

WINE ENTHUSIAST **BUYING GUIDE**

MAY 2021

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Close up of Riesling
growing on the vine

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NEW YORK

The power in seeking a sense of place

Rieslings from New York are among the best examples of the variety in the country, with those from the Finger Lakes region leading the charge. About 1,000 acres are planted to the grape in the area, making it a relatively small affair, yet what it lacks in quantity, it more than makes up for in quality and site expression.

Vineyards in the Finger Lakes are anything but homogenous. Due to the region's geological history—namely a wall of glaciers from ice ages in the past carving up the land—a mix of soil types and textures are exposed and planted to vines. Beyond that, sites also range in elevation, slope and proximity to the lakes, all of which influence the development of the grapes and contribute to the stylistic outcome of the final wine.

Much like the rest of the wine world, many Finger Lakes producers share the goal of creating wines with a “sense of place” and Riesling is the natural conduit in the region. Ever the pioneer, Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard has been bottling its well-regarded Magdalena Vineyard Riesling for over a decade. Located

Vineyards in the Finger Lakes are anything but homogenous.

10 miles from the winery on the northwest side of Seneca Lake, this silt loam site is one of the warmest in the area and consistently produces a richly fruited, earthy and textured dry expression.

Other bottlings, like Wagner's Caywood East or Red Newt's Tango Oaks, are more recent endeavors. The former is a racy, stony, streamlined wine sourced from a steep vineyard planted in 2005, while the latter is a perfumed and spicy yet pristinely fruity Riesling from a unique gravelly site caused by a catastrophic flood in 1935.

These are but a drop in the bucket for site-focused Rieslings which seem to have exploded in the past few years. But buyer beware: Quality and site specificity do not always go hand-in-hand, and of course the other half of the equation for the final bottled outcome happens in the cellar. Regardless, the persistent pursuit of understanding how Riesling performs across the region's varied sites is important. This discovery only makes the Finger Lakes stronger and solidifies it as a world-class wine region. —*Alexander Peartree*

RIESLING

94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 HJW Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Incredibly zesty yet rich aromas of apple, lemon peel and chamomile dazzle on the nose of this single-vineyard wine. It's rounded and ripe in feel on the palate, yet immensely lifted by vibrant acidity. Juicy apple, peach and yellow blossom flavors never falter, with a delicate crushed stone element adding zip to the lingering finish. Drink through 2030. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Josef Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Concentrated aromas of yellow apple, pineapple, lemon oil and pine meld with a blossomy undertone in this Riesling sourced from a vineyard that dates to the 1970s. It's unctuously sweet on the palate yet well defined. Luscious orchard fruit is dappled in honey

and lemon zest, with a real sense of energy and lift that persists through the lingering finish. Drink now–2030. —A.P.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$36

94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Reserve Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29

94 Living Roots 2019 Shale Creek Bone-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Sourced from a Keuka Lake vineyard, this rich dry Riesling offers dense tones of tangerine, lemon oil, pine and dry honeycomb on the nose. There's immense breadth and body to the palate, where juicy shots of orange and apple push through the sultry texture. There's a delicate earthiness to it all, with a crushed slate minerality zipping along on the lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

93 Fox Run 2019 Silvan Riesling (Seneca Lake). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$20

93 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Magdalena Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). Concentrated aromas of lemon oil, peach, pine and struck flint grace the nose of this single-vineyard Riesling. It's rounded and full in feel on the palate, filled out by juicy orchard fruit flavors yet expertly honed by zesty acidity and a delicate grip of white tea. A lemon oil tone lingers on the finish, but with ample lift and length. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

93 Hosmer 2019 Limited Release Riesling (Cayuga Lake). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$25

93 Standing Stone 2019 Timeline Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Sourced from vines planted in 1972, this striking dry Riesling delves into perfumed tones of peach, apple, jasmine and slate. There's richness to the palate yet immense lift and drive, with lasting acidity and crushed-stone verve pushing it along. It lingers long on a resounding citrus finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

93 The Grapes of Roth 2019 Virgin Berry Dry Riesling (Long Island). Ripe yellow apple and Mirabelle plum aromas mix with crushed salt and apple blossoms on the nose of this dry Riesling. There's ample lift to the rounded palate, where crystalline acidity pushes through the ripe juicy fruit flavors. Pithy pomelo zest and earthy white tea flavors lend depth and linger on the close. —A.P.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$32

93 Wagner 2019 Caywood East Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

92 Fox Run 2019 Reserve Riesling (Seneca Lake). There's ample depth to the nose of this wine, showing lemon oil, crushed stone, yellow apple and ginger. It's semidry in style but impeccably balanced by plenty of zesty acidity. Juicy orchard fruit flavors are underscored by a tangy line of wet slate, making this utterly balanced and quite lengthy. Drink through 2026. —A.P.
abv: 11.6% **Price:** \$30

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Well-concentrated aromas of apple and peach meld with crushed stone and yellow blossoms on the nose. There's a real sense of energy and lift to the deft palate, where juicy shots of tangerine and pome fruit are lifted by vibrant

Continued on page 22

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 Alexander Peartree, Editor-in-Chief Susan Kostrzewa, Managing Editor Lauren Buzzeo, Assistant Tasting Director Fiona Adams, Contributing Editors Michael Schachner, Anna Lee C. Iijima, Christina Pickard, Mike DeSimone, Jeff Jensen and Spirits Editor Kara Newman in New York; European Editor Roger Voss in France; Italian Editor Kerin O'Keefe in Switzerland; Contributing Editors Virginie Boone, Jim Gordon and Matt Kettmann in California; Contributing Editors Paul Gregutt and Sean P. Sullivan in Washington; and Beer Editor John Holl in New Jersey.

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

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

TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

ABOUT THE SCORES

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

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

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

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

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

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

SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

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

LABELS

Labels are paid promotions. Producers and importers are given the opportunity to submit labels only after the reviews have been finalized and assigned to a specific issue. Labels are reproduced and printed along with tasting notes and scores. For information on label purchases, contact Denise Valenza at 813.571.1122; fax 866.896.8786; or email dvalenza@wineenthusiast.net

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



100 Il Marroneto 2016 Madonna delle Grazie (Brunello di Montalcino).

This dazzling wine is for Sangiovese purists and fans of extreme finesse. Opening with tantalizing aromas of rose, violet, berry, tilled earth and new leather, it's youthfully intense but already a classic. Focused, structured and radiant, the chiseled palate delivers cherry, raspberry, licorice and crushed mint before a tobacco close. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity keep it perfectly balanced. Drink 2026–2046. LLS–Winebow. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$350



100 Le Chiusi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino.

This gorgeous wine opens with fragrant aromas of violet, wild berry, new leather, tilled earth and spice. Showing the estate's hallmark elegance, structure and precision, the focused, full-bodied palate delivers cherry, crushed raspberry, star anise and tobacco before finishing on a note of black tea. Taut, refined tannins and bright acidity keep it vibrant and balanced. Drink 2024–2046. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$99



99 Conti Costanti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino.

This savory stunner has enticing scents of violet, rose and wild berry that gain complexity alongside notes of leather, camphor and sandalwood. The elegantly structured palate is all about precision, featuring juicy cherry, blood orange, star anise and tobacco framed in taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it energized. Drink 2024–2046. Empson USA Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.

abv: 14%

Price: \$119



98 Argiano 2016 Vigna del Suolo (Brunello di Montalcino).

Made with vines that average 55 years old, this fragrant, single-vineyard Brunello boasts aromas of violet, menthol, wild berry and spice. Loaded with class and finesse, the delicious, full-bodied palate features Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, blood orange, licorice and a hint of coffee alongside polished, velvety tannins. A salty mineral note lingers on the finish. Drink 2024–2046. LUX Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$200

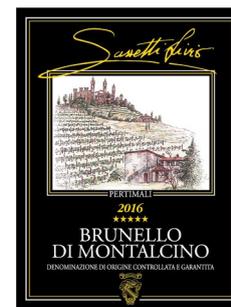


98 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2016 Pianrosso (Brunello di Montalcino).

Aromas of red berry, camphor and tobacco meld with rose in this fragrant, full-bodied red. The smooth palate is concentrated yet elegant, featuring raspberry jam, cherry marinated in spirits, licorice and coffee bean alongside a backbone of firm, velvety tannins. Drink 2023–2031. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.

abv: 15%

Price: \$100



97 Livio Sassetti 2016 Pertimali (Brunello di Montalcino).

Red berry, violet and menthol aromas fill the glass alongside a whiff of underbrush in this full-bodied red. The tightly wound palate offers Marasca cherry, licorice, tobacco and a hint of game set against a backbone of assertive, fine-grained tannins. Flashes of bright acidity keep it balanced. Drink 2024–2036. The Sorting Table. —K.O.

abv: 14.5%

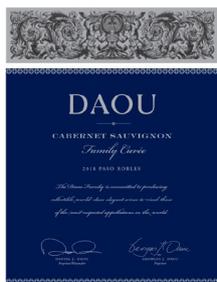
Price: \$90



96 Argiano 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This fragrant red opens with heady scents of blue flower, star anise, camphor and new leather. Still young and primary, it delivers juicy red cherry, spiced cranberry, licorice and tobacco supported by a backbone of refined tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it energized and balanced. Drink 2026–2041. LUX Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



96 Caparzo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Underbrush, rose, new leather and camphor aromas mingle with wild berry in this fragrant, classy red. Linear and elegantly structured, the focused palate delivers juicy red cherry, spiced cranberry, star anise and cinnamon set against firm, refined tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2023–2030. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80



96 Daou 2018 Family Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Aromas dark cherry, black currant, coffee, tar and cinnamon carry the lush nose of this bottling. Fine-grained tannins frame the intensely layered sip, holding up deep flavors of cassis, blueberry and dried beef, with touches of espresso and sesame seed adding intrigue. Daniel Daou's tannin management regime shines brightly here. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$100



96 Domaine de la Solitude 2018 Vin de la Solitude (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This wine is the result of a cofermentation of nine different regional grapes (red and white) added to the vat as they mature. A showcase of balance in contrast to the big Grenache-dominant styles popular today, it's a spirited, delightfully pure-fruited red marked by crisp red-currant and sour-cherry flavors, with nuances of bramble, earth and smoked tea leaves. Breath-taking and spry, it's at peak now through 2035. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100



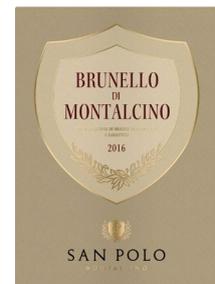
96 Fuligni 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit, menthol and star anise form the nose of this full-bodied red. Combining structure and finesse, the palate delivers raspberry, licorice and vanilla before a coffee finish. A backbone of firm, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity keep it well balanced. Drink 2025–2030. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$205



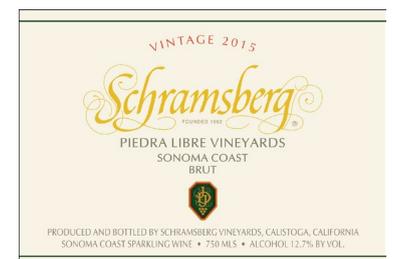
96 J Vineyards & Winery 2015 Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley). Given plenty of time to age and coalesce, this impressive sparkler combines 59% Pinot Noir with 33% Chardonnay and 8% Pinot Meunier. Together, they offer a complex, vibrant imprint of orange peel, red cherry, strawberry and stone, while the foundation is structured and lengthy. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65



96 Klein Constantia 2017 Vin de Constance (Constantia). From a stellar vintage comes a rich and opulent wine, though one that is also remarkably precise in focus. Aromas of honeycomb, sweet roasted nuts, baked apple, orange marmalade and a touch of pressed honeysuckle set the stage on the nose and mouth, but are partnered for optimal balance by a pronounced seam of acidity and lingering ginger and baking spice accents on the long, evolving finish. It's hard to resist now, but this will hold and mature well through 2037. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120/500 ml



96 San Polo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of underbrush, rose petal, new leather and wild mint shape the nose. The savory, elegantly structured palate shows ripe red cherry, raspberry compote, licorice and cinnamon framed in tightly knit, fine-grained tannins. Bright acidity keeps it radiant. Drink 2023–2036. Trincherro Family Estates. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65



96 Schramsberg 2015 Piedra Libre Vineyards Brut (Sonoma Coast). This brut is made from 52% Chardonnay and 48% Pinot Noir, with 41% barrel fermented. Inviting in tangerine, peach and oyster shell, it has tension and energy on offer, the crisp freshness deliciously vibrant from start to finish. —V.B.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$90



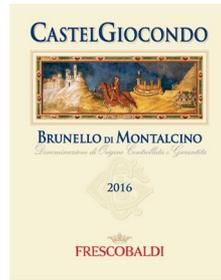
96 Three Sticks 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Juicy and supple, this red offers a generous helping of blue fruit matched by bright acidity. On the palate, it is lengthy, lush and textured, with accents of crushed rock, cardamom, nutmeg and white pepper. This showcases the site and vintage in a balanced, graceful wine. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70



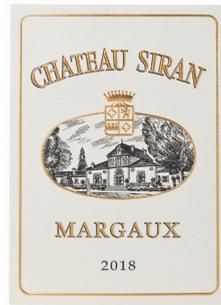
96 Villa Poggio Salvi 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Delicious and loaded with finesse, this red boasts aromas and flavors of underbrush, blue flower, ripe plum, juicy red berry and baking spice. Notes of licorice and tobacco linger on the finish while velvety tannins offer polished support. Drink 2022–2030. FX Magner Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95



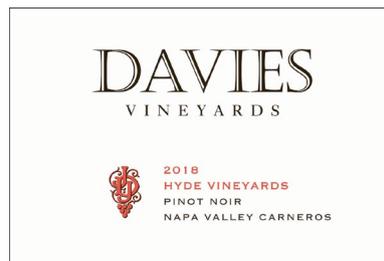
95 Caraccioli 2018 Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). A rose potpourri aroma is wrapped around ripe cherries on the nose, spiced with a touch of mace and made further complex by a hint of game. The wood-spice character of the palate plays with wild berry and cherry, as tight tannins and biting acidity lead into a roasted-pork-kissed finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$50



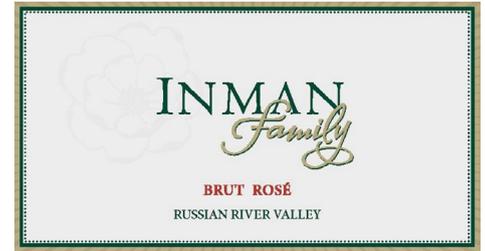
95 Castelgiocondo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Eucalyptus, blue flower, baked plum and spice aromas shape the nose in this fragrant red. Full bodied and chewy, the savory palate delivers ripe black cherry, vanilla, licorice and espresso alongside tightly knit, velvety tannins. Drink 2023–2031. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$71



95 Château Siran 2018 Margaux. From an estate in the southern part of Margaux, this wine has just the right mix of rich tannins and taut black-currant flavors to give upfront freshness and potential for further aging. Structured and fruity, it should be drunk from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38



95 Davies 2018 Hyde Vineyards Pinot Noir (Carneros). From the mighty Hyde Vineyards, this red is seamless, delicious and memorable, full of impressive structure and grip. Black tea, strawberry and a juicy midpalate of darker fruit and baking spice give weight and complexity to the whole, boosted by fresh, persistent acidity and a hint of chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70



95 Inman Family 2018 Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley). This sparkling wine is fun and full of finesse, with crisp layers of strawberry, peach and Meyer lemon. From the producer's own dry-farmed Olivet Grange Estate Vineyard, it is deliciously fresh and fruity, with complex undertones of almond, anise and earth. —V.B.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$68



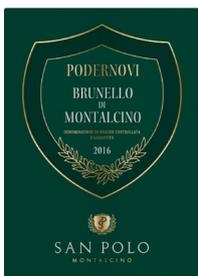
95 Maison Les Alexandrins 2018 Côte-Rôtie. Syrah's sultry cassis and blackberry flavors are lifted by Viognier's airy floral perfume in this full-bodied, robust red. Etched by schist and a piercing vein of iodine, it's a deeply fruity but complex wine that wears its earthen, smoky subtleties with finesse. The finish lingers on a grip of fine, sandpapery tannins. At peak from 2022–2030, the wine will hold much longer still. Vineyard Brands. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$89



95 Padelletti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Tantalizing aromas of wild berry, rose, camphor and new leather lead the way in this fragrant wine. The medium-bodied palate is both firm and elegant, featuring juicy red cherry, cranberry and licorice before finishing on a coffee note. Tight, fine-grained tannins and bright acidity keep it fresh and balanced. Drink 2024–2036. Oliver McCrum Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$76



95 Padelletti 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of camphor, new leather, forest floor and a whiff of coffee bean shape the nose. Full in feel but showing the finesse imparted by high-altitude vineyards located to the north of Montalcino, the youthfully energized palate features ripe Marasca cherry, licorice and coffee. Firm, refined tannins keep it well balanced. Drink 2023–2030. Oliver McCrum Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120



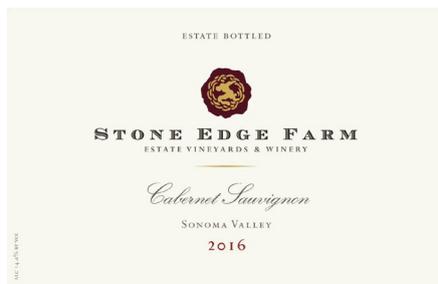
95 San Polo 2016 Podernovi (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of forest floor, grilled herb, camphor and pipe tobacco mingle on the nose of this full-bodied red. The firm, elegantly structured palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, red currant, licorice and coffee bean. Tightly wound, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity grip the close and lend an ageworthy structure. Drink 2026–2041. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150



95 San Polo 2016 Vignavecchia (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of pine, blue flower, wild herb and menthol take shape on the fragrant nose. The firm, linear palate delivers Marasca cherry, spiced cranberry, licorice and tobacco before finishing on a hint of coffee. Tightly wound, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity keep it well balanced, but it's still youthfully austere and needs time to fully develop. Drink 2026–2046. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300



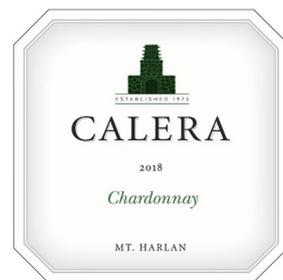
95 Spear 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There's tremendous purity to the red cherry and hibiscus aromas on the nose of this bottling, which also shows aromas of bay leaf and dried herbs. The texture is immediately compelling on the sip, where rich cherry flavors are sprinkled with black tea, cardamom and coriander. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



95 Stone Edge Farm 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). From a high-elevation site in what is now Moon Mountain, as well as a smaller vineyard on the valley floor, both estate, this red opens with a fragrant nose of rose and cherry. Blended with 11% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec, the palate follows in a contrast of tart currant and earthy, herbal components of cedar, pencil and sage. Structured and elegant, drink from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$130



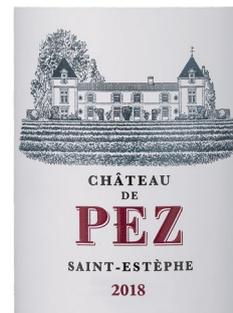
94 Amor Fati 2018 Murmur Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Tart black raspberry meets with crumpled oregano and dry, earthy loam on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard on the western edge of the appellation. There is a tight texture on the palate, where muddled plum, brisk berry and light chaparral flavors dance across the tongue. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60



94 Calera 2018 Chardonnay (Mt. Harlan). Light aromas of honeysuckle, sea salt, white peach and nectarine show on the nose of this classic bottling, from a 2,200-foot-high vineyard. There is a strong streak of limestone flavor to the sip, with warmer hints of white peach and toast. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55



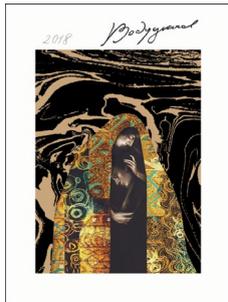
94 Caraccioli 2018 Escolle Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). A bold chalky aroma melds with Asian pear, Tuscan melon and light brushes of yuzu and Meyer lemon in this wine. The palate grabs hold with a texture that doesn't quit, carrying flavors of lemon bar and cashew that are rich in their own sneaky way. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35



94 Château de Pez 2018 Saint-Estèphe. Under the same Rouzaud family ownership as Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande in Pauillac, this estate has produced a structured wine. It offers dense and solid tannins, rich with a firm texture and black currant fruits. The wine has weight and density that need aging. Drink from 2026. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60



94 Cortonesi 2016 La Mannella (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of forest floor, new leather, wild berry and warm spices lead the nose. Classically crafted and firmly structured, the palate features juicy black cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and tobacco supported by a backbone of youthfully assertive tannins. Fresh acidity provides plenty of tension. Drink 2026–2041. Quintessential Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65



94 Daou 2018 Bodyguard (Paso Robles). In comparison to some of the brand's other offerings, this is an affordable way to check in on the Daou experience. Savory aromas of coffee bean meet with lush purple fruits on the nose. The palate is rounded in texture, with rich flavors of dark berry, cappuccino, milk chocolate and caramel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40



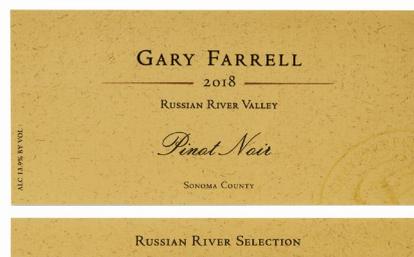
94 Dauvergne & Ranvier 2019 Vin Rare (Condrieu). Powerful and perfumed, this silky-tipped Viognier balances streaks of honey and cream against pristine apricot and white-peach flavors. It's a mouthclinging wine, with a warming finish accented by smoke, schist and rose petals. It's at peak now through 2027 but will hold further. LGI Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$79



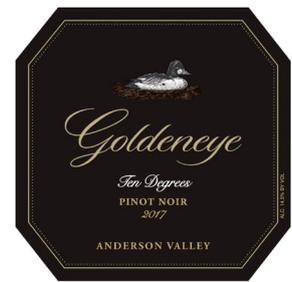
94 Domaine de la Solitude 2018 Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Camphor and smoked tea subtly accent black currant and cherry in this blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (25%), Mourvèdre (15%) and Cinsault (10%). While full in feel and concentrated, it's a fruit-focused, immediately enjoyable expression of this domaine at peak now through 2030. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48



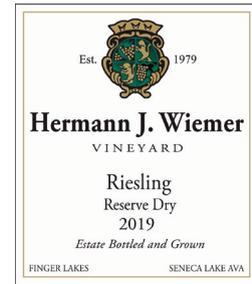
94 Edio 2019 Estate Blend Mourvèdre (Sierra Foothills). This deeply concentrated and focused wine wraps a blanket of fine-grained tannins around a core of black currant, black cherry and plum flavors. Built for at least mid-term aging, it is full bodied but balanced and tempting to drink, though it is holding back its best stuff until 2023 and beyond. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40



94 Gary Farrell 2018 Russian River Selection Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Sumptuous in strawberry, blackberry and nutmeg spice, with prominent tannin structure, this is a balanced wine sourced from enviable sites such as Hallberg, Rochioli and Martaella. Orange peel, black tea and dried herb accent a creamy, decadent texture that is never weighted down, boosted by buzzy acidity throughout. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45



94 Goldeneye 2017 Ten Degrees Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Dazzling spicy aromas and vibrant black-fruit flavors converge beautifully in this bold but balanced wine. Scents of wood smoke, toasted oak, cardamom and black pepper meet black cherry, aged beef and blueberry on the palate, buoyed by moderate tannins and subtle nervy acidity. Best from 2023. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130



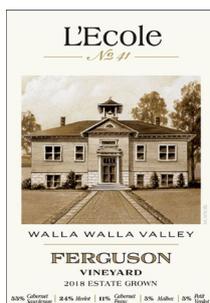
94 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Reserve Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). From a blend of estate sites, this dry Riesling offers soothing aromas of peach, apricot, lavender and orchard blossom. It's sultry and creamy on the medium-bodied palate, but well honed by vibrant acidity. A blossomy tone lingers throughout, with a rich core of peach and apple struck against a gently pithy texture. Drink through 2028. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$29



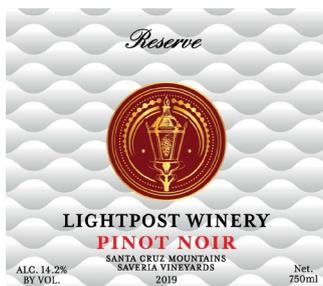
94 J Vineyards & Winery 2016 Blanc de Noirs (Sonoma Coast). Showing aromas of marzipan, brioche and graham cracker, this sparkling blend is made from 60% Pinot Noir and 40% Pinot Meunier and spent three years *en tirage*. Layered swirls of white peach, green apple and wet stone give it vibrancy and a length of fruity flavor and freshness, leading to a complete, nutmeg-tinged finish. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65



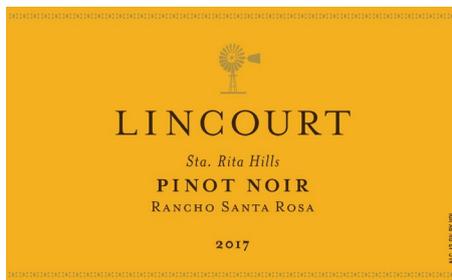
94 J Vineyards & Winery 2014 Blanc de Blancs (Russian River Valley). A lively mousse leads to a refined core of rich baked pear, fig and almond croissant. With five years *en tirage*, it offers depth alongside crisp underlying freshness, with a creamy, memorable finish. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$80



94 L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Ferguson Vineyard Estate Grown (Walla Walla Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon comprises 55% of this wine, with the balance Merlot (24%), Cabernet Franc (11%), and then equal parts Malbec and Petit Verdot. The fruit flavors show sophistication. It's packed tightly with youthful tannins, acidity and notes of cherry, black tea, raspberry and spice. It will have a very long life ahead of it. Drink 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



94 Lightpost 2019 Saveria Vineyards Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Fresh black raspberry, hibiscus and sumac carry the nose of this expressive bottling, which gains complexity from an accent of fennel pollen. The snappy berry and plum-skin flavors meet with rose petals and cinnamon on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$49



94 Lincourt 2017 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of lavender potpourri, dried meat and baked black plum make for a heady, inviting nose in this bottling. The palate is cohesive and well-integrated, offering hints of roasted tomato, baked plum, thyme and oregano, with an elegant acidity that cuts through the rich mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40



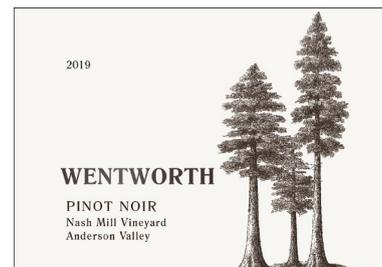
94 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Pinha Ribeiro Santo Reserva (Dão). This poised wine is made from Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz and Alfrocheiro. While the black fruits are dense, they are also elegant, yielding a rich wine that's balanced by bright acidity. Drink from 2022. Iberian Wine Importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17



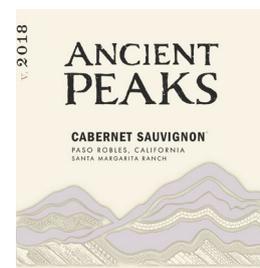
94 Sangiacomo 2018 Green Acres Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Given moderate time in French oak, just 20% of it new, this wine retains a lively freshness beneath the lush fruit. Bright notes throughout complement the rich, rewarding body of pear compote and nutmeg. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65



94 Santa Carolina 2017 VSC (Cachapoal Valley). Ripe blackberry and dark plum aromas are dense and full as they veer toward raisin, while this feels stocky and deep, with beneficial edginess to the well-structured palate. Dark chocolate, coffee, vanilla and easygoing spice flavors sit atop the core blackberry and cassis, while this is smooth and silky on a finish with licorice and chocolate notes that ride on for a while. Drink this comfortably ripe and pure red blend through 2027. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35



94 Wentworth 2019 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This nervy, appetizing and tightly balanced wine holds back a bit from complete ripeness to bring out tangy red- and black-cherry aromas, raspberry and cranberry flavors and a moderately tannic texture on a medium body. Made with native yeast, 45% of whole clusters and one-third new French barrels, it's a great showing in a slightly restrained style. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75



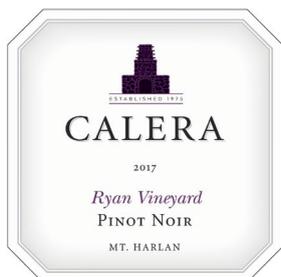
93 Ancient Peaks 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Margarita Ranch). A deep blackberry aroma meets with licorice and mushroom on the fresh and savory nose. The palate's black currant and blueberry core is partnered harmoniously with notes of chipped wood and toasted herbs as well as jubilant acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22



93 Brotte 2018 Domaine Barville (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). This bright, youthful blend of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre spotlights succulent raspberry and red-cherry flavors. Matured primarily in tank and with no new-oak influences, it's a plummy, richly concentrated wine shaded by hints of crushed stone, peppercorn and anise. Fine-grained but gripping tannins are approachable now but will keep things upright through 2028 at least. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 15%

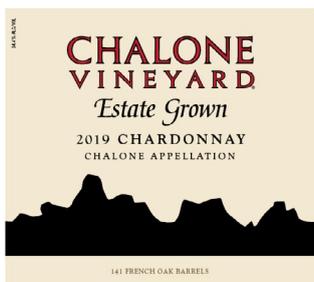
Price: \$40



93 Calera 2017 Ryan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). Baked cherry, star anise, clove and chai elements show on the ripe and spicy nose of this bottling, which was harvested after this vintage's huge Labor Day heat spike. The wine is rich, heavy and layered on the palate, with black plum flavors coated in cardamom and sagebrush. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$75



93 Chalone Vineyard 2019 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Chalone). Recent vintages mark a return to grace for this historic property, where Winemaker Gianni Abate is bringing life back to the wines. This bottling begins with a tight citrus-peel element on the nose as well as crushed sea shell. The texture is very rocky in a pleasant way, carrying fresh flavors of yuzu peel, jicama and Asian pear. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.4%

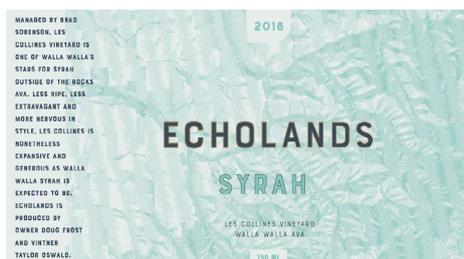
Price: \$30



93 Chalone Vineyard 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Chalone). Tight aromas of boysenberry and black raspberry meet with a wet soil minerality, red flowers and a touch of mace on the nose of this bottling. Tart cherry and cranberry flavors are fresh on the palate, where mixed dried herbs and a light vanilla finish make for a complex experience. —M.K.

abv: 14.3%

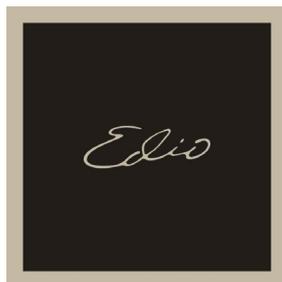
Price: \$40



93 Echolands 2018 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). From Master Sommelier and Master of Wine Doug Frost, the aromas of this wine are restrained out of the gate, but reveal notes of raspberry, cranberry, thistle, herb, orange peel and violet that blossom over time. It's a reserved styling, with flavors that stick around on the finish. The emphasis is on purity, restraint and a vibrant sense of acidity. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$38



93 Edio 2018 Frank's Blend (Sierra Foothills). Very firm and structured, this tightly knit wine compresses black cherry, blueberry and dark chocolate into a moderately tannic frame. Admirably concentrated and deep, it's built for further aging and should be best from 2023. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.7%

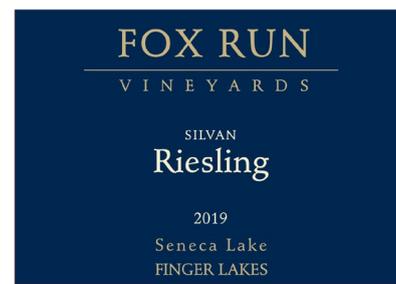
Price: \$60



93 Four Lanterns 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Templeton Gap District). Dark and focused aromas of chiseled slate and stone meet with intense boysenberry and vanilla liqueur on the nose of this bottling. The tannins are firm yet lavish on the sip, where roasted fig and plum flavors meet with espresso bean and finish on a black cherry and vanilla kick. —M.K.

abv: 15.25%

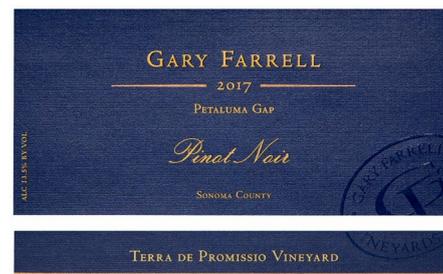
Price: \$100



93 Fox Run 2019 Silvan Riesling (Seneca Lake). Intense aromas of lemon peel, shiso leaf and green apple swirl on the nose. There's a creamy, rounded feel to the medium-bodied palate, where coiled flavors of apple, lime and quince revolve around a stony core. It shows immense energy and lift. Drink through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.

abv: 12.4%

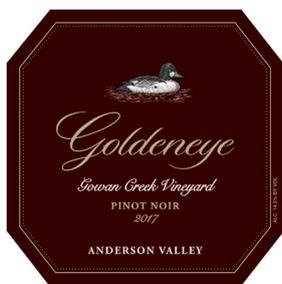
Price: \$20



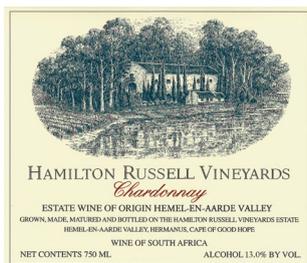
93 Gary Farrell 2017 Terra de Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Juicy bolts of raspberry, strawberry, orange and cranberry give this vineyard-designate wine a tangy edge. From a cool-climate site, it offers plenty of structure and savory complements of stoney mineral, black tea and forest floor around a velvety texture. —V.B.

abv: 13.9%

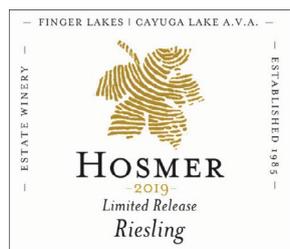
Price: \$70



93 Goldeneye 2017 Gowan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Tempting, spicy aromas and deep flavors make this full-bodied wine especially appealing as scents of cinnamon, nutmeg and cedar lead to nicely tangy but indulgent black-cherry, black-tea and raspberry flavors. Moderate tannins and snappy acidity counter the ripeness to great effect. Best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$86



93 Hamilton Russell 2019 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). A beautiful wine from a great vintage, aromas of sea spray, apple flesh and a touch of melon form the delicate nose of this precise Chardonnay. The palate is light and somewhat linear on entry, but then waves of ripe, lightly toasted orchard fruit and mouthwatering acidity dance across the palate and into the bright, focused finish. This is a baby, so give it more time to truly shine. Drink 2024–2029. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43



93 Hosmer 2019 Limited Release Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Concentrated tones of apple, white grapefruit, citrus perfume and peach make for a deep well of aromas on the nose. There's real depth to the palate, where a gentle, pithy texture is lifted by juicy pome and stone fruit. It has almost an oily feel, yet that texture is quickly put to rest by the pervasive drive of the zesty acidity. It's one to sip, savor and, if you can, cellar. Drink now–2030. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$25



93 J Vineyards & Winery 2012 Brut Late Disgorged (Russian River Valley). This is made from 61% Chardonnay, 36% Pinot Noir and 3% Pinot Meunier. Given time to gel in bottle, it is light-gold in color, with a fervent mousse that leads to a weighty midpalate of texture and heft. Blood orange, green apple and a peanut brittle-like nuttiness mingle through a lengthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$110



93 Justin 2015 Platinum Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Very dark in the glass, this aged bottling begins with an herbal kick of toasted thyme alongside baked earth, chiseled stone and tart fruit. The palate is quite tarry in texture and flavor, with ripe blackberry and black-cherry elements playing against a slightly bitter herb tone. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$170



93 Kirkland Signature 2018 Cuvée du Terroir des Papes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). In recent vintages, this wine has been produced by Guillaume Gonnet, a small, family-owned domaine known for exceptional, often pricey wines in limited distribution. This blackberried red provides an excellent introduction to Gonnet's elegant, delicately spiced wines. Ample, velvety and spiked by cocoa powder, fur and graphite, it's ready now but likely to hold through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21



93 M2 2018 Soucie Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Mokelumne River). This quietly complex wine goes deep into subtle blackberry, fig and coffee flavors, while rich, fine-grained tannins add just enough structure for good balance. Nicely integrated hints of vanilla, cinnamon and mocha come out with more sipping, and the finish lingers. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32



93 Maclaren 2017 Drouthy Neebors Syrah (Sonoma County). Not much of this crowd-pleasing wine was made, but what exists is a lively and fresh expression that's bold in peppery spice and garrigue. A leathery backbone of cola and nutmeg contribute nuanced richness to the blackberry and cherry fruit. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56



93 Maclaren 2017 Samantha's Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley). Juicy in strawberry, blueberry and cranberry flavors, this red is lifted and enduringly fresh. Bright acidity boosts both the fruit and meatiness that accompanies the wine—a mix of game, mushroom and black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52



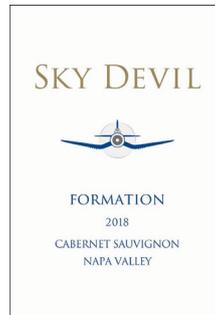
93 Markus 2018 Sol (Lodi). Rich, lush blackberries and raspberries meet subtle black-pepper, cocoa and beef jus flavors in this full-bodied, nicely polished wine made from Petite Sirah, Zinfandel and Petit Verdot. It's mouthfilling, rounded and plump, backed by velvety, smooth tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$39



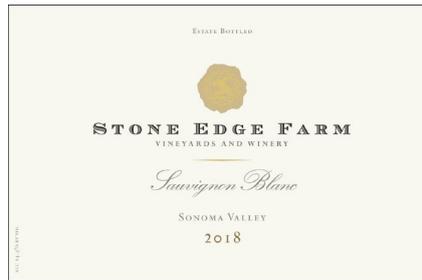
93 Palazzo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. A camphor aroma joins new leather, underbrush and pipe tobacco in this classically crafted Brunello. Youthfully austere and firmly structured, the palate delivers dried cherry, licorice and grilled porcini set against a tannic backbone. It's still young but balanced by fresh acidity. Give it plenty of time to come around. Drink 2026–2036. Montcalm Wine Importers. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



93 Shannon Ridge 2018 Giannecchini Family Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino County). Wonderful fruit complexity, a full body and a velvety texture add up to a lot of enjoyment in this concentrated, layered release. Blackberry, dried plum, blueberry and a hint of espresso make an enticing combination while moderate tannins support them well. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$45



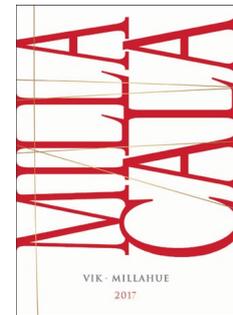
93 Sky Devil 2018 Formation Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This Cabernet includes small amounts of Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot in the blend. Aged 21 months in a majority of new oak, it tastes of toast and deliciously ripe red fruit, with substantial concentration, structure and intensity. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$95



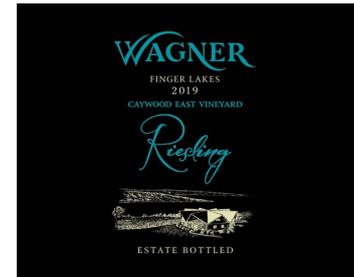
93 Stone Edge Farm 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Tart Meyer lemon and grapefruit kick off this estate-grown white which includes 16% Sémillon. Earthy, complex and textured, it delivers structure and elegance, with a length of nectarine on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50



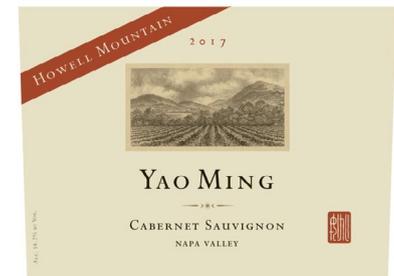
93 Trois Noix 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This white is crisp and complex in equal measure. Lively acidity boosts layers of Meyer lemon, grapefruit and tangerine, with ample weight and mouthfeel impression to keep it engaging and lengthy on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$40



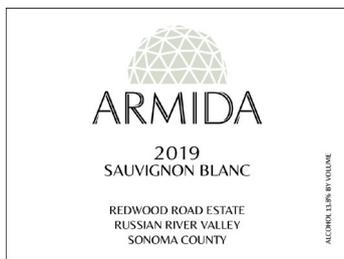
93 Vik 2017 Milla Cala Millahue (Cachapoal Valley). Briary blackberry and cassia aromas include familiar Chilean notes of eucalyptus and juniper. This Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant blend is ripe and creamy in feel, with generous flavors of brown sugar, herbs, blackberry, cassia, coffee and chocolate. The finish is chewy and rich. Drink now–2025. Guarachi Wine Partners. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45



93 Wagner 2019 Caywood East Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Intensely coiled aromas of fresh lime, crushed stone and peach blossom give this single-vineyard wine a sense of vitality. Bright shots of lime, grapefruit and lemon are met with a juicy apple core on the dry palate, leading to a gently creamy texture on the lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20



93 Yao Family Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Perfumed in rose and sage, this mountain-grown wine is oak-driven and intensely built, with crushed rock minerality and textured tannins. Structured and generously ripe, it offers dense, brooding layers of leather, tobacco and black cherry. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120



92 Armida 2019 Redwood Road Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Effusive in pea shoot, lemongrass and white flower, this white is made from the Musque clone and cofermented with Pinot Gris. A small percentage is also barrel fermented. It remains vibrantly fresh in the glass, tasting of crisp green apple. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28



92 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2018 Baronessa P. (Maipo Valley). Typical Chilean aromas of eucalyptus, green tobacco, tomato leaf and spicy berry fruits lead to a layered palate with moderate acidity. The palate brings flavors of prune, chocolate, baking spice and coffee grounds, while a lightly herbal finish is warm and ripe, with coffee, mocha and dried berry flavors. Drink in the near term. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50



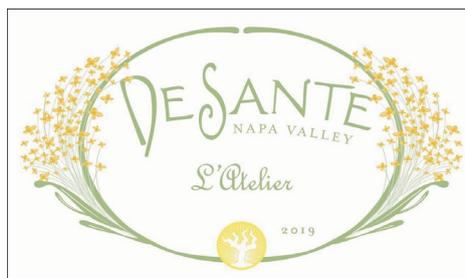
92 Bodega Garzón 2018 Petit Clos Block #212 Tannat (Uruguay). Plum and currant aromas are bouncy and lightly herbal. A palate with pulpy fruit and lively acidity shows good lift. Pepper, plum, cassis and berry flavors linger on a finish alongside a salty tomato-sauce note and dry tannins. Drink through 2023. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70



92 Brotte 2018 La Marasque (Gigondas). A blend of Grenache and Syrah sourced from limestone soils, this wine offers black-cherry flavors that are succulent and concentrated but delightfully fresh. Soft, silky tannins and salty, chalky minerals linger on the finish. It's gorgeously quaffable young but should drink well through 2028. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30



92 Château Fourcas Hosten 2018 Llistrac-Médoc. The firm tannins that characterize a wine from Llistrac are balanced in this wine by ripe black fruits. It is full and spicy, with the wood aging just showing in the smoky edge of this ageworthy wine. Drink from 2025. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



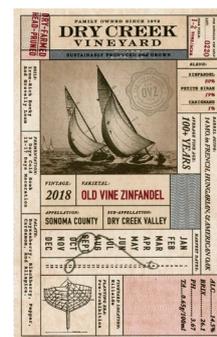
92 De Sante 2019 L'Atelier (Napa Valley). This is a field blend of nearly equal parts Sémillon, Pinot Blanc and Chardonnay, with a smaller amount of Sauvignon Blanc. Flavors of vanilla, peach and toasted oak sit on a fresh and elegant palate, with subtle earthy accents chiming in. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$28



92 Devil's Corner 2020 Chardonnay (Tasmania). This is a well-priced Chardonnay that champions the distinct character of Australia's coolest climate winegrowing region. It offers flavors of melon, peach, ginger and toasty oak nuances. It's both corpulent and refreshing, linear and crisp, with a salty mineral note adding complexity to the fleshy fruit and spice flavors. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19



92 Devil's Corner 2019 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). This distinctly Tassie Pinot offers a bouncy red cherry tone in the fore backed by hints of cinnamon and earthy spice. The palate is medium in weight, lifted by tart cranberry fruit and crunchy acidity. Silky tannins allow the fruit to shine brightly through the gaps. Old Bridge Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19



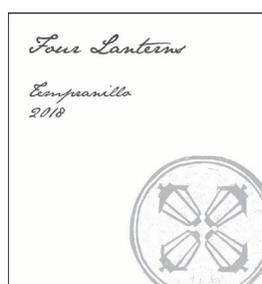
92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2018 Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Juicy and broad in pomegranate, blood orange and blackberry, this wine also offers tremendously appealing and complex seasonings of dried herb and black pepper. Balanced by underlying acidity, it shows the intensity and intellectual satisfaction of old vines. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38



