flesh and tart citrus-rind flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

89 Sean Minor 2021 California Series Chardonnay (California).

Overall, this Chardonnay offers a great balance of flavors and textures with well-integrated oak and lees notes alongside the ripe fruit profile. Notes of lemon, lime, green apple, yogurt are evident, as are cheese, sprinklings of nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. *Best Buy.* —S.B.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Stillman St. 2019 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).

For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$17

88 Blank Verse 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast).

Dried apple-flesh and honeysuckle aromas meet with earthy tones of wet clay and dust on the nose of this bottling. Kiwi, lychee and apple-blossom flavors are cut by that earthy angle on the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$18

88 Bogle 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Clarksburg).

This is an overall, well-rounded, fuller-bodied expression of Chardonnay, with notes of ripe yellow apple, cardamom, nutmeg, cream, vanilla and blond caramel. —S.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

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88 Carson Ridge 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Well-defined aromas of lemon peel and dried apple are cut by an earthy tone on the nose of this bottling. There's a sharp tension to the palate, where lemon-zest flavors make for an acidic expression. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$13

88 Cobble Creek 2020 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Soft white-peach and honeysuckle aromas meet with a light rocky element on the nose of this bottling made from organic grapes. There's ample tension to the palate, where lime-peel, ripe apple and rich peach flavors arise. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

88 Crū 2021 Low Calorie Unoaked Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). This is a very clean and crisp take on this unoaked, tropical style that is now billed as low-calorie, complete with nutritional data on the label. Aromas of tuberose and peach lead into a vibrantly ripe palate of coconut and jasmine. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$20

88 McGrail 2021 Charlie Rae Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This very delicate Chardonnay has a light intensity of aromas and flavors: lemon, lime, green apple, white blossom and a hint of flint. Crisp and well balanced, it's an easy wine to sip and enjoy. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

88 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Hammer Olsen Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). Overall, this well-rounded and quaffable Chardonnay offers a full body and notes of green apple and pear, lime pith, cream, biscuit and just-ripe banana. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 Sebastiani 2021 Butterfield Station Chardonnay (North Coast). A simple, medium-bodied Chardonnay, this delivers with balanced notes of lemon, lime, green apple, hay, matchstick flint and nuts. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$14

88 World's End 2017 Rebel Rebel Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Flinty, coconut aromas and savory, vanilla flavors lend an interesting complexity to this well-aged, medium-bodied wine, making it a good pour for adventurous friends. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80

87 Josh Cellars 2021 Buttery Reserve Chardonnay (Central Coast). This is a cleanly, properly made wine, done in an intentionally butter-bomb style that will please some and enrage others for being a caricature. Marshmallow, sweet cream and rich butter aromas lead into a palate that's like eating a butter popsicle, sprinkled with just a bit of lemon juice. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Kwaya 2021 Organic Chardonnay (California). A simple white, this has overripe fruit notes

of red and yellow apple, yellow peach and nectarine, mango and orange peel, with complements of vanilla, nutmeg and toast. —S.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

87 Le Vigne 2021 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Dried apple and butterscotch aromas meet with a nutty oak spice on the nose of this bottling. The oak is very prominent on the palate, where the texture is smooth. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

87 Michael Sullberg 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Vivid woodsmoke and toast aromas lead to butter and baking-spice flavors in this full-bodied wine. Its pear flavors are subdued, so the wine is best suited for oak lovers. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

87 Shannon Ridge 2021 High Elevation Collection Chardonnay (Lake County). A well-balanced, simple Chardonnay, this delivers straightforward aromas and flavors of lemon, green apple and white blossom. —S.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

86 Ely by Callaway 2021 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Creamy aromas of buttercream and lemon candy show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fat and ripe, with caramelized marshmallow and lemon-balm flavors, as a splash of acidity adds energy. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Gnarly Head 2021 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Yellow-apple, sea-salt and lemon-peel aromas make for a solid nose on this bottling. The ripe palate is loaded with butter, applesauce and light baking-spice flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Iron Side 2021 Chardonnay (California). A big, overripe Chardonnay, this comes with fruity expressions of dried apple rings, pineapple, soft mango and banana alongside secondary notes of toasted oak, vanilla, nutmeg and butter. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$12

86 Josh Cellars 2021 Chardonnay (California). You will find overripe fruits notes of Granny Smith and Golden Delicious apples, pineapple and banana, as well as intense oak tones of vanilla, cream, nutmeg and clove in this white. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

86 Mon Frere 2021 Chardonnay (California). This fuller-bodied Chardonnay offers extremely ripe fruit notes of apple and pear, cantaloupe and mango skins, with secondary tones of baking spice, toasted wood and vanilla. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$12

86 The Simple Grape 2021 Chardonnay (California). A fairly muted expression of Chardonnay, this white has a very light intensity of aromas and flavors. It features subtle notes of lemon, lime,

chamomile and toast. Simple, but it's also a balanced and easy sipper. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

86 World's End 2018 Rebel Rebel Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Savory, oaky aromas lead to very oaky, nutty flavors in this full-bodied, highly stylized wine. It feels grippy in texture from tannins and acidity, and the flavors run to herbaceous and earthy. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$80

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Outward 2021 Presqu'île Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Maria Valley). Subtle aromas of hay, yellow apple, tangerine peel and pineapple pull the nose into this bottling. The palate is very engaging, with lots of acidity and a grippy texture, offering flavors of tropical fruit, sansho pepper and cut grass. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Ovis 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (High Valley). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Silverado 2021 Block Blend Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Banshee 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$22

90 Six Sigma Ranch 2021 Michael's Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). This fresh and vibrant white wine has notes of white peach and nectarine, just-ripe pineapple and mint. A hint of salinity offers a medium body while consistently providing that crisp acidity so appreciated in Sauvignon Blanc. —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$36

89 Foursight 2020 Charles Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Anderson Valley). An easy-sipping, enjoyable Sauvignon Blanc, this delivers vivacious aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, green apple, chamomile and cut grass. A slight effervescence, along with lively acidity, adds textural intrigue and a refreshing quality. —S.B.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$29

89 High Valley Vineyard 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). A balanced, enjoyable, easy sipper, this Sauvignon Blanc offers aromas and flavors of wet stone, chamomile, morning dew, lemon, lime, grapefruit zest and white melon. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Longevity 2022 Sandy Bend Vineyard Vintner Select Sauvignon Blanc (Clear Lake). Light and lively with a zing of high acid and just a touch of effervescence, this Sauvignon Blanc offers aro-

mas and flavors of green grass, green melon, Granny Smith apple, lime leaf and citrus blossom. —S.B.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$34

89 Oakstone 2021 Estate Fiddlehead Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Fair Play). This is definitely a fuller-bodied Sauvignon Blanc that incorporates higher (15.2%) alcohol but rich flavors to match. Find notes of cheese, yogurt and fresh bread dough alongside fruits of green and yellow apple, Bartlett pear, pomelo zest and apple blossom. —S.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$24

88 Albatross Ridge 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Carmel Valley). Apple-flesh, grapefruit-peel and citrus-candy aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Dried citrus meets with a beeswax element on the tightly woven palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

88 Bricoleur 2021 Kick Ranch Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Fountaingrove District). Attractive fruit flavors and a fairly lively texture will make this full-bodied wine appealing to a crowd. Plenty of crisp apples and a dash of lime are carried by mild acidity for a soft finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

88 Chateau Robles 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Paso Robles). Light aromas of grass and lime are familiar on the nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh and grassy, with hints of passion fruit that approach sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$28

88 Covenant 2022 Red C Sauvignon Blanc (Lake County). Light, delicate, crisp and classically Sauv Blanc, this has notes of wet rock, lemon, lime, green apple, cherry blossom, and just-ripe white nectarine—all elevated on the palate with a zingy-fresh acidity. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

88 Frey 2020 Biodynamic Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Mendocino). Super simple, but super delicious, this displays notes of lemon, lime, quince, star fruit, flint, kiwi and coconut that are elevated and uplifted by a zingy acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

87 Maggio 2021 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). This is a Sauvignon Blanc for fans of the classic New Zealand style. Find juicy-fruity notes of lemon, lime, just-cut grass, passion fruit and pineapple all backed up by a strong dose of racy acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Josh Cellars 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (California). A simple and straightforward Sauvignon Blanc, this has notes of lemon, lime, white blossom and just a hint of petrol. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$15

86 Peirano 2020 Heritage Collection Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). A full-bodied expression of Sauvignon Blanc, this incorporates notes of ripe

yellow peach and nectarine, pineapple and banana alongside secondary characteristics of cheese, cream, vanilla and toasted oak. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$15

PINOT GRIGIO

90 Longevity 2022 Buttner Vineyard Vintner Select Pinot Grigio (Livermore Valley). With a bit of skin contact, this Ramato-style Pinot Grigio has a vibrant pinkish hue in the glass. Aromas bridge the gap between earthy and fruity with notes of matchstick flint, wet stone, just-ripe strawberry, raspberry, cranberry and watermelon, pink rose petals and water lily, with just a hint of white pepper. It's an interesting sipper for sure. **Hidden Gem.** —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

89 Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Pinot Grigio (Temecula Valley). Grapefruit-soda, citrus-peel and wet rock aromas combine on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly wound, offering Meyer lemon peel before diving into flavors of nectarine and apricot. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$34

88 Bargetto 2021 Regan Vineyard Pinot Grigio (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a very earthy spin on Pinot Grigio, showing sandstone, dried apple and citrus-peel aromas. The palate carries a lemony acidity, but is dominated by that rocky, earthy drive. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

87 Oakstone 2021 Estate Mothervine Vineyard Pinot Grigio (Fair Play). A very light-intensity Pinot Grigio, this offers delicate aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, chamomile, star fruit and white blossom. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$24

86 Josh Cellars 2021 Pinot Grigio (California). A very light-intensity white, this has subtle aromas and flavors of chamomile, jasmine blossom, just-ripe white nectarine and wet stone. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

RIESLING

92 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Riesling (Central Coast). For full review see page 13. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$25

91 Koehler 2020 Riesling (Santa Ynez Valley). Citrus-scented surfboard-wax aromas meet with coconut and light petrol on the nose of this bottling. There's a tight texture to the palate, where more coconut and tangerine-sorbet flavors make for a refreshing sip. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

91 Saison 2018 Wirz Vineyard Riesling (Cienega Valley). This is a racy, green style of Riesling that only grows more compelling the longer it sits open. Aromas of grass, wet stone and light petrol on the nose turn into unique honeydew-rind and rain-soaked cement flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

90 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Estate Riesling (Edna Valley). Lime pith, wax, almond husk and a hint of petrol show on the nose of this bottling from a small vineyard aside the winery. Citrus-peel flavors ride a soft texture on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$32

CHENIN BLANC

94 Foxen 2021 Ernesto Wickenden Vineyard Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 8. **Editors' Choice.**
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$28

94 Outward 2021 Shell Creek Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Paso Robles Highlands District). Brisk citrus, honey and beeswax aromas show on the nose of this bottling from old vines planted in 1971 on the eastern edge of the Paso Robles region. It's tight on the palate, yet lively with citrus-zest and wet stone flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$34

89 Est Cru 2021 Chenin Blanc (Clarksburg). A well-balanced and expressive Chenin, this leads with fun notes of apple juice, white peach and nectarine, followed by white strawberry, cantaloupe, just-ripe mango, orange and lime zest and lime leaf. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

92 Gundlach Bundschu 2021 Estate Vineyard Dry Gewürztraminer (Sonoma Valley). This fragrant, extroverted wine shows the typical lychee and rose-petal aromas followed by a dry, tangy palate and rather light body for the varietal. This is an agile, balanced Gewürztraminer, perfect with appetizers, oysters and charcuterie. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$27

89 Claiborne & Churchill 2021 Gewürztraminer (Central Coast). Sharp lemon aromas enliven the fatter tones of peach, cantaloupe and orange blossom on the nose of this bottling. The palate's zippy acidity fights back the ripe orange-blossom flavors, leading into a zesty finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

91 Goldeneye 2021 Confluence Vineyard Randolph Block Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). A plethora of pronounced aromas and flavors entice the senses: wet stone, dewy grass, lawn daisy, citrus blossom, green and yellow apple, lemon zest and pith, with an after-breath filled with rose water, white grape and lychee. An excellent dose of

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acidity adds a lively freshness; a slight phenolic grip adds textural intrigue and integrity; a lovely lingering finish welcomes another sip. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$42

GRENACHE BLANC

93 Fulldraw 2020 Bamboo Grenache Blanc (Paso Robles). Toasty aromas of baked apple, hazelnut, coconut and baking spice recall Chardonnay on the nose of this bottling, which includes 9% Clairette Blanche. There's a strong rip of lemon-driven acidity through the rich apple, pear and peach flavors of the palate. Intriguing herbs pop on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$50

91 Bolero at Europa Village 2021 Duarte's Vineyard Garnacha Blanca (Temecula Valley). Bold aromas of peach, plumeria and ripe pineapple show on the lush nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is rich while very clean, offering marzipan, mango and pineapple flavors to serve as a powerful white option. —M.K.
abv: 13% Price: \$31

88 Naidu Wines 2021 Catie's Corner Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Russian River Valley). This tangy, medium-bodied wine is light in flavor, offering subtle cucumber and green-apple notes, and relies mostly on its appetizing acidity for enjoyment. It should pair well with salads, appetizers and seafoods. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$45

VIIGNIER

90 Beckmen 2021 Purisima Mountain Vineyard Viognier (Ballard Canyon). Clean lines of peach custard and orange blossom are fresh on the nose of this bottling from a mountaintop site on the north end of this small appellation. A chalky minerality and brisk acidity fire up the palate, which offers nectarine and melon-bubblegum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

89 Covenant 2022 Red C Viognier (Lodi). A really fun, zingy Viognier, this delivers fresh aromas and flavors of wet stone, mineral, mandarin orange zest, citrus blossom, grass, lime leaf, grapefruit pith and white peach. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

88 Wilson Creek 2021 Chloe Vineyard Viognier (Temecula Valley). Orange blossom, tangerine sorbet, honeysuckle and wet cement make for a complex nose on this bottling. Riper flavors of candied peach and apricot jam make for a nearly sweet palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$39

87 Sobon Estate 2021 Viognier (Amador County). You will find notes of river rock, dewy grass, chamomile flowers, lemon, lime and citrus blossom.

The palate has a phenolic grip that adds a bit of bitterness; the finish is warm. —S.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

85 Stilson 2021 The Reverie Viognier (Templeton Gap District). Peach aromas are ripe and slightly funky on the nose of this bottling, whose clear label is hard to read. There's an earthy angle to the palate alongside the peach core. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$33

WHITE BLENDS

92 Lexington 2020 Alma Gist Ranch Estate Bordeaux-style White Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). Subtle aromas of beeswax, lemon rind and cut grass make for a delicate but detailed nose on this blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Sémillon. The plate is brisk and energetic with sour grass, honeydew and white-flower flavors, recalling a sunny spring day. —M.K.
abv: 12% Price: \$48

90 Peachy Canyon 2021 Peche Blanc Rhône-style White Blend (Paso Robles). Coconut-cream and tangerine-zest aromas meet with a wet pulp minerality on the nose of this blend of 57% Grenache Blanc, 25% Picpoul Blanc and 18% Viognier. Nectarine and plumeria flavors show a tropical side on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

90 Arkenstone 2019 Estate Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Howell Mountain). Full bodied and sporting quite ripe fruit flavors, this big, smooth wine from a high-elevation vineyard offers pears and pineapples on a mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$125

90 Donkey & Goat NV If Then White Blend (California). A fun white blend, this offers notes of Meyer lemon, yellow apple, just-ripe white peach and nectarine, pastry cream and a kick of white-pepper spice. A slight effervescence adds textural intrigue. —S.B.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$32

89 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Pinotrio White Blend (Anderson Valley). Pinotrio—meaning a blend of Pinot Blanc, Noir and Gris—offers a layered aromatic expression that follows through on the palate with notes of honeysuckle, gently roasted almond, pastry and pastry cream, chamomile, baby's breath, lemon, lime, green apple and melon. —S.B.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$33

88 Cavaletti 2021 Debutante Rhône-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Dried apple slices drizzled in honey meet with wet riverbed aromas on the nose of this blend of 53% Grenache Blanc and 47% Marsanne. The palate combines a wet rock minerality with lemon-peel and blanched almond flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$32

88 Pennyroyal Farm 2021 Anyhow Blanc Chardonnay-Sauvignon Blanc (Anderson Valley). This 50-50 mix of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc is just a simple, easy sipper. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, chamomile, wet stone, white nectarine and almond. —S.B.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$29

88 ONX 2020 Indie Blanc White Blend (Templeton Gap District). Earthy aromas of crushed rock and turned loam meet with citrus peel, nectarine and honeysuckle on the nose of this bottling. The palate is softer in texture, offering peach, melon and pineapple-cream flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% Price: \$22

86 Tree Fort NV Adventure Pack White Blend (Central Coast). This carton-can of white wine offers very ripe aromas of peach, honeydew gummies and lime zest. The palate is also very ripe, with melon and stone-fruit flavor, as a lime-like acidity adds a touch of balance. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15/250 ml

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Seibold Cellars 2021 Sunset Block Siletto Vineyard Aligoté (San Benito County). Aligoté is a hidden gem of Burgundy so it's a super jewel in this epic vineyard between Hollister, Salinas and nowhere. Wet stone and delicately honeyed lily-bulb aromas lead into a brisk palate of tight green apple, lime and alluring cement. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$40

91 Fulldraw 2020 Drift Clairette Blanche (Paso Robles). This bottling, which includes 20% Grenache Blanc, needs a touch of time for all of the components to play in harmony, but it's quite nice when that happens. Aromas of lime-splashed crème brûlée enliven the nose, while the palate blends similar tart and rich aspects of peach and lime pith. The chalky texture adds further complexity. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

91 Seibold Cellars 2021 Old Vines Rodnick Farm Pinot Blanc (Chalone). This bottling from the vines that legend Dick Graff planted decades ago shows suave aromas of nectarine, almond flake and lemon zest on the nose. The palate lands with a soft texture, offering dried pear, apple and honeydew flavors, leading into a waxy, macadamia nut finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$40

90 Adroit 2021 Calleri Vineyard Falanghina (San Benito County). A golden hue in the glass, this lightly cloudy bottling offers apple-blossom, damp grass, green-almond and wet stone aromas on the highly unique nose. There's a wet concrete and green-fruit flavor to the palate, where the palate extends across lingering tannins. —M.K.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$28

90 Marimar 2021 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Grown & Bottled Albariño (Russian River Valley). This Spanish grape variety shows really well in this tangy wine grown in a cool part of Sonoma County. Apricots, green peaches and a bit of a chalky texture give it an appetizing and palate-cleansing effect. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$34

90 Tomi 2020 Riverbench Vineyard Albariño (Santa Maria Valley). Fleshy apricot aromas are tinged with lime peel on the nose of this bottling. There's an ample splash of acidity on the sip, where underripe stone-fruit and more citrus flavors align for a zesty sip. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$29

90 V. Sattui 2021 Semillon (North Coast). A plethora of aromas greet the nose and follow through onto the palate: mandarin orange zest and juice, citrus blossom, wet stone, flint, green apple, pear and fully ripe mango. The texture is soft, round, with just the slightest phenolic grip that adds structural intrigue and integrity. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$34

89 Bolero at Europa Village 2021 Verdejo (California). This uncommon grape for California could be a key player in a changing climate. Aromas of apricot, white flower and citrus peel on the nose lead into a soft palate of peach, melon and briny sea salt. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$36

88 Tinto Rey 2021 Verdejo (Dunnigan Hills). On the palate, this varietal Verdejo offers a touch of effervesce, increasing its freshness-factor, alongside a bit of balanced bitters and their textural phenolic grip. Aromas and flavors of lemon, lime and citrus blossom makes this an easy sipper and an easy pairing for any meal. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Fazeli Cellars 2021 Vermentino (Temecula Valley). Lemon zest enlivens the poached pear and baking-spice aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture, showcasing peach and honeysuckle flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

87 Wilson Creek 2021 Harmony Vineyard Family Reserve Roussanne (Temecula Valley). Grapefruit-peel, apricot-jam and jasmine aromas are cut by a damp stone element on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very restrained at first, and then subtle waves of tropical flowers take hold in the midpalate before fading into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

SPARKLING WINES

98 Schramsberg 2004 Reserve Late Disgorged Sparkling Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$200

97 Iron Horse 2006 Joy! Sparkling Blend (Green Valley). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$275/1.5 L

97 Schramsberg 2004 J. Schram Late Disgorged Sparkling Blend (North Coast). For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$200

96 Schramsberg 2017 Juster Vineyard Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$100

96 Schramsberg 2011 Blanc de Blancs Brut Late Disgorged Sparkling Blend (North Coast). This dry sparkling wine made from 100% Chardonnay grapes exudes pronounced aromas immediately: just-baked bread with all the baking spices—cumin, coriander, even some saffron and turmeric spice—along with notes of baked apple, quince and pastry. Enjoy a savory palate complemented by a lovely elevated acidity and an extremely fine mousse structure. This wine has a nice weight, teetering on full bodied. And let's not forget the lingering finish. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$110

95 Schramsberg 2017 Blanc De Blancs Dutton Ranch Sparkling Blend (Russian River Valley). This sparkling wine made from 100% Chardonnay exudes intense, layered aromatics of Meyer lemon, bread dough, brioche, wet stone, matchstick flint, just-ripe white peach and peach skin, chamomile flowers and baby's breath. These notes carry through to the palate and lead toward a lingering finish filled with a kind of dusty earthiness. It's complex, interesting and just plain delicious. —S.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$100

94 Donkey & Goat 2021 Lily's Pet Nat Sparkling Chardonnay (Anderson Valley). A must-try *pét-nat* made from 100% Chardonnay. Initial aromas are all about that fresh yeast, just pitched and frothing away in preparation for homemade bread. This is followed by savory scents of cumin, coriander and herbes de Provence. Dive into the tasting to find tart Granny Smith Apple, lemon curd, baked peach and quince, all complemented by those bready, spicy notes. *Hidden Gem.* —S.B.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$45

94 Schramsberg 2019 Blanc de Noirs Brut Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Aromas and flavors lead with a wet stone minerality and flintiness straight away, closely followed by autolytic notes of fresh, crusty bread. Slowly revealed are the vivacious fruits of lemon, lime, green apple and orange zest, complemented by a cherry-blossom floral note. The finish is a perfect culmination of all, crescendoing into a lingering finale. —S.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$44

94 Schramsberg 2018 Blanc De Noirs Extra Brut Sparkling Blend (North Coast). Pale amber in the glass, this dry sparkling blend of 86% Pinot

Noir and 14% Chardonnay offers complex aromas and flavors that elegantly interweave autolytic notes of bread dough and yeast with earthy notes of wet stone, white-petaled roses and just-bloomed jasmine blossom alongside fresh, zesty, just-ripe fruits of lemon, lime and white nectarine. —S.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$65

93 Iron Horse 2014 Brut Stargazing Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Green Valley). For full review see page 10. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$195/1.5 L

93 Paris Valley Road 2019 Brut Sparkling Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$39

93 Schramsberg 2019 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (North Coast). A well-rounded, easily enjoyable sparkling rosé, this offers a persistent fine-bubbled mousse structure, resulting in an overall smooth drinking experience. You will find nuanced aromas and flavors of citrus blossom, grapefruit, watermelon, white strawberries, dewy morning grass, and a wet stone minerality, with just a hint of those autolytic toasty notes. The finish lingers with additional florals of pink roses and fresh daisies. —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

93 Schramsberg 2015 Extra Brut Sparkling Blend (North Coast). This dry sparkling wine offers a palate filled with a sharp acidity and a finely bubbled mousse structure—both of which complement the layered flavor profile. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, green apple and pear, matchstick flint, wet stone, a hint of just-toasted bread and dried flowers. —S.B.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$100

93 Schramsberg 2014 J. Schram Rosé Sparkling Blend (North Coast). A vibrant salmon-pink in the glass, this dry-style sparkling rosé offers aromas and flavors of ripe strawberry, raspberry, cranberry, blood orange zest, vanilla flower, pink roses, watermelon and very subtle autolytic notes coming through with a crisp crackle of cracker crumbs. —S.B.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$170

91 Chandon NV Étoile Brut Sparkling Blend (Carneros). Fragrant butter and almond aromas lead to a nicely rounded texture, lively bubbles, green-apple and ginger flavors in this light-bodied, elegant wine. —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$60

91 Goldeneye 2019 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Anderson Valley). A lovely aromatic blend offers wet river rock, just-ripe strawberry, peach, nectarine and raspberry, while hints of toast, flint, lemon zest and pink and white rose petals also waft out of the glass. These notes follow through onto the palate, albeit much more quietly. It's a light, delicate rosé of very good quality. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Albatross Ridge 2021 Petillant Naturel Sparkling Rosé (Monterey). An alluring bubble-gum color in the glass, this Pinot Noir bottling mixes chalk, strawberry and pomegranate on the nose. It's sharply effervescent on the palate, where citrus and light red-fruit flavors ride an aggressive foam. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$52

90 Bravium 2019 Wiley Vineyard Blanc De Noirs Sparkling Blend (Anderson Valley). This beautifully balanced sparkling wine comes out of Anderson Valley. Enjoy layered aromas and flavors of bread dough, yeast, jasmine blossom, basil leaf, pink rose petals, lemon and lime zest and just-ripe white peach. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Common Thread 2021 Petillant Sparkling Pinot Meunier (Santa Maria Valley). Lively strawberry and raspberry aromas are fresh and fun on the nose of this 26-case bottling, which is a rare look at Pinot Meunier alone and benefits the Special Olympics. Dark-cherry flavors meet with a yeasty kick on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Pennyroyal Farm 2019 Blanc De Noir Sparkling Blend (Anderson Valley). This sparkling wine offers a juicy-tart palate filled with flavors of white peach and nectarine, cherry blossom and jasmine, lime zest, lemon pith, grapefruit peel and a hint of wet stone minerality. —S.B.
abv: 11.4% **Price:** \$49

89 Schramsberg NV Mirabelle 31st Bottling Sparkling Blend (North Coast). This nice, well-rounded, easy-sipping sparkler comes with notes of lemon, lime, ripe green apple and pear and chamomile tea. The finish lingers with just a kiss of residual sugar. —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Schramsberg NV Mirabelle Brut Rosé 31st Bottling Sparkling Blend (North Coast). A vibrant pink in the glass, this sparkling rosé—a blend of 52% Pinot Noir and 48% Chardonnay—offers aromas and flavors of just-ripe strawberry, raspberry and red cherry as well as hints of lemon zest. A slight off-dry sensation toward the finish gives just a subtle hint of sweetness. —S.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$32

89 Sextant 2012 Sparkling Brut Sparkling Blend (Edna Valley). A hay color in the glass, this bottling starts with wet dough and tart lemon on the nose. The bubbles are starting to fade a bit, a decade into this bottling, which shows sour apple and brioche flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$98

ROSÉS

93 Mellowood 2018 Estate Rosé (Fair Play). Bucking the rosé stereotypes, this 100% Zinfandel is packed fully of earthy savoriness.

Florals lead the aromas, with notes of rose petals, jasmine and cherry blossom, followed by delicate scents of white peach and just-ripe nectarine skins. The palate has just a touch of tannic texture along with a kind of dusty, sandy minerality that's just intriguing. Interesting, fun and just plain delicious—this is a must-try for sure. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Las Positas 2021 Estate Rosé (Livermore Valley). Ballet-slipper pink in the glass, this delicately layered rosé shows just the right amount of complexity to keep it interesting while maintaining that easy-drinking attitude. You'll find notes of pink rose petals, jasmine blossom, water lily, white peach and nectarine, orange zest, cream, white pepper, matchstick flint and wet stone. —S.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$32

91 Wilson Creek 2021 Rosé of Pinot/Pinot Special Edition Rosé (Temecula Valley). Temecula is not known as a land of rosé, but this blend of 55% Pinot Gris and 45% Pinot Noir is a promising recipe. A rusty pink in the glass, the nose pops with muddled cherry, strawberry and wet stone aromas. The palate is fresh, with red-apple, cherry-skin and blood orange flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$37

90 Albatross Ridge 2021 Rosé (Monterey County). Rusty earth and dried cherry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's ample zip to the sip, where lively flavors of red fruit meet with a dusty, rocky minerality. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

90 Integrity 2020 Basor Terrace Vineyard Rosé (Santa Cruz County). A very pale, yellowish pink in the glass, this bottling is subdued and delicate on the nose, with just the slightest show of fruit. The palate is texturally focused, with light rose-petal and wet cement flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$24

90 Morét-Brealyann 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A punchy shade of pink in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with clean aromas of cherry syrup and mint. There's a tight weave to the sip, where generous strawberry flavors are cut by tangerine rind. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$28

89 Kinetic Cellars 2021 O Tempo Voa Silaspoons Vineyard Rosé (Alta Mesa). A vibrant pink—almost magenta—in the glass, aromas are reminiscent of a summers day with notes of dried flowers and warm grass, blood orange zest and watermelon rind. The flavors do not disappoint and the fun attitude of the wine invites another sip. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

89 V. Sattui 2021 Rosato di Pinot Noir Dry Rosé (Anderson Valley). This fully dry rosé of Pinot Noir, with its pretty rose-petal-pink hue, offers delicate springtime aromas and flavors of

white strawberry, white raspberry, white cherry, watermelon and potpourri. —S.B.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$35

88 Flaunt 2021 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This medium-bodied, easy-drinking wine is pinkish copper in color, smooth in texture and offers good peach and plum flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$24

88 Mathis 2021 Estate Rosé of Grenache (Sonoma Valley). Pale in color and light in flavor, this medium-bodied, attractive, dry wine tastes like watermelon and offers a relatively rich texture. Whole clusters of grapes were pressed before a cold fermentation. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$25

88 Paper Planes 2021 Rosé (Russian River Valley). This wine is crisp in texture, almost neutral in flavor and almost white in color, too. It tastes clean, vibrant and straightforward—good for pairing with seafood and appetizers. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

88 Stilson 2021 Rosé Ray Rosé of Syrah (Ade-laida District). A yellowish shade of pink in the glass, this bottling offers hints of chalk and ash on the nose alongside the strawberry and tangerine-sorbet aromas. The palate is soft in texture and full of melon flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$31

88 Uphill Vineyards 2021 Rosato di Primitivo Estate Grown Rosé (Amador County). A medium-bodied rosé made from the Primitivo (aka Zinfandel) grape, this delivers aromas and flavors of strawberry, raspberry, chamomile, rose petal, cut grass and earth. —S.B.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$25

87 Bogle 2021 Rosé (California). An overall well-balanced rosé produced from a blend of Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, this showcases light-intensity aromas and flavors of rose petal, just-ripe strawberry and raspberry. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Josh Cellars 2021 Rosé (California). This balanced, quaffable, easy-drinking rosé has straightforward notes of ripe strawberry, red cherry, pomegranate, watermelon, basil and wet stone. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Tomi 2021 La Encantada Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). An orange shade of pink in the glass, this rosé offers a very earthy nose, with hints of cherry and lemon peel. The palate is soft in texture, with muddled earth flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$29

PINOT NOIR

98 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Pelio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey County). For full review see page 3.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$54

96 Challen 2020 Calera Clone Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). From Drum Canyon Vineyard, this bottling pops on the nose with bright black-raspberry, lilac and lavender aromas, proving fruity, floral and focused. There's a tense line to the palate, where white-pepper, alpine-strawberry and more purple-flower flavors make for an elegant, brilliant combination. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

96 Eden Rift 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Cienega Valley). Winemaker Cory Waller is in epic stride at this property right now, and this bottling is solid case in point. It's light in the glass, with aromas of fresh and dried cherry, mild game and dusty chaparral on the elegant nose. The palate perfectly captures ripe fruit yet retains lovely and rustic layers of tar and baking spice. The compelling texture pushes it into the next league. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$48

96 Kosta Browne 2020 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is the first vintage from this iconic winery using the increasingly legendary Radian Vineyard fruit, and the results are fantastic. Deep, lavish aromas of black plum, violet and chai spice show on the nose. The bold, spicy and rich palate picks up chalky tannins and zesty acidity, proving intense but balanced. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$165

96 Landmark 2019 Rayhill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Claiborne & Churchill 2020 Runestone Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). This producer's boldest bottling always delivers power and elegance. This bottling starts with aromas of smoked meat, baked cherry and singed chaparral on the nose. The palate is rich, with hints of smoked, salty meat and porcini flavors, as a baked strawberry and cracked pepper form the core. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$62

95 Foxen 2020 Block 43 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

95 Guarachi Family 2021 Sun Chase Vineyard Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Lively, focused black-fruit, bay leaf and redwood aromas lead to just-ripe black cherries, blueberries and black tea in this well-concentrated, well-balanced and complex wine. Good acidity and moderate tannins complement the vivid flavors and bode

well for further aging. Best from 2025 to 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Ken Brown 2020 Peake Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked raspberry aromas are decorated with lovely mace and cinnamon spice on the nose of this bottling. That rich, baked red-fruit character of raspberry and pomegranate cruises through the palate, culminating in a fresh, spicy and long finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

95 Ken Brown 2018 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Kosta Browne 2020 Mt. Carmel Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling from an iconic vineyard atop the heart of this Santa Barbara County appellation begins with aromas of crisp raspberry and geranium on the restrained nose. There's a wet stone minerality to the palate, where berry-jam and citrus-rind flavors remain quite restrained, ready to emerge over time. Drink now through 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

95 Kosta Browne 2020 Rita's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). The nose on this single-vineyard expression from a high-elevation vineyard in the middle of the appellation is dark, ripe, elegant and serious, showing strawberry, violet and raspberry-jam aromas, with a hint of cocoa. Powdery tannins frame the ripe flavors of black cherry, cola and freshly smashed currant on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

95 Sante Arcangeli 2021 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$59

95 The Joy Fantastic 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Crisp yet deep aromas of strawberry punch, hibiscus and wild mint show on the dynamic nose of this bottling from a vineyard named after a Prince album. The palate combines density and richness with brisk pomegranate, plum-skin and white-pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

94 Albatross Ridge 2021 Cuvée Owen Pinot Noir (Monterey). For full review see page 6.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$66

94 Albatross Ridge 2019 First Flight Pinot Noir (Monterey). Sultry aromas of sandalwood, black-raspberry compote, mace and dried meats make for a very complex nose on this bottling. The palate is equally detailed, ranging from asphalt and charred strawberry to peppercorn and sagebrush flavors. Drink now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$135