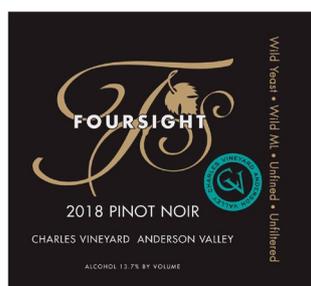
92 Edio 2019 Estate Grown Albariño (El Dorado). Aromas of flowers and apples lead to a rich, rounded mouthfeel and a fresh Anjou pear flavor in this generous-feeling but technically light-bodied wine. It has the broad, soothing texture of a barrel-fermented, lees-stirred wine. —J.G.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$24



92 Fess Parker 2019 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Tightly coiled aromas of crushed limestone, grapefruit rind and lemon pith make for an appealing nose in this countywide blend. The palate shows plenty of chalky grip in line with those aromas, and the flavors soften just a bit toward Meyer lemon peel and sea salt. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19



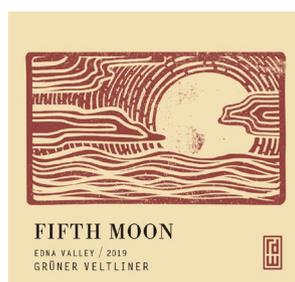
92 Four Lanterns 2018 Tempranillo (Templeton Gap District). Tart black plum, cola, dried herbs and a rocky minerality greet the nose in this bottling. There is a firm and rocky grip to the palate, which contrasts the fresh blueberry flavor. It needs a tad more time, but will drink well for at least a decade. Drink 2022–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$52



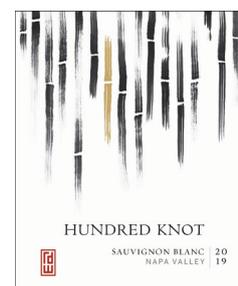
92 Foursight 2018 Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This indulgent, ripe and mouthcoating wine overflows with tempting black-cherry and plum flavors wrapped in a soft, full texture and little noticeable tannin. It's a relaxed, generous wine that's ready to enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$49



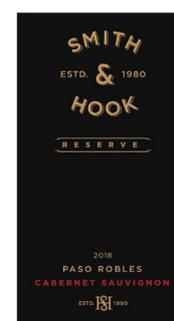
92 Marimar 2017 Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). From a cool-climate site planted to high-density vines, this wine is immensely funky and earthy in all the right ways. Crunchy citrus meets lifted acidity and prominent tannins, offering contrast to the flavors of bay leaf, mint and blackberry. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54



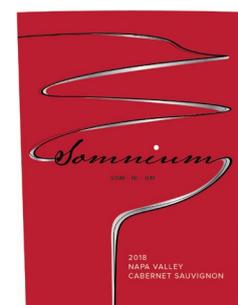
92 RD 2019 Fifth Moon Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). Crisp aromas of Pink Lady apple slices and Mandarin peel show a touch of green herbs while remaining clean on the nose. The palate is zesty and fresh, showing firm kiwi and crisp lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25



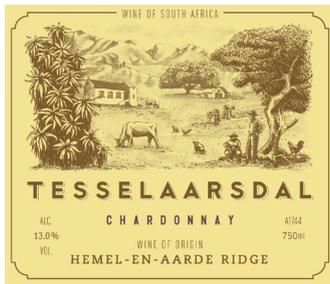
92 RD 2019 Hundred Knot Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Flavors of juicy green apple, lime and grapefruit come to the fore in this tangy, fresh and lifted white wine. The layers of fruit are balanced and complex, lingering on hints of lemongrass and nutmeg. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33



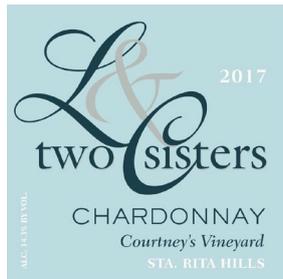
92 Smith & Hook 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Intense aromas of smoky oak, ripe berries and caramelized cherries make for a lush nose in this reserve bottling. It lands large on the palate, with smoked meat, black-cherry compote and oak-dust flavors, framed by firm tannins that slip into a caramel-sauce finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45



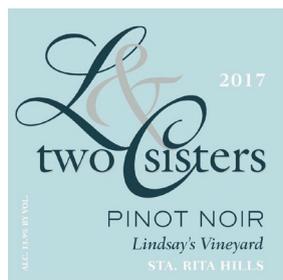
92 Somnium 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Made by Julien Fayard for former race-car driver Danica Patrick, this is a thick, substantially structured wine blended with small amounts of Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. It shows graphite, lead, tar and tobacco tones. It's unabashedly savory and earthy in style, with quiet red and black fruit framed by oak. Enjoy from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75



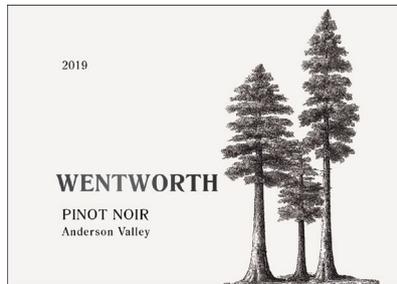
92 Tessaarsdal 2019 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). Beautifully precise aromas of orange rind, crisp yellow apple, soft toast and delicate wood spice dance on the bouquet of this lovely Chardonnay. The palate is focused and pure, with ample ripe fruit that is framed by bright, supportive acidity and a pronounced mineral impression that unfolds on the long, evolving close alongside a kiss of saline. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40



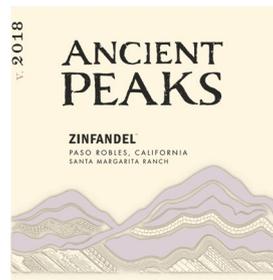
92 Two Sisters 2017 Courtney's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked pear, warm apricot brioche, toasted nuts and yuzu peel show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rich in flavors of baked pineapple, buttered apple and warm toast lifted by just enough lemon zest and minerality to balance the marzipan finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50



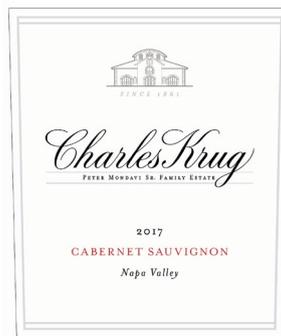
92 Two Sisters 2017 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Rugged aromas of sagebrush, baked earth and leather give depth to the roasted cranberry core of this wine. Rich and hearty flavors of seared strawberry and muddled mulberry come through on the sip, where a creamy texture leads into gamy hints of blistered pork skin toward the vanilla-kissed finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40



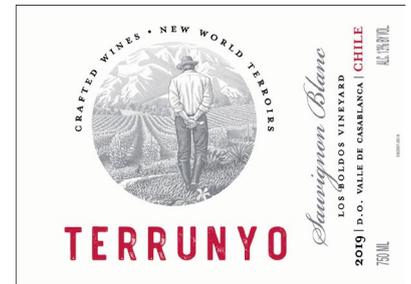
92 Wentworth 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Alluring, well-developed aromas and rich, layered flavors help this full-bodied wine stand out from the crowd. It layers dark cherry and forest floor aromas and spiced plum and rosemary flavors on a broad and mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50



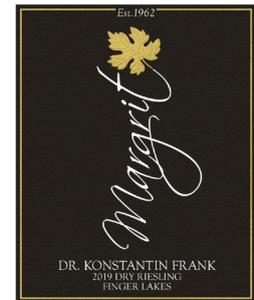
91 Ancient Peaks 2018 Zinfandel (Santa Margarita Ranch). Baked blackberry aromas provide intense density on the nose of this bottling, with accents of fennel frond and cola adding nuance. The palate combines baked earth and sagebrush flavors with black currant and blackberry, with just enough tension holding it together. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20



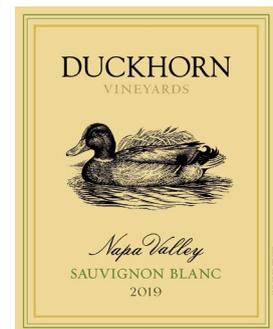
91 Charles Krug 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine offers tremendous value and is made in large enough quantities for wide distribution, adding to its appeal. Juicy in flavors of plum, cassis and cherry, it is balanced by soft tannins and well-integrated oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39



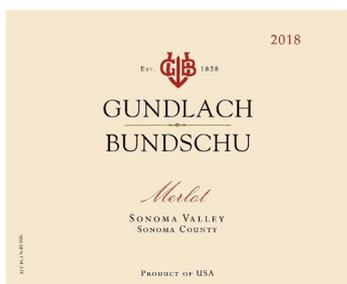
91 Concha y Toro 2019 Terrunyo Los Boldos Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). Crisp, citric aromas are pure and mineral, with only the slightest hint of prickly green herbs. A fresh, wholesome palate is crystalline and bright, balanced by a mix of citrus, green herb and peppery flavors. A long and cleansing finish rides a beam of lively acidity. Drink through 2021. Fetzer Vineyards. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26



91 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2019 Margrit Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Sourced from a vineyard on Seneca Lake, this wine offers a stony, earthy core surrounded by citrus and apple tones on the nose. The palate is broad and juicy yet dry in style, with honed lemon, pome fruit and crushed stone elements zipping along. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35



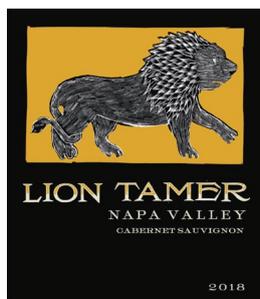
91 Duckhorn 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Blended with 19% Sémillon and mostly fermented in stainless steel, this crisp white is fresh in lemongrass, peach, papaya and pineapple flavors. Balanced and brimming in lively acidity, it offers texture and focus in an approachable, likable package. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



91 Gundlach Bundschu 2018 Merlot (Sonoma Valley). With small additions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, this savory, well-made wine is robust in dried herb, tobacco, tar and earth, with notes of sage beckoning in the background. A black cherry flavor complements the moderate tannin and oak accents. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$35



91 Hess Collection 2018 Lion Tamer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With 10% Petite Sirah and 7% Malbec, this Cabernet Sauvignon is effusively bright in dense layers of fruit. A moderate grip of tannin helps to give it additional power and length around a juicy midpalate of blueberry and vanilla. —V.B.

abv: 14.5%

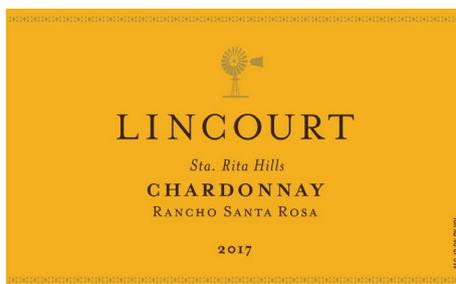
Price: \$65



91 J Vineyards & Winery 2014 Brut (Russian River Valley). A blend of 52% Chardonnay, 35% Pinot Noir and 13% Pinot Meunier, this brut has a lively mousse and fresh flavors of oyster shell, green apple and Meyer lemon. The bright structure is complemented by savory details, giving it a sophisticated edge. —V.B.

abv: 12.5%

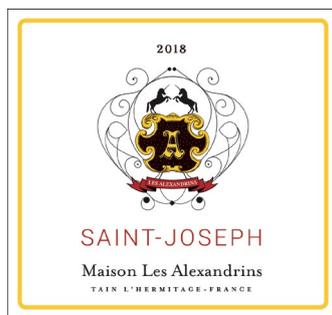
Price: \$60



91 Lincourt 2017 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Tangy lemon and Mandarin aromas meet with a core of buttered apricot on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tension to the sip, where toasted nut, sea salt and citrus peel flavors are enhanced by a crushed seashell minerality. —M.K.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$35



91 Maison Les Alexandrins 2018 Saint-Joseph. This full-bodied Syrah juxtaposes powerful black-fruited ripeness with cutting cassis and sour-cherry acidity. It's a concentrated, meaty expression of Saint-Joseph, with a finish that lingers on notes of iron and graphite. Soft tannins make it welcoming already but it's structured enough to drink at peak through 2026. Vineyard Brands. —A.I.

abv: 14.1%

Price: \$39



91 Pazzo 2018 Red (Napa Valley). This is a blend of 38% Sangiovese, 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Syrah and 4% Petite Sirah sourced from across the appellation. Bold, brawny and thick in berry flavors and tannins, it offers accents of dried herbs, toasted oak and game. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.

abv: 14.9%

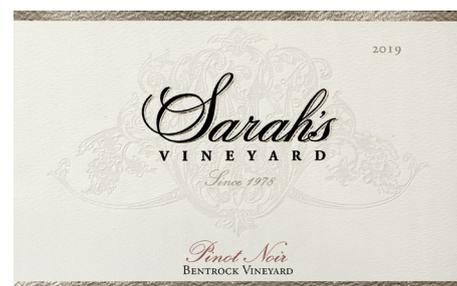
Price: \$35



91 Rabble 2018 Mossfire Ranch Tempranillo (Paso Robles). This powerful yet balanced wine begins with black cherry, caramel and vanilla aromas while the palate's jammy fruits are lifted by star anise and red licorice. It's all bound together by the grape's stereotypically tight tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.1%

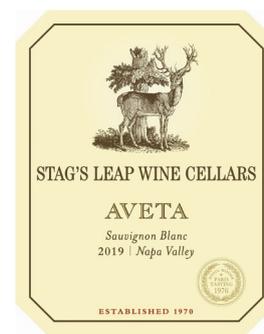
Price: \$27



91 Sarah's Vineyard 2019 Bentrack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dried plum and strawberry meet with turned earth, crumpled red flowers and a hint of ginger spice on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is cohesive in structure and flavor, combining creamy cherry and cola-spice elements with earthier tree bark and licorice seasonings. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

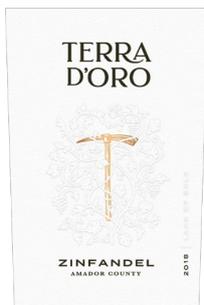
Price: \$48



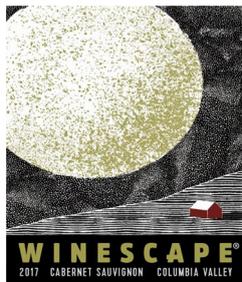
91 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2019 Aveta Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This bright and balanced white offers tones of grass, herbs and stone fruit, with a steely core of acidity and freshness. A touch of fig adds subtle richness on the finish. —V.B.

abv: 14%

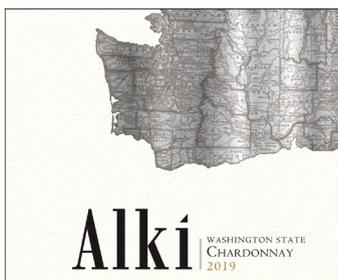
Price: \$30



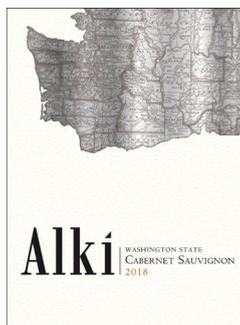
91 Terra d'Oro 2018 Zinfandel (Amador County). Pure, jammy, palate-pleasing flavors of raspberries, black cherries and strawberries light up this full-bodied wine. A nip of tannin helps firm the texture as the fruitiness floods the mouth and extends into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18



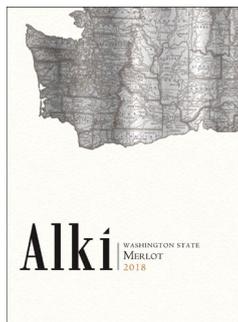
91 Winescape 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Coming from the White Bluffs region, this wine offers aromas of raspberry and chocolate alongside a sprinkling of dried herb. The flavors are dense and ripe but polished and well-balanced. It's a lovely wine made in an opulent style. Give it a short decant. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$39



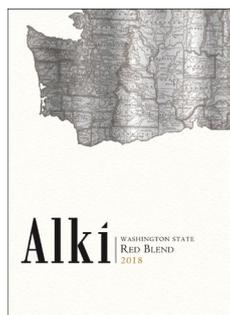
90 Alki 2019 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). With its pale golden hue, this wine has aromas of yellow apple, pineapple and Bosc pear. The palate is direct and lightly creamy, with a pleasing acidic lift. The balance is impressive throughout. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20



90 Alki 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Aromas and flavors of cocoa, coconut, baking spice and black cherry run throughout. There's a pleasant balance across it all, with the fruit and barrel both playing a big part in the show. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20



90 Alki 2018 Merlot (Columbia Valley). The aromas boast notes of caramel, vanilla, spice and brooding black cherry. Luscious but well-balanced fruit and oak flavors follow and unfold in equal measure from start to finish. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20



90 Alki 2018 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). Syrah makes up 88% of this wine, with the balance equal parts Malbec and Petit Verdot. Dark chocolate, dried green herb, vanilla and char aromas are followed by lively red and black fruit flavors with plentiful barrel accents. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20



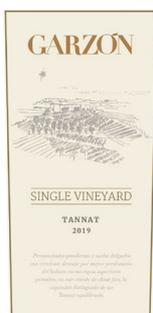
90 Banshee 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Aromas of blackberry jam and violet meet with hints of oregano and grilled meat on the nose of this bottling. There's an herbal-tea tone to the sip, full of oregano, bay and peppercorns, as well as more berry jam at the core, all framed by grippy, coffee-like tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25



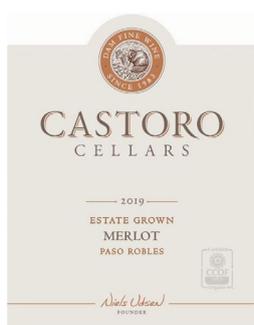
90 Bodega Garzón 2019 Reserva Tannat (Uruguay). A ruby color and spicy plum and berry aromas open this medium-bodied Tannat, with briny hints of ocean air and seashell chiming in. Lightly herbal flavors of plum and cassis are ever so slightly green, while this is smacking and intense on a juicy finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20



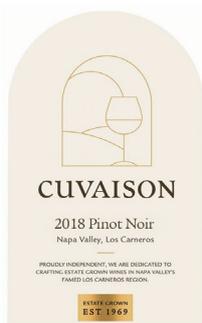
90 Bodega Garzón 2019 Single Vineyard Petit Verdot (Uruguay). Cool, lightly green aromas of violet petal, juniper berry, tarragon and berry fruits open this Petit Verdot. Varietally typical flavors of herbs, peppercorn, black plum and black currant finish with gripping tannins that make for a dry final act. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



90 Bodega Garzón 2019 Single Vineyard Tannat (Uruguay). Initial aromas of milk chocolate and cotton candy are fluffy and sweet, while in due time this settles on bold berry and plum scents. A dry, pulling palate features grippy tannins, while this Tannat tastes of plum, mixed berries and plenty of oak. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30



90 Castoro Cellars 2019 Estate Grown Merlot (Paso Robles). Freshly smashed black-raspberry, cherry and boysenberry aromas meet with light smoke and crushed granite on the complex nose of this bottling. The palate is firmly structured to balance the ripe red-cherry flavors, which are boosted by hickory and roasted tomato accents. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20



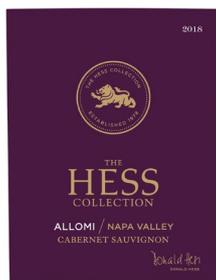
90 Cuvaion 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). Light and delicate in layers of strawberry and blood orange, this well-made wine is wrapped in silky tannins. Fresh, crisp acidity boosts the earthiness and lasting notes of baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42



90 Dauvergne & Ranvier 2018 Grand Vin (Crozes-Hermitage). Opening notes of bay leaf, thyme and bramble lend a prominent herbal quality to this wine that dissipates with aeration to reveal bristling blackberry and raspberry flavors. Voluptuous and rounded on the palate yet accented by a zesty acidic spine, it's a softly tannic, warming red that's at peak now through 2028. LGI Wines. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30



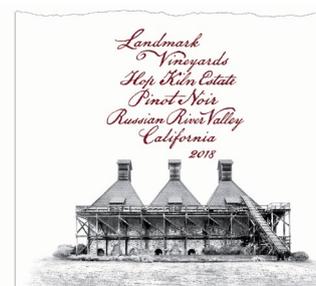
90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rich aromas of tangerine and apricot meld with sharper tones of lime and thyme on the nose. There's nice weight and depth to the medium-bodied palate, where juicy yet pithy orchard fruit flavors are propped up by zesty acidity. While fruity in nature, the balance is there, making this easy to enjoy as an aperitif. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17



90 Hess Collection 2018 Allomi Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Blended with small amounts of Petite Sirah, Petit Verdot, Merlot and Malbec, this likable pour offers perfumed red fruit and bright acidity within a full-bodied, integrated core of smooth texture. A background of herbal notes complements the dense black cherry and blackberry core. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$36



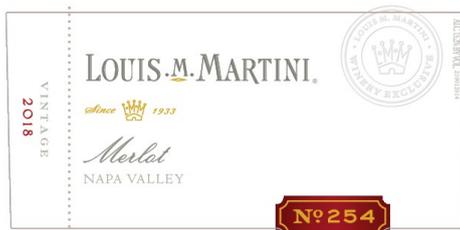
90 Landmark 2018 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Aromas of black plum, boysenberry and violet are strong on the nose of this bottling. The palate's flavors are also booming and bold, full of ripe dark berries, with a layer of underlying baking spice to cut the heaviness. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$60



90 Landmark 2018 Hop Kiln Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a sultry, brooding red wine, exuberant in black cherry, black tea, forest floor and rose petal. With a supple backbone of integrated tannin and toasted oak, it reaches a velvety finish of cola that accentuates its full-bodied style and enduring richness. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40



90 LangeTwins 2018 Macotera 09 Vineyard Barbera (Clements Hills). Smooth and flavorful, this full-bodied, single-vineyard wine feels elegant on the palate, braced by the varietal's typical tangy acidity. It offers an attractive cherry flavor accented by light oak spices. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32



90 Louis M. Martini 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley). Thick and concentrated in black cherry and plum, this wine is also generous in oak and tannin. Accents of leather, crushed rock and dark chocolate complement it well. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$85



90 Louis M. Martini 2017 Meritage (Napa Valley). Sticky tannins wrap around a core of leather, mocha and toasted oak in this blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Malbec and 6% each of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Brooding notes of blackberry and plum add to the intense mix. —V.B.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$65



90 Louis M. Martini 2017 Monte Rosso Vineyard Mountain Red (Sonoma Valley). This red from a mountain site is a blend of 65% Syrah, 23% Petite Sirah and 12% Grenache. It is hearty in flavors of smoked meat and oak, with a burly core of black fruit, iron and crushed rock. —V.B.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65



90 Lubanzi 2020 Chenin Blanc (Swartland). There's a vibrant floral element to the bouquet of this pretty white, with supporting tones of freshly cut pear, peach and white melon. The palate is medium-full in feel, with a lovely rose-spike peach accent that carries across the palate and is then refreshed by ample acidity. The finish ends clean and refreshing, with very good lingering vibrancy. Cape Venture Wine Co. *Editors' Choice.* —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18



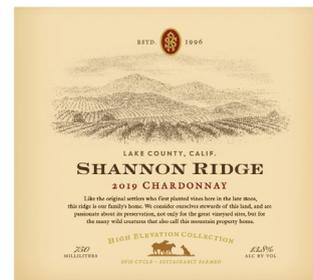
90 Murrieta's Well 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). Subtle earth and mineral aromas lead to nicely crisp, flinty flavors in this well-balanced, tangy and medium-bodied wine. Those flinty characteristics don't steal the show, while an attractive savory touch also unfolds on the palate and finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$19



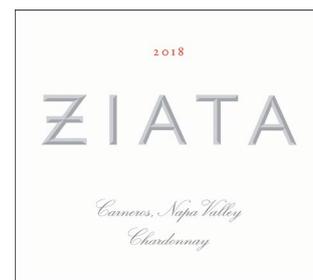
90 Myka 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Restrained on the nose, this bottling offers citrus peel and pith, with tight alkaline and dried earth aromas. There is a clean, chalky grip to the sip, where the baking-soda-like minerality frames white fleshed fruit and more citrus-pith flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28



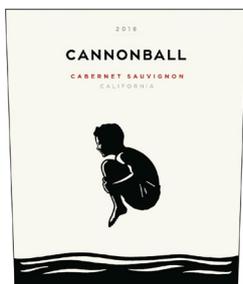
90 Rava 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Oregano and peppercorn aromas make for an herbal introduction to the nose of this bottling, which also features dried berry and olive elements. Smoothed-out tannins frame flavors of leather, dried berry and coffee bean on the palate, which has a creamy mouthfeel. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30



90 Shannon Ridge 2019 High Elevation Collection Chardonnay (Lake County). Although full in body, this richly textured wine keeps its flavors and mouthfeel in good balance. Tangy acidity and ripe pear and apple flavors join light butter and baking-spice notes that demand further sipping. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$23



90 Ziata 2018 Chardonnay (Carneros). Steely and floral, with an underlying minerality of wet stone, this cool-climate white is restrained in nature. The fruit is a mix of green apple, pear and mango, with a finish of subtle baking spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

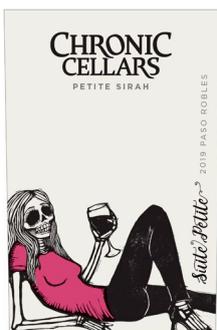


89 Cannonball 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This concentrated, firmly tannic wine packs plenty of black cherry and blackberry flavors in a rich, gripping texture. A full body and deep black-fruit flavors will make it pair well with big proteins. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16



89 Girasole 2019 Charlie's Blend Red Wine (Mendocino County). This fruity, generous and smooth-textured wine is a crowd-pleaser. Fresh and nicely saturated black-cherry and blackberry flavors fill the palate, backed by ultrasoft tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

BEST BUYS

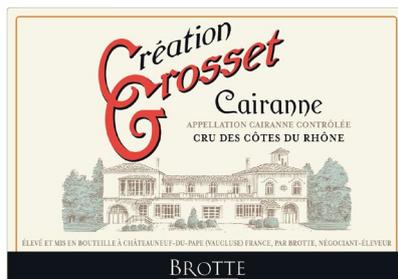


92 Chronic Cellars 2019 Suite Petite Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). A dense cassis aroma manages to be both ripe and balanced by floral undertones on the nose of this affordable offering. Hearty flavors of black currant and blueberry are spiced by caramel, vanilla and mace, providing a thorough experience. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

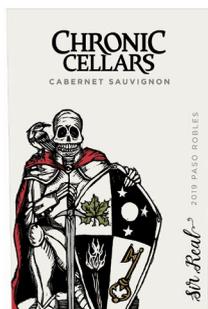
BEST BUYS



92 Gnarly Head 2019 Merlot (Central Coast). This widely available bottling impresses on multiple levels, beginning with a ripe and rugged nose of boysenberry, cherry, leather, iodine and smoke. There's compelling texture to the sip, where smoked meat, mocha and coffee flavors sink into the deep, dark fruit. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

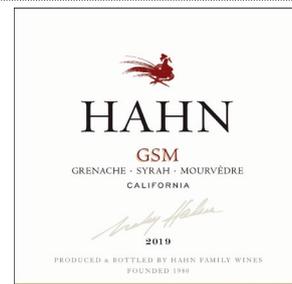


90 Brotte 2018 Cr ation Grosset (Cairanne). This robust, fragrant red introduces itself with spiced plum and violet perfumes. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by Syrah, Mourv dre and Carignan, it's packed with ripe, penetrating red-cherry and strawberry flavors that are lifted by a bristling mineral crush. Enjoy through 2024. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15



90 Chronic Cellars 2019 Sir Real Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This is a completely satisfying wine, beginning with black cherry, vanilla, oak, dried oregano and mint on the nose. The body is fairly light, but has just enough tannic bones to frame those ripe cherry and roasted berry flavors, with a savory line of smoke down the middle. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$15

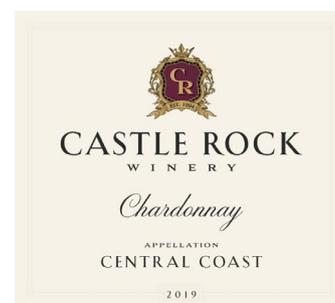
BEST BUYS



90 Hahn 2019 GSM (Arroyo Seco). This is an extremely satisfying wine for a very affordable price. Aromas of lavender, lilac, incense and dark plum lead into a grippy palate of a ai, Concord grape and more potpourri flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

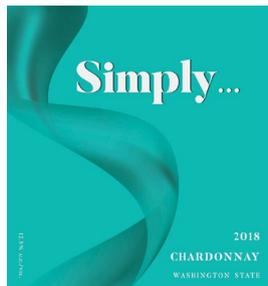


89 7 Cellars 2019 The Farm Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Black cherry, cola, vanilla and a pinch of dried herbs show on the nose of this ripe yet layered bottling. There's enough tension on the palate to frame the dark-fruit and herb flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

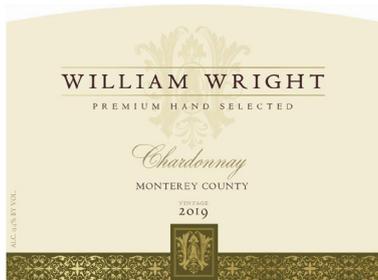


88 Castle Rock 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). Light aromas of apple blossom, honeysuckle and wet stone make for a pleasant nose in this widely available bottling. There's decent tension to the sip, where a chalky mouthfeel carries lime tonic and citrus-blossom flavors, as well as riper hints of plumeria and coconut. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

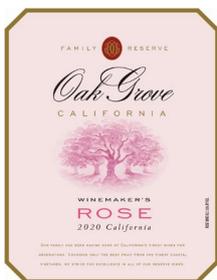
BEST BUYS



88 **Simply... 2018 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** Aromas of star fruit, pineapple and yellow apple lead to straightforward fruit flavors. It's a pleasing expression of the variety without any apparent oak influence. **Best Buy.** —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10



88 **William Wright 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** Creamy aromas of Meyer lemon poached in butter and cashew show on the nose of this bottling. There's a light lime-tonic aspect to the sip as well as an almond-cream richness, leading into a dried lemon-rind finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8



87 **Oak Grove 2020 Family Reserve Winemaker's Rosé (California).** Ample peach aromas and fresh apple flavors give a lot of fruitiness to this light-bodied, very pale-pink wine. Its freshness and crisp texture are charming. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

BEST BUYS



85 **Kirkland Signature 2020 Ti Point Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** This Sauvignon offers gentle aromas of grapefruit, lime leaf and bell pepper, with a delicate weight to the palate. Overall, it's a fruity, straightforward and easy to like drop. DC Flynt MW Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$7

SPIRITS



98 **Germain Robin California Alambic Brandy Aged 7 Years (USA; Germain Robin, Modesto, CA).** This is made with California grapes, distilled and aged in the style of Cognac. It's stunning from start to finish. Vanilla and baked apple richness give way to lots of deep, dusty cocoa and a hint of walnut, finishing lightly with a lively flurry of baking spice and a faint note of dried apricot.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$75



94 **El Tequilaño Reposado Rare Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** This reposado is rested six years in American oak (more than required for reposado), yet because it was aged in a vessel larger than the 600-liter maximum, it still gets to bear the reposado label. The liquid offers distinctly sweet aromas of vanilla, maple and dried fig. The palate echoes those tones, layering on clove, allspice and cayenne.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$225

SPIRITS



94 **Germain Robin XO Select Barrel Alambic Brandy (USA; Germain Robin, Modesto, CA).** This bold, complex brandy resounds with chocolate, dried cherry and spice on nose and palate. Each sip opens with delicate ginger, pink peppercorn and cinnamon, underscored by drying leather, walnut and unsweetened chocolate. Apricot leather lends a mouthwatering quality to the finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$125



93 **El Jimador Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY).** Complex aromas of wet earth, vanilla, jalapeño and campfire ash entice the nose. The palate opens with vanilla, transitioning to a peppery midpalate and finishing long, with delicate violet, coconut, black pepper and cinnamon notes. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$21



92 **Cazcanes No. 7 Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL).** Lemon curd and vanilla entice the nose. The rounded palate matches the sweetness of the aromas, suggesting lemon cream pie, vanilla cream and vanilla wafers, though it braces up into the finish, drying slightly with white pepper and cinnamon sparks.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$99

SPIRITS



92 El Tequileño Reposado Gran Reserva Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Close your eyes, and you might confuse this Tequila for a light whiskey. The aroma is light and slightly sweet, with an almond-like hint. The palate shows concentrated vanilla, finishing assertive and spiced with cinnamon and clove.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$57



91 El Tequileño Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Bold tomato, lemon peel and honey lead the nose. The palate opens on the sweeter side, with coconut, vanilla and lemon cream leading into a zesty, mouthwatering finish that shows ginger and white pepper heat.
Best Buy.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$29



90 ArteNOM Selección de 1414 Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Haas Brothers, Oakland, CA). Look for a pale straw hue and aromas that mingle dried oregano with a touch of honey. The palate is light and relatively restrained. An initial savory note opens to mild almond and vanilla sweetness, plus fleeting tropical fruit juiciness in the back, exiting with peppery tingle. Aged four months in used American oak.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

BEER



100 Wibby Volksbier Vienna (Vienna Lager; Wibby Brewing, CO). With a luxurious mouthfeel that slowly brings on layers of nuts, warmed caramel and a subtle spiciness from noble hops, this Vienna lager is of remarkable quality. Often beers in this category are too sweet, but here the recipe brings bitterness into the equation for balance. Still, it finishes dry, with only a touch of light brown sugar on the finish.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack



98 Zero Gravity Green State Lager (Pilsner; Zero Gravity Craft Brewery, VT). Crisp and bright in a pine and citrusy hop profile, this beer is well balanced by a delicately sweet and cereal-forward malt profile. An everyday lager that is far from being one note, it evolves on the palate over time without demanding attention.
abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 4 pack



94 Haymarket Chicago Tavern Beer Lager (Lager; Haymarket Beer Co., IL). Golden in color and clear in the glass, this has an assertive head and a balanced ingredient profile that offers sweet malt, low hop bitterness and a crisp, refreshing nature.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

BEER



93 Wibby Lightshine Radler (Shandy; Wibby Brewing, CO). For those light, warm afternoons where you're craving a beer but also some fruity refreshment, turn to this jaunty, delightful radler. Bursting with orange pulp, lemon peel, over-ripe melon and a touch of candied red berries, it's crisp at the front and tart on the finish.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack



91 Four City The Keg Stand American Style Lager (American Lager; Four City Brewing Co., NJ). This lager has a medium body, assertive crisp yeast character, a slight whiff of hops and adjunct-accented construction that is great for a long night of enjoyment. In a fine stemmed glass, a red Solo cup or right from the tap nozzle, this beer won't let you down.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$16/16 oz 4 pack



90 Wibby Lightshine Helles (Helles; Wibby Brewing, CO). This is a grain-forward helles, with a green hop note that appears on the aroma and follows through to the palate. Floral and earthy hops join the mix and last through the finish. It's a patio beer, where pints would be well at home alongside a plate of nachos.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

BUYINGGUIDE

acidity. The fruit lingers on the finish but with substantial lift. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Ripe mango, papaya and pineapple jump from the glass, with zesty notes of tangerine and lime lending focus to all that richness. It's luscious on the palate but well defined. The blend of juicy tropical fruit and pithy citrus plays well together, with a lingering tart pineapple note extending on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$18

92 Keuka Spring 2019 Humphreys Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Perfumed aromas of peach, apple and pink grapefruit show incredible zest and spunk on the nose. The medium-bodied palate is dry in style, with bright, zesty pome and tangerine flavors wrapped in a delicate floral undertone. There's a creaminess to the feel that gives this great presence and length on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

92 Red Newt Cellars 2017 Tango Oaks Vineyard Noble Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Made from grapes at an Auslese level of ripeness and then fermented nearly dry, this offers an explosion of pineapple, star fruit, mango and grapefruit on the nose. It's full and rich in feel on the creamy palate, with billowy tropical fruit flavors honed by a pithy citrus peel note. It ends slightly hot but still within balance, making this a unique experiment from Winemaker Kelly Russell. —A.P.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48/500 ml

92 Red Newt Cellars 2015 Tango Oak Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Perfumed aromas of apple and Meyer lemon meld with a delicate oolong tone on the nose of this dry Riesling. There's a rounded, pithy feel to the palate, where flavors of lemon, apple and apricot are wrapped in a mild grip of white tea tannins. This is a beautifully textured, pristine expression from a relatively young vineyard planted in 2007. —A.P.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$24

92 The Grapes of Roth 2019 Dry Riesling (Long Island). Perfumed aromas of lime peel, crushed stone and white blossoms dance on the nose of this graceful dry Riesling. There's a real sense of energy to the zippy palate, where zesty citrus peels mix with a tangy limestone element. While taut in feel, there's a pleasing textural grip that grounds it all. —A.P.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$26

91 Anthony Road 2019 Semi Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Perfumed aromas of lime, peach and apple meld with a stony core on the nose. The palate shows pollen-dusted orchard fruit drizzled in a light string of honey, balanced by ample bright acidity. There's very good concentration and lift to it all, with a lingering white blossom note on the finish. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

91 Atwater 2016 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Ripe aromas of white grape, pear and sugar-dusted blossoms carry the nose of this semisweet white. The palate is boisterous and juicy in lemon, pineapple and white grape flavors yet shot through with pulsing acidity. There's excellent depth and richness, with a lingering zestiness that leaves you coming back for more. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 10.4% **Price:** \$17

91 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2019 Margrit Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 14.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

91 Hosmer 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Perfumed aromas of peach, apple and ginger mix with a citrus spray accent on the nose. There's a succulence to the gushing peach, pineapple and lemon flavors on the palate, with a gentle creaminess throughout, but all the while held in check by pristine acidity. This is a well-balanced offering that will please many with its affable personality. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$17

91 Keuka Spring 2019 Classic Riesling (Finger Lakes). Jasmine and orchard blossom aromas perk up the nose of this semidry Riesling. It's zesty and crisp on the palate, where juicy peach and pineapple flavors explode with sunny intensity. There's lift and verve to it all, balanced by lime-tinted acidity. —A.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$17

91 Keuka Spring 2019 Wiltberger Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Aromas of radish and jicama give a fresh, earthy vibe to the nose, with a resounding lemon note at the core. The semidry palate offers sweet-tart flavors of apple, lemon and peach, with pithy grapefruit lending grip. There's nice lift and length on the finish that leaves you coming back for more. —A.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$22

91 Living Roots 2019 Off-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Brisk aromas of crushed slate and lime meld with creamy pear on the nose of this off-dry Riesling. There's ample weight to the palate, where pithy citrus and yellow apple flavors are honed by a zesty lime-laden core. —A.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$26

91 Silver Thread 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rounded aromas of yellow apple, Meyer lemon, peach and white tea offer a graceful start to this dry-style Riesling. There's an explosion of perfumed peach and pineapple on the palate, sitting on a silky texture and pushed along by pristine acidity. This is a well-concentrated, zesty pour. —A.P.
abv: 10.9% **Price:** \$18

91 Silver Thread 2019 Estate Vineyard Riesling (Seneca Lake). A delicate floral note rides above the juicy apple and peach core on the nose of this wine. While deft in feel, it shows rounded pome fruit flavors shot through with tangy white

cherry. There's ample perfume and lift to it all, with a lingering talc dust finish. —A.P.
abv: 10.7% **Price:** \$26

91 Weis 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Bright aromas of lemon and lime peels meld with white flowers and pear rind in this zesty dry Riesling. There's good weight to the medium-bodied palate, with persistent juicy orchard fruit flavors propped up by driven acidity. A gentle stoniness creeps in on the midpalate to ground it all, ending with a slightly pithy mouthwatering finish. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

91 Weis 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Pretty aromas of apple, peach and white blossoms meld with a lifted citrus backdrop in this semidry wine. It's rounded and juicy in feel on the palate, with bright orchard fruit flavors shot against sunny acidity. There's good drive and length, with a zesty, mouthwatering finish that leaves you coming back for more. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Anthony Road 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Intense aromas of lime peels, fresh thyme and kerosene carry to the medium-bodied palate. A slightly candied citrus peel flavor chimes in, but a pithy texture and a savory note of crushed salt lend ample balance. It ends dry, savory and lifted, delivering a zesty Riesling that will play well at the dinner table. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

90 Bedell 2019 Small Batch Series Corey Creek Vineyard Riesling (North Fork of Long Island). A delicate perfume of peach blossom, apple and citrus spray gently wafts from the glass. There's focus to the zesty citrus and pome fruit flavors on the light-bodied palate, with a mild pithy texture lending grip. This dry Riesling deftly balances juicy fruit in a taut frame. —A.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Riemer Block Riesling (Finger Lakes). Ripe apple and sugar-dusted flowers dance on the nose alongside candied citrus and ginger. The medium-dry palate boasts a rounded feel, with juicy orchard fruit flavors lifted by shots of grapefruit and tangerine. This shows nice lift and length. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

90 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Tank Select Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rounded apple and lemon flavors perfume this semidry wine. There's ample lift, thanks to bright, zesty acidity, with a delicate white tea accent lending some grip. A drizzle of honey chimes in on the finish, making this a luscious yet balanced sweeter Riesling. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). For full review see page 17.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

90 Fjord 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's nice density to the aromas of lime peel, canned peach and fresh snap peas on the nose of this semidry Riesling. The medium-bodied palate echoes the nose, with a lemon-honey drizzle chiming in. It ends lifted and juicy in a zesty bite of tangerine. —A.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$18

90 Hunt Country Vineyards 2017 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). This semidry Riesling offers a deft mix of juicy apple and peach tones against a delicate white tea accent. Zesty orange-laden acidity lifts it all up, making this a well-balanced offering. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$25

90 Keuka Spring 2019 Semi-Sweet Riesling (Finger Lakes). Luscious peach, apricot and pineapple aromas carry to the full-feeling palate. The mix of stone and tropical fruit flavors is delicious, with vibrant acidity lending ample lift. Sweet fruit echoes on the lingering finish. —A.P.
abv: 10.3% **Price:** \$17

90 Lakewood 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). This is a well-balanced semidry Riesling that offers juicy tones of apple and yellow peach, lifted by lots of lemony zing. There's a richness to the fruit but also nice lift that gives this a crisp, refreshing finish. *Best Buy.* —A.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$15

90 Sheldrake Point 2019 Dry Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Perfumed aromas of peach, apple and lemon meld with a delicate pine oil backdrop in this dry Riesling. There's ample concentration and verve to the juicy orchard fruit on the palate, with a pithy texture and zesty acidity lending balance. It's a delicious offering from this Cayuga Lake estate. —A.P.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$16

90 Wagner 2019 Dry Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Zesty aromas of apple peel, lime zest, grapefruit and slate show nice depth and intensity on the nose of this dry Riesling. It's juicy yet crisp on the palate, with a deft feel to the bright orchard fruit flavors. It ends racy and clean on a crushed mineral tone. *Best Buy.* —A.P.
abv: 11.9% **Price:** \$15

90 Wagner 2019 Semi Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rounded aromas of peach and apple show ample concentration on the nose. The palate is bright in juicy orchard fruit flavors, with a tangy, pithy lemon peel note grounding it all. It ends brisk and zesty, making this easy to enjoy as an aperitif. *Best Buy.* —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

89 Billsboro 2019 Sawmill Creek Vineyards Riesling (Finger Lakes). Ripe apple and tangerine aromas blend with fennel and cucumber in this rounded dry Riesling. The palate is focused

on lime, pineapple and crushed stone flavors, with a pithy lemon note that lingers on the finish. —A.P.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$18

89 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Frances Amelia Riesling (Finger Lakes). Brisk aromas of lime, apple and crushed stone with a hint of butterscotch carry to the rounded palate of this neutral barrel-aged Riesling. Bright acidity lends ample lift to the coiled citrus and green apple flavors, with a quiet oak spice note riding in the background. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$24

89 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2019 Eugenia Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Sourced from a Keuka Lake vineyard, this dry-style Riesling is quiet and earthy on the nose, showing a glimpse of limestone. It's zesty and pithy on the palate, driven by loads of lime zest and crushed stone elements that make this utterly refreshing. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$35

89 Glenora 2019 Select Harvest Riesling (Finger Lakes). Delicate aromas of peach and yellow apple meld with sunbaked slate on the nose. It's sweet on the palate yet well-balanced, displaying juicy flavors of apple, peach and white cherry, all sitting on a creamy texture. It ends on a zip of tart peach, making it a perfect aperitif. —A.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Hosmer 2019 Dry Riesling (Cayuga Lake). Sprightly aromas of lemon, lime and crushed salt are delicate on the nose. The medium-bodied palate echoes the nose, adding in a juicy yellow apple flavor honed by a pithy texture. It ends dry on a mouthwatering flint note. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Hunt Country Vineyards 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Bright aromas of peach and pineapple meet tangerine on the fruity nose of this semidry Riesling. The ripe orchard and tropical fruit flavors are gently pithy on the palate, showing very good balance and length. It ends with a mouthwatering finish that leaves you coming back for more. —A.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$15

89 Lamoreaux Landing 2019 Round Rock Vineyard Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Delicate aromas of citrus peels and white blossoms grace the nose of this medium-dry Riesling. It's bright and zesty in profile on the palate, with tart yellow apple and lemon pushed along by tangy acidity. It ends a bit short but is pleasing nonetheless. —A.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Nathan K. 2018 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Demure aromas of yellow apple and pear blend with a slight hint of button mushroom on the nose. It's light and zesty on the dry palate, with flavors of lemonade and apple pushed along by bright acidity. —A.P.
abv: 10.9% **Price:** \$25

89 Silver Thread 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Boisterous ripe apple and peach mix with hints of ginger and white button mushroom in this semidry Riesling. It's rounded on the palate, with flavors of juiced apple and peach, and a sneak vein of bright citrus lifting it up. —A.P.
abv: 10.8% **Price:** \$18

89 Wagner 2019 Select Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). A bright, fruity nose of white peach, apple pith and lemon zest starts off this semisweet white. It's ripe and luscious on the palate, where juicy orchard fruit flavors are lifted by orange-laden acidity. While it's sweet, there's good balance to it all. —A.P.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$15

88 Bright Leaf 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Starting off with bright aromas of lime peel, kerosene and crushed stone, this light-bodied dry Riesling brings brisk flavors of citrus and apple peel on the palate. It's zesty and straightforward, racing along to a slightly savory finish. —A.P.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$16

88 Bright Leaf 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Boisterous aromas of pineapple, tangerine and yellow apple carry to the semidry palate. There's a perfumed quality to the flavors, with pithy lemon and racy acidity lending good balance. —A.P.
abv: 11.2% **Price:** \$16

88 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Big Hollow Block Riesling (Finger Lakes). Reserved on the nose, this doesn't give much away beyond lemon peels and candied blossoms. The medium-sweet palate is more giving in its flavors of juicy apple, peach and pineapple that are drizzled with a delicate string of honey. There's plenty of bright acidity for balance, but this ends a bit short. Nonetheless, it's a pleasing sweeter style Riesling that will please many. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

88 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Delicate aromas of apple blossom and peach have a sunny, easy vibe to them on the nose. This dry Riesling is zesty yet fruity on the palate, where sweet-tart white fruit flavors end briskly on the crisp finish. —A.P.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$16

88 Buttonwood Grove 2019 Skaneateles Riesling (Finger Lakes). Sourced from Hobbit Hollow Farms near Skaneateles Lake, this wine starts off with brisk aromas of yellow apple, lemon, banana and pineapple. Semidry in style, it's juicy in ripe orchard fruit flavors on the palate, with a brisk, lightly chalky finish. —A.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$17

88 Dr. Konstantin Frank 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Delicate aromas of white blossoms, citrus peels and slate carry to the light, zesty palate. This is streamlined, bright and dry in

BUYINGGUIDE

style, with pulsing lime and floral flavors that end brisk yet zesty. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$16

88 Fox Run 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). Brisk lemon, lime and thyme aromas echo on the light-bodied palate. There's some pithy grip to it all, making this a delightful semidry offering. It ends brisk and zesty, leaving you wanting another sip. —A.P.

abv: 11.6% Price: \$14

88 Knapp 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Quiet aromas of slate, lime peel and blossoms carry to the deft, light-bodied palate. This is streamlined and dry in style, with a lime and tonic vibe that makes it utterly refreshing. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

88 Pindar Vineyards 2019 Riesling (North Fork of Long Island). Rather shy aromas of lime and quince meld with an oily herb tone on the nose. There's nice weight and roundness to the feel, where bright, zesty tangerine and luscious apple tones drive the semidry palate. It cleans up nicely on the finish, where a quiet chalky note resonates. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

88 Red Newt Cellars 2019 Circle Riesling (Finger Lakes). The nose doesn't give much away, but the semisweet palate explodes in flavors of pear, apple and canned peach. The luscious fruit cocktail flavors is well honed by vibrant acidity, with lemon zest backing it all up. It's a well-priced offering that will please those with a sweet tooth. —A.P.

abv: 11% Price: \$15

88 Weis 2019 Winzer Select K Riesling (Finger Lakes). Ripe lemon and pineapple aromas show a delicate concentration on the nose. Semidry in nature, this offers tart lime and apple flavors on the palate. It ends briskly on a tangy slate note. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$25

87 Barnstormer 2019 Homage Limited Production Series Tuller Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). There's ample lift to the aromas of juiced apple, fresh ginger and tangerine on the nose of this wine. The palate is silky in feel, with pome fruit flavors that slightly lack in definition and verve. With all that, this finds cohesion and lift by the dry finish. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$40

87 Empire Estate 2018 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Demure aromas of lemon peel and white blossoms carry to the broad, rounded palate. Bits of warm spice chime in, but the fruit remains upfront. There's a waxy sheen to the feel, with pithy acidity lifting it all up. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$19

87 Heron Hill 2019 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Very delicate aromas give off a hint of sugar-dusted white fruit on the nose. This

semidry wine is light in profile, built by apple and peach flavors lifted by spritzzy acidity. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

87 Hunt Country Vineyards 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Aromas of white grape and apple carry an almost candied vibe on the nose. It's rounded in feel on the palate, with juicy apple and ripe lemon flavors that are pushed along by tangerine-laden acidity. It ends dry but fruity, making this an approachable, straightforward expression. —A.P.

abv: 12% Price: \$19

87 Knapp 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rather quiet aromas of white grape, pollen and lemon peel grace the nose of this semisweet Riesling. It's juicy and ripe on the palate, where luscious white peach is shot against a tart lemon backdrop. It ends short, but what's there is delicious. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

87 Penguin Bay 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Ripe apple and peach meld with a zesty lemon note in this dry-style Riesling. It's juicy yet crisp on the light-bodied palate, where a bit of tangerine chimes in to lift it all up. It's an easy wine to like for its straightforward nature. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$15

87 Swedish Hill 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Aromas of sugar-dusted white blossoms and candied lemon peels carry to the light-bodied palate. Semidry in style, this is delicate in flavors of juicy apple and peach but well balanced by bright, lemony acidity. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$16

87 Swedish Hill 2019 Humphreys Vineyard Riesling (Finger Lakes). Pretty aromas of yellow apple, chamomile and lemon start off this single-vineyard Riesling. It's off-dry in style, delivering easy orchard fruit flavors lifted by bright acidity. It's well-balanced yet short, ending brisk and zesty. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$22

87 Thirsty Owl Wine Company 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). Demure on the nose, this dry-style Riesling brings zesty flavors of lemon and apple alongside a sprightly note of tonic. It's all cohesive and lively, making this a delicious yet straightforward offering. —A.P.

abv: 11.8% Price: \$15

87 Treleven 2019 Dry Estate Bottled Riesling (Finger Lakes). Nearly pale in color, this offers delicate aromas of lemon and apple blossom on the nose. It's light in profile on the palate, where easygoing orchard fruit flavors are shot through with zesty acidity. —A.P.

abv: 12.25% Price: \$18

86 Barnstormer 2019 Tuller Vineyard Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A savory, yeasty nose is almost reminiscent of raw bread dough, with apple and peach tones in the background. The

palate is ripe and fruity in juiced apple and pear flavors that feel a bit thin. The acidity ultimately lends good balance but wavers on the midpalate. —A.P.

abv: 11.6% Price: \$21

86 Glenora 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This demure dry Riesling doesn't give much away on the nose other than feint whiffs of thyme and citrus peels. There's a softness to the palate, where flavors of apple and lemon juice sit slightly heavy. It ends short on a yeasty note. —A.P.

abv: 11.5% Price: \$17

86 Hector Wine Company 2018 Dry Riesling (Seneca Lake). While the nose is pretty in aromas of apple, tangerine and crushed slate, the palate is lean and mean. Slightly sour orchard fruit flavors are driven by lasting acidity. —A.P.

abv: 11% Price: \$18

86 Heron Hill 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). This demure dry Riesling does not give much away on the nose. It's pithy and citrusy on the palate, with a short, dry finish. It can be enjoyed for its light, brisk nature and zesty drive. —A.P.

abv: 13.1% Price: \$14

86 Heron Hill 2018 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). Muddled aromas of lemon and lime mix with ripe yellow apple on the nose of this dry Riesling. It's taut in feel, a mix of orchard fruit flavors that end slightly bitter. —A.P.

abv: 13% Price: \$18

86 Penguin Bay 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). This semidry white is delicate in nature, offering quiet tones of peach and apple lifted by orange-laden acidity. It ends brisk but with nice zip. —A.P.

abv: 11.1% Price: \$15

86 RGNV 2018 Scielo NY Riesling (North Fork of Long Island). Reserved aromas of slate and lime carry the nose. This is light in feel on the palate, with deft flavors of citrus and apple. It's zesty in nature, with a savory, yeasty finish. —A.P.

abv: 12.7% Price: \$24

86 Robinia Hill 2019 Riesling (Finger Lakes). Quiet aromas of peach, apple and white blossoms carry to the semidry palate. Racy acidity lifts up the juicy fruit flavors. A lemon note verges on sour, but the fruit does well to balance it all. —A.P.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

86 Swedish Hill 2019 Blue Waters Riesling (Finger Lakes). The nose doesn't reveal much, yet the palate is more giving in its apple and citrus flavors. Bright shots of acidity lift up the semisweet palate, ending zesty and crisp. —A.P.

abv: 11% Price: \$15

86 Swedish Hill 2019 Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). A bit of yeasty funk rides over a core of citrus and apple on the nose. It's light in profile,

with straightforward lemon and peach flavors lifted by bright acidity. What it lacks in concentration and length, it makes up for in a dry, zesty finish. —A.P.
abv: 11.3% **Price:** \$16

85 Agness 2018 Semi-Dry Riesling (Finger Lakes). While the nose is well concentrated in aromas of honey-drizzled lemon, apple and chamomile, the palate feels a bit flat. There's nice weight to it all, but it lacks drive and length. —A.P.
abv: 10.5% **Price:** \$18

84 Inspire Moore 2019 Love Riesling (Finger Lakes). Rather closed on the nose, this wine doesn't give much away beyond a yeasty funk. The palate is nearly neutral in flavor, showing faint hints of citrus and apple. It's semidry in style, ending on a brisk lemon note. —A.P.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$15

84 Robinia Hill 2019 Reserve Riesling (Finger Lakes). Mildly oxidized aromas of apple, peach and ginger-dusted blossoms carry the nose. The palate is spritzy and bright, with some nice textural roundness, yet it's shot through with a sour lemon flavor that doesn't relent. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

LATE HARVEST RIESLING

92 Hermann J. Wiemer 2019 Late Harvest Riesling (Seneca Lake). Pristine aromas of candied citrus peels, ripe apple and peach echo on the luscious palate, where gobs of honey drizzle the fruit flavors. Laser-like acidity lends immense lift to it all, while a gentle creaminess resounds throughout. It shows wonderful purity and detail, and will hold up well in the cellar. Drink through 2030. —A.P.
abv: 8.7% **Price:** \$25

90 Barnstormer 2019 Sheldrake Point Vineyard Late Harvest Riesling (Finger Lakes). Aromas of candied banana, guava and pineapple show immense lift and intensity on the nose of this late-harvest Riesling from a Cayuga Lake vineyard. It's unctuous and full on the palate, brimming with flavors of dried apricot and peach drizzled in gobs of honey. There's plenty of lift to keep this well in balance. —A.P.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$42/375 ml

90 Zugibe 2018 Late Harvest Riesling (Seneca Lake). Intense aromas of lemon oil, furniture polish, apricot jam and oolong tea carry to the pithy, unctuous palate. There's good depth and richness to the flavors, with plenty of racy acidity to lift it all up. —A.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25/375 ml

89 Heron Hill 2019 Ingle Vineyard Late Harvest Riesling (Finger Lakes). Intense aromas of pineapple, guava, lemonade and grapefruit explode from the glass. This is rich and unctuous on the sweet palate, offering luscious flavors of ripe tropical fruit and marmalade. There is nice lift

from bright acidity, but it ends just a tad too sugary. Still, it's a tasty sweet Riesling that could step in as dessert. —A.P.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$28/375 ml

ICE WINES

95 Red Newt Cellars 2017 Tango Oaks Ice Wine Riesling (Finger Lakes). Intense aromas of butterscotch, lemon cream, mango and pineapple are rich, undulating and deep on the nose. The unctuous, sweet palate brings flavors of caramel-drizzled apple and dried apricot, with piercing acidity shooting through all that richness. There's incredible concentration, depth and length, making this a no-brainer for the cellar. Drink through 2035. *Cellar Selection.* —A.P.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$95/375 ml

94 Red Newt Cellars 2019 Tango Oaks Ice Wine Riesling (Finger Lakes). Incredibly concentrated aromas of apple, pineapple, peach and lemon oil are detailed, precise and intense on the nose. The lusciously sweet palate echoes those tones and brings in gobs of lemon honey. There's immense lift and verve despite all the depth, making this one to hold for a bit in the cellar. Drink through 2035. —A.P.
abv: 8.2% **Price:** \$60/375 ml

93 Weis 2017 Winzer Select Ice Wine Riesling (Finger Lakes). Made from grapes frozen on the vine and harvested in December 2017, this offers intense aromas of peach, pineapple, lemon curd, tangerine oil and a hint of white button mushroom. There's immense lift on the sultry, sweet palate, showing a beautiful mix of luscious, creamy fruit against sunny, bright lemon-soaked acidity. A drizzle of amber honey meets a final shot of citrus on the lingering close. Drink through 2033. —A.P.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$90

92 Boundary Breaks 2018 Ice Wine Riesling (Finger Lakes). Intense aromas of star fruit, pineapple and lemon oil are pure and pristine on the nose. The lusciously sweet palate brings flavors of pithy lemon and tropical fruit drizzled in orange-tinted honey. While there's ample richness, there's also plenty of piercing acidity to keep it lifted. Drink through 2030. —A.P.
abv: 11.1% **Price:** \$70

92 Keuka Spring 2018 Ice Wine Vidal Blanc (Finger Lakes). Pure aromas of lemonade, pineapple and honey-drizzled peach carry to the luscious, sweet palate. This is full in feel, utterly fruity and concentrated, yet balanced by well-poised acidity. —A.P.
abv: 9% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

90 Lamoreaux Landing 2018 Estate Bottled Ice Riesling (Finger Lakes). Made from grapes frozen after harvest, this sweet wine kicks off with rich aromas of apple, pear, lemon oil and marmalade. It's luscious on the palate, where gobs of honey drizzle all the fruit flavors. Pure, zesty

acidity lends ample lift. It ends with a pillowy marshmallow sweetness, but pleasantly so. —A.P.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$38/375 ml

CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

94 Calera 2018 Chardonnay (Mt. Harlan). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Caraccioli 2018 Escolle Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

94 Crescere 2017 Proprietary Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). A mix of baking and Asian spices lead the way to a light, crisp palate of vibrant acidity in this lengthy, complex and impressive white wine. The energy gives into a creamy mid-palate of understated richness and fruit tones of green apple and pear. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

94 Ken Brown 2018 Radian Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Lightly buttered orange slices, warm brioche and sharp tangerine-peel aromas show on the nose of this bottling from an epic and dramatic vineyard. It's very suave on the palate, where buttered toast and marmalade flavors are framed by hints of oak and fresher citrus. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

94 Sanford 2017 Founders' Vines Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Tight aromas of Meyer lemon skin, sea salt and a hint of alkaline-dusted toast make for a compelling entry to the nose of this bottling. Polished tannins make for a very grippy yet suave sip, offering poached lemon, light brioche and macadamia nut flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Sangiacomo 2018 Green Acres Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 8.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

94 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2018 Arcadia Vineyard Chardonnay (Napa Valley). This is an earthy, herbal and supple white wine, impressive in spicy lemon and pear. Lively, vibrant acidity keeps it fresh and compelling around mineral elements of stone as it builds a depth of balanced body weight and breadth, the oak well integrated and nuanced. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

94 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Anna Cristina's Block Langley Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Creamy aromas of toasted nut met with honeysuckle, lemon peel and chiseled granite show on the nose of this block designate from vines planted at nearly 2,000 feet in 1980. It's well rounded on the palate, where flashes of tart

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apple and lemon peel are wrapped in sandy tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

93 Chalone Vineyard 2019 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Chalone). For full review see page 9. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

93 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Langley Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Aromas of butter-braised lemon and grapefruit, light spearmint and a hint of butterscotch candy show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is lively with textural activity, as a lime-pith tension and chalky, ashy tannins lead through grapefruit-flesh flavors into an intense finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$62

93 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Portola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). From a vineyard planted in 1982 at an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet, this bottling begins with briny aromas of lemon and lime peel as well as a beach-sand and oyster-shell minerality, and a white-flower aspect. The palate is sharp and intense in texture, with energetic flavors of seared lemon peel and warm toast wrapped up very tightly. Drink now through 2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$62

92 Artesa 2018 Estate Vineyard Chardonnay (Los Carneros). With an entry that is oak-driven in caramel and toast, this wine is layered and moderately structured, with fresh bursts of white peach and apple that shine a light on the underlying acidity. That freshness endures and lifts the lemony finish. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

92 Assiduous 2019 Bald Mountain Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Aromas of baked apple with sea salt and soft, clarified butter show on the delicate nose of this bottling. The wine lands softly on the palate, where crisp Asian pear elements are layered with more baked apple and a light brush of cinnamon, all wrapped in creamy tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Bougetz 2018 Parched Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). This is a barrel-fermented white that opens in high-toned lemon and floral apple blossom—the oak and oomph subtle despite its full-bodied ripeness. Grapefruit, green apple and toast do a good job of complementing the brightness and tang of the fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Cuvaison 2018 ATS Estate Grown Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Named for the winery's founding family, this white is floral, textured and oak laden, with dense layers of pineapple and stone fruit. Made in a hearty, creamy style, the fruit is encased in caramel brioche and notes of nutmeg and cinnamon. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$60

92 Fess Parker 2019 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

92 GoGi 2018 Goldie Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Soft and creamy aromas of peach and apricot meet with daffodil and honeysuckle on the delicate but full nose of this bottling by actor Kurt Russell, named for his wife, Goldie Hawn. The sip is surrounded in a chalky grip, offering fresh and generous flavors of white peach and more cream. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

92 Lightpost 2019 Spanish Springs Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County). Dried lemon, grapefruit flesh, apple slices and lemongrass meet with steely minerality on the nose of this bottling. The sip is zesty and fresh with lime-peel and lemon flavors. A solid sea-shell minerality adds to the energetic experience. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

92 Seabold Cellars 2018 Pelio Upper Block Chardonnay (Monterey). Rich hints of lightly seared marshmallow, meringue and peach custard are cut by dried lemon peel and hazelnut aromas on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very grippy in texture, with strong lemon-peel acidity and stony minerality leading into a nuttier, butterscotch-touched finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

92 Stephen Ross 2018 Bee Sweet Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Hints of coconut, meringue and light nectarine make for a suavely integrated nose on this bottling. It's pure and crisp on the palate with citrus-peel and tart apple flavors, leading into warmer spices on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$42

92 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Light meringue and sweet cream aromas meet with floral tones of lily, plumeria and a bit of vanilla on the nose of this appellation blend. The wine grabs hold of the palate with a steely grip, offering tense while fresh flavors of lime blossom and citrus peel. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Albutom Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a distinct aroma of wet chalk, wool and even labneh on the nose of this bottling (from a vineyard planted in 1981), which begins to open to lemon and warmer cream, with patience and air. The chalky texture of the sip is incredibly compelling, framing mellow lines of lemon and melon rind. Expect these elements to coalesce into something stunning with time. Drink now through 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$72

92 Two Sisters 2017 Courtney's Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$50

92 Vine Cliff 2018 Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Reductive at first, this wine opens to reveal floral aromas of apple blossom and earth. Crunchy and austere in style, it shows a steely structure and bright acidity throughout, cradled in a well-integrated nuance of French oak. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

92 Vine Cliff 2018 Proprietress Reserve Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Opening in a wealth of baking-spice and apple-blossom aromas, this white has tingly acidity and impressive structure: the ripeness balanced and well-integrated with the oak and intensity. Old World grace comes to mind throughout, with a steely, earthy finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$65

92 Wolff 2019 Old Vines Chardonnay (Edna Valley). There's a streak of stone on the nose of this bottling before the toasted macadamia nut, baked apricot and lemon-balm flavors come through. There's a zesty flash to the sip of lemongrass, yuzu, Mandarin peel and lime, with warmer marzipan tones on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

91 Artesa 2018 Chardonnay (Los Carneros). Sleek and stony, with a lovely texture of lemon peel and peach fuzz, this white is light bodied and balanced, with moderate use of oak. The acidity is lively and helps the wine to retain an enduring freshness that is huge in appeal. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$23

91 Crescere 2017 Platt Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Floral and earthy on the nose in apple blossom and sea spray, this coastal wine begins light in crisp green apple and Meyer lemon as it develops a hearty backbone of powerful intensity and lush texture. Full bodied, it retains an expansive mouthfeel and oak-influenced finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Cuvaison 2018 Coeurina Chardonnay (Los Carneros). With a buttery, creamy entry, this bold white offers a warmth of toasted oak, lightening on the midpalate to reveal crisp elements of green apple, stone fruit and lime. A lift of acidity emphasizes the high tones and floral aromatics, finishing balanced and textured. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

91 Duckhorn 2018 Huichica Hills Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Richly brooding in soft, supple and lush texture and rich fruit, this offers bold flavors of apple, pear and Meyer lemon. From the heart of the appellation, it shows silky undertones of lemongrass and nutmeg, finding a core of spice and complexity buoyed by fresh acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$58

91 Fritz Underground 2017 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). This wine opens in a whirl of tropical-fruit cup, olive juice and sweet oak, evolving in the glass to reveal a fleshy, lush texture of rounded richness. The tannin structure provides an impressive foundation. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

91 Fulcrum 2018 Durell Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast). Made in a lush style with a broad, appealing fleshiness and velvety texture, this wine shows off the vineyard well, mixing cool coastal components of acidity and minerality with California richness. Pineapple, pear and baking spice dominate around notes of oak and flint. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$49

91 Hess Collection 2018 Small Block Chardonnay (Mount Veeder). Floral, this wine is intensely full bodied and spicy in oak, with strong, full-bodied flavors of Gravenstein apple, Meyer lemon and pear. The mountain appellation imparts dry, prominent tannins and an enduring earthiness. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$55

91 Lincourt 2017 Rancho Santa Rosa Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 15.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Poundstone 2018 Sangiacomo Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros). With a mineral-like stone character, this white is edgy in floral and earthy components that accent a robust, full-bodied style etched in oak and caramel. The fruit is richly layered pear and peach, with a side note of papaya, accentuating the overall richness of the wine. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Stephen Ross 2018 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Bright on the nose with fresh lime blossoms, lemon-zest, crisp nectarine and light oyster-shell aromas, this is a solid appellation blend by veteran Stephen Ross Dooley. A pithy grip frames the sip, where richer hints of browned butter and dried apple emerge against the brisk citrus elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$28

91 Tolosa 2019 No Oak Heritage Chardonnay (Central Coast). Lots of lemongrass and lime-blossom aromas make for a very fresh and zesty nose on this bottling, which also shows grapefruit-peel and oyster-shell elements. The palate is very tightly woven, with lemon-flesh and pomelo-peel flavors proving very sharp and laser-focused. Drink now through 2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$23

90 Beringer 2018 Private Reserve Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Made in a sizably opulent and robust style, this concentrated wine is richly layered in baked pear, vanilla and toasted oak. Textured and weighty, it delivers memorable intensity and lasting flavor. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

90 Brophy Clark 2017 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley). Creamy aromas of butter and salted almonds show on the nose of this appellation blend. There is a decent grip on the sip, which frames the very strong lactic notes of butterscotch, caramel and browned butter, with baked apple providing the fruit note. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$30

90 Cinnabar 2019 Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains). Grapefruit peel, chiseled stone, light jasmine and hints of guava show on the nose of this bottling. Linear flavors of lime peel and lemon pith are framed by a white-stone minerality on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

90 Hess Collection 2018 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Fermented primarily in stainless steel, this is a broadly appealing white wine that is lengthy in baking-spice and fruity overtones of caramel apple and fig. Fleshy and moderately rich, it offers a supple texture that endures and will please a wide range of palates. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

90 Knights Bridge 2018 West Block Chardonnay (Knights Valley). This is a rich, rewarding white from the producer's estate site, aged 11 months in 85% new French oak. Butterscotch, mango and toasted flavors dominate around a full-bodied, concentrated and densely packed core of flavor and texture. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

90 Myka 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

90 Peter Paul Wines 2018 Bacigalupi Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Meaty in tropical fruit with an oaky backbone, this white from the historic vineyard was aged 16 months entirely in French oak, half of it new. Fleshy and lush in style, it interweaves acidity for a lift and length. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$48

90 Shannon Ridge 2019 High Elevation Collection Chardonnay (Lake County). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$23

90 Spear 2019 Gnesa Stainless Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Ripe honeydew, guava and light coconut-flake aromas make for a very broad and open nose for this stainless bottling from own-rooted vines. The palate is more tense in structure, with citrus-juice flavors cutting into the tropical guava notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 Spear 2018 Gnesa Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Toasty aromas of hazelnut and macadamia nut meet with slightly scorched lemon-butter scents on the nose of this bottling.

Slightly tangy lime, lemon and grapefruit flavors show on the sip, with is very pithy in texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Theopolis 2017 Theo-patra's Cuvée Blanc Chardonnay (California). An unusually deep gold color and almost pungent aromas of browned butter and toasted hazelnuts lead to a rich, nutty, salty sensation on the palate and indulgent butterscotch flavors. It's an extreme, uninhibited wine that is ultraflavorful. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Thirty-Seven 2018 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap). This wine opens in a touch of matchstick before finding its groove on the midpalate. It is bright and crisp in acidity and with sharp flavors of green apple and quince. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$24

90 Ziata 2018 Chardonnay (Carneros). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

89 Bogle 2019 Chardonnay (California). This full-bodied wine tastes bold and oaky, from the aroma of buttered toast to ripe apple flavors shaded by baking spices, butter and hints of wood smoke. It has good acidity to keep it lively, and will appeal especially to fans of big Chardonnay. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

89 Chalk Hill 2018 Felta Chardonnay (Chalk Hill). This full-bodied, hearty white tastes of buttery brioche, baked pear and Meyer lemon, with a concentration of pineapple that adds to the richness. Toasted oak is prominent throughout. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

89 Hitch 2019 Chardonnay (Edna Valley). Clean lines of white melon, white peach, pineapple, sea salt and toast burst from the nose of this bottling. It's broad and ripe on the palate with strong stone-fruit flavors, as an underlying acidity and subtle tension holds those richer aspects intact. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

89 Landmark 2018 Hilliard Bruce Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Candied lemon and honeysuckle aromas pick up a slight dairy edge on the nose of this bottling. There's an earthy streak to the palate, where dried citrus and apple flavors rise in the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

89 Moniker 2019 La Ribera Vineyard Chardonnay (Mendocino). Ripe fruit flavors and generous oak accents come together well in this smooth, full-bodied wine. Plenty of pear and golden-apple flavors ride light acidity along with baking spices and a touch of butter. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Two Sisters 2018 Courtney's Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills). Toasted almonds, brown-butter and apple-tonic aromas make for a rich and generous nose on this reserve bottling. The palate is also rich, with baked pear and apple as well as buttered toast flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

89 Wente 2019 Morning Fog Estate Grown Chardonnay (Livermore Valley). This tasty, full-flavored wine marries nicely ripe pears, apples and lemons with attractive baking spices and perhaps a touch of sweetness on a supple but refreshing texture. It will be a crowd-pleaser. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 7 Cellars 2019 The Farm Collection Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Asian pear, honeysuckle, wet chalk and light toast aromas make for a pleasing entry to the nose of this wine. The palate starts in a tightly woven fashion with cement, chalk and light coconut-cream flavors, and then a wave of tropical plumeria and jasmine swoops in. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$14

88 Agua Dulce 2019 Reserve Chardonnay (California). Clean while ripe aromas of peach, lime and bubblegum show on the nose of this bottling. There's a bit of zest to the palate, where rich flavors of pineapple and guava prove quite lush. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 Allan Hancock 2019 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Lightly honeyed aromas of pineapple and ripe orange are clean on the nose of this bottling. There's just enough grip to the palate, giving depth to the yellow-pear and tangerine-peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$14

88 Beringer 2018 Estate Grown Chardonnay (Napa Valley). Opening in a whiff of matchstick, this sleek white exudes green apple, pear and a hint of fig. It is made in a hearty style and finished in toasted oak. Baking spice and vanilla play in the background. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$23

88 Bewitched 2019 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Brightly floral and made in an approachable style, this easygoing white shows fresh layers of green apple, pear and moderate oak. It retains a liveliness throughout, finishing in a subtle seasoning of nutmeg. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

88 Castle Rock 2019 Chardonnay (Central Coast). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Hess Select 2018 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Poached pear, lime-sauce, honeysuckle and honey drizzled toast aromas show on the nose of this bottling. It's very full on

the palate, with baked apple, almond-cream and cinnamon flavors, leading into a brisk lemon kick on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

88 Louis Pommery 2019 Chardonnay (Carneros). Sleek in racy acidity and a stony texture, this moderately ripe white is enduringly earthy and floral, with lasting notes of Meyer lemon, green apple and fig. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Meadow View 2019 Mary Leigh's Vineyard Jon's Vineyard Chardonnay (Lamorinda). Butter and butterscotch flavors dominate this rich, ripe and mouthcoating wine. It is full bodied, feels soft in terms of acidity and has a candy-apple finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$20

88 Ragtag 2017 Chardonnay (Monterey County). Toasted nuts, ripe lemon and light butterscotch aromas pull the nose into this bottling. There is a brief textural edge to the palate before it flattens into unctuous marzipan and butterscotch flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$38

88 Rombauer 2019 Home Ranch Chardonnay (Carneros). This is a fleshy, oak-laden white, with a touch of baking spice and butter that's intensely layered and broadly rich across the palate. Baked apple, pineapple and vanilla land on the finish with full-bodied fleshiness and lush texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Trollop 2019 Chardonnay (Green Valley). Dry and medium bodied, with a sense of fullness from the oak, this moderately structured white offers steely layers of green apple and fig. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

88 Uncorked by Cosmopolitan 2019 Chardonnay (California). Subtle aromas of dried pear, light mango flesh and honey show on the nose of this pleasant bottling, which is primarily sourced from the Central Coast in this inaugural vintage. The palate is loaded with baked apple and lemon-zest flavors, proving smooth rather than tense in texture. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

88 William Wright 2019 Chardonnay (Monterey County). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$8

88 YNOT 2018 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County). Honeyed aromas of dried lemon peel, apricot brioche and candied macadamia nuts make for a very rich style of Chardonnay. That nutty richness also shows on the sip, full of marzipan, dried citrus and baked apple. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

87 Castoro Cellars 2019 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Rounded and crisp aromas of Pink Lady apple, light honey and a hint of French toast show on the nose of this bottling. Dried lemon-peel flavors meet with lime rinds and dried earth tones on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Fritz Underground 2017 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Juicy and rich in style, this wine shows a wealth of tropical fruit and pear, with underlying notes of oak and nutmeg. It presents as quite ripe and rich. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

87 Hahn 2019 Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Dried orange-peel and orange-blossom aromas meet with rich hazelnut on the nose of this bottling. Dried lemon and dried apple flavors show on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Notre Vue 2019 Musque Chardonnay (Russian River Valley). Opening in aromas of cinnamon-seasoned apple pie, this wine is woody and floral, with strong elements of its Musque clone. Gravenstein apple and oak add a thick intensity of flavor. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$36

87 Wente 2019 Riva Ranch Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco). Toasty oak aromas lead into hazelnut, pecan and marzipan expressions on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with roasted nuts and oak, showing flavors of butterscotch, seared marshmallow and ripe apple baked in brown spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

86 Asuncion Ridge 2019 Chardonnay (Paso Robles). Very strong aromas of marzipan, dried apricot and apple juice make for a very rich and nutty expression on the nose of this bottling. That almond-driven density meets with the tang of orange peels on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$27

85 Smoke Tree 2018 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). This is a simple, light-bodied white wine offering fleshy flavors of peach and pear with a soft midpalate of quiet oak. The finish is a little metallic, with a touch of flint. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$20

SAUVIGNON BLANC

94 Crescere 2018 Ritchie Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Gorgeously inviting in candied peach aromatics, this white from the famous site is juicy and exuberantly fresh. Complexity comes in the form of texture and depth, the balanced acidity boosting a core of nuanced tropical fruit and quiet spice. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$60

93 Stone Edge Farm 2018 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.4% Price: \$50

93 Trois Noix 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$40

92 Anthem Winery 2019 Riverbound Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). This structured white was barrel fermented in French oak, half of it new, and then given additional richness and layering through malolactic fermentation. With a small amount of Sémillon, it presents as viscous and complex, with a depth of melon, toasted oak and vanilla. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$55

92 Armida 2019 Redwood Road Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$28

92 Beltane Ranch 2019 Estate Grown Drummond Block Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma Valley). Opening with a reductive touch of matchstick, this viscous and vibrant wine is full bodied and voluptuous in style. It finds balance and complexity in layers of green apple, fig and tangerine that complement and contrast. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$34

92 RD 2019 Hundred Knot Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

91 Duckhorn 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

91 Flying Cloud 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). Briny aromas of kelp and other seashore elements meet with pasilla chile on the intriguing nose of this bottling. The texture is taut and engaging, allowing the mossy flavors to be spiced up by tangy lime and green peppercorn. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$20

91 MacLaren 2019 Lee's Rogers Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Dry Creek Valley). Steely and floral, this is an immensely appealing and refreshing barrel-fermented white that shows enduring freshness. Lime, lychee and peach combine with ease to present a fruity likability within complex, nuanced structure and elegance. —V.B.
abv: 13.3% Price: \$32

91 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars 2019 Aveta Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14% Price: \$30

90 Blackbird Vineyards 2019 Dissonance Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Sourced from both Hudson Vineyard in Carneros and

Bavarian Lion Vineyard in Knights Valley, this contains 13% Sémillon and is aged in clay amphorae as well as new French oak. Complex and earthy, it offers grapefruit, pear and apple flavors with lasting acidity and a note of cardamom. —V.B.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

90 Chateau St. Jean 2018 Lyon Vineyard Fumé Blanc (Alexander Valley). Grassy and earthy, this full-bodied white is tantalizing in lime and salty stone, and displays a steely grip. Its sleekness is complemented and met by a robust voluptuous side that offers ample waves of green apple and oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$30

90 Eric Kent 2019 Cuvée Renee Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Fleshy and supple in style, this likable white is brimming in succulent layers of peach and apricot. Medium bodied, it holds its ripeness well, complementing it in bright, lasting acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$31

90 Murrieta's Well 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 14.7% Price: \$19

89 Bella Grace 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Amador County). This wine is frank, lively and bursting with floral, herbal and citrus aromas followed by equally vivid flavors and a medium body. All that fruit makes the mouth water. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$26

89 Foursight 2019 Charles Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Anderson Valley). White pepper, dried thyme and a flinty character make this medium-bodied wine interesting and complex. A citrus vibrancy underneath keeps it feeling fresh and lively on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$27

88 Banshee 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). Waxy apple and apricot flavors highlight this floral and ethereal white, light bodied in style and enduring in a steely crispness of lingering acidity. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$22

88 CULT 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Aged in both neutral oak and stainless steel, this white opens in a floral nose of wild vanilla and is steely on the palate in green apple and anise. With a dry, metallic finish, it presents as medium bodied and fleshy. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$22

88 Hess Select 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). Vibrant citrus aromas and ripe honeydew-melon flavors rest on fresh acidity in this well-balanced and flavorful wine. Medium body and good balance make it extra appealing. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$14

88 Hook & Ladder 2019 Olivet Ranch Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley). Stainless steel and neutral French oak both played a part in fermentation and aging of this wine, which shows notes of toasted oak and caramel. Thick, viscous and richly layered, it finishes in fresh apricot and peach. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$26

88 Longhouse 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Sonoma County). A stainless-steel fermented and aged white, this sings in fresh and fruity anise, guava and grapefruit. It is a lively expressive wine that should widely appeal. The finish takes on a nuanced richness of peach. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

87 Peirano 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi). A rich layer of butter and vanilla dresses up this full-bodied wine, whose banana and melon flavors make a strong contrast with the typical grassy versions. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$14

87 Tangent 2018 Paragon Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Edna Valley). A rather vinous aroma kicks off this bottling, which leads into lime-peel, grass and green-pear elements. The palate is also vinous, offering apple peels and lime flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$17

87 Wente 2019 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Livermore Valley). A mouthfilling take on the varietal, this full-bodied wine offers very subtle fig and melon aromas, subdued fruit flavors and a particularly viscous texture. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$18

86 Edna Valley Vineyard 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (California). Snap-pea aromas combine with herbal and mild citrus flavors on a slightly tart texture in this light-bodied wine. It is true to type and relatively soft. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$16

86 Essere Franco 2019 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Yountville). Floral and earthy with a burst of herbal legume, this 100% varietal white is barrel fermented in oak for four months. Made in a big, ripe style, it lingers in lemon mousse. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$38

86 Napa Cellars 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). Stainless-steel fermented, this white is thickly concentrated and viscous, with strong flavors of pear and mango. Simple and approachable, it finishes clean and brisk. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% Price: \$18

83 Essere Franco NV Mi Estate-Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Napa Valley). This white is floral and intense, with thick, confectionery flavors of disjointed ripeness. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% Price: \$30

83 The Winery SF 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast). This wine is soft in texture and

BUYINGGUIDE

middling in flavor, showing low-level banana and melon notes and low acidity. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

VIIGNIER

91 Calera 2018 Viognier (Mt. Harlan). Light mango, dried apple, lemon peel and a faint waft of seashore show on the nose of this bottling, from vines planted in 1983 and grown at 2,200 feet. The palate is brisk with lime, lemon and tangerine-peel flavors that are a bit sour, and a lingering maritime funk permeates the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

90 The Winery SF 2018 Viognier (North Coast). This earthy, savory wine offers aromas of dried figs and butterscotch that lead to mature, mouthcoating vanilla-bean and honey flavors. A full body and a rich, lingering aspect give it a quiet power. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

88 Mathew Gibson 2018 Bobbi's Estate Viognier (Sierra Foothills). This dry, complex wine starts with salty, white peppery aromas followed by lean, spare apricot and peach-skin flavors on a rather light body. It is enjoyable for its savory, restrained qualities. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$26

88 Sculpterra 2019 Viognier (Paso Robles). Strong aromas of peach blossom and light guava are clean while still being very tropical on the nose of this bottling. The palate is very broad and plush in flavors of honeysuckle, guava, papaya and mango. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$30

87 Bella Grace 2020 Viognier (Amador County). Fragrant floral aromas and bright, peachy flavors give this medium-bodied wine a generous, fruity appeal that matches a sweet-seeming balance. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$26

PINOT GRIS

92 Navarro 2019 Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). Very aromatic and bright, this charming wine overflows with aromas of lemon blossoms and crisp apples, offers fresh citrus flavors and great balance. It's refreshing and vibrant. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

91 Derby 2018 Derbyshire Vineyard Pinot Gris (San Luis Obispo County). Fresh aromas of Anjou pear flesh, gardenia and peach blossoms make for a very floral and inviting nose on this bottle from a vineyard that overlooks the ocean. There's ample grip to the sip, where lime-like bubblegum flavors make for a lively, refreshing experience. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

90 Bee Hunter 2017 Filligreen Farms Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). A light buttery, nutty quality gives this wine a serious, mature edge that is fascinating to taste. Almond, vanilla and a hint of honey dominate very dry fruit flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

90 Handley 2019 Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley). Light but distinctive, this elegant wine carries floral, pine and a hint of pineapple in its basket of flavors, braced nicely by brisk acidity that balances good concentration and depth. It shows what a cool climate can do for an often boring varietal. —J.G.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$24

88 Tangent 2019 Paragon Vineyard Pinot Gris (Edna Valley). Very light in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of honeysuckle, grapefruit and pear peel on the clean nose. The palate is a bit subtle in texture, but delivers fine flavors of tart pear and apple skin. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$17

RIESLING

92 Cutruzzola 2017 Riven Rock Vineyard Riesling (San Luis Obispo County). Lime skins, lemongrass, crisp pear and a hint of light apricot pop on the nose of this bottling. There's a viscous texture to the palate, where orange blossom, jasmine and light honey flavors align, leading into a waxy finish that's just the tiniest bit sweet. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

88 Navarro 2019 Riesling (Anderson Valley). Very fruity and rather full in body, this rounded and ripe wine boasts apples, peaches and hints of lemon blossoms, as well as a touch of sweetness. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$22

87 Maddalena 2019 Riesling (Monterey). Clean and crisp aromas of chalk, nectarine and white melon show on the nose of this bottling. There is a light pear-like sweetness to the palate, which is offset by a slightly taut texture. —M.K.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$20

ALBARIÑO

93 Derby 2017 Project Espana Albariño (Paso Robles). Both fresh and full on the nose, this zesty bottling offers lime and guava-peel aromas on the nose, as well as chopped lemongrass and gardenia. There's a very firm grip on the sip, where wet stone and chalk flavors play friendly with the lime-balm flavors. This is a strong showing for this variety in this region. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$26

92 Edio 2019 Estate Grown Albariño (El Dorado). For full review see page 13.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$24

92 Morgan 2019 Albariño (Arroyo Seco). Brisk pear, sea-salt and spring blossom aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which reflects its maritime influence from the nearby Monterey Bay. The mouthfeel is taut with racy acidity, offering more pear flavor as well as a hint of coconut flake. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$22

91 La Marea 2019 Alternative Cut Kristy Vineyard Albariño (Monterey County). The two days of skin contact give this bottling a deeper yellow hue, and lead to aromas of seared orange, apricot cream and warm hazelnuts. There is a toasty quality to the sip, where baked lemon, nut buttered toast and sea salt meet with a sandstone-like minerality. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$30

91 Ragtag 2018 Morro View Vineyard Albariño (Edna Valley). Wet stone and grassy hillside aromas lead into a lime-lozenge kick on the nose of this bottling. There is ample grip to the palate, where lime and grapefruit-peel flavors emerge into warmer tones of honeydew and star fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$36

91 Stephen Ross 2019 Spanish Springs Vineyard Albariño (San Luis Obispo County). Subtle on the nose at first, this brisk bottling opens toward green pear, lime-peel and mossy stone aromas, with a bit of air. Zesty acidity and a chalky mouthfeel deliver what's most needed in a white wine of this style, with fresh flavors of grapefruit rind and flesh popping as well. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$25

89 Absolution 2019 Pierce Ranch Albariño (San Antonio Valley). Buttered lemon, seared apple and light oak aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which is toastier than most versions of this grape yet still appealing. There's a touch of yellow pear and light lemon tonic to the palate, which is waxy in texture with a slightly sour kick. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$31

89 Bella Grace 2020 Estate Albariño (Amador County). Very fruity, bright, apple and peach aromas lead to crisp, tangy white-peach and apricot flavors in this light-bodied, brisk-feeling wine. Its freshness and crispness will make it a great meal starter. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$27

89 Tangent 2019 Stone Egg Paragon Vineyard Albariño (Edna Valley). It's unknown whether the chiseled concrete aroma on the nose of this bottling indeed comes from its concrete tank *élevage*, but it's certainly apparent, as are light citrus, nectarine and plumeria aromas. The palate is more tropical than mineral, offering gardenia and tight apple-peel flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$24

88 Allan Hancock 2019 Albariño (Santa Barbara County). Round aromas of yellow pear, apricot and cantaloupe are leveled by hints of pith

and stone on the nose of this bottling. There is a touch of tension to the palate, where pleasant if subtle lime-peel flavors arise. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$14

88 Tangent 2019 Paragon Vineyard Albariño (Edna Valley). Lime-peel, light pear and grassy aromas kick off the nose of this bottling, which also shows some vinous character and a slightly tinny minerality. The texture is very grippy, with flavors of green lime and green pear showing most strongly. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$17

WHITE BLENDS

92 De Sante 2019 L'Atelier (Napa Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

92 Lexington 2017 Alma Gist Ranch Estate (Santa Cruz Mountains). Waxy aromas of hazelnut lead into lemon-tonic and lemongrass touches on the nose of this blend of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Sémillon. It zings across the palate with a fresh lemon-flesh tartness, and then the macadamia-nut richness and paraffin texture comes through. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$48

92 Law 2019 Soph (Paso Robles). Richness and minerality are expertly balanced in this blend of 48% Roussanne, 40% Marsanne and 12% Clairette Blanche, starting on the nose, where white melon, light banana and creamy cherimoya meet with a chalky tone. The palate is creamy as well, with peach and mango, but it's the wet, chiseled stone flavor that makes the wine most compelling. —M.K.
abv: 15% Price: \$78

91 Baca 2019 Stargazing (Mendocino County). This full-bodied blend is complex, somewhat oaky and nicely dry, presenting aromas of bread dough, almond and butter followed by poached pear and almond flavors on a nicely firm texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$30

90 Absolution 2019 The Balance Michaud Vineyard Marsanne-Roussanne (Chalone). Tightly wound on the nose, this blend pairs aromas of wet stone and wool with brisk lemon and slight honey. There's a yuzu-spray freshness to the palate before a nuttier, cashew-like flavor and a waxy grip take hold. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% Price: \$41

86 Apothic 2019 Winemaker's Blend (California). Light bodied and fruity, this sunny wine is packed with honeydew-melon and banana flavors accented by vanilla. It feels mouthfilling, slightly sweet and low in acidity. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Lieu Dit 2019 Melon de Bourgogne (Santa Maria Valley). The winemaking team of Justin Willett and Eric Railsback are embracing Melon de Bourgogne, which for years has been mislabeled as Pinot Blanc. This bottling is fantastic, starting with briny, green-allium aromas as well as honeydew. The extremely engaging texture wraps flavors of yellow-grapefruit peel and brisk pear flesh. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 11.7% Price: \$24

92 Navarro 2019 Deep End Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). Luscious and floral, this full-bodied and slightly sweet wine is beautifully aromatic, offering rose-petal and lychee scents that lead to ripe Anjou pear flavors. Fermented and aged in oval oak vats for eight months, it develops a mouthcoating texture followed by a lingering finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13.4% Price: \$29

92 RD 2019 Fifth Moon Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). For full review see page 13.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

91 Bella Grace 2020 Estate Grenache Blanc (Amador County). A mouthfilling, fresh, fruity quality is well balanced by crisp acidity in this engaging, lively and concentrated wine. It bursts with crisp apple and honeydew-melon flavors that linger through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$26