94 Aptos Vineyard 2020 Alternate Juror Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Charred meat, beetroot juice and toasted sage aromas make for a uniquely earthy nose on this bottling from the Saveria Vineyard. The palate shows more generous red-fruit flavors and a brisk acidity, as the herb, spice and smoke qualities linger in the background. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

94 Beauregard 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For a brilliant sip representing one of the most exciting and reinvigorated regions on this planet, look no further than this appellation blend. Light in the glass and brisk on the nose, this shows raspberry, pomegranate and blood orange aromas before dropping into a flashy palate of similar fruits, white pepper and eucalyptus leafy—easy and intellectual at once. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

94 Bold 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

94 Challen 2020 Bentrack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Elegant and rich aromas of strawberry, Bing cherry, sumac, mace and vanilla draw the nose deeply into this bottling. All of those elements play on the red-fruited palate as well, which is clean and very enjoyable, with hints of oak popping into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Claiborne & Churchill 2020 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For full review see page 7.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$52

94 Claiborne & Churchill 2020 Twin Creeks Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Crisp and lively aromas of black-raspberry jam, rose petal, pepper and herb invite the nose into this bottling. The palate is fresh and tightly woven, offering zippy dark red-fruit and flower flavors alongside a lingering anise element. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$48

94 Common Thread 2021 Whole-Cluster Pinot Noir (Monterey). This whole-cluster bottling, which supports Down syndrome initiatives to honor the winemaker's son, offers dark berry-jam aromas and a hint of herb on the nose. Firm tannins frame the sip, where plump red-currant, lavender and violet flavors lead into a peppery finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Dutton Estate 2021 Thomas Road Vineyard Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Complex earth, redwood-forest and rhubarb notes complement concentrated, plummy flavors in this supersmooth and comfortable full-bodied wine. It is generous, mouthfilling and offers subtle, enjoyable nuances that linger on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$72

94 Foursight 2020 Parabol Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Wow, does this Pinot Noir offer a plethora of aromas and flavors: cranberry, wild strawberry, pomegranate, rhubarb, forest floor and trees, river rock minerality, a potpourri of rose petals, hints of black and white pepper, cumin, basil and gently toasted wood. The tannins are super-smooth, the mouthfeel generous—almost voluptuous. The finish is a fine balance of all that earth, spice, floral and fruit. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$63

94 Foxen 2019 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). There's a gamy element that extends across much of this Foxen vintage, and it works very well in certain bottlings like this one, which is light in hue but loaded on the nose with roasted berry and porcini aromas. There's a sappy thyme and chaparral-scrub flavor to the palate, elevating the freshly smashed strawberry and cranberry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$66

94 Foxen 2019 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). A light hue in the glass, this bottling begins with tightly wound raspberry and tart cherry aromas alongside singed sagebrush and tar. Grippy tannins frame the wild, rustic palate, where crisp cranberry flavors open toward roasted meat and leather. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

94 Gainey 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

94 Kosta Browne 2020 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This versatile, well-balanced and attractive wine can be enjoyed now for its elegant, moderately tannic texture and fresh red- and black-cherry flavors, or saved for a future dinner party. Best from 2026–2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

94 Kosta Browne 2020 Gowan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). A beautifully balanced Pinot Noir, this displays both layers and a depth of flavors. You'll notice fragrant aromas of red cherry, raspberry, rose petal, violet, damp forest floor, basil and wet stone minerality. These notes truly come to life on the palate, complemented by silky-smooth tannins, moderate alcohol and an excellent acidic structure that adds vivacity through to that lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

94 Kosta Browne 2020 Keefer Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Elegant and well-balanced, this medium- to full-bodied wine shows a rich texture without being heavy, and delivers a great combo of savory and fruity flavors. Moderate tannins and good acidity support just-ripe plums, cherries and mushrooms. Best—2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$165

94 Kosta Browne 2020 Winner's Circle Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Vibrant fruity

and woody flavors are lifted by an appetizing texture of moderate tannins and snappy acidity in this relatively full-bodied but agile wine. Black cherries and black currants meet nuances of cinnamon and oolong tea for great flavor complexity. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

94 Kunde 2021 Destination Series Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

94 Laetitia 2019 La Coupelle Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). Dense and rich on the nose, with noticeable oak influence, this bottling from a bowl-shaped vineyard begins with black cherry, cola and iodine aromas. The palate pops with thyme, green-sage and forest-floor flavors, giving depth to the dark berry and pomegranate flavors. Pine notes linger throughout. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

94 Pennyroyal Farm 2019 Monty In Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Decadent aromas immediately waft out of the glass: red cherry, red plum, pomegranate, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, toasted wood. The palate follows through with an excellent elevated acidity bringing vivacity to these same flavors; a silky texture is brought on by the fine-grained tannins. The finish is long, lingering and invites another sip. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$59

94 Seabold Cellars 2020 North Slope Eden Rift Pinot Noir (Cienega Valley). Black-raspberry, dark rose-petal, fennel-pollen and lavender aromas converge on the excellently complex nose of this bottling. There's a potpourri-like character that decorates the entire palate, adding nuance to the dark and crisp fruit flavors and elegant floral tones. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

94 Testarossa 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Billowing aromas of rich Bing cherry and rose petals are incredibly inviting on the full nose of this single-vineyard expression. Fresh and joyous flavors of cherry compote arise on the palate, where peppery spices, grapefruit peel and just enough acidity unfurl into the long finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$76

93 Albatross Ridge 2019 Cuvée Vivienne Pinot Noir (Monterey). For full review see page 9.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$64

93 Beauregard 2021 Ouf en Beton Beauregard Ranch Pinot Noir (Ben Lomond Mountain). Blood orange and cranberry aromas meet with a rusty minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate packs in an earthy edge, giving depth to the muddled berry and citrus-peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Belle Glos 2014 Taylor Lane Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$250/1.5 L

93 Busy Signal 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

93 Cambria 2021 Julia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Tart and fresh aromas of red plum, strawberry and lightly toasted sage and marjoram draw the nose into this zesty, widely available bottling. The palate lands with pleasantly brisk pomegranate and cran-raspberry flavors, as lavender and rose-petal qualities add nuance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$25

93 Cattleya 2021 Cuvée Number One Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Ripe and mouth-filling, this full-bodied wine is generously loaded with dark cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate for a richness that makes it appropriate with smoky, spicy entrees or even as an after-dinner pour. It will be best from 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

93 Challen 2020 Fiddlestix Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Snappy aromas of raspberry, lilac, clove and Christmas spice make for a lavish nose on this single-vineyard expression. The hedonistic palate offers more clove as well as mace, giving a spicy angle to the rich strawberry and plum-pudding flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$70

93 Covenant 2021 Landsman Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). Very fruity and fresh-tasting, this is a big and balanced wine that gushes blueberries and black cherries on a texture of moderate tannins and good, tangy acidity. Fermented with native yeast, unfiltered and unfiltered, the wine's concentration and structure are impressive. Best starting from 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

93 Farm Cottage 2021 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Zesty aromas of raspberry jam and rose petals draw the nose into this exciting bottling. The palate begins with simple flavors of strawberry compote and red-currant jam before waves of eucalyptus and bay leaf add nuance toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

93 Foxen 2020 John Sebastiano Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Snappy black-raspberry and smoldering peat aromas make for a unique and intriguing combination on the nose of this bottling from the eastern side of the appellation. Savory flavors of charred meat and burned teriyaki pair with fresh strawberry sauce on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Foxen 2019 Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Charred beef fat and asphalt aromas meet with fresh cran-raspberry on the nose

of this single-vineyard bottling from a small but mighty vineyard. Green-sage and charcuterie flavors converge with tart red fruit on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

93 **Foxen 2019 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Toasty oak aromas wrap around the dark-cherry and vanilla scents of this bottling. There's a bold tannic frame to the palate, giving structure to the stewed red-fruit and nutmeg flavors, with just enough acidity to carry through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 **Hess 2021 Allomi Pinot Noir (Napa Valley).** Well concentrated and firmly textured, this wine could be put away for several years before enjoying. A full body, moderate tannins and deep fruit flavors make it engaging now and promise to develop more nuances and a more velvety mouthfeel from between 2026 and 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 **Ken Brown 2018 Rita's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dense and even rugged aromas of boysenberry, churned loam, singed pine needle and foggy smoke show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard that Ken Brown helped plant. That mix of rugged strawberry and smoky wood spice pick up cola and eucalyptus leaf on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

93 **Kosta Browne 2020 Giusti Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Smooth and harmonious, this elegant, silky wine glides across the palate, expressing red and black cherries, subtle baking spices and savory, woody accents. It is medium bodied, lightly tannic and well built to drink through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$165

93 **Laetitia 2019 La Colline Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Bold aromas of wild berry, bloody meats and uncracked peppercorn are lightened with rose oil on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also beefy, with smoked meat flavors, as raspberry and strawberry-syrup flavors hold down the fruit end. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

93 **Landmark 2019 Hop Kiln Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

93 **Muns 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Elegant and clean aromas of black-raspberry jam, rose petals and hard spice show on the nose of this bottling from a 13-acre vineyard planted at 2,600 feet. Tight tannins hold up lavender and light purple-flower flavors on the sip. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

93 **Paper Planes 2019 Hidden Track Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Exuberant raspberry and red-cherry aromas precede a lively, tangy palate in

this medium-bodied, well-balanced and charming wine. Light tannins, snappy acidity and some complexity via black tea and pine nuances add nicely to the wine's considerable appeal. Made with 30% whole clusters and aged in all neutral barrels, so there's little obvious oaky character. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$46

93 **Phillips Hill 2020 L'Air De Mer Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** This Pinot Noir bottling is delightfully well balanced. Coarse tannins gently coat the palate, adding wonderful structural integrity. Aromas and flavors are jam-packed with notes of wild strawberry, white pepper, dried rose petals and violets, cinnamon, toasted wood, dusty forest floor and a hint of cremini mushroom—all culminating in a lingering finish of deliciousness. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

93 **Red Stitch 2021 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A bold bottling from professional baseball veterans working with a regionally iconic vineyard, this is a hearty style, showing blended boysenberry, dried beef and chipped graphite on the nose. The palate picks up herby, peppery spices, giving depth to the generous strawberry-jam flavors, with anise on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 **Red Stitch 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** There's an earthy line to the nose of this bottling, starting with hints of dried tarragon, dust and cherry pit on the nose, which gives complexity to the core of baked berry-pie and warm crust aromas. The palate is all-in on richness, delivering hot cherry-cobbler with vanilla-ice-cream flavors, but atop a medium density that's balanced while hedonistic. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 **Saison 2017 Regan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Muddled cherry, toasted sage, turned earth and a hint of rust draw the nose into this slightly older bottling. Tensions remains apparent on the palate, where cranberry, rose and orange-peel flavors pick up a savory side toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$48

93 **Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Montanita de Oro Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Baked strawberry, plum and tightly woven lavender aromas converge on the nose of this bottling from various vineyards. Grippy tannins frame the diverse flavors of the palate, sliding from cran-raspberry to packed flowers to white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$39

93 **Sante Arcangeli 2021 Saveria Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** A light shade in the glass, this bottling from a vineyard in Pleasant Valley offers muddled cherry, roasted tomato and wild thyme aromas on the nose. The palate is loaded with chaparral herbs, including thyme and

sage, that give depth to the raspberry and orange-rind flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$59

93 **Stolo 2020 Hillside Reserve Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** This is a crunchy style of Pinot Noir, grown just a few miles from the chilly coastline. Aromas of raspberry, white pepper, bay leaf and sage dive into a palate that adds eucalyptus leaf, black-plum skin and lavender to the mix. —M.K.
abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$73

93 **Storrs 2018 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Fresh while herbal aromas of pomegranate, thyme, sagebrush and wet river stone make for a complex nose on this appellation cuvée. Rich flavors of cranberry and toasty brioche are cut by orange rind on the tense palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$37

93 **Testarossa 2021 Soberanes Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Elegant layers of rose oil, strawberry schmear and dusty mints are attractive on the nose of this bottling. The palate tightens up around fresh flavors of strawberry, pomegranate and light herb. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$76

92 **Albatross Ridge 2019 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Muddled cranberry and charcoal aromas need a bit of time to breathe on the nose of this bottling, which blossoms after about an hour of decanting. The palate's tarry, smoked wood flavors lead into dried meat and brighter red fruit toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$80

92 **Bravium 2020 Wiley Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** A very well-balanced, enjoyable Pinot Noir, this is just as easily enjoyable as a casual sipper as it is for a special occasion. You will find that bright red cherry, pomegranate and cranberry are complemented by notes of cinnamon, chocolate and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$45

92 **Cambria 2020 Mesa Terrace Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** An elegant shade of reddish purple in the glass, this bottling offers asphalt, game and aged berry aromas on the nose. The palate is lightly bodied by extremely expressive and layered, moving from purple flower and fruit flavors to savory pork fat, wood spice and sagebrush. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

92 **Challen 2020 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Very light in the glass, this single-vineyard bottling pops with pomegranate, raspberry and youthful herb aromas on the nose. Soft tannins wrap around pleasant cherry, berry and brown-spice flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

92 **Civilization 2019 Ampelos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Freshly smashed cranberry, strawberry and orange-rind aromas are cut

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by fennel pollen and sagebrush on the nose of this bottling from a pioneering biodynamic vineyard. The palate is toasty at first, leading into roasted strawberry and anise flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

92 Farm Cottage 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Aromas of strawberry sorbet and pomegranate syrup converge on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate is clean if a bit subdued compared to the single-vineyard offerings, showing snappy berry, rose-petal and white-pepper flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$40

92 Foley 2021 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Oak-roasted strawberry and ripe cherry-pie aromas invite the nose deeply into this estate bottling. The palate is bright, vibrant and fresh, offering juicy red-fruit and toasty spice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$65

92 Foursight 2020 Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Initial aromas immediately waft out of the glass—red cherry, pomegranate, cranberry, forest floor, mushroom, chocolate and spearmint—and truly come to life on the palate in the most appetizing way. Tannins are extremely soft and smooth, giving the body of the wine a rounded mouthfeel, perfectly balanced by the acidity that rides right through the center. It's fun and just plain tasty. —S.B.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$53

92 Foxen 2019 Block 8 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Muddled cherry, dark-plum, pepper-tree and fairly prominent oak aromas show on the nose of this block-designated bottling. The palate hits with immediate tension, giving an edge to the plummy, hard-spice flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$68

92 Josh Cellars 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). A really pleasing Pinot that's both fairly priced and widely available, this bottling offers baked strawberry, charred game, sage sap and thyme on the nose. The palate combines cherry compote with roasted meat flavors, making for a full, complex sip. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: NA Price: \$19

92 Landmark 2019 Grand Detour Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$35

92 Samsara 2020 Rancho La Vina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Punchy aromas of strawberry, cherry and Red Hots cinnamon candies make for an exuberant, juicy nose on this bottling. The palate is racy with acidity, and superfresh in red-fruit bubblegum flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.4% Price: \$64

92 Seabold Cellars 2019 Pelio East Ridge Pinot Noir (Monterey). Bold aromas of baked

cherry and gingerbread show off some of the oak-aging on this bottling from a vineyard in the proposed Carmel Coast district. The palate lands with a smooth texture, showing black-cherry and baking-spice flavors as well as lots of acidity. —M.K.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$45

92 St. Francis 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). For full review see page 14.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$22

92 Stolo 2020 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Charred game and tar aromas contribute a savory touch to the dark raspberry and light lavender aromas on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard just behind the seaside town of Cambria. Brisk cranberry is enlivened by sagebrush and salumi on the palate, which is taut in texture. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$53

92 Summerland 2022 Pinot Nouveau Los Alamos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).

This fresh-out-of-the-gates, carbonic Pinot Noir is a revelation, tantalizingly fresh and limitlessly fun. A dark but transparent magenta in the glass, it begins with raspberry, cherry and raspberry on the engaging nose. The palate pops with similar flavors, as hints of flower and structure take the wine beyond joy juice. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 13.2% Price: \$45

92 Testarossa 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). This is a winning appellation cuvée from this single-vineyard specialist. Dark and pure aromas of boysenberry and oak lead from the nose into a well-structured palate, loaded with berry, wood spice and a vanilla-kissed finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$57

92 Testarossa 2021 Rancho La Viña Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked strawberry and cherry pick up wood-spice aromas on the nose of this bottling, which really opens up with a bit of air. The palate is rich with muddled berry, plum and oak-spice flavors, as mineral elements of graphite and iodine emerge on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$76

92 Tuli 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County). This medium-bodied wine is nicely fruity, nicely dry, showing moderate tannins and good acid balance. The wine will be a great dinner pour, easily pairing with a wide variety of dishes without overwhelming them. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$33

91 Alfaro Family 2021 Alfaro Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This bottling wears earthiness proudly on its sleeve, starting with aromas of turned loam, trampled herb and forest floor alongside the cherry notes. The palate zips with acidity and verve, offering cranberry, pomegranate and more earth flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$48

91 Castello di Amorosa 2019 Il Rubino Pinot Noir (North Coast). For full review see page 15.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$42

91 Challen 2020 Dierberg Drum Canyon Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Red-fruit, oak and caramel aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich and oaky, with baked black-plum and warm toast flavors making for a pleasing sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$70

91 Charmant 2018 Diana's Block Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Sharp if tangy aromas of pomegranate and candied rosewater show on the nose of this block-designated bottling. Muddled cherry and mulberry meet with sultry wood spices like hickory on the rich, slightly extracted palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

91 Dial Tone 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$29

91 Foursight 2020 Charles Vineyard Clone 05 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). An overall engaging Pinot Noir, this offers layers of flavors and nuanced depth and complexity. You will find aromas of cranberry juice, black tea, chocolate, nutmeg and toasted wood, along with a palate that speaks this and adds further notes of white pepper, red and black plum and a hint of cola. —S.B.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$58

91 Foursight 2020 Charles Vineyard Zero Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This Pinot Noir offers aromas and flavors of overripe wild strawberry, black pepper, stewed red plum, vanilla, nutmeg, toasted wood and cinnamon stick. Tannins absolutely melt in the mouth, while the balanced acidity adds vivacity and verve, all the while maintaining a robustness to the body and mouthfeel. —S.B.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$53

91 Foxen 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Tart pomegranate, riper cherry, mace and sage aromas pull the nose into this appellation cuvée. Rose petal enlivens the palate, where the brisk red-fruit and peppery spice flavors soar. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$37

91 Gary Farrell 2019 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Lighter in the glass with a beautiful shade of purplish red, this bottling from a historic property begins with earthy aromas of crushed oregano, chaparral scrub, wild berry and dust on the nose. Strong soil and rock flavors consume the palate as well, with brisk raspberry and a hint of purple flower enlivening the experience. —M.K.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$65

91 Inversion 2019 Lost Pear Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling from an organic estate begins with snappy aromas of red-cherry skins and pits, as a complex hint of petrol lingers on the backdrop.

The palate is bright and reductive at once, combining earthy flavors with bright red fruit and splashy acidity. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

91 La Crema 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 16.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

91 Laetitia 2019 Les Galets Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). There's a strong herb quality to the nose of this bottling, with oregano and thyme atop the crunchy cranberry aromas. Tangy red-fruit flavors form the core of the palate, with light smoke and wild-herb elements adding nuance. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$65

91 Left Bend 2018 Gali Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz County). Spicy aromas of cinnamon stick and sumac meet with candied rose petal and tart plum on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Roasted strawberry jam, tree-bark and more red-spice flavors make for a full-bodied palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$42

91 MacRostie 2020 Day Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Delicate on the nose, this wine truly comes alive on the palate, opening to notes of wet stone, damp earth, fresh raspberries, red currant, red cherry, cranberry, wild strawberry, cacao and toasted wood. The texture offers corduroy-like tannins and a solid backbone of acidity that gives vivacity to the drinking experience. —S.B.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$58

91 Sangiacomo 2021 Five Clone Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Prominent notes of cedar and dill meet red cherries, cranberries and a rather tart and moderately tannic mouthfeel in this full-bodied, firm-textured wine. Time should loosen its grip and mellow its flavors into something special. It will be best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Silvestri 2018 Rising Tide Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley). Warm aromas of mace, chai, nutmeg and pie filling invite the nose into this richer style of Pinot Noir. The palate is ripe with boysenberry-sorbet and blueberry flavors, with layers of clove and oak making for a comforting sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

91 Trinitas 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This well-structured, moderately tannic wine offers solid-quality black-fruit flavors on a full body. Black cherries and black currants have a lively, tangy edge that's appetizing and will be versatile in pairings. Best from 2025. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

90 Bogle 2018 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 17.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

90 District 7 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey). This widely available Pinot Noir hits the mark easily this year, offering sour-cherry, toasty spice

and baked black-raspberry aromas. There's an earthy mix of wild thyme, bay leaf and sagebrush to the palate, where raspberry and pomegranate flavors form the core. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Guarachi Family 2021 Sun Chase Estate Heritage Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Very concentrated, darkly fruity and moderately tannic, this full-bodied wine is brawny for the varietal and quite closed up at this point. Aged in new French barrels, the wine should drink best from 2026. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

90 Kosta Browne 2020 4-Barrel Pinot Noir (California). A balanced and overall tasty Pinot Noir, this come with notes of ripe red plum, strawberry and boysenberry, all as if plucked right from the bush—leaves, branches and all. Fruit notes are complemented by oak tones of cinnamon, nutmeg and toasted wood. There's just enough acidity to add that dose of freshness. A solid finish invites another sip. —S.B.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$220

90 Phillips Hill 2020 Day Ranch Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Beautiful aromas and flavors of ripe strawberry, red plum, pomegranate, basil, chocolate and forest floor engage the senses. On the palate, coarse tannins coat the palate, balanced by a moderate acidity. —S.B.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

90 Phillips Hill 2020 Oppenlander Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). An overall balanced and quaffable Pinot Noir, this has simple but enjoyable aromas and flavors of strawberry, raspberry, red plum and red currant, complemented by subtle oak tones of baking spice and toasted wood. —S.B.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

90 Reata 2020 Three County Pinot Noir (Sonoma County-Monterey County). This savory, mineral, nervy wine goes for earthy, herbal aromas and steely, tart fruit flavors like bay leaf, black tea and rhubarb, giving it a distinctly different profile. A full body and light tannins add good texture. **Best Buy.** —J.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

90 Seabold Cellars 2019 Brosseau The Swale Pinot Noir (Chalone). This is a brisk and somewhat tart bottling at this stage of its existence, and may warm up with time. Aromas of sour cherry, raspberry and herb on the nose lead into a tarragon-laced palate of tomato and tart red fruits. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

89 Complicated 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Cranberry, rose, wet soil and thyme aromas make for a decently complex nose on this bottling. Rich plum and berry flavors arise on the palate, which is earthy with soil and sage elements. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$24

89 Dutton Estate 2021 Manzana Vineyard Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Generous oak spices dress up this full-bodied wine with cinnamon, cloves and mint while a good red-cherry core adds the fruit components. While full bodied, it's smooth and light in tannins. —J.G.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$66

89 Imagery 2021 Pinot Noir (California). For full review see page 18.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Joel Gott 2021 Pinot Noir (California). An elevated acidity gives this California Pinot Noir a lightness, brightness and vivacity of fruits. It features lively notes of cranberry, pomegranate, wild strawberry and a pop of candied red cherry. —S.B.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

89 Mon Frere 2021 Pinot Noir (California). A simple, yet expressively earthy Pinot Noir, this bottling offers notes of black and red cherry, black and red currant, toasted aniseed, fresh fennel fronds and licorice. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Muns 2017 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). A bit rich and extracted on the nose, this bottling begins with creamy plum and strong clove aromas. The palate picks up cardamom and more baking spices, with the roasted black-plum flavors showing a touch of age. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

89 Summerland 2019 Clone 667 Theresa Noelle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Tart pomegranate and cranberry aromas are cut by orange rind and rose petal on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines brisk red-fruit and citrus tartness with subtle pepper spices. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

88 Bricoleur 2019 Estate Grown Special Selection Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This big, flavorful wine offers plenty of oak accents over robust black-cherry and black-pepper flavors bracketed by obvious tannins. Smoky elements come out on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

88 Cobble Creek 2021 Pinot Noir (Paso Robles). Bright raspberry, rosewater and cherry aromas are likable (if simple) on the nose of this bottling. The palate is brisk with red-plum flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Donkey & Goat 2021 Filigreen Farm Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is an overall balanced and quaffable Pinot Noir featuring notes of overripe strawberry, cinnamon, candied red cherry and baby's breath. Coarse tannins coat the tongue; the finish is solid. —S.B.

abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$60

88 Rexford 2017 Lester Family Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a quite

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gamy style of Pinot Noir, starting with dried and roasted meat aromas along with cranberry and plum scents. A charcuterie element shows strongly on the palate as well alongside smoked berry and tart plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$44

88 Sangiacomo 2019 Eden Dale Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Black-pepper and beef jus aromas lead to earthy, woody, smoky flavors in this full-bodied and mature-tasting wine. It emphasizes mellow, aged flavors over fresh fruitiness. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Sean Minor 2021 California Series Pinot Noir (California). A simple and altogether well-balanced Pinot Noir offering notes of red currant, cranberry, wild strawberry, rhubarb, damp forest floor, cinnamon and tree bark. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Silvestri 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley). Strawberry candy and cinnamon spice are prominent on the nose of this bottling. Sour-cherry and tart strawberry flavors make for a ripe yet tangy palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

87 Charmant 2018 Proprietor's Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Quite extracted aromas of plum and berry are loaded with caramel and other barrel-spice elements on the nose of this bottling. Similar flavors of clove, cardamom cream and caramel dominate the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

87 Hess Select 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Fruity aromas of punch, grenadine and orange juice recall a tequila-sunrise cocktail on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tart, with red-plum and orange-rind flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

86 Blank Verse 2021 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Tarry aromas meet with turned loam and plummy fruit on the nose of this bottling. The palate is viscous and smoothed out in texture, showing roasted plum, pepper and herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

86 Francis Ford Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Pinot Noir (California). A balanced Pinot Noir, this offers notes of red cherry, red currant, cinnamon and licorice, with crunch tannins and moderate acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

86 Grayson 2021 Lot 5 Pinot Noir (California). An overall balanced Pinot Noir, this has light-intensity aromas and flavors of candied red cherry, cinnamon, licorice, turned earth and raisin. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Ryder Estate 2021 Pinot Noir (California). This simple Pinot Noir gives notes of over-ripe black cherry and black plum alongside smoky-

toasty wood, vanilla, clove and nutmeg. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 Vennstone 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County-Monterey County-Santa Barbara County). This simple red wine has elevated alcohol and a light intensity of aromas and flavors, including red and black cherry, plum and fennel. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$20

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

98 Far Niente 2019 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

96 Diogenes 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

95 Goldschmidt 2019 Yoeman Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

95 J. Lohr 2019 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Nearly opaque in the glass, this luxury-level bottling lays all of J. Lohr's extensive tools on the table, and succeeds with an intense, complex package. Aromas of dark fruit, densely packed flowers, cocoa and coffee leads from the nose into a palate wrapped in expertly polished tannins. They're firm, but they relent at the right time to allow cassis, graphite and cappuccino flavors to shine. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100

95 Sequoia Grove 2019 Winemaker Series Rutherford Bench Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This bold and nicely concentrated wine blends rich blackberry and blueberry flavors with hints of cedar and graphite supported by full yet rounded tannins. It has the density and structure to keep improving with time. Best between 2028 and 2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$90

95 Stuhmuller Vineyards 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

94 Austin Hope 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 7.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$56

94 Bricoleur 2019 Kick Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Fountaingrove District). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

94 Cakebread 2019 Benchland Select Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Posh blueberry,

mocha and cooked cherry flavors pack this velvety, rich 100% varietal wine from the first sniff through a lingering finish. The wine is impressively concentrated, yet soothingly soft in rich tannins. It is easy to enjoy now through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$142

94 Kunde 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

94 McGrail 2019 James Vincent Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$79

94 Outward 2021 Massa Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley). The historic Massa Vineyard, formerly Durney and Heller, should be on everyone's radar for producing classically unique Cab. This bottling offers fresh and punchy strawberry aromas alongside clove and licorice on the nose. A zippy acidity cuts through the raspberry and crushed rock flavors of the palate, where a leathery texture ensures a long cellar life. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

94 Stolen Owl 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yountville). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$125

93 Anthem Winery 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mount Veeder). Suave and delicious, this velvety textured and richly flavored wine was aged in all-new barrels and overflows with ripe black plums and black cherries wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Tempting to drink now but the wine will become more complex and smooth from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$130

93 Cakebread 2019 Suscol Springs Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A luscious mouth-feel and saturated black-fruit flavors give this wine a smooth, deep expression. Aged in 70% new barrels, it's loaded with blueberries, black cherries and dark chocolate that weave through soft, silky tannins. It's great to drink now or save until 2033. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$130

93 Dorcich 2019 Monte Bello Road Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a pure streak of darkly detailed yet fresh red fruit on the nose of the bottling, which is layered in aromas of wood and cocoa spice. The palate is wrapped in a sappy grip that will soften with time, as flavors of mahogany, black pepper and blackberry align atop persistent acidity. Drink now through 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

93 Mahoney 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmos-Napa Valley). Well-balanced and firmly structured, this full-bodied wine grown in the relatively cool Carneros district will pair beautifully with grilled

lamb chops or beef steak in the near future, and also will improve with time. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

93 **Piazza Family 2020 Grimms Bluff Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Baked blackberry and licorice aromas make for a dark while balanced expression on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard that was planted according to biodynamic principles. The palate lands with a dry texture, offering mole-like flavors of chocolate and roasted cocoa, with dark berry fruit in the background. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$56

93 **Sol Rouge 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** A very good quality Cabernet Sauvignon, this has a ripe fruit structure, corduroy-like tannins and well-integrated oak tones. It offers notes of black cherry, chocolate, black plum, cassis, nutmeg, vanilla, fennel fronds, black-pepper spice and crushed violets. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

92 **Bargetto 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Dark-wood aromas of mahogany and black olive frame the elderberry scents on the nose of this bottling. The palate is brooding, with dark-chocolate, elderberry-jam and spicy wood-oil flavors, growing riper into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

92 **Chronic Cellars 2021 Sir Real Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$17

92 **Foxen 2019 Vogelzang Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Approachable aromas of cherry and crumpled red flowers draw the nose into this bottling from a vineyard on the eastern side of the Santa Ynez Valley. Tight, grippy tannins frame the medium-bodied palate, where snappy cranberry and cinnamon flavors are dusted in pepper spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$64

92 **Goldschmidt 2019 Game Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville).** For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$90

92 **Howell Mountain Vineyards 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain).** This classic style of California Cab boasts cedary, toasty, herbal aromas and superripe blackberries and black cherries on the palate, shaped by firm, sandy tannins. Enjoy with a meaty meal from 2026–2036. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$120

92 **Kunde 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** Smooth, supple and harmonious, this full-bodied wine offers plump black-plum and black-cherry flavors on a rounded texture of soft tannins. Best now through 2030. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 **Bedarra 2019 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This bold and firm-textured wine is holding its flavors pretty tightly with tannins at this point, but ample cranberries and black plums form its core and it should develop with time. Best to cellar through at least 2026. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

91 **Hess Select 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This Cabernet Sauvignon adds a bit of Petite Sirah and Malbec to the mix. The result is an overall well-balanced red that offers approachable layers of complexity. You will find notes of black currant, black plum, boysenberry jam, clove, nutmeg, coriander, black licorice and just a hint of barnyard. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 **Lexington 2019 South Slope Gist Ranch Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Fresh aromas of frozen strawberry and blossoming red flowers are juicy on the nose of this bottling, which includes 2% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Accessible flavors of cherry paste, light herb and pepper make for a straightforward palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$100

91 **Piazza Family 2020 Bella Vista Vineyard Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Ballard Canyon).** Savory aromas of soy and dark wood meet with lush blackberry on the nose of this bottling—one of the first Cabs to come from this property. The palate is smooth and rich, with fine tannins framing the balanced blackberry, vanilla and caramel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$58

91 **Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Barbara County).** Dark-olive, black-currant, tarry soil and fennel-pollen aromas make for a complex and classic nose on this bottling. The-wild herb flavors pop more on the palate, where focused blackberry flavors complete the experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

91 **Summerland 2019 Jardine Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Focused aromas of blackberry and black currant are intense on the nose and are lifted by herb and peppercorn in this bottling. Leathery tannins present the palate, where cassis, black-olive and peppercorn flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

90 **Albatross Ridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley).** Sharp aromas of strawberry are both fresh and plump on the nose of this bottling. That red-fruit freshness pops on the palate as well, which is joyous if simple in expression. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$85

90 **Beauregard 2019 Beauregard Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Subtle aromas of black plum, soy, leather and caramel show on the nose of this bottling. The palate

offers a bolder side, delivering spice and oak elements that surround the black-plum-pudding core. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

90 **Carson Ridge 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Estrella District).** Cranberry aromas are dusted in oregano, marjoram, dried mint and cedar scents on the nose of this bottling. Wood-shaving flavors meet with similar herbs and fruit on the palate, as coffee bean adds spice on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Dorcich 2018 Monte Bello Road Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Fresh and snappy aromas of blackberry and red currant are dusted in cocoa and cigar-box notes on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard located 2,450 feet up in the mountains. The palate is tannic in texture and loaded with wood spice, which give an edge to the strawberry-jam flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$70

90 **Double Black 2021 Reserve Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Clean aromas of baked berry are spiced up by subtle barrel notes on the nose of this bottling. The palate is both lighter bodied and structurally firm, offering red-fruit, sumac, cinnamon and pepper-dust flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 **Hess Collection 2020 Maverick Ranches Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Mocha and mace spices enliven the strawberry and red-cherry aromas on the pleasantly easy nose of this bottling. The palate's red-cherry compote core is ripe with a hint of tartness, as a charcuterie element adds complexity. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Iron Side 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$12

90 **McGrail 2019 A J6 Élet Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** Giving a great balance of flavors and texture and good depth of flavor, this Cabernet Sauvignon offers notes of black cherry, black plum, black currant, cedar wood, tarragon, basil and fennel, with hints of vanilla and black-pepper spice. —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$59

90 **McGrail 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** A bit shy on the nose, this varietal Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in combination American and Hungarian oak, comes to life on the palate with notes of black cherry, black plum, black currant, wet stone, vanilla, nutmeg and clove. It is friendly and approachable. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$49

90 **Motif 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** For full review see page 20.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Sobon Estate 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$18

90 Solitary Cellars 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This Cab Sauv offers great depth of flavor and structural balance at a consumer-friendly price point. You will find aromas and flavors of black cherry, blackberry, black currant, cedar wood, eucalyptus, vanilla, nutmeg, cacao, black pepper spice and violets. The full-bodied wine is filled with grippy tannins, well-matched by the voluptuous fruits and solid dose of acid. —S.B. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$30

90 Tooth & Nail 2021 The Squad Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Black-cherry, vanilla, violet and caramel aromas swirl into an inviting nose on this bottling. It's well structured on the palate, providing enough architecture and acidity to hold the blueberry, blackberry and bittersweet coca flavors. —M.K. **abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$25

90 Wente 2020 Southern Hills Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Coast). Pleasantly approachable aromas of blackberry sauce, mace and dried ginger meet with loamy soil on the nose of this bottling. Leathery tannins frame the palate, where rich, dark fruit and asphalt flavors cling to a long finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Casto Oaks 2018 May Rock Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills). A good quality Cabernet Sauvignon, this delivers notes of black cherry, black currant, black plum, bramble, capsicum, black-pepper spice, vanilla and toasted wood. Tight tannins coat the mouth, but are balanced by a refreshing amount of acidity. It's perfect for lovers of big, bold reds. —S.B. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Clone 337 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). This approachable Cabernet Sauvignon has well-integrated aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, toasted wood, black pepper, dried eucalyptus leaf and a hint of cedar. —S.B. **abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$48

89 Fog & Light 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Oregano and anise make for a rustic, herbal entry to the nose of this bottling, as dark-red berries add the fruit element. The palate picks up thyme and marjoram, with hints of savory tar and more dark-red fruits. —M.K. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Foxen 7200 2019 Los Potreritos Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). Baked blackberry and blueberry aromas are dusted with mocha and caramel on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with candied boysenberry

and purple-flower flavors that ripen toward the finish, proving easy to like and straightforward. —M.K. **abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$78

89 Sculpterra 2020 Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Cranberry, seasoning salts and light pepper aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up oregano, thyme and boysenberry flavors, with slightly bitter tannins framing the finish. —M.K. **abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$76

89 Sebastiani 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.* **abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$18

88 AJA Vineyards 2019 Miracle Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Malibu Coast). One of the few vineyards to survive a series of wildfire seasons in this appellation, this is an estate to track. This vintage offers rustic, tarry dried fruit, salted meat and pepper aromas on the nose, while the palate combines those elements with a fresher purple-fruit kick. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50

88 Carson Ridge 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Light in color, this bottling begins with aromas of cranberry, crushed rocks, light herb and soil on the nose. The lighter bodied palate is zesty, with tart red-plum, light rock and loam flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Chateau Robles 2020 Sunada Smoot Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Ripe and rich aromas of dark-red fruit, dried meat and mushroom show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is full bodied and nearly sweet, with black-plum, strong oak and vanilla flavors. —M.K. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Bing's Barn Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). An overall well-balanced Cabernet Sauvignon, this offers aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, fig, prune, licorice plus an appealing chocolatey finish. —S.B. **abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

88 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Clone 30 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley). Another approachable and well-balanced Cabernet Sauvignon from Darcie Kent, this offers aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, violets, star anise, raisin, black pepper, vanilla and toasted wood. —S.B. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$48

88 Double Black 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Macerated strawberries meet with mace and cinnamon on the easy-to-like nose of this bottling. The palate is fresh and fun if simple, offering those ripe red-fruit and tart cherry flavors, with sandalwood spice and sticky tannins on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$14

88 Ely by Callaway 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dried strawberry and wood-spice aromas make for a rich and bold nose on this bottling. Dried cherry, thyme and oregano flavors meet with a rusty minerality on the decently tense palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

88 Hungry Hawk 2019 Elliot Ranch Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (San Diego County). Slightly tarry aromas of charred asphalt meet with dried red fruit and pepper on the nose of this bottling. There's an aged charcuterie element to the palate alongside the charred berry flavors. —M.K. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

88 Integrity 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Roasted strawberry and plum meet with charcoal and smoke on the nose of this bottling. There's a leathery grip and flavor to the sip, where dark-berry and plum flavors meet with dried meat elements. —M.K. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$62

88 Inversion 2019 Arastradero Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley). Plummy aromas are somewhat extracted on the nose of this bottling, which also shows cigar box and potpourri aromas. Vanilla and oak are prominent on the palate, which surrounds a baked strawberry core. —M.K. **abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$42

88 Josh Cellars 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). An overall well-balanced and approachable Cabernet Sauvignon, this bottling has notes of blackberry, black cherry, black currant, pencil shaving, cinnamon, clove, toasted wood and roasted coffee. *Best Buy.* —S.B. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Josh Cellars 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Pleasant though very oak-driven aromas of black-cherry cream and brown spice show on the nose of this bottling. Soft tannins warp around more dark-cherry and oak flavors on the palate. —M.K. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Josh Cellars 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). A simple, easy-drinking Cabernet Sauvignon with notes of black plum, black currant, chocolate, black cherry, dark roasted coffee and vanilla bean. This full-bodied red comes complete with mouthcoating coarse tannins, balanced by a solid dose of acidity and a ripe fruit structure. —S.B. **abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$20

88 McCarthy 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Though more than a decade old, this bottling still shows much life. Aromas of blackberry, violet and mahogany lead from the nose into a jammy, woody palate with familiar Cab flavors. —M.K. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$80

88 **Sculpterra 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Oregano, turned earth and dark-cherry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's an underlying earthy flavor to the palate, where tar, pepper and berry flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

88 **True Myth 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark and candied cherry, wood-spice and dusty herb aromas show on the nose of this always reliable bottling. The palate is toasty at the top, dropping into stewed red-fruit flavors that approached sweetness. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

87 **Bolero at Europa Village 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Barbara County).** Strong oak and caramel aromas dominate the baked berry and cherry on the nose of this bottling. That oaky spice carries into the sip as well, where roasted strawberry flavors ride fine-grained tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$80

87 **Cobble Creek 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Red-berry and cinnamon aromas show on the mellow nose of this bottling from organic grapes. Baked berry, loamy soil and nutmeg-spice flavors show on the palate, which is wrapped in a sticky grip. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

87 **Josh Cellars 2020 Bourbon Barrel Aged Charred Oak Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** The Bourbon barrel aging on this wine means oak tones lead with cedar wood, vanilla, toast and smoke. It also offers an essence of sweetness to the ripe black-cherry and black-currant fruits on the palate. Still, there is a balanced acidity and grippy tannins for structural integrity. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

86 **Bec Hardy 2020 Chip Off The Old Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Jahant).** A straightforward Cab for everyday drinking, this is aromatic, with fistfuls of mint and medicinal herbs alongside cherry and strawberry jam and a soapy sweet oak note. The palate falls a bit flat and short, cinched by taut, astringent tannins. But there's tangy berry fruit there, too. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 **Reflection Ridge 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey County).** Funky game aromas meet with dried meat on the nose of this bottling. There's a leathery and charred wood flavor to the palate, where the fruit is more dried and sour than ripe. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

85 **Block Nine 2021 Caiden's Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Overall balanced and simple, this pale-ruby Cab offers a light intensity of aromas and flavors—candied cherry, licorice, cinnamon and toasted oak notes. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

85 **Great Bear 2019 Clone 6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Yolo County).** This overall balanced and simple expression of Cabernet Sauvignon offers aromas and flavors of red and black cherry candy, cinnamon and licorice, all backed by a moderate level of tannins and acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

85 **Mon Frere 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** A simple Cabernet Sauvignon, this bottling has moderate tannins, acid and alcohol with flavors of red cherry, red currant, black grape, prune and raisin. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 **Rickshaw 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** Aromas lead with oak notes of toasted wood, roasted coffee bean, vanilla pod and a kind of desert dustiness. What lies beneath is a dark-fruited profile of blackberry, black currant and black plum. A full mouth of coarse tannins coats the palate, leading towards a solid finish. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

84 **Criss Cross 2020 Intersection of Family and Vineyards Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Clarksburg).** This simple red offers notes of fresh cedar wood, raisin, dried black fig, prune, fresh and dried black currant and overripe blueberry. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET FRANC

94 **Sol Rouge 2018 Cabernet Franc (Red Hills).** A good Cab Franc should be complex and interesting—and this one truly is. The mouthcoating tannins add a pleasant texture and structural integrity and are well balanced by the elevated acidity and concentration of fruit. Oak is well integrated, working to uplift, rather than mask the flavor profile. You will find notes of black cherry, black currant, fig and fig leaf, menthol, toasted cedar and an aura of balsamic. It will be best through 2030. **Cellar Selection.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

92 **Foxen 2019 Old Vines Tinaquaic Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Maria Valley).** There's an elegant cigar-box scent to the nose of this dry-farmed bottling, but also much more, including dried strawberry, leather and Tellicherry peppercorn. That wood spice meets with dark cherry and warm baking-spice flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

92 **Outward 2021 Curtis Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** The nose on this bottling is laden with cracked pepper-spice and plenty of wild-chaparral aromas that decorate the plum-skin and raspberry fruit tones. Underripe strawberry, sagebrush and more peppercorn flavors show on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

91 **Bianchi 2019 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** Glazed plum, lightly cracked pepper

and bay leaf convey varietally familiar aromas on the nose of this bottling. It's medium to light bodied on the palate, where white pepper pops up the fresh raspberry and cranberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$83

91 **Defiance 2019 Estate Collection Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles).** Dark cherry and aged wood aromas invite the nose into this bottling. There is a tense texture to the palate right away, with waves of cigar box, dried berry and cracked pepper flavors. The leathery tannins pull into the finish, ensuring decent cellar potential. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

91 **Occasio 2018 Heritage Del Arroyo Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley).** A well-balanced Cabernet Franc, this offers a lively freshness to the fruits along with earthy tones and well-integrated oak. You will find notes of black plum, blackberry, blueberry, cinnamon, licorice, vanilla and fresh violets plucked after a dewy morning. —S.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

90 **Foxen 7200 2020 Tinaquaic Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Maria Valley).** Dense aromas of soy, tar and asphalt are cut by dried dark-fruit scents on the nose of this bottling. A warm wood spice coats the baked red-fruit and cherry flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

90 **Left Bend 2018 Black Ridge Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Light in the glass, this bottling leads with aromas of caramelized cranberry and blistered plum on the slightly tart nose. The palate is brisk and fresh, showing strawberry, sour-cherry and white-pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

90 **Lexington 2019 Gist Ranch Estate Cabernet Franc (Santa Cruz Mountains).** This is still a very young bottling, offering dark cherry, cranberry and pepper on the nose. The palate is very firm and taut, with cherry-tomato, cranberry and cracked peppercorn flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$70

89 **Ancient Peaks 2019 Cabernet Franc (Santa Margarita Ranch).** Black-plum, tobacco-leaf and damp wood aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which also includes 25% Merlot. Dark plummy flavors meet with cocoa, soy and well-integrated black-peppercorn notes on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

88 **Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Cabernet Franc (Santa Barbara County).** Fresh raspberry, carnation, pepper and asphalt show on the nose of this bottling. The texture is soft on the palate, where dark-red fruit meets with peppery spice and light acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$36

GRENACHE

94 Four Bridges 2020 Grenache (Paso Robles). Though a bold package overall, the nose on this bottling begins with rosewater, delicate cinnamon cream and light cherry aromas. The palate, in contrast, starts with a grippy texture, which floats buoyant strawberry and rose-petal flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$44

93 Croma Vera 2020 Grenache (Edna Valley). Kirsch-like aromas are spiced by mace, dried ginger and Dr Pepper scents on the nose of this vibrant, layered Grenache. The palate is fresh and juicy with floral edges, offering rose, carnation and red-spice flavors, with ample acidity and tension through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

93 Storrs 2019 Grenache (Central Coast). This bottling from a Santa Clara Valley vineyard offers generous aroma of strawberry pie, nutmeg and more baking spices in the deliciously rich nose. There's a brief hit of tannic grip at the tip of the sip, which opens into ripe cherry and spice cake flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Kings Carey 2019 Spear Vineyards Grenache (Sta. Rita Hills). A lighter, rusty, almost brown color in the glass, this is a complex bottling that grows more interesting with time. Aromas of dried cherry and white pepper drop into a cranberry, rose petal and cinnamon palate, which is wrapped in a leathery grip. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Mathis 2019 Grenache (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 14. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Sculpterra 2021 Grenache (Paso Robles). This is always a generously ripe and enjoyably juicy Grenache. Cherry-compote, loamy soil and pie-spice aromas lead from the nose into a bold palate, loaded with strawberry-cream and chai-spice flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$40

91 Chiron Wines 2018 Unfamiliar Truth Slide Hill Vineyard Grenache (Edna Valley). With an intensely dark hue in the glass, this bottling from an epic vineyard is jam-packed with spice, offering gingerbread, clove and nutmeg against the berry-fruit aromas. The spice is front and center on the palate as well, where firm tannins uphold the baked berry-fruit elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

91 DaFoe 2019 Suspect Device Grenache (Ballard Canyon). A bit lighter in the glass, this bottling from the Tierra Alta Vineyard would work well on a table with most every food, from grilled fish to pizza and pasta to roasted pork. Aromas of cherry, toasted sage, carnation and salted meats lead into

a palate of brisk red-fruit and savory pepper spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$48

91 Fulldraw 2019 Hard Point Grenache (Paso Robles). Goopy aromas of caramel, gingerbread, fig paste and oak-soaked fruits make for a powerful nose on this bottling. Those baked fruit and heavily barrel-spiced flavors flow through the palate as well, where a creamy mouthfeel and powdery tannins provide the intrigue. —M.K.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$90

90 Tomi 2020 Persistence of Vision Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley). This blend of Tierra Alta and Flores Family vineyards is a lighter hue in the glass, and offers cranberry, white-pepper and turned earth aromas. Light but leathery tannins frame the sip, where dried cherry and light peppercorn flavors give it a rustic feel. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

88 Bolero at Europa Village 2019 Garnacha (California). A rusty color in the glass, this rustic style of Grenache offers dried cherry, potpourri, cracked pepper and caramel aromas on the nose. There's a touch of age on the palate, where its strawberry-syrup and spice-cake flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$44

88 Est Cru 2021 Staring At The Sun Grenache (Dry Creek Valley). A relatively light color, low tannins and candied fruit flavors give this wine a sense of freshness and easy drinkability. It feels smooth, tastes ripe and goes down easily. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

SYRAH

96 Holus Bolus 2021 Presqui'lle Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). An excellent model of how cool-climate Syrah can be done on the California coast, this bottling energizes the nose with aromas of green, white and black peppercorn, bay leaf and smashed elderberry on the explosive nose. Those tremendous spices fire up black-raspberry fruit on the palate, leaving the tongue tantalized and ready for more. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$45

96 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Sandstone Terrace Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Few things are more distinctive than a zesty style of Syrah, as evidenced in this blend of the Nelson and Gali vineyards. Brisk, snappy and fresh aromas of smashed acai and blackberry lead into a texturally complex palate of refreshing, tart fruit, boosted by ample pepper and herb notes. —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$36

96 Stolo 2020 Syrah (San Luis Obispo County). Reliable magic happens every vintage with the Syrah from this extremely coastal property in a tight canyon behind Cambria. Plump elderberry and blueberry aromas are enhanced with pepper-

corn, bay leaf and asphalt on the nose. The palate is dominated by a peppery spice that uplifts the black-raspberry and herb flavors, as a hint of exotic vanilla emerges on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$56

95 Four Bridges 2020 Syrah (Paso Robles). Intense aromas of cassis and meat are lifted by zesty edges on the rich yet refreshing nose of this bottling. Lively purple-flower and fruit flavors are wrapped in lush tannins and a persistent acidity on the sip. This will evolve with interest. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$39

95 Holus Bolus 2021 Franc de Pied Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Snappy blackberry, singed asphalt, blood-sausage and iodine aromas make for a fascinatingly cool-climate nose on this bottling from own-rooted vines. It's tightly wound on the palate, where green peppercorn, green sage and wild thyme decorate the elderberry core. This wine will evolve in mysterious ways. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

95 The Joy Fantastic 2021 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Crisp and fresh aromas of raspberry, pomegranate and red to purple flowers are both delicate and juicy on the fresh nose of this bottling. The palate picks up the vineyard's hallmark cool-climate qualities, showing green-peppercorn, bay leaf and purple-flower flavors, with tight tannins holding firm through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

94 Claiborne & Churchill 2020 Spanish Springs Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo County). Lush aromas of purple flowers and freshly smashed plums are fresh while rich on the nose of this bottling, which is layered in mace and cinnamon spices. Gingerbread and star anise flavors surrounded the baked plum and berry elements of the rich palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$44

94 Foxen 2019 Williamson-Doré Vineyard Syrah (Los Olivos District). There's an intense peppercorn, iodine and smoked meat savory side to the nose of this bottling, with rustic elderberry providing the fruit tones. The palate's rugged, meaty flavors of teriyaki beef are spiced with peppercorn and black plum on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

94 Handley 2018 Kazmet Vineyard Syrah (Redwood Valley). Great integration of flavors and elevated fruit concentration puts this wine's mouthcoating, chalky tannins into context. A solid acidic backbone adds that much-needed freshness and highlights the vivaciousness of the fruit. There are notes of black currant, black plum and dehydrated plum skins, prune fennel, mocha fresh violets and dried forest floor. —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$28

94 Luna Hart 2021 Hinnrichs Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Fresh aromas of red cur-

rant, red apple and light bay leaf show on the nose of this immediately likable and still young bottling. The palate is zippy in acidity and loaded with lively flavors of raspberry and white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

94 Marimar 2018 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Grown Syrah (Russian River Valley). This cool-climate wine tastes like it came the northern Rhône Valley, offering earthy, peppery overtones and deep, concentrated black currants and blackberries. Its moderate tannins are well-matched by a rich texture that extends the fruit into a lingering finish. Best through 2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

94 Piazza Family 2020 Estate Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Intense aromas of black plum and fresh flowers meet with tar and iodine on the nuanced nose of this bottling. The palate balances purple-fruit and flowers flavors with the more rugged dried kelp and asphalt elements. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

93 Brooks Note 2021 Stolpman Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Clean and fresh aromas of black raspberry and black cherry are made even more alluring with a lavender kick on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Chalky tannins encompass joyously vibrant flavors of dark purple fruit, with lingering hints of savory game growing over time. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

93 Copia 2020 The Source Syrah (Central Coast). Bolstered by 5% Mourvèdre and 3% Grenache, this Syrah is brooding on the nose with crushed asphalt, fresh elderberry and charred meat aromas, offering a juxtaposition of dark and bright scents. Firm tannins frame the sip, where charcoal and roasted beef flavors are doused in berry compote. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

93 DaFoe 2019 Suntuocher Syrah (Alisos Canyon). Boysenberry, clove, dried beef and minty tobacco aromas converge into a heady swirl on the nose of this bottling. There's a beefy core to the palate, where berry compote, sagebrush and pepper-spice flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$55

93 Foxen 2019 Tinaquaic Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Black-plum and densely packed violet aromas invigorate the nose of this bottling. The palate is wrapped in a texture that clings through the finish, showcasing peppery herb, rosemary, lavender and more plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$52

93 Opolo 2020 Reserve Collection Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Hearty, gamy aromas of rich roasted fruit, tarry earth and grilled meats pull the nose into this bottling. There's an iodine and nori-wrap edge to the palate, where pep-

per and coffee elements meet with the dark fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$60

93 Samuel Louis Smith 2021 Nelson Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very light in the glass, this bottling is a fresh version of the grape, offering crisp, punchy aromas of plum, pomegranate and lilac on the nose. The vibrant, energetic palate casts Syrah in a refreshing light, with juicy fruits, purple flowers and white pepper riding through a leathery texture on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$47

93 Silvestri 2019 Red Ranger Syrah (Carmel Valley). For full review see page 11. *Hidden Gem.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

92 Foxen 2019 Toasted Rope Tinaquaic Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). Fresh boysenberry aromas meet with intense violet on the nose of this single-vineyard expression, which includes a healthy dose of 12% Viognier. A taut frame encases the palate, giving structure to the rich blueberry and purple-flower flavors, with a vibrant acidity throughout. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

92 Outward 2021 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). The nose on this whole-cluster bottling, much of which comes from proprietor Ryan Pace's family vineyard, offers both roasted and fresh aromas of black plum, with hints of violet and dried beef. The palate is intensely structured, framing the acai, white-pepper, purple-flower and roasted game flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

91 Foxen 2020 Heritage Old Vines Dry Farmed Tinaquaic Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley). These old vines produce a very youthful style of Syrah in this bottling, which offers fruity aromas of crème de cassis and lilac extract on the nose. The palate is intense and lively with fresh flavors of violet and blueberry. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

91 Inversion 2019 Pappy's Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Tobacco, mahogany and elderberry notes greet the nose on this bottling, created from a 300-vine vineyard that the proprietors planted for their father in 2011. Flavors of charred berry, potpourri and cracked pepper meet with a tarry funk on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$52

91 Le Vigne 2019 Di Domenico Syrah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Qupé 2020 Syrah (Central Coast). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). Polished aromas of boysenberry

candy and blackberry jam meet with a purple-flower purity on the nose of this bottling. Those fresh, jammy and crisp boysenberry flavors ride a persistent acidity on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$30

91 Samsara 2019 Om Reserve Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This bottling is very minty on the nose, with menthol aromas enhancing the dried red-fruit and potpourri elements. The palate is very floral, with violet and lavender flavors as well as a fresh plum-flesh quality. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$89

91 Silvestri 2019 Estate Syrah (Carmel Valley). Dark acai and intense violet aromas meet with loam and espresso on the complex nose of this bottling. The palate is dominated by purple-fruit and flower flavors, as a gamy, tarry element adds a savory element to the finish. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

90 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Reserve Syrah (El Dorado). This is an overall well-balanced Syrah, with notes of black cherry, black plum, bramble, prune, raisin and a smoky-toasty wood. The palate offers up a chalky tannic structure that is well-met by a good fruit concentration and a dose of acidity. —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$32

90 Fazeli Cellars 2018 Shiraz (Temecula Valley). Light in the glass, this bottling offers red fruit, cracked pepper and dried meat on the nose. The palate combines chaparral spices with muddled red-fruit and peppery spices. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Inversion 2019 Montevina Ridge Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is a rugged and meaty style of Syrah, from vines planted 2,100 feet above Lexington Reservoir on the inland side of the mountains. Aromas of muddled black plum, smoked elderberry and peppercorn lead into a dense palate of classic dark-fruit, smoke and black-pepper flavors. Time may smooth out some harder tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Koehler 2018 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). Roasted berry, smoke and light pepper-spice aromas make for a familiar nose on this bottling. The pallet shows more of an umami side, with grilled meat and baked plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

90 Mellowood 2020 Estate Syrah (Fair Play). This full-bodied Syrah delivers ripe fruits and well-integrated oak tones along with a full mouth of coarse tannins. You'll find notes of black plum, red and black grapes, blackberry jam, black cherry compote, vanilla, candied licorice and a hint of cinnamon, leading towards a warm finish. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

90 Ram's Gate 2019 Richards Vineyard Syrah (Sonoma Valley). This grippy, focused wine

BUYINGGUIDE

is powerful in black-fruit and black-pepper flavors and firmly wrapped in tannins. Time will soften the astringent texture and bring out more complexity from the tight blackberry and blueberry flavors. Best from 2028–2038. —J.G.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$70

90 Tomi 2019 Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Rugged aromas of roasted meat, iodine and oak sit atop smoother out black cherry on the nose of this bottling from Tierra Alta Vineyard. The palate offers smoked berry and light vanilla flavors, presented on a soft structure. —M.K.

abv: 15.7%

Price: \$50

89 Morse 2015 Estate Syrah (Amador County). Notes of blackberry and boysenberry jam, black-plum compote, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, gamy meat umami, soy, black-pepper spice and a hint of dried violets are packed into this varietal Syrah. The full-body coats the palate with coarse tannins; the elevated alcohol level (15.8%) leads to a warm finish. —S.B.

abv: 15.8%

Price: \$24

88 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2019 Syrah (Temecula Valley). Rugged aromas of macerated plum, bay leaf and fennel show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers peppercorn and anise atop the muddle red-plum and citrus-rind flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$49

88 Civilization 2018 Ampelos Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). The nose on this bottling from a biodynamic vineyard is dominated by woody incense and mulling spice aromas. The palate brings baked plum to the experience, with that same patchouli-like quality showing most prominently. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

88 Muns 2017 Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Muddled berry and dusty clove aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard located 2,600 feet high in the mountains. The spice-cake flavors of the palate offer clove, cardamom and mace qualities. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$34

MOURVÈDRE

93 Casto Oaks 2019 The Dream Mourvèdre (Calaveras County). This really lovely and expressive Mourvèdre engages the senses almost immediately and keeps the vivacity going through to a long finish. It offers notes of raspberry, red currant, bright red cherry, wild strawberry, fresh basil and tarragon, forest floor, white-pepper spice and a dusty-earthly minerality. —S.B.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$25

91 Morse 2018 Mourvèdre (Amador County). This nicely balanced Mourvèdre is the perfect pairing to slow-roasted meats or hearty veggie stews. You'll find notes of ripe boysenberry and

blueberry, cacao, forest floor, cinnamon stick, anise, black-pepper spice and dried violets. —S.B.

abv: 14%

Price: \$24

91 Wilson Creek 2019 Reserve Mourvèdre (Temecula Valley). Light in the glass, this rustic style of Mourvèdre works well in this hot region. Aromas of strawberry paste, leather, rose and wild sage lead from the nose into a palate awash in sagebrush, thyme and red-plum juice, as a savory touch of soy shows on the unique finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$45

MALBEC

92 Assiduous 2020 Blackridge Vineyard Malbec (Santa Cruz Mountains). This is maybe what Malbec tastes like when it's not superripe and oaked out. Aromas are reminiscent of loam, crushed rocks, mushroom and elderberry. There's touches of black cherry in the dry palate, but it's the peppercorn, wild-mint and graphite flavors riding the tight weave that make the magic. —M.K.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$30

90 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Reserve Malbec (El Dorado). This varietal Malbec is well-balanced by the ripeness of the fruit, the plushy, friendly tannins and the well-integrated oak integration—it's just a happy combination. You'll find notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, prune, dill, fennel, and parsley. —S.B.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$32

90 Martin Ranch 2018 Therese Vineyards Dos Ninas Vineyard Malbec (Santa Clara Valley). Black plum, boysenberry and candied rose make for an approachable nose on this bottling. The palate is ripe, with boysenberry-juice flavors as light tannins giving a touch of bite. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$48

90 Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Malbec (Santa Barbara County). Dark-wood aromas of mahogany meet with dark plum and light cocoa on the nose of this bottling. The palate is dense, with roasted plum and elderberry flavors, showing a pleasant grapey note on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$36

87 My Story 2019 Aged in Bourbon Barrels Reserve Malbec (Paso Robles). Muddled plum, graphite, incense and olive aromas make for a unique mix on this bourbon-barrel-aged wine. The palate shows off that wood spice, with hints of licorice and stewed plums as well. —M.K.

abv: 15.7%

Price: \$22

MERLOT

94 Bargetto 2020 Regan Vineyards Reserve Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains). Potpourri and blackberry-jam aromas make for an enjoyable nose on this bottling. Hefty but feathery tannins give a compelling texture to the sip, providing an

elegant lens to enjoy the blackberry-sauce, sandalwood and mocha-cream flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

94 Lexington 2019 Gist Ranch Estate Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains). Could Merlot be the true gem of the warmer areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains? This bottling says yes, showing red-cherry, wood-spice and minty herb aromas on the nose. The palate clings to a firm tannic frame, offering umami-laced flavors of soy, herb, red fruit and baking spice. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$70

92 Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Merlot (Santa Barbara County). Tightly wound aromas of red fruit, violet and cappuccino convey elegant heft on the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard. Firm tannins uphold buoyant fresh red-fruit and carnation flavors on the serious palate. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$30

91 Inversion 2019 Brendy Merlot (Santa Clara Valley). Dark-cherry, woodpile, rose-petal and brown-spice aromas make for a very complex nose on this bottling, which is one in a series named after winery employees. There's a camphor kick to the palate, giving an edge to the dark-berry-jam core. —M.K.

abv: 13.7%

Price: \$38

90 Peirano 2021 The Heritage Collection Merlot (Lodi). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$15

89 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Old Vines Merlot (San Francisco Bay). This is a friendly and approachable Merlot, with corduroy-like tannins, good fruit concentration and balanced oak integration. It delivers flavors of blackberry, blueberry, black-pepper spice, fresh and dried violets, river rock minerality, toasted wood and slight hints of vanilla and nutmeg. —S.B.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$40

89 Double Black 2021 Merlot (Paso Robles). Charred cherry and fresh berry meet with roasted meat aromas on the nose of this bottling. There's a peppery spice to the palate, where black plum and purple flowers make for an easygoing sip. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

88 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Reserve Merlot (El Dorado). A solid, medium-bodied Merlot, this delivers balanced notes of black cherry, dark chocolate, black licorice, turned earth and toasted wood. —S.B.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$32

88 Las Positas 2019 Estate Merlot (Livermore Valley). A very well-balanced and medium-bodied Merlot, this bottling is filled with firm, tight-

grained tannins and offers notes of boysenberry, blueberry, violet, anise and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$65

88 Tomi 2019 Estelle Vineyard Merlot (Los Olivos District). There's a lot of barrel influence in this bottling, with clove and nutmeg spices shrouding the dark-fruit aromas of the nose. Those hard spices dominate the creamy palate as well. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% Price: \$65

85 Blazon 2021 Estate Grown Merlot (Lodi). This arrives with aromas and flavors of candied blueberry, blackberry jam, cinnamon, licorice candy, cocoa, vanilla extract and toasted wood. The notes imparted by the oak influence give this wine a hint of sweetness, making the palate feel a tad off-dry. That feeling is further enhanced by the ripe, plush tannic structure. —S.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

TEMPRANILLO

91 Marimar 2018 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Grown Tempranillo (Russian River Valley). Offering vivid strawberries on the nose and full, dusky black fruits on the palate, this full-bodied and appropriately tannic wine craves a grilled lamb chop or eggplant parmigiana. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$57

90 Bolero at Europa Village 2020 Tempranillo (California). Tight aromas of berry sorbet and rose petal are simple but pleasant on the nose of this bottling. The palate snaps with dark-fruit flavors, as the variety's sandy, sticky tannins linger into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$50

90 Las Positas 2019 Estate Tempranillo (Livermore Valley). A lighter and brighter expression of Tempranillo, this offers vivacious fruit notes of boysenberry, blackberry and just-ripe black plum along with well-integrated oak tones of chocolate, vanilla and toast. —S.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$60

90 Tooth & Nail 2021 The Squad Tempranillo (Paso Robles). Clean and dark aromas of black plum, elderberry, wild thyme and fennel give a rustic angle to the nose of this bottling. The structure is sticky and yet the body remains medium, carrying peppercorn, fennel and dark-purple-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

89 Six Sigma Ranch 2019 Grand Reserve Tempranillo (Lake County). A Tempranillo built for those who love a big, bold wine with a chewy tannin texture. Find notes of charred wood, roasted coffee bean, black-plum skin, black pepper, licorice, cinnamon stick and turned earth. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$79

89 Tinto Rey 2020 Tempranillo (Dunnigan Hills). Initial aromas are of ripe black plum,

chocolate, vanilla, toasted wood, Mission fig, and fig jam. The palate is greeted with a mouthful of coarse, grippy tannins that are well-met by the concentration of fruit and the good intensity of flavors that add fennel, tarragon and basil herbal notes as well. —S.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$20

88 Gali 2017 Reserve Tempranillo (Santa Cruz Mountains). Vanilla, caramel and berry-syrup aromas make for an extracted, slightly aged nose on this bottling. There is ample barrel influence on the palate, where a nutmeg-spice elevates the minty fennel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$45

PETITE SIRAH

93 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Reserve Petite Sirah (El Dorado). Ripe, juicy fruits give this varietal Petite Sirah a welcome dose of freshness. Tannins are coarse, chalky, but dissipate elegantly through the length of the tasting. Find engaging aromas and flavors of black cherry, blueberry, black plum, Mission fig, black-pepper spice, vanilla, sweet tobacco and dried violets. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

93 Morse 2017 Petite Sirah (Amador County). This red is big, bold, but perfectly well rounded with those plushy tannins and a good concentration of fruit that is complemented by spices from the oak. Its flavors are those of ripe black plum, black grapes, violets, black pepper, cacao, damp forest floor and fresh mushroom. —S.B.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$25

93 Storrs 2019 Rusty Ridge Petite Sirah (Santa Clara County). Dark, concentrated blueberry and elderberry aromas meet with cracked pepper and rustic herbs on the nose of this bottling from old vines in nearly forgotten vineyards. The viscous texture is incredibly compelling, giving body to the powerful elderberry, acai and violet flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$33

92 Four Bridges 2020 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Inky and intense in the glass, this bottling is loaded with dark fruit and smoked wood on the caramelized, extracted nose. The palate is viscous as expected, yet with firm tannins to hold the rich and ripe flavors of elderberry cream, cracked pepper and mint in check. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$46

91 Chronic Cellars 2021 Suite Petite Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Few brands combine style, substance and consistency like this one. This vintage's Petite Sirah pops on the nose with black fruit, pepper, wild herb and light caramel. The palate is framed by firm but forgiving tannins that hold blueberry and peppery herb flavors together. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$17

90 Le Vigne 2019 Di Domenico Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Fresh and dark elderberry aromas are dusted in pepper and light herbs on the dense nose of this bottling. Leathery tannins pair with stewed, slightly tart dark-fruit flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$51

88 Est Cru 2021 Heavy Hitter Petite Sirah (Lodi). An overall balanced and fairly approachable Petite Sirah, this has notes of black cherry, black plum, chocolate, fennel, cumin, coriander and a hint barnyard of barnyard funk. —S.B.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$34

86 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2020 Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). Dark in the glass, this bottling is very extracted on the nose, with prune aromas being most prominent. Chunky tannins frame the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% Price: \$60

ZINFANDEL

93 St. Francis 2020 Anacleto Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.1% Price: \$52

93 V. Sattui 2020 Ramazzotti Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 12. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 15% Price: \$48

93 V. Sattui 2020 School House Creek Old Vine Zinfandel (Sonoma County). For full review see page 12.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$46

92 Amador Cellars 2019 Breitmeyer Vineyards Primitivo (Amador County). This Primitivo opens with beautiful aromatics, but the fruits truly come alive on the palate and are nicely complemented by nuanced oak integration—all of which culminates in a lingering finish. You'll find notes of black cherry, black plum, cedar cologne, black-pepper spice, fresh cut wood, fennel and tarragon. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$32