91 Chalone Vineyard 2018 Chenin Blanc (Chalone). Lemon-balm, apple-blossom and Asian pear aromas meet with a slightly waxy edge on the nose of this bottling. There's a line of lemon candy and richer apple that runs through the sip, with brushes of coconut flake and toasted nut on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$44

91 Foursight 2018 Charles Vineyard Semillon (Anderson Valley). A bit weighty and well concentrated, this complex wine is also well-balanced, offering a rich variety of golden-apple, almond and honey notes that expand on the palate, backed by underlying acidity. A mouthfilling, smooth texture carries it through a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% Price: \$27

91 Zocker 2019 Paragon Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley). Light coconut, orange-peel and tangerine-flesh flavors make for a zesty yet ultimately rich set of aromas of the nose of this bottling. A pithy texture frames grass and green-pepper flavors as well as lime-peel tones on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

89 Bella Grace 2020 Vermentino (Amador County). Notes of crisp apple and very light herbs highlight this fresh, tangy and spotlessly

clean wine. Light body and expressive fruit and white-pepper flavors make it a treat to sip. —J.G.
abv: 12.3% Price: \$28

89 Navarro 2019 Dry Estate Bottled Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley). This high-quality, refreshing, dry wine balances exuberant peach and lychee flavors with vivid acidity and medium body for an appetizing, palate-cleansing effect. —J.G.
abv: 13.1% Price: \$24

88 RD 2019 Fifth Moon Chenin Blanc (El Dorado). This full-bodied and richly textured wine offers subdued apple and baking-spice flavors that slowly build on the palate. Quite dry and well balanced, the wine feels broad and emphasizes nutty, toasty nuances in the flavors and finish. —J.G.
abv: 13% Price: \$27

86 RD 2019 Fifth Moon Malvasia Bianca (Suisun Valley). This bone-dry, restrained and light-bodied wine brings a sense of austerity to the palate due to its lean apple and herb flavors. —J.G.
abv: 11.8% Price: \$25

SPARKLING WINES

96 J Vineyards & Winery 2015 Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 4.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

96 Schramsberg 2015 Piedra Libre Vineyards Brut (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 4.
abv: 12.7% Price: \$90

96 Schramsberg 2000 Brut Late Disgorged (Carneros). This is a blend of 55% Chardonnay and 45% Pinot Noir, slightly barrel fermented and given time in bottle to evolve. Dark-gold in color, it is nutty and tastes of Christmas spice, potpourri and peanut brittle, with the Mayer lemon and tangerine-flavored acidity high toned and a good contrast to the beginning hints of oxidation. —V.B.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$175

95 Inman Family 2018 Brut Rosé (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 5.
abv: 11.7% Price: \$68

94 J Vineyards & Winery 2014 Blanc de Blancs (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 8.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$80

94 J Vineyards & Winery 2016 Blanc de Noirs (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 7.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

93 J Vineyards & Winery 2012 Brut Late Disgorged (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$110

92 Loubud 2019 Cebada Vineyards Brut Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley). Beautifully presented aromas of rose petal, Mandarin peel and chalk are both subtle and sleek on the nose of this bottling by Laura Roach. The palate runs from brisk strawberry-skin and citrus-pith flavors to intriguing touches of wet earth. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Paradise Springs NV Pink Ash (California). Precise aromas of plum and raspberry meet with more reserved scents of wet cement and turned earth on the nose of this bottling, which features the art of actor Billy Zane. There is impressively rocky minerality on the palate, where wet cement flavors lead toward tart plum skin and warmer cherry elements. —M.K.
abv: 11.7% **Price:** \$59

92 Sea Smoke 2015 Sea Spray Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Wine (Sta. Rita Hills). An aggressive and excited mousse lifts aromas of chalk, gardenia and tart apple on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a wide range of complexity, from steely minerality and pepper-like spice to citrus-splashed melon and mango. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$80

92 Wolff 2018 Brut Cuvée Old Vines Blanc de Blanc (Edna Valley). From the very clean mousse emerges aromas of Meyer lemon, apple cider, pastry and lemongrass on the nose of this bottling. The flavor profile of the palate is unique, ranging from tart citrus and apple to warmer melon tones. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Goat Bubbles 2017 Blanc de Noirs Ampelos Vineyard (Sta. Rita Hills). Yeasty aromas of sourdough lead into brisker touches of nectarine and lemon peel on the nose of this bottling. The yeasty touch extends to the palate, where it picks up a grapefruit-peel edge and proves quite refreshing. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$60

91 Goldeneye 2017 Brut Rose (Anderson Valley). This is an excellent, traditional-style dry rosé. It's light salmon in color, offers tempting doughy, toasty aromas and subtle ginger, peach and red-cherry flavors. An elegant, crisp texture completes the pretty picture. —J.G.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

91 J Vineyards & Winery 2014 Brut (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$60

91 Lightpost 2018 Jules de Brut Blanc de Blanc (San Luis Obispo County). Rich aromas of honey lead into brighter hints of grapefruit peel and sliced nectarine on the nose of this bottling from Spanish Springs Vineyard. A tiny *perlage* on the palate leads to a creamy mouthfeel, loaded with flavors of yellow apple and citrus. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$39

90 Aloria 2019 Rozzé (Calaveras County). The brilliant coral color and engaging fruity aromas of this light-bodied sparkler lead to a rich, rather soft palate of cherry and strawberry flavors soothed by an off-dry, frothy mouthfeel. It's simply delicious. —J.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$36

90 Goat Bubbles 2017 Solomon Hills Vineyard Rosé (Santa Maria Valley). Hints of dried cherry and toasty bread show on the yeasty nose of this bottling. There's a zesty orange flavor to the palate, where baked plum and dough flavors also arise. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$44

90 Lightpost 2018 La Grande Sofi Sparkling Rosé (San Luis Obispo County). An orange shade of pink in the glass, this rosé of Pinot Noir begins with light raspberry and talc aromas, with the red fruit growing stronger toward cherry as it sits open. The palate ranges from richer baked raspberry to lemony citrus flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$44

90 MacRostie 2017 Brut (Sonoma Coast). Made from a 50-50 mix of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, the latter sourced from Sangiacomo Vineyard, this Brut offers broodingly rich layers of peach and green apple that are complemented by heartier elements of baked lemon and marzipan. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Kitá 2016 Šušťay Camp 4 Vineyard (Santa Ynez Valley). Spicy apple aromas meet with white flowers and lemon zest on the nose of this bottling, unique as a sparkling Roussanne. The palate shows dried apple flavors and a hint of metallic minerality, more smooth than zesty. —M.K.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$75

88 Aloria 2019 Divinity (Calaveras County). This dry and refreshing wine made from Viognier and Albariño grapes offers pineapple, Pippin apple and light vanilla flavors on a nicely frothy texture. It is appealing, mouthfilling and fresh. —J.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$36

88 Aloria 2017 Shirazzy (Calaveras County). This is a deep-red sparkling wine that backs rich but dry black-fruit flavors with a fine bead of bubbles and good acidity for a bracing effect on the palate. It makes a fun escape from the ordinary. —J.G.
abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$36

86 Powicana Farm 2018 Pétillant Naturel Rosé (Redwood Valley). This hazy looking and boisterously foamy wine is a member of the earthy, *pét-nat* crowd and contains no added sulfites. It offers cider-vinegar aromas and orange-zest and peach-skin flavors. There is plenty of acidity to wash down some barbecue or burritos. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

ROSÉS

91 Sottomarino NV Rosé (Lake County). This seductive, complex wine made from Sangiovese and Zinfandel grapes offers fragrant raspberry, new leather and sandalwood aromas and tangy fruit flavors shaded by earthy, woody accents. Medium body and a smooth texture make it drink almost like a red. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$24

90 Agua Dulce 2019 Rosado Seco Rosé (Sierra Pelona Valley). Fresh strawberries, rose petals and tart lime aromas pair with chalk and wet earth on the nose of this bottling from a unique corner of Southern California. Crushed chalk flavor and texture lead the palate, alongside lime pith and creamy pink fruits, with a kick of mint. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Castello di Amorosa 2019 Cresta D'Oro Vineyard Rosato Di Pinot Noir (Green Valley). Tasting of strawberry cream, this is a lively and fresh wine with cool-climate acidity that keeps it vibrant in contrast to the underlying richness of ripe fruit. Melon, cherry and raspberry fill out a fleshy midpalate that is lightly spiced in nutmeg and rose. —V.B.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$39

90 Kiamie 2019 Rosé of Grenache (Adelaida District). A light shade of yellowish pink in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of chalk, lemon pith and tight pluot flesh. Brisk lemon peel kicks off the sip, which also nods toward earthy soil and a subtle brush of red fruit. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$34

90 Sanford 2018 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dusty and chalky aromas of strawberry and red plum meet with turned earth elements on the nose of this bottling. There is a solid grip to the sip, where light raspberry and crisp lemon-peel flavors make for a brisk experience. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

89 Ragtag 2019 Santa Margarita Vineyard Rosé (Paso Robles). An electric shade of pink in the glass, this rosé is jubilant in aromas, offering ripe cherry as well as wet earth on the nose. There's a touch of rusty minerality on the palate, where the cherry and rose flavors are bold but balanced. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$28

88 Lightpost 2019 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Subtle on the nose, this rosé from the Edna Valley Vineyard shows aromas of rust, dried berry and chalk. There are faint earth tones to the palate, giving some balance to the dried strawberry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

88 William Gunn 2019 Rosé (Sierra Foothills). This medium-bodied wine is a brilliant light copper in color and offers scents of peach and

flint followed by nicely concentrated fruit flavors and a smooth texture. The acidity is subtle, giving a full mouthfeel. —J.G.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$17

87 José Rosé NV Pink Agua Rosé (California). Bright and fresh aromas of strawberry and candied watermelon make for an inviting entry to this bottle. Lemon-peel and candied berry flavors show on the palate, which has a slightly vinous tone and is flat in texture. —M.K.

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

87 Oak Grove 2020 Family Reserve Winemaker's Rosé (California). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*

abv: 12% **Price:** \$9

86 RD 2019 Fifth Moon Rosé (El Dorado). This sturdy, light-bodied wine is straightforward in flavor and nicely tangy in texture. It shows almost no pink color, and has lean melon and apple flavors. —J.G.

abv: 12.3% **Price:** \$20

PINOT NOIR

96 Donum 2018 Heritage Clones Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a single-block reserve wine from the producer's Russian River Valley estate. Waxy in texture, it offers densely concentrated waves of blood orange, strawberry and dark cherry, the fruit dusted in sage, dried herb and lavender. With length and considerable breadth, it begs for further aging and will benefit greatly. Enjoy best from 2028–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$125

96 Donum 2018 Mikado Tree Pinot Noir (Carneros). Wide, broad and fleshy, with an intensity of forest, black tea and cardamom, this wine is burly in tannin structure and dense concentration. The fruit is tangy and lush—a mix of black raspberry, plum and rhubarb that blend effortlessly with a wealth of toasted oak, nutmeg and vanilla. Grippy in its youth, enjoy best from 2028–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$100

96 Donum 2018 Three Hills Pinot Noir (Carneros). This is an inaugural release from the producer's estate, a tight, reductive expression that will take time to unfurl. Earthy in black tea, forest and a midpalate intensity, it reveals layers of bright, lively red fruit, a mix of raspberry, strawberry and cherry that gives it a lasting freshness. Enjoy best from 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$85

96 Three Sticks 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 5.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$70

95 Barden 2018 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Simultaneously

tight on the edges but plush in the center on the nose, this bottling shows full waves of plum, black raspberry and dark hibiscus as well as crushed stone and cinnamon-spice aromas. That red spice meets with star anise on the sip, where tart pluot and plum flavors mesh into lavender and violet to make a very complex experience. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$82

95 Calera 2018 Chalone Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Making single-vineyard wines from beyond the estate is a new strategy for Calera, but one that succeeds wildly here. Clean aromas of boysenberry jam, crushed rocks, light baking spice and desiccated pork show on the nose, while the full-flavored palate is both rustic and elegant, ranging from light brushes of licorice and ripe berry flavors to a firm tannic frame. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Caraccioli 2018 Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). For full review see page 5.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$50

95 Davies 2018 Hyde Vineyards Pinot Noir (Carneros). For full review see page 5.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$70

95 Donum 2018 West Slope Single Block Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros). From a small, west-facing portion of the producer's estate vineyard, this is a thick, muted and earthy red wine that takes time to unfurl. As it does, it offers graphite, coffee-bean and rich raspberry and strawberry flavors, the tannins deeply structured and laced in dark chocolate and toasted oak. —V.B.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$125

95 Sea Smoke 2018 Southing Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Extremely suave aromas of rich black cherry, caramel cream and spearmint make for a wondrous, elegant and silky nose on this monopole bottling. Chiseled, expertly polished tannins frame the more delicate sip, where the black-cherry-cream flavors are enhanced by star anise and nutmeg accents. —M.K.

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

95 Spear 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

95 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Henry Ayrton's Block Rapley Trail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Peppercorns and bay leaf kick off the nose of this block designate, and are then followed by roasted strawberry and tangy raspberry touches before a crushed rock minerality takes hold. There is a firm texture to the palate, where alpine-strawberry and ripe plum flavors are wrapped in a rocky veil. Drink now thorough 2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$100

95 Three Sticks 2018 Cuvée Eva Marie Pinot Noir (Sonoma Mountain). Driven by acidity and

mineral-like complexity and texture, this cuvée is smooth and supple in texture, with a balanced style of richness and vibrancy. Tree-bark, pomegranate and tangerine flavors provide a contrast between savory elements and fruit, coalescing completely on the long finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$95

94 Alma Rosa 2018 La Encantada Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Baked strawberry, cherry compote, cinnamon-stick and chai aromas swirl into a very heady, inviting and attention-grabbing nose on this single-vineyard expression. There's tingling acidity on the palate, cutting through the rounded cherry-cream flavors and leading into tighter red-plum, fennel and clove touches. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$65

94 Amor Fati 2018 Murmur Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). For full review see page 6.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$60

94 Crescere 2017 Platt Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Tightly wound in strong, powerful tannin, this vineyard-designate shows coastal intensity and savory elements of earth, black tea and forest floor. The fruit is subtle in cranberry and rhubarb, with a wisp of orange peel that lingers and adds brightness to the full-bodied style. —V.B.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$120

94 Flowers 2018 Sea View Ridge Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a savory, earthy and truly expressive site, evocative of its high-elevation coastal site. Black tea, forest floor and quenching acidity support citrus overtones that complement the wild strawberry and raspberry at its elegant core, with a wealth of well-integrated finishing tannin. —V.B.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Foley 2018 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Impressive amounts of game and wet soil flash across the nose on this bottling at first, before the pepper, plum and pomegranate elements fill in. The palate is equally complex, showing more game and soil as well as thyme, peppercorns, rich strawberry and tart cranberry on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

94 Gary Farrell 2018 Russian River Selection Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$45

94 Goldeneye 2017 Ten Degrees Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection.*

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

94 Lightpost 2019 Saveria Vineyards Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). For full review see page 8.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$49

94 Lincourt 2017 Rancho Santa Rosa Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 8.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

94 Ram's Gate 2018 El Diablo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This wine is remarkably refined and elegant in style, with enduring freshness beneath the grip and bluster. Earthy black tea and a perfume of rose combine around a depth of wild strawberry, raspberry and pomegranate, remaining crisp and focused through a lengthy finish of cardamom. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$75

94 Seibold Cellars 2018 Brosseau The Swale Pinot Noir (Chalone). Elegantly floral aromas of lavender and violet meet with cola spice and mulberry on the nose of this bottling, which manages to tame the appellation's common need for extended aging into an approachable, ready-to-drink style. The palate is full of rose petal and purple-flower potpourri flavors, with unique touches of blueberry and a hint of pepper on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Seibold Cellars 2018 Eden Rift North Slope Pinot Noir (Cienega Valley). Crisp raspberry and pomegranate aromas are dusted with light herbs, wet earth and forest-mushroom touches on the nose of this bottling, which is light in the glass. A similarly complex combination pops on the sip, with plum and cranberry, dried and fresh herbs and even cracked pepper spice. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

94 Spear 2018 Block 13 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Fresh and inviting on the nose, this block-designated bottling begins with aromas of strawberry compote, citrus rind and dewy forest herbs. Refreshing strawberry and red-melon flavors pop on the palate, surrounded by oregano, marjoram, bay leaf, white-pepper and pine-resin touches. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Stephen Ross 2018 Stone Corral Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Dark-cherry and black-raspberry aromas meet with loads of crushed slate and dried loam as well as hibiscus and rose-water on the dynamic nose of this bottling. The palate is also very rocky and mineral-driven, while showing darker plum and purple-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$60

94 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Mindego Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Creamy black cherry and cola spice give way to brisk hibiscus, funky earth and dried red flowers on the nose of this bottling. Taut strawberry, raspberry and dark-plum flavors meet with lavender and forest herbs on the palate, which is very tight in texture but steadily opens up over time. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

94 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Rapley Trail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Black-raspberry-jam, rose-petal and lilac aromas meet with a wet rock minerality on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is loaded with those rocky flavors of gravel, granite and sandstone, settling into rich boysenberry and spice tones of star anise and clove. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$78

94 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Windy Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Smoked cherry, turned earth, mushroom, singed pine and a hint of maple show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard 2,000 feet high. The palate begins with a tart raspberry and pomegranate flavor, then picks up floral tones of lavender and rose petal, with hints of game and rosemary arising by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$78

94 Two Sisters 2018 Lindsay's Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Strong aromas of roasted plum and mulberry meet with fresh pomegranate, dark cocoa spice and dried meat on the layered and inviting nose of this reserve bottling. The dried meat element takes on a rustic tone on the sip, baked by more mulberry and an acidity that slices into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$85

94 Wentworth 2019 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$75

93 Alma Rosa 2018 Bentrack Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Though light in the glass, this bottling is aggressively aromatic, booming with joyous tones of cherry compote and candied rose. The palate zings with acidic energy, popping with fresh and fun flavors of hibiscus, cranberry and red currant, all dusted in white-pepper spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

93 Alma Rosa 2018 El Jabali Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Plush and rich aromas of black cherry, cola cream and light vanilla are offset by a brisk black-plum freshness on the very inviting nose of this bottling. Cola, root beer and even Dr Pepper spices blossom on the palate, lifting the cherry-cordial core while riding strong acidity into a slightly sanguine finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$68

93 Alma Rosa 2018 Rancho La Vina Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Ripe Bing cherry and fruit-punch aromas meet with caramel tones of oak on the inviting nose of this bottling. The palate is quite toasty as well, loaded with mace and cinnamon spice that gives depth to the crisp and bright red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Assiduous 2019 Lilo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Very light in the glass, this bottling explodes with aroma on the nose, delivering scents of thyme and bay leaf as well as

plump raspberry and alpine strawberry. That wild forest element is redolent on the palate, where more bay, sagebrush and fennel flavors meet with black raspberry and, on the finish, a hint of damp soil. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

93 Bee Hunter 2016 Oppenlander Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino). This full-bodied, complex and savory wine offers a wonderful blend of herb, black-cherry, forest-floor and black-tea aromas that are nicely echoed in the flavors. The mouthfeel is full but nicely buoyed by acidity and light tannins, giving a snappy texture followed by a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

93 Calera 2017 Ryan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

93 Chalone Vineyard 2019 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Chalone). For full review see page 9.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

93 Crescere 2017 Proprietary Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Thick in concentrated red-fruit ripeness and a taste of caramel, this coastal wine retains plenty of powerful tannin and oak. Made in an abundant style, it lingers in forest, baking spice and a taste of black tea, finishing with a waxy, velvety texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Davies 2018 Pinot Noir (Carneros). Delicate and rose petaled, this soft, supple red wine is light in strawberry and cherry flavor. It takes on a more robust weight and mouthfeel on the midpalate, building to a spicy, acid-driven finish marked by lovely, lingering notes of chocolate. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

93 Donum 2018 Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). This is a monstrously structured, powerful and generous wine from the appellation. Thick waves of black cherry and strawberry present as velvety smooth on the palate, accented in black tea, cardamom and a wash of toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

93 Flowers 2018 Camp Meeting Ridge Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This is a tangy, savory and freshly vibrant wine, light and focused in acidity. The flavors meld together in a mix of forest floor, dried herb, black tea and rhubarb, showing its coastal provenance and relative elevation to reveal complexity and lasting structure. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Flying Goat Cellars 2017 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Aromas of muddled mulberry and raspberry jam meet with raw pork, minty sagebrush and crushed rocks on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. Tart red-plum flavors are sprinkled with wild thyme and fennel pollen on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Foursight 2018 Charles Vineyard Clone 5 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This grand, full-bodied wine offers great concentration and a gorgeous combination of ripe red and black fruits and seductive baking spices. A rather deep color and generous black-cherry and strawberry aromas lead to a palate of almost jammy flavors. This is, perhaps, the best of an outstanding 2018 Pinot Noir lineup from Foursight. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$55

93 Gary Farrell 2017 Terra de Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). For full review see page 9. —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$70

93 Goldeneye 2017 Gowan Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$86

93 Kendric Vineyards 2019 Loup Solitaire Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap-Marín County). Nervy but also nicely flavorful, this tautly balanced wine marries just-ripe black-cherry and rhubarb flavors with good acidity, light tannins and plenty of complexity. Nuances of black tea, forest floor and cardamom give plenty to appreciate. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

93 Lester 2018 Domingo Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Light in the glass, this bottling shows cranberry and raspberry on the tart nose, with hints of bay leaf and a pleasant streak of chalk rock minerality. That bay leaf character meets with thyme and oregano on the palate, where potpourri and those crisp red-fruit flavors converge. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

93 Lester 2017 Domingo Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Quite light in the glass, this bottling bursts forth on the nose with aromas of pomegranate, cherry, bay leaf and pine. The palate is also brisk and loaded with red fruits such as cherry, raspberry and pomegranate, yet it's the light smoke and forest herbs that set it apart. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$55

93 Lightpost 2019 Ferrari Vineyards Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Snappy aromas of black raspberry, dewy rosemary and peppercorns make for a very fresh nose on this single-vineyard expression from a 40-year-old, dry-farmed vineyard. It's very fresh and lively on the palate as well, loaded with cranberry and sour cherry flavors as well as thyme and white-pepper dust. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$65

93 Lightpost 2019 Spanish Springs Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). Slightly hazy in the glass, this bottling begins with full aromas of violet, crisp currant, underripe blueberry and tarragon on the beautiful nose. The palate bursts with fresh flavors of just-ripe

blueberry and cherry, as firm tension and bright acidity lead into a violet finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

93 MacRostie 2018 Rodgers Creek Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Stemmy, bright and earthy, this is a high-toned and citrus-driven red from the cool-climate appellation and site. Mineral-like crushed rock adds to the texture and length of the wine, accentuated by well-integrated tannin and oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$58

93 Stephen Ross 2018 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Deep, dark and sharp aromas of black raspberry and crumpled lavender are coated in a slate-like minerality on the nose of this appellation blend. The purple-lower focus is pure and intense on the palate, where a bright acidity opens toward cinnamon and vanilla on the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

93 Thomas Fogarty 2017 James Thomas's Block Rapley Trail Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). From a vineyard planted nearly 40 years ago, this block-designated bottling begins with crisp black-raspberry, rose-petal, hibiscus and tea-leaf aromas on the nose. There's a fresh raspberry and cranberry kick to the palate, where a firm structure also carries richer hints of rooibos tea and muddled mulberry. —M.K.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$100

93 Thomas Fogarty 2017 La Vida Bella Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Crumpled red flowers, tart cherry, raspberry, bay leaf and mint converge in a mellow, delicate manner on the nose of this bottling. Crisp cranberry and pomegranate make for a brisk fruit experience on the palate, yet there are savory mushroom elements as well, all wrapped in a firm texture. Drink 2022–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$62

93 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Will's Cabin Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Leather, dried strawberry and peppercorn lead into a nose loaded with chaparral spice of light thyme and sage on this vineyard designate. It's a bit shy on the palate at first, and then light cranberry and raspberry flavors emerge against the crushed stone and light red-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$72

93 Tolosa 2018 Heritage Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Hearty aromas of black raspberry and muddled plum are lifted by sage and pepper on the ripe but clean nose of this bottling. There's a pleasantly herbal kick to the palate, where the sagebrush aspects wrap around the dark-mulberry and wild-plum flavors. Rocky tannins give both structure and minerality. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

92 Alquimista Cellars 2016 Mes Filles Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Juicy in blood orange and strawberry, this Sebastopol Hills-grown wine

shows the coolness of the climate in swirls of black tea and cardamom. Earthy and savory throughout, it finishes in a densely rich note of fig. —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$71

92 Artesa 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Los Carneros). A beguiling bouquet of fruit and flowers, this estate wine has an equally savory edge of forest floor, black tea and rose petal to offer. Medium bodied and silky in texture, it tastes fresh and lively in pomegranate and wild strawberry. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

92 Barden 2018 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Hearty aromas of boysenberry, singed meat, rosemary and cardamom make for a heady nose on this appellation blend. The palate is driven by spice and herb, showing nutmeg, rosemary and pine needle, alongside the dark-plum core of fruit. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Bravium 2018 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This elegant, tasty, medium-bodied wine offers a flinty but jammy aroma, a light, smooth texture and plenty of plump cherry and strawberry flavors. It shows a good, appetizing balance and persistent, layered fruit and baking spices. —J.G.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$34

92 Calera 2017 Selleck Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mt. Harlan). This bottling from a vineyard planted in 1975, which doesn't even produce a ton per acre, begins with brisk aromas of pomegranate before the richer tones of game, earth and oak emerge. Baked currant and cranberry flavors meet with crisp red plum on the palate, which is full of the estate's telltale mountain spices. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$100

92 Davies 2018 Perry Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). Perry Ranch was part of what was formerly known as Keefer Ranch and is farmed by the Dutton family. Light flecks of black tea and forest floor highlight a nuanced body of soft, supple tannin and texture, giving it a fresh plushness that appeals. Lively flavors of cranberry, orange and strawberry contribute balanced richness. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$70

92 Flying Goat Cellars 2017 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Very exuberant aromas of freshly smashed black raspberry, sumac, wild strawberry and star anise pop on the nose of this bottling. Tart cherries and toasted sage meet with opulent strawberry cream on the palate, which is quite complex and layered in herb and fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$48

92 Foley 2018 Bar Lazy S Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Smoothed out aromas of red cherry, mesquite and star anise make for a suave and well-integrated entry to the nose of this bottling. There is ample oak on the sip, which frames the silky texture and creamy cherry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$58

92 Foley 2018 JA Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Dried cherries, strawberry, spice cake and a touch of leathery funk show on the nose of this bottling. Tart cranberry and cherry-compote flavors meet with orange rind and cinnamon on the sip, which is lightly bodied, complex and well structured. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$58

92 Foursight 2018 Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 13.

abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$49

92 Foursight 2018 Parabol Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Abundant, delicious red- and black-cherry flavors drive this medium- to full-bodied wine in terms of both aroma and flavor. It weaves in black tea, cloves and a touch of cinnamon on the palate, which is generous and plush in texture. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$61

92 GoGi 2017 Erinn Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). There are tart and tangy aromas of red plum and sour cherry on the nose of this bottling, which also recalls incense and cedar, reminiscent of a brawny men's cologne. Crisp cranberry-fruit flavors are decorated with pine needle, eucalyptus tea and lightly cracked pepper on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Handley 2017 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Very ripe, lush perfumed fruit flavors and a rounded, luxurious texture bring a lot of pleasure to this full-bodied wine. Subtle accents of cinnamon and nutmeg shade the tasty black- and red-cherry flavors while mild tannins give just enough grip in the mouth. —J.G.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$38

92 Joseph Jewell 2018 Fruitland Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Humboldt County). This sleek and complex wine is relatively light in body and offers complex scents of tea, cherries and cedar followed by tangy red-cherry and cinnamon flavors. Light tannins are nicely interwoven with good acidity for excellent balance. —J.G.

abv: 12.2% **Price:** \$39

92 Kendric 2018 Proprietor Grown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap-Marin County). Big, broad cherry flavors are lifted by lively acidity and moderate tannins in this full-bodied wine that sports good sour cherry and raspberry tones as well as light black-pepper and cinnamon nuances. —J.G.

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

92 Marimar 2017 Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). For full review see page 13.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

92 Navarro 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Subtle aromas of mint and cherries lead to good, ripe black-cherry, bay leaf and forest-floor nuances on the palate of this pure-tasting, well-

balanced wine. Nice depth and delicious layering make it memorable. —J.G.

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

92 Navarro 2019 Méthode a L'Ancienne Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). This is a classic, well-balanced and delicious wine that doesn't go over the top with ripeness or oakiness. Pure cherry and strawberry flavors ride a smooth, lightly gripping texture that keeps begging for another sip. —J.G.

abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$35

92 Saintsbury 2018 Pinot Noir (Carneros). Juicy, tangy and savory in cedar, black tea and rhubarb, this is an expressive, exuberant red wine that is earthy and lightly spicy. Firm tannins provide a structural foundation beneath light-bodied ripeness and persistent acidity. —V.B.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Saintsbury 2018 Pratt Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Thick and densely layered in rhubarb, forested notes and savory black tea, this well-tended site contributes plenty of cool-climate intensity and complexity, sitting just west of Sebastopol near the tiny town of Graton. Earthy vibrancy defines its breadth of moderate ripeness and graceful nature. —V.B.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$68

92 Sanford 2018 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Muddled black-plum-paste, tart cranberry, mace and vanilla aromas show on the nose of this appellation blend, which comes mostly, perhaps entirely, from estate fruit. The dark-plum and mulberry flavors of the palate are lifted by bay leaf, light thyme and dried sage, and set against a chiseled stone structure. —M.K.

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

92 The Calling 2018 Terra de Promissio Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This wine has a spicy intensity of nutmeg, cardamom and cola, accents that soften and complicate the thick concentration of wild strawberry and blueberry jam. Medium bodied, it holds its weight and richness in check, making room for underlying acidity to freshen and lengthen the experience. —V.B.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Razorback Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Ripe red-currant and cranberry aromas become more complex when roasted cherry tomato and dried herb elements converge on the nose of this bottling. Snappy raspberry flavors zip on the sip, backed by orange peel, making for an altogether mellow expression. —M.K.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$78

92 Two Sisters 2017 Lindsay's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). For full review see page 14.

abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$40

92 Wentworth 2019 Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). For full review see page 14.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

91 Absolution 2018 Righetti Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Quite light in the glass, this bottling offers red currant, crushed slate, dried herbs and potpourri on the nose. The palate is also more subtle than bold, delivering sumac, sagebrush and wild-cherry flavors, with a light French toast kick to the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$45

91 Alquimista Cellars 2016 Confluence Cuvée Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley). With 5% Chardonnay, this red is made from grapes grown at Mes Filles, Hawks Roost and Lorenzo vineyards. Bright in citrus and a surreptitious note of green apple, it is tangy on the palate with a length of pomegranate and black tea. —V.B.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

91 Bruliam 2018 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap). Light and stemmy, with enduring earthiness, this vineyard-designate from the cool-climate appellation shows rose petal and pomegranate notes built around refined tannins and integrated oak. It builds flavor and body on the midpalate, with nuanced black cherry and strawberry seasoned in cardamom. —V.B.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Davies 2018 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This appellation wine sources from several vineyard-designated sites, including Perry Ranch and Nobles. Earthy black tea and compost make for an ethereal, cool-climate style that finds balanced acidity and tannin weight along the way. Pomegranate and rhubarb flavors provide crisp fruitiness. —V.B.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$45

91 Davies 2018 Nobles Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview). From an ocean-influenced site, this red is earthy and funky, with tremendous structure and concentration. Black tea, rhubarb and blueberry play along a palate of full-bodied intensity and nuanced richness, leading to a fresh, lengthy finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$70

91 Flowers 2019 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). Juicy and broad in appeal with a generous helping of baked cherry and strawberry, this coastal wine is also earthy and savory in rhubarb and black tea. Lengthy, bold and balanced, it has well-integrated oak and tannin, finishing in a taste of black tea and forest floor. —V.B.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

91 Flying Goat Cellars 2017 2A Rio Vista Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills). Hearty and heavy aromas of black-cherry juice, sarsaparilla and cola make for an invitingly rich and spicy nose on this vineyard selection. Those prominent spices carry onto the sip, where roasted cherry tomato and

blistered black-plum flavors make for a slightly tart balance against the powerful spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$46

91 Flying Goat Cellars 2017 Solomon Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).

Light in the glass, this bottling shows rugged aromas of muddled mulberry and wild plum as well as sagebrush, tangy blistered tomato and peppercorn. Cranberry skin tartness leads the palate, where wild thyme and sagebrush elements add complexity. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$46

91 Foley 2018 T Anchor Ranch Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

Raspberry jam, tangy black plum, pine needle and creamy masala spice show on the engaging nose of this bottling. It's plush on the palate, combining ripe berry and plum with dewy sage and tomato-leaf flavors, leading into a strongly thyme-flavored finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$58

91 Foursight 2020 Charles Vineyard Zero Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).

This full-bodied wine made with native yeast and zero new oak offers a rich blend of savory and black-fruit flavors on a broad, palate-soothing texture. Hints of balsam and sage add interest to the subtle black-cherry and clove notes. —J.G.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$40

91 Ken Brown 2017 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

Full-bodied aromas of blackberry and black raspberry pick up nutmeg and mace spice on the rich nose of this bottling. It's fairly big-boned and ripe on the palate too, where plum-sauce and cranberry-compote elements meet with orange-rind flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$65

91 Ken Brown 2016 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

There's a lot of barrel spice on the nose of this bottling, including mace and star anise, which lift up the rich boysenberry-pie and smoke tones. It's quite rich on the palate, full of more boysenberry and charred oak flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% Price: \$70

91 Lester 2017 Mercurio Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Gamy aromas of dried mulberry, bloody meats, concentrated rose and leathery charcuterie show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is savory as well, showing dried plum and berry, wood spice and more leather, all wrapped in a pithy texture. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$55

91 Sarah's Vineyard 2019 Bentrack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

For full review see page 15.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$48

91 Stephen Ross 2018 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).

This countywide blend begins with wet slate, dried herb, cinnamon spice and tart cherry aromas on the nose. There is a riper thickness to the

palate, where black-tea, mace, dried lavender and boysenberry flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 13.4% Price: \$25

91 The Winery SF 2018 Pinot Noir (North Coast).

This substantial, medium-bodied wine combines aromas of flint, red cherries and rhubarb with a lightly tannic texture and vivid black-tea and sour cherry flavors that are focused and concentrated. Not a huge wine, but it's a trim, sleek and appetizing one. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$32

91 Westerly 2018 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

Light in color, this appellation blend of Fiddlestix, John Sebastiano and Peake Ranch vineyards begins with warm aromas of French toast, light strawberry, a touch of fig and plenty of Christmas spice. There is a strong sagebrush tone to the palate, full of wild thyme and peppery spice flavors that are set against a crisp backdrop of wild berry and red currant. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$40

90 Artesa 2018 Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).

Thick tannins lead to a savory, stemmy edginess of varietal intensity in this medium-bodied wine, showing dense layers of black cherry, strawberry and tea. Medium bodied, it settles on the midpalate to offer silky texture and a length of cardamom. —V.B.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$28

90 Chalone Vineyard 2018 Pinot Noir (Chalone).

Hearty aromas of black plum meet with turned earth on the nose of this bottling. Oak-kissed hints of vanilla show on the sip, where bold black-plum and blackberry flavors are both rich and slightly tangy. —M.K.

abv: 13.6% Price: \$40

90 Cutruzzola 2017 Giacomino Reserve Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).

Wild aromas of bramble and cranberry meet with damp pine and tangy plum on the nose of this bottling. Dewy sagebrush, green-peppercorn and eucalyptus-leaf flavors lead the palate, alongside tart raspberry and cranberry. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$55

90 Cuvaion 2018 Adda Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).

From the producer's estate, this is named for a family matriarch and intended to reflect her elegance and power. Earthy compost and black tea provide the savory contrast against which a richness of strawberry puree plays. There's a gamy element on the backbone of the wine that accentuates the oak. —V.B.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$80

90 Cuvaion 2018 Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).

For full review see page 17.

abv: 14% Price: \$42

90 Cuvaion 2018 Mariafeld Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).

Earthy, leathery and intense, this wine is made from a single clone and is grippy,

powerful and structured. The fruit is a mix of raspberry, black cherry and wild strawberry, with additional elements of black tea and cola. —V.B.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

90 Fulcrum 2018 Gap's Crown Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).

Rose-petal and orange-bergamot aromas dominate on the entry of this wine from the famous site—a moderately ripe, perfumed and velvety expression of the variety. Lusher elements of toasted oak, cola and vanilla come into play on the lengthy finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$70

90 Fulcrum 2018 Hogan's Run Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

This small-production wine is delicately layered in red cherry, strawberry and a hint of vanilla. Subdued in style and approach, it shows an underlying earthiness marked by stem and bark tones that accentuate the oak. —V.B.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$64

90 Fulcrum 2018 Wildcat Mountain Pinot Noir (Carneros).

An oak-driven entry leads to a broad core of fleshy red-cherry and strawberry richness, the wine complemented in a backbone of forest floor and black tea. Balanced and bold, it packs a punch midway on the palate before softening on the finish. —V.B.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$64

90 Landmark 2018 Dierberg Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

For full review see page 17.

abv: 14.3% Price: \$60

90 Landmark 2018 Hop Kiln Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).

For full review see page 17.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

90 Lightpost 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).

Quite light in the glass, this appellation blend pops with ripe, juicy cherries, vanilla and a hint of cinnamon on the nose. It's playful if simple on the palate, with fresh and clean flavors of cherry sorbet, fennel pollen and plucked thyme. —M.K.

abv: 13.8% Price: \$58

90 Saintsbury 2018 Lee Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).

With a light nose and thick tannin, this medium-bodied wine is sultry in blue and red fruit, the nose marked by rose-petal aromas. Tobacco, black-tea and forest floor notes embody a savory contrast to the juiciness of the fruit, finishing gracefully in silky tannin. —V.B.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$68

90 Saintsbury 2018 Stanly Ranch Pinot Noir (Carneros).

From a site originally planted in 1870, this red tastes of baked fruit compote and offers aromatic notes of rose petal. Black tea, bark and forest floor provide a savory contrast to the thick and concentrated richness and boldness of cardamom. —V.B.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$68

90 Steele 2017 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Slightly ripe while tart aromas of sour cherry meet with star anise, licorice and a bit of mushroom on the nose of this bottling. There's a touch of leather to the palate, where shiitake and tea-leaf flavors lead through dried herbs to a caramelized finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$38

90 The Malibu Vineyard 2013 Rambla Pacifico Pinot Noir (Malibu Coast). Dark-cherry liqueur, slight incense and tangy plum-skin aromas show on the nose of this bottling made from Malibu by Bruno D'Alfonso and Kris Curran. Toasted oak and cedar show on the sip, with cherry compote, orange rind and a hint of vanilla rising into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$50

90 Thomas Fogarty 2017 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains). Cherry-cordial aromas gain complexity with dried rose, hibiscus, turned earth and cinnamon-roll touches on the nose of this appellation blend. There is a leathery, dried plum flavor to the sip, where an underlying zip of acidity lifts the dark fruit and sticky tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

90 Walt 2018 Brown Ranch Pinot Noir (Carneros). Thick in flavors of cola and leather, this wine shows a stemmy earthiness of savory character, built around ripe, ribald and abundant fruit and powerful concentration. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$75

89 Aquinas 2018 Pinot Noir (North Coast). This nicely tangy wine blends red-cherry, raspberry and mild toasted oak flavors for a tasty but lean profile and good balance. Medium body and light tannins give it an inviting snap in the texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Cutruzzola 2017 Gloria Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County). There's a tangy plum-skin tartness to the nose of this bottling, with a touch of dried sagebrush spice. Dewy herbs also show on the palate, where the tart plum fruits dominate the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$42

89 Lightpost 2019 Jack Ranch Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Shy aromas of black plum, tea leaf, coffee bean and loamy black soil show on the nose of this bottling. Sandy tannins frame the sip, which shows tarry and woolly flavors as the dark boysenberry fruit arises atop persistent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$58

89 The Crusher 2018 Pinot Noir (California). This hearty, robust wine is an outstanding value. It leads with light woodsmoke and black-pepper aromas over fairly concentrated and appealing black-cherry and plum flavors supported by light tannins. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Walt 2018 Savoy Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley). Unusually heavy on the black-fruit flavors and quite smoky-toasty in aroma at first, this full-bodied wine offers superripe plum, black-pepper, chocolate and graphite flavors. It's heavily extracted, robust and moderately tannic. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

88 B Side 2018 Pinot Noir (North Coast). This is a good, ripe-tasting and full-bodied wine that offers plenty of plums, light oak spices like cinnamon and vanilla and a moderately tannic texture. It's broad and supple on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Brophy Clark 2016 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley). Light caramel and star anise aromas meet with dried cranberry, baked cherry and plum on the nose of this bottling. The palate lacks a touch of texture, but delivers fine flavors of dried cherry, oregano and leathery game. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Davies 2018 Three Amigos Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros). Immensely earthy in turned earth and tea, this wine is intensely full bodied and thick on the palate, with dense layers of strawberry and rose. The vineyard is certified both organic and biodynamic. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

88 Hahn 2019 Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco). Black-cherry and cola aromas are clean and focused, with a hint of turned soil providing minerality on the nose of this bottling. Deep dark-cherry flavors are spice by vanilla and nutmeg on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Parducci 2019 Small Lot Pinot Noir (Mendocino County). This medium-bodied wine is nicely balanced, pleasantly fruity and accented by light smoke and baking-spice notes from aging the wine in a tank with oak staves immersed. Mild tannins and good acidity make the mouth water. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Steele 2016 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County). Rich aromas of black cherry and boysenberry are wrapped in mesquite-like oak influence on the nose of this bottling. The barrel spice plays strongly on the sip too, where cedar, caramel and vanilla flavors overtake the roasted red-fruit core. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

88 Uncorked by Cosmopolitan 2019 Pinot Noir (California). Ripe aromas of black-raspberry jelly meet with wet rocks on the nose of this bottling—a partnership between *Cosmopolitan* magazine and Guarachi Wine Partners. Bold flavors of plum and cherry show on the palate, where a brisk acidity cleans up the ripeness by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Wolff 2017 Dijon Clones Selection Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). Wild-sage and eucalyptus-leaf aromas meet with tangy black plum on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite tart and tangy in black-plum-skin flavors, made more complex by tea-leaf spices. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

87 7 Cellars 2019 The Farm Collection Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Clean aromas of pomegranate, hibiscus and raspberry are a bit fruit-punchy on the nose of this bottling. Dried cherry and berry flavors come through on the palate with a pinch of oregano and somewhat sticky tannins. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$14

87 Etude 2017 Deer Camp Vineyard Grace Benoist Ranch Pinot Noir (Carneros). Tangy and thick with a burly midpalate of toasted oak and significant tannin, this is powerfully built for the variety, with enduring concentration and a velvety finish. The fruit is jammy and rich, a mix of black cherry and blackberry. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$85

87 Fulcrum 2018 On Point Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). This red blends fruit from both Gap's Crown and Wildcat Mountain vineyards, opening with a confectionery nose of baked cherry, cola and vanilla cookie. The richness oozes from a concentrated midpalate of firm tannin and toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$39

87 Hess Select 2018 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). Hearty aromas of boysenberry meet with raw meat, iron and a touch of oak on the nose of this bottling. The palate is somewhat viscous and oily in texture, carrying sour plum and dried herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Longvale 2019 Pinot Noir (California). Plump black-cherry and tangy raspberry flavors are accompanied by cinnamon and vanilla aromas in this full-bodied, mouthfilling wine. The ripe fruit flavors nicely fill out a smooth, non-tannic texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

87 McClain Cellars 2018 Love & Happiness Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley). Expressive aromas of black cherry, gingerbread and dark hibiscus are quite ripe and extracted on the nose of this bottling. That extraction shows on the palate too, where dark-cherry and dried carnation flavors show. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

86 Dressage 2019 Pinot Noir (Monterey County). Oaky aromas dominate the baked cherry and rust elements on the nose of this bottling. Black cherry and cola pop on the palate, where hints of iodine and oak add complexity. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

86 Edna Valley Vineyard 2018 Pinot Noir (Central Coast). A bit shy on the nose, this bottling offers light plum, wet soil and dried herb aromas. There's a slightly reductive streak of tar and wet earth on the palate, where the light plum flavors also return. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$18

86 Leese-Fitch 2018 Pinot Noir (California). Smoky, oaky, spicy aromas and flavors stand front and center in this medium-bodied, lightly tannic wine. Subdued black-cherry notes give it reasonable fruitiness, but the emphasis is on char and black pepper. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Simple Life 2018 Pinot Noir (California). Full bodied and moderately tannic, this spicy wine offers up black-pepper and charred oak aromas followed by blackberry and cedar flavors that give it a hearty, beefy effect overall. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

81 Carson Scott 2019 Pinot Noir (California). A vague fruitiness and a brown-sugary sweetness give this wine a soft, candied profile. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$15

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

96 Daou 2018 Family Cuvée Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$100

95 Corison 2017 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena). Tangy in red fruit, tangerine, grapefruit and a hint of iron, this vineyard-designate imparts bold, concentrated intensity within a restrained and balanced package of brightness and verve. From a relatively warm vintage and warm location, it retains nuance, elegance and length, with structure to age. Enjoy this impressively made wine best from 2027–2037. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$195

95 Stone Edge Farm 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$130

94 Cornerstone 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). This 100% varietal wine comes from marquee vineyards along the Rutherford bench, where gravelly soils dominate. An Old World nose of cedar, tobacco and dried herb lead to a soft, supple core of sultry black cherry, blackberry and nutmeg, with a lingering taste of licorice adding complex intrigue to the integrated tannin and oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$120