92 Handley 2018 Kazmet Vineyard Zinfandel (Redwood Valley). Aromas of extremely ripe blueberry, blackberry and juicy black plum waft out of the glass. The palate adds earthy tones of wet stone, tarragon, basil, fennel and just a hint of cacao. An elevated alcohol level (15.2%) is balanced by a solid dose of acidity and the wine's excellent fruit concentration. —S.B.
abv: 15.2% Price: \$28

92 Kunde 2019 Estate Grown Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). This handsome and spicy wine is packed with ripe fruit flavors and generously accented by cedar, mint, nutmeg and cinnamon from aging in oak barrels. A full body and moder-

BUYINGGUIDE

ate tannins create a mouthfilling effect. Enjoyable through 2028. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$22

92 Sobon Estate 2020 Zinfandel (Fiddletown). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$23

91 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Reserve Zinfandel (El Dorado). With the lovely integration of fruit, earth and spice, there's a lot to like about this full-bodied Zin. You'll find notes of blackberry, boysenberry, bramble, tarragon, dusty earth, fresh and dried violets, eucalyptus leaf and gently toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$32

91 Double Black 2021 Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Raspberry-jam and wet rock aromas make for a clean and focused nose on this bottling. Rich strawberry and boysenberry flavors entertain the palate, which shows a cocoa-dust element on the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

91 Edmeades 2019 Zinfandel (Mendocino County). This deep, rich expression of Zinfandel, delivers notes of overripe blueberry and blackberry, black-plum jam, Mission figs, black-cherry compote, chocolate, vanilla, black pepper and a hint toasted wood. The voluptuousness of the fruit is well-met by the coarse, mouthcoating tannins and elevated alcohol and balanced by a solid acid structure. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$20

91 Le Poidevin 2021 Lopez Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Cucamonga Valley). Hailing from old vines in what was once American's winemaking capital, this bottling is light in the glass and pops on the nose, with licorice, wild-herb and baked red-fruit aromas. The palate is dry and tight, with bright red-fruit and toasted sagebrush flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 McClean 2020 Simone Zinfandel (Paso Robles). This is a ripe, juicy and ultimately satisfying Zinfandel, starting with aromas of cinnamon, strawberry and rainy cement on the nose of this bottling. Muddled flavors of cherry-tomato and strawberry syrup are dusted in pepper and herbs on the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 15.84% **Price:** \$16

91 Mellowood 2019 Estate Zinfandel (Fair Play). A robust, intense Zinfandel this is appetizing, with aromas and flavors of black cherry, boysenberry, marionberry, bramble, dark chocolate, mint, nutmeg, vanilla and a slight smokiness in back-palate. An elevated level of acidity adds the much-needed dose of freshness alongside the mouthcoating tannins and higher (16%) alcohol level. —S.B.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$38

91 St. Francis 2020 Old Vines Zinfandel (Sonoma County). Built for further aging or rich pro-

tein dishes, this firmly tannic and well-concentrated wine wraps a good core of blackberries, blueberries and dark chocolate in fine-grained tannins. Decant if you want to drink it now, or enjoy from 2025. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$22

90 Andis 2021 Painted Fields Old Vine Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$30

90 Beauregard 2019 Beauregard Ranch Zinfandel (Santa Cruz Mountains). Smoked strawberry and hickory aromas meet with dusty herbs on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with acidity that cuts through the oak-roasted red-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

90 Casto Oaks 2017 Jessie's Zin Estate Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). Initial aromas of this full-bodied red are of red and black plum, red and black cherry, boysenberry, eucalyptus, tar and leather. The palate follows through with these notes, adding to them a savory, appetizing game-meat quality. Coarse tannins coat the palate, well-met by the robust flavor profile. —S.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$25

90 Helwig 2020 Zinfandel (Sierra Foothills). This is a fun and approachable, albeit big, red wine. It comes with flavors of blackberry, black cherry, vanilla, chocolate, black-pepper spice, tarragon, boysenberry coulis, toasted wood and just a hint of smoke. Tannins are fine-grained and there's just enough acid to add that needed balance of freshness. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$18

90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Incredible Red Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 20.
Best Buy.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

90 Peachy Canyon 2020 Westside Zinfandel (Paso Robles). For full review see page 18.
Editors' Choice.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$24

90 Sculpterra 2020 Reserve Primitivo (Paso Robles). Cinnamon, fennel pollen and strawberry aromas make for a unique nose on this bottling. There is complex richness on the palate, with strawberry-jam and wild-herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$64

90 Sobon Estate 2020 ReZerve Zinfandel (Amador County). A mature tannic structure is evident, along with the glycerin-softness of the alcohol that makes this an approachable full-bodied red. Good concentration of fully ripe fruits and well-integrated oak tones bring a balance of flavor as well. You'll find notes of blueberry and blackberry, vanilla, toasted wood, sweet tobacco and hints licorice and chocolate. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

90 Storrs 2018 Rusty Ridge Zinfandel (Santa Clara County). Quite dark in the glass, this bottling from old-vine vineyards offers roasted strawberry and licorice aromas on the nose. Coffee and cocoa flavors arise on the palate, which also shows smoked and tart berry elements, wrapped in a grippy structure. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$34

89 Sobon Estate 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Amador County). For full review see page 21.
Best Buy.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

89 Sobon Estate 2020 Rocky Top Zinfandel (Amador County). For full review see page 18.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

88 Mellowood 2018 Estate Zinfandel (Fair Play). Notes of blackberry, black plum, blueberry, dried fig, prune and raisin mark this red. They are followed by oak tones of chocolate, vanilla and toasted wood. Structurally, the wine offers plush tannins, robust alcohol, moderate acidity and a full body. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

88 Sandahl 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Cucamonga Valley). From vines planted in 1918, this bottling is intensely rich and oaky on the nose, packing black-plum power alongside brown spice. The palate is viscous and quite sweet, showing blueberry-jam flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$35

87 Sobon Estate 2020 Cougar Hill Estate Zinfandel (Amador County). Oak-forward on the nose and palate, there are also notes of chocolate, vanilla, clove, cumin and toasted wood followed by light-intensity fruits of blueberry and blackberry. —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

86 Shenandoah Vineyards 2020 Special Reserve Zinfandel (Amador County). A simple red, this is filled with overripe fruits of black plum, jammy black cherry, concentrated prune, raisin and black currant. Oak notes of pepper, vanilla and toasted wood underline it all. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$13

85 Grayson 2021 Lot 12 Zinfandel (California). A light-intensity Zin, this offers simple aromas and flavors of red- and black-cherry candy; cinnamon, licorice, prune and raisin. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

RED BLENDS

95 Copia 2020 The Cure Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast). There's a purity of fruit to the nose of this bottling, from black raspberry to elderberry and blueberry, with hints of elegant flowers and pepper adding complexity. It's tightly wound on the sip, where fennel-frond, pepper and

charcuterie flavors enliven the dark-fruit tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

95 ONX 2019 Reckoning Rhône-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 6.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$58

94 Cavaletti 2020 Dystopia Red Blend (California). Complex aromas of blueberry, baking spice, herb and smoke appear on the nose of this blend of 54% Tempranillo, 22% Alicante Bouschet, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Petit Verdot, 3% Graciano, and 2% Syrah from vineyards in Los Angeles, Santa Ynez, and Ventura County. An intense density meets with solid tannins on the suave palate, along with smoky flavors of miso, berry and roasted pork. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

94 Copia 2020 The Story Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast). Clean and fresh while very full aromas of berry, peppercorn, violet and crushed black rocks converge on the nose of this Grenache-led blend with 16% Syrah and 3% Mourvèdre. Boysenberry-jam and dense purple-flower flavors are wrapped up in a firm tannic frame on the sip. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$58

94 Las Positas 2019 Coccineous Estate Red Blend (Livermore Valley). This red blend offers a richness of fruit, a freshness of acidity and welcoming fine-grained tannins. Flavors and aromas include a lovely dose of earth and flowers amongst the fruits, rounded out by a gentle spice integration. It has notes of red and black cherry, red and black plum, wild strawberry, ripe pomegranate, black pepper, potpourri, dried forest floor, tarragon and mushroom. *Editors' Choice.* —S.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

94 Lexington 2019 Apex Gist Ranch Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). Smoked red-fruit and red-spice aromas make for a very dry nose on this blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Cabernet Franc and 1% Merlot. There's a leathery texture to the palate, where dried meat and cherry-compote flavors compete for attention, as cinnamon spices up the long finish. Drink now through 2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$110

94 Sol Rouge 2018 Mélange Rouge Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Hills). This red is a perfectly balanced, hearty blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Cabernet Franc. It delivers vivacious aromas and flavors of black cherry, black plum, prune, cacao, roasted coffee, vanilla, nutmeg, black pepper and fennel. Coarse, grippy tannins are well-met by the fruit concentration and balanced by a solid, acidic backbone. Oak tones are well integrated. Enjoy now or cellar. Best at least through 2028 and probably beyond. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$100

93 Halter Ranch 2019 Ancestor Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$85

93 Quivira 2019 Wine Creek Ranch G-S-M (Dry Creek Valley). This blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre grapes is beautiful for its freshness and simplicity, offering plump raspberry and blackberry flavors on a full body, with little oak influence and a great acid-ripeness balance. Best enjoyed now through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$48

93 Saison 2018 Hearth Blend Regan Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains). By using neutral oak, rather than the American or heavy French barrels that are common to this region, this bottling showcases the inherent structure that these mountains provide without relying on wood tannins. Aromas of pepper, black olive and dark berry lead into a lighter bodied yet still taut palate of muddled cranberry, tomato and olive flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$58

92 Complicated 2020 Red Blend (Monterey County). This is a great everyday sipper for a fair price. Aromas of crisp raspberry, potpourri and rocky earth lead from the nose to a tight and bright sip, where red-currant, sumac and red-flower flavors align. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

92 Donkey & Goat 2021 If Then Red Blend (California). This is a well-balanced, well-rounded and easy-drinking red blend. Fine-grained tannins and lively acidity make the palate fun and approachable. Uplifted fruits and florals come with notes of ripe red and black cherry, red and black plum, chocolate, vanilla, red rose petals and damp forest floor. —S.B.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$32

92 Fulldraw 2019 Chopping Block Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). This is a bold and extracted blend of 52% Syrah, 31% Mourvèdre and 17% Grenache, designed to attract attention with strawberry, caramel and spice-cake aromas on the nose. Chalky tannins frame the texturally intriguing palate, where plum-pudding, roast fig and cassis flavors are dusted in chai spices. —M.K.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$90

92 Le Vigne 2019 Patria Red Blend (Paso Robles). This is a winning Super Tuscan blend of Sangiovese, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, starting with the pleasantly reserved aromas of roasted strawberry on the subtle nose. The palate adds caramel dust and oak spice to that red-fruit core, making for a very versatile bottling. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

92 Morgan 2020 Cote du Crow's Rhône-style Red Blend (Monterey). This is a smashing deal every vintage, and this year's blend of 58%

Grenache, 35% Syrah, 4% Mourvèdre and 3% Tempranillo doesn't disappoint. Fresh but savory aromas of roasted red fruit and baking spice drop into a tightly wound palate of snappy red currant and light pepper that rides a zippy acidity through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$22

92 ONX 2019 Level 22 Rhône-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). Rich and ripe aromas of spice cake, ginger dust and baked berries show on the nose of this blend of 61% Mourvèdre, 22% Syrah, 16% Grenache and 1% Viognier. The palate lands with a suave texture, showing roasted red-plum and caramelized fennel-bulb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$54

92 ONX 2019 Mad Crush Red Blend (Templeton Gap District). The nose is herb-driven on this blend of 64% Grenache, 26% Mourvèdre, 7% Tempranillo and 3% Malbec, offering fennel pollen and lavender atop the minty berry and creamy purple-fruit aromas. The palate picks up a spice-cake flavor to enhance the rich fruit and herb tones. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$48

92 Peachy Canyon 2020 Cirque Du Vin Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 14. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.98% **Price:** \$24

92 Piazza Family 2020 Nancy's Cuvée Red Blend (Ballard Canyon). Lush aromas of raspberry jam and licorice dust show on the nose of this blend of 61% Syrah, 30% Graciano and 9% Grenache. Fresh purple- and red-flower flavors pop on the palate alongside juicy raspberry and blueberry elements, as the young tannins give a sticky edge. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

92 Starfield 2019 The Big Canyon G-S-M (El Dorado). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$46

92 Starfield 2019 The Miner's Inch Rhône-style Red Blend (El Dorado). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$36

92 V. Sattui 2020 La Merica Red Blend (California). This is a very well-balanced, voluptuousness red blend, with excellent fruit concentration that stands up alongside the robust tannic structure. A generous dose of acidity adds a lovely freshness. Fruit and herbal notes of ripe black cherry, blackberry, black plum, fennel and basil are complemented with integrated oak tones of chocolate, vanilla, fresh cedar and a kick of black pepper. —S.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$39

91 Andis 2021 Painted Fields Sierra Côtes Rhône-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Crooked Path 2020 The Wanderer Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Fresh strawberry aromas are lifted by mint and tarragon on the nose of this bottling. Supple tannins frame the fun and juicy sip, where raspberry and strawberry flavors meet with rose and carnation qualities. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

91 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Campione Grand Reserve Red Blend (El Dorado). This blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cab Sauv is a bit shy on the nose, but truly opens up on the palate to nice juicy fruits elevated by the acidity, with tannins adding a gentle firmness. Flavors include red cherry, cranberry, forest floor, basil, damp wood, potpourri and white pepper. —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Defiance 2018 Whipper-in Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dense in the glass and dry on the nose, this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc offers leather, dried meat, charcoal and blackberry aromas. A cigar-box flavor runs through the palate, which also offers baked red-fruit, anise and gingerbread flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Four Bridges 2020 Reunion Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Elegant layers of baked red and purple fruit meet with violet on the ripe while pleasant nose of this blend of 57% Syrah and 43% Grenache. Crisp raspberry, black-plum and lilac flavors are dusted in pepper on the fresh sip. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$42

91 Fulldraw 2019 Honey Bunny Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Opaque in the glass, this blend of 86% Syrah and 14% Mourvèdre is heavily extracted and powerful, starting with dense, goeey, oak-laced aromas of gingerbread, raisin and currant. Firm tannins embrace a creamy mouthfeel on the palate, which is if full of caramel and stewed fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$90

91 Le Vigne 2019 Nikiara Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$54

91 Le Vigne 2019 Prima Luce Red Blend (Paso Robles). This Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah blend is full of red-fruit and flower aromas, including both carnation and rose, with a light pepper spice on the nose. The palate combines flavors of lavender, graphite and crisp black fruit with more cracked pepper. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

91 Martin Ranch 2019 Therese Vineyards Private Reserve Red Blend (Santa Clara Valley). This blend of Mourvèdre, Zinfandel and Petite Sirah achieves a smooth harmony not predicted in such rustic varieties. Aromas of muddled plum, carna-

tion and cedar shavings lead into a palate of baked red fruit, caramel and wood spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

91 Rancho Sisquoc 2020 Tre Vini Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Dark-cherry aromas range from tart to jammy on the focused nose of this blend of 44% Sangiovese, 28% Syrah and 28% Malbec. There's a lightly firm tannic frame to the palate, where flavors of cherry, nutmeg and clove linger atop lasting acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

91 Rancho Sisquoc 2019 Cellar Select Meritage (Santa Barbara County). Black-plum, dark-chocolate and cherry-cordial aromas make for an elegant and smooth nose on this blend of 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Petit Verdot, 19% Malbec, 16% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The palate is dense while fruity, with caramel, wood- and baking-spice elements adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40

91 Tomi NV Interlaced Tierra Alta Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Ballard Canyon). Rustic, wild-herb aromas meet with charcoal-grilled red fruit and pepper on the nose of this blend of Grenache and Syrah. There's an intriguing line of baked red fruit, white pepper and bay leaf on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

91 Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Otteni Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley). Fresh and dark aromas of strawberry, violet and rose potpourri are rich while florally elegant on the nose of this bottling. Rustic flavors of oregano and wild thyme play against brisk red-plum and leather flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

90 Amador Cellars 2019 Family Reserve Miscela Italiana Red Blend (Amador County). An approachable red blend, this is filled with Italian goodies—Primitivo, Aglianico, Barbera, Teroldego. Fennel, tarragon, black currant, cassis, black plum, black olive, wet stone and hints of cacao, vanilla, nutmeg and toasted wood are all on the palate. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

90 Brooks Note 2020 Rhône-style Red Blend (San Benito County). Hints of red flowers and cranberry punch meet with savory meat elements on the nose of this blend of 65% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 15% Mourvèdre. Crisp red-currant flavors are fresh on the palate, with that underlying salted meat element adding spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$44

90 Cavaletti 2020 Anonymous Bordeaux-style Red Blend (California). From vineyards in Moorpark and the Santa Ynez Valley, this blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot opens with clean lines of blackberry jam and dark wood spice. Dense tannins frame rich

flavors of milk chocolate and dark berry, leading into a minty finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$49

90 Cobble Creek 2020 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Though somewhat formulaic, this is a very satisfying sip, starting with aromas of black cherry, caramel and gingerbread. The palate adds cola and vanilla to those elements, making for a versatile, comforting experience. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Darcie Kent Vineyards 2019 Choreography Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Livermore Valley). A straightforward red, this offers a good crisp acidity, a soft, ripe tannin structure and juicy fruits. It is an overall, fun-loving and easy quaffer. It delivers notes of blackberry, boysenberry, blueberry, tart black plum, black pepper, vanilla, anise and hints of violet. —S.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

90 Fringe 2020 Spanish Cowboy Red Blend (California). A fun, approachable red blend, this consisting of 60% Tempranillo and 30% Zinfandel. Its flavors are those of ripe blackberry, black plum, vanilla, anise, cacao, basil, tarragon, damp forest floor and wet river rock. *Best Buy.* —S.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$10

90 Gundlach Bundschu 2021 Mountain Cuvée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (California). Velvety in texture and full in body, this moderately tannic wine is packed with milk chocolate, black cherries and vanilla flavors. It is quietly powerful, and its rich chocolaty character lingers on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Hungry Hawk 2020 Jackson's Blend Red Blend (San Diego County). Created by assistant winemaker Jackson Dwellley, this blend of 70% Tempranillo and 30% Grenache is a wise combination for this terroir. Aromas of dried cherry, fennel pollen and cola drop into a palate of baked berry and minty sage. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

90 Le Casque 2019 Espion Rhône-style Red Blend (Sierra Foothills). Warm maple and vanilla aromas lead to ripe and generously spicy flavors of cooked berries and milk chocolate. Blended from 65% Syrah and 35% Petite Sirah, the wine shows ample oak notes in the aromas and on the palate, where soft tannins and a full body keep it broad and supple. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$36

90 McClean NV Love Red Blend (Central Coast). There is a soda-pop-like freshness to this joyous kitchen-sink blend of six grapes, which will satisfy those seeking juicy fun in the glass. Candied blackberry, iodine and smoke show on the nose, while the palate's strawberry-sorbet flavors are enhanced by a peppery spice. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 15.42% **Price:** \$17

89 Bianchi 2019 The Geste Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles). Fresh red-currant aromas are cut by crushed stone and cinnamon spice on the nose of this blend of 50% Syrah, 36% Grenache and 14% Mourvèdre. The palate is more subdued in expression, offering roasted cranberry and rose-petal flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$73

89 Bogle 2017 Reverence Red Blend (California). An overall well-balanced red blend, this consists of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Malbec and 11% Merlot. Aromas and flavors of ripe black plum, black cherry and blueberry are complemented by secondary notes of chocolate, fennel, vanilla, anise and toasted wood—all backed by plush tannins and just enough acidity to provide freshness through and through. —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

89 Crystal Basin Cellars 2019 Triumphant Grand Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (El Dorado). An overall well-balanced red blend, this comes with notes of red and black currant, red and black plum, violet, forest floor, mushroom, toasted wood and cacao. —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 DaFoe NV Paradigm Drift Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Dried meat, dried cherries and pepper aromas make for a savory nose on this blend of 42% Grenache, 29% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Syrah and 11% Merlot. The savory side turns more leathery on the palate, where muddled berry flavors reign. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

89 Fulldraw 2018 FD2 Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). There's no denying the boldness and ripeness of this blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah. The nose oozes with caramel, vanilla and raisin-like stewed fruit aromas. The palate is equally over-the-top, with extremely rich, ripe and barrel-influenced flavors, yet expert tannin management leads to a persistently assertive structure to approach balance. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$55

89 Morse 2017 Three Popes G-S-M (Amador County). This well-balanced red blend shows voluptuousness of the fruits and the well-integrated oak. You'll find notes of ripe black cherry, blackberry, blueberry, vanilla, black-pepper spice, sea-salt salinity and fresh damp earth. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Sculpterra 2020 Figurine Red Blend (Paso Robles). Asphalt and dried berry aromas show on the nose of this blend of 48% Primitivo, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot. Pleasant purple-flower and purple-fruit flavors are elevated with a savory touch of soy on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

89 Tree Fort NV Adventure Pack Red Blend (Central Coast). Easy-to-like aromas of red fruit,

gravel and light mint make for a very approachable style on this carton-packed wine. The mineral-driven rockiness gives an edge to the riper berry flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15/250 ml

88 Carson Ridge 2020 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Baked blackberry, caramel and violet-paste aromas are generous and oaked on the nose of this bottling. Oak is prominent on the palate as well, where elderberry-juice flavors are cut by peppery spices. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$13

88 Cavaletti 2020 Dark Heart Red Blend (California). This is a Zinfandel-led blend from a range of Southern California vineyards, which also features small amounts of Mourvèdre, Alicante Bouschet, Petite Sirah, Grenache Blanc and Mission, offers purple-flower and purple-fruit aromas on the generous nose. The palate is a tad sweet and viscous, but remains pleasurable, with flavors of blackberry pie and baking spice. —M.K.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$42

88 Chronic Cellars 2021 Purple Paradise Red Blend (Paso Robles). Roasted boysenberry and charred beef aromas pull the nose into this always likable bottling. Ripe strawberry flavors meet with herb touches on the palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$17

88 Defiance 2019 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Dark, tart aromas of blackberry and violet show on the nose of this blend of 50% Petite Sirah and 50% Petit Verdot. The palate is vibrant with acai and violet flavors, proving quite bold and fruity, with a tangy finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Le Vigne 2019 Cuore Della Vigna Red Blend (Paso Robles). Cigar-box, baked cherry and stewed berry aromas show on the nose of this blend of 65% Sangiovese, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. The palate is tart, with cranberry and orange-rind flavors, followed by a kick of nutmeg on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$54

88 Saracina 2020 Soul of Mendocino Red Blend (Mendocino County). An overall well-balanced red blend, this has notes of raspberry, red cherry, red currant and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$28

88 Stilson 2020 The Coalescence Bordeaux-style Red Blend (El Pomar District). Lighter in hue, this blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 48% Merlot offers simple but pleasant aromas of strawberry and cinnamon on the nose. The palate is easy to enjoy, with light red-fruit and baking-spice flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$42

87 1850 NV Hillside Red Blend (California). This simple, balanced red wine has notes

of toasted wood, fresh and dried lavender, red and black cherry, red and black plum, black pepper and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$6

87 Bogle 2019 Phantom Proprietary Red Blend (California). Consisting of 56% Petite Sirah and 44% Zinfandel, this red blend offers light-intensity aromas and flavors of black cherry, blueberry, toasted wood and vanilla. The palate provides plush tannins, moderate acidity and a solid finish. —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

87 Dirty Minded 2021 Red Blend (California). An overall well-balanced and easy-to-enjoy lighter-bodied red blend, this has a pale-ruby-red color and vibrant fresh aromas and flavors of cranberry, raspberry, strawberry, basil and black pepper. Enjoy with good friends and your favorite pizza. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Double Black 2021 Red Blend (Paso Robles). Subdued aromas of muddled red fruit and turned earth show up on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the sip, where dried berry and leather flavors arise. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Peirano 2021 The Other Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot-Syrah (Lodi). A fairly balanced red blend, this red combines 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 10% Syrah and offers moderate-intensity aromas and flavors of cranberry juice, black tea, basil and tarragon, with hints licorice and cinnamon. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

87 Solitary Cellars 2020 Ball & Chain Red Blend (California). Oak tones take the lead here, with intense notes of fresh cedar and freshly cut wood. What lies beneath are rich red and black fruits, including cherry, plum and currant. Tannins are rustic and mouthcoating; just enough acidity cuts through. —S.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$30

85 Gnarly Head 2021 Double Black Red Blend (Lodi). This simple red has notes of over-ripe, jammy black cherry and plum, cinnamon, licorice, coffee, chocolate and toasted wood. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

85 Peirano 2021 The Artist Series Illusion Red Blend (Lodi). A straightforward, balanced red blend, this delivers blackberry, black cherry, black plum, raisin, prune and an aura of smokiness. **Best Buy.** —S.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$15

85 Solitary Cellars 2019 The Lifer Red Blend (California). An overall balanced red blend, this has simple aromas and flavors of red and black

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plum, cherry and fig, with complementary notes of cinnamon, licorice and vanilla. —S.B.
abv: 15% Price: \$29

OTHER RED WINES

94 Donkey & Goat 2021 Siletto Vineyard Cabernet Pfeffer (San Benito). The boundary-breaking brand takes on a nearly forgotten historic grape in this bottling, and the results are mouth-watering. Crisp, fresh and spicy aromas of red currant, bay leaf and sansho pepper on the nose slide right into a pomegranate-raspberry and peppery herb palate. The taut structure holds deep into the finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$38

93 Fort Ross Winery 2017 Pinotage (Fort Ross-Seaview). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$62

93 Piazza Family 2020 Bella Vista Vineyard Graciano (Ballard Canyon). It's great that the Central Coast is capturing the glories of Graciano, as evidenced in this fresh while ripe display of lilac, acai and blueberry sorbet on the nose. The palate lands with a lushness of more frozen blueberry and violet, with edges of black pepper and lavender adding complexity. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$40

93 Starfield 2019 Aglianico (El Dorado). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$46

92 Donkey & Goat 2021 Siletto Vineyard Négrette (San Benito). This brave brand takes on an obscure grape in this bottling, which begins with elderberry, lavender, white-pepper and scarlet-red-rose aromas on the unique nose. The palate is full of flowers, pepper and purple-fruit flavors of blueberry and lavender. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$38

92 Outward 2021 Old Oak Vineyard Vaccarese (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). There's maybe three producers crafting Vaccarèse in the New World today, and this 50% whole-cluster bottling is solid argument for more. Sharp aromas of berry, rose petal and crumpled herbs lead from the nose to a tightly textured palate, where bay leaf, crisp plum and citrus rind make for a zesty sip. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

92 Silvestri 2018 Estate Barbera (Carmel Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15% Price: \$75

91 Adroit 2021 Whole Cluster Siletto Estate Trousseau (San Benito County). A cloudy shade of plum skin in the glass, this bottling shows muddled berry and red-plum aromas along with white peppercorn on the nose. The palate picks

up hints of thyme to go with the plummy fruit and wild-herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$32

91 Adroit 2020 Tres Pinos Aglianico (San Benito County). This bottling of a very uncommon grape for California is dedicated to the late vintner Ron Siletto. Intense aromas of fresh currant and cranberry kick off the nose, while the palate shows snappy strawberry and white-pepper flavors, leading into a minty finish. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.
abv: 12.2% Price: \$32

91 Ancient Peaks 2019 Petit Verdot (Santa Margarita Ranch). This bottling from the producer's small-lot "Pearl Collection," which includes 25% Malbec, and offers fresh blackberry jam, plum skins and peppery herbs on the nose. There's a dry tension to the palate, where crushed oregano, wild chaparral and roasted coffee amplify the core black-plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

91 Four Bridges 2020 Tannat (Paso Robles). Roasted blackberry, light smoke and vanilla aromas decorate the nose of this bottling of an uncommon grape for the state. The roasted fruit on the palate is red berry, with vanilla and cappuccino flavors adding nuance. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$42

91 Occasio 2019 De Arroyo Vineyard Touriga Nacional (Livermore Valley). Ripe fruit, plush tannins and excellent oak integration makes this varietal Touriga Nacional friendly, approachable and just plain tasty. You'll find notes of black cherry, black plum, plum skin, vanilla, fennel, roasted coffee, sweet tobacco and toasted wood. —S.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$75

90 Fazeli Cellars 2018 Montepulciano (Temecula Valley). Black-plum and violet aromas pull the nose into this bottling of a grape that does well in this climate. A smooth texture greets the palate, where baking-spice and vanilla flavors flow through the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

90 Hungry Hawk 2019 Lonesome Oak Carménère (San Diego County). Lively strawberry and pomegranate aromas are wrapped in oak and fennel pollen on the nose of this bottling. Lightly tart red-fruit flavors meet with rose petal, carnation and herb on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$65

88 Donkey & Goat 2021 Testa Vineyard Carignane (Mendocino). This is an overall well-balanced varietal Carignane, offering aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, red and black plum, chocolate, vanilla, black pepper and fresh violets. —S.B.
abv: 12.4% Price: \$35

88 Vienza at Europa Village 2019 Montepulciano (Temecula Valley). Crisp red-fruit aromas meet with white pepper, purple potpourri

and cinnamon spice on the floral nose of this bottling. There's a prominent pepper kick to the palate, where blood orange rind and cranberry make for a tart expression. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$44

87 Lepe 2020 Merit Vineyards Petit Verdot (San Antonio Valley). There's a heavily spiced and somewhat extracted character to this bottling, starting with aromas of rich black plum, mushroom dust and palo santo. The palate is loaded with red plum, strawberry and intense herbal flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$49

86 Martin Ranch 2019 Therese Vineyards Sangiovese (Santa Clara Valley). The oaky aromas on the nose of this bottling are incredibly powerful, giving a toasty side to the dried fig core. The palate shows the wood spice as cedar, with a thicker mouthfeel and sweet-and-sour fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

DESSERT WINE

91 Hungry Hawk NV Lucas Aurelius Port (San Diego County). For full review see page 16.
abv: 18% Price: \$44/375 ml

91 Pellegrini 2019 Olivet Lane Vineyard Late Harvest Estate Bottled Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Like a slice of peach pie with pear syrup on top, this sweet and fortified dessert wine shows wonderfully fruity, nutty aromas, a rich, soft, creamy texture and lingering finish. It pairs nicely with a less-sweet dessert like a tarte tatin or toasted nuts and cheese. —J.G.
abv: 16.4% Price: \$40/375 ml

OREGON

CHARDONNAY

94 Hyland 2021 Single Vineyard Chardonnay (McMinnville). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: NA Price: \$45

94 White Walnut 2021 Dundee Hills Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This breathtaking Chardonnay is made with biodynamically farmed estate fruit. Its aromas of Anjou pear, toasted filberts and pine needles are followed by this faint salty/savory note reminiscent of Stilton cheese. Brilliant acidity shines a spotlight on crisp flavors of lavender lemonade and wet slate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.08% Price: \$40

93 Domaine Serene 2019 Récolte Grand Cru Chardonnay (Dundee Hills). This is classic Willamette Valley Chardonnay, with lemon, butter, lemon verbena, chalk dust and toasted-filbert aromas emerging gracefully from the glass. Rich lemon curd and shortbread flavors mix with traces of pine

needles and tonic water. The wine's crisp texture goes hand-in-hand with tangy acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$160

93 On Wine Hill 2021 Millerandage Chardonnay (Tualatin Hills). This beautifully balanced wine is made with the Chardonnay 548 clone, which produces smaller clusters with high skin-to-juice ratios. The wine has sturdy tannins and elevated natural acidity, with aromas and flavors of grilled lemons, toasted almonds and a touch of dill butter. Spectacular juice! *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.33% **Price:** \$35

93 Quady North 2020 Layne Vineyard Chardonnay (Applegate Valley). This superb Chardonnay honors the 50-year-old vineyard from which it hails. The lime sorbet, lemon zest and fresh-baked sourdough aromas are worth the price of admission. The mouthfeel is crisp, with electrifying acidity and flavors such as sweet red grapefruit, almonds, pine needles and lemon drops. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

92 Wilkens Family 2019 Reserve Terry Vineyard Chardonnay (Yamhill-Carlton). Rich aromatics of lemon curd, buttered sourdough toast and lanolin trick you into thinking a big, oaky Chardonnay is headed your way. Instead, you get a crisp mouthfeel with bright acidity and the joys of neutral oak fermentation. Flavors of lemon and coriander are delightful. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Kudos 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). The wine's aromas combine the freshness of a saline sea breeze and clean laundry hanging on a clothesline with the sweetness of ripe Golden Delicious apples. A creamy mouthfeel and soft acidity feels just right with pear, butter, chamomile and ginger flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20

90 Amattera 2020 Wolf Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills). Aromas of Bosc pear, buttered popcorn and hay bales warming in the sun drift up from the glass. A lithe and lean mouthfeel with crisp acidity is the perfect fit for flavors such as lemon zest, spearmint, caraway seeds and a lime granita. This is refreshment personified. —M.A.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$35

90 Bacus 2021 Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). Ripe Bosc pear, butterscotch and coconut aromas lead to flavors such as lemon basil, ginger and peach. The wine's texture has a crisp snap to it and the acidity will make you feel alive. This is a delightfully graceful and agile wine. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$39

90 Bacus 2021 Clarion Reserve Chardonnay (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$49

90 Le Doublé Troublé 2020 Celilo Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This lively Chardonnay starts with lemon zest, beeswax and lemon-basil aromas, with a wisp of butterscotch. The wine's clean texture and mouth-puckering acidity complement white peach, tangy lemonade and melon wrapped in prosciutto flavors. Pour a glass with fresh goat cheese on a crostini for maximum happiness. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$30

88 Domaine Loubjac 2021 Chardonnay (Willamette Valley). A subtle beginning, with gentle peach and pear aromas. The wine is packed with lemon sorbet, clove and candied grapefruit peel flavors, with a creamy mouthfeel and soft acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$20

88 Sidereus 2021 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Laurelwood District). There wasn't much fruit to be found on the nose of this wine. Instead, it is an interesting aromatic combination of caramel popcorn and earthy post-rain petrichor. Flavors of strawberry lemonade and chamomile tea with a touch of honey meld with a mildly oaky-buttery quality. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

PINOT GRIS

89 Ashlyn 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This 100% stainless steel, whole-cluster-pressed Pinot Gris is crisp and uncomplicated, with aromas of Granny Smith apples and ripe Bosc pears. Light bodied with a clean, brisk mouthfeel, this wine delivers refreshing honeydew melon and honeycomb flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$20

89 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Vintage Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). This little stainless steel-fermented number has a most interesting aromatic set of peaches, chalk and the sweet and spicy scent of sweet flag plants found growing near bogs and streams. There's a lot of juicy acidity here, with lemon and pineapple flavors. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 Westmount 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). The wine's orchard-like aromatic set includes Golden Delicious apples and Bosc pear, with small amounts of wet stones and sweet fresh-cut hay. A fleshy texture and mild acidity match up with flavors of lemon drop hard candies, graham cracker dust and toasted almonds. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 Underwood 2021 Pinot Gris (Oregon). Orchard fruit abounds here, with aromas and flavors of peach cobbler, pear pastilles and a touch of lemon sorbet. Light bodied with a soft texture and little demonstrable acidity, this is a reasonable quaffer for folks looking for fruit above all else. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

84 Kings Ridge 2021 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley). Aromas of cantaloupe, lemon and thyme are encircled by a sweet scent I can only compare to frosted animal crackers, complete with sprinkles. Ginger ale and the faintest traces of lemon-lime are the only flavors to find on the palate. More acidity would help. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Del Rio 2021 Estate Grown Viognier (Rogue Valley). Beautiful orange creamsicle and spicy white-azalea aromas set the stage for a palate filled with flavors of melon, lemon, honey and zucchini bread. The wine's crisp mouthfeel and elevated acidity are more than a match for all of this fruit. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$20

91 Quady North 2020 Steel Ox Viognier (Applegate Valley). Peaches battle honeydew melons for aromatic supremacy in a skirmish in which everybody wins. This is a Viognier on the brisk side, with a crisp mouthfeel and somewhat zippy acidity. Look for flavors of Golden Delicious apple, grilled lemon slices and a trace of juniper berries. —M.A.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$25

90 Amity Vineyards 2021 Estate Riesling (Eola-Amity Hills). This is an excellent Willamette Valley riff on a Mosel valley kabinet. It's whiff of petrol is backed by ripe pear and talc aromas. The wine's clean, crisp texture is matched by brisk acidity and lime zest, honeydew melon, mineral flavors and the slightest bit of sweetness. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$22

90 Ricochet 2021 Yamhill Valley Vineyards Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley). Made with fruit from 40-year-old vines, this is a tangy treat. There is a little Golden Delicious apple fruit on the nose, with an abundant amount of flowering dill, fireweed honey and cornichons. Both texture and acidity are on the soft side, with flavors like white peach, lime and chilled cucumber slices. —M.A.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$32

89 Quady North 2021 Pistoleta Rhône-style White Blend (Rogue Valley). A thoroughly enjoyable Viognier-driven blend with a dazzling combination of crisp acidity and a mildly creamy texture. Aromas of apricots, tangerines, lanolin and fresh-cut grass lead to aromas of lemon curd, dark honey and coconut oil. Great value here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20

SPARKLING WINES

93 Hyland 2017 Single Vineyard Brut Méthode Champenoise Sparkling Blend (McMinnville). The wine's scent of chalk dust harkens back to grade school days. The aroma of a warm brioche filled but-

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terscotch creme, sadly, does not. Flavors of orange scones, toasted filberts and lemon peel are equally satisfying. The wine's powdery texture and elevated acidity is a happy bonus. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$58

89 Underwood 2021 Rosé Bubbles Rosé (Oregon). Aromatically, this bottle of pink bubbles is a giant ripe strawberry that's been lightly dipped in powdered sugar. The bubbles are frisky and the mouthfeel is light and creamy. Flavors of pink grapefruit and baklava fill the mouth. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

ROSÉS

90 Underwood 2021 Rosé (Oregon). This blend of mostly Pinot Gris, Muscat and Riesling makes for a beautifully floral rosé. The wine's fruit aromas range from an apricot tart to a peach granita, with bursts of sweet freesia and honeysuckle. Flavors of lemon custard and raw honey complement a fleshy texture and soft acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$14

89 Bacus 2021 Rosé Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Pink grapefruit pith, beeswax and lemon aromas are clean and invigorating. The palate is equally brisk and lively, with flavors of red cherries, tangerines and fresh rosemary. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$29

PINOT NOIR

96 Hyland 2021 Founder's Selection Pinot Noir (McMinnville). For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$110

94 Domaine Serene 2019 Barrel 23 Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). A set of aromas as sweet as a Michael Jordan jumper is led by rose petals, raspberry pastilles and sweet pea flowers. Black cherries collide with tart and tangy flavors of orange zest and cranberries. A nimble, light mouthfeel matches up with restrained acidity and integrated tannins. This collaborative effort with Jordan is a winning one. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$350

94 Domaine Serene 2019 Commemorative Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This wine is a fitting tribute to the legacy of the winery's co-founder, the late Ken Evenstad. Pretty, perfumed aromas of dark raspberries, ripe peaches and fresh-cut hay conjure memories of summer sunlight. Blueberry and almond flavors, with a touch of grilled meat, glide across a silky textured palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$115

94 Domaine Serene 2017 Monogram Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This stately Pinot Noir is beginning to display the beginnings of nice sec-

ondary characteristics. Dark plum and marzipan aromas are followed by notes of worn leather and ripe Oregon white truffles. The wine's silky texture and tannins are a perfect foil for blackcap raspberry, vanilla and balsam flavors, with a hint of aged balsamic. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$325

94 Hyland 2021 Single Vineyard Petit Estate Pinot Noir (McMinnville). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$30

94 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Mysterious Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Who doesn't love a good mystery? This is an aromatic delight, with notes of raspberry, star anise and earthy petrichor. The wine's thick mouthfeel matches flavors similar to a pot of blackberry jam with chunks of ginger. The rich, viscous mouthfeel and sturdy tannins match up with electric acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$100

94 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Notorious Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This year's model of Notorious features tart raspberry tea and grilled pork belly aromas that meld with the rose hip and jasmine scents given off by fresh periwinkle. Red cherry and lemon peel flavors cruise a raging river of acidity. There's pronounced oak and sturdy tannins, as well. Enjoy 2024–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

94 White Walnut 2021 Estate Amphora Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). This lighter-bodied, positively ethereal gem did its time in a terra cotta amphora from Tuscany. The wine's chalky texture and elevated acidity are joys to experience, embellished with aromas and flavors of cherries, red raspberries, cedar and a touch of rose water. This is beauty gliding on air. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.65% **Price:** \$65

94 White Walnut 2021 Estate South Blocks Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Acid lovers rejoice—this wine will make you weak in the knees. Chelan cherries, roasted pork shoulder and violets take care of the aromatic portion of the evening. The main attraction is this wine's juicy texture, high-wire acidity and cherry-meets-Jolly Rancher grape on a cedar dance floor flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.81% **Price:** \$65

93 Domaine Serene 2019 Winery Hill Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). So floral and fragrant, with aromas of dried rose petals, fresh laundry hanging on a clothesline, lemon and touches of tart red raspberries and blueberries. The wine's fine-grained tannins and crisp acidity make the mouth water as you enjoy flavors of blackberry and orange pekoe tea. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$115

93 Iterum 2019 Clone 115 Orchard House Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). The

wine's seemingly magical combination of electricity and saline compels you to take sip after sip. A wall of bright red cherry and gardenia aromas furthers the cause, while the wine's slick mouthfeel escorts cherry phosphate and pork fat flavors. The tannins are Mel Torme velvety. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Balcombe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Aromatically, the Balcombe is a backyard after a spring rain. There's aromas of blackberries, lavender, fresh-cut grass and wet patio slate. The wine possesses smooth, silky tannins and citrus-driven acidity. Blackberry tea with a slice of lemon provide all the flavor necessary. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$45

93 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Durant Vineyard Bishop Blok Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). The Bishop Block is a legendary section of Pommard vines planted in 1973. The wine's meaty nose also features black cherry, cola and subtle cherry blossom aromas. A soft, smooth mouthfeel guides flavors like tart red cherry, balsamic and espresso, with gentle acidity and fine-grained tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

93 Soter 2021 Estates Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). What's not to love about wild strawberry, grilled peach and rose petals filling the air as you swirl a glass of wine? That's what we call a rhetorical question. The medium-bodied wine's dark raspberry, dark chocolate and orange blend pipe tobacco flavors are equally enjoyable. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$60

92 Amattera 2019 Swede Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Fruit from this vineyard perched on a volcanic vent at an elevation of 800 feet produces a lighter Pinot Noir worth locating. This vintage shows bright red cherry-berry aromas blending nicely with sweet pea flowers. Flavors of raspberry, lime and espresso glide across the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Angela Vineyards 2018 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

92 Benza 2019 Three Tuxedos Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Best barrels, 45% of which are new French oak, were selected for this estate reserve wine. The aromatic set is dark, with blackberries, black tea and pipe smoke holding court. Black cherry, dark plum and black truffle flavors are framed by firm tannins. Decanting is recommended. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$70

92 Copper Belt 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). While this winery is in eastern Oregon, they certainly do a great job with Willamette Valley Pinot Noir. This dazzler is packed with aromas

and flavors of blackberries, blueberries, thyme, dark chocolate, cedar and aged balsamic. Bright acidity and integrated tannins make for a pleasant sipping experience. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$28

92 **Domaine Serene 2019 Jerusalem Hill Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Welcome to the dark side of pinot, where cassis and grilled meat aromas join with forest floor and cigar-box notes. Concentrated flavors of blackberries, dark chocolate and nutmeg run rampant, with a slick mouthfeel and the acidity of exploding pop rocks. Full-throttle decadence. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$105

92 **Hyland 2021 Old Vine Single Vineyard Coury Clone Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** The wine's blackberry and wild rose aromas are as persuasive as a lover's whisper. Toasty oak flavors are like a chocolate-vanilla swirl ice cream cone matched with bright acidity, nimble tannins and flavors of cherry Lifesavers, lemon verbena and clove spice. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$64

92 **Hyland 2021 Old Vine Single Vineyard Dijon 115 Clone Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** The fruit aroma here is the kind of dusty, brambly raspberries you find growing along side every rural dirt road you've ever traveled. There's also some earthy oregano and sweet chocolate notes. The wine's lithe tannins and zippy acidity support baskets of red cherry and tangerine fruit flavors. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$64

92 **Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Freedom Hill Vineyard Coury Clone Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine is still a baby, with high-voltage acidity and a heavy oak influence. The wine's dark raspberry and bittersweet dark-chocolate aromas are matched by the sweetness of a vanilla crème brûlée. Cranberry and woody porcini mushroom flavors surf a big wave of acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

92 **Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Lia's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** Although mostly Dijon 155 and Pommard, there is a single barrel of the rare Mariafeld clone in this wine. The aromas of blackberries, cacao nibs and grilled meat are immensely pleasing. The wine's brisk acidity, firm tannins and fruit flavors of cranberries and dark raspberries are balanced. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$37

92 **Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Old Vine EState Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** This wine's gorgeous red-fruit characteristics are marked by a strawberry popsicle aroma and flavors such as sweet Boyne raspberries and tangy Marasca cherries. Throw in a bit of mint and black tea for good measure. Look for modest acidity and chewy tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

92 **White Walnut 2021 Worden Hill Road Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Lighter bodied and

sassy, this pinot has a most intriguing set of aromas—mixed red berries, espresso and butterscotch pie. It works, trust me. Raspberry, beeswax and cedar flavors are a nice match for the lithe texture and citrus-laden acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$65

91 **Domaine Serene 2019 Côte Sud Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This rich, concentrated Pinot Noir is made with Côte Sud vineyard fruit from the estate's oldest vines. Aromas of blueberry jam, jasmine, violets and fresh-cut grass segue into thick cherry and dark chocolate flavors accented by citrus and cedar. Nice acidity and tannic structure offer support for all the fruit. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$125

91 **Domaine Serene 2019 Members' Limited Edition - 2nd Edition Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The saline aromas take you to the beach, while the sour pie cherries and fresh-cut hay bring you back to the farm. Tart red raspberry and lemon pastille flavors are joined by traces of seared beef and orange bitters. The wine's acidity is crisp and the tannins are integrating nicely. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$75

91 **Domaine Serene 2019 Two Barns Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Blackberries, chalk dust and the citrus and honey aromas of sweet pea flowers definitely command attention. The dark raspberry, orange and clove flavors slide across a smooth palate, where the softness of the wine's acidity is matched by plush tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$105

91 **Hyland 2021 Old Vine Single Vineyard Pommard Clone Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** A mix of thyme, rosemary and marjoram unite with notes of blackberry and lavender to create an aromatic stroll in the herb garden. The palate features a distinctive blackcap raspberry flavor that pairs with oatcakes and maple. The mouthfeel is smooth and round, with restrained tannins and acidity. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$64

91 **Lange 2021 Three Hills Cuvée Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** There are black-and-blueberry aromas galore, with a interesting touch of spearmint in the background. This is a balanced wine that displays crisp acidity and integrated tannins. Black cherry and dark chocolate flavors, with a bit of saline, make this wine so easy to enjoy. —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$55

91 **On Wine Hill 2021 Millerandage Pinot Noir (Tualatin Hills).** Quite the floral nose, with daffodils and violets joining aromas of raspberry preserves and a wee bit of ginger. Firm tannins shepherd tangy pomegranate, lime and rooibos tea flavors. This is a powerful Pinot Noir that maintains a sense of grace. —M.A.

abv: 13.33%

Price: \$35

91 **Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pommard Clone Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The nose is packed with a tangy mix of rasp-

berries and blackberries, with bits of fresh-cut hay and beef grilling over an open fire. Black cherries, clove and bittersweet dark chocolate with a leathery texture and grippy tannins that may require decanting in self defense. Enjoy 2025–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$48

91 **Sidereus 2020 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** An earthy-meaty nose with bright red raspberries and melted candle wax join in on the wine's aromatic fun. A sweet blackberry jam flavor is counterpointed by bursts of tangy lemon peel and woody-earthly rooibos tea. The wine's lively acidity is a treat all by itself. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$45

90 **A to Z 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** For full review see page 17.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$22

90 **Amaterra 2019 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This delightfully lighter-bodied Pinot Noir shows restraint in all the right places. It has a lithe, fresh texture with a nice balance between slightly elevated acidity and silky tannins. Aromas and flavors of blackcap raspberries, dark plums, bone broth and cedar are satisfying. —M.A.

abv: 13.1%

Price: \$45

90 **Ashlyn 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's earthy nose is packed with dark plum and blackcap raspberry fruit scents. Grippy tannins support gobs of red raspberry and cherry fruit flavors. The fruit is joined by notes of beeswax, black tea and a fresh-baked scone. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$25

90 **Benza 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Blackcap raspberry and earthy beetroot aromas are coaxed from the glass with a few energetic swirls. The wine's tart red cherry and espresso flavors are, but the finish is abrupt. You can expect crisp acidity, fine-grained tannins and a silky mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$56

90 **Del Rio 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** Pinot Noir is the most widely planted red wine grape variety in southern Oregon and this wine justifies that fact. It has this wonderful blueberries coated in dark chocolate aroma that is joined by traces of pine needles and orange peel. Flavors include raspberry and basil. The tannins are a bit chewy still. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$28

90 **Hyland 2021 Old Vine Single Vineyard Wädenswil Clone Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** Black cherry and red-apple aromas share the stage with violets, lemon, and the fresh saline of ocean spray. The cherry-fruit flavor is bright red and tart, with traces of bittersweet dark chocolate and thyme. The wine's texture is slick and smooth and the acidity is tangy. —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$64

90 Iterum 2019 Old Friends Arlyn Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Dewy, earthy aromas blend with black cherry, balsa and crystallized ginger to form a complex perfume. The wine is medium bodied, with a chalky texture, soft acidity and fine-grained tannins. Strawberry and fresh-brewed coffee flavors rule the palate. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

90 Lange 2021 Freedom Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The wine's Rainier cherry, warm scone and orange-peko tea aromas are like a perfect breakfast. Blackberry, lemon peel and espresso flavors are equally satisfying. This lighter-bodied wine with chalky tannins and restrained acidity is not for jammy-fruit seekers. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Lange 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). If aromas of blackberry pie and cinnamon toast don't make you hungry, wait until you get to the flavors of really ripe red cherries, red licorice and lemon peel. The wine is lighter bodied, with great acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Chehalem Mountain Vineyard Wädenswil Clone Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Chehalem Vineyard is one of the valley's oldest, having been planted by Dick Erath in 1968. Sipping history here conjures flavors of a black-cherry phosphate soda with a mineral note that I'd like to think is what red-brick dust tastes like. The aromas are seared steak with a wall of blackberries. —M.A.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$48

90 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The wine's aromatics are a curious mix of blueberries, a minty herbal note and the rich orange note of a creamsicle. Modest acidity and fine-grained tannins, with flavors of black- and blueberries, black tea and tangerine slices. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$37

90 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Freedom Hill Pinot Noir Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). A lighter-bodied Pinot Noir for lovers of the simple pleasures of acidity with a bite, and the tart flavor qualities of persimmons and Morello cherries. Aromas of raspberries, earthy petrichor, toasted almonds and cedar oil are inviting. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$37

90 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This reserve wine is a great way to make the acquaintance of the winery's "house style." The wine's aromas of blackberry, orange peel and cacao nibs are rich and tangy all at once. Black cherry and tangerine flavors join together with bursts of white tea and clove, with crisp acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Ridgecrest Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Kick back

after dinner with the Ridgecrest's blueberry crumble, coffee and pipe tobacco aromas. Elevated acidity is matched by a pronounced tannic structure and flavors of black cherry, cedar planks and wet stones. I look forward to trying this again a few years down the road. Enjoy now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$85

90 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Wind Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). The wine's youthful exuberance features electric acidity duking it out with seriously chewy tannins. The rich, sweet aroma of ripe blackberries is joined by notes of pine needles, violets and a grilled meat. Blackberry jam, orange and cinnamon flavors collide with tangy lime zest. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$60

90 Ricochet 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Red raspberry and peach aromas are surrounded by a cloud of woody sandalwood perfume. The wine's tart cranberry and citrus flavors join a brisk amount of acidity to quite literally make your mouth water. If you like your pinots tangy and crisp, buy this wine by the case. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Ricochet 2021 Holmes Gap Vineyard Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor). The first sniff hooked me. The wine's fascinating blackberry, pomegranate seed and fresh-cut hay aromas lured me in, and I wasn't disappointed. Traces of dark chocolate, almonds and leather joined black cherry and dried cranberry flavors. The mouthfeel is smooth and soft, as are the tannins and acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$65

90 Rock Point 2021 Del Rio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Oregon). This great bang for the buck Pinot Noir is made entirely with Del Rio estate fruit. Aromas of rose petals and violets grab your attention, while notes of raspberry and red licorice whips satisfy all sorts of cravings. Red cherry and meaty smoked beef brisket flavors do likewise. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$18

90 South Face 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). This is a well-structured wine with firm tannins, a crisp sea breeze of acidity and wonderful aromas of red cherries and a cup of English breakfast tea with a wedge of lemon. Raspberry popsicle, orange zest and white-pepper flavors are a winning combination. —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$48

90 White Walnut 2021 Dundee Hills Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills). Tart red raspberries join a clean saline aroma reminiscent of the lining of a fresh-shucked oyster. Tart red cherries pick it up on the palate, along with flavors of salted chocolate ganache, lemon peel and, appropriately enough, toasted walnuts. Tangy acidity and soft tannins. —M.A.
abv: 13.95% **Price:** \$45

89 Alchemist 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The aromatic combination of boysen-

berry yogurt and peach flavored drinking vinegar is so intriguing, you just want to keep sniffing. It actually works. The wine's texture is crisp and tangy, with velvety tannins. Rainier cherry and root beer flavors abound, with a touch of wet stones. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28

89 Amatera 2019 Hirschy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). Coffee, blackberry cobbler, worn saddle leather, earth and orange peel aromas are like breakfast at a dude ranch. Flavors of black currants, dark chocolate and seared meat fat are supported by sturdy tannins and modest acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$65

89 Bacus 2021 Aulos Reserve Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$55

89 Granville 2021 Basalt Series Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Lighter bodied and packing enough acidity to light a room, this lively wine will energize any palate. Earth and blackberry aromas, for the most part, with a wee bit of bittersweet dark chocolate. There's a little raspberry fruit on the palate, but it's primarily black tea and orange zest. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Kings Ridge 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). Light bodied and smooth textured, this is an easy wine to sip all evening. A complex set of aromas includes cherries, earth, violets, lemon and pencil lead. The palate is all red raspberries, with tangy acidity and a touch of pine bark. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

89 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Chehalem Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). Soft tannins and a slick and slippery mouthfeel provide a hedonistic sip as espresso and black cherry aromas fill the surrounding airspace. The wine's flavors of raspberry cake icing and blueberry yogurt, however, need a bit more supporting acidity. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$37

89 Ricochet 2021 Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). An aromatic one-two punch of cassis and figs is complemented by a fresh saline note similar to the lining of a fresh-shucked oyster. A light and slippery mouthfeel is right at home with juicy flavors of blueberry and raspberry, along with a trace of toasted marshmallow. —M.A.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

89 Sidereus 2020 Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton). This wine's cherry aroma is so rich, it reminded me of amaro-soaked Amarena cherries. There's also an intriguing earthy and floral note that combines marigolds and oregano. The palate features darker blackberry fruit, with traces of lemon and salted caramel. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$55

89 South Face 2019 777 Select Estate Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge). Talk about a “none more black” moment à la Spinal Tap. Black cherries and black tea aromas abound, with blackberry fruit, black coffee and a wee bit of bruised peach and bacon fat on the medium-bodied palate. With a touch more acidity, this pinot could go to “11.” —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

88 Bacus 2021 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This robust Pinot Noir offers sturdy tannins that suggest a mouthful of Irish Breakfast tea. Its aromas and flavors primarily consist of a tangy brambleberry mix, earth and a touch of thyme. —M.A.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$40

88 Bacus 2021 Primeval Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a smooth, easy sipper with a nice aromatic one-two punch of raspberry yogurt and gardenias. The flavors of blueberries and chocolate-covered cherries glide all over the palate. The texture, tannins and acidity are as soft as a pillow. —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$70

88 Patricia Green Cellars 2021 Medici Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains). This is a high-acid tingler with a light, crisp texture, soft tannins and aromas of smoked cherries, hibiscus leaf tea and lemongrass. The equally lively palate showcases nectarine and red-raspberry flavors, with a smidgen of shoe polish. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$55

87 Le Doublé Troublé 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). There’s nice interplay between the sweetness of boysenberry and lilac aromas and a distinctly woody/earthy rooibos tea note. The palate features a lot of black tea and grilled meat flavors, with chewy tannins and just a hint of blackberry fruit. —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

86 Christopher Michael 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon). Forget about the dark plum and graham cracker aromas—this wine has the distinctly spicy scent of tulip pollen. Tart cherry, red apple, chamomile and saline flavors are disrupted by a slightly rough mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

85 Amity Vineyards 2021 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). The aromatics are like a bowl of pasta, with notes of tomato, basil and earthy oregano. The wine is lighter bodied, with a plush texture, silky tannins, restrained acidity and flavors of cherry, tart cranberry and salty oyster crackers. —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$28

84 Amity Vineyards 2021 Eola-Amity Hills Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills). Raspberries, orange zest and violets are a promising aromatic start. The wine falls short once the sipping begins. On the palate there’s just not a lot of “there” there, with

a faint blueberry flavor and texture so light it basically goes “poof.” —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$28

84 Wilkens Family 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). This is a blend of fruit from Rainsong and Carlton Hill Vineyards in the Lower Long Tom and Yamhill-Carlton AVAs, respectively. The aromas of black- and blueberries are overwhelmed by notes of roasted sunflower seeds and cooked pumpkin. Blackberry and oregano flavors on the palate, with a chewy, leathery texture. —M.A.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$75

SYRAH

94 Quady North 2018 Flagship Syrah (Applegate Valley). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

91 Copper Belt 2021 Anderson Hill Vineyard Syrah (Snake River Valley). This balanced Syrah possesses a sense of grace and restraint. A sweet and spicy note of peonies joins the wine’s blackberry, roasted pork shoulder and saline aromas. A juicy dark raspberry flavor adds a touch of sweetness to counterpoint the bitter citrus and espresso notes. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Vinous Obscura 2021 Rock Cycle Syrah (Columbia Gorge). This positively ethereal Syrah is the best \$25 you’ll spend his year. Rich aromas of blueberries, dark raspberries and violets are accompanied by striking notes of lychee and the pine of a freshly-rosined violin bow. Gentle tannins and bright acidity showcase flavors of peach, raspberry, marzipan and orange peel. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.45% **Price:** \$25

89 Quady North 2020 4-2, A Syrah (Rogue Valley). The ripe blackberry and lilac aromas suggest sweetness. Then after a few swirls, a tart Japanese persimmon aroma smacks you back to reality. Black tea, bittersweet dark chocolate and pan-seared pork chop flavors pick up the slack, while shy black fruit notes hide in the background. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

89 Wilkens Family 2019 Crater View Vineyard Syrah (Rogue Valley). This Syrah is fermented and aged entirely in amphora. There are aromas of blackberry, basil and violets, with a meaty note in the background that suggests oxtail stew. There are chewy black tea tannins to support large amounts of sweet red cherry fruit and marshmallow nougat. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$70

RED BLENDS

91 Quady North 2020 La Battalla Cabernet Franc-Malbec (Rogue Valley). This wine is food-friendly Cabernet Franc-driven fun—easy and

light, with soft tannins and bright acidity. Aromas and flavors of boysenberries, blackcap raspberries, lemon zest and cedar glide over the palate. Pouring this wine with a Cubano sandwich will make you see Bacchus. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Quady North 2020 GSM Red Blend (Rogue Valley). For full review see page 17. *Editors’ Choice.*
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

90 Copper Belt 2018 Keating Reserve Red Blend (Snake River Valley). This wine’s regal nose features cassis, calfskin leather and Virginia leaf pipe tobacco. With a touch of kiwi, tart cherry fruit graces the medium-bodied wine’s palate, along with green tea and Meyer lemon notes. The wine’s tannins are integrated and the acidity is modest. —M.A.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$95

90 Peter William 2020 Extravagance Peter William Vineyard Syrah-Tempranillo (Rogue Valley). This is a 50-50 blend in which the Syrah is co-fermented with 3% Viognier. It is packed with concentrated blackberry and balsamic aromas and flavors. The tiniest notes of orange blossom and lemon add contrast, and the wine’s thick texture is matched with grippy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$42

90 Quady North 2016 Arsenal Red Blend (Rogue Valley). This Cabernet Franc-Merlot-Malbec blend, with its integrated tannins and electric acidity, is in a great place right now. The wine’s aromas are a heady combination of black cherries, violets and crushed brick dust. The lighter-bodied blend has a tangy, juicy mouthfeel, with dark raspberry and roasted-pork flavors that last a good while. —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$40

90 Ricochet 2021 Red Blend Red Blend (Oregon). This light, nothing-added-nothing taken away, high-acid wine is a blend of Pinot Noir, Tempranillo and Mourvèdre made with fruit from across Oregon. Its nose is fresh and floral, with peonies mixing with black cherries. The crisp flavors of raspberries, strawberries and lemon are ultimately quaffable. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$25

90 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Red Fusion Red Blend (Oregon). This unusual blend of Pinot Noir, Syrah and Tempranillo combines fruit from three different Oregon AVAs. Picture meat roasting over an open fire, with accompanying dark plum, garrique and soy-sauce aromas. The flavors are rich and savory as well, with black cherries, clove and bone marrow holding court, with robust tannins. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$32

89 Copper Belt 2020 Copper Belt Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Snake River Valley). In addition to black cherry and jasmine, there’s a mysterious mineral aroma that reminds me of the

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school mimeographer ink that people of a certain age will appreciate. The smooth, silky textured wine shows off flavors like blackberry, dark chocolate and lots of cedar plank. —M.A.

abv: 13.4%

Price: \$75

OTHER RED WINES

92 Copper Belt 2021 Anderson Hill Vineyard Tempranillo (Snake River Valley). You could swirl and sniff all night long with this Tempranillo. There's a pronounced ripe raspberry aroma that plays nicely with notes of dried rose petals, tobacco and grilled lamb. The acidity is brisk and brash, with flavors of red raspberries and lemon zinger tea. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$28

90 Quady North 2016 Layne Vineyard Merlot (Applegate Valley). It's an honor to taste a wine made with fruit from mature vines planted by the late southern Oregon wine pioneer Roger Layne and his wife Barrie. The tannins of this lighter-bodied Merlot are integrated and gentle acidity brings flavors like tart cherry, orange slices and English breakfast tea to life. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42

89 Sweet Cheeks 2018 Serra Vineyard Tempranillo (Applegate Valley). An intense dark chocolate aroma is accompanied by blackberries, violets, cedar and tobacco. The tannins are chewy and the mouthfeel a bit rough at the moment, so consider decanting this wine. You will be rewarded with blueberry jam and raspberry saltwater taffy flavors. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$68

89 Vinous Obscura 2021 Paint, Dye, Give Color Saperavi (Columbia Gorge). This 100% Saperavi wine aged in amphorae and neutral oak is a rare Oregon treat. The wine's tart red-fruit aromas are encircled by forest floor delights ranging from pine needles to mushrooms, while a soft, silky texture escorts flavors of blueberries, cranberries and espresso. Tangy goodness. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 13.15%

Price: \$28

WASHINGTON

SAUVIGNON BLANC

90 J. Bookwalter 2021 Readers Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). A mouth-watering stainless-steel gem of a wine with a crisp, clean texture, medium body and brilliant acidity. Pronounced cut grass and basil aromas mingle with peaches and a touch of yellow-apple peel. Flavors of white grapefruit and pineapple-flavored Life Savers make this wine easy to sip. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 13.6%

Price: \$26

88 Barnard Griffin 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). Nimble and light on its feet, this crisp, tart Sauvignon Blanc revs up the aro-

mas and flavors of cantaloupe, lemon verbena and saline. Touches of nutmeg spice and white tea hover in the background, adding to the wine's refreshment value. Great value here. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$12

88 Lake Chelan 2021 Yakima Land Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). The combination of green apples and gin botanicals like juniper berries is a heady one. There's even a touch of wet slate in the background. The acidity is surprisingly modest, although the wine's mouthfeel is fresh and clean. Flavors of lemon curd and simple syrup with mint are nice and appetizing. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

CHARDONNAY

90 Christopher Michael 2021 Chardonnay (Washington). An attractive white pepper or ground ginger note joins Mirabelle plum and peach aromas. While the wine is light on body, it doesn't skimp on flavor. Lemon tart, melon and saline flavors, with a crisp mouthfeel and plenty of acidity—a heck of a wine for the money. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$14

90 Luke 2021 Chardonnay (Ancient Lakes). Rich aromatics of melted lemon butter with seared scallops should be enough. The wine's vanilla bean and pineapple aromas are mere bonuses. Even the wine's mouthfeel is creamy and buttery, with flavors of peaches, mango, toasted filberts and just enough acidity to hold it all together. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$21

87 High Heaven 2020 Cloud Mountain Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This round, creamy Chardonnay was aged on its lees for seven months before moving to stainless steel vats for 18 months. Grilled pineapple and browned-butter aromas lead to flavors of popped and buttered sweet corn, toasted hazelnuts and caramel-filled brioche. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 DeLille 2021 Roussanne (Red Mountain). The wine is closed down for the moment, with faint citrus, beeswax and fresh-cut grass aroma struggling to make an impression. Energetic acidity and a lithe mouthfeel are the wine's high points, with peach, pink grapefruit and nutmeg flavors. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$38

89 High Heaven 2021 Starshower Riesling (Columbia Valley). Ripe apricot, guava and petrol aromas begin the star show, followed quickly by floral notes of gardenias and jasmine. The wine's acidity is restrained, but there's enough to handle the Golden Delicious apple and peach flavors. Thai

takeout night has a new champion. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.8%

Price: \$14

89 Kiona 2021 Estate Bottled Sage advice White Blend (Red Mountain). Clearly I need to locate more Red Mountain white wines, because this is quite nice. Fruity and flora, with aromas of apricots, shredded coconut, honeysuckle and hyacinth. The wine has a soft mouthfeel to go along with restrained acidity and flavors like lemon sorbet, shortbread and rosemary. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$32

SPARKLING WINES

91 Portlandia NV Sparkling Rosé Syrah (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

89 Portlandia NV Brut Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). This excellent méthode traditionnelle wine made with 100% Chardonnay was disgorged on 6/1/2022. Its lively acidity and frothy bubbles are enjoyable, but the aromas of lychee, lemon drops and leather steal the show. Crisp, fresh flavors of tangerine, white chocolate and graham crackers seal the deal. —M.A.

abv: 12%

Price: \$22

87 Barnard Griffin NV Gorge Sparkling Wine Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The peach cobbler and powdery talc aromas are nice, but I was disappointed by the lack of bubbles. Still, it has classic apricot, sour green apple and honeycomb flavors, with a brisk mouthfeel. Electric acidity makes for a prickly tongue. —M.A.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

ROSÉ

90 Barnard Griffin 2021 Sangiovese Rosé (Columbia Valley). Ever sit in the front row of a Gallagher show? You will get more watermelon from this wine. My favorite summertime fruit is joined on the nose by basil and cantaloupe, with traces of guava. The wine's acidity vibrates as grapefruit and raspberry hard-candy flavors bounce about the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 12.9%

Price: \$14

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

95 Mark Ryan 2020 Lonely Heart Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$100

94 Col Solare 2019 Tenuta Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This bold and beautiful 100% estate Cabernet Sauvignon rested for 28 months in 100% new French oak. Dark raspberry and chocolate aromas are joined by notes of vanilla and cedar. Rich black cherry, espresso, almonds and

fig flavors are backed by grippy tannins. Wait until 2024 to open. —M.A.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$200

93 DeLille 2019 Grand Ciel Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Decant if you open this glorious beast anytime soon—tannins are at peak grip. Black currants, orange peel, tobacco and cedar aromas announce the wine's presence. Blackberry preserves on a blueberry scone deep inside a chest of cedar drawers describe the flavors. Enjoy 2024–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$160

93 Tinte Cellars 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Peaches and blackberries get the aromatic ball rolling, followed by bits of leather, fresh-cut grass and chalk dust. The wine's silky smooth, lush mouthfeel goes hand-in-hand with its integrated tannins and moderate acidity. Decadent flavors of black cherries and dark-chocolate covered almonds are perfect. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

92 Col Solare 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Beautifully balanced with a silky mouthfeel, this wine's rich black-fruit aromas tip-toe up to cassis territory. Tinier notes of lilac and pork fat hitting the red-hot coals of a grill are stunning. Blackberry, black tea, orange peel and dark chocolate flavors are winning in every way. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145