94 Daou 2018 Cherem Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Making lower alcohol Cabernet Sauvignon is a fascinating step for the

Daou brothers, who've always pushed ripeness and depth. This bottling is full of umami character, showing bloody steak flavors, but also dark plum, charred blueberry and purple flowers. The palate displays toasted nut, grilled lamb and dried flowers, and it only grows more fascinating the longer its open. Drink now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$NA

94 Double Diamond 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). A Schrader-related wine made by Thomas Rivers Brown, this 100% varietal wine is a showcase of the appellation, wide in appeal and bold, ripe red fruit. Sage, tar, cedar and pencil provide varietal complexity and contrast to the fruit; the tannins are integrated yet still grippy. Enjoy best from 2028–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Venge 2018 Silencieux Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is an outstanding study in blending: bringing together the grapes of 11 vineyards across the valley and bringing in 2% Malbec and 2% Merlot. Juicy in dark cherry, plum and a fleshy, full-bodied midpalate, it is built around supple tannins and an enduring exuberance of balanced richness. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

93 Ancient Peaks 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Margarita Ranch). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

93 Chiron Wines 2016 The Paint of Moonlight Pelkan Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon (Knights Valley). Waxy plum and dark cherry are layered and softly integrated into supple tannins and a length of toasted oak in this vineyard-designate, with a length of cedar and dried herb. The earthiness provides a savory contrast to the vibrancy of the fruit and underlying acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$75

93 Crescere 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Earthy with a touch of leather, cigar box and crushed rock, this muscular, boldly ripe red is complex and structured, with a hearty imprint of oak and tannin. Blue and red fruit provide richness and a tang of freshness to the powerful varietal expression. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$200

93 Flanagan 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). Juicy in dark cherry, red currant and cassis, this is a bright wine with elongated tannin grip and an impressive length of integrated oak. Earthy, with notes of cedar, tobacco and sage, it delivers balanced elegance amidst understated power and ripeness. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$95

93 Fortress 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). Showing excellent depth and impressive concentration, this full-bodied and well-

balanced wine impresses with focused black-fruit flavors, a creamy texture and beautifully integrated tannins that afford a velvety mouthfeel. So delicious now, but it will be best after 2024. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

93 Four Lanterns 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 9.
abv: 15.25% **Price:** \$100

93 Justin 2015 Platinum Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 10.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$170

93 Ladera 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Made from the vintage's best lots, this reserve-worthy wine is pungent in turned earth, sage and tobacco. Thick, structured tannins provide a sturdy foundation for chalky texture and notes of dark chocolate, rich black cherry and blackberry to brood. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$115

93 Nelson Family Vineyards 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). Deeply concentrated and nicely packed with fine-grained tannins, this full-bodied wine takes a classic approach that's so enjoyable to sniff and savor. Black currant, black cherry, mint and cedar intermingle in the nose and on the palate, bringing great generosity backed by chewy tannins. It's beautiful now but can easily age past 2024. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

93 Sky Devil 2018 Formation Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$95

93 Yao Family Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

93 Yao Family Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Herbal and chalky, this full-bodied wine is surprisingly bright in acidity, helping to quell the rich notions of blueberry, red cherry and cinnamon. The oak adds additional spice and vanilla, weaving easily within the dense layers of texture and tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

93 Yao Family Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Earthy and leathery in concentrated layers of dark cherry and currant, this robust, generous wine is soft and well integrated in terms of both oak and tannin. The fruit is seasoned in tobacco, nutmeg and a touch of vanilla, adding to its overall richness and refined exuberance. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

92 Amici 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With small elements of Merlot, Petit

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Verdot and Cabernet Franc blended in, this nicely made red is bright and supple in addition to being well integrated. Herbal back notes of cedar and sage provide earthy context to the darkly brooding black fruit, finishing in a grip of tannin. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Cornerstone 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Calistoga). This wine benefits from the addition of 9% Oakville Cabernet Franc and tiny smidgens of Merlot and Petit Verdot. Together, they boost a thicket of rich red fruit, earthy dried herb and concentrated intensity—the tannins fine-grained and well integrated. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$85

92 Smith & Hook 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 13.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

92 Somnium 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 13. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

92 Yao Family Wines 2017 The Chop Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). Just a microscopic amount of this wine was made. The wine's big, bold style is softened by sumptuous red fruit encased in vanilla oak and decadent tannin. Broad across the midpalate, it offers a length of intensity seasoned in cedar, dried herb and black pepper. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$425

91 B Side 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). Handsome, smooth and layered, this full-bodied wine marries plenty of delicious ripe black plums and blueberries with well-integrated oak accents of vanilla, cedar and cinnamon. Its texture is velvety, braced by fine-grained tannins that seamlessly support wonderful fruit and mocha notes. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Charles Krug 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Hess Collection 2018 Lion Tamer Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Hunt Cellars 2014 Bon Vivant Destiny Vineyards Derek Heights Section Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Though showing a touch of age, this wine is still very much alive, beginning with aromas of deep cherry, cedar, mahogany and black olive. The hearty palate is full of black olive and dank shiitake flavors, with baked blackberry and wood shavings leading into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$45

91 Lexington 2016 Gist Ranch Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dried cedar, light cola, crushed corks, wild-fennel and

dark-berry aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate's woody frame is also bold, offering mahogany spice against sandy tannins, which wrap around the dark-fruit flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Lightpost 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Focused aromas of blackberry wrapped in cedar and dusted with milk chocolate show on the nose of this bottling. There's a hit of mint on the sip, alongside blackberry cream and vanilla, with sandy tannins holding the fruit together. —M.K.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Lightpost 2018 Sevastien Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark and driven aromas of black plum, cocoa, violet, tar and balsam show on the nose of this reserve bottling. Clean lines of blackberry and black plum cut across the palate, where woody flavors of sandalwood and incense lead into a damp forest finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

91 Plungerhead 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Concentrated, focused and ultrasmooth, this well-polished wine is a winner. Velvety fine-grained tannins bolster deep blackberry and black-currant flavors while light oak spices of vanilla and cinnamon accentuate its complexity. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

91 Raymond 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Stags Leap District). A soft, velvety core of rich chocolate mocha and graham cracker provide a foundation of hearty full-bodied intensity in this appellation wine, which shows nuanced elements of crushed rock and iron. The mineral earthiness helps to complement its big style. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$108

91 St. Huberts The Stag 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dark-red cherry and berry aromas meet with cedar, light dried herbs and graphite elements on the nose of this bottling. There is a firm texture to the sip, where fresh red-fruit flavors are dusted in mocha spices, providing ripe but refreshing with acidity. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

91 Yao Family Wines 2017 Family Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Rich in jammy plum and blackberry, this bold, expressive wine offers generous layers of iron and garrigue as well. Dusty texture accentuates a structure of firm, integrated tannin and substantial oak, leading the way to an unabashedly ripe finish. —V.B.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$258

90 Banshee 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

90 Broken Earth 2017 Sherlock's Cab Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Dark-berry aromas meet with ample amounts of mint, espresso

bean and oak on the nose of this bottling. Firm-enough tannins frame the sip, where dark morello cherry and baked earth flavors are held in place by dusty tannins. *Best Buy.* —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

90 Chronic Cellars 2019 Sir Real Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$15

90 Darioush 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Intensely chalky tannins surround cedar and dried herb notes in this robustly built, concentrated and grippy wine. Weighty earthiness leads the way to flavors of tobacco, sage and black pepper, overshadowing the dense, black fruit. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$108

90 Hess Collection 2018 Allomi Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$36

90 Hunt Cellars 2014 Cloud 9 Grand Reserve Destiny Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). The age on this bottling is starting to show, but there's a lot of compelling life left. Aromas of cherry cordial, leather and cocoa lead into a palate full of dried meat, dried berry and more cocoa spice. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$75

90 Jax 2018 Y3 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a screaming deal for such well-made wine, brawny in toasted oak notes that support a hearty core of soft, supple black cherry and currant. With 5% Merlot, it is approachable, wide in appeal and emphatically delicious. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 McClain Cellars 2018 Three Daughters Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Creamy aromas of strawberry and rose petals are contrasted by light mint on the dense nose of this bottling. There is a Dr Pepper spice on the sip, lifting up the purple-fruit flavors, and wrapped in a grippy structure. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$56

90 Oberon 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This wine represents tremendous value for the price and case production, mixed with a small amounts of supporting varieties. Smoky in grilled meat flavor, it has a velvety plushness to the texture and balanced tannins, the dark baked fruit adding richness. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

90 Pestoni Family 2017 Three Tears Vineyard Block B Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). Blended with 20% Merlot and given 20 months in all new French oak, this is a smoothly intense, powerfully concentrated wine. Black

currant and licorice highlight an earthy core of leathery barnyard and generously toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$125

90 Peter Paul Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a well-made wine crafted in a big style that is leathery, sultry and softly layered in baking spice and up-front oak. Underlying the grip and wood are brighter elements of cassis and currant that help to complement and balance. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$45

90 Rava 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 18.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$30

90 Sei Querce 2016 Ranch House Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Juicy red fruit informs this rich, soft and approachable wine, made in small amounts from an estate block of grapes. Raspberry, coconut and vanilla combine around thick layers of texture and body weight, boosted by integrated oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$79

90 Sei Querce 2015 Six Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Herbal with highlights of cedar and pencil shaving, this is an Old World red with 20 months of French-oak aging that impresses in its grippy tannin profile and lively midpalate. Savory throughout, it makes room to reveal black currant and cranberry, adding to the tangy intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Sei Querce 2014 Ranch House Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Cedar, oak and dried herb season a full-bodied, concentrated core of black fruit in this robustly built and intense red wine. Dark-chocolate shavings add to the richness and luxurious mouthfeel, leading to a finishing touch of coconut and oak. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$65

90 Sei Querce 2014 Six Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). This is a thick, concentrated wine, stylistically full bodied but possessed of elegance and grace. Pencil shaving, dried herb, cedar and berry round out a silky midpalate of well-behaved tannin and integrated oak, with lasting structure to boot. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Somnium 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). A 100% varietal wine that is immensely intense and reductive at first, this is a burly blockbuster of toasted oak, cedar, black fruit and gunpowder. Powerfully built, it is richly layered: a study in tobacco, crushed rock and dark chocolate, the wine made by Aaron Pott. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$185

90 St. Supéry 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Dark berry dominates a waxy texture in this soft, gently tannic wine—a likably

approachable and value-minded offering that delivers full flavor within a graceful frame. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

90 The Fifth Empire 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Woody, herbal and savory in sage and tree bark, this wine is substantially full bodied and thick in texture. With 11% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, it was given 22 months in French oak, only a small percentage of it new. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

90 The Winery SF 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). The classic varietal character of this sturdy and spicy wine involves light sage and olive scents joined by plenty of red-cherry and black-cherry flavors. Cedar and cinnamon accents come from oak aging and a nicely grippy texture begs for food. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$32

89 7 Cellars 2019 The Farm Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Agua Dulce 2014 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Pelona Valley). Dark-cherry, caramel, mahogany, licorice and wild-desert-herb aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a unique corner of Los Angeles County. A firm grip frames the sip, where flavors of tobacco leaf meet with hearty berry tones. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

89 Cannonball 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). For full review see page 19.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Jalama 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley). Wild-berry aromas meet with stemmy herbs and a hint of licorice on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with sage and thyme, giving herbal nuance to the tangy blackberry and black-currant flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Mathew Gibson 2015 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Sierra Foothills). This firm-textured, sturdily built wine supports fragrant and complex oak spice and black-fruit flavors with nicely gripping tannins. Enjoyable vanilla, cinnamon and cedar notes start in the aroma and continue through the finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

89 Meadow View 2018 Isabelle's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Lamorinda). This superconcentrated wine is a bit stiff to drink now but should have a good maturity ahead. Packed tightly with blackberry, cranberry and black cherry, it carries hints of baking spices and toasted oak as well as espresso and cocoa. Best from 2024. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

89 Pestoni Family 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Rutherford). With a note of reduction on the nose, this deeply concentrated wine shows notes of leather, cola and toasted oak within a length of cinnamon, cedar and dill. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$70

89 Uncorked by Cosmopolitan 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Juicy aromas of black cherry, mint and cola are approachable and easy to like on the nose of this bottling, which is aimed at a new generation of wine lovers. It's ripe and playful on the palate, where the big fruit flavors are enhanced by cocoa and mint and framed in delicate tannins that strengthen toward the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$15

88 13 Stripes 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). Smoked wood, baked plum, grilled beef and crushed graphite aromas show on the nose of this bottling. It's a tad dried-out on the palate, with ripe black plum, leather and a very oaky finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$17

88 Big Dog 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (San Francisco Bay). Intense aromas of smoked blackberry, fennel, pencil shavings and caramel-laced fudge show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard in the East Bay. The palate is a bit tangy with tart cherry and plum-skin flavors, as a sharp acidity lifts light lavender elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$42

88 Bogle 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). A broad texture plus warm, ripe flavors of roasted plums and milk chocolate give this full-bodied wine an easy entry, while rather light tannins don't interrupt its smooth flow on the palate. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$11

88 Bold 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Strongly reedy aromas of dried herb meet with crushed slate, juicy blackberry and fruit punch on the nose of this bottling. It's lightly bodied on the palate, where the punchy flavors are elevated by pinches of herb and earth. —M.K.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$25

88 Carmel Road 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This fruity, juicy version of Cab is on the lighter side in terms of body, but it still has a deep color, creamy texture, moderate tannins and good varietal character. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Dancing Crow 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lake County). Bright black-cherry and black-pepper aromas lead to vivid black-fruit flavors on a tangy, slightly tannic texture and full body. It's a sturdy, appetizing wine to enjoy with meats or cheeses. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

88 Hess Select 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). Easygoing and rather rich in warm blueberry and black-cherry flavors, this medium-bodied wine sports just enough tannin for a velvety mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

88 High Valley Vineyard 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (High Valley). Earthy, peppery accents highlight this full-bodied wine that is centered on mulled cherry and herbal flavors backed by moderate tannins. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$32

88 Lightpost 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Fresh black-cherry aromas are complemented by vanilla, star anise and nutmeg on the rich nose of this bottling. Kirsch-like flavors show on the sip, with strong mace spice in the midpalate, leading into crushed rocks and tobacco towards the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

88 Logan Farrell 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). A 100% varietal wine made in a light, elegant style and priced fairly, this is likably approachable in concentrated red fruit, graphite and caramel, the oak toasted and restrained. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 No Name Road 2018 Route 101 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). With 10% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc blended in, this bold red is hearty and thick, with notes of baking spice and black pepper seasoning its underlying earthiness of dried herb. The fruit is a mix of baked plum and dark cherry with a richness of mocha. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

88 Peju 2016 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Thick tannins surround a burly core of black currant and dark cherry in this highly ripe, concentrated wine, made 100% varietal. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$135

88 Quilt 2015 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Olive tapenade and black-licorice flavors meet a core of jammy black cherry in this soft, supple and richly ripe wine. Dried herb accents find companionship in a wealth of toasted, vanilla-kissed oak. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$100

88 Sei Querce 2015 Ranch House Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley). Minty and herbal, this wine offers a spicy intensity of Old World style and complexity. Toasted oak underscores the foundation of sage and brambly berry. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$75

88 True Myth 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). Baked black-cherry aromas meet with light licorice and cocoa dust on the nose of this always reliable bottling. The palate is more dry in expression, offering rich cherry as well as toasted

coconut flake and more licorice, with tannins slowly rising into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$24

88 Valrav 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County). This wine is thick and earthy, with savory components of leather, tobacco and cedar. The oak is toasted and prominent, boosted by generous tannins. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$24

88 Vine Cliff 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). Blended with 6% Cabernet Franc and 3% Malbec, this bold, generous wine is thick and structured in grippy tannin. A touch of reduction adds to the taste of tar, crushed rock and toasted oak, with an earthy element of cedar. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$125

87 Great Bear 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). This is a simple red aged in 50% new French oak that delivers flavors of dark cherry, blackberry and black currant. A hint of mocha adds richness to the core of supple tannin and soft approachability. —V.B.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

87 Pestoni Family 2017 Three Tears Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Howell Mountain). With a nose of cola and dill, this vineyard-designate shows the 24 months it spent in all new French oak, grippy and thick on the palate in undulating waves of baked plum and cherry. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$85

87 Simple Life 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This lively and attractive wine offers spicy cinnamon and vanilla aromas, and fairly rich fruit flavors of black plum and red cherry. Medium to full body and very light tannins help balance the richness. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Vineyard Block Estate 2018 245 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Estrella District). Crushed slate, blackberry-jam, charred wood, dried oregano and leathery earth aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is framed by chunky tannins, offering dusty earth, bitter herb and leathery flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

86 Appellations Cellars 2015 CEO Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). With 2% Syrah this is a soft, simple and highly ripe wine, barrel aged in French oak for 24 months. Iron, dried herb and sage highlight a core of jammy blackberry and cherry. —V.B.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$65

86 Big Smooth 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Lodi). This rich and ripe wine layers milk-chocolate, sweet plum and strawberry flavors in a way that's inherently tasty but unusual for a Cabernet. It is soft in texture and full in body. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

86 Chiron Wines 2016 Spring Theory Cabernet Sauvignon (Spring Mountain District). Thick in sage, dried herb and dense black fruit, this wine is muscular and earthy in equal measure, big on the palate with a lingering taste of graphite. —V.B.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$125

86 Leese-Fitch 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Notes of wood smoke, black olives and black pepper dominate this full-bodied wine, revealing more oak than fruit flavors. A moderately tannic texture gives a hearty feel that matches the spicy flavors. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

86 Peju 2017 The Experiment Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). An experiment of 100% varietal wine in 85% French oak and 15% American oak, this wine does indeed show oak, and a bit of sweetness of vanilla and baking spice. Reductive, it is leathery and tannic with a grip of intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

86 Vine Cliff 2015 Private Stock 16 Rows Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville). This is a 100% varietal wine given 18 months in nearly all new French oak. Black olive, cherry and currant appear on the front of the thick, concentrated palate with a hint of anise and leather. The acidity takes on a sourness on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$185

85 Appellations Cellars 2018 Wild and Free Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley). Thick and savory, this wine is abundantly tannic and possessed of medicinal tones. The fruit is a mix of dark berry and black currant, with pronounced oak adding to the overall intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

85 Aquinas 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast). Maple and candy-apple flavors coat this full-bodied, firm-textured wine, pretty much subduing its fruit flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

85 Rosati Family 2012 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This full-bodied wine is extremely tight and tannic in texture, gripping its tart cherry and blueberry flavors tightly even after several extra years of bottle aging. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

84 Apothic 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). This soft, rich and somewhat sweet wine tastes like an after-dinner coffee drink. Not bad at all, but not what one expects from Cabernet Sauvignon. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

84 Three Thieves 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Generic aromas and mild fruit flavors lead to an almost-sweet finish in this simple red wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$11

83 Grayson 2019 Lot 10 Cabernet Sauvignon (California). Blatant, smoky, charred-oak aromas and flavors dominate this medium-bodied wine, which adds a sweet vanilla touch on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$10

82 Kenwood 2016 Jack London Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Mountain). Eucalyptus oil dominates in this wine, making it disproportionately green and tannic on the palate. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$NA

82 Orsa 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendocino). This dense and firm-textured wine offers tight black-cherry and clove flavors wrapped in full-blown tannins. It's difficult to know if time will improve it. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$25

CABERNET FRANC

93 Le Casque 2018 Cabernet Franc (Sierra Foothills). This beautiful and muscular wine matches deep, focused blueberry and black-currant flavors with mouthcoating, fine-grained tannins for good balance on a high level. With 15% Petit Verdot blended in, it offers good depth, layered fruit, accents of espresso and vanilla and a creamy mouthfeel despite the saturated tannins. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$28

92 Dracaena 2018 Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Graphite minerality meets with blackberry and dark-currant aromas on the nose of this bottling, which shows both the ripe and herbal side of Cabernet Franc. Hearty black-raspberry and cherry flavors are offset by cracked pepper, light herbs and a touch of peppermint toward the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$34

91 Cinnabar 2017 Cabernet Franc (Lodi). Flavorful, fresh and well balanced, this full-bodied wine is easy to enjoy for its expressive cherry and spiced-plum flavors, rounded tannins and mouthfilling texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$44

91 Dante Robere 2018 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley). Very flavorful and concentrated, this full-bodied wine combines dark chocolate, cherry and hints of herbs and black pepper for a sense of complexity that's nicely supported by moderate tannins. Good balance makes it easy to enjoy. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 Wilson Creek 2017 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley). Light in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of snappy cranberry, carnation, light pepper and a touch of leather on the nose. Damp wood, iodine and mushroom flavors

arise on the sip, where the fresh cranberry core is cut by crushed peppercorns. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

90 Lightpost 2018 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Paso Robles). Rich aromas of vanilla, caramel and baked black currant meet with a light dusting of pepper and baking spice on the nose of this bottling. The toasty aspect is strong on the palate, where black cherry, cola and mocha are framed by slightly tense tannins. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$65

89 Big Dog 2017 Cabernet Franc (San Francisco Bay). Fresh black-raspberry aromas meet with lavender and a bit of baked plum on the nose of this bottling. There is an iron-rich minerality to the sip, where dark-berry flavors mesh into the rusty elements. —M.K.
abv: 12.9% **Price:** \$42

88 Steele 2018 Cabernet Franc (Lake County). This focused, serious wine offers concentrated black-cherry and cranberry flavors, firm tannins and a medium to full body. It's holding its flavors tightly though, so best to drink after 2023. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$20

87 LangeTwins 2017 Miller Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Clarksburg). Light earthy, vanillin aromas lead to mild, mature red-fruit flavors and an herbal accent in this smooth and lightly tannic wine. It offers some subtle complexity that is fun to experience. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

83 Meadow View 2018 Isabelle's Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Lamorinda). A flint and matchstick aroma and tight black-fruit flavors give this full-bodied wine a stiff profile, underscored by firm tannins and a drying mouthfeel. It may just need more time to come around. Best after 2023. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$25

MERLOT

92 Entropy Cellars 2017 Merlot (Livermore Valley). This smooth but muscular wine offers abundant and deep dark-plum and black-olive flavors, and a polished texture backed by firm ultrafine-grained tannins. It's a classic Bordeaux-style expression of the grape that's both delicious and well balanced. —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

92 Gnarly Head 2019 Merlot (Central Coast). For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

91 Duckhorn 2017 Stout Vineyard Merlot (Napa Valley). This estate wine blends in 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, which adds to the generosity of power and tannin. With a buttery, creamy entry of supple texture, it shows a wealth of baked plum,

cherry and cranberry, with dried herb and nutmeg seasoning the richness and intensity. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

91 Gundlach Bundschu 2018 Merlot (Sonoma Valley). For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Castoro Cellars 2019 Estate Grown Merlot (Paso Robles). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Louis M. Martini 2018 Merlot (Napa Valley). For full review see page 18.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$85

89 Bogle 2018 Merlot (California). Bold, ripe and saturated black-fruit flavors fill this full-bodied wine with a lot of pleasure, as black cherries and dried plums coat the palate. Attractive hints of black pepper and toasted oak lift the aroma and add complexity. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$9

89 Lexington 2016 Gist Ranch Estate Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains). There's a cola spice kick to the nose of this bottling, along with blackberry-candy fruit flavors. The palate picks up a leathery and mushroom-like aspect, giving some savory qualities to the dried black-cherry core. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 Noble Tree 2017 Wickersham Ranch Reserve Merlot (Sonoma County). Softy and fruity, with layers of baking spice and subtle oak, this wine is simple in approach and style, with layers of plum and dark cherry. —V.B.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$17

88 Rombauer 2017 Merlot (Napa Valley). Sanguine in red currant and baked plum, this wine is mild on the midpalate in softness and structure, with lasting notes of baking spice and toasted oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

87 Kenwood 2018 Merlot (Mendocino County-Sonoma County). Jammy, floral aromas and flavors give this medium-bodied wine a fresh, easy-going profile. Tasty cherry and berry flavors are lightly braced by mild tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Jalama 2018 Merlot (Santa Ynez Valley). Quite tart and acetic on the nose, this bottling offers aromas of violet and balsamic berries. Concord grape and black-plum flavors snap with tangy acidity on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

86 Waterstone 2017 Merlot (Napa Valley). With 6% Cabernet Franc, this red is burly in full-bodied baked fruit and leather, with traces of tobacco, vanilla and toasted oak. The layers are supple and approachable. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$26

MALBEC

93 Cinnabar 2017 Malbec (Lake County). Bold, saturated black-fruit flavors mingle beautifully with light clove, cinnamon and a whiff of pine forest in this nicely layered and complex wine. Velvety, fine-grained tannins give it a mouthfilling heft and extend the tasty finish. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$46

89 Miraflores 2017 Estate Malbec (El Dorado). A superdeep color leads to cedar and freshly sawn oak aromas, as well as flavors drenched in tasty baking spices and dark chocolate in this rowdy, full-bodied wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$32

85 Vine Cliff 2017 Malbec (Oakville). With soft red fruit at its core, this ripe wine is moderate in structure and acidity, with a nuanced integration of oak. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$75

83 Frey 2019 Organic Malbec (Mendocino). Earthy, veggie aromas and peppery, herbal flavors make this wine an acquired taste for those who want to drink organic and consume no added sulfites. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

PETIT VERDOT

92 Paradise Springs 2018 Petit Verdot (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara). This is a fresher style of Petit Verdot than normally shown, starting with aromas of crushed black raspberry and crumpled lavender. Those elements play on the palate as well, lifted by a hint of rosemary and riding fresh acidity and clean tannic lines. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

91 McClain Cellars 2018 Painted Dreams Reserve Petit Verdot (Santa Ynez Valley). Clean aromas of blackberry, red flowers, caramel and toasted nuts show on the nose of this bottling. There is decent tension to the sip, where rounded dark-fruit, cola and pepper-dust flavors align. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$64

91 Opaque 2018 Petit Verdot (Paso Robles). Hearty aromas of black currant, creamy caramel and light lavender invite the nose into this bottling. It lands with a thick presence on the full-bodied palate, where the rich fruit and cocoa flavors are balanced by firm tannins and a slightly bitter edge. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$30

SYRAH

96 Piedrasassi 2018 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). This countywide blend is the entry-level bottling of Sashi Moorman's many

Syrahs, and it's stellar. Crushed peppercorns, crumpled flowers, rainy gutters and dewy thyme give tremendous depth to the crisp black-raspberry core. The palate is fresh, herbal, spicy and firm without being overbearing, showing singed pine, tar, plum and pepper flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

96 Piedrasassi 2018 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). If not already crowned, Sashi Moorman is certainly in the running for king of cool-climate Syrah. This appellation blend from Patterson and Casa Cassara vineyards begins with fresh lavender, crunchy black raspberry, white pepper and singed rosemary on the nose. The palate continues the message, showing char, tar, pepper, purple fruits, gritty tannins and bright acidity. Drink now through 2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Donelan 2016 Grande Syrah (Sonoma County). Pencil shavings, iron, crushed rock and lavender provide an earthy and savory opening to this bold, burly and impressive wine, bursting in black fruit. The oak is supportive and toasted, adding seasonings of white pepper, nutmeg and a touch of coffee, boosting an already heady experience of flavor and texture. —V.B.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$NA

95 MacLaren 2017 Cuilleron Vivio Vineyard Syrah (Bennett Valley). In collaboration with Yves Cuilleron, this is made in a Côte-Rôtie style with a touch of Viognier cofermented within. Lively in acidity and enduringly fresh, it offers varietal garrigue and brooding blackberry and cherry dappled in black and white pepper, the texture supple and impressive in length and breadth. *Editors' Choice.* —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

94 Donelan 2016 Cuvée Christine Syrah (Sonoma County). Entirely varietal, this wine is fruity, spicy and full bodied, an impressive study in tar, earth, lavender and iron. Textured and densely packed, it is lengthy with rounded, supple tannin structure and shows the peppery earthiness of whole-cluster fermentation (38%). The vineyards include Steiner, Lawer and Kobler. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Piedrasassi 2018 Rim Rock Vineyard Syrah (Arroyo Grande Valley). Roasted boysenberry, charcoal, cracked pepper and freshly dug muddy hole aromas show on the nose of this bottling. It's very taut in structure on the sip, where white pepper and thyme wade through richer tones of charred berry. —M.K.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

94 Spear 2018 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Roasted black plum, star anise, clove, charred beef and hints of tar show on the dynamic nose of this cool-climate Syrah bottling. The mouthfeel is lighter and airy, delivering freshly cracked

peppercorn, lavender, dark berry and lightly gamy flavors of singed hair and flesh. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Spear 2018 Block 19 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Asphalt, tar and uncracked black pepper aromas make for a spicy, reductive nose on this bottling, which saw 66% whole cluster fermentation, yet there are also waves of riper black-raspberry jam and warm hints of toast. It's light in the glass, offering dried cranberry, white pepper and eucalyptus-leaf flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Law 2017 Intrepid Syrah (Adelaida District). Those seeking wines of tremendous power and unctuous oak will enjoy this booming bottling, which was aged in 71% new barrels and begins with aromas of milk chocolate, cassis, maple butter and purple flowers. It's thick and lush on the palate, where caramelized black-fruit, creamy cappuccino and bold baking-spice flavors go big. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$99

93 Le Casque 2018 Syrah (Sierra Foothills). This concentrated, focused and intense wine is laser-focused on black-fruit flavors that go deep and broad on the palate and linger nicely on the finish. A very deep color leads to scents of black pepper, blueberries and mocha, while ripe, saturated blackberry and blueberry take over the flavors, wrapped in fine-grained tannins. Best through 2027. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$29

93 Lester 2017 Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains). Tart black-plum and baking-spice aromas are quickly consumed by funkier, earthier elements of tar, crushed rocks and game on the nose of this bottling. The snappy dark-fruit flavors pair expertly with savory bay leaf, sage and cracked pepper flavors, leading into a finish that's full of pepper-crusted teriyaki beef elements. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

93 MacLaren 2017 Drouthy Neebors Syrah (Sonoma County). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$56

93 MacLaren 2017 Samantha's Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

93 Meyer Family Cellars 2017 High Ground Syrah (Yorkville Highlands). Intriguing aromas of turned earth and tobacco lead to engaging black-fruit, wood-char and singed herb flavors in this complex, handsomely layered and full-bodied wine. This High Ground bottling was blended from Karen Meyer's best barrels. It is fascinating to drink now but best from 2023. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$44

93 Seabold Cellars 2018 La Sarriette Rodnick Farm Syrah (Chalone). This is a very light

spin on Syrah, yet works to translate the rugged character of Chalone. Aromas of rusty cherry, dried strawberry and sagebrush on the nose lead into a crisp palate loaded with red plum and white pepper. —M.K.
abv: 12.6% **Price:** \$40

92 Asuncion Ridge 2017 Nefarious Syrah (Paso Robles). Dense aromas of fudge, smoked beef shanks and berry and plum compote show on the hefty nose of this bottling, which includes 9% Grenache. It's thick on the palate, where espresso-cream, cocoa and charred meat flavors sit atop dark-cassis notes. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$58

92 MacLaren 2017 Atoosa's Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley). Leathery and earthy on the palate, this wine is velvety in texture, with nuanced ripeness and underlying richness that is complemented by fresh acidity. Lavender, white pepper and grippy strawberry combine effortlessly to bring balance and complexity to the fore. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

92 MacLaren 2017 Greywacke Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley). Bright in black fruit, with a touch of varietal game, grilled mushroom and black pepper, this balanced, complex red also offers a hint of lavender. Native fermentation and neutral oak allow the fruit, spice and earthiness to speak around beautifully lifted acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

91 Dusty Nabor 2018 NSO Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills). Dusty Nabor manages to keep prices stunningly low on this line of wines. This cool-climate expression shows peppercorn, dewy rosemary, lilac, bay leaf and fresh elderberry on the nose. The palate pairs savory charred lamb with berry compote, dusted in cracked pepper. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 Four Lanterns 2017 Reserva Syrah (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Generous aromas of blistered boysenberries and violets are joyous and juicy while complex and fresh on the nose of this bottling. It's boisterous on the palate with superzesty flavors of açai and more violet. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$92

91 MacLaren 2017 Timbervine Ranch Syrah (Russian River Valley). A lovely and lighthearted red wine, this is earthy and barnyardy, soft and supple on the palate in bright and lengthy layers of delicate texture. Lavender, black and white pepper and wild game combine for a varietal experience of finesse and delight. —V.B.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$52

91 MCV 2018 Syrah (Paso Robles). Tightly wound aromas of dark plum and berry meet with hints of seared beef and uncracked peppercorns on the nose of this bottling, which is quite mellow despite its alcohol content. Crisp black-raspberry

flavors pop on the sip, leading into cocoa spice (that is nearly fudge), with tight tannins as the wrapping. —M.K.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$45

91 Ragtag 2017 Spanish Springs Vineyard Syrah (San Luis Obispo County). Hints of tar meet with charred purple fruit and delicate purple flowers on the nose of this bottling from a cooler-climate site near Pismo Beach. The palate blooms with thyme, crushed peppercorn and mace spice, layered over the blackberry and cherry-compote flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$48

90 Agua Dulce 2015 Reserve Syrah (Sierra Pelona Valley). Black-plum-sauce, spice-cake and dried mushroom aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a rugged corner of Southern California. Rich black-currant and fruitcake flavors hint at the age on the palate, but the coffee, cinnamon and Christmas spice flavors keep it in a good place. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

90 Allan Hancock 2018 Syrah (Santa Barbara County). The college students continue to impress on these bottlings. This bottling begins with thyme, lavender, white pepper and açai aromas on the nose. The palate picks up dust and leather, giving earthy depth to the boysenberry and black-plum flavors. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Dusty Nabor 2018 Kimsey Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon). Savory, tarry aromas of grilled meat and white pepper meet with richer black-plum and lavender aromas on the nose of this bottling. There is a hearty boysenberry streak to the palate, as well as pepper and oak flavors, with a straight line if acidity pushing into the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 MacLaren 2017 Bonnie Glen Syrah (Bennett Valley). Garrigue and barnyards-like earthiness meet quenching red fruit in this lively, light-bodied red from a cool-climate site. Citrus peel and white pepper add to the balanced mix. —V.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

90 Mount Saint Joseph Wines 2017 Syrah (Sierra Foothills). This big, bold wine packs plenty of ripe and rich blackberry and black-cherry flavors in fine-grained tannins, for a mouthfilling and delicious palate sensation. It offers good concentration, a nicely polished texture and tasty, chocolaty accents. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

89 Absolution 2018 Michaud Vineyard Syrah (Chalone). From the Hermitage clone, this two-barrel bottling begins with subdued aromas of dried berry, leather and cassis. The palate is also

somewhat subtle, showing açai and purple-flower flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$55

89 Hunt Cellars 2014 Hilltop Serenade Grand Reserve Syrah (Paso Robles). Black currant, tar, dark purple flowers and a hint of brown sugar show on the nose of this bottling, which retains freshness six years after harvest. There is a rich texture to the palate, where coffee and cocoa flavors provide a lush pairing to the tart black-plum elements. The tannins coat the tongue through the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$80

89 Iron Hub 2017 Syrah (Amador County). This full-bodied wine offers rich dried-fruit flavors and a broad, moderately tannic texture. Dried fig, plum and blueberry fill it to the brim. —J.G.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

88 Kendric 2018 Proprietor Grown Syrah (Petaluma Gap-Marin County). This light-bodied but tightly wound wine grips flavors of salt, pepper, charred beef and blueberry with very firm tannins that will need time to mellow, or a very rich dish with which to pair. Best from 2023. —J.G.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$28

88 Ryder Estate 2019 Syrah (Central Coast). Charred beef, dried blackberry, leather and a touch of smashed asphalt show on the nose of this bottling. Deep and dark flavors of slightly sour black plum meet with dried herb and tar on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Bee Hunter 2016 Broken Leg Vineyard Syrah (Anderson Valley). This superripe, jammy-tasting wine is full bodied, packed with black-fruit flavors and very rich in texture. A hint of sweetness accompanies the blackberry, blueberry and black-cherry flavors that rest on relatively light tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

86 Mathew Gibson 2015 Estate Syrah (Sierra Foothills). This gutsy, concentrated wine blends bold wood char with balsamic aromas and offers mature, perfumed flavors on a full body braced by firm tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$36

85 Jalama 2018 La Presa Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley). The balsamic-like tang is sharp on the nose of this bottling, full of tart black-plum and violet aromas. The palate is also sharp with acetic notes, which distract from the ripe purple fruits. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

GRENACHE

95 Seabold Cellars 2018 Siletto Grenache (San Benito County). Baked cherries, carnation-

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laced potpourri, cinnamon and sumac aromas swirl into a heady nose on this bottling from a nearly forgotten corner of California's winemaking history. Loads of red spice, including Red Hots candies, lead the red-fruit palate, which is both rich and fresh, finishing on a clove kick. —M.K.

abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

94 Law 2017 The Nines Grenache (Adelaida District). Relatively reserved aromas of red currant, wild cherry and crumpled rose petal show on the nose of this bottling. Soft tannins frame savory touches of sagebrush and dried herb, while rich red fruit, rose potpourri and a light leather flavor extend into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$99

86 Hunt Cellars 2014 Let It Be Destiny Vineyards Grenache (Paso Robles). Strongly extracted aromas of plum, baked gingersnaps, prune and caramel show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is thick and jammy with black-tea, coffee and tar flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

MOURVÈDRE

94 Edio 2019 Estate Blend Mourvèdre (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 7.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

93 Peter Franus 2018 Mourvèdre (Red Hills). This full-flavored and full-bodied wine wraps deep blackberry and roasted meat flavors in firm but fine-grained tannins for a texture that bodes well for aging. Made from the Fore Family vineyard at 3,000 feet elevation, it is mouthfilling and rich but still maintains great balance. Best from 2023–2030. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

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

93 Seabold Cellars 2019 Volcanique Rodnick Vineyard Mourvèdre (Chalone). This is a notoriously difficult grape grown in a decidedly rugged area, yet sommelier-turned-vintner Chris Miller teases out the best elements of both. Tightly woven aromas of blackberry, tea leaf and dried purple flowers lead into an expectedly rigid palate, full of plum, pepper and more purple flower. The tension releases steadily with air. Drink now through 2031. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

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

92 Cinnabar 2016 Sandy Lane Vineyard Mourvèdre (Contra Costa County). Salt and pepper aromas, grilled meat flavors and a lightly tannic, gripping texture make this full-bodied wine a great choice when you don't want something simply fruity. Blackberries and toasted oak notes mingle on the palate. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$44

92 Law 2017 Prima Mourvèdre (Adelaida District). Quite dark in the glass, this concrete-fermented Mourvèdre explores the lush side of the grape, starting with intense aromas of

boysenberry jam, dark purple flowers and chai spice. The palate is ripe and spicy, pairing cassis with cinnamon stick, and wrapped in tense tannins. —M.K.

abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$99

92 Miraflores 2017 Estate Mourvèdre (El Dorado). This full-bodied wine blends delicious, ripe, black-fruit flavors deftly with smoky, meaty, black-peppery nuances for a hearty, complex and savory effect. Light tannins and a smooth texture make it easy to appreciate. —J.G.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

92 The Adroit Initiative 2019 Carbonic Mourvèdre (Chalone). The current carbonic craze often produces similar tasting wines, so it's refreshing to see it applied to Mourvèdre, whose rustic soul brings new flavors. Light in the glass, this bottling moves from strawberry, hibiscus and dried meat on the nose to tea spice, oregano and thyme on the palate. That earthy edge is not so common for the fruity carbonic style. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Thacher 2018 Mourvèdre (Paso Robles). Strong aromas of black plum dominate the nose of this bottling, which picks up more sagebrush and fresh yet rustic leather tones as it breathes. There's a firm tannic tension to the palate, where wild-strawberry, dried fig and roasted plum flavors play up the grape's savory style. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

PETITE SIRAH

92 Chronic Cellars 2019 Suite Petite Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). For full review see page 19.

Best Buy.