92 Luke 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). This meaty powerhouse of a Cabernet Sauvignon packs bushels of blackberries and dried black cherries. It's fuller bodied, with grippy tannins and elevated acidity. Decanting conjures up aromas and flavors of spicy red-cedar wood, dark chocolate and a touch of lemony catmint to accompany the fruit. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

92 Tinte Cellars 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). What a beautifully balanced wine, with nice acidity, silky tannins and excellent fruit. Black cherry, violets and toasted-walnut aromas lead to flavors of raspberries, bitter-sweet dark chocolate and espresso shots. The wine's texture is smooth and round, with a hint of earthy oregano on the long finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: NA **Price:** \$65

92 William Marie Wines 2020 French Crek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This deft wine is a refreshing godsend for those seeking balance, restraint and elegance in their Cabernet Sauvignon. Black cherry, jasmine, chai spice and dark chocolate aromas do a languid dance with raspberry, beeswax and ripe orange flavors. The acidity is brisk and the tannins are nicely integrated. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

91 Fidelitas 2019 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). I really enjoyed this wine's fruity and floral aromas of cassis, jasmine, licoricey

Thai basil and violets. Each sip is revitalizing as the wine's acidity and crisp mouthfeel brighten the room. Flavors of lime zest, blackberries and bitter-sweet dark chocolate are equally compelling. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$75

91 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). Floral notes of sweet peas and freesia mix nicely with blackberries, thyme and wet stones on the wine's fresh and lively nose. A smooth texture with flavors ranging from blackberries and clove to a meaty note similar to baked ham with a tart cherry glaze. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

91 Hamilton 2018 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Wild and funky aromas of earth and straw are contrasted by a sweet perfume of crushed boysenberries and hyacinth—it's a mesmerizing combination. The wine's juicy acidity balances rich, thick blackberry jam on scone flavors, followed by a tannic cup of orange pekoe tea. —M.A.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Mark Ryan 2020 Dead Horse Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). When it comes to full-throttled flavor, nothing beats this Dead Horse. Blackberry jam and fig flavors fill the mouth, while touches of lemon, cinnamon toast and cedar join the fun. Aromatically, it's all about dark plums and traces of fennel. Great acidity, sturdy tannins and much pleasure. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$70

90 Barnard Griffin 2020 Signature Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). This excellent medium-bodied wine offers dark raspberry and blueberry-fruit aromas and flavors to go along with notes of orange peel and almond toffee. This wine is nicely balanced, with ample fruit, velvety tannins, restrained alcohol and juicy acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$18

90 Double Canyon 2019 Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Crème de cassis and leather aromas are joined by lesser notes of crunchy fall leaves and earth. The wine's black cherry, thyme and orange flavors are almost overshadowed by grippy tannins. Decanting or more bottle rest is advised. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

90 Fidelitas 2019 Quintessence Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Huckleberries, ginger and coriander aromas make a captivating perfume. The wine's flavors are earthier, with oregano and BBQ pork ends uniting with blueberries and black tea. There's a nice balance here, with lemony acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Fidelitas 2019 Red Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This is a balanced wine with elevated acidity and chalky tannins in need of time or air. The wine's aromas of Rainier cherries and seared steak work well together, while

blackberry, maple, and cedar flavors are joined by a bit of vanilla. Patience will be rewarded; enjoy 2023–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

90 J. Bookwalter 2020 Readers Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The wine's Port, Cadbury Twirl Orange Chocolate and cherry pipe tobacco aromas had me in search of a lounging robe and the nearest fireplace. The seared steak, thyme and black cherry jam flavors sent me to the kitchen. Only a slight bit of heat mars the wine's hedonistic theme. —M.A.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$28

90 Kiona 2018 Estate Bottled Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Even five years on, this Cabernet Sauvignon's grippy tannins require a good decanting. The aromatics begin with boysenberries, balsa wood and a sweet-tart note of kumquat. Bashful blackberry thyme and coffee flavors attempt to emerge from behind a wall of tannins. This wine is worth the wait. —M.A.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$32

90 Luke 2020 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope). An aromatic combination of dark-chocolate covered blueberries and powdery violets is a great way to start. The wine's soft texture offers black cherries, caramel and cedar on a silk-covered platter. With modest acidity and plush tannins, this is an easy sipper. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

90 Nine Hats 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). What's not to love about Horse Heaven Cabernet Sauvignon fruit, with a bit of Syrah, at this price point? It is fuller bodied and filled with aromas and flavors of black cherries, blueberries and dark chocolate. On the nose there's a tiny burst of lilac, while sturdy tannins suggest black tea. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Greenwing 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). What an interesting combination of aromas—blackberries, baked squash, sweet red bell pepper and salted sunflower seeds. The medium-bodied wine's moderate acidity, plush tannins and slick mouthfeel are a perfect match for its opulent black-currant sorbet and black tea with milk flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$30

89 Kiona 2018 Estate Bottled Ranch at the End of the Road Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This full-bodied wine hits you right out of the gates with an aromatic wall of black cherries, followed by blood orange, thyme and enough cedar to build a chest of drawers. Velvety tannins and an opulent mouthfeel back blueberry gelato, bergamot tea and coconut flavors. —M.A.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$85

89 Palencia 2020 El Viñador Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Closed initially, some hard swirling brought out aromas and flavors

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of blackberries, black cherries, lilacs, saline, lemon and raw almonds. There's a hint of sweetness to the dark fruit flavors, with a nice balance between mild acidity and soft tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$45

88 High Heaven 2020 Majestic Pines Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Sweet dark raspberry and dark-chocolate aromas dominate, while small traces of earthy forest floor and toasted filberts hover in the background. Plum jam on buttered toast and espresso flavors hang on a massive wall of tannins. Decant in self defense. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$17

87 Cascade Cellars 2018 The Canyons Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Tart red raspberries unite with iron filings and the grassy-smoky qualities of hatch chiles to form a most interesting aromatic set. The flavors are more decadent, with Red Delicious apples and marionberry sorbet running rampant. There's a bit of heat here, with dusty tannins and lemony acidity. —M.A.

abv: 15.86%

Price: \$40

87 Christopher Michael 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Washington). This is a medium-bodied quaffer where strawberry and raspberry aromas join the sweet notes of trumpet lilies. There's darker fruit on the palate, with dark plums and blackcap raspberries holding court alongside lemon and black tea. The wine shows off silky tannins and plush texture. **Best Buy.** —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$14

84 Cascade Cellars 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The wine's aromas of blackberries and citrus are joined by a green note combining fresh-cut grass and tomato leaf. Unusual but not altogether off-putting. Faint flavors of dark raspberries and chocolate are dwarfed by chewy tannins that are like drinking pu-erh tea. —M.A.

abv: 14.43%

Price: \$42

CABERNET FRANC

93 Wapato Point Cellars 2018 Cougar Crest Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Walla Walla Valley).

This is a light-on-its-feet Cabernet Franc with elevated acidity, silky tannins and a pleasingly smooth texture. Its red raspberry, lily and fresh-cut grass aromas are fresh and inviting, joined by a bit of leather. Chelan cherry and white chocolate flavors complement notes of toasted filberts and tobacco. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$125

92 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope). The wine's strawberries and vanilla chantilly cream aromas are as irresistible as they are decadent. The mouthfeel is as soft and plush as the wine's tannins, with black-cherry fruit flavors lifted up by stunningly bright acidity. Pure hedonism that works. —M.A.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$42

89 Canvasback 2019 Ciel du Cheval Cabernet Franc (Red Mountain). This blend of 76% Cabernet Franc, 19% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon offers a complex aromatic set of cherry cola, lavender, leather, cedar and coconut. The wine's grippy tannins support blueberries, graham crackers, dark chocolate and clove flavors. Needs decanting or more time in the bottle. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$56

86 Kiona 2018 Cabernet Franc (Red Mountain). Dark raspberry aromas intersect with an unusual combination of rusty iron, dill pickles and a trace of cumin. The wine's jammy black cherry and creamy dark-chocolate flavors join an assortment of fruitcake-like dried fruit and nut flavors. The wine's pronounced heat is distracting. —M.A.

abv: 15.6%

Price: \$50

CARMENERE

90 Palencia 2020 El Viñador Carmenera (Red Mountain). Blackberry and leather aromas abound, followed by scents of chalk dust and a cup of black tea with honey and a slice of lemon. Flavors of black cherries, blueberries, tobacco, ginger and dark chocolate are supported by a wall of sturdy tannins. Decanting is highly suggested. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$40

90 Quiddity 2020 Sapit Carmenera (Columbia Valley). Thyme, blackberry and violets are classics aromas, but the saline and smoke notes grabbed my attention. They are mild and hang in the background, but they remind me of a bonfire at the coast—I love this combination. Peach and blackberry fruit is joined by bittersweet dark chocolate on the supple palate. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$35

89 Cascade Cellars 2017 Reserve Carmenera (Red Mountain). Clean boysenberry and red-currant aromas are a great start. Blueberry and red-cherry flavors—think Life Savers—are joined by a trace of sweet red pepper. The wine's chunky tannins make your mouth feel like you've sipped a cup of black tea with lemon. —M.A.

abv: 14.77%

Price: \$45

89 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Carménère (Wahluke Slope). Black cherry and dark-plum aromas fill the air with each swirl, along with notes of wet slate and black pepper. These supple tannins have no harsh edges, and the acidity is just as mild. This is a smooth mouthful of blackberries, maple and cedar. —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$48

89 Kiona 2018 Estate Botled Heart of the Hill Carménère (Red Mountain). Sweet blackberry tea mixes it up with aromas of sliced lemons, sandstone spice and a burst of saline. Thick flavors of black-cherry gelato, dark chocolate and toasted almonds coat the palate in pleasing fashion. This is

a medium-bodied wine with a round mouthfeel and enough acidity to keep it interesting. —M.A.

abv: 15%

Price: \$60

87 Cascade Cellars 2018 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Carmenera (Red Mountain). Black, peppery fruit and a distinct mineral note on the nose—it's as if you crushed black cherries and peppercorns between two red bricks. The wine's raspberry fruit flavor is joined by a pizza Margherita-like combination of tomato, basil and oregano. Polished tannins with moderate acidity. —M.A.

abv: 16.36%

Price: \$42

MALBEC

91 Board Track Racer 2020 Malbec (Red Mountain). For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$28

91 Kludt Family 2019 Lot 2 Reserve Malbec (Lake Chelan). A fresh floral note of lilacs kicks off this wine's aromatic set, including blueberries, blackcap raspberries and honeycomb. Rich cassis and caffè mocha flavors dominate the palate, with a slightly bitter orange-pith note on the long finish. Beautiful acidity with silky tannins. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$65

90 Fidelitas 2019 Quintessence Vineyard Malbec (Red Mountain). Aged in French and American oak, this 100% Malbec shows aromas of blackcap raspberries, pipe tobacco, wet slate and vanillin. The tannins are sturdy, and the mouthfeel is leathery, with flavors of black cherries, black tea and thyme. Meet my new "go-to" wine for Barbacoa tacos. —M.A.

abv: 15.1%

Price: \$60

89 Col Solare 2019 Component Collection Malbec (Red Mountain). The fruit on the nose is restrained, with dabs of blueberry and dark plum mixed with a distinct note of Gorgonzola cheese. The wine's creamy mouthfeel, soft acidity and velvety tannins are a nice match for flavors of black cherries, red apples and cinnamon spice. —M.A.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$95

88 Lake Chelan 2019 River's Bend Malbec (Columbia Valley). Hungry? This wine's aromatic set of black currants, chocolate brownie batter and slices of blood orange is a meal unto itself. With a soft graceful mouthfeel, plush tannins and restrained acidity, it is easy to keep sipping to get at the wine's flavors of chocolate-covered cherries. —M.A.

abv: 13.8%

Price: \$45

87 Palencia 2020 El Viñador Malbec (Red Mountain). There's a lot of juicy fruit to enjoy here, starting with aromas resembling cherry turnovers and a cup of fresh-brewed back coffee. A strawberry jam on toast flavor coats the palate. The mouthfeel is full and round, I just wish there was a bit more acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$50

SYRAH

96 Gramercy 2019 John Lewis Reserve Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% Price: \$95

94 Quiddity 2020 Audentes Block 14 Syrah (Rattlesnake Hills). With aromas of cherry preserves, saddle leather and powdery lilacs, just smelling this Syrah is a treat. It gets even better with the first sip. Tart red cherries are joined by a supporting flavor cast of dark chocolate and crushed walnuts. The wine's fine-grained tannins are just right. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.
abv: 14.6% Price: \$35

92 Gramercy 2018 Walla Walla Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). Black cherry and strawberry-fruit aromas get a lot of support from bursts of back fat, violets and straw. This wine's smooth, luxurious texture is like curling up in satin sheets, with flavors of blackberries, lemons, thyme and sweet black tea as your bedmates. What a pleasurable wine. —M.A.
abv: 13% Price: \$40

91 Luke 2020 Syrah (Wahluke Slope). Blackberries and vanilla duel for aromatic supremacy with bacon fat and violets: there are no losers in this battle. Rich, concentrated flavors of cassis and bittersweet dark chocolate join bits of crushed rock and cinnamon. The acidity is restrained, but the opulent mouthfeel espouses hedonism. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$25

90 Cascade Cellars 2018 Ranch at the End of the Road Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). This 16.5% ABV wine is a dogma-piercing arrow—it shows little heat and isn't Port-like. Cassis, leather and earthy black-peppercorn aromas lead to flavors of ripe blackberries, toasted filberts, maple candy and toasted filberts. Muscular tannins do yeoman's work here. —M.A.
abv: 16.5% Price: \$39

90 Col Solare 2019 Component Collection Syrah (Red Mountain). Ripe boysenberry and fleeting rose-water aromas grab your attention. Then the wine's sweet, juicy Chelan cherry flavor glides across the palate, followed by cacao and black-tea notes. The tannins are polished and the acidity is moderate. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$95

90 J. Bookwalter 2021 Readers Syrah (Columbia Valley). A wine that fills the air with the aroma of squid ink risotto is just fine with me. The blackberries, violets and traces of toffee were nice bonuses. Flavors of dried dates and blackcap raspberries, with shockingly brisk acidity and sturdy tannins. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$28

90 Quiddity 2020 Audentes Syrah (Rattlesnake Hills). These aromas were meant to be together—roasted pork shoulder with a blackberry

glaze and an earthy scent similar to a baked potato—and it works. The wine's black cherry, clove and candied orange-peel flavors are supported by sturdy tannins and a decent amount of acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.9% Price: \$35

89 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope). The wine's aromas of marionberries, a fresh-baked scone and candied orange slices are positively breakfast-like. Black cherries, dark-chocolate covered hazelnuts and ginger flavors runs smack dab into a wall of chewy tannins. Consider decanting. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$42

89 Lake Chelan 2019 Buoy Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley). Prepare for breakfast as this Syrah delivers aromas of blueberry muffins, bacon fat and orange zest. This is a plush, balanced wine with a smooth texture, silky tannins and a healthy amount of acidity. Black cherry and orange-bitters flavors make for a tasty Syrah cocktail. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$49

89 Luke 2020 Reserve Syrah (Wahluke Slope). My son played with scented chalk as a kid, and this Syrah smells precisely like the blackberry piece. It's oddly compelling, and other aromas include apricots and wet slate. Medium bodied, with a slick mouthfeel, velvety tannins and bright acidity to go along with cherry, coconut and black-tea flavors. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$45

89 Palencia 2019 El Viñador Syrah (Red Mountain). Sweet scents of blackcap raspberries and sugar cookies are followed by small amounts of thyme and violets. The rich, full-bodied palate is matched by massive tannins and a grippy texture. Blackberry and black-cherry flavors complement the astringent rooibos tea note. —M.A.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$45

89 Sylvi 2017 Ciel du Cheval Vineyard Syrah (Red Mountain). Dried cherry and blackened salmon aromas with a swig of thyme make a tempting combination. The wine's flavors of dark chocolate, red cherries and toasted almonds are a Cherry Garcia tribute band in action. Look for a creamy texture, silky tannins and moderate acidity. —M.A.
abv: 15.7% Price: \$40

87 Kludt Family 2019 Cougar Ridge Reserve Syrah (Lake Chelan). Cherry pie, applesauce with cinnamon red hots and sweet-pea flower aromas set the stage nicely for sweet blackberry and dark plum flavors. The tannins are still quite pronounced, with a leathery mouthfeel and modest acidity that struggles to keep up with the fruit. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$55

MERLOT

91 Canvasback 2019 Red Mountain Merlot (Red Mountain). The wine's blueberries,

cherry blossom, lemon basil and honeycomb aromas make for a beautiful introduction. Flavors of cherry fruit, leather, orange sorbet and black tea are rich and satisfying. This nicely balanced wine possesses a slippery mouthfeel, soft tannins and a long finish. —M.A.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$74

91 Kludt Family 2019 Williams Vineyard Reserve Merlot (Lake Chelan). While the wine's raspberry, lilac and lemon aromas are pretty, its earthy petrichor/ozone note is hard to resist. Look for flavors of Bing cherries and lemonade mixed in with black tea, caramel, and rosemary. Firm tannins with a decent bit of acidity and rich mouthfeel. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$45

90 Luke 2020 Merlot (Wahluke Slope). A richly textured wine, with super-floral aromas of lilac and wild roses joining black cherries, cedar and pipe tobacco. Lush, concentrated blackberry and dark-plum flavors glide over the palate. This Merlot is hedonistic and enjoyable. —M.A.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

89 Lake Chelan 2019 Amos Rome and Top Mac Vineyards Merlot (Lake Chelan). There's a smoky/meaty quality to this nose that pairs nicely with notes of blackberries and lilac. A solid tannin structure frames slightly sweet fruit flavors such as dark plums and black cherries. Still a bit chewy at the moment, so consider decanting. —M.A.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$43

88 Barnard Griffin 2020 Signature Merlot (Columbia Valley). This wine's cedar and tobacco characteristics complement a meaty note that conjures memories of a steak grilled on the backyard BBQ. There's a floral gardenia note along with blueberries and black cherries. Look for a clean, lean mouthfeel with medium body and modest tannins. *Best Buy.* —M.A.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$18

87 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Merlot (Wahluke Slope). Ripe raspberry and leather aromas are to be expected. Lingering in the background, however, is the scent of a warm pretzel draped in grated Parmesan cheese. Jammy black cherry and vanilla gelato flavors dominate the palate. Expect a soft, round texture with plush tannins and mild acidity. —M.A.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$40

RED BLENDS

94 Gramercy 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.3% Price: \$110

93 Fidelitas 2019 Estate Red Wine Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain). This Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend's aromas of thyme, oregano, crunchy dry maple-tree leaves and panetone filled with sweet black cherries are awe-inspir-

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ing. Perfectly balanced with velvety tannins and crisp acidity, this wine delivers a mouthful of blackberries and traces of fennel and black pepper. Enjoy now until 2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

93 Pursued by Bear 2019 Bear Cub Red Blend (Columbia Gorge). This is no “baby”: This bold, rich Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend has grown-up elegance, from its aromas of dewberries, dark raspberries, saline and rose petals, to its Mikhail Baryshnikov-like balance. In between, look for flavors of blackberry fruit jellies, thyme and dark chocolate. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$35

92 Gramercy 2019 Estates Cabernet Sauvignon Blend (Walla Walla Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc unite to create a flavorful wine with a lithe body, smooth tannins and pucker-worthy acidity. Aromas of blackberries, orange peel and pine needles are followed by Arnold Palmer-like flavors of raspberries, lemonade and black tea. This is delicious stuff. —M.A.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$72

92 Mark Ryan 2020 Little Sister Merlot-Petit Verdot (Red Mountain). If your little sister is Joan Jett, maybe. It’s packed with sass, powerful tannins and a thick mouthfeel. It’s a mosh pit of black currants, blackberries and bittersweet dark chocolate that rush the stage. This wine is a black leather jacket in a glass. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$90

92 Mark Ryan 2020 Lucia Rose Red Blend (Red Mountain). Blackberry jam with chunks of candied lemon peel aromas twirls about with white pepper and sweet-pea flowers. Boysenberry/blueberry flavors with a crisp mouthfeel, brisk acidity and silky tannins. 80% Petit Verdot and 20% Merlot from the Quintessence and Ciel du Cheval vineyards—true Red Mountain royalty. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$60

92 Quiddity 2020 Amore Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This Amore is love at first sniff. There’s a lovely aromatic interplay between blueberry sorbet, lime zest and a sweet, earthy note like marjoram. Blackberries, saline and cigar box flavors rise quickly from the glass. The wine’s mouthfeel is surprisingly fresh and crisp, given the alcohol level. —M.A.

abv: 15% Price: \$35

91 Col Solare 2019 Collector’s Society Red Wine Red Blend (Red Mountain). This Cabernet Franc-driven estate blend spent 18 months in 100% new French oak. Bright, fresh aromas of mulberries and citrus are followed by notes of dried fig. A sweet blackberry flavor dominates the palate, joined by orange slices and wet rocks. Silky tannins and a juicy mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

90 Fielding Hills 2019 Estate Riverbend Vineyard Tribute Red Blend (Wahluke Slope).

The wine is fresh and outdoorsy, with aromas of violets and blueberry granola and a cup of lemon zinger tea. Ripe cherry, cranberry and orange peel flavors slide on a silky texture with a bit of marzipan on the finish. I appreciated the wine’s soft, powdery tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$40

90 Luke 2020 The Companion Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

A classic Bordeaux blend supplemented by 14% Syrah, a companion that brings large amounts of blackberries, coriander and sandalwood spice to the aromatic table. The tannins are sturdy enough to support jammy black cherry and dark-plum fruit flavors that are supplemented by cedar and thyme. —M.A.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

90 Mark Ryan 2020 Water Witch Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain).

The rich, ripe blackcap raspberry and blackberry aromas tiptoe to the edge of cassis territory. They are joined by notes of brown spice and wet stones. Black cherry, balsa and dark-roasted coffee flavors surf a round, rich texture. Velvety tannins with a touch of heat. —M.A.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

89 J. Bookwalter NV Notebok Red NV16 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

Blackberries, violets, vanilla and pencil-lead aromas lead the way for satisfying wine with velvety tannins, a nice bit of acidity and a creamy, round mouthfeel. A scone with blackberry jam and jasmine green-tea flavors are matched with notes of bacon fat and cedar. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$10

89 J. Bookwalter NV Subplot 40 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

A fresh, floral nose packed with raspberry, lemon and cedar aromas makes a nice introduction. Fine-grained tannins and elevated acidity back rich flavors of maple syrup, raspberries, toasted hazelnuts and dark chocolate. A most enjoyable sipper for a great price. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$15

89 Kiona 2018 Estate Bottled Reserve Red Blend (Red Mountain).

This is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated blend for lovers of chocolate and coffee. It has pronounced aromas and flavors of fudge brownies and espresso, with black currant and graphite on the nose and additional flavors of oranges and black cherry jam. The wine’s tannins are velvety, and its mouthfeel is viscous. —M.A.

abv: 15% Price: \$65

89 Pacific Rim 2018 Thick Skinned Red Blend (Red Mountain).

Blueberries and a massive burst of cigar box are joined by traces of rose petals and fresh cut grass. Medium bodied with a juicy mouthfeel and flavors of espresso, blackberries, coriander and blueberry syrup. A Cabernet

Sauvignon-driven blend in search of a porterhouse steak. —M.A.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$40

89 Three Rivers 2021 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

For full review see page 22. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.8% Price: \$16

87 High Heaven 2020 Roaming Elk Red Blend (Columbia Valley).

This Syrah-Merlot blend makes for easy sipping, with mild acidity and tannins as soft and slippery as silk sheets. Sweet cherry, white chocolate and graham-cracker aromas prepare you nicely for the wine’s raspberry pie and zesty lemon flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.95% Price: \$17

85 Lake Chelan 2019 M 12 Meritage Meritage (Columbia Valley).

A mild petrol aroma does battle with bright red cherries, toasted marshmallows and an earthy rain-like note similar to the scent of a creosote bush. The wine’s flavors of bright cherries and wet rocks are joined by a bit of bacon fat. Low acidity with plush tannins. —M.A.

abv: 14% Price: \$65

OTHER RED WINES

92 Gramercy 2019 L’Idiot du Village Mourvèdre (Columbia Valley).

This L’Idiot is just spicy Mourvèdre goodness, with oodles of bright Telli-cherry pepper, cardamom and citrusy mace. Aromas and flavors of boysenberries, black cherries and lemon basil are in perfect balance with elevated acidity and silky tannins—what a pleasure to sip with a meaty ragù over polenta. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14% Price: \$44

92 Quiddity 2020 Ubuntu Grenache (Rattlesnake Hills).

A Grenache where cranberry and lemon aromas set the stage for a lighter-bodied wine with flavors of red currants, ginger and rhubarb tart. This fresh, brisk mouthfeel will awaken the most jaded palate. Its like-silk-sheet tannins are just as lovely. A refreshing and joyful wine. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.A.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$35

89 Quiddity 2020 Cur Non Mourvèdre (Rattlesnake Hills).

The red cherry and pepper aromas are eclipsed by the earth and ozone notes one encounters after a summertime rain. There’s plenty of tart cranberry fruit on the palate, accompanied by chocolate and grilled-meat flavors. The wine’s texture is soft and easy, with plush tannins and decent acidity. —M.A.

abv: 14.7% Price: \$35

88 Barnard Griffin 2017 Gunkel Vineyard Barbera (Columbia Valley).

From texture to acidity and tannins, everything about this wine is soft and round. It is packed with aromas and flavors of blackberries, cedar, orange zest and warm brown-

ies with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top. This is an easy sipping wine to enjoy now. —M.A.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$45

CHILE

SAUVIGNON BLANC

89 Viña Leyda 2022 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Notes of green peas are a signature of Leyda Valley's Sauvignon. Celery and herbs complete the bouquet. The palate offers similar herbaceous notes alongside lively acidity. Mineral texture frames bright notes of green peas followed by lime and grapefruit. It has weight and a fresh lemony medium-long finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

87 Misiones de Rengo 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley). This is an easy-drinking Sauvignon that could please many palates at a pool party. Delicate aromas of honeysuckle and lime shape the nose. It has an austere character offering citrus and grass flavors alongside good acidity. Terroir Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

87 San Pedro 2022 1865 Selected Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Leyda Valley). Green notes of celery and grass join hints of yellow grapefruit in the glass. This white has an oily palate with mouth-watering acidity backing lime and grass flavors that disappear in the short fresh finish. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

86 Albamar 2022 Estate Series Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Aromas of grass and lime fade away quickly. This is an austere wine with moderate acidity, supporting lime and yellow grapefruit flavors. It has a short and citrus finish. Global Vineyard Importers. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$13

86 Bota Box NV Sauvignon Blanc (Chile). For full review see page 22. Delicato Family Wines. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23/3L

85 San Pedro 2022 Gato Negro Sauvignon Blanc (Central Valley). This budget-friendly and almost neutral wine has good acidity and offers a nose with hints of citrus fruit and grass. The palate features green apples and lime. It has a short finish with notes of slightly bitter yellow grapefruit. VSPT USA. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$6

PINOT NOIR

87 Trasiego 2022 Mystic Coast Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Fruit-forward and packed with spices, this red has ripe berries and cardamom aromas. Red fruit, cinnamon and nutmeg lead the palate to a short fruity finish. It's light-bodied red,

even for Pinot Noir, and has moderate acidity. Via Pacifica Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

87 Undurraga 2020 Trama Pinot Noir (San Antonio). The nose offers gunpowder aromas wrapping cherry and cranberry. Coming from vineyards planted near the Pacific coast in San Antonio Valley, this has vigorous acidity and mild red-fruit flavors that mix with grass. The palate is framed by thin tannins and finishes short. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

86 Undurraga 2020 T.H. Terroir Hunter Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). This wine introduces a nose with flinty notes followed by grass and cranberry. Leyda Valley has granite soils and a cool climate. These factors influence the wine that in the 2020 vintage result in elevated acidity and mild red fruit flavors. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

86 Viña Leyda 2022 Reserva Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). Sweet notes of berries invade the nose of this ripe red. The subtle palate offers ripe red-fruit flavors that meet toasted-oak spices alongside gentle acidity. The flavors disappear quickly in the short warm finish. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$15

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

91 Viña Tarapacá 2020 Gran Reserva Etiqueta Negra Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). This is a full-bodied and flavorful red that opens with peppercorn, aniseed and thyme. Oak flavors are well integrated on the dense palate. Notes of berries, spices, thyme and coffee are supported by firm tannins and enough acidity to freshen the smooth finish. Baking spices in the aftertaste make this wine a great match for your favorite dark chocolate. Brotherhood Winery. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Casa Silva 2020 S38 Los Lingues Single Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). This wine comes from Colchagua Valley where Casa Silva started growing grapes in 1892. Delicious sweet spices on the nose introduce a plush palate. Cherry and raspberry flavors are balanced by lively acidity. It's a smooth and very enjoyable red. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Cousiño-Macul 2018 Antiguas Reservas Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Coming from Maipo Valley, the traditional land of Cabernet Sauvignon, this full-bodied wine offers aromas of red fruit, cinnamon, peppercorn and green bell pepper. The palate is smooth and shows notes of berries, grass, coffee and a dash of cinnamon. It finishes long, exhibiting sweet baking spices. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

90 Montes 2020 Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). After 12 months in oak barrels, wood notes are well integrated in this red. It has a fruit-forward nose of berries blended with licorice, eucalyptus and peppercorn. The palate delivers smoke and juicy black fruits over a chalky texture and bright acidity. A dash of bay leaf complements the flavors. This wine is medium bodied and has slightly drying tannins, but it's very approachable. Kobrand. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

90 Viña Tarapacá 2020 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). This red is fresh, revealing aromas of white pepper, green bell pepper and a touch of mint. It shows a herbaceous character with a balancing amount of fruit flavors that complement the palate. Green bell pepper, spices and dried herbs blend with notes of berries and chocolate. The wine shows lively acidity and firm tannins to handle the flavors. It's slightly warm in the finish, but still very enjoyable. Brotherhood Winery. *Best Buy.* —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$19

89 San Pedro 2019 1865 Seventy Year Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Lontué Valley). This old-vines red is fruit forward and smooth. Fresh plum and raspberry make a good introduction while green bell pepper adds a vegetable note to the palate. It's medium bodied and finishes with warm grassy notes in the aftertaste. Misa Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$33

89 Undurraga 2020 T.H. Terroir Hunter Alto Maipo Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The fruit comes from vines in Pirque, a sub-region in Alto Maipo that is influenced by the Andes Mountains. It's well balanced and opens with a nose of cherry, blackberry and a touch of licorice. A smooth and generous palate delivers red plum and cherry shaped by medium tannins. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

89 Valdivieso 2016 Single Vineyard Hazienda Chada Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The spicy nose shows aniseed and berries after aeration. This red has moderate acidity and soft tannins. Peppercorn, ripe strawberry, raspberry and green bell pepper meet on the savory palate. The finish is warm and offers a dash of herbs. Global Select Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$23

89 Viña La Ronciere 2018 Licanten Idahue Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Malleco). The winery's Idahue Estate is 15 miles from the coast in the Licanten DO. This medium-bodied red offers aromas of aniseed, peppercorn and a touch of dried herbs. Moderate acidity and medium tannins hold subtle flavors of berries, spices and grass. It's a versatile Cabernet Sauvignon. SAWM Imports, LLC. —J.V.
abv: 14% Price: \$25

BUYINGGUIDE

88 Cousiño-Macul 2017 Dama de Plata Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Berries give way to smoke and spices on the nose. This wine is full bodied and after 12 months of aging in oak barrels, it exhibits tobacco and berry flavors with hints of peppercorn. Medium tannins and gentle acidity provide a soft texture. The finish shows notes of smoke. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Calcu 2019 Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). This everyday Cabernet comes from vineyards in Marchigüe close to the Pacific coast in Colchagua Valley. It has an aromatic nose of sweet candied berries. It's medium bodied and features slightly drying tannins and moderate acidity. Flavors of toasted oak, berries and grass disappear in the finish. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 Viña San Esteban 2019 In Situ - Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Aconcagua). A fruit-forward nose shows red plum and strawberry with light notes of toasted oak and grass. The lightweight palate offers oak spice joining cherries and plums. Gentle tannins and moderate acidity guide the flavors to a medium finish. Joseph Victori Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

87 Viña Tabalí 2019 Pedregoso Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). The nose of this enjoyable red is austere, offering subtle red fruit aromas. Green bell pepper and berries are wrapped in soft tannins and moderate acidity. It's easy drinking and has a medium finish with nice fruit flavors. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

85 3G Dynasty 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). This wine opens with candied cherry notes that repeat on the palate. Mild red fruit and bell pepper flavors fade away quickly in the finish. It's medium bodied, has soft tannins and sharp acidity. Puerto Viejo Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

85 Cigar Box 2020 Frida Kahlo Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). Green notes are abundant on the nose of this light-bodied red. Peppercorn and grass blend with hints of toasted oak on the palate. Rough tannins and light acidity guide the flavors to a short finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

85 Portal Del Alto 2018 RH+ Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Vanilla and berry aromas shape the nose of this red. Thin tannins and gentle acidity frame the palate that exhibits cherry, vanilla and a touch of smoke. Solera Imports. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

85 San Pedro 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Central Valley). Aromas of tart fruit and grass

emerge from the glass of this budget-friendly wine. Sharp acidity and thin tannins frame a fruit-forward lightweight palate that finishes with notes of bell pepper. Enjoy it chilled. VSPT USA. —J.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

85 Santa Rita 2020 Medalla Real Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Maipo Valley). An austere nose introduces a palate with overripe fruit flavors that are lifted by moderate acidity. Thin tannins and a light structure lead to a short finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

84 Valdivieso 2019 Palena Gran Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Rapel Valley). Light notes of peppercorn are followed by berries on the nose. It's medium bodied and has thin tannins. Stewed berry flavors lead to a grassy finish. Global Select Wines. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

CABERNET FRANC

90 Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) 2020 Los Vascos Cromas Gran Reserva Cabernet Franc (Colchagua Valley). Subtle grass, berry, bell pepper and cumin aromas form the nose of this well-structured red. This wine is fresh for a dry and hot vintage. It has a smooth and spicy palate, with good acidity backing fruit flavors of plum and blackberry. Notes of tobacco linger in the finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

90 François Lurton 2020 Hacienda Araucano Humo Blanco Cabernet Franc (Lolol Valley). This wine has a fruity and herbaceous character, revealing cranberry, smoke and meaty aromas. Firm tannins and moderate acidity shape the palate and support red fruit and herbs. A touch of black pepper adds to its complexity. Notes of smoke are a bit intense in the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 Haras de Pirque 2018 Galantas Gran Reserva Cabernet Franc (Maipo Valley). This wine has a nose of struck match followed by red berries. Similar and subtle notes of red fruit merge with bay leaf and spices on the palate. It has enough tannic structure to hold the flavors and provide a smooth texture. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

CARIGNAN

90 Gillmore 2015 Vigno Carignan (Maule Valley). Light aromas of aniseed join sweet cherries and cranberries on the nose. The palate has firm and slightly drying tannins, framing flavors of berry and sage that join notes of smoke in the finish. Good acidity provides freshness to this flavorful

Carignan from dry-farmed vineyards in Loncomilla. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Undurraga 2020 Terroir Hunter Carignan (Maule Valley). Coming from dry-farmed old vines in the Maule Valley, this wine has great varietal expression with a fruity and spicy character. Black cherry, raspberry and cranberry, with hints of smoke reveal on the nose. A rich palate introduces notes of tart cherry, raspberry and peppercorn. Good acidity guides the flavors to a lasting finish. It's not overly complex, but it's very enjoyable. Freedom Beverage Co. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

86 TerraNoble 2019 Gran Reserva Carignan (Maule Valley). This wine made with grapes from old vines opens with mild aromas of plum and berry. The palate is lightweight and offers flavors of ripe fruit alongside high acidity and rustic tannins. It has a short finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

CARMÉNÈRE

88 Terraustral 2019 CAR MEN AIR Carménère (Maule Valley). This wine is fresh and fruity. It opens with a spicy nose that introduces a palate with juicy raspberry, blackberry and blueberry flavors. Hints of peppercorn and dried herbs appear in the medium-long finish. Drink it slightly chilled on a hot summer day. Jandell Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

87 Vistamar 2019 Single Estate Carménère (Maipo Valley). Aromas of grass are intense on the nose. After aeration, hints of licorice arise from the glass. It's dense with grass and red berries mixed with light notes of chocolate that extend into the medium finish. This Carménère is warm and has soft tannins and moderate acidity, framing its medium-weight palate. International Wine And Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Miguel Torres 2019 Cordillera de los Andes Reserva Especial Parcela-La Ladera Carménère (Peumo). Sourcing grapes from vineyards planted in Peumo, a region recognized for its Carménère, winemaker Eduardo Jordán brings a typical expression of this grape variety with enough oak-driven flavors to balance its herbaceous character. Notes of cherry, thyme, smoke and spices join green bell peppers. It has grip and lively acidity lifting the palate. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

MALBEC

93 Neyen 2019 Espiritu de Apalta Malbec (Apalta). This is deliciously spicy and savory. The nose opens with light notes of aniseed, cumin and incense, joining bay leaf and cherry. The

palate is fresh and steady with firm tannins holding subtle notes of cranberry and tart cherry. Fruit flavors are accented by light notes of nutmeg, cumin, black pepper and dried herbs. It's flavorful and has a mineral texture and focused acidity. Gonzalez Byass USA. *Editors' Choice*. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$150

87 Emiliana 2021 Natura Made With Organic Grapes Malbec (Chile). Grass and tart cherry aromas are followed by light notes of smoke on the nose. This is a medium-bodied Malbec with thin, drying tannins and good acidity. Berries blend with herbs on the fruity palate. Enjoy it with pizza. Banfi Vintners. *Best Buy*. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$13

84 Black Box 2021 Malbec (Chile). The nose of this wine exhibits sweet notes of crème brûlée and berries. On the lightweight palate, intense override black- and red-fruit flavors mingle alongside moderate acidity and thin tannins leading to a short grassy finish. Black Box Wines. *Best Buy*. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20/3L

88 Viña Tabalí 2018 Vetas Blancas Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Limarí Valley). Coming from northern Chile, this blend of 60% Malbec and 40% Cabernet Franc opens with notes of peppercorn, grass and a dash of coffee bean. Tannins are slightly drying, framing the medium-weight palate. Moderate acidity supports concentrated black-fruit flavors and hints of black olive. Notes of grass linger in the finish. Biagio Cru Wines and Spirits. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$19

SYRAH

92 Matetic 2017 Corralillo Syrah (San Antonio). Berries, fig and light notes of vanilla blend with salt in this maritime-influenced wine. This Syrah comes from San Antonio Valley, located right near the Pacific ocean, and introduces an intense fruity palate accented by notes of black olive providing a delicious and juicy mouthfeel. Tannins are soft but firm. Excellent acidity lifts the flavors and provides balance to this mineral-textured and terroir-driven wine. It's ready to enjoy now or hold until 2025. Quintessential Wines. *Hidden Gem*. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$95

92 Matetic 2016 EQ Cool Climate Syrah (San Antonio). The nose is spicy and delicate, with black olive, ripe plums and black pepper. This is a serious full-bodied Syrah from Chile's coastal region that opens with tobacco mixed with black olives, peppercorn, ripe red and black-fruit flavors. Notes of grass linger in the finish, while smooth tannins and good acidity provide structure and freshness. Quintessential Wines. —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$43

90 Hacienda San Juan 2018 Syrah (Casablanca Valley). This is a ripe red with maritime

influence, opening with aromas of black olive followed by notes of berries. The palate is soft and flavorful with light and pleasant balsamic notes. Smooth tannins and moderate acidity support black olive and earthy red fruit flavors. It's a savory Syrah from vineyards near the coast in San Juan Valley. Crescent Imports. —J.V.

abv: 13%

Price: \$30

RED BLENDS

94 Almadiva 2020 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Puente Alto). With this vintage, the winery celebrates its 25th anniversary. The Cabernet Sauvignon-based blend that includes Carmenere and a splash of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot is ripe and has a delicate nose. Peppercorn and subtle aromas of black fruit rise from the glass. A velvety and elegant palate offers excellent acidity, backing oak-driven spices and plums that extend into a fruity finish. Drink now–2030. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —J.V.

abv: 15%

Price: \$168

92 Cousiño-Macul 2017 Lota Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Maipo Valley). The nose of this 65% Cabernet Sauvignon and 35% Merlot blend is shaped by vanilla bean, maraschino cherry, dark chocolate and light notes of dried bay leaf. It's elegant and well balanced. Fruit flavors are subtle, but blend nicely with light barrel-driven notes of smoke and vanilla. A velvety texture and good acidity lead to a warm but delicious fruity finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$80

92 Montes 2019 Alpha M Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Apalta). This is a bold and well-crafted wine from Apalta, the same place that gave birth to the famous Montes Purple Angel. It includes 80% of Cabernet Sauvignon and small amounts of Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. The nose is inviting, offering blueberry, blackberry and vanilla bean. Dusty tannins and good acidity hold a flavorful and herbaceous palate, delivering thyme and berries wrapped in chocolate and cinnamon. It has a lasting finish with hints of herbs. Kobrand. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$90

91 Almadiva 2020 EPU Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Puente Alto). Born in a warm and dry vintage, this wine has a dense fruit-forward nose, exhibiting maraschino cherry and a light note of green bell pepper. It's well structured and delivers plenty of fruit flavors. Plum, blackberry and cherry merge with vanilla and herbs alongside moderate acidity. The finish is long and offers hints of tobacco. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —J.V.

abv: 15%

Price: \$65

91 Carmen 2020 Delanz Alto Jahuel Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Maipo Valley). Coming from vineyards close to the Andes Mountains in Alto Jahuel, this is a full-bodied blend of 74% Cabernet

Sauvignon, 15% Cabernet Franc and small percentages of other grape varieties. It has a nose of ripe blackberry, blueberry, rose petals, vanilla bean and thyme. Delicious chocolate and blueberry notes make a great entrance on the angular palate. Good acidity leads the flavors to a long finish. Drink now–2028. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Editors' Choice*. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

91 Casa Donoso 2018 D Limited Edition Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Maule Valley). Dense and concentrated, this well-structured blend is made of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Carmenere and 20% Malbec with a touch of Cabernet Franc. The nose opens with coffee, cherry, cranberry and plum accented by tobacco. It has elevated acidity and slightly rough tannins backing bright black- and red-fruit flavors. Notes of espresso linger in the delicious finish. Although drinking beautifully now, this wine will benefit from one year of bottle aging. FWS Copaboca Distribution. —J.V.

abv: 14%

Price: \$72

91 Cousiño-Macul 2015 Finis Terrae Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Maipo Valley). To make this blend, the grapes were sourced from vineyards in Alto Maipo at the foothills of the Andes Mountains. Here, the vines grow at a higher altitude than in the rest of the valley. The result is a well-structured wine that opens with oaky and earthy notes followed by dried cherry and licorice. Good acidity and plush tannins back chocolate, tobacco, juicy cherry, strawberry and blackberry flavors. Enjoy now or keep–2025. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$26

90 P.S. Garcia 2016 Mala Fama Carignan-Carmenère (Chile). The subtle nose of this interesting blend of Carignan and Carménère reveals light notes of leather. It has a ripe and savory character backed by good acidity. Grass, peppercorn and raspberry join notes of smoke and linger in the fresh finish. Vine Connections. *Best Buy*. —J.V.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$15

90 Fanoa 2017 Seis Tintos Red Blend (Colchagua Valley). This is a blend of 39% Malbec and small percentages of other red varieties including Tempranillo and Petit Verdot. A bouquet of black olive, cherry and baking spices rise from the glass. It's medium bodied and offers ripe plum, chocolate and herbs that extend into the finish. Moderate tannins and acidity are just enough to hold it all together. It has ripe notes, but is still lively and enjoyable. Drink now–2025. Crescent Imports. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$34

90 Vik 2020 La Piu Belle Red Blend (Cachapoal Valley). To make this wine, grapes are sourced from vineyards in Millahue, Cachapoal Valley. Aged in barrels for 24 months, this blend has a nose of cherry, raspberry and strawberry followed by cinnamon. Tannins have enough grip to hold

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fruit flavors accented by vanilla, light notes of black pepper and bell pepper. MHW, Ltd. —J.V.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

88 J. Bouchon 2018 Mingre Red Blend (Maule Valley). Berries, grass and green bell pepper form the nose of this blend of 40% Carménère, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Syrah and 10% Carignan. Chewy tannins frame cherry, plum and oak-spice flavors. Medium acidity makes the herbaceous finish enjoyable. Vine Connections. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

88 Morandé 2018 7 Colores Single Vineyard Red Blend (Maule Valley). This is a vivid blend of 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Carménère, 22% Cabernet Franc, 15% Syrah and 8% Carignan hailing from Maule Valley. Opening with a hint of licorice followed by a basket of berries, the nose is inviting. Sharp acidity and light tannins frame cranberry flavors mixed with vegetal notes and white pepper. It finishes slightly warm with toasted oak notes in the aftertaste. International Wine And Spirits. —J.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

87 Viña San Esteban 2018 Sig. Wines - Vina San Esteban Red Blend (Aconcagua). Aromas of ripe cherry, light notes of licorice and hints of oak are inviting on the nose of this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carménère and Syrah. The palate offers red fruits and a light note of tomato paste backed by gentle acidity. Joseph Victori Wines. *Best Buy*. —J.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

NEW ZEALAND CHARDONNAY

97 Kumeu River 2021 Coddington Chardonnay (Kumeu). Following an outstanding 2020 vintage, the '21s are, remarkably, even better. Coddington is the richest in the Kumeu Chard stable. Concentrated notes of honeyed peach, pineapple rind and buttered toast pulse with drive and force. The richness comes from fruit ripeness—the oak is present but in a supporting role—with a mouthwatering acidity. It's shapely, long and elegant, and gives Meursault Premier Cru a serious run for its money. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$35

96 Kumeu River 2021 Rays Road Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay). Kumeu's limestone hillside in Hawkes Bay has really stepped it up in just one year. It's the most overtly fruity of the range, but it always feels fresh and mineral-driven, too, as if blown through with a salty sea breeze. Notes of lemon zest, melon and orange blossom are underpinned by toffee, cream and oak spice. There's richness on the palate, but it's a different shape than some of the other Kumeu Chards. The oak is sculpted into the wine. There's beautifully tingly acidity and a long finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$41

95 Kumeu River 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Kumeu). For full review see page 5. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Best Buy*.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

95 Kumeu River 2021 Hunting Hill Chardonnay (Kumeu). The third in a trio of outstanding vintages, and also winemaker Michael Brajkovich MW's 40th vintage, Hunting Hill has similar longevity, having been planted 41 years ago. A lift of white peach, lemon curd and floral notes are dappled with flinty minerality and toast. There's richness to the palate, but the fruit is vibrant, buoyed by crystalline acidity, and gently supported by toasty oak. A class act with at least another decade of cellaring ahead of it. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

93 Deep Down 2021 Chardonnay (Marlborough). This is an elegant Chardonnay from first sniff to long finish. Aromas of white grapefruit, fresh ginger and pear are backed by a gentle line of creamy, toasty barrel influence. The palate shows love, texture, length and drive. The supportive oak frames the lithe citrus fruit. It's food-friendly, characterful and highly crowd-pleasing. Drink now. Vintage '59 Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

92 Ata Rangi 2020 Masters Chardonnay (Martinborough). This is new release from winemaker Helen Masters's home block of clay soils (as opposed to the stony soils of other vineyards). The vineyard produces a tight, flinty wine with concentration and richness. Lemon, stone fruit and oyster shell weave between cream and toasty oak. There's fruit weight and texture to the full-figured palate, and a long, tingly preserved lemon finish. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$50

89 Dog Point 2020 Chardonnay (Marlborough). This vintage of Dog Point's richly hued Chard pushes the reductive boundaries with intense flint, buttered toast and nut aromas at the fore. The melon and lemon fruit characters are tucked well into the background. There's lovely textural richness and a razor's edge of acidity, but ultimately, winemaking wins over variety and site expression. Some will love this style; others will find it more style over substance. Vintus LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

89 Kumeu River 2021 Kumeu Village Chardonnay (Kumeu). This Chardonnay-renowned producer's Village wine opens quite reductively, with a heavy sulfuric layer of struck match and nuts. The pristine lemon fruit is tucked just beneath. The palate is gently creamy with mouthwatering acidity and vibrant lemon flavors. The oak sticks out a little. It's a solid Chard, but this reviewer recommends paying a bit more for Kumeu's single-vineyard wines. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$22

88 Invivo 2022 Chardonnay (Gisborne). Bright lifted lemon, peach and ginger aromas, with

very subtle oak influence, open this wine. The palate is fresh, crisp and vibrant. It's less fruit-driven than the nose, gently textural and food-friendly, with a short finish. Seaview Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$19

88 Oyster Bay 2021 Chardonnay (Marlborough). A ripe, fruity Chard, this opens with peach, nectarine and melon backed by subtle floral and ginger notes. The palate is equally fruity, with mouthwatering acidity and freshness. This is a tasty drop, particularly for the price. Delegat USA, Inc. *Best Buy*. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$16

SAUVIGNON BLANC

92 Craggy Range 2022 Te Muna Sauvignon Blanc (Martinborough). For full review see page 13. Kobrand. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

92 Rippon 2020 Lake Wanaka Sauvignon Blanc (Central Otago). Rippon's Sauvignon, from its breathtaking biodynamic vineyards on Lake Wanaka, isn't a crowd-pleaser. Instead it demands your focus—and perhaps well-paired spring or summer cuisine. Wild fermented partially in oak barrels, it has a pungency that's reminiscent of dandelions, wet hay, scrubby local herbs and grasses, along with green tea, lemongrass and green apples. It's the palate that really hooks you. Highly textural, it's slinky, with vibrant acidity. Focused and confident, this could morph into another being altogether in five to seven years. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Hidden Gem*. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

90 Allan Scott 2022 Kekerengu Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). The Sauvignon from this sea-swept vineyard is distinct. It's round, ripe and bone-dry. Notes of nectarine, lime pop-sicle, pineapple, honeysuckle and dried herbs are ensconced in a broad, mouthcoating texture, sliced and diced with rapier, herb-flecked acidity. There's a long pineapple rind finish and a structure that suggests it's only just getting started. Drink toward the end of 2023–2030. Winebow Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$24

90 Auntsfield 2022 Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Peach, passion fruit and lemon-lime open this ripe, rounded wine, with white blossom and a grassy pungency below. The palate is broad in shape, dry and crunchy, with lovely citrus fruit, texture, length and heaps of refreshment. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$23

90 Pyramid Valley 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (North Canterbury). Still young—and having the potential to age in the bottle for several years—this benefits from some quick aeration in the glass if opened now. In addition to some flinty reductive notes, there are lemon oil and floral aromas along with something more in the green veg

spectrum. The palate is where it really shines, with lovely lemony freshness, length and texture. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

89 Eradus 2022 Ana Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). From the sea-swept Awatere sub-region, this offers bouncy lime popsicle, floral and jalapeño aromas to start. The mouthfeel is crisp and dry, fresh, young and thirst-quenching, perfect for a hot summer's day. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Kim Crawford 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Bright, fleshy fruit aromas of peach, pineapple, passion fruit and lime, with subtle grass and herbal nuances, open this Sauvignon. The palate is juicy and vibrant with prickly acidity and a touch of residual sugar. Succulent fruit and dried herbs carry through to the finish. LaForce. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$16

89 Seifried 2022 Old Coach Road Sauvignon Blanc (Nelson). From the small but mighty Nelson region at the top of the South Island, this is richly aromatic with ripe, borderline confected, notes of passion fruit, lime peel and honey. The palate is where it really shines. Green-tinged lemony flavors are wrapped in a lovely slippery mouthfeel and vibrant acidity. There's length and food-friendliness. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

88 Grove Mill 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Wairau Valley). Peach, pineapple and grapefruit open this SB, trailed by faint notes of flint, smoke, dried herbs and jalapeños. The rapier acidity on the dry palate is a little hard to take, but pair it with sashimi or a spicy, aromatic Thai curry and it should shine. Foley Family Wines. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

88 Oyster Bay 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A comparatively rich nose of white grapefruit rind, dried herbs and a pungent grassy greenness leads to a slippery textured palate that's buoyed by crisp acidity. Delegat USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Rongopai 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 22. Quintessential Wines. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Shoreside 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Fleshy peach, lime popsicle, lemon oil and grass open this appealing if slightly synthetic wine. The palate offers some textural weight, lifted by tangy, citrusy acidity. This is a balanced, refreshing summer sipper at a bargain basement price. The Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

88 Te Pa 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Given plenty of swirls in the glass, this will open into a fresh, zippy wine. There's lime, white grapefruit, passion fruit and grass aromas. The palate has a chalky dryness but mouthwatering acidity and juicy fruit flavors. It's still young, so another six months in the bottle should do it good. Banville Wine Merchants. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Voyager Point 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Bright fruit aromas of peach, guava and passion fruit are backed by freshly cut bell pepper and tomato leaf notes. The palate is fresh and fruity, with lovely texture and vibrancy. The Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

87 Forefathers 2021 Wax Eye Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Though this wine is still young, a touch of bottle age has done it good. The pineapple, honeysuckle and lime leaf characters show richness and crowd appeal. Fresh lemon and tropical fruit on the palate are nicely integrated into the textural mouthfeel. Drink now. Goldschmidt Vineyards. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Kirkland Signature 2022 Ti Point Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 22. DC Flynt MW Selections. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$8

87 Misty Cove 2022 Estate Series Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). A heady perfume of white peach, lime popsicle, florals, oyster shell and grass is followed by a palate of similar flavors. It's fresh and delicate, with a tingle to the finish. World Brands. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

87 Seifried 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Nelson). Ripe lime, grapefruit, passion fruit and honey are accompanied by a more synthetic note that's a touch distracting. Nevertheless, there's plenty to like here, including bright acidity, a long mouthfeel and a burst of citrus and stone fruit on the palate. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

86 Dashwood 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This still-very-young wine has all the trademark Sauvignon Blanc aromas (grass, passion fruit, lemon-lime) with some white spice and oniony reduction notes, too. There's a bit of residual sugar visible on the palate. It sits a bit flat, but the pungent green herb and citrus flavors are there, too. Foley Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Mussel Bay 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Quite reductive and pungent, this wine has prominent onion and flint aromas. Citrus and green bell pepper notes take time to reveal themselves. There's a touch of sweetness to the palate that adds texture and balances out the searing acidity. Still very young, this benefits from aeration

in the glass and shouldn't be drunk too cold. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

86 The Crossings 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). Some seashell-like reductive notes mix with peach, citrus and florals. There's an appealing tingle of acidity and peachy freshness throughout. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Vavasour 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley). Heady notes of waxy lemon-lime, dried herbs and some green bell pepper pungency lead to a palate that shows quite searing acidity, perky lemon flavors and a slippery texture. Still very young, with a slight burn of sulfur, this could benefit from another year in the bottle. Foley Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$19

85 It's a Headsnapper 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is bombastically aromatic with citrus, passion fruit and a distracting tinge of something green and somewhat plasticky. There's a slight bit of residual sugar on the palate, but the wine feels dry overall. It's a straightforward, crisp summer sipping. The Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Rippon 2020 Osteiner Lake Wanaka White Blend (Central Otago). Osteiner is, in Rippon's words, the "lesser know love child of Riesling and Sylvaner," and this wine's parentage shows. Planted in '82, it's "quite possibly the rarest wine in the world." It opens with a heady mix of seashell, flint and kerosene, with citrus pith, honeysuckle, green tea and a touch of dried herbs. Mouthpuckering and tongue-shriveling, the intensely tangy, citrusy acidity counters a distinctive texture. It reminds one of sucking on a lemon and licking a seashell at the same time. Acidity hounds will delight in downing this solo, while others will pour it with sashimi or spicy spring rolls. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.
abv: 11.8% **Price:** \$30

92 Rippon 2019 Lake Wanaka Gewürztraminer (Central Otago). Gewürztraminer can be a tricky variety to get right in the New World, but Rippon nails it. The perfume is heady but not sickly, and there's a different aroma at each sniff: lemon oil, pineapple rind, pressed yellow wildflowers, fennel fronds, honeysuckle and jasmine. The palate shows similarly evocative flavors and a unique, chalky texture. There's what feels like very slight residual sugar, but it's subtle, letting the floral and honey notes and radiant acidity shine. Quite simply, there's nothing else like it. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

89 Ata Rangi 2021 Lismore Pinot Gris (Martinborough). This Pinot Gris sees partial skin contact and barrel ferment. It's a pale gold and vibrant, if oddly aromatic. Notes of beeswax, kerosene, lime oil, grilled pineapple and dried, smoked herbs open the wine. The palate is where this shines. It's rich and slippery but with a lovely lift of acidity. Less about the fruit and more about the texture, this won't be everyone's cup of Pinot Gris, but when thoughtfully paired with food, it could win hearts and minds. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

PINOT NOIR

97 Ata Rangi 2020 McCrone Pinot Noir (Martinborough). The McCrone Vineyard, with its combo of clay and alluvial gravel soils, brings distinct personality and minerality to this beautifully expressive wine. It starts with a heady nose you could fall straight into. Dried spices and herbs, vanilla pod, tree bark and cracked black pepper are in the fore, weaving through cherry, redcurrant cordial and orange rind. There's an ethereal lightness to the palate, but a tight structure to the fine tannins. Silky, freshly fruity and spicy, it's elegant, approachable and ageworthy. K&L Wine Merchants. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

97 Rippon 2019 Rippon Mature Vine Lake Wanaka Pinot Noir (Central Otago). From arguably the most gorgeously located biodynamic vineyard in the world, this Pinot is a head-turner. Aromas change in the glass, expressing various aspects of site and variety: first succulent currant and blueberry fruit, then florals and a hint of mushroomy undergrowth, then scrubby dried herbs growing beside a lake and snowcapped mountains. The palate is elegant and juicy, with silky softness and floral delicacy. You're almost surprised when the tannins rush in to cinch it into place. This is one of Rippon's finest Pinot's to date. Drink now–2030. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

95 Ata Rangi 2020 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). This is a classic expression of this renowned winery's estate vines, now over 40 years old, on alluvial gravels. It opens with a rich bouquet of heady spices, dried florals, cherry cola and cinnamon bark, and there's some vanillin oak influence, too. There's density and concentration to the palate. It walks a tightrope of power and elegance, with chiseled, distinctly textured tannins and finely tuned oak. Drink now with protein and until 2033, at least. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

94 Craggy Range 2021 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). For full review see page 8. Kobrand. **Editors' Choice.** **abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$29

94 Craggy Range 2020 Te Muna Aroha Pinot Noir (Martinborough). For full review see page 8. Kobrand. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$107

94 Peregrine 2017 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). For full review see page 9. Vineyard Brands. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

93 Ata Rangi 2020 Kotinga Pinot Noir (Martinborough). 2020 is the first vintage of Kotinga as a single vineyard wine. Ata Rangi took it over in 2017 and converted to organics in '18. It's aromatic and lucid, with heady notes of licorice, savory herbs, ground pepper, plump cherry and red currant. There's a mineral, gravelly thread throughout. Tannins are almost surprisingly powerful and sinewy, cinching elegant fruit and spice. This is an austere but honest expression of site, with many years ahead of it. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

93 Ata Rangi 2020 Masters Pinot Noir (Martinborough). This is the first release of this wine, from winemaker Helen Masters's home block of vines, all in clay. There's ample fruit concentration (think blueberry and strawberry jam) underpinned by cloves, black pepper, dried herbs, spices and florals. The mid-weight palate has a juicy tang of acidity. There's a powerful grip to the chalky tannins. The juicy fruit lingers long on the finish. This is an expressive Pinot fast on its way becoming a shining star in the Ata Rangi stable. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Borthwick Vineyard 2020 Left Hand Pinot Noir (Wairarapa). Restrained and linear, this is a more cerebral wine than its counterpart, Right Hand, but is ultimately more rewarding. Give it time to aerate before the layers of flavor emerge: blueberry, blackberry, dried herbs, florals and white pepper. The palate is rich but restrained, with crisp, tangy acidity, succulent fruit and powerful, sculpted tannins. LeVecke. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Borthwick Vineyard 2020 Paddy Borthwick Pinot Noir (Wairarapa). Heady aromas, from fresh red berries to dried herbs, earthy spice, white pepper and stones, open this cool-climate Pinot. Tannins are beautifully textured and chiseled, and that stony mineral nuance continues throughout. The tannins veer a little raspy and drying on the finish, but overall this makes for a solid Pinot to pair with a plate of medium-rich protein. Drink now–2030. LeVecke. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

92 Craggy Range 2020 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). Supple red and black fruit is gently woven with ground baking spices, peppercorn, vanilla bean and floral nuances. The mid-weight palate has a slinky, satiny texture, with fine, sappy tannins, a crunch of acidity and silky juicy berry

fruit. Drink now and over the next five to seven years. Kobrand. —C.P. **abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$NA

91 Akitu 2019 A1 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Elegance and crowd appeal are at work here, along with appealing aromas of cherry and other primary red fruit, dried florals and some sweet oak lead. It's light in the mouth, with fine, chalky tannins that weave around the red fruit and spice, adding structure but retaining delicacy. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Akitu 2019 A2 Pinot Noir (Central Otago). Fruity and crowd-pleasing, with heady notes of cherry and raspberry jelly, fresh herbs and a hint of stalky spice, the palate of this Pinot is lightweight, with a tug of savory tannins and juicy fruit that flows to the finish. It's vibrant and refreshing. K&L Wine Merchants. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Clos Henri 2020 Petit Clos Pinot Noir (Wairau Valley). A likable Pinot from a quality-focused, biodynamic producer, this opens with a perfume of raspberry cordial, cherry cola, cracked pepper, dried spice and herbs. The fine, chalky tannins nicely support the supple red fruit and spice on the palate. The palate of this food-friendly wine is long, with slightly drying oak tannins toward the finish. Drink now–2028. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Borthwick Vineyard 2020 Right Hand Pinot Noir (Wairarapa). This is a plusher, more polished and richly structured version of its Left Hand sibling. When given time to aerate, it shows concentrated fruit reminiscent of mixed berry jam, with savory herbs and spices. There's a good lick of vanillin oak. The palate is on the fuller end for Pinot, with tangy acidity and massive tannins that are drying on the finish. It would greatly benefit from a plate of protein. LeVecke. —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Villa Maria 2020 Private Bin Pinot Noir (Marlborough). A vibrant cherry hue, this opens—after some swirls in the glass—with juicy cherry and strawberry, underscored by dried herbs and savory, peppery spice. There's oodles of red berry fruit on the mid-weight palate. Tannins are a bit pinched, but the fruit still steals the spotlight. This is a straightforward wine with a short finish but heaps of drinkability. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —C.P. **abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Ant Moore 2019 Estate Series Pinot Noir (Marlborough). For full review see page 22. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** **abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Ata Rangi 2020 Crimson Pinot Noir (Martinborough). The Crimson Range supports founder Clive Paton's efforts to replant and preserve

native New Zealand trees. This vintage is a bit austere, leading with damp earth and mushrooms, but with aeration it opens to more plump raspberry, cherry, sap and spice characters. Tannins are savory and chiseled, made more angular by edgy acidity. There's plenty of fruit, too. Drink now. KGL Wine Merchants. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

88 Borthwick Vineyard 2021 Paper Road Pinot Noir (Wairarapa). Dense, aromatic and ripe, this opens with green peppercorn, woody spice, blueberry and redcurrant jam aromas. They make for a slightly odd combo. The elevated acidity on the palate is almost surprising. It's linear, with drive, power and tangy, juicy fruit. The tannins arrive quietly, without fuss, but end with more presence and power, drying but still leaving a little space for the fruit. LeVecke. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$19

88 Dog Point 2019 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). Like Dog Point's whites, this style of Pinot will divide. It's somehow both open-knit and reductive, with mint chocolate and flower stalks leading, and plum and berry fruit behind. Tannins in the mouth feel drying and oak-driven, flattening the fruit a little but not entirely—they still leave room for some succulence and silkiness to shine. Vintus LLC. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

88 Pencarrow 2020 Pinot Noir (Martinborough). There's a reductive, barnyard blanket over the top of this when first poured. Underneath lurk the more pleasant black cherry, plum, dried leaves and sweet vanillin spice aromas. Textural tannins on the palate creep in slowly. Acidity is angular, creating less generosity than one would like, but there is, nonetheless, plenty of juicy, bright red fruit and regional character. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

87 Greywacke 2019 Pinot Noir (Marlborough). This vintage is on the reductive side, with a chocolate veneer that partially shades the plump fruit, mint and dried herbal and floral notes. It's medium in weight, with slightly astringent tannins. Nevertheless, the fruit and floral notes are fresh and pleasant. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$41

SYRAH

94 Craggy Range 2020 Le Sol Gimblett Gravels Syrah (Hawkes Bay). For full review see page 7. Kobrand.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$107

94 Trinity Hill 2020 Homage Syrah (Hawkes Bay). The latest Homage vintage is a strong one—an iron fist in a velvet glove that showcases New World fruitiness with Old World power and spice. Notes of dried mint, tobacco, cloves and graphite are threaded seamlessly through succu-

lent blackberry fruit. In the back you'll find some dark chocolate oak influence. The palate is juicy fruited with powerful but well-structured, sandpaper-textured tannins. Drink now with a variety of protein-heavy winter dishes and for the next several decades. Wine Spoken Here. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$35

93 Smith and Sheth 2019 CRU Heretaunga Syrah (Hawkes Bay). Give this time in a decanter if drinking now, then watch this initially austere Syrah open to reveal a powerful, heady nose of blackberry preserves, heaps of savory spice and herbs, graphite, tree bark, coffee and a little vanillin oak. The palate is tight, with concentrated dark berry fruit and sculpted, chalky tannins. Balanced and lithe, this is a bit of a show-off wine—it's downright sexy at times—but it never strays from the truth of the site or variety. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

91 Squawking Magpie 2020 Stoned Crow Syrah (Hawkes Bay). Ripe blackberry, black cherry and blueberry open this rich but still-bright North Island Syrah. The fruit is followed quickly by savory spice and herbal notes like bay leaf, clove and graphite. There's a lick of mocha oak. The palate is equally spicy and plushly fruited, with a grip of powerful, chalky tannins and a warm stone finish. The alcohol is a touch warm, but overall it's a solid, structured, ageworthy wine. NZ Wine Home. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

89 Stonecroft 2020 Reserve Syrah (Hawkes Bay). A deep crimson color, this is a dense, glossy Syrah that holds its cards close to its chest. There's a deep well of aromas, from luscious blackberry and blueberry fruit to tobacco leaf, graphite, black pepper and chocolate oak. Still youthful, the wine is dominated by sinewy, oaky tannins, but there's still plenty of concentrated fruit, lifted acidity and a stony mineral note to the finish. NZ Wine Home. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

RED BLENDS

94 Craggy Range 2020 Sophia Gimblett Gravels Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). For full review see page 7. Kobrand.

abv: 14%

Price: \$76

93 Elephant Hill 2020 Hieronymus Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). From the strong '20 vintage, this opaque Bordeaux blend offers distinctive, evocative notes of tomato leaf, beetroot, ground white pepper and fresh violets amid the brambly dark berry fruit. The palate is slender but powerful and structured. Chiseled tannins tighten the juicy, silky fruit. Drink now–2033, at least. NZ Wine Home. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

93 Esk Valley 2020 Artisanal Collection Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). A

lucid perfume of juicy blueberry, raspberry and black currant fruit billows from the glass, followed by earthier notes of black pepper, bay leaf, thyme, pencil lead and dried violets. The silky, curvy palate is full-figured, the sculpted, savory tannins adding a chalky texture. Drink now with decanter and protein at hand, or cellar until 2030 or so. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

93 Trinity Hill 2020 The Gimblett Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). Plump blue and black fruit mingle with mint chocolate, dried herbs, pencil shavings and fresh violets on their stems. Tannins are chalky and muscular, taming the succulent fruit. There's a cool edge that contributes a crunch of acidity. The oak shows on the nose, in particular, but should integrate with time. This is a lucid wine with a decade or more ahead of it. Wine Spoken Here. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

88 Mission Estate 2020 Jewelston Antoine Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Hawkes Bay). A sheen of vanillin oak distracts from the luscious dark berry fruit, florals, savory herbs and spices. The palate is currently quite quiet, seemingly shrouded by the oak and subsequent gauzy, drying tannins. But there's plenty of concentrated fruit and structure here to suggest several more years in the bottle may do this a world of good. Drink 2025–2035. NZ Wine Home. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

OTHER RED WINES

90 Church Road 2020 Single Vineyard Malbec (Hawkes Bay). Inky-hued, this offers oodles of plump, ripe plum and blackberry fruit laced with licorice, violets and peppery spice, and framed in toasted coconut oak. It's medium weight with supple fruit concentration and toasted spice. This is what we've come to know as classic New World Malbec. Plonk on the table with a slab of steak. Pernod Ricard. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

89 Smith and Sheth 2019 CRU Heretaunga Cabernet Franc (Hawkes Bay). Currently not this premium newish label's finest wine to date, but it's a solid Cab Franc nonetheless. Cherry hued, there's a perfume of with juicy strawberry and raspberry preserves. It's only after several more sniffs do the subtler dried tobacco leaf, floral and earthy spice aromas show up to the party. The mid-weight palate is succulent with a tug of fine-boned, spicy tannins. Drink now–2030. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

88 Babich 2020 Winemaker's Reserve Single Vineyard Merlot (Hawkes Bay). Currently muscular and quiet, this needs a decanter if drinking now. After aeration it offers layers of juicy black cherry fruit, savory, peppery spice and chocolate. The full-bodied palate is more generous, with hefty,

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sculpted, boney tannins cinching fruit and spice. Drink 2025–2035 at least. MHW, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Church Road 2020 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Hawkes Bay). This opaque Cab is initially closed. After vigorous swirling you start to get an inkling of plum, dark berry fruit and savory spices (bay leaf, pepper, tobacco leaf). The sweet toasted wood notes float to the fore, too. The palate is well structured with powerful but fine, chalky, slightly drying tannins. They leave room for the juicy fruit and fairly prominent oak. Decanter required if drinking now but cellaring would be ideal (2025–2035). Pernod Ricard. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

84 Oyster Bay 2021 Merlot (Hawkes Bay). There's prominent barnyard and mushroom notes at first sniff, followed by sweet chocolaty charred wood. Behind that is more pleasant plum and black and red and berry fruit. The palate is pinched and flat with big, drying tannins, sappy spice and juicy berry fruit, with a bitter finish. Delégat USA, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

CORRECTION

The April 2023 Advance Buying Guide included an outdated review of J. Lohr 2003 Carol's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine is no longer available, however the 2019 vintage of the same wine is current, and it was scored 93 points in the same issue.