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

92 MCV 2018 Gemeny Vineyards Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Fresh violet, blackberry and blueberry aromas are lifted by fennel, sage and roasted meats on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The tannins hit hard on the tip of the sip and then slowly release their grip, offering blueberry sorbet and violet flavors to sail across a fresh acidity. —M.K.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$52

92 MCV 2018 Rosewynn Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Cassis and blackberry-jam aromas meet with brown sugar, licorice and a light caramelization on the deep and dark nose of this single-vineyard expression. Hearty tannins frame the palate, giving structure to the rich and ripe fruit, which is further cut by strong acidity and leads into a maple-kissed finish. —M.K.

abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$52

91 Campos Family Vineyards 2018 Estate Petite Sirah (Contra Costa County). Saturated and concentrated to the max, this full-bodied wine is so ripe and dense that it literally coats the palate and lingers for minutes on the finish. It's like liquid milk

chocolate, cocoa, blackberry jam and boysenberry pie. It is one for those who want to indulge. —J.G.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$38

91 McClain Cellars 2018 Family Values Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). Rustic aromas of roasted black plum, charred fig, brown sugar and light caramel show on the nose of this bottling. Charred beef in cassis-sauce flavors show on the sip, lifted by hints of violet and savory elements to balance the bold, dark fruits. —M.K.

abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$56

90 Aver Family Vineyards 2017 Blessings Petite Sirah (Santa Clara Valley). Black-plum, coffee-bean, fresh violets and smoky pu-erh tea aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Well-polished tannins frame the broadly shouldered dark-fruit character of the sip, enhanced by espresso-bean and more purple-flower flavors. —M.K.

abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$60

89 Criss Cross 2017 Petite Sirah (Clarksburg). This ripe and expressive wine blends aromas of black pepper and grilled beef with potent blackberry and woodsmoke flavors on a moderately tannic texture. It's big, spicy and fun to drink. —J.G.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$16

88 Jalama 2018 La Presa Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley). Tart elderberry, Concord grape, lilac and thyme aromas pop on the nose of this bottling. There's a tangy black-plum-skin kick to the palate, with fennel frond as spice. —M.K.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

88 Rangeland 2017 Petite Sirah (Adelaida District). Deep and dark blackberry-jam and syrup aromas meet with a hint of maple on the thick nose of this bottling. Tense tannins frame the front of the sip, which is very powerful in dark, unctuous fruits and quite acid-driven. —M.K.

abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$45

TEMPRANILLO

92 Four Lanterns 2018 Tempranillo (Templeton Gap District). For full review see page 13.

Cellar Selection.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$52

92 Miraflores 2017 Estate Tempranillo (El Dorado). This massive wine offers deep, dark-fruit flavors and hauntingly floral and spicy accents on a full body buoyed by moderate tannins and a velvety, gripping texture. There's no hurry to drink this concentrated and well-structured wine: best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

91 Rabble 2018 Mossfire Ranch Tempranillo (Paso Robles). For full review see page 15.

Editors' Choice.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

90 McClain Cellars 2018 Life Saver Tempranillo (Santa Ynez Valley). Rich black-cherry aromas meet with vanilla and even fudge on the thick nose of this bottling, which includes 15% Sangiovese. The tannins are well polished on the lavish sip, which is viscous with smoked berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$65

89 Absolution 2018 Pierce Ranch Tempranillo (San Antonio Valley). The nose on this bottling is a bit shy at first, before allowing aromas of strawberry, red plum and crunchy cranberry to emerge. It's quite subtle for the usually bold grape, with rustic tannins framing flavors of crushed stone and dried red fruits. —M.K.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$40

89 The Winery SF 2017 Tempranillo (North Coast). Layers of velvety tannin give this full-bodied wine a robust, mouthfilling character while its fully ripe plum and blueberry flavors are tasty and deep enough to match the big structure. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

BARBERA

90 LangeTwins 2018 Macotera 09 Vineyard Barbera (Clements Hills). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Rubino Estates Winery 2017 Night Owl Estate Grown Barbera (Livermore Valley). Bold cherry and berry flavors are shaded by light earthy, leathery accents in this full-bodied, ripe and lip-smacking wine. Light tannins and vibrant acidity give it plenty of lift on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$29

89 Oak Farm 2018 Barbera (Lodi). While full bodied, this wine is nicely balanced and elegant in texture, smooth and warmly fruity, offering rich plums and cherries accented by maple and vanilla on silky tannins. —J.G.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

86 Blue Victorian Winery 2017 Barbera (Suisun Valley). This medium-bodied wine smells like fresh raspberries and red cherries and tastes vivid and bright like black cherries. Tangy acidity and a touch of balsamic keep it a bit tart on the palate. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$59

NEBBIOLO

90 Thacher 2016 Glenrose Vineyard Nebbiolo (Adelaida District). Light in the glass, this bottling begins with snappy aromas of red currants, sage and dried strawberry on the nose. It's tense and grippy on the palate, where the firm tannins

deliver intensely spicy notes atop the strawberry core. —M.K.
abv: 12.1% **Price:** \$52

88 Cavaletti 2018 Nebbiolo (Santa Ynez Valley). Very tart and tangy aromas of strawberry balsamic meet with an array of herbs on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also tart, though that element dissipates with patience to reveal richer red-fruit and dusty herb flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

82 Mathew Gibson 2016 Estate Nebbiolo (Sierra Foothills). This rather rigid wine shows earthy, Sherry-like, leathery scents, a lean, grippy mouthfeel and cranberry and black-tea flavors on firm tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$38

ZINFANDEL

94 Amador Cellars 2018 The Native Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley). Classic aromas of wild berries and chaparral meet very ripe, indulgent fruit flavors in this full-bodied but supple and polished wine. This stand-out from one of Amador's top-quality producers was fermented with native yeast and aged in neutral oak barrels. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

94 Quivira 2018 Pillsbury Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). This 100% varietal wine is dry-farmed and organically grown. The results are undeniably good—a mix of juicy blackberry and cherry that is exuberantly fresh and soft in tannin and well-integrated oak. Complex, it slowly unwinds to show baking-spice and lavender elements that intrigue. —V.B.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

93 Amador Cellars 2018 Estate Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley). Wonderful complexity is this full-bodied wine's strong point, from aromas of wild berries, sage, dried meat and tobacco to mouthfilling flavors of raspberry, strawberry and mint. Full body and light tannins form a structure that nicely supports the cornucopia of flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$28

93 M2 2018 Soucie Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Mokelumne River). For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$32

93 Peter Franus 2018 Zinfandel (Red Hills). Full bodied and snugly wrapped in velvety tannins, this wine sports black-pepper aromas and vivid cranberry and blackberry flavors that will need an extra-rich dish for a good pairing, or some time in the cellar to soften the tannins. Best from 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

93 Shannon Ridge 2018 Giannecchini Family Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino County). For full review see page 11.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$45

93 Shannon Ridge 2017 Two Bud Block Reserve Zinfandel (Lake County). This flavorful, full-bodied wine wraps bold blackberry and blueberry flavors in rich tannins for a creamy, mouthfilling texture. Hints of black pepper and woodsmoke add layers of complexity that play back and forth on the palate and create a lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$32

92 Amador Cellars 2017 Family Reserve Zinfandel (Shenandoah Valley). This brawny but well-behaved wine offers superripe flavors of blackberry jam and black raisins drenched in fine-grained tannins on an extremely full body. Great concentration and saturation give it a rich palate and lingering finish. —J.G.
abv: 15.8% **Price:** \$45

92 Beltane Ranch 2018 Estate Grown Heins Block Zinfandel (Sonoma Valley). This bold red is in fact a field blend with 12% mixed blacks within: a combo of Alicante Bouschet, Carignan and Petite Sirah. Savory in pepper, leather and oak, it is both complex and concentrated with enduring structure. The vineyard dates back to 1879. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$56

92 Dry Creek Vineyard 2018 Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Mathew Gibson 2015 Estate Primitivo (Sierra Foothills). Very concentrated flavors and hefty tannins give this full-bodied wine a robust profile to match the most savory braise or risotto. Deep blackberry, black fig and late-picked plum coat the palate with richness. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$34

92 Testa Vineyards 2016 Old Vine Zinfandel (Mendocino). Intricate, complex fruit flavors and a good, firm texture make this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine delicious and well-suited for food pairings. Aromas of raspberries and cranberries meet deeper blackberry flavors shaded by black pepper and mint. —J.G.
abv: 15.9% **Price:** \$40

91 Ancient Peaks 2018 Zinfandel (Santa Margarita Ranch). For full review see page 14.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

91 Terra d'Oro 2018 Zinfandel (Amador County). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Handley 2016 Kazmet Vineyard Zinfandel (Redwood Valley). This impressive, firmly structured wine holds luscious black-pepper, blackberry, rhubarb and toasted oak flavors firmly

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with significant tannins and a full body. Best after 2023. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$28

90 Kokomo 2018 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Thick, muscular and concentrated, this soft, richly layered red is a study in jammy cherry and berry, lavender and black pepper. The oak is prominent and supportive, adding notes of vanilla and toast. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$28

90 Paradise Ridge 2018 Zinfandel (Rockpile). With a delicate frame and understated ripeness, this red is framed in black licorice and black cherry, with a lightness of baking spice and black pepper. The oak is quietly interwoven to provide weight and structure. —V.B.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$45

90 The Winery SF 2016 Zinfandel (North Coast). This well-balanced, flavorful and firmly textured wine will be a great mealtime pour, bringing grippy tannins and deep blackberry and plum flavors to the table. Best through 2025. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

90 Wilson Creek 2018 Tank 15 Zinfandel (Temecula Valley). Baked red-cherry and strawberry aromas meet with Christmas spices of nutmeg and cardamom on the nose of this bottling. The sip lands with ripe and roasted fruit flavors, but they are quickly cut by savory tobacco leaf, baking spice and decent acidity. —M.K.
abv: 16.7% **Price:** \$55

89 Plungerhead 2018 Zinfandel (California). This jammy, full-bodied wine bursts at the seams with ripe blackberries, boysenberries, vanilla and blueberries, bringing an almost sweet character to the smooth palate. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$14

89 Sottomarinno 2016 Primitivo (Lake County). Ripe and jammy aromas lead to expressive, fresh blackberry and raspberry flavors in this full-bodied but not very tannic wine. It tastes generous, mouthfilling and fruity without getting heavy. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$29

88 Absolution 2018 Johnson Family Vineyard Zinfandel (San Antonio Valley). Lighter in the glass than many Zins, this bottling takes an earthy approach to the grape, with aromas of gravel, baked brick and tart red fruits most apparent. The palate is very mellow in light red-currant and pepper flavors, relying more on the tense texture. —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$35

88 Iron Hub 2017 Clockspring Zinfandel (Amador County). Aromas of fresh black fruit and toasted oak meet dashes of black pepper, vanilla and woodsmoke in this sturdy, full-bodied but lightly tannic wine. —J.G.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$34

88 Jigar 2017 Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley). Plummy and tasting of Port-like dried fruit, this big, jammy wine is intensely ripe and concentrated, with a softness to the tannin structure. —V.B.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$32

88 Opolo 2019 Summit Creek Zinfandel (Paso Robles). Ripe aromas of caramel, butterscotch and light pepper show a ton of oak influence on the nose of this bottling. It lands softly on the palate with lush, caramel-soaked flavors of baked strawberry. It's perfect for oak lovers. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$19

87 Lapis Luna 2019 Zinfandel (North Coast). Very fruity, jammy flavors give this medium-bodied wine a sense of sweetness as its ample raspberry and blackberry flavors are carried on a soft, smooth texture. —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$13

87 Wilson Creek 2016 Reserve Zinfandel (Temecula Valley). Black-cherry paste, roasted fig, fruitcake, nutmeg and licorice aromas make for a very spicy and ripe nose on this bottling. The palate shows more of a prune flavor, elevated by root-beer spices. —M.K.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$55

86 The Specialist 2018 Zinfandel (Lodi). This is a good, full-bodied wine that combines fresh berry flavors with sweet-seeming maple and toasted oak flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$18

84 Campos Family Vineyards 2018 Estate Zinfandel (Contra Costa County). An unusual, smoky, flinty initial aroma is followed by black-olive, black-pepper and wood-char flavors in this full-bodied wine. —J.G.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$18

RED BLENDS

96 Epoch 2017 Estate Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). There's incredible depth to this Rhône-forward blend, starting with aromas of dark boysenberry jam wrapped in pie crust, lavender-like flowers and the slightly nutty hint of charred chicken fat. Tannins leap out at first and then smooth into the palate soothingly, carrying dark-cherry, roasted berry and baking-spice flavors as well as a refreshing acidity. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$60

95 Matt Morris 2018 Heritage Blend (Napa Valley). A blend of Charbono, Petite Sirah and Malbec, this red showcases the fine attributes of each, opening in crisp red and blue fruit before finding contrast in a swirl of grilled meat and mushroom. Graphite notes add to the savory earthiness and underlying spiciness; the palate is boosted throughout by lively acidity. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 Benom 2018 Les Deux Freres (Paso Robles). Loads of carnations and other red-flower-potpourri aromas meet with crisp and tart plum, a hint of caramelized berries and a touch of sagebrush on the nose of this blend of 59% Grenache, 23% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Tempranillo. Fine-grained tannins and a slow-simmering, underlying acidity wrap up the dried sage and rustic fruit flavors of the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

94 Daou 2018 Bodyguard (Paso Robles). For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

94 Epoch 2017 Ingenuity (Paso Robles Willow Creek District). Very dark aromas of espresso-spiked cassis meet with charred violets on the bold yet beautiful nose of this blend of 56% Petite Sirah, 16% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah and 13% Grenache. That coffee, black-currant and purple-flower combination carries into the sip as well, where the structure ensures long-term enjoyment. Drink now until 2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Byron Blatty 2017 Evenfall (Los Angeles County). Iberian grapes excel in Southern California, as this Tempranillo-led blend (with 25% Petite Sirah and 2% Merlot) reveals. Deep blueberry paste, smoke, leather and cocoa aromas lead into a palate loaded with flavors of coffee-crust smoked meats, rich black fruits and lingering tannins on the vanilla finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Cornerstone 2017 Oakville Station (Oakville). A blend of 35% Cabernet Franc, 33% Merlot and 32% Cabernet Sauvignon from the UC Davis Oakville Station vineyard, this is a smooth and sultry wine from a place that is well-drained and warm. Juicy with a backbone of structure, it has dried herb, cedar and pencil notes that accent a powerfully built fruity core of blackberry and cherry, finishing in baking spice and leather. —V.B.
abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$120

93 Donelan 2016 Cuvée Moriah (Sonoma County). This blend combines 67% Grenache from the Dry Stack Vineyard in Bennett Valley with 23% Mourvèdre and 10% Syrah from other parts of the county, including Sonoma Mountain. Meaty, it is densely built around a core of iron, garrigue and black olive, the fruit darkly packed in black cherry and blackberry. White pepper underscores its varietal abundance and joy. —V.B.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

93 Edio 2018 Frank's Blend (Sierra Foothills). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$60

93 Lexington 2016 Apex Gist Ranch Estate (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dark berry aromas are veiled in dusty minerality on the elegant nose of this bottling, alongside black olive, crushed slate

and light licorice. Firm tannins frame the black-fruit and coffee-bean flavors on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Markus 2018 Sol (Lodi). For full review see page 11.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$39

93 Sculpterra 2018 Figurine (Paso Robles). Dark aromas of blueberry and dried carnation pick up a toasty tone on the nose of this blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Primitivo and 12% Merlot. The smooth palate is well integrated, showing crushed slate minerality, dark berry, plum and dried fennel atop a chiseled structure. —M.K.
abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$44

92 Asuncion Ridge 2017 Olivia (Paso Robles). Dark berry, cocoa, violet and mahogany aromas swirl together on the nose of this blend of 82% Cabernet Franc and 18% Cabernet Sauvignon. Dry tannins provide ample support to the boysenberry and blackberry fruits on the palate, which are lifted by peppery spices and finish on a pecan-vanilla tone. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$65

92 Bee Hunter 2015 G-S-M (Sonoma County). This is made from 50% Grenache and 25% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre. Peppery and meaty, it shows the fruitiness of the Grenache with the savory intensity of the other two varieties. It's earthy, grippy and lengthy, with a worthy length of white pepper. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$42

92 Brophy Clark 2017 G-S-M (Santa Ynez Valley). There's a very complex nose on this blend of 44% Grenache, 38% Syrah and 18% Mourvèdre, starting with black plum and lavender but also showing roasted meat, tar and peppercorn aromas. The dark-meat aspect comes through on the sip in the form of iodine and charred blood-sausage flavors, with blistered fig, hoisin and dried berry as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$34

92 Byron Blatty 2017 Proprietary Red Wine (Los Angeles County). Roasted black-plum and boysenberry aromas meet with cola spice on the smoky nose of his bottling. Rich, lush tannins frame flavors of blackberry sauce, butterscotch and fudge on the palate, where acidity keeps the ripeness in check. —M.K.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$150

92 Daou 2018 Unbound Reserve (Paso Robles). Very dark in the glass, this blend of 52% Petite Sirah, 36% Tannat and 12% Tempranillo shows charred meat, singed violet and roasted berry aromas on the nose. It's very savory in the glass, with roasted coffee, grilled meat and blistered berry flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$56

92 Le Casque 2018 Calotte (Sierra Foothills). Smooth, rich and a touch savory, this

generous blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre offers warm scents of mulled plums, baking spices and milk chocolate that extend onto the palate, cradled by soft tannins and a full body. It's yummy, inviting and mouthfilling. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$28

92 Markus 2018 Zeitlos (Lodi). Firm but fine-grained tannins give this full-bodied wine, based on 80% Syrah, a good, grippy mouthfeel that supports gorgeous black-fruit flavors and hints of cocoa and cedar. Best from 2023. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$39

92 MCV 2018 Black (Paso Robles). Very dark in the glass, this blend of 71% Petite Sirah, 19% Tannat and 10% Petit Verdot offers a violet liqueur aromas along with cassis, vanilla and caramel tones. Deep blueberry flavors make for a hearty palate, where firm tannins carry into a lavender finish. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$52

92 Merryvale 2017 Profile (Napa Valley). This is an estate-grown blend led by Cabernet Sauvignon that was given 23 months in French oak, 80% of it new. Thick and powerfully muscular, it offers hearty, full-bodied layers of leather, gun smoke and black currant, with well-integrated tannin and oak. It is both complex and immensely appealing. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$200

92 Sottomarinno 2016 Sopraffino (Lake County). Very focused and well structured, this firmly tannic wine packs in well-concentrated black-cherry, cranberry and black-olive flavors that give it a real Tuscan personality. It's ripe but also muscular and will pair beautifully with rich meats and risottos. Best from 2023. —J.G.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

91 Black Ridge 2017 San Andreas Red (Santa Cruz Mountains). Dried berry and fresh flower aromas play with leather, tangy black plum and pencil shavings on the nose of this bottling. The palate tightens around savory flavors of seared beef, charred wood and crushed lava rocks, with blackberry and black-plum elements in the midpalate. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$50

91 Chateau St. Jean 2016 Eighty-Five Fifty-Five Reserve (Sonoma County). This aged cuvée is likably smooth, rich and well integrated, with a velvety plushness that appeals. Red and black cherry, mocha and traces of vanilla mingle around a soft core of full-bodied ripeness and moderate structure. —V.B.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$NA

91 Croma Vera 2018 Revelación (Paso Robles). This is a sleekly packaged blend of Tempranillo, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Sirah, offering well-woven aromas of blackberry jam, light cocoa and balsam on the nose. It's a big, hearty sip,

showing bramble and blackberry fruit as well as thyme, mocha and forest-floor flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$40

91 DaVero 2016 Altobasso Hawk Mountain and Valladares Estate Vineyards (Dry Creek Valley). From the producer's biodynamic estate, this blends 60% Sangiovese and 40% Barbera from two sites. Dark cherry, strawberry and raspberry are buoyed by fresh, focused acidity that keeps it lively and persistent, leading to a well-integrated, succulent finish. —V.B.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

91 Fess Parker 2018 The Big Easy (Santa Barbara County). Roasted blackberry, charred blueberry and smoked meat aromas waft toward the nose in this brawny bottling. It's viscous, slightly waxy and rich on the sip, full of açai, cassis and more smoked meat flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Four Lanterns 2018 Kharis (Paso Robles). Cassis and blueberry-sauce aromas meet with light purple flowers and crème brûlée on the nose of this blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Syrah, 10% Tempranillo and 6% Cabernet Franc. Extracted and lush on the palate, the wine is loaded with those same dark-fruit elements as well as touches of chocolate sauce. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

91 Markus 2018 Blue (Lodi). This silky textured wine based on Petit Verdot grapes offers plenty of plum and blackberry flavors that seem to melt on the palate as light, polished tannins soothe with every sip. Delicious, pure fruit flavors are just lightly accented by baking spices. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

91 MCV 2018 1105 (Paso Robles). Almost opaque in the glass, this blend of 61% Petite Sirah, 15% Tannat, 9% Syrah, 8% Grenache, 6% Petite Verdot and 1% Viognier offers deep violet and cassis aromas, but remains reserved. Elderberry and lavender flavors are spiced by cracked pepper on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 15.7% **Price:** \$48

91 Now Presenting... 2018 Red (Paso Robles). This blend overdelivers for the price, offering savory aromas of smoke and meat drippings on the nose as well as roasted blackberry and strawberry. The palate carries the savory edge forward, showing dried and roasted meat flavors as well as cracked pepper and hoisin sauce. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$15

91 Pazzo 2018 Red (Napa Valley). For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$35

91 Sculpterra 2018 Repousse (Paso Robles). Pleasant aromas of roasted strawberry, star anise and French toast spice show on the very accessible nose of this blend of 43% Mourvèdre, 28% Grenache, 17% Syrah and 12% Petite Sirah.

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Light tannins allow the dark-berry and delicate flower flavors to meet with peppercorn and thyme on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$46

91 Sculpterra 2018 Statuesque (Paso Robles).

Lush aromas of black plum, hoisin sauce, violet and caramel make for a rich introduction on the nose of this blend of 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Syrah and 27% Petite Sirah. Dried blackberry and fig flavors meet with an earthy tannic tension on the palate, with soy and leather showing on the finish. —M.K.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$48

91 Thacher 2017 Controlled Chaos (Paso Robles).

Tart and roasted cranberry aromas meet with loamy soil and wild desert herbs on the nose of this blend of 64% Mourvèdre, 14% Zinfandel, 12% Grenache and 10% Counoise. There's an eclectic mix of fresh red fruit, dried herbs, light pepper and crushed brick flavors on the palate, which makes for an easy-drinking table wine. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$48

90 Écluse 2018 Insider (Paso Robles).

Deep and polished aromas of blackberry, minty chocolate and wood spice show on the nose of this blend of 44% Malbec, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Tannat, 14% Carignan and 14% Merlot. Cedar and sandalwood spices pop on the palate, where tart black-plum sauce and espresso-bean flavors mesh. —M.K.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$52

90 Girard 2018 Artistry (Napa Valley).

This perennially satisfying and value-minded red blends 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 9% Malbec and smaller amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Juicy in red currant, cassis and vanilla, it has a ripe softness and enduring richness. —V.B.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$47

90 Hahn 2019 GSM (Arroyo Seco).

For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

90 Law 2017 First Tracks (Adelaida District).

Pressed black-plum and boysenberry aromas meet with lightly toasted coconut on the nose of this blend of 41% Petit Verdot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Syrah. It's quite jammy on the palate, loaded with blackberry preserves on buttered toast as well as flavors of violet and grape Skittles. —M.K.

abv: 15.2% **Price:** \$78

90 Louis M. Martini 2017 Meritage (Napa Valley).

For full review see page 18.

abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$65

90 Louis M. Martini 2017 Monte Rosso Vineyard Mountain Red (Sonoma Valley).

For full review see page 18.

abv: 15.4% **Price:** \$65

90 McClean 2019 Love Blend (Paso Robles).

This 10-variety blend, led by Syrah, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon and Grenache, begins with black raspberry, peppercorn, charred meat and asphalt on the nose. The palate's pleasant boysenberry jam core is balanced by fennel and clove spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$16

90 Miraflores NV Rojo (El Dorado).

This big, mouthfilling and generous wine blended from mostly Zinfandel, Petite Sirah and Barbera shows delicious ripeness and plenty of blackberry and dark-chocolate flavors on a full body supported by nicely integrated tannins. It's broad, easy and luscious to sip. —J.G.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$20

90 Raymond 2015 Salon Privé (Napa Valley).

This aged, small-production wine blends 75% Cabernet Sauvignon with 21% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Together, they offer waxy cherry and plum notes within a reductive environment of herbes de Provence, tar and iron. The weight of the wine is thick and concentrated. —V.B.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$250

90 Ridge 2019 Three Valleys (Sonoma County).

Although quite firm with tannins, this full-bodied blend of traditional California grape varieties fills out its structure nicely with ripe blackberry and black-pepper flavors. Based on Zinfandel, it's a robust wine that will make a great pairing with grilled meats and the like. Best from 2023. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Testa Vineyards 2017 Black X Dieci (Mendocino).

This handsomely spicy wine offers a wide range of cedar, balsam, vanilla and toast flavors to complement ripe but bright black-cherry flavors. It is full bodied, moderately tannic and well balanced for its size. —J.G.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$25

90 Theopolis 2017 Theo-patra's Cuvée Cerise (California).

Alluring toast and woodsmoke nuances give a spicy edge to this full-bodied and richly flavored wine. The texture is broad and mouthfilling, layering grapey, jammy notes over mild tannins. —J.G.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$36

90 Wilson Creek 2017 Vardande (Temecula Valley).

Charred black-cherry and tangy black-plum-skin aromas are heavily dosed with oaky spice on the nose of this blend. The palate is loaded with star anise, mace and more baking spices, framed by tightly woven tannins and full of roasted dark fruits. —M.K.

abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$45

89 Alder Springs 2017 13 Tasks (Mendocino).

This big, bold blend of Malbec and Cabernet Franc is nicely ripe and concentrated and shows moderate tannins for a grippy mouthfeel. Deep black-cherry and black-olive notes give plenty to

chew on but the structure needs time to mellow. Best from 2024. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

89 Byron Blatty 2018 Undertake (Los Angeles County).

Tart black plum and hints of juniper, mint and pine show on the slightly tangy nose of this blend of 37% Zinfandel, 25% Petite Sirah, 18% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Merlot. It's fairly light bodied on the palate, where sagebrush flavors meet with more black plum that's both tart and candied. —M.K.

abv: 15.6% **Price:** \$50

89 Girasole 2019 Charlie's Blend Red Wine (Mendocino County).

For full review see page 19.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Iron Hub 2017 Resolute (Amador County).

This hearty but smooth and mellow wine dominated by Aglianico grapes complements good plummy flavors with light meaty, savory notes that give it a tasty complexity. It tastes authentic, interesting and not overtly fruity. —J.G.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

89 LangeTwins 2017 Midnight Reserve (Lodi).

This bold, dense and tightly wound wine wraps black-cherry, dark-chocolate and blackberry flavors in firm tannins that will need time to soften for best drinking. Its attractive concentration of flavors should open up by 2024 and beyond. —J.G.

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

89 Le Casque 2017 Espion (Sierra Foothills).

Lively and crisp in balance, this black- and red-cherry scented blend of Syrah and Petite Sirah offers accents of black currants and sour cherries for a vivid, fruity palate and moderately tannic texture. —J.G.

abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$32

89 Lightpost 2018 Ignition (San Luis Obispo County).

Candied boysenberry, violet and light char aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The very mellow palate is pleasantly floral, with hints of rose and hibiscus, and a pop of red currant. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

89 Lightpost 2018 Rion Reserve (Santa Cruz Mountains).

Muddled black-cherry aromas are very rich on the nose of this blend of 70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Syrah, which also shows caramel, Bourbon and prune elements. Firm tannins frame the butterscotch and baked cherry flavors, which lead into a dessert-like finish of vanilla pudding. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$65

89 Lightpost 2018 Teo (San Luis Obispo County).

Blackberry, lavender and tangy black-plum aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Toasty oak comes through on the palate, where a subtle structure carries very subdued flavors of baked berry and pie-crust spices. —M.K.

abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$58

89 Wilson Creek NV Ecclesia (Temecula Valley). Rustic aromas of blackberry sauce, lightly cracked pepper, crushed stone and crumpled oregano make for an invitingly complex nose for this bottling. There's a bitter herb touch to the palate, where black plum meets with teriyaki, leather and coffee-bean flavors. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$45

88 Benziger 2017 Oonapais (Sonoma Valley). This blends 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 17% Malbec and 14% Cabernet Franc. Flavors of milk chocolate, dusty leather and blueberry highlight a core of soft, supple tannin and integrated oak, finishing in full-bodied richness. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

88 Byron Blatty 2016 Ghost Cat (Los Angeles County). This blend of 66% Syrah, 21% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc (which features the famous Hollywood mountain lion on its awesome label), is tangy on the nose, with black-plum-skin, potpourri and milk-chocolate aromas. The sip is also tart, with sharp fruit tones, leading into a vanilla and crème brûlée finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$45

88 Chronic Cellars 2019 Purple Paradise (Paso Robles). This Zinfandel-led blend, which also includes 17% Petite Sirah, 9% Syrah and 4% Grenache, begins with aromas of black plum that are tart at first and then jammier. It's rich and tannic on the sip, where roasted red and black fruits lead into an oak-kissed, cappuccino-cream finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$15

88 Jalama 2018 El Capitan (Santa Ynez Valley). Tangy black-plum aromas lead the nose on this bottling, which is tart despite the dark color. The palate picks up intriguing notes of mace and violet, which balance the tangy roasted plum qualities. —M.K.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

88 Jaxon Keys NV JaxZin Estate (Mendocino). Abundant black-fruit flavors meld with black pepper and black olives in this flavorful and just slightly sweet wine. Blended from multiple vintages of the estate's Zinfandel, it's full bodied, dramatic in flavor and smooth in mouthfeel. —J.G.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Josh Cellars 2018 Family Reserve (Lodi). Effusive oak aromas and flavors give this attention-getting wine a very spicy profile, from scents of vanilla, cedar and graphite to flavors of black-cherry jam, cinnamon and oak char backed by velvety tannins. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Lapis Luna 2018 Red Wine (North Coast). This attractive, full-bodied wine makes a nice blend of fresh, jammy fruit flavors and subtle accents of herbs, olives and oak spices. It feels dry, smooth and just barely tannic, supporting

raspberry, blackberry and light toast and vanilla notes. **Best Buy.** —J.G.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$13

88 Meadowlark 2012 Los Olivos Red Blend (Santa Barbara County). Despite approaching a decade of age, this Bordeaux-style red blend, with a kick of Syrah, is still in good shape. Blistered currant and cracked pepper lead into a woody palate of mahogany and prune, with roasted black-plum and mocha flavors as well. —M.K.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$30

88 Sculpterra 2018 Mega Focus (Central Coast). This blend of 64% Grenache, 27% Mourvèdre and 9% Syrah is light in the glass, offering subtle aromas of rose petal, hibiscus and cranberry. Crisp, tart cranberry-skin flavors show most strongly on the palate. —M.K.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$44

87 Cinnabar 2018 Mercury Rising (Central Coast). An unusually dark color and aromas of charcoal and rubber tire give this full-bodied wine a sort of pungent appeal at first whiff. Then, smoky, oak flavors are backed by potent blackberry flavors. —J.G.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$24

87 Crystal Basin Cellars 2017 Campione Grand Reserve (El Dorado). Well-integrated oak spices like vanilla and cinnamon and vivid, juicy red-fruit flavors are easy to appreciate in this medium-bodied, not-very-tannic wine. Made from Sangiovese and Merlot, its underlying acidity gives a brisk feel. —J.G.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

87 Crystal Basin Cellars 2017 Inkonic Grand Reserve (El Dorado). Well-concentrated black-cherry and cranberry flavors fill out this lively and polished blend of Alicante Bouschet, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel for a tangy, vivid impression. Moderate tannins give it a grippy finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

87 Crystal Basin Cellars 2017 Quijote Grand Reserve (El Dorado). Tangy black-cherry and cola flavors fill out a medium body in this concentrated and polished blend of Tempranillo and Grenache. It brings out light tones of balsamic on the finish. —J.G.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$50

87 Crystal Basin Cellars 2017 Xpealidocious Grand Reserve (El Dorado). Concentrated and polished, this full-bodied blend offers vibrant but well-aged black-fruit flavors on a moderately tannic texture. —J.G.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$50

87 Hunt Cellars 2014 Que Sirah Syrah Destiny Vineyard (Paso Robles). Dark and viscous in the glass, this blend of Petite Sirah, Syrah and Grenache offers aromas of purple-flower potpourri followed by dark waves of burned caramel, brown sugar and extracted berry fruits. The brown-sugar

and maple tones wrap up the gooey fruitcake and prune flavors of the palate, which also shows a hint of charred meat. —M.K.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$55

87 Jamieson Ranch 2018 Whiplash (California). Thick dried fruit flavors and a vein of sweet-seeming oak give this full-bodied wine a big presence. Soft tannins meld with dried plum and chocolate flavors for an indulgent palate. —J.G.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 Longhouse 2018 G-S-M (Sierra Foothills). This smooth and full-bodied blend of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Grenache (in that order) offers good plum flavors of medium concentration and easy, light tannins along with rather soft acidity. —J.G.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

87 Ninety+ 2018 Mountain Cuvée Lot 192 (Napa Valley). This blends together 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot and the sum is thick and meaty on the palate. Boldly ripe and chewy in tannin, the wine lingers in herbal earthiness. —V.B.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Three Sides 2018 Red Blend (Central Coast). Cranberry and strawberry aromas meet with turned earth and butterscotch on the nose of this blend of 83% Merlot, 10% Malbec, 5% Zinfandel and 2% Grenache. The mouthfeel is suave, offering roasted black-plum and baking-spice flavors, becoming viscous and a bit ripe by the finish. —M.K.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

86 Crystal Basin Cellars 2017. Triumphant Grand Reserve (El Dorado). Attractive leather and baking-spice aromas lead to tangy red cherry and red plum in this fruity but mature-tasting wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$50

86 Crystal Basin Cellars 2017 Victorie Grand Reserve G-S-M (El Dorado). Hints of sour cherries and ample acidity make this wine lively on the palate, where black-cherry and balsamic notes emerge. —J.G.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$50

84 Ghostrunner 2019 Ungrafted (Lodi). An earthy, sawdusty aroma leads to obvious oak flavors like toast, char and Bourbon in this full-bodied and rather tannic wine. —J.G.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

OTHER RED WINES

94 Adroit 2019 Gamay Noir (San Benito County). Freshly smashed strawberry and lively hibiscus aromas meet with white pepper, pine needle and light soil on the nose of this bottling. The palate's texture is extremely taut, releasing red-currant, white-peppercorn and tart red-plum flavors in waves of expression. —M.K.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$25

94 Matt Morris 2018 Shypoke Vineyard Charbono (Napa Valley). From grower Peter Heitz and winemaker Françoise Peschon, this rare breed is plummy and rich in dark chocolate. Soft on the palate, it dashes through highlights of dusty sage, cranberry and Christmas spice before finding its foundation of vibrant structure on the finish. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Matt Morris 2018 Tofanelli Vineyard Charbono (Napa Valley). Made in tiny amounts from the historic site still farmed by the Tofanelli family, this wine offers plum, blueberry, leather and old-vine complexity—the tannins grippy but elongated and eventually supple. It has fresh, lively acidity that keeps it crisp and inviting throughout. —V.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Thacher 2019 Calleri Vineyard Negrette (San Benito). This winery gets extra credit for going to this nearly forgotten corner of winemaking history to snag this nearly forgotten grape. It's dark in the glass but very fresh on the nose, with boysenberry, lavender and rosemary aromas. The palate is vivacious with purple fruit and flowers, from açai to lavender, with plenty of herbs, texture and acidic energy pushing into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.28% **Price:** \$52

92 Angeleno 2019 Swayze Vineyard Alicante Bouschet (Antelope Valley of the California High Desert). Hearty, rustic aromas of dark berries, roasted meats, scorched earth and dried carnations make for a complex nose on this bottling. The boysenberry and smoked meat flavors would complement a wide range of grilled foods. The wine stays fresh for days, and would age well, but this ambitious project to return Los Angeles to its winemaking roots deserves immediate attention. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.75% **Price:** \$35

92 MCV 2018 Tannat (Paso Robles). Deep and dark aromas of cassis and caramel sauce float out of this nearly opaque wine that's rich and lush in the glass. Smooth tannins provide just enough bite to counteract the black-cherry and crème brûlée flavors, which lead into a violet finish. —M.K.
abv: 16.1% **Price:** \$45

91 Broken Earth 2019 Nero d'Avola (Paso Robles). It's exciting to see this Sicilian grape grown in the warmer reaches of eastern Paso Robles. Aromas of black-plum paste, dried ginger, candied rose, star anise and toasted oak entertain the nose. The palate offers baked boysenberry and dark strawberry as well as more oak spice, all framed by sandy tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$29

90 Wilson Creek 2017 Reserve Cinsault (Temecula Valley). This grape seems to excel in the warm environs of Temecula, starting with aromas of fennel bulb, dried soil and strawberry jam. The wild herbal expression shows on the sip

too, with fennel pollen and light licorice spicing up the dried red fruits, with a vanilla kick growing on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$50

88 Pure Cru 2015 Rosso Di Sangio Sangiovese (Lodi). This smooth and slightly tannic wine offers interesting leather and olive aromas followed by mellow, complex, meaty flavors. It takes a nice detour away from pure simple fruitiness. —J.G.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$25

88 Rubino Estates Winery 2017 Riserva Collection Sangiovese (Livermore Valley). Rich plum and warm earth aromas are followed by generous black-plum flavors wrapped in moderate tannins in this full-bodied wine. It shows a nice palate-cleansing texture that is matched by well-ripened fruit notes. —J.G.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$29

SWEET WINES

93 Piedrasassi NV Vin Santo Sangiovese (Santa Ynez Valley). The wine, the result of a 10-year solera process, is utterly fascinating. Dark brown in color, it begins with aromas of maple, brown sugar and raisin. The palate's texture is most unique—both viscous and waxy yet brisk with remnants of acidity, carrying flavors of toasted macadamia nut and hazelnut as well as butterscotch. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.
abv: 7% **Price:** \$65/375 ml

91 Byron Blatty 2017 Angelica Alicante Bouschet (Los Angeles County). This is a very unique dessert wine, aged for 33 months in American oak. There's a dark-berry and light thyme kick to the nose before the smoky mesquite aromas take over. The palate offers surprisingly fresh blueberry and boysenberry, with more thyme and oregano, and the only dessert aspect seems to be the boozy finish. —M.K.
abv: 17.4% **Price:** \$35/375 ml

90 Flanagan 2019 Late Harvest Sémillon (Russian River Valley). With 126 g/l of residual sugar (picked at 34 brix), this dessert wine is viscous and complex, with lovely layers of apricot and honey. The sweetness is in balance and richly evocative, making for a worthy after-dinner drink with cheese or a like-minded dessert, or sipped on its own. —V.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$65/500 ml

90 Peirano 2019 The Heritage Collection Moscato (Lodi). This intensely flavored and low-alcohol sweet wine offers a complex salted nut and herb aroma followed by very rich, lush honeydew melon flavors that coat the palate and linger on the finish. It will be a treat after a meal with cheese or a not-so-sweet dessert. *Best Buy.* —J.G.
abv: 11% **Price:** \$14

90 Thacher 2010 Kentucky Ranch Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). Quite red in color though very brown in aromas, this 11-year-old dessert bottling begins with aromas of Bourbon and cigar, with a touch of black cherry. The boozy scotch notes meet with cedar and butterscotch on the palate, which finishes with a nutty tone. —M.K.
abv: 19.4% **Price:** \$52/500 ml

90 Vahali 2018 Mishirah Late Harvest Jauhar Estate Petite Sirah (Paso Robles). For a late harvest wine, this is barely sweet enough to qualify as a dessert wine, and that's a good thing. Ripe cassis and blackberry aromas meet with thyme and pepper on the nose, while the palate shows fresh but hearty boysenberry and light white-pepper flavors. —M.K.
abv: 12.71% **Price:** \$60

WASHINGTON CHARDONNAY

92 Dusted Valley 2018 Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). The aromas offer notes of toast, struck flint, yellow apple and peach. The stone fruit flavors are full, layered and rich but with plenty of acidity to support them. Whereas many full-bodied Chardonnays win on texture, this one does so on its extravagant flavor. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$29

90 Alki 2019 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.4% **Price:** \$20

90 Basel Cellars 2019 Sur Lie Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley). This site has proved itself again and again to be a special spot for this variety as it does here. Aromas of toast, crayon and clarified butter lead creamy, well-balanced fruit flavors. It's an enjoyable example of a creamy style. —S.S.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$36

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2018 Canoe Ridge Estate Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills). Aromas of peach, straw and sweet spice lead to stone fruit flavors that are rich in the center. Like many wines from this vintage, its appeal is much about the balance it brings. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2018 Indian Wells Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Clarified butter aromas are predominant, followed by notes of straw and peach. Full-bodied, creamy flavors follow. For those looking for a rich, buttery style, look no further. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$17

88 Baer 2019 Shard Stillwater Creek Vineyard Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). Fruit for this wine comes from the new Royal Slope appellation. Aromas of petroleum jelly and toasted Grape-Nuts lead to a light, flavorful palate. Pair it with grilled

shrimp basted with butter, garlic and lime juice. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% Price: \$25

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2019 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). The aromas offer notes of clarified butter, peach and Muscat gummy. The flavors are lighter styled, straight down the fairway. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$11

88 Simply... 2018 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 13.5% Price: \$10

GEWÜRZTRAMINER

92 Savage Grace 2019 Orange Oak Ridge Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Columbia Gorge). The aromas leap up with notes of lychee, pink grapefruit and ginger. The palate is richly flavored, showing nuance and detail. Cloudy with a light gold tinge, it drinks bone-dry, thoroughly delightful, with spot-on balance. The cleansing finish kicks it up a notch. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$30

90 Liberty Lake 2019 Gewürztraminer (Red Mountain). Red Mountain is best known for its power-packed reds. This orange wine comes from 1978 plantings. The aromas jump out of the glass, with notes of lychee, ginger, flower and wet rock. Full-bodied, perfumed flavors follow. It carries, with bitters on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 13.2% Price: \$18

88 Pacific Rim 2018 Ramos Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Snipes Mountain). The aromas of lychee, rose petal and ginger leap up from the glass. Smooth, almost thick feeling off-dry flavors follow. It wants a bit more acidity to offset the sugar, but there are still a lot of good things happening. —S.S.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$15

OTHER WHITE WINES

93 Liminal 2018 High Canyon Series WeatherEye Vineyard Viognier (Red Mountain). This is the inaugural vintage of this wine, coming from high up on Red Mountain. Aromas of pear, peach, lees and mineral are followed by textured fruit flavors that show a strong sense of vibrancy and, dare I say, minerality. The intensity, balance and length are impressive. It focuses on lees expression and texture rather than sheer varietal purity. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

93 Savage Grace 2019 Underwood Mountain Vineyard Grüner Veltliner (Columbia Gorge). This is a thrilling wine, all about the textured, layered fruit, showing plenty of depth, acidity and intensity of flavor. It's swoonworthy. Pair it with

grilled prawns with lemon risotto. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$28

92 Category 5 2018 Albariño (Columbia Valley). This is a blend of fruit from Naches Heights, Sunland and Dutchman vineyards. The aromas intrigue, with distinctive notes of lemon zest, tangerine, clay and watermelon rind. There's plenty of flavor and textural richness, along with impressive acidity. It's thoroughly delightful. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$18

91 Category 5 2017 Albariño (Columbia Valley). This wine is equal parts Naches Heights and Sunland vineyard fruit. The aromas are subdued, with notes of white grapefruit, lemon pith and candlewax. The palate is all about texture and acidity, but there's still plenty of flavor. The length is impressive. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$18

91 L'Ecole No. 41 2019 Frenchman Hills Stillwater Creek Vineyard Semillon (Columbia Valley). The aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of fig, lanolin and lemon. The palate brings textural richness along with the vintage's dexterity. It drinks best with a light chill. —S.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$21

91 Savage Grace 2019 Skin Contract De Gris Underwood Mountain Vineyards Pinot Gris (Columbia Gorge). This is a new offering from the winery, with the grapes left on skins for 40 days. The color is almost apple cider-like in appearance but with a slightly more red, cloudy hue. The aromas bring notes of fresh raspberry, pink grapefruit and whole pomegranate. The flavors are bright and fresh, with a lot of texture and graininess in feel. The aesthetics of the color might dissuade some, but the aromas and flavors deliver. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

91 Savage Grace 2019 Underwood Mountain Vineyards Riesling (Columbia Gorge). The aromas offer notes of struck flint, evolving into wet stone and lime. The white peach flavors drink bone-dry with absolutely electric acidity that snaps you to attention. It's hard to tell where the aroma are heading, but the palate is simply beautiful. Decant if drinking in the near term. Pair it with grapefruit mignonette. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

91 Seven Hills Winery 2019 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley). This wine opens with an unusual aroma of diesel that soon blows off, followed by notes of dried grass, tangerine rind and herbs. Given extended élevage in concrete, stainless steel and oak, the palate brings seriousness while still remaining fleet of foot. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% Price: \$30

90 Boomtown 2019 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley). The aromas bring notes of star fruit

and Asian pear, with whiffs of the underside of a pineapple and the palate showing more of the same. A mouthwatering finish caps it off. It's a distinctive wine for the state. I can't think of another quite like it. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.9% Price: \$19

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2019 Dry Riesling (Columbia Valley). The aromas pop, with notes of jasmine, lime, white peach and flower. Bone-dry Nestea lemon iced tea flavors follow. It delights. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$9

90 Kevin White 2019 Memoire Rhône-style White Blend (Yakima Valley). This is the winery's inaugural white. Roussanne makes up 80%, with the rest Grenache Blanc, with all of the fruit coming from Olsen and Boushey vineyards. Appealing aromas of apple, nori and melon lead to bright flavors that bring plenty of textural appeal. It drinks best very lightly chilled. Pair it with a grilled prawn salad with a lemon vinaigrette. —S.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$25

90 Structure 2019 Olsen Vineyard Roussanne (Yakima Valley). Aromas of pear, apricot and straw are followed by flavors that coat the palate, bringing a feeling of weight while still remaining light on their feet. It's lovely. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% Price: \$25

SPARKLING WINES

91 Savage Grace 2019 Petillant Naturel Dineen Vineyard Côt (Yakima Valley). Again from this producer, a one-of-a-kind wine in the state, this time a sparkling Malbec. It's cloudy in appearance, with aromas of brioche followed by bright, broad feeling citrus flavors that tingle the palate. It's outright delicious and fun to boot. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 11% Price: \$35

90 Grosgrain 2019 Rosso Pétillant Natural Old Milton Vineyard (Walla Walla Valley). This is a rare valley sparkler made of Aglianico (78%) and Nebbiolo. Colored as if it were a red wine, it brings notes of plum and herb. The flavors are sleek, bright and acidity-driven. It's equal parts intrigue and delivery. —S.S.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$NA

88 Alki NV Bubbly Rosé (Columbia Valley). Very pale in color, with aromas bringing notes of strawberry and apple. Crisp, bright flavors follow. It offers plenty of appeal. —S.S.
abv: 11.9% Price: \$20

88 Alki NV Sparkling (Columbia Valley). Fresh, clean aromas of apple and pear lead to a palate that carries a lot of sugar. There are good things happening, but it needs a bit more acidity to tie them all together. —S.S.
abv: 11.4% Price: \$20

88 Gilbert Cellars 2020 Pétillant Naturel Sparkling Rosé of Grenache (Wahluke Slope). This early offering from the vintage is a very pretty pale pink, slightly cloudy color. The aromas and flavors offer notes of brioche, kiwi and strawberry. It's an intriguing sparkler. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$24

ROSÉS

90 Virtue 2019 Tranquility Rosé of Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). This is an inaugural rosé from this producer, with the fruit coming from Stoneridge Vineyard. Pale salmon in color, with aromas of strawberry and wet rock leading to broader feeling fruit flavors with plenty of acidity to stand them up. —S.S.
abv: 13.3% **Price:** \$19

88 Category 5 NV The Hacker Rosé (Columbia Valley). This is a rare in the state blend of red and white wines. Light watermelon in color, with aromas of cherry and dried rose petals followed by light, mouthwatering cherry and orange rind flavors. —S.S.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$18

88 Mastrogiannis 2019 Rosé For Cure Rosé (Washington). Pale orange in color and showing some bricking, with aromas of watermelon and cherry followed by dry, medium-weight flavors. It's not entirely pleasing to the eye, but the palate delivers plenty to enjoy. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 12.4% **Price:** \$12

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

92 Baer 2017 Arctos Stillwater Creek Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas offer notes of char, roasted coffee bean, dark chocolate and cherry topped with sweet spices. The flavors are rich with a seamless feel. It hangs on the coffee- and cherry-filled finish. *Dee-licious. Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$43

92 Barons 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Cedar, spice, chocolate and cherry cordial aromas lead to a layered, plush palate with plentiful plum and cedar flavors. There's detail to it all and also superb balance and structure. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). Chocolate and cherry flavors rise up from the glass, with plenty of coffee, spice and dried herb accents along with them. The palate brings bountiful tannin along with a zing of acidity. There's a whole lot of structure here. It will have an extremely long life ahead of it. Best after 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Prospice 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Coffee and spice aromas are out front, followed by notes of cherry, clove and raspberry. On the palate, there is a lovely sense of balance, layering, restraint and depth. The raspberry-filled finish sticks around for a very long time. It's delicious. Best after 2024. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 Virtue 2018 Eloquence Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Yakima Valley). This is the first reserve level wine to come from this new producer, and it delivers. With all of the fruit coming from Olsen Vineyard, there's plenty of nuance to the aromas of dried and fresh herbs, baker's chocolate, raspberry, graphite and cherry. Soft fruit and barrel flavors follow, bringing sophistication and elegance. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 Barons 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Chocolate, spice and maraschino cherry aromas are followed by plush, layered, but far from over the top fruit flavors. It's unabashed in its appeal, with a lot of structure to back it up. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

91 Basel Cellars 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). There's plenty of complexity to the raspberry, cherry, fresh herb, vanilla and smoke aromas. The coffee and cherry flavors deliver on all of that promise. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$45

91 Category 5 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Almost half of this wine comes from Tapteil Vineyard on Red Mountain, with most of the rest from Stillwater Creek on the Royal Slope. The aromas aren't ready to reveal themselves at present, with brooding notes of baker's chocolate, spice, anise, raspberry and black cherry. The raspberry and cherry flavors are rounded in feel while retaining deftness. There are lots of good things happening. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$32

91 Dusted Valley 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Pleasing aromas of green herb, cocoa, coffee and dark fruit are followed by plump fruit flavors with lightly grainy tannins backing them up. Coffee notes linger on the finish. It's a surefire crowd-pleaser. Give it a short decant. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

91 Foolhardy 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas draw you into the glass, with notes of coffee, vanilla, graphite, green herb and dark cherry. Bright fruit flavors follow, backed by chewy tannins. It's flavorful but deft, lingering on the finish, with a nice yum factor. Give it some time in the decanter to open up. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$49

91 Prospice 2018 Seven Hills Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley). The aromas intrigue, with the notes of cocoa and graphite not fully ready to show themselves. The palate is light initially but with plenty of structure, stretching out over time. Showing some reduction, this one needs some additional bottle age. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$60