96 **Ilegal Mezcal 7-Year-Old Anejo (Mexico; Ilegal Mezcal, Miami, FL).** Think of this enjoyable sipper as a mezcal for the smoky Scotch set. The amber hue and mellow caramel aroma lead into a rich caramel and toffee palate. The complex finish offers plenty of campfire smoke, plus cacao nib, clove and burnt orange peel. —K.N.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$175



95 **Bozal Cenizo Mezcal (Mexico; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA).** Mild almond aromas lead into a palate that unfurls hints of vanilla and brown sugar. The midpalate surprises with plum skin, espresso and rootsy sarsaparilla, plus mouthwatering lemon zest, drying to a long and spicy finish laced with cayenne, clove and sandalwood. —K.N.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$80



95 **Fosforo Mezcal Tobala Penca (Mexico; Fosforo Mezcal, Puebla, Mexico).** Expect a honey hue and smoky aroma. The palate mingles smoke and salted butterscotch, finishing long with mesquite smoke laced with tingy clove and black pepper. Aged one to three months in glass with penca (agave leaves). —K.N.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$125



94 **Xicala Joven Mezcal (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL).** The delicate aroma is slightly sweet, slightly floral, with a peppery undertone. Those notes are echoed on the light-bodied palate, reading as rose petal and a hint of tropical fruit, leading into a long, peppery finish. Bell pepper and torched sage create a final vegetal exhale. Espadín. *Best Buy.* —K.N.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$40



93 **Dona Vega Mezcal (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** Delicate floral notes show on nose and palate. This light-bodied mezcal offers rosewater and lychee flavors, leading into citrusy acidity and a final, gentle puff of smoke. Espadín. —K.N.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$50



93 **Quechol Sotol – Texanum (Mexico; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA).** Mild, grassy aromas lead into a bright and vegetal palate showing fresh-cut grass, bell pepper and dill. The finish is brisk and crisp, with a saline exhale. —K.N.
abv: 46.3% **Price:** \$60



92 **Las Tonas Umbeel Serpiente Extra Añejo Mezcal (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT).** Aged four years, this mezcal has a golden hue and cooked agave and tropical fruit aromas. A moody wisp of smoke winds between hints of hot honey and roasted jalapeno. Lemon zest perks up the mouthwatering finish laced with black pepper and cayenne. —K.N.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$70



92 **Morro Mezcal Espadín (Mexico; Morro Hermoso, Los Angeles, CA).** The aroma is bold, tomato-y, meat-y. Lemony acidity makes the mouth water, leading into a smoky finish accented with black pepper, cayenne and graphite. —K.N.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$60



91 **Xicala Reposado Mezcal (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL).** Expect a light gold hue and mild vanilla aroma, with just enough jalapeno pepper to tickle the nose. The light palate shows a fleeting salted butterscotch note, and lands with white pepper and ginger sparks. Espadín. —K.N.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50



90 Xicala Añejo Mezcal (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL). One year of barrel-aging time creates a burnished gold hue and rich, inviting vanilla and baking spice aromas. The palate shows grilled pineapple, vanilla and mocha. Tingly cinnamon and clove dry the finish. Espadín. —K.N.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$60

98 QQRQ Mezcal Destilado Con Mole (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Savory, spiced and stunningly complex. Bold cayenne and smoked paprika aromas set the nose twitching, while the super-earthly palate delivers an ever-evolving rotation of flavors: meaty/umami notes, cocoa powder, hints of tropical fruit, a suggestion of roasted tomato, a whiff of smoke, subtle spices that waft into the lip-smacking finish. Every sip tastes different.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$92

96 Illegal Mezcal 7-Year-Old Anejo (Mexico; Illegal Mezcal, Miami, FL). For full review see page 23.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$175

96 Mi Mamá Me Dijo (Mexico; Pinnacle & Associates, Port Washington, NY). Mild tropical fruit aromas lead into a complex palate bursting with roasted and meaty tones, and a long, distinctly saline finish with a pine-needle hint. All that umami wrapped around a fruity core brings to mind roasted tomato sprinkled with plenty of sea salt, or roasted pineapple swathed in prosciutto. Overall, a memorable sipper. Espadín. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$42

96 QQRQ Espadín Mezcal (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The zesty aroma leads into mild sweetness on the palate, suggesting honey and white chocolate. Dried mint and sage lead into a complex finish shored up with white pepper tingle and grapefruit peel bitterness.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$59

95 Bozal Cenizo Mezcal (Mexico; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA). For full review see page 23.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$80

MEZCAL

Add it to your bar for sipping and mixing

If you already love tequila, it's time to add mezcal to your home bar.

This Mexican agave spirit offers some of the most complex, expressive flavors you can find in your glass, from herbal and grassy to honeyed and lush or savory and spiced. Some offer smoky or roasted flavors, reflecting the process of slow-roasting agave piñas.

While a great mezcal can be a pleasure to sip neat, cocktails featuring mezcal have been on the rise. All those Oaxaca Old Fashioneds and Mezcal Margaritas have certainly helped fuel a rise in new mezcal bottlings in the U.S.

Echoing the celebrity tequila boom, celebrity-backed mezcal also has arrived. Those getting in the game include Aaron Paul and Bryan Cranston (Dos Hombres – reviewed below), LeBron James (Lobos 1707) and Cheech Marin (Tres Papalote).

One of the most interesting mezcal sub-categories—ideal for sipping neat—is the pechuga style, which usually refers to a chicken breast

(“pechuga” in Spanish) added to the still as a harvest-season offering. But the pechuga style doesn't have to feature meat. A trio of new-to-the-U.S. bottles from QQRQ may help expand America's perception of what the pechuga style can be, incorporating deep, earthy cocoa or coffee—almost like an infused spirit—or a mind-

blowing bottle that channels all the savory-sweet flavors of Mexico's mole sauce.

It's also worth noting that many mezcals don't bear the word “mezcal” on the label. Often that's because the spirit is made outside one of the 10 Mexican states designated as a mezcal Denominacion de Origen (DO); others, particularly

small producers, can't afford the licensing fees needed to officially certify a spirit as mezcal. Still others have chosen to skip or even drop certification, as a means of preserving heritage traditions. So if you spot a bottle labeled as “destilado de agave” (agave spirit) but not specifically mezcal, consider giving it a try.

—Kara Newman

Oaxaca Old Fashioneds and Mezcal Margaritas have certainly helped fuel a rise in new mezcal bottlings.

95 Fosforo Mezcal Tobala Penca (Mexico; Fosforo Mezcal, Puebla, Mexico). For full review see page 23.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$125

95 Pluma Negra Mezcal - Tobala (Mexico; Cultured Spirits, Bridgeport, PA). Overall, this mezcal opens floral and exits smoky. Think rose petals tumbling over wet pavement: Floral hints on nose and palate lead into more austere graphite and stone notes midpalate. Numbing black and pink peppercorn and a puff of smoke frame the exhale.
abv: 48% **Price:** \$120

95 QQRQ Mezcal Ensemble (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The piquant aroma shows bell pepper and jalapeno. Palate opens spicy and sweet, as cayenne and roasted jalapeno play against a honeyed core, finishing long, mouthwatering and tingly with plenty of sweet heat.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$83

94 Don Amado Mezcal Reposado (Mexico; Terranova Spirits, San Francisco, CA). Look for a light gold hue and robust dried oregano and sage aromas. The bold palate mindless unsweetened chocolate, roasted bell pepper and sun-dried tomato, finishing long with tinges of vanilla, mesquite smoke and cayenne heat. Espadín, rested for six months in used brandy casks.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$55

94 Mezcal Sacrificio Joven (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). Pencil lead and rubber aromas are underpinned by honey and citrus. The brisk palate opens with rubber, slate and smoke, leading into a crisp finish with black pepper and a mouthwatering tinge of lemon peel. Espadín. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$38

Continued on page 139

94 QQRQ Mezcal Destilado Con Cafe (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Expect a faint but unmistakable coffee aroma. The earthy palate shows light coffee flavor mixed with clove and cayenne. That spiced heat lingers into the drying, cocoa-accented finish, enlivened with a flicker of citrusy acidity. Consider as an unusual dessert sipper.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$96

94 Vamonos Riendo Mezcal (Mexico; Good Spirits Ventures, Manhasset, NY). A blend of espadín and tobala, this mezcal receives an extra distillation with fruit, in the style of pechuga. The end result is a mild citrus aroma and perky lime zest, pine and sandalwood flavors. Pleasing honey sweetness leads into the warming finish.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$60

94 Xicala Joven Mezcal (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL). For full review see page 23. *Best Buy.*
abv: 43% **Price:** \$40

93 Del Maguey Vida de Muertos (Mexico; Pernod Ricard, New York, NY). Lemon peel and a hint of rubber frame the aroma. The distinctly juicy, pineapple-like core is braced up with lemon-pepper sizzle and a final floral exhale. This is a special edition, bottled at 90 proof, to celebrate Dia de los Muertos. Espadín.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$50

93 Dona Vega Mezcal (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). For full review see page 23.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$50

93 Dos Hombres Mezcal (Mexico; Dos Hombres, Encino, CA). Backed by actors Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul, this mezcal mixes smoky and fruity tones. Think lychee and rose petals swept with campfire smoke, leading into a long, sooty finish with hints of cracked black pepper and lemon zest.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$65

93 Fosforo Mezcal Tobala (Mexico; Fosforo Mezcal, Puebla, Mexico). Look for an assertively smoky nose and palate. Overall this mezcal is lean and crisp, with hints of coconut, tropical fruit and tire rubber. Smoldering smokiness returns on the brisk, peppery exhale.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$95

93 Las Tonas Umbe (Coyote) Joven Mezcal (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). The brisk aroma suggests rubber and a whiff of smoke. The palate opens with anise and a violet hint, leading into billows of smoke and exiting with hints of fennel and puckery lemon peel. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$29

93 Las Tonas Umbe (Coyote) Reposado Mezcal (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT).

Look for a light gold hue and mellow vanilla aroma, with a vegetal undercurrent. The plush palate offers hints of ginger and vanilla sugar; the exhale is perked up with jalapeno and cinnamon heat. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

93 Pluma Negra Mezcal – Espadín White Label (Mexico; Cultured Spirits, Bridgeport, PA). Almost reading like a smoky gin, this mezcal sings with bright, zesty citrus, specifically lemon and grapefruit. The smoky finish suggests smoked orange peel and torched rosemary, along with warming cayenne. Espadín.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$130

92 Carta de Amor Mezcal (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). Hints of mango and lime peel play against fleeting mineral, tire rubber and a trace of smoke. The long, mouthwatering finish is delicately spiced with cayenne and clove. Tobala.
abv: 48% **Price:** \$139

92 Cazul 100 (Mexico; Cazul 100, Saranty, Stamford, CT). Black and bell pepper aromas mingle with tinges of vanilla and savory dried herbs. The perky palate is distinctly herbaceous, showing lots of sage and traces of oregano and thyme. The drying finish is framed by black pepper and cayenne heat, plus a final puff of smoke. Espadín. *Best Buy.*
abv: 45% **Price:** \$43

92 Las Tonas Embées (Jaguar) Joven Mezcal (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). Zesty roasted tomato and jalapeno pepper aromas lead the nose. The honeyed palate leads into a brisk burst of black pepper, finishing with lemon zest and mouthwatering salinity. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$32

92 Las Tonas Embées (Jaguar) Reposado Mezcal (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). Look for a pale straw hue and mellow almond aroma. The palate opens with waxy honey, plus touch of pineapple midpalate leading into a tingly, drying finish. Cayenne and cinnamon warm the exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

92 Las Tonas Umbeel Serpiente Extra Añejo Mezcal (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). For full review see page 23.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$70

92 Morro Mezcal Espadín (Mexico; Morro Hermoso, Los Angeles, CA). For full review see page 23.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$60

92 Pluma Negra Mezcal - Tepeztate (Mexico; Cultured Spirits, Bridgeport, PA). Tomato aromas are coupled with mint and sage. The drying palate opens with a fleeting honey note, then a roar

of bold flavor: menthol, lemon and pine, leading into a long, smoldering incense-like finish.
abv: 52% **Price:** \$130

92 San Cosme Mezcal (Mexico; Baron Francois, New York, NY). The lemony fragrance includes a warm almond hint. Gentle brown sugar tones are lifted by a sprinkle of savory spices: cinnamon, clove, cayenne, finishing long and mouthwatering. Espadín. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$45

92 QQRQ Mezcal Destilado Con Cacao (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The warm aroma suggests cocoa powder. Though this mezcal opens quite fiery, a few sips unlock honeycomb, cocoa nib and sweet spices. The toasty finish offers cayenne, cardamom and clove, with a final dusty cocoa powder exhale.
abv: 47% **Price:** \$96

91 Bosscal Damiana Mezcal (Mexico; Wolf Spirits, Eugene, OR). This mezcal displays a notably minty aroma as soon as it's poured, with a little roasted fruit warmth underneath. The palate opens with bright spearmint, rosemary and pine, leading into a fruity midpalate tinged with mango and Meyer lemon. The mentholated exhale tingles with black pepper.
abv: 42% **Price:** \$50

91 Grabado Mezcal (Mexico; Monsieur Tonton, New York, NY). The bold, smoky aroma is tinged with tire rubber. Meanwhile, the palate goes in a more earthy direction, suggesting mushroom, bell pepper and pine, finishing with an assertive smoky exhale. *Best Buy.*
abv: 40% **Price:** \$33 for 700 ml

91 Xicala Reposado Mezcal (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL). For full review see page 23.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

90 Agua Magica Mezcal (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Like fruit buried in smoking embers: hints of tropical fruit play on nose and palate, while smokiness builds with repeated sips. Mouthwatering salinity plays around the edges. Ensemble (blend) of espadín and tobala.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$70

90 Bosscal Mezcal (Mexico; Wolf Spirit, Eugene, OR). Bright lemon verbena and thyme aromas entice. Fresh herbal notes also lead the palate. A lemony hint fades into the tingly, mentholated finish. *Best Buy.*
abv: 42% **Price:** \$45

90 Campante Mezcal (Mexico; MHW, Manhasset, NY). Mild fresh sage and dried herb aromas lead into a grassy and fresh palate. Hints of sage and faint minty sweetness fade into the lemony finish. Espadín and Barril.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$65

90 El Padrino de mi Tierra Espadín (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). A delicate tomato water fragrance meets a saline breeze. The rounded, mouthwatering palate offers a meaty umami hint, moving into a light, crisp finish with pink salt and pink peppercorn notes. **Best Buy.**
abv: 45% **Price:** \$42

90 Mezcal Sacrificio Reposado (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). This pale straw mezcal offers gentle almond and honey sweetness ringed with a puff of smoke. Lemon peel and cinnamon sparks lead into the lingering vanilla finish. Espadín. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$40

90 Xicala Añejo Mezcal (Mexico; Global Beverage Team, Chicago, IL). For full review see page 24.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$60

89 Catedral Mezcal Ensemble (Mexico; Blockware, Paso Robles, CA). Lemon verbena, pine and lime leaf aromas open this blend of espadín and cuishe. On the palate, floral tones lead into bracing, mouthwatering lime acidity, finishing drying and citrusy. The glass bottle is packaged with a leather wraparound base.
abv: 47.8% **Price:** \$80

89 Catedral Mezcal Mexicano (Mexico; Blockware, Paso Robles, CA). The liquid within this bottle with a furry wrapper around its base is herbaceous and bright. The palate surprises with a bold shock of mouthwatering lime acidity, followed by a hint of ginger-y heat, and a long dried-herb exhale surrounded by a final puff of smoke.
abv: 46% **Price:** \$90

89 Convite Mezcal Uná (Mexico; Hotaling & Co., San Francisco, CA). Cochineal extract provides the pale ballet-slipper pink color for this bottling, which supports breast cancer awareness. Look for a mild dried oregano aroma and slight grapefruit peel bitterness on the palate. Herbal notes echo the aroma, leading to a powerful smoky exhale warmed with cayenne spice. “Una” means “woman” in Zapotec.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

89 Mezcal Sacrificio - Tobala (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). The complex aroma suggests wet stone, anise and fresh sage. The palate sings and stings: Tons of lemon verbena, lemon peel and fresh-cut jalapeno wind into a strong, numbing finish dusted with lemon pepper. Tobala.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$57

89 Pluma Negra Mezca – Espadín Black Label (Mexico; Cultured Spirits, Bridgeport, PA). This high-proof bottling opens with a grapefruit peel aroma and light palate. The zesty, citrusy mid-palate gives over to a warming, then fiery finish, with a final smoky whiff. Espadín.
abv: 48% **Price:** \$120

88 Mezcal Sacrificio Añejo (Mexico; Mexcor, Houston, TX). Look for a tawny hue and sweet vanilla bean aroma. Brown sugar and cocoa lead the palate, with a smoky waft in the background, winding into a drying, clove-accented finish and a faint resin note on the exhale. Espadín and Barril.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$53

SOTOL

94 Cardenxe Sotol de La Sierra (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). This sotol offers a veritable garden of savory flavors: Tomato water and fresh dill lead the nose, while the palate offers fleeting cucumber and sage, with a mild floral note on the peppery exhale. Overall this is delicate, light and complex.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$90

93 Quechol Sotol – Texanum (Mexico; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA). For full review see page 23.
abv: 46.3% **Price:** \$60

92 Desert Door Oak-Aged Sotol (USA; Desert Door, Driftwood, TX). Look for an amber hue and pungent tropical fruit and almond aromas; it almost smells like an aged rum. The lush palate offers brown sugar and honey, plus a hint of bananas Foster. Loads of baking spice warms the finish. Aged in new American oak barrels.
abv: 50% **Price:** \$50

90 Quechol Sotol – Wheeler (Mexico; 3 Badge Beverage, Sonoma, CA). Raspberry leads the nose and palate, with fleeting sweetness drying to a crisp and fiery finish. A faint floral note perfumes the exhale.
abv: 45.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Desert Door Sotol (USA; Desert Door, Driftwood, TX). This American-made sotol shows bold ripe banana layered with a hint of coconut, finishing with grapefruit peel bitterness and white pepper sparks.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$40

89 Doble Filo Blanco Sotol (Mexico; Saranty Imports, Stamford, CT). Austere tire rubber and charcoal notes on nose and palate lead into a smoky exhale accented with anise and black pepper sparks. Though the texture is notably soft, the fiery finish leaves a numbing sensation.
abv: 43% **Price:** \$45

BEER GOES LOW

Rating non-alcohol and reduced-alcohol brews

While there is often a lot of attention on Dry January and Sober October, the non-alcoholic movement in American craft beer is now a year-round focus. From new entrants to established breweries who have long been making full-strength beers, there is a kaleidoscope of lagers and ales on the marketplace—all sans booze.

That non-alcoholic brews have grown in popularity over the last several years is the culmination of several factors. First, technology has improved, which allows brewers to make non-alcoholic beer without sacrificing taste. In the past NA options have tasted like punishment or over-boiled beers with little redeeming character.

Second, many beer drinkers who have grown up with endless craft beer options are getting older. The higher ABV beers that once upon a time surprised and delighted now can make mornings difficult. Flavorful NA options can be supplemented into a night out or a casual night in without the adverse feelings the following day.

Technology has improved, which allows brewers to make non-alcoholic beer without sacrificing taste.

Third, there has been a trend toward “better-for-you” drinks. That has helped hard seltzers grow in popularity over the last several years and beer has joined that conversation.

A big selling point of NA options has been its lower calorie and carb count. Brewers have taken to putting that information on the labels as a way to entice consumers.

The NA process is not equal among all brews. Pilsners, stouts, porters and styles that rely less on hops tend to taste like their full ABV counterparts. Hoppy beers, like India pale ales, Hazy IPAs and pale ales are often more muted and have less snap or bite.

There has also been a rise in lower abv beers. These contain alcohol but are often 4% abv or less. These also boast lower calories and carbs and are well-suited for session drinking or long days.

The low ABV beers are becoming more commonplace for many of the same reasons that NA is gaining in popularity, but it is also a fun challenge for brewers who are looking to dial back the alcohol without sacrificing flavor.

—John Holl

92 Highland Lower Falls IPA (India pale ale; Highland Brewing, NC). An easy-drinking IPA that goes light on the hops and body without sacrificing flavor. A bitter citrusy hop snap on the finish keeps taste buds engaged while the low abv keeps the mind sharp. Pair with your favorite outdoor activity.
abv: 3.9% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

92 Yazoo Locale (ale; Yazoo Brewing, TN). Proof that not all low-calorie options have to be lacking in flavor or oomph, this cloudy yellow ale from Embrace the Funk has a hop-derived fruitiness and spiciness. A yeasty twang comes on mid-palate and boosts up the citrus on the finish. 90 calories.
abv: 3.6% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

91 Industrial Arts Safety Glasses Pils (Pilsner; Industrial Arts, NY). A ballpark beer with-

out the alcohol, this clear golden yellow pilsner has the crispness the style demands combined with an herbal and citrus hop character. 80 calories.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$12/12oz 6 pack

91 Samuel Adams Just the Haze (Hazy IPA; Boston Beer, MA). A non-alcoholic IPA that manages to keep much of the body and juiciness of the style, but without any booze bite. Pillowly malt bill and floral, fruity, citrus-forward hops all blend well to create an enjoyable pint.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

90 Bolero Snort Steamroom (California Common; Bolero Snort, NJ). Ruddy tan in color with a biscuity and brown country bread aroma. Follows through with a dried nut quality and a

touch of earthy grass. A proper pub pint that works with a hearty lunch.
abv: 3.5% **Price:** NA/12oz 6 pack

90 Industrial Arts Safety Glasses IPA (India pale ale; Industrial Arts, NY). Citrusy and hop punchy, this slightly hazy IPA brings on the juicy tropical notes after a few sips. Citrus peel and pith appear towards the finish. Appropriate for afternoon projects where concentration is key. Non-alcoholic. 83 calories.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$14/12oz 6 pack

88 Rick’s Original (Lager; Sustainable Beverage Technologies, CO). A clear, crispy, easy drinking lager without the alcohol. Looks the part with a golden body and fluffy white head, a slight overcooked grain and hop note creeps in now and again towards the finish.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

90 Untitled Art Italian Style Pils (Non-alcoholic; Untitled Art, WI). With many of the hallmarks of a hoppy, European pilsner, this non-alcoholic version delivers in crispness, refreshing malt, and a clean finish all while letting the hops shine. Herbal and earthy with a touch of citrus and low bitterness.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$20/12oz 6 pack

90 Untitled Art Mango Dragonfruit Fruited Sour (Non-alcoholic; Untitled Art, WI). Fizzy, fruited delights with flavors of tropical fruit and a light puree mouthfeel, give this an any-time-of-day drinking feel. The yeasty tartness toward the finish, gives it that beer essence. Otherwise, it’s a lively fruit juice concoction.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$20/12oz 6 pack

89 Surreal 17 Mile (Porter; Surreal Brewing, CA). Deep aromas of mulched leaves and wet smoke with a touch of baked chocolate waft from this ruddy brown brew. The roasted malt character grows with each sip which also brings on a mineral water twinge toward the finish. Non-alcoholic. 50 calories.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

89 Wellbeing Match Day Light (English pale ale; St. Louis Brewery, MO). A nutty, slightly sweet and earthy pub ale without any booze. Pours a chestnut brown and gives off leafy aromas that pair well with roasts and salty bar snacks.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$12/12oz 6 pack

88 Lakefront Eastside Dark NA (Non-alcoholic; Lakefront Brewery, WI). Pouring a lovely chestnut brown with low carbonation, this nutty slightly caramel-flavored brew has a lot of brown ale characteristics, while finishing smooth and refreshing. A welcome accompaniment to grilled burgers.
abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

87 Crux No Mo Hazy IPA (Hazy IPA; Crux Fermentation Project; OR). Woody with tropical

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fruit hop undertones, this non-alcoholic IPA pours on the clearer side of haze. Fruity characteristics with a touch of hop bite emerge mid-palate and last through the finish. Additional sweet wood flavors show up on the dry finish.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

87 Eight (American light lager; Eight Brewing, TX). Pale golden yellow with a quick disappearing head, this easy-drinking lager is endorsed by NFL Announcer Troy Aikman. Fruity notes peak out around the edges after a few sips and become more prominent as the glass empties. Finishes with a faint citrus twang.

abv: 4% **Price:** \$16/12oz 12pack

87 Garage Stick Shift (Lager; Garage Brewing, CA). Easy-drinking, slightly fruity lager that pours pale yellow with a low head. Faint tropical flavors come on toward the finish but don't harsh the crispness of the quaff.

abv: 3.9% **Price:** \$4/22oz

87 KIT NA On Your Mark (Blonde ale; KIT NA, ME). Smooth and fruity, this non-alcoholic blonde ale delivers with an orange blossom sweetness and refreshing nature. 85 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$15/12oz 6 pack

87 Lakefront Riverwest Stein NA (Non-alcoholic; Lakefront Brewery, WI). This amber brew has a subtle tea-like quality mixed with faint hazelnut sweetness. Refreshing, easy drinking, and easy on the carbonation, this helps beat the heat without the booze.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/16oz 4 pack

86 Two Roads Non-Alcoholic American IPA (India pale ale; Two Roads Brewing, CT). With subtle hints of pine and citrus, plus a good amount of sweet malt, this has some of the bite of the overall 1 style, but with an added herbal tea character that helps sips go down a little faster. A good start for the early televised game on Sunday.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$11/12oz 6 pack

86 Urban South Paradise Park (lager; Urban South, LA). Smooth with a hint of crispness, this easy-drinking lager is light all around. From its pale, clear yellow appearance to its low grain and hop character, to a slightly watery finish. 100 calories.

abv: 4% **Price:** \$8/12oz 6 pack

86 Urban South Paradise Park Lo-cal IPA (India pale ale; Urban South, LA). A small IPA that has low-dose hop character that offers up white stone fruit, orange peel and earthy pine. Hits the spot for a quick post-workout pint. 120 calories.

abv: 4% **Price:** \$8/12oz 6 pack

85 AZ Wilderness Arizo[na] (Non-alcoholic; Arizona Wilderness, AZ). Light undertones of lemon and orange with a faint bitterness on the finish give an impression of a hoppy beer, but without the body or full bite. Earthy tea flavors on the

dry finish add a character that lends to post-hike drinking.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$14/16oz 4 pack

85 Boulevard Flying Start (IPA; Boulevard Brewing, MO). Containing slight aromas of boiled hops, herbal tea, and a rubbery malt, this non-alcoholic IPA still has the bones of the full-strength style and can be slotted into a lineup where a careful taste of hops is called for.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

87 Crux No Mo IPA (India pale ale; Crux Fermentation Project; OR). Tropical and citrus hop aromas mix with a sweet malt body that brings on some toasted sugar and cereal notes. Non-alcoholic. 30 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

85 Lakefront Extended Play NA (India pale ale; Lakefront Brewery, WI). A citrusy hop tea aroma and flavor that pours clear bronze with a fluffy white head. Scratches the itch for a hop fix without the booze but will leave some lupulin lovers wishing for a bit more bite. Non-alcoholic.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 6 pack

85 Surreal Juicy Mavs (Hazy IPA; Surreal Brewing, CA). Faint aromas of citrus blossom, orange peel and muddled tropical fruit emerge from this dark bronze, slightly cloudy brew. Missing the juicy marks for the style. Non-alcoholic. 25 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

85 Surreal Pastry Porter (Porter; Surreal Brewing, CA). Deep aromas of light brown and confectioners' sugar blend with a woody and slightly smoky malt character. Non-alcoholic, this sugary dark brew brings on undertones of baked vanilla paste toward the finish.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

85 Untitled Art Juicy IPA (Non-alcoholic; Untitled Art, WI). Hoppy aromas of pineapple and citrus peel mix with a tart funky lemon curd and herbal tea. Hazy and medium bodied, this has many of the characters of a modern IPA, minus the alcohol.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$20/12oz 6 pack

84 Alesmith Non-alcoholic IPA (India pale ale; Alesmith Brewing, CA). Aromas and flavors of herbal leafy green hop tea mix with a waxy malt and pine on the finish. Clear golden yellow with a fluffy head. 75 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$13/12oz 6 pack

84 Harpoon Open League (Hazy IPA; Harpoon Brewery, MA). Low on hop character with a slight citrus juiciness, this non-alcoholic offering brings on tea flavors toward the finish. 35 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$8/12oz 4 pack

84 Kit NA IPA (India pale ale; KIT NA, ME). Watered down hops that still bring refreshment and a touch of bitterness to the palate. Thin-

ner body than traditional IPAs, this has grapefruit, pine and a touch of pear. 88 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$15/12oz 6 pack

84 Surreal Creatives IPA (West Coast IPA; Surreal Brewing, CA). A low dose of tea-like herbal hops swirl around in the glass mixing with a nutty, caramel malt body. No real hop bite and a watery finish.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

84 Surreal Red IPA (Red IPA; Surreal Brewing, CA). Flavors of muddled orange and fizzy, earthy cherry mix with a nutty malt and tea character. The earthy tea becomes more prominent mid-palate before quickly disappearing, leaving a mineral twang in its wake. Non-alcoholic. 33 calories.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12oz 4 pack

HARD SELTZERS

89 BuenaVida Watermelon Lime (Hard Seltzer; Stone Brewing, CA). Delightfully sugar flavored, this watermelon bubblegum flavored seltzer is filled with spun sugar and cucumber spa water flavors that get a spritz of funky aged lime peel on the end. 100 calories.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$19/12oz 12 pack

88 Aligned Tropical (Hard Seltzer; Revision Brewing, NV). Breezy and faint aromas of candied pineapple and guava with additional notes of mango. Clear and well carbonated, this bottled seltzer does a flavor vanish between sips for continuous fresh refreshment. 150 calories.

abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$4/17.5oz

86 Flying Embers Blood Orange (Hard Seltzer; Flying Embers, CA). Pouring a dusty pink and lively with pleasing herbal bitter aromas, this funky citrus seltzer has a personality in its complexity. 95 calories.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$13/12oz 12 pack

86 Flying Embers Black Lime Juniper (Hard Seltzer; Flying Embers, CA). Assertive in flavor enough to stand up to summer beachside cocktail parties without weighing down the palate. This funky lime and herbal hard seltzer keeps the olfactory senses engaged from start to finish. 95 calories.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$13/12oz 12 pack

86 The Standard Ranch Water (Ranch Water; Elm Fork Beverage, TX). An even-handed, slightly dusty tequila cocktail with lime flavoring that appears mid-palate and lasts through the finish. The boozy flavors stay in the background, leaving the tastebuds looking for something to latch onto. A fine way to scratch a tequila itch without winding up on the floor.

abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$16/12oz 4 pack

86 El Hempe Hibiscus (Hard Seltzer; El Hempe, OR). Floral and aged citrus forward, this slightly cloudy tequila hard seltzer is made with

limonene terpenes that add both a slightly tart and subtle sweet character. Slightly oily and bitter on the finish, a departure from the normal overly sweet seltzers.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$17/12oz 4 pack

85 Giggle Water Grapefruit Guava (Hard Seltzer; Fiction Beer Co., CO). Pours golden yellow with slight haze and aromas of grapefruit pith and guava skin. Tempered flavors and aromas keep the palate refreshed and offer suggestions of tropical vacations to come.

abv: 5% **Price:** NA/Draft

84 El Hempe Lemon & Lime (Hard Seltzer; El Hempe, OR). Big on the citrus aromas, everything fades with the first sip. A watery tequila and soda with a healthy dash of Rose's Lime Juice. Slightly dank toward the finish.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$17/12oz 4 pack

84 Paradise Park Strawberry Colada (Hard Seltzer; Urban South, LA). Pouring a dusty salmon and boasting big aromas of coconut oil and strawberry candy, this is lively with undertones of vanilla bark and faint citrus. A berry forward cocktail homage. 96 calories.

abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$18/12oz 12 pack

83 Trophy Hasta la Tambora (Hard Seltzer; Trophy Brewing, NC). A sugary combination of pineapple syrup, coconut sugar, and a splash of citrus, this has all the fun tiki flavors one could want combined with a touch of candied orange and a lively carbonation that perks up the otherwise dense liquid. A collaboration with Salud Cerveceria.

abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$19/16oz 4 pack

82 Flying Embers Cranberry Raspberry (Hard Seltzer, Flying Embers, CA). Dusty aromas of camphor are quickly present from the pour and follow through to the finish. Light neon purple in color and clear, it offers dusty flavors of tart berry and concentrated lemon peel. 95 calories.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$13/12oz 12 pack

82 El Hempe Mixed Berry (Hard Seltzer; El Hempe, OR). Ultimately, woody with a robust dankness, this tequila-based seltzer first comes on with an earthy dirt aroma. Candied blueberry and lemon peel emerge toward the finish.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$17/12oz 4 pack