91 Winescape 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$39

90 Alki 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2017 Canoe Ridge Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills). Dark chocolate, baking spice and black cherry aromas are followed by plump, rich fruit flavors. It's a hedonistic delight. Decant. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

90 Dixie & Bass 2018 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). This is the first reserve level wine from this Aquilini project. The aromas are brooding, with notes of black cherry and spice. Smooth, plush plum flavors follow. It's an unabashed crowd-pleaser. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Intrinsic 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Light aromas of spice and cedar lead to almost creamy feeling blueberry and plum flavors. It brings an appealing texture, although not immediately identifiable as Cabernet. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Liberty Lake 2018 Scootney Flats Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). Aromas of chocolate-covered cherries and dried herbs are followed by a rich, flavorful palate, with undulating dark fruit and chocolate flavors. There are plenty of spice accents throughout. Lightly grainy tannins back this high octane wine up. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

89 Adrice 2017 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The aromas of plum, blueberry and sweet spice are forward. Plum and Satsuma orange flavors follow, giving a plush feel, with a slight dip in the middle but finishing with brightness on the back end. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

89 Winescape 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The aromas are alluring, with notes of dried herb, bittersweet chocolate, anise and cherry cordial. The palate has a bit of fruit sweetness that seems out of place. It needs a bit more structure to fully stand it up. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$38

88 Adrice 2017 Riveter Red Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain). The aromas offer notes of Satsuma orange fruit and oil, smoke, clove and plum. Plush, lightly smoky flavors follow, with a firm scaffolding of tannins providing support. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

88 Structure 2018 Craftsman Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). The aromas are unusual, with notes of fresh tangerine peel, olive meat and smoke. The palate is somewhat lighter in style, with the fruit not seeming to have fully ripened. Light smoke notes thread throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$28

88 Structure 2018 Foundation Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Aromas of Satsuma orange, smoke and spice lead to lighter-style flavors. The tannins give a light squeeze. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

86 Simply... 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley). Aromas of green garden and savory herb are followed by notes of plum, tangerine and whiffs of smoke. Easy-drinking black currant and smoke flavors follow. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

CABERNET FRANC

92 Savage Grace 2019 Cru Carbonic Red Willow Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). This is a one-of-a-kind wine, carbonic macerated from one of the state's top vineyards. There are upfront aromas of green pepper, peat, cranberry, pomegranate and strawberry. Light, bright flavors follow, with an intriguing, grainy, almost tacky feel. Food required. Pair it with grilled flank steak with chimichurri. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$34

92 Savage Grace 2018 Two Blondes Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). The aromas intrigue, with notes of raspberry, whole Satsuma orange, dried herb and smoke with whiffs of black olive. The palate dances lightly, soft, bright and seamless. It's a very pretty expression of the variety, with lovely depth and texture. Pair it with grilled eggplant ratatouille. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Avennia 2018 Champoux Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Horse Heaven Hills). This is all varietal from this esteemed vineyard. Aromas of dried leaves, crab apple, smoke and raspberry lead to a bunched up palate that expands over time. It has plenty of sneaky subtleties. Best after 2025. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

91 Structure 2018 Foundation Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). The cherry aromas announce themselves, along with a dusting of baking chocolate and dried herbs subsequently

speaking up. The flavors display grace and polish. It's a pretty expression of the variety. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$40

90 Liberty Lake 2018 Scootney Flats Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Red Mountain). Aromas of chocolate-covered cherries and dried herbs are followed by a rich, flavorful palate, with undulating dark fruit and chocolate flavors. There are plenty of spice accents throughout. Lightly grainy tannins back this high octane wine up. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$38

90 Prospice 2018 Phinny Hill Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Horse Heaven Hills). The aromas are still locked up at present, with speckles of spice, cedar and cherry poking through. The palate is all about restraint and nuance. It's equal parts promise and delivery. Best after 2022. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Structure 2018 Piloti Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). Brooding aromas of cocoa powder, raspberry and cherry lead to somewhat lighter-styled flavors. It's reserved, with pleasing balance throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

89 Category 5 2017 Cabernet Franc (Yakima Valley). Half of this wine comes from Elephant Mountain Vineyard with the other half from Dineen. Coffee and cherry aromas dominate. The coffee flavors are sumptuous but still dance lightly, trailing toward the finish. It seems a bit one note, but that note is interesting. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$32

88 Baer 2017 Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley). Coming from the Royal Slope region, the aromas offer notes of clove and apple with whiffs of golden raisin. The fruit seems a bit dried out and the tannins bunched up. It's hard to see where it's all going. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$35

MERLOT

93 Seven Hills Winery 2018 SHW Founding Vineyard Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). This is a Washington Merlot prototype, with aromas of red and black raspberry, milk chocolate, cedar and anise. The flavors bring depth, plushness and intensity, with lightly chalky tannins backing it all up. It's flat-out delicious, with the appeal as much about feel as flavor. Give a short decant if drinking in the near term. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$50

92 Prospice 2018 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Initially brooding, high-register aromas of orange oil, clove, chocolate and raspberry are followed by palate coating black raspberry flavors. The depth and texture are captivating. Give it some time to open up. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$50

90 Alki 2018 Merlot (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

90 Baer 2017 Star Merlot (Columbia Valley). Coffee, raspberry, baker's chocolate and anise aromas intertwine. The flavors are plump and fresh. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$35

90 L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Estate Grown Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Equal parts Seven Hills and Ferguson Vineyard fruit, this wine is settling into the bottle. Still, there is immediate appeal to the aromas of raspberry, flower, cedar and spice. The palate paints around the edges initially, with the middle filling in over time. It's almost tangy out of the gate, settling with time. The tannins give it a grainy structure. The pieces are all there but need time to come together. Best after 2024. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$37

90 Seven Hills Winery 2018 Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Aromas of coconut and char are out front initially. Fruit and barrel intertwine on the creamy feeling palate, with its sweet baking spice accents throughout. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

88 Claar 2018 Estate Grown & Bottled White Bluffs Merlot (Columbia Valley). The aromas offer notes of black currant and dried herbs. The fruit flavors are plush in feel with the concentration dialed back a bit. Orange peel flavors linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$30

87 Adrice 2017 Etouffant Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot (Columbia Valley). Fruit and barrel play equal parts on the aromas, with notes of vanilla and baking spice in front of cherry and golden raisin. The fruit flavors paint around the edges, seeming light in the middle. Light Band-Aid notes linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

86 Winescape 2017 Bacchus Vineyard Merlot (Columbia Valley). There are some good things going on here, but they don't all come together, with aromas and flavors of red apple, plum and sweet spice leading to soft fruit flavors that need more structure to stand them up. The ripeness seems to have carried it away. —S.S.
abv: 15.3% **Price:** \$30

MALBEC

91 Category 5 2017 Malbec (Columbia Valley). This is all varietal, with 61% coming from Malbec heartland Gamache Vineyard and the rest from Lawrence. Spice, red plum and gummy aromas lead to flavors that bring depth, texture and structure. It ramps up the longer it is open. —S.S.
abv: 14.4% **Price:** \$36

BUYINGGUIDE

90 Structure 2018 Foundation Malbec (Yakima Valley). Aromas and flavors of orange and tangerine essence are followed by notes of red plum, flower and cranberry. It's all an interesting mix, equal parts intrigue and delivery. —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$32

89 Liberty Lake 2018 Scooteny Flats Vineyard Malbec (Red Mountain). The aromas aren't ready to show themselves, with light notes of spice, orange peel and dill. The plum and orange rind flavors meanwhile bring vitality and length. One wants more aromatically, but the palate delivers a lot of enjoyment. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$35

SYRAH

93 Echolands 2018 Les Collines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Savage Grace 2019 Red Willow Vineyard Syrah (Yakima Valley). In this producer's trademark style, this wine is released young, with no new oak contact. Flower, tobacco, dried herb and dark cherry aromas are followed by lighter-styled flavors that still bring intensity. Purity is the purpose. Pair it with grilled lamb chops. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$42

91 Pursued by Bear 2017 Baby Bear Syrah (Columbia Valley). Coffee, chocolate, vanilla, wood spice and dark fruit aromas are followed by smooth, sultry flavors. Fruit and barrel play equal parts in the show, with the vintage's bright acidity keeping them both in vivid focus. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$60

90 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2015 Ethos Reserve Syrah (Columbia Valley). This wine comes from four appellations across the state. The aromas boast notes of coffee, char, dark fruit, smoke and spice. The dark fruit and barrel flavors are velvety in feel, showing intensity but still remaining light on their feet, particularly given the warmth of the vintage. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$50

90 L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Estate Grown Seven Hills Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley). The aromas offer notes of dark fruit, spice and dried herbs. Rich, full-bodied flavors follow, with bunched up tannins providing support. It's a no-holds-barred offering of the variety. Give it some time in the decanter. —S.S.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$36

89 Liberty Lake 2018 Reserve Syrah (Red Mountain). Fruit for this wine comes from Ranch at the End of the Road. The first impression aromatically is of oak (18 months in new American), with notes of vanilla, nougat and freshly hewn wood. The palate almost has the fruit intensity to

stand up to it, but ultimately the wood wins out. Coffee notes linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 15.1% **Price:** \$48

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2018 Syrah (Columbia Valley). The variety is on full display, with this wine's notes of blue-purple fruit and whiffs of smoked meat. Soft fruit flavors follow, thinning out a little toward the middle but otherwise showing impressive balance. It goes down easy. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

88 Tenet 2017 The Pundit Syrah (Wahluke Slope). The aromas are a bit reductive out of the gate. Beyond that are notes of dark fruit, purple fruit and spice. Full-bodied, rich flavors follow. It doesn't all come together yet. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Tenet 2017 The Pundit Syrah (Yakima Valley). This project from Chateau Ste. Michelle and France's Philippe Cambie and Michel Gassier has previously focused on Columbia Valley offerings, but now explores subappellation wines as well. The aromas offer notes of mulberry and smoke with whiffs of medicine. The flavors are center focused and seem bunched up, broadening over time. Light medicinal notes linger on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

88 Tenet 2017 The Pundit Syrah (Red Mountain). Pleasing aromas of blue fruit, spice and fresh herbs lead to center focused fruit and barrel flavors that are light along the edges, broadening slightly over time. It shows some warmth on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.9% **Price:** \$40

87 Dusted Valley 2018 Stained Tooth Syrah (Columbia Valley). The aromas don't seem settled, with notes of nori, smoke and blue fruit. Quite smoky flavors follow, with a strong wash of char on the finish. —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

86 Adrice 2017 Bare Knuckle Syrah (Columbia Valley). The aromas bring notes of dried herbs, vanilla, medicine and cherry gummy bear. Plush medicinal flavors follow. The medicinal influence is strong. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

84 Hogue 2015 Genesis Syrah (Columbia Valley). Unusual aromas of spearmint, medicine, violet and tire rubber lead to lighter-styled fruit leather flavors that finish short. The tannins feel quite grainy. —S.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

RED BLENDS

94 L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Ferguson Vineyard Estate Grown (Walla Walla Valley). For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Baer 2017 Ursa Red Wine (Columbia Valley). Merlot (46%) and Cabernet Franc (42%) take the lead, with bits of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot finishing it off. The aromas bring immediate appeal, with notes of leafy herbs and chocolate-covered cherry. A full-bodied, action-packed palate follows. There's density and richness as well as plenty of finely combed tannins and bright acidity. It brings an impressive seamlessness. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$39

93 Seven Hills Winery 2018 Ciel du Cheval (Red Mountain). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot isn't ready to reveal its charms at present, with subdued notes of café au lait, dried herbs, moist earth, raspberry and cherry. The palate displays the winery's reserved style, with the exquisite balance of the vintage on full display. Best after 2028. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$55

92 Avennia 2018 Gravura (Columbia Valley). Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 48% of this wine, with Merlot another 40% and the rest Cabernet Franc. Coming from top sites Dionysus, Bacchus, Red Willow, Klipsun and Boushey, it's all about sophistication, with its aromas and flavors of cherry, dried herbs, plum, leaf and graphite. The balance of the restrained but action-packed fruit flavors is exquisite. The finish sticks around. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$40

92 L'Ecole No. 41 2018 Estate Grown Cabernet Franc-Merlot (Walla Walla Valley). Seven Hills and Ferguson vineyards make up equal parts of this wine, which is also split evenly across the two varieties. Chocolate, cherry and cedar aromas are followed by somewhat tightly wound fruit flavors, with a cranberry finish. It brings a lot of acidity and tannin structure and will have a long life ahead of it. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Seven Hills Winery 2017 Pentad (Walla Walla Valley). Consisting of the five main Bordeaux varieties, this wine has aromas that are immediately approachable, with notes of raspberry, cedar, freshly harvested herbs and cherry. There's plenty of balance and freshness to the flavors. Best after 2025. *Cellar Selection.* —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$85

91 Category 5 2017 Framework (Columbia Valley). Merlot (44%) and Cabernet Franc (37%) are at the heart of this wine, supported by Malbec (17%) and Petit Verdot. It's a blend of top sites Lawrence, Stillwater Creek, Dineen, Kiona, Dionysus and others, with aromas bringing equal parts dried and fresh herbs, chocolate, roasted coffee bean and red and black cherry. There's a lovely balance to the somewhat pulled back flavors along with the pleasing acidic brightness of the vintage. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$30

91 Pursued by Bear 2017 Bear Cub (Columbia Valley). Actor Kyle MacLachlan has another hit with this wine. Cabernet Sauvignon makes up 65%, with 18% Merlot and 17% Syrah. Aromas of cherry, vanilla and baking spice are followed by creamy, luscious fruit and barrel flavors that continue intertwining on the finish. It brings unabashed hedonism while maintaining lovely balance. There's a lot of value to be had. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$35

90 Alki 2018 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). For full review see page 16. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$20

90 Barons 2017 Petit Barone (Columbia Valley). Blackberry bush, plum and black cherry aromas sit atop notes of cedar, dark roasted coffee bean and fresh herbs on this still tightly wound offering. The palate is flavorful but remains light on its feet, with lightly grainy tannins. Give it a short decant. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$25

90 Baer 2017 Callisto (Columbia Valley). Syrah makes up 42% of this wine, with the rest equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. The aromas offer notes of coffee, cedar and black cherry. The palate brings a lot of elegance in the flavors with pleasing structure surrounding them. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$39

90 Intrinsic 2018 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). This wine is almost equal parts Cabernet Franc (51%) and Malbec. The aromas suggest notes of cedar, coffee, citrus and cherry. Tangerine peel and plum flavors follow, bringing pleasing purity and plushness. The tannins give a light squeeze. It's a lot of wine for the money. Give it a short decant and pair it with grilled lamb shank. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 Adrice 2018 Cabbera (Columbia Valley). Dark raspberry, red fruit and herb intermingle on the aromas. The flavors are pure and nimble. Pair it with grilled eggplant. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

89 Category 5 NV Firewall (Columbia Valley). This wine is straight down the fairway, with its aromas of cherry, baking spice, raspberry and dried herbs. The flavors are restrained in style, pure and bright, with a tart finish. Pizza anyone? —S.S.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$20

88 Chateau Ste. Michelle 2017 Indian Wells (Columbia Valley). Vanilla aromas are out front, followed by notes of wood spice, plum and cherry. Fruit and barrel intertwine on the palate, with lightly grainy tannins backing it up. It's a straightforward, enjoyable quaffer. —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 Claar 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Columbia Valley). Aromas of raspberry jam and whiffs of tire rubber are followed by plump fruit flavors backed by lightly grainy tannins. There's a lot to like, particularly as the reduction settles. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

86 Simply... 2017 Red Blend (Columbia Valley). The aromas are quite green, with notes of garden herbs, green flower and tangerine along with smoke accents. Broad, but still light, quite smoky flavors follow. *Best Buy.* —S.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

OTHER RED WINES

91 Orr 2019 Grenache (Columbia Valley). Aged in older French oak and blended with a touch of Syrah and Mourvèdre, this red has aromas of raspberry candy, dried herbs and cherry leading to plump, pure fruit flavors that capture the attention. It puts a premium on brightness and purity. *Editors' Choice.* —S.S.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$25

90 Category 5 2017 Dionysus Vineyard Petit Verdot (Columbia Valley). This wine isn't quite ready to reveal itself out of the gate. Baking spice, cherry pie and dried flower aromas lead to a palate full of bright acidity and a firm squeeze of tannin. The acidity carries it. —S.S.
abv: 14.8% **Price:** \$40

90 Grosgrain 2019 Old Milton Vineyard Carignan (Walla Walla Valley). This is the first varietally labeled example I am aware of from the appellation. Coming from the vineyard adjacent to the winery, it's a lovely representation of the winery's style, with fruit aromas and flavors that show purity, freshness, and deftness, making it a delightful, light red quaffer. —S.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$36

90 Liberty Lake 2018 Red Heaven Vineyard Tempranillo (Red Mountain). Aged in a mixture of 50% new American and Slovakian oak for 18 months, this wine offers pleasing aromas of sweet baking spice, vanilla and cherry, followed by full-bodied, creamy feeling plum and vanilla flavors. The oak plays a large part in the show but plays it well. —S.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$35

89 Liberty Lake 2018 Heart of the Hill Vineyard Carmenère (Red Mountain). Pleasing aromas of dark plum, dried stem, green pepper, cocoa and herbs lead to a soft, sensuous palate. It dips slightly in the middle, but the rest is lovely. —S.S.
abv: 14.3% **Price:** \$40

89 Liberty Lake 2018 Red Heaven Vineyard Zinfandel (Red Mountain). Pomegranate, red plum, anise and cardamom aromas lead to full-bodied, rich, almost creamy feeling flavors.

It doesn't have the tart snap that often ties this variety together, but there's plenty to enjoy. —S.S.
abv: 14.7% **Price:** \$45

89 Liberty Lake 2018 Tahija Candy Mountain Vineyard Sangiovese (Yakima Valley). Aromas of raspberry, cranberry, pomegranate and barrel spice are followed by full feeling red fruit flavors. Firm tannic structure backs it up. —S.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

CHILE

SAUVIGNON BLANC

91 Concha y Toro 2019 Gravas de Bío Bío Sauvignon Blanc (Bío Bío Valley). Citrus and green melon aromas include a touch of matchstick, while this southerly SB is bold, fresh and well-balanced, with depth to the palate. Peppery green apple, lime and melon flavors finish steady and minerally. Drink this well-cut, sleek number through 2021. Fetzer Vineyards. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$27

91 Concha y Toro 2019 Terrunyo Los Boldos Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

89 Viña Casablanca 2019 Nimbus Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Casablanca Valley). A light color and standard Casablanca aromas of citrus and sea brine introduce this crisp and zesty SB with punchy acidity. Lime, green apple and fresh green-herb flavors finish with cleansing acidity and a sense of minerality. Drink through 2022. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

88 La Pincoya 2019 Sauvignon Blanc (San Antonio). Aromas of melon and mango strike as tropical, while this is easygoing on a round and slightly soft palate. Melon and green apple flavors are common for coastal Chilean SB, with a short finish with modest acidity wrapping this up. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

88 Matetic 2019 Corralillo Sauvignon Blanc (San Antonio). Melon, passion fruit and clover aromas are fresh and inviting in front of a clean, balanced palate. Green citrus, jalapeño and bell pepper flavors finish lean but clean. This is a perfectly good but common coastal Chilean SB to drink throughout 2021. Quintessential Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

SPARKLING WINE

85 Santa Ema NV Ema Extra Brut Método Champenoise (Leyda Valley). Briny cider-like aromas include yeasty notes that make this smell powdery. Conversely, the palate on this no-dosage

BUYINGGUIDE

Chardonnay–Pinot Noir is citric and fairly sharp. On first take this foams up on the palate, then acidity takes over creating pop and freshness along with tart flavors of sea brine and citrus fruits. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$43

ROSÉS

87 MontGras 2020 Early Harvest Rosé Grenache-Carignan (Colchagua Valley). Pink grapefruit aromas are sweetened by a hint of chewing gum. Citrusy acidity floats a pulpy, fruity palate, while this Provence-inspired Grenache–Carignan rosé tastes citrusy and finishes well. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Viña Casablanca 2020 Céforo Cool Reserve Pinot Noir Rosé (Casablanca Valley). Flowery, yeasty aromas settle on peach pit and dustiness. A citric-leaning palate is bright but shows depth and conveys a sense of quality. Orange and grapefruit flavors finish juicy and tart. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

84 Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) 2020 Los Vascos Rosé (Colchagua Valley). A yeasty nose smells powdery and vaguely fruity, while this feels raw and citric, with sharp acidity. Stalky citrus flavors shows a pyrazine element. The finish is lean. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

83 Vik 2020 La Piu Belle Rosé (Cachapoal Valley). Briny citrus and stale melon aromas introduce a lazy palate with low acidity. Sleepy, somewhat bitter stone fruit flavors fade out with marginal clarity. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

PINOT NOIR

92 Viña Leyda 2018 Single Vineyard Las Brisas Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). A wide and generous nose dances between earthy ripeness and spiced plum, while this coastal Pinot offers excellent flow and balance. Flavors of black cherry, spiced plum and supportive oak work well together, while the finish is smooth and elegant. As Chilean Pinot Noirs go, this is hitting all the right chords. Drink through 2023. MundoVino–Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

90 Montes 2018 Alpha Pinot Noir (Aconcagua Costa). Briary plum and red berry aromas come with side notes of tea, wood spice, savory herbs and iron. On the palate, this is a touch thick and resinous, but healthy acidity cuts through the wine's natural ripeness. Spiced plum flavors are a touch oak, while this is dry and firmly tannic on

a finish where complex notes of salt, tomato and black tea surface. Kobrand. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

88 Valdivieso 2018 Single Vineyard Piedra Hermosa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Cauquenes Valley). Jumpy red fruit aromas suggest hot rocks and iron. A fresh, lean palate is agile, while raspberry, currant and herbal green flavors reflect the wine's cool coastal origins. Zesty acidity and red fruit leftovers drive a lean finish. Global Select Wines. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$23

88 Viña Casablanca 2020 Céforo Cool Reserve Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). Cherry and candied berry aromas form the opening, while this everyday Pinot from a hot year displays rubbery tannins on an otherwise sound palate. Cassis and plum flavors finish with commendable freshness, with hints of natural spice as well as oak spice. Carolina Wine Brands USA. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$12

87 Casas del Toqui 2020 Barrel Series Reserva Pinot Noir (Cachapoal Valley). A blocky nose smells tomatoey, while this Central Valley Pinot Noir from a hot year feels big and full, without much finesse. Dark berry flavors are ripe and fruity but don't really taste like Pinot Noir, while a full, tannic finish confirms that this is more like a Bordeaux variety than textbook PN. Via Pacifica Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 Loma Larga 2020 Lomas del Valle Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). An opaque dark color and aromas of latex, plastic and earthy berry fruits announce a full-bodied, fully ripe Pinot Noir that's chunky and stocky on the palate. Black plum and blackberry flavors finish with chewy tannins, making this hard to peg as a cool climate wine. W. Direct. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

86 Viña Leyda 2020 Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). Tutti-frutti berry aromas are medicinal like cherry cough drops and red licorice sticks. An inexact palate lacks structure, while this tastes of medicinal plum and raspberry prior to a lightweight finish. MundoVino–Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

85 Lafken 2018 Single Vineyard Series Pinot Noir (Casablanca Valley). A quiet nose with mild red plum and currant aromas leads to a palate that lacks concentration and purpose. Cherry and plum flavors are slightly oxidized, thus a soft finish with strawberry and raspberry flavors is limited. Copa Fina Imports CA. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

84 Cigar Box 2020 Old Vine Hand Harvested Pinot Noir (Leyda Valley). A light and rusty color along with stripped plum and raw oak aromas open this unfocused Pinot Noir. Creamy oak flavors sit atop candied berry fruit, while this shows a mild

oxidative note on a plump finish. Santa Rita USA Corporation. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

89 Bodega Volcanes de Chile 2019 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Rapel Valley). Minty red berry and plum aromas are lightly herbal, which is typical of Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon. A racy palate with popping acidity is offset by oak, while spicy blackberry and plum flavors are peppery and honest prior to a solid finish with driving acidity. Drink through 2023. Vias Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Viñedos Marchigüe 2019 Santa Marta Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Aromas of blackberry, eucalyptus and green tobacco feed into a plump palate with ample oak character. Minty berry flavors are herbal, slightly green and gritty, while this features grabby tannins that make the finish a bit sticky. Evaki Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

87 Domaines Barons de Rothschild (Lafite) 2019 Los Vascos Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Raspberry, plum and cassis aromas are ripe but not overdone, while this Cabernet feels basic and fluffy on the palate. Medicinal cherry and plum flavors are backed by a finish with sticky tannins and hints of oxidation. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Viñedos Marchigüe 2019 Santa Marta Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Spicy, lightly green aromas of berry fruits and plum lead to a crisp and juicy palate with high acidity and raw tannins. Currant, tomato and red plum flavors are snappy, while this maintains some sharpness on a finish with pop and sizzle. Evaki Imports Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

85 MontGras 2019 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Colchagua Valley). Lactic oak fosters a nose dominated by vanilla and milk chocolate aromas, while this feels creamy and grabby. Like the nose, this Cab tastes of vanilla and drugstore chocolate through the finish. Overall, this seems "worked" more than natural. Guarachi Wine Partners. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

CARMENÈRE

93 Santa Carolina 2018 Herencia Carmenère (Peumo). Saucy blackberry and tomato aromas include a touch of green herbs and spice. The palate is full and deep, with tartaric acidity creating controlled bite. Spiced black plum and blackberry flavors finish with notes of herbs and pepper offset by chocolate, making this an ideal big-

boned Carmenère to drink through 2026. Carolina Wine Brands USA. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

91 Errazuriz 2018 Max Reserva Carmenère (Aconcagua Valley). The spicy blackberry aroma has an herbal edge and is lifted by a hint of lemony oak, while this is racy and not the least bit lazy or heavy. Tomatoey plum, berry, peppery spice, chocolate and licorice flavors span a wide spectrum, while this is comported and balanced through the finish. If you like honest Carmenère, this is for you. Drink through 2024. Vintus LLC. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

90 Chono 2018 Single Vineyard Carmenère (Colchagua Valley). Oaky blackberry aromas include notes of holiday spice cake and damp earth. On the palate, this Colchagua Valley Carmenère leans forward due to lively acidity. Blackberry and dark plum flavors include herbal green notes that make this taste saucy prior to a steady and lively finish. Drink now through 2025. Regal Wine Imports Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$15

90 TerraNoble 2018 Gran Reserva Carmenère (Maule Valley). Blackberry, baking spice and meaty aromas are devoid of the green vegetal notes that often are part of the Carmenère package. A lush palate offers a sense of freshness, while this tastes of chocolaty oak, blackberry and cassis in front of a creamy finish, where chunky stickiness is a factor. Drink now—2025. MundoVino—Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$18

88 Aresti 2018 Trisquel Gran Reserva Carmenère (Curicó Valley). Earthy berry aromas are minty and rubbery like a rubber band. A medium-bodied palate is a touch choppy, while spicy plum and berry flavors are saucy in a way that's normal for the variety. A short finish with touches of tomato and fennel closes this out. Vinamericas Selections. —M.S.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

RED BLENDS

94 Santa Carolina 2017 VSC (Cachapoal Valley). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 15% Price: \$35

93 Bodega Volcanes de Chile 2017 Ígneo (Central Valley). A tightly built nose deals pointy aromas of tobacco, green herbs, eucalyptus and black fruits, all common scents for Chile's best red wines. What makes this different than most is that it's a blend of Petite Sirah and Petit Verdot, a marriage rarely seen. Racy acidity and gripping tannins give this all the structure it needs, while spicy flavors of herb, blackberry and chocolaty oak turn ever so slightly more green on a powerful finish. Drink through 2026. Vias Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$60

93 Casas del Toqui 2018 Court Rollan Filius Blend de Blends (Cachapoal Valley). Ripe black plum and berry aromas are full and heady, while this blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon along with Carmenère and Syrah is brightened by healthy acidity. Spicy yet fully ripe berry and currant flavors are backed by earthy tomato and tobacco notes on a smooth finish. Drink through 2023. Via Pacifica Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

93 Errazuriz 2017 Don Maximiano Founder's Reserve (Aconcagua Valley). Patented Chilean aromas of herbas, blackberry and dark plum are spicy and feature a fair amount of oak and related wood smoke. On the palate, this Cabernet Sauvignon-driven blend is juicy and high in energy. Plum, currant and wild berry flavors maintain a sense of freshness on the finish. Overall, this is showy and complex. Best from 2022 to 2030. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$112

93 Vik 2017 Milla Cala Millahue (Cachapoal Valley). For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% Price: \$45

92 Baron Philippe de Rothschild 2018 Baronesa P. (Maipo Valley). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14% Price: \$50

92 Siegel 2017 Unique Selection Los Lingues (Colchagua Valley). A warm nose features a mixture of cheesy oak, brambly spice, foresty hints and bold black fruit scents. The palate on this blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenère and Syrah is flush, with gravelly tannins and some heat. Balsamic dark-berry flavors show hints of eucalyptus and juniper, while a flavor-packed finish rumbles along on the heels of grating tannins. Drink through 2026. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.S.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$44

91 AndesPlateau 2018 700 High Altitude (Chile). Plum, tomato and peppery spice aromas amount to a medium-weight nose. On the palate, this Cabernet Sauvignon blend offers tomatoey punch, while saucy berry, plum and tomato flavors are take on an herbal edge before petering out on a composed but slightly soft finish. Drink now. Via Pacifica Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.6% Price: \$60

91 Casas del Toqui 2018 Court Rollan Genus Alto Totihue Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Cachapoal Valley). Herbal and berry aromas are saucy and a touch green, with hints of baking spice. This Cabernet Sauvignon blend includes 12% Syrah and feels full, saturated and dense. Plum, currant, tomato and herbal flavors are common for Chile, while this shows some oak grain and mild oxidation on a finish that tastes tomatoey, earthy and herbal. Drink through 2022. Via Pacifica Imports. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$40

91 TerraNoble 2018 Lahuen (Central Valley). Spicy berry aromas are lightly green and herbal, which is in accordance with Chilean norms. A dense palate is on the thick and creamy side, with chewy tannins. Herb, blackberry, plum and cassis flavors are heavy and jammy on the finish. Drink now. MundoVino—Winebow. —M.S.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

83 Oveja Negra 2019 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon-Syrah (Colchagua Valley). Minty green aromas include juniper notes and forced unnatural oak. A bouncy palate rides on racy acidity, while rough tannins make for a coarse mouthfeel. Graphite, mint, oak grain and brambly berry and plum flavors finish with heat and a blast of menthol. Total Beverage Solution. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

URUGUAY

ALBARIÑO

89 Bodega Garzón 2019 Petit Clos Block #27 Albariño (Uruguay). A gold color and weighty aromas of apple cider, melon and yeasty bread announce a plump palate that's full and mature. Peach pit bitterness along with flavors of cidery apple and citrus fruits dominate, while a round and full finish holds on to some of the bitterness shown on the palate. Drink now. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

89 Bodega Garzón 2019 Single Vineyard Albariño (Uruguay). A yellow color along with aromas of dried cheese, citrus fruits and wet slate are round but bone-dry, while this feels medium to full in body. A mature mix of lemony citrus and white stone fruit flavors is backed by skins-based bitterness and hints of the nearby sea. Drink now. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

88 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Albariño (Uruguay). Apple, green melon and tropical fruit aromas are a touch yeasty and pleasant overall, while this Albariño is tight as a fist, with ruling citric acidity. Salty orange and tangerine flavors reflect Garzón's Atlantic terroir, while this breaks down slowly on the finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

SAUVIGNON BLANC

87 Pueblo del Sol 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Canelones). A mostly clean nose with tropical fruit and apple aromas leads to a favorable palate that stands up straight and comes across fresh. Citrus, green melon and green-herb flavors draw no complaints. Drink now. World Brands. *Best Buy.* —M.S.
abv: 12% Price: \$7

86 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Sauvignon Blanc (Uruguay). Dusty, yeasty notes of glazed doughnut sweeten and soften sharp lemon and lime aromas, while this feels pulpy and grabby. Pyrazine-driven flavors of lime, orange and bell pepper are mildly green and spicy through the finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

ROSÉ

86 Bodega Garzón 2020 Reserva Pinot Noir Rosé (Uruguay). Bready yeast and sweet citrus blossom aromas are imprecise, while this rosé of Pinot Noir feels punchy and citric but also a bit heavy. Orange and tangerine flavors diminish quickly, leaving mild pithy bitterness on the finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

RED WINES

92 Bodega Garzón 2018 Petit Clos Block #212 Tannat (Uruguay). For full review see page 12.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Bodega Garzón 2019 Reserva Tannat (Uruguay). For full review see page 16.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

90 Bodega Garzón 2019 Single Vineyard Petit Verdot (Uruguay). For full review see page 16.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Bodega Garzón 2019 Single Vineyard Tannat (Uruguay). For full review see page 17.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Bodega Garzón 2019 Reserva Cabernet Franc (Uruguay). Earthy plum and berry aromas include a note of animal fur. This Cab Franc is easy on the palate, with an honest structure and tannic grip. Berry and plum flavors are blue-green in the middle, while this finishes with peppery spice notes, minty oak and lasting tannins. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

84 Bodega Garzón 2019 Reserva Marselan (Uruguay). Grapy blackberry aromas come with a whiff of wet dog fur, while this varietal Marselan feels jagged and grabby at first, then more soft and fleshy. Candied black fruit flavors are saucy and taste mildly green. On the finish, this is highly herbal, landing this wine on the strange side. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —M.S.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

81 Familia Traversa 2018 Noble Alianza Reserva Marselán-Tannat-Merlot (Uruguay). Stalky, gritty aromas are murky, briary and suggestive of mealy green herbs and juniper. Herbal, murky, green flavors amount to a stewy whole, while this

odd blend of Marselan, Tannat and Merlot finishes baked, green and earthy. American Estates Wines, Inc. —M.S.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

BOLIVIA

WHITE WINES

85 Uvairenda 2020 1750 Pedro Ximénez (Bolivia). Lime and lychee aromas come with a shot of ammonia, while this Pedro Ximénez from high-altitude vineyards in Bolivia feels lean and acidic. Flavors that mostly match the nose finish juicy and linear, with a hint of salt and oxidation. Drink now. Chufly Imports. —M.S.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

84 Bodega Magnús 2019 Magnús Moscatel de Alejandría (Bolivia). Oily aromas of lychee are blasting with terpenes and scream Muscat. On the palate, this Bolivian wine is a bit sticky and chunky, with low acidity causing a sense of flatness. Lychee and green banana flavors persist on a dull finish. Drink now. Chufly Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

RED WINES

85 Bodegas y Viñedos de La Concepción 2018 La Concepción (Bolivia). Prickly red berry aromas are herbaceous and briary. On the palate, this feels bright and alert, with inward-pulling tannins. A slight chemical note infiltrates herbal and berry flavors, while this pops with juicy acidity on a drawing finish. This Bolivian blend includes Merlot, Cab Sauvignon and Syrah. Chufly Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

82 Aranjuez 2018 High Elevation Wine 2000 Meters Above Sea Level Tannat (Bolivia). Green aromas of juniper berry and eucalyptus are all about pyrazines, while this Tannat feels plump and round. Saucy berry flavors are loaded to the hilt with green-tasting pyrazines; this remains green on the finish. Chufly Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.6% **Price:** \$21

81 Aranjuez 2018 Duo Tannat-Merlot (Bolivia). Jumbled aromas of pyrazines and creamy oak lead to a narrow, underdeveloped palate. Saucy plum and green notes are the key flavors on this Bolivian Tannat-Merlot blend that offers next to nothing on the finish. Chufly Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$15

81 Uvairenda 2017 1750 Cabernet Sauvignon (Bolivia). A rusty color and green, underripe aromas of herbs, peppercorn and road tar set up a raw palate with little shape, concentration or elegance. Tomato and plum flavors lean herbal and saucy, and overall this Bolivian Cabernet Sauvignon is just barely cutting it. Chufly Imports. —M.S.
abv: 13.7% **Price:** \$25

NEW ZEALAND

SAUVIGNON BLANC

93 Te Mata 2019 Cape Crest Sauvignon Blanc (Hawkes Bay). This vintage of Cape Crest, Te Mata's renowned barrel-fermented SB (with a little Sémillon and Sauvignon Gris) is singing. Typical to Hawke's Bay, this is about fleshy fruit without a trace of the pungent, green veg characters found elsewhere in NZ. The bright fruit aromas are harmonized by floral, honeyed, buttery toast. The palate comes with almost bracing acidity compared with the gentleness of the nose, but it's balanced by silky textural components and depth of flavor. This SB demonstrates Te Mata's classic winemaking style along with the deep well of Hawke's Bay flavors. Drink now–2026. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Te Awanga 2018 Mister Sauvignon Blanc (Hawkes Bay). This vibrant, perfumed Sauvignon opens with attractive notes of lemon and grapefruit zest, melon and green herbs, underscored by beeswax and honey. The palate is tight, bright and fleshy fruited, with a softly slippery texture and what feels like a touch of residual sugar. Now with a few years in the bottle, it's drinking just right. LeVecke. —C.P.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$18

91 Te Mata 2020 Estate Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc (Hawkes Bay). This Hawke's Bay wine from historic Te Mata winery is a few bucks more than your average New Zealand SB. It's worth every penny. With depth and balance, it opens with notes of lime zest, fresh peach, beeswax, bell pepper and heaps of dried green herbs. Roll this around on your tongue for a while and savor all those fruity, herbal flavors rumbling around amid a chalky mouthfeel and crisp acidity. It's very young still but a few more months in the bottle should settle it down nicely. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Tohu 2018 Single Vineyard Whenua Awa Sauvignon Blanc (Awatere Valley). This single-vineyard SB from Marlborough's Awatere Valley proves that a few years in the bottle can do wonders in rounding out the ultrazippy style for which the region is famed. The nose is a balanced and delicate combo of lime, florals, green herbs and a little bell pepper with a touch of honey hiding in the wings. Lifted, crisp acidity is present but doesn't dominate the palate. There's a long line of bright, limey fruit and a slightly chalky texture. Drink now. Total Beverage Solution. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

89 ToiToi 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a strong vintage of this wine, and while it's young and a little pungent at the moment, it still entices with layers of flavor: bright lemony fruit, pineapple rind, green herbs, tomato leaf and beeswax. The palate follows the same trajectory

of flavor ensconced in a waxy texture and lifted by citrusy acidity. USA Wine West. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

88 Dashwood 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is well-priced, classic Marlborough Sauvignon that's straightforward but balanced. It rushes from the glass with vibrant pineapple, guava, grass and nettle characters. There's a nice crunch of acidity on the palate with a familiar pungency amid the slick fruit and veg notes. Drink now. Foley Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

88 Greyrock 2018 Te Mana Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This vintage of Greyrock's partly wild fermented and barrel aged Sauvignon doesn't work as well as the last did. The rich, candied nose is tinged in grassy, green oak and flinty reduction, with more pleasant beeswax, honey and kumquat characters following behind. The palate is equally luscious, but acidity is lifted and there's some lovely tingly, fleshy fruit at the finish that saves the day. Saranty Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

88 Island Talk 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a classic Marlborough Sauvignon, in which heady aromas of lime, passion fruit and honeysuckle mingle with green vegetal characters like bell pepper and snow pea. It's crisp yet creamy in the mouth with a similar flavor profile to the nose. No surprises here. California Wine Cellars Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$14

88 Kono 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is an easy-sipping crowd-pleaser. There's a flowery hand soap element to the nose but there's also a good deal of lime popsicle, passion fruit and guava, with a nettle and grass undercurrent. There's some textural interest to the palate, which balances a slight bit of residual sugar with crisp acidity and oodles of fruit. Total Beverage Solution. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

88 Rapaura Springs 2020 Classic Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). In typical Marlborough fashion, this is a high octane SB that bursts from the glass with tropical fruit aromas like pineapple and passion fruit with a grassy underbelly. It's equally bombastic on the palate where a slippery texture and a touch of residual sugar are lifted by vibrant fruit. There's nice length to the finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

88 Seastone 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a crisp, straightforward Marlborough Sauvignon that opens with fresh citrus notes like lime, grapefruit and waxy lemon. There's a grassy, dried herbal streak, too. In the mouth it feels light yet chalky in texture with a lemony bite and herbal nuances running

through to the finish. Saranty Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$10

87 Fernway 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This pale Sauvignon opens with notes of citrus and stone fruit and vague green vegetal nuances that are appealing if a touch synthetic and soapy. The palate is crisp and fresh with a juiciness to the fruit that makes it easy to take another sip. Advantage International. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

87 Lobster Reef 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is a straightforward, summer sipper that offers rather soapy notes of peach, pineapple and guava fruit, underscored by a tomato leaf character. In the mouth it's ultrafresh with borderline searing acidity and just enough fruit to keep it in check, and a mouthwatering finish. Davies Family Selections. —C.P.
abv: 12.8% Price: \$13

87 Paritua 2018 Grace Sauvignon Blanc (Hawkes Bay). This is a ripe, somewhat odd Sauvignon from Hawke's Bay in the North Island. The nose is dominated by notes of yeasty apple, bruised lemon-lime, orchard blossoms and toasted brioche and honey characters. The mouthfeel is corpulent and tangy with a bite of acidity and a drying, skiny bite at the finish. Whanau Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12% Price: \$NA

86 Kia Ora 2020 Signature Series Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). This is quite young at the moment and under a sweaty, reductive blanket. Beneath it lurks subtle, vague citrus, floral and green veg notes. The palate is equally indeterminate but does offer some pleasing juicy fresh fruit. There's what feels like a lot of winemaking here for not a lot of wine. Tri-Vin Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

85 Kirkland Signature 2020 Ti Point Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough). For full review see page 20. *Best Buy.*
abv: 12.5% Price: \$7

CHARDONNAY

92 Te Mata 2018 Elston Chardonnay (Hawkes Bay). This is a riper, more approachable vintage than the 2017 Elston. It opens with appealing notes of melon, apricot marmalade and barrel-driven butterscotch aromas. Marmalade is the dominant flavor on the full-figured palate as well, providing a pithy bite of refreshment amid a broad, slippery texture. Drink now–2026. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$35

MALBEC

92 Decibel 2019 Giunta Nouveau Malbec (New Zealand). Frankly, it'd be nice to see more non-Pinot New Zealand reds made like this: fresh, light-to-medium bodied, early drinking vin de table wines sans all the oak and polish. This highly approachable Malbec weaves fresh cherries, cranberries and raspberries together with notes of fresh mint, tree sap and tobacco leaf. The palate is as fresh as the nose suggests, with lithe, granular tannins and crunchy fruit. Drink slightly chilled with a weeknight roast or platter of cured meats. Whanau Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$NA

92 Decibel 2016 Testify Malbec (Hawkes Bay). A straight Malbec in New Zealand is a fairly rare sighting, and even rarer is one with some bottle age. This wine is in a good place. The oak-driven mocha-and-toasted spice is a little prominent, but the fresh red and black berry fruit, mint and tobacco leaf characters hold their own. In the mouth, tannins are chalky and chunky, but there's a lovely crunch of acidity, and once again the tangy fruit is not lost. There's some flash and muscle here, but there's also plenty of cool climate charm. Drink now with protein and decanter at hand or until 2030. Whanau Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$56

91 Decibel 2017 Gimblett Gravels Malbec (Hawkes Bay). This is a medium- to full-bodied Malbec that embodies the power and freshness of Gimblett Gravels in Hawkes Bay. Cranberry and cherry tart aromas mingle with vanillin oak and bundles of earthy spices like cumin, bay, cloves and mint. It's less harmonious on the palate, with elevated acidity amid chalky, powerful-yet-fine tannins and crunchy red and black berry flavors throughout. Drink now with a roast lamb or grilled mushrooms, or cellar until 2027. Whanau Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

89 Decibel 2018 Gimblett Gravels Malbec (Hawkes Bay). This is in an odd place at the moment, but if the 2017 is anything to by, it will hopefully find its way with another year in the bottle. There's a burnt rubber note on the nose, but there's also plenty of more appealing aromas like fresh mint, red and black berries, earthy spices and a dusty oak character. The palate is equally austere. Tannins are big and chewy, lacking a generosity of fruit to temper them. Give this at least a year to unravel. Drink 2022–2028. Whanau Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% Price: \$28

SYRAH

95 Smith and Sheth 2018 Cru Heretaunga Syrah (Hawke's Bay). Like its sister wine, Omahu, this is a precise, tightly knit wine for the cellar that beautifully captures both the power and the elegance of Hawke's Bay Syrah. Like a hug in a glass, it offers comforting aromas of melted chocolate,

BUYINGGUIDE

baking spice, ground pepper, fresh brambly berries and a hint of something more mineral. The palate is broad but focused, and more approachable young than Omaha. Tannins are beautifully textured, talc-like and spicy, cradling the pristine fruit. Drink now–2040. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$50

95 Smith and Sheth 2018 Cru Omaha Syrah (Hawke's Bay). The cellar is the only place for this austere and tightly structured Syrah for the time being, but with a little patience, it should reward in spades. Aromas of pristine red berry fruit, savory herbs and spices, graphite and prominent oak are wound tightly in dusty, chiseled tannins. Depth, balance, length and poise—it's all here. An expertly structured wine hinting at decades of deliciousness to come. Drink 2023–2040. Pyramid Valley Vineyards LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

95 Te Mata 2019 Estate Vineyards Syrah (Hawkes Bay). Te Mata's estate Syrah is once again a lucid, approachable beauty. This vintage is more layered than the previous one, unraveling flavors and textures. First bright cherry and plums, then graphite, savory herbs and floral aromas like herbs de Provence. In fact, there's a Southern French kitchen feel about this in general. The palate is linear and taut, with leathery tannins, crisp acidity and tart fruit. There's a savory edge to the finish. A serious yet highly drinkable Syrah, especially when paired with roast lamb. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

95 Trinity Hill 2018 Homage Syrah (Hawke's Bay). The latest vintage of Homage is a strong one. Straight out of the gate it offers heady aromas of cherries, mint, baking and savory spices, black olives and violets. The oak is fairly prominent, too. In the mouth it's taut and linear, with fine, savory tannins and lovely lifted fruit and spice throughout. Should have a long and beautiful life ahead of it. Drink now–2040. Wine Spoken Here. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$120

94 Vidal 2018 Legacy Gimblett Gravels Syrah (Hawkes Bay). Give this plenty of time in a decanter. Once open, this is an expressive Syrah (with 3% Viognier) that's savory and meaty. It offers a nose full of cherries, plums, dried herbs and a charred beef character reminiscent of Northern Rhône. There's some dense, earthy oak notes here, too. The palate follows a similar flavor path. It's silky with a crunch to the acidity and a fine tannin structure. A finessed wine set for aging until 2028 or so. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$53

93 Te Awanga 2017 Mister Syrah (Hawkes Bay). The color of rose petals, this is a refreshingly lightweight, accessible Syrah that clocks in at just 11.5% alcohol. Aromas are bouncy and fresh: rhubarb and cranberry, savory herbal and floral

notes and a slight roasted, charred quality. The palate is medium in weight, with a savory streak amid crunchy, silky fruit and soft but structured tannins. There's a medicinal bite to the finish. An autumnal wine for drinking now. LeVecke. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$22

91 Stonecroft 2018 Reserve Gimblett Gravels Syrah (Hawke's Bay). This is a big, broody and fairly classic Hawke's Bay Syrah set for the long haul. There's a deep well of comforting aromas: dense black fruits, savory herbs, winter warming spices and a slightly stony, sanguine, mineral nuance amid the oak influence. The door to the palate is more tightly shut. Spicy, granular tannins are powerful and a little astringent. Acidity is lifted. It needs time to knit together with the fruit. However, the cool(ish) climate elegance peeks through the cracks, hinting at a promising future. Drink now with protein until 2030. NZ Wine Home. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Te Mata 2018 Bullnose Syrah (Hawkes Bay). Te Mata's premium Shiraz is a powerful and chiseled wine in need of more time in the bottle. Currently it shows ripe cherry fruit, peppery spice and quite a bit of high gloss oak influence. The palate is cinched in muscular tannins and lifted by quite a bit of acidity. At the moment the two are not in harmony, but it likely needs several more years before it all knits together. Drink 2023–2030. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Elephant Hill 2018 Stone Syrah (Hawke's Bay). This is a ripe, dense Syrah with notes of plush berry fruit, chocolate oak, mint and earthy spice. It lacks much of the herbal, mineral nuances of Hawke's Bay Syrah. The palate is full-figured, plush and wrapped in drying, slightly chewy tannins. A rich wine that needs time in the bottle. Drink 2022–2030. NZ Wine Home. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Te Awanga 2016 Quarter Acre Syrah (Hawkes Bay). Like Te Awanga's Mister Syrah, this is an open and aromatic bottling that veers away from the classic style. It doesn't, however, show nearly the charm or harmony of its sister wine. Cranberry and cherry notes lead on the nose, tailed by black olive, chocolate and earthy, savory herbs and spices. Acidity is elevated and angular. Tannins get a bit lost in their wake, but they're present, chalky textured and drying, amid soft fruit and spice. LeVecke. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

RED BLENDS

96 Te Mata 2018 Coleraine (Hawkes Bay). Te Mata's top wine comes mostly from the Havelock Hills, the first legally protected vineyards in New Zealand. This vintage is a strong one, showcasing the power and ageability of a world

class red with the precision and linearity of this traditional estate. Notes of black currant, plum, black olive, baking spice, dried green herbs and vanillin and chocolate oak are present throughout. Chalky tannins are taut and powerful but well-integrated, hinting at a long life ahead. Drink 2022–2040. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Te Mata 2018 Awatea (Hawkes Bay). This is an excellent bottling of Awatea, the younger brother of Te Mata's top red, Coleraine. From a long, warm growing season, this feels like a complete wine. Winter warming notes of plump plums, dark cherries and chocolate are complemented by a bounty of dried herbs, spices and graphite. The palate is similarly dense and structured but with elegance and balance. Tannins are powdery and fine, winding through dark, tangy fruit and herbs. Like many of Te Mata's wines, it has an old school Bordeaux vibe that will appeal more to some than to others. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

95 Villa Maria 2018 Ngakirikiri (Hawkes Bay). Villa Maria's top red, a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominant Bordeaux blend, is named for the Maori word for gravel, referring to its famed Gimblett Gravels soils. This is a wine made for the long haul although even now, with ample time open in bottle or decanter, reveals finesse and character. The fruit is dark and fleshy with a spine of leafy green herbs, violet, tomato stem and baking spice. The palate is satiny yet toned and elegant, with linear, taut tannins, and currently quite a lot of oak influence. A worthy addition to any red-lover's cellar. Drink 2025–2045. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$120

91 Mission Estate 2018 Jewelstone Antoine Gimblett Gravels (Hawke's Bay). This teeth-staining Bordeaux blend is currently in its infancy. With time in a decanter it reveals aromas of plush, brambly berries, baking spice, dried herbs, tomato leaf and a cherry cola oak note. The palate is muscular but not without finesse. Amid the big, granular tannins is a lovely line of fresh fruit. Drink 2025–2040. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$33

89 Elephant Hill 2018 Hieronymous (Hawke's Bay). This is a massive, mouthcoating, teeth-staining wine that's set up for the long haul. Ripe blackberry fruit dominates the palate, backed by softer notes of florals, spice and quite a bit of vanillin oak. The palate is full throttle with plush, silky fruit and drying, vise-like tannins that feel more oak-derived than fruit. NZ Wine Home. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

OTHER RED WINES

93 Te Mata 2020 Estate Vineyards Gamay Noir (Hawkes Bay). Te Mata's bright, cherry-

hued Gamay makes for a refreshing change from its more polished, structured, traditionally made reds. Aromas of fresh red currants and blueberries are followed by savory spice and autumnal woody notes like damp leaves, sap and wet stones. There's lovely tension and freshness on the palate, which is silky but cinched by sappy tannins. There's a medicinal bitters bite at the finish. Drink now. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

88 Te Mata 2018 Estate Vineyards Pinot Noir (Hawkes Bay). This is an austere Pinot that initially shows a funky, burned rubber quality on the nose. But with vigorous swirling in the glass or time in a decanter this blows off, revealing a sappy, spicy wine with a good lick of toasty oak influence. There are notes of fresh red currant and cranberry, warm tar, graphite, sap and a medicinal herbal nuance. Tannins in the mouth are sappy and somewhat astringent and oak-driven, dominating a wine that needs at least another few years before optimal drinking time. Drink 2023–2028. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$32

AUSTRALIA

CHARDONNAY

95 Penfolds 2018 Yattarna Bin 144 Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia). This is an excellent bottling of Penfolds's most premium Chard. It offers drinkability now with the promise of a long life ahead. Always a polished, rich style, this vintage deftly balances the barrel and lees characters of oyster shell and nougat with notes of fresh lemon and peach. The palate is linear and focused with a lovely lift of saline acidity, chalky texture and a long salt-and-lemon finish. Drink now–2031, at least. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$150

94 Tolpuddle 2019 Chardonnay (Tasmania). Tolpuddle has quickly risen in the ranks to become one of Australia's most renowned single vineyards. The Chard is a rich, polished style that won't be for everyone, but is still all class. Reductive notes of oyster shell and gun flint perch neatly beside baked apple, nougat and high-end oak on the nose. The palate carries out the nose's promises of richness albeit with a good deal of refreshment. (This is cool climate territory after all.). Sleek, slippery and made for the long haul (drink until 2036, at least), this is a nod to Burgundy with Tassie roots. Negotiants USA–Winebow. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$64

93 See Saw 2019 Chardonnay (Orange). This is an affordable, energetic modern Aussie Chardy from the cool climes of the Orange region of New South Wales. There's lovely tension on the nose. It's high toned but with subtle fruit, a copper penny tang and an underbelly of ground ginger, freshly squeezed lemon and peach juice, vanilla bean and a dried herbal note. The tension carries through

to the palate. It's lean but not mean, focused less on oak or lees character and more on tingly acidity and juicy fruit. One to please both the Chard and the Pinot Grigio lovers in your life. Southern Starz, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.7% **Price:** \$20

92 Devil's Corner 2020 Chardonnay (Tasmania). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12% **Price:** \$19

92 Fighting Gully Road 2017 Smith's Vineyard Chardonnay (Beechworth). This is a classy example of just how far Australian Chardonnay has come over the past decade or so. From a small-but-mighty cool climate region in Victoria, it's a sturdy, mouthfilling wine with a lick of toasty oak, but it never goes overboard, neatly supporting the bright lemon, nougat and seashell characters and setting the stage for a silky-textured, cellarworthy and highly food-friendly wine. Drink now–2028. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$63

92 Henschke 2018 Croft Chardonnay (Adelaide Hills). Croft neatly displays the bright, fleshy fruit of the Adelaide Hills in this polished and ageworthy-yet-drinkable Chard. There's an abundance of melon, peach and red apple aromas on the nose, and some vanilla bean, too. The palate is equally fruity and full figured, the textural roundness buoyed by bright acidity. A well-balanced wine for drinking now or until around 2029. Negotiants USA–Winebow. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Château Tanunda 2018 Grand Barossa Chardonnay (Barossa). This historic estate's Chardonnay is a consistently sturdy, straightforward wine without much fanfare. There's a fair amount of toffee and vanilla from the oak straight off the bat, but it's followed quickly by pineapple, citrus and stone fruit. The palate is dry, but the abundance of ripe fruit and toffee-like oak gives an impression of sweetness. Vintage Point. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Franklin Tate 2019 Chardonnay (Margaret River). This is a straightforward Chardonnay that doesn't offend but which shows little of Margaret River's prowess with this variety. The nose is reductive at first, with flinty, seashell aromas but also plenty of citrus and stone fruit. Things get more disjointed on the palate, where the angular acidity combined with the lemony fruit makes it feel astringent, with an odd, heavy ripeness too that sits in the opposite corner. Drink now. Indigo Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

86 Levantine Hill 2017 Chardonnay (Yarra Valley). Housed in a heavy bottle and showing quite a lot of high-end oak, this Yarra Valley Chard never quite harmonizes. The candied fruit wrestles with the vanillin barrel aromas and some sweaty reductive notes. In the mouth, the fruit, oak and acidity never quite jell, leaving a

woody aftertaste amid a creamy texture. MHW, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.9% **Price:** \$57

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Powell & Son 2018 Roussanne-Marsanne (Barossa Valley). None of father David and son Callum Powell's wines could be accused of being wallflowers. But in the case of these two classic white Rhône varieties, turning the volume up can yield tasty results. This gold-and-green hued wine smells like a jar of just-opened wildflower honey, backed by baked apple and baking spice. The mouthfeel is broad and viscous; an opulent wine but one that strikes a balance of freshness and richness, with well-integrated oak and a saline, fruit pit finish. Powell & Son. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Stargazer 2019 Coal River Valley Single Vineyard Riesling (Tasmania). Tasmanian Riesling is underrated and under made. Those who do focus on it have a passion for the variety. Samantha Connew's version, from the Coal River Valley, is mouthwatering, with its refreshment belying its volume and layers. It weaves flavors of fresh lime, green apple, lavender, honey and beeswax into a chalky texture, crunchy acidity and just a touch of residual sugar. Ultra-food-friendly, this would be at home beside young, creamy cheeses or popped in the cellar for a few years to gain more textural weight and honeyed complexity. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$46

93 Stargazer 2019 Tupelo (Tasmania). Tasmania is Australia's coolest climate winegrowing region, and this small-batch label from winemaker Samantha Connew deftly expresses the region's capacity for elegant and refreshing wines. Tupelo is made of 57% Pinot Gris, 32% Riesling and 11% Gewürztraminer. The blend is a lithe expression of each variety. Delicate notes of rose water, orange and honey-flecked pear are accompanied by a light spritz when first opened, offering a lovely texture and crystalline acidity. This is a thirst-quenching drop that would pair perfectly with a wide range of Southeast Asian cuisine. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Yangarra 2018 Roux Beauté Roussanne (McLaren Vale). Winemaker Pete Fraser's passion for Rhône varieties shines bright on this wild-fermented Roussanne, which is aged in ceramic eggs with half of the fruit on skins for several months. The nose is an expressive mix of orchard blossoms and citrus peel with a hint of honey, beeswax and a cool stone character often seen in "egg" wines. The palate also has a beeswax feel about it both in flavor and texture. Pale gold, it's round and rich but buoyed by crunchy acidity. A characterful detour for Chardonnay lovers. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Yalumba 2018 The Virgilius Viognier (Eden Valley). Yalumba's—and Australia's—best known Viognier is a medium-bodied, food-friendly number, if currently a bit jangly. The nose is bright and appealing with notes of lime blossom, ground ginger, and apple and peach still on the tree. The palate carries these flavors through to the finish, but the acidity and oak never quite knit together, nor is the texture interesting enough to get past it. Nevertheless, Viognier fans should enjoy the honeyed complexity this will gain with time. Drink 2022–2028. *Negociants USA–Winebow.* —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

SPARKLING WINES

94 Clover Hill 2014 Vintage Brut (Tasmania). Clover Hill's range of bubbly demonstrates Tasmania's ability to make traditional method sparklers that give Champagne a run for its money. The Vintage 2014 Brut is honeycomb hued with a heady, floral perfume reminiscent of jasmine and backed by subtler butterscotch and baked apple notes. The palate is opulent in flavor and mousse but is restrained, dry and refreshing, with the floral and apple notes lingering long on the finish. Little Peacock Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

93 Clover Hill 2015 Cuvée Exceptionnelle Rosé (Tasmania). This is a nuanced bubbly that would make a versatile food wine, yet also goes down the hatch quite easily on its own. It smells like a raspberry-and-red currant tart, or crème brûlée with berry sorbet. In the mouth it's dry, fresh and delicate with vibrant spritz, silky fruit and a slight cocktail bitters bite to the finish. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Clover Hill 2013 Cuvée Exceptionnelle Blanc de Blancs (Tasmania). This golden-hued blanc de blancs offers a classic Champagne-like nose of apple muffin and toffee with a fine mousse and a touch of bitterness at the finish. A little lacking in depth and texture, it nevertheless offers fleshy fruit and plenty of class. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Jansz 2015 Vintage Rosé (Tasmania). From Tasmania's best known bubbles brand, this ballerina pink-hued Vintage Rosé opens with delicate aromas of watermelon and red berries, underscored by floral, herbal nuances. That herbal edge can be seen on the finish, too, which is long and lingering. Dry and slippery, with soft but persistent bubbles, this is a quaffing sparkler with an easygoing nature but that has the complexity to pair happily with a variety of fresh, summery dishes. *Negociants USA–Winebow.* —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$56

PINOT NOIR

93 Sailor Seeks Horse 2018 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). This small-batch label is from Paul and Gilli Lipscombe, who have been instrumental in putting Tasmania's Huon Valley on the map. A vibrant, translucent cherry hue, this is an ethereal Pinot that pulses with energy; smashable (as the Aussies say) and serious all at once. The nose is delicately aromatic, reeling you in gently. Notes of wild blueberry and strawberry, dried flowers and a whiff of baking spice and an olive grove at harvest float from the glass. The palate crackles with acidity, bouncy bright fruit and spice, and a cocktail bitters-like bite at the finish. A buzzy wine with heart and soul. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$45

93 Tamar Ridge 2018 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). Tamar Ridge is one of Tasmania's biggest wineries (relative compared with some of Oz's mainland giants) yet it rarely skimps on quality. This Pinot is an excellent example, showcasing the density yet elegance of Tassie's north. It is a well of flavor: tangy red currant and blueberry fruit underpinned by earthy, savory notes like cured meat, five-spice powder and graphite. The elegance arrives on the medium-weight palate thanks to its rapier acidity. It feels porous, like it's running through granules of sand, but also focused: a dance between acidity and unique tannin structure. A distinctly Tassie wine to drink now until 2028. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

92 Devil's Corner 2019 Pinot Noir (Tasmania). For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

91 Devil's Corner 2018 Resolution Pinot Noir (Tasmania). From Tasmania's east coast, this is a structured Pinot that needs air to blow off some funky, meaty reductive notes. When it does open, it offers a nose of blueberries and cherries, wintery spices and herbs, river stones and a streak of barrel influence. The palate is wound tightly by rather austere tannins, but there's a lovely purity of fruit and spice that makes this drinkable now with fatty protein, or capable of aging until 2030. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$30

90 See Saw 2019 Pinot Noir (Orange). This is an easygoing and affordable example of modern, cool climate Aussie Pinot. Ripe red berries bounce from the glass, followed by quieter aromas of florals, baking spice and a slight mushroomy savoriness. The palate is light to medium in weight, fleshy and round, but with a tug of savory tannins holding it all together. Knock back slightly chilled, with or without food. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$20

89 Levantine Hill 2016 Pinot Noir (Yarra Valley). This Yarra Valley Pinot is aging quickly. A

dusty brick hue, the nose shows some volatility, but there's also a good deal more: notes of cherry cordial, crushed dried rose petals—some on their stems—and soft cinnamon bark and clove spice. There's a good lick of oak, too, which is more prominent on the palate. Granular tannins, still-fresh acidity and cherry-and-rose characters dominate. The finish is a little bitter. Drink now. MHW, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$57

88 Handpicked 2017 Collection Pinot Noir (Tasmania). There's a lot of sweet, fruity oak on this Pinot for this reviewer's taste. It covers up the lovely berry fruit, vanilla and savory spice character of the site and grapes. A medium- to full-bodied sip, the fruit and oak sit heavily together in the mouth. That said, tannins are nicely structured and textured, hinting that this Pinot could hold up decently with time in the bottle. For now, though, it doesn't do Tassie's unique terroirs and elegant fruit justice. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$50

85 Jacob's Creek 2018 Reserve Pinot Noir (Adelaide Hills). For a so-called Reserve wine, this is a straightforward bottling that lacks much of the vibrancy and elegance of other cool climate Aussie Pinots. The nose is ripe with confected cherry and raspberry fruit and some vanilla and baking spice notes. The mouthfeel is thin, with angular acidity and astringent tannins that give a bitterness to the fruit. Pernod Ricard. —C.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

SHIRAZ

97 Henschke 2015 Hill of Grace Shiraz (Eden Valley). From a highly lauded vintage, this offers layers of flavor, from pure, juicy blueberry and plum fruit to fistfuls of rose and violet petals to cocoa powder, crushed stones and a savory, slightly meaty streak. It's slinky and sexy, with ultrafine, filigree tannins that sink luxuriously into the wine. The oak is present but should fade into the background soon enough. Whether this will have the longevity of other, more tightly wound Hill of Grace vintages is up for debate. For now, though, it's one hell of a treat. *Negociants USA–Winebow.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$850

96 Penfolds 2018 Magill Estate Shiraz (Adelaide). This is an excellent bottling of Penfolds's single-vineyard Shiraz, from the vines on its historic home block, offering more character and rusticity than many of its more polished, muscly reds. The nose is plush but not jammy, the plum and dark cherry fruit flecked with chocolate, cigar box, fresh herbs and spices and a mineral nuance. Chalky tannins strike a balance between power and structure. A lucid wine with raw charm but also with the length and complexity expected of a premium bottling. Drink 2022–2035. *Treasury Wine Estates. Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

95 Bremerton 2015 Old Adam Shiraz (Langhorne Creek). This is a solid expression of Langhorne Creek, a historic region in South Australia, made from the winery's best blocks of Shiraz by winemaker Rebecca Willson. There's lovely purity and layers of flavor: currants, wild mint, bay and tobacco leaf and five-spice powder. Polished, vanillin oak is present, too, but rides in the backseat. The mouthfeel is silky and fleshy, with fine, well-structured tannins holding together a powerful wine. Tangy fruit and savory, herbal notes linger on the finish. Drink 2022–2040. Epicurean Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

94 Mount Langi Ghiran 2017 Langi Shiraz (Grampians). This well-respected winery is located in the cool climes of the Great Dividing Range, west of Melbourne. Langi is its top red, from rare, pre-phyloxera Shiraz clones planted in 1969. It offers a lovely lift of red cherry, violet, tobacco and spice with a spine of vanilla cola from the oak. The medium- to full-bodied palate follows through on the freshness factor with lifted acidity and fruit purity, wound in leathery, herbal tannins. Drink now–2031, at least. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.
abv: 13.8% **Price:** \$130

94 Yangarra 2018 King's Wood Shiraz (McLaren Vale). This vintage of single-block, biodynamically grown Shiraz is more textbook than the cooler 2017. While it lacks the sexiness of '17, it still offers more restraint and elegance than many of its South Aussie counterparts. An aromatic lift of tangy blueberry, raspberry and plum fruit interlaces gentle baking spice, ground pepper and terra-cotta notes. There's muscle to the highly textural tannins (both chalky and granular), but it's woven into layers of flavor. A charming yet serious wine for drinking now until 2030. Jackson Family Wines. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Chapel Hill 2018 The Vicar Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Chapel Hill's back label includes a shout-out to the growers whose fruit made the cut for this vintage of their premium Shiraz—a nice and all-too-rare gesture. It's a hefty wine destined for the cellar, with bushels of plum, cherry and raspberry fruit leading on the nose, backed by mocha, savory spice and cigar box. Tannins are taut and powerful, with an oaky underbelly set for the long haul. Beneath the power lies a lovely purity of fruit. A solidly crafted wine that should unravel nicely over the years. Drink 2023–2035. American Estates Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$76

93 Hickinbotham 2018 Brooks Road Shiraz (McLaren Vale). Where the cool 2017 brought increased elegance to Hickinbotham's muscular reds, this vintage returns to the powerful expression of warmer years. A big wine it may be, with a nose of strawberry and cherry preserves, mint, medicinal herbs and a toasty, vanillin underbelly, but it's also precise and site expressive. Tannins are fine yet powerful, and the oak is

present, but this is a baby, worthy of many years in the cellar. Drink 2023–2035. Majestic Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

93 Levantine Hill 2015 Melissa's Paddock Syrah (Yarra Valley). Bottle age has done this wine well—it's in a great drinking spot at the moment. The nose is fruity and appealing: raspberry, blueberry and plum take the lead, backed by notes of vanilla bean, five-spice powder and bay leaf. There's a long line of textural tannins on the medium-weight palate. The crunchy fruit is laced with spice. A food-friendly bottling for drinking now until around 2026. MHW, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$140

92 Adelina 2018 Shiraz (Clare Valley). This elegant, softly spoken Clare Valley Shiraz opens with gentle floral and red berry notes, underscored by graphite, mineral and spice nuances. The palate is medium in weight and ultrafresh. It lacks some fruit weight to soften all that acidity, but overall is bright, with length and focus. Drink now–2027. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. —C.P.
abv: 13.2% **Price:** \$44

91 Levantine Hill 2016 Syrah (Yarra Valley). This is a chiseled, earthy wine that showcases the relative cool climate of Yarra Valley with the power of Aussie Shiraz. It opens with some mushroomy funk that mingles with raspberry, cherry, vanilla cola and cedary spice. Granular with a tug of savory tannins, the palate is uniquely textured. Acidity is a little sharp, making the fruit feel a touch sour, but there's a lovely spiciness and minerality, too. Drink now–2028. MHW, Ltd. —C.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$57

89 Fighting Gully Road 2017 Reserve Syrah (Beechworth). From the small, high-quality region of Beechworth in Victoria, this initially feels quite oak-driven, with sweet, polished barrel aromas dominating. With time in a glass, though, the blueberry fruit, floral and spice notes make their way to the fore. The palate shows more freshness and focus, with fruit purity and a lovely violet and baking spice note flowing to the finish. There's currently a fair lick of alcohol and oak here, but it's a decent bet this could cellar nicely until around 2028. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$63

88 Kellermeister 2016 The Pious Pioneer Dry Grown Shiraz (Barossa). This is classic South Aussie Shiraz, with a winter warming nose of plush plums, eucalyptus and peppery spice, wrapped in chocolatey oak. The palate is equally round, plush and oak-influenced. There's plenty of ripe fruit and spice amid a woolly texture and tannins that finish with some astringency. Cape Ardor LLC. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

GRENACHE

93 Chapel Hill 2019 Bush Vine Grenache (McLaren Vale). This is a solid vintage made by Michael Fragos and team at the well-established Chapel Hill winery. It shows a keen sense of place and variety, purity of fruit, structure and ageworthiness. Notes of cherry and cranberry juice intertwine with florals, earthy and peppery spice and a stony, graphite nuance. The palate is medium in weight but tightly structured, with raspy, terra-cotta-textured tannins tempering Grenache's natural abundance of fruit. Drink now–2028. American Estates Wines, Inc. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Seppeltsfield 2019 Grenache (Barossa Valley). This is a charming, fruity Grenache from one of Australia's most historic wineries. The nose is bright and bouncy, with raspberry, cranberry and violet nuances. It's light to medium in weight, with a crunch of acidity, a slippery texture, a softly spicy spine and a saline finish. A stripped back, stock-up-and-chill-down red for weeknight spring and summertime sipping. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Tournon by Michel Chapoutier 2016 Landsborough Vineyard Grenache (Pyrenees). Grenache's fruity charms are in full force on this wine from the mountainous Pyrenees region of Victoria and from the stable of Rhône-based winemaker Michel Chapoutier. It's bright cherry in both color and aroma. The red berry-driven nose is backed by sappy, savory, white pepper and floral characters. The palate is light- to medium-bodied with silky red fruit, crunchy acidity and a somewhat bitter finish. A straightforward Grenache for drinking slightly chilled with a plate of cured meats and salty cheeses. Negociants USA–Winebow. —C.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

RED BLEND

90 Stargazer 2019 Rada (Tasmania). Rarely seen outside sparkling, Rada consists of 66% Pinot Meunier with 34% Pinot Noir. The color of strawberry juice, it opens with a reductive funk that eventually blows off with air. Underneath lie fruit aromas akin to watermelon and strawberry Jolly Ranchers that morph into orange rind, sap and spice with time. The palate is juicy-fruited and fresh, with tingly acidity and skiny tannins. A glou-glou wine for chilling down and knocking back. Legend Imports. —C.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

SOUTH AFRICA CHARDONNAY

93 Creation 2018 The Art of Chardonnay (Walker Bay). A lovely nose of concentrated

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melon, toasted apple and yellow flowers leads the experience, with a soft oaky overlay of sweet spice for added decadence. The palate is medium in body but bright and pure, with focused acidity that drives through to the lingering finish with precision. It's beautifully balanced and harmonious; it'll be hard to resist now, but should mature well through 2026. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Hamilton Russell 2019 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). For full review see page 10.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$43

93 Storm 2019 Ridge Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). There's a pronounced oak overlay to the nose of this wine, with wood-grilled apple and peach pit currently at the fore. Cinnamon and sweet baking spice also abound on the nose and palate, with more flavors of baked apple tones and wood-grilled peach. All that richness aside, everything is in balance, as there's focused acidity to counter the opulence and a nice texture to the palate that carries through to the softly structured finish. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Tesselaarsdal 2019 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). For full review see page 14.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

91 Creation 2019 Chardonnay (Walker Bay). White flower and a touch of fynbos dance atop the bouquet of this vibrant white, with a core of pink apple, white melon rind and orange peel. The palate is medium in weight, with crisp fruit tones and bright acidity that yield a crisp, refreshing package. Notes of sweet spice unfold on the back of the finish, which offers medium length and complexity. Drink now. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Creation 2018 Reserve Chardonnay (Walker Bay). This smells quite rich and opulent, with aromas of creamed melon, buttered nuts and baked apples on the nose. The mouthfeel is round and rich, with sweet oak spice and a baked apple flavor that are met by a cut of citrus-tinged acidity and a delicately pithy texture. The medium-length finish shows good evolution, ending with an impression of toasted whole spice. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Cap Maritime 2018 Chardonnay (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). This starts off surprisingly light in intensity on the nose, with faint hints of freshly dried straw, fresh apple slices and a touch of orange rind. The palate starts off with more of the same and is light upon entry, but then unveils a rounder midpalate and a creamy mouthfeel around flavors of creamed pear and baked apple that carry through to the close. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$54

OTHER WHITE WINES

94 Alheit 2017 Hemelrand Vine Garden (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). A blend of 26% Chenin Blanc, 26% Chardonnay, 23% Roussanne, 21% Verdelho and 4% Muscat, this opens with initial aromas of toasted apple, spiced pear, peach pit and pie crust, with a hint of singed orange peel in the back. The medium-bodied palate shows good fruit richness graced with a lovely toasty overlay. It sounds decadent, but superbly bright and vibrant acidity and a saline freshness on the finish keep it all in balance. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

92 Alheit 2018 Cartology Bush Vines Naturally Fermented (Western Cape). A blend of 90% Chenin Blanc and 10% Sémillon, this just screams Chenin from the glass, thanks to notes of waxed melon rind, crisp pear slices, lightly toasted apple and pressed yellow flowers. The medium-weight palate feels round and filling on entry, but is then picked up after the sip thanks to focused acidity and a light astringent texture that lends length to the finish. Overall, this is well-balanced and ready to go now and through 2026. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

90 Lubanzi 2020 Chenin Blanc (Swartland). For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Creation 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Cape South Coast). This smells fresh and vibrant, with lovely aromas of freshly cut grass, sweet leaf, green melon and lime rind. It's light and sprightly on the palate, with refreshing acidity and crisp green-fruit flavors that carry through to the close alongside a light sense of astringency, reminiscent of bitter melon rind. It's tart and alive now, but give it a year or two to truly shine. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Creation 2020 Viognier (Cape South Coast). This wine leads with a pretty floral vibrancy, expressed in waves of rose and white flower that are grounded by fruity tones of white peach, melon and sweet orange oil. It's medium-plus in weight, with a roundness to the palate that is buoyed by ample acidity and a lightly bitter texture that lends some framing through to the close. Drink now–2024. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$19

PINOT NOIR

94 Storm 2018 Ridge Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). An aroma of lightly toasted oak gives way to scents of brambly berry, raspberry sauce and cherry pie on the nose of this enticing Pinot. The palate is medium in weight and satiny in feel, with more ripe red fruit tones that are framed by plush but structured tannins and ample acidic lift to keep the finish bright. Baking spice and forest

floor tones grace the enduring finish, along with a touch of sweet orange oil. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Storm 2018 Ignis Pinot Noir (Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). A pronounced earthy, cocoa nib character wafts from the glass, while further nosing unveils layers of ripe cherry, boysenberry and plum flesh. The palate is smooth and supple in feel, with juicy, concentrated red fruit flavors that partner with vibrant acidity to yield a bright, mouthwatering finish that transitions into flavors of cocoa-dusted cherry skin, forest floor and tree bark on the back. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Storm 2016 Ridge Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). There's a stony, earthy, almost granitic aspect to this wine's aroma, grounded by forest-spiced blueberry and boysenberry tones. The palate is plush and velvety in feel, with medium tannins and ample acidity that match the fruit intensity in perfect tandem. The finish is medium in length and currently fruit-driven, though the earthy elements underneath suggest further evolution and maturation to benefit. Drink after 2024. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Storm 2016 Vrede Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). Pronounced black and rooibos tea characteristics drive the nose of this earthy, herbal wine, with supporting tones of dried red cherry and raspberry as a fruity accompaniment. It's medium in feel, like crushed silk, with fine yet supportive tannins that lend pleasant grip to the palate and carry through to the earthy, tea-centric finish that brings you back to that first sniff. It's a lovely, complex package. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Ataraxia 2016 Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). Lovely cocoa and sweet-spice characteristics ride atop a nose of ripe red raspberry, cherry and wild strawberry. It smells plush and seductive on first pass, but the palate offers a refined sip of harmonious just-ripe fruit, ample acidity and superfine yet subtly structuring tannins. It all fits together in wonderful harmony and is ready to be enjoyed now, though it should continue to drink well through 2025. Red Wolf Imports. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$48

92 Cap Maritime 2018 Pinot Noir (Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). From winemaker Marc Kent, this wine opens with a beautifully concentrated bouquet, redolent of wild berries, black cherry and bramble from the start. Waves of forest floor, church incense and spicy fynbos undulate atop and lend a distinct earthy quality throughout. The palate is medium in weight, with medium-intense blue and black fruit tones partnered to a pronounced acidic lift that lends

precision and focus. It finishes long and evolving, and the wine should mature well through 2027. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

92 Creation 2018 The Art of Pinot Noir (Walker Bay). There's a lovely vibrancy to the nose of this light and ethereal red, with scents of tart cherry, raspberry and currant alongside accents of clove-spiked orange, rooibos and spiced rose water. The palate is light and silky in feel, with pronounced acidity and a tart-fruit character that carries through to the bright yet lingering finish. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$65

92 Storm 2016 Ignis Pinot Noir (Upper Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). Aromas of forest floor, dried hibiscus, macerated strawberry and cherry form the nose of this attractive Pinot, with delicate baking spice accents lingering in the back. It's light and satiny in feel, with pronounced acidity that lifts the earthy red fruit flavors and carries them through with mouthwatering drive to the lingering close. It's easy to enjoy now, but should hold well through 2026. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Hamilton Russell 2018 Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). There's a spicy character to the nose of this robust red, with notes of clove and whole peppercorn riding atop the crunchy cranberry, rhubarb and currant fruit profile. The palate is tense and sprightly in feel, with more of the same bright red fruit flavors, ample acidity and a moderate tannic structure that suggests this would benefit from some time to further mature and harmonize. The medium-length finish offers plenty of tannic grip and fruit-skin flavors. Enjoy through 2028. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$53

90 Tesselaarsdal 2019 Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). Just ripe red cherry and raspberry flavors waft from the glass of this vibrant pour, while a touch of cola spice adds depth in the background. The palate is light and fruit-forward, with pronounced acidity that yields a lively, refreshing sip that remains clean and bright through the medium-length close. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$57

90 Tesselaarsdal 2018 Pinot Noir (Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge). This opens with direct fruit aromas of wild strawberry, cherry and a touch of snappy currant, hit by glimmers of crushed rose petals and dried fynbos. The palate is well-balanced and medium in body, although ample acidity keeps the fruit in check and lends verve to carry it all through to the long, mouthwatering finish. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$53

90 Thorne & Daughters 2018 Copper Pot Pinot Noir (Western Cape). There's a pretty, lifted mentholated herb and fynbos top note to the nose of this wine, with underlying characteristics of

crisp cherry and red currant. The palate is bright and well-balanced, with ample red fruit flavors that are partnered with bright acidity and fine yet structuring tannins. This should continue to evolve well over the medium term. Drink after 2023. Vine Street Imports. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

88 Creation 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Walker Bay). Notes of sweet-spiced cherry pie, mocha and delicate violet dance in the glass of this enticing Pinot. The palate is light in body, yet robust in feel, with flavors that mirror the bouquet and delicate tannins that lend a soft, pleasant structure to the sip. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

88 Edgebaston 2018 David Finlayson Camino Africana Pinot Noir (Stellenbosch). Church incense and cherry vanilla cola form the nose of this medium-bodied red, with a touch of pie crust and baking spice weaved into the background. It's smooth and plush on the palate, with a delicate juiciness to the otherwise ripe and robust fruit tones followed by a pleasantly clean finish. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Kara-Tara 2018 Pinot Noir (Western Cape). The nose of this red leans a touch medicinal, with mentholated red cherry, licorice and bramble tones. It's medium in weight and like crushed velvet in feel, with ripe red fruit flavors that are supported by medium-grain tannins and ample acidity. Give this a little more time to round out. Try after 2022. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$22

86 Haute Cabrière 2018 Unwooded Franschhoek Pass Pinot Noir (Franschhoek). Carnation, church incense, raspberry and cocoa-dusted cherry form the nose of this richly aromatic red. It's silky and smooth in feel, with robust, fleshy red cherry and red plum flavors that carry through to the soft finish. Drink now. Cape Ardor LLC. —L.B.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$18

PINOTAGE

94 Beeslaar 2016 Pinotage (Stellenbosch). Scents of crushed purple violets, fruit cake, sweet tobacco and roasted espresso all dance on the nose of this intense yet layered red. It's rich and bold in feel, but not overdone, with a full palate of seductive dark-fruit flavors and framing tannins that produce a firm structure and chewy texture through the close. It's an infant now, but this classically styled Pinotage has lots of potential ahead of it, so hold until 2024 and enjoy through 2029 for added maturity and harmony. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

92 Ashbourne 2017 Pinotage (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). This robust and plush yet well-structured red leads with assertive notes of brambly

raspberry, boysenberry and anise seed, with some additional glimmers of mocha and roasted coffee. It's enticing and well-balanced, with a medium-full weight and opulent flavors framed by a solid tannic structure, ample acidity to counter overt richness and a spicy astringency that lingers on the close. It's a baby now, so give it more time to come into its own. Drink 2026–2031. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$58

92 Spier 2016 21 Gables Pinotage (Stellenbosch). At present, this wine is quite assertive and fruit-fueled on the nose, with abundant scents of macerated black boysenberry and cherry spiced by licorice, espresso bean and charred oak. The palate boasts robust dark-fruit flavors that are plush and mouthfilling in richness yet also appropriately framed by medium tannins and just enough acidity to keep the sip from feeling overly done or flabby. The finish is long and evolving, riding a wave of dark fruit to whole spice and finally ending on note of char. Saranty Imports. —L.B.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

90 Ashbourne 2018 Pinotage (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). Pronounced aromas and flavors of wild berry, cherry and plum form the grounded soul of this plush, fruit-forward wine. Additional notes of vanilla bean and black licorice add interest to the medium-weight palate, and carry through to linger on the long, spicy finish. Velvety tannins and just enough acidity to keep the sip from feeling overly heavy keep the package all in balance. Drink now–2027. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$58

90 Ashbourne 2016 Pinotage (Hemel-en-Aarde Valley). Pronounced aromas of roasted coffee, cocoa, curing spice, charred plum and cherry skin form the nose of this wine, with green peppercorn and minty bramble accents in the back. The palate is medium in weight and plush in feel, with supple but medium-intense tannins and ample acidity to frame the rich dark-fruit tones. The finish is medium in length and fruit fueled, with a kiss of licorice on the back. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

90 Lanzerac 2016 Pinotage (Stellenbosch). This medium-intense wine offers scents of brambly forest berry and cherry, with a decadent mocha infusion in the background. The palate is smooth and ripely fruited, with a crushed velvet-like texture and ample acidity that lends nice vibrancy and length to the fruit-forward finish. Matthew Ackland Selections, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 De Grendel 2016 Amandelboord Pinotage (Durbanville). A slick, sweet impression leads the nose of this ripe, fruit-forward red, with upfront aromas and flavors of cherry pie, raspberry sauce, mocha drizzle and a touch of black licorice rope. It's medium in weight and smoky in flavor, with a pronounced sweet-char character that graces

BUYINGGUIDE

the fruit flavors and lingers on the medium-length close. Canopy Wine Selections. —L.B.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$23

89 Painted Wolf 2017 Guillermo Pinotage (Swartland). Chewy brownie and preserved cherry aromas lead the nose of this decadent pour, with additional scents of vanilla bean and spiced fruit cake. The palate is medium in weight and boasts ripe-fruit flavors framed by ample acidity to lift the richness and vibrancy through to the close. The tannins are there for support, but medium in structure, offering good overall balance. Southern Starz, Inc. —L.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$20

88 Southern Right 2018 Pinotage (Walker Bay). Lifted herbal and green pepper accents are offered as the top notes on the nose of this wine, with additional notes of plum pit, cherry skin and a touch of bread crust. The medium-weight palate is approachable in feel, with a moderate tannic structure that is pronounced enough to frame the dark-fruit flavors but lends only a subtle lasting grip to the close. Vineyard Brands. —L.B.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

87 Spier 2017 Seaward Pinotage (Coastal Region). This smells herbal and minty off the bat, with mentholated balsamic herbs and rooibos aromas atop the black plum and boysenberry fruit core. It's slightly slick and smooth in feel, with a richness to the palate that sees subtle support from the plush, ripe tannins. Drink now. Saranty Imports. —L.B.
abv: 14% Price: \$23

85 Barista 2019 Pinotage (Western Cape). This wine offers aromas and flavors of mocha coffee all the way, with supporting roles from notes of dark raspberry sauce and chocolate-covered cherry. The palate is soft and slick, with a delicate tannic structure, light acidity and a plush softness through to the close. Drink now. Indigo Wine Group. —L.B.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

SWEET WINE

96 Klein Constantia 2017 Vin de Constance (Constantia). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14% Price: \$120/500 ml

PORTUGAL WHITE WINES

DOURO

90 Quinta de Porrais 2019 Rabigato Reserva (Douro). Wood aged for nine months, the wine has both the tight freshness of the Rabigato and the smoother aspects from the toasty wood. The combination has worked beautifully, giving an

aromatic, green fruit-flavored wine that is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12% Price: \$20

89 Lavradores de Feitoria 2019 Três Bagos Reserva (Douro). Partially wood aged, this wine has touches of richness and enhanced fruitiness. They go with the wine's ripe lemon and tangy orange flavors that give the wine a fine lift. Drink this fruity wine now. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$18

89 Lavradores de Feitoria 2018 8 Bagos (Douro). A crisp and fruity wine, this has ripe pear and kiwi flavors. They are freshened even further by the tight acidity and refreshing character that comes from the blend of eight varieties. The wine has freshness and fruitiness and is ready to drink. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

89 Quinta da Corte 2019 Corte (Douro). Wood fermented, this wine has a rich, toasty character. That gives extra ripeness to the apple crisp fruit and perfumed acidity. The wine is still young and will be better from 2022. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

88 Symington Family Estates 2019 Altano Naturalmente Branco (Douro). Aromatic and floral, the wine has attractive fresh citrus and kiwi fruits. Bright acidity is still right upfront, as is the tangy texture. The wine is refreshingly ready now but will be even better from late 2021. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

87 Lavradores de Feitoria 2019 Branco (Douro). The wine is all fruit—fresh and lightly textured, with delicious, refreshing acidity. There is a perfumed edge from the Malvasia in the blend, adding to the wine's fruitiness. Drink now. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$10

OBIDOS

91 Sanguinhal 2018 Quinta das Cerejeiras Grande Reserva (Obidos). A spicy, ripe wine, still a little young but already with great richness, acidity and hints of maturity to come. The wine, a blend, dominated by Chardonnay and Arinto, is zingy, textured and showing some toastiness from the wood aging. Drink from 2022. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

90 Sanguinhal 2017 Quinta das Cerejeiras Grande Reserva (Obidos). The wine's eight months in wood and pineapple fruit flavors give it richness and a smooth texture. With its underlying freshness as well as ripe Chardonnay and Arinto, the wine has a toasty edge that is well integrated

with the fruitiness. Drink this refreshing wine now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$30

87 Sanguinhal 2019 Quinta de S. Francisco (Obidos). The local specialty variety Vital dominates this crisp, fresh and sliced apple-flavored wine. It is deliciously refreshing, bright with acidity and with a zing in its step. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$14

LISBOA

88 Sanguinhal 2019 Arinto-Chardonnay (Lisboa). This is a smooth, ripe and lightly textured wine. Hints of tropical fruits and a rounded mouthfeel are lifted by acidity and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$20

87 Sanguinhal 2019 Cerejeiras Branco (Lisboa). A fruity wine that is dominated by the two local grapes: Arinto and Vital. They give the wine a green, crisp character with citrus and green apple and a touch of coriander. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$9

87 Sanguinhal 2019 Peninsula de Lisboa (Lisboa). Crisp and fresh with an herbal edge from the Sauvignon Blanc in the blend, the wine is fruity and full of sliced apple and citrus flavors. Drink this refreshing wine now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

86 Sanguinhal 2019 Sottal Leve (Lisboa). A blend that includes Moscatel is sure to be perfumed. This wine, with its light sparkle and off-dry character has lychee spiciness to balance its crisp, fresh fruitiness. Drink this attractive wine now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 9.5% Price: \$12

OTHER WHITE WINES

92 Herdade Grande 2018 Amphora (Alentejo). With aging in amphorae giving the wine a creamy texture, this is a ripe, textured wine dominated by the Alentejo's white grape, Antão Vaz. It has fine red apple and pear flavors, giving the wine richness as well as freshness. Drink now. Olde World Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% Price: \$35

90 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2019 Reserva Branco (Alentejano). This lightly wood-aged wine is deliciously rich. Full of ripe apple and crisp lemon, warmly lit by the toastiness, the wine is still a little young in its forward fruitiness. Let it soften for a few more months and drink from late 2021. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$33

89 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Pinha Ribeiro Santo Encruzado (Dão).** A fine, richly textured wine from the Dão's star white variety. It brings out a great creamy texture, baked apple flavors and a mineral edge. The wine is freshened with tangy acidity at the end. Drink now. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

88 **Casa Santos Lima 2020 Cardido Loureiro-Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** A blend of two of Vinho Verde's iconic grapes and produced in the Lima Valley, this is a rich wine with a fine blend of citrus and apple fruit flavors. The wine is fruity while also having a more mineral edge. Drink from late 2021. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

87 **Casa Santos Lima 2020 Cardido Loureiro (Vinho Verde).** One of a new series of releases from this multifaceted producer, this wine is crisp, fresh with lemon and acidity. Produced in the Lima Valley, home of the Loureiro variety, the wine is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 12% **Price:** \$15

86 **Herdade Grande 2019 Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano).** This is a fresh, fruity wine that is ready to drink. Crisp apple tanginess is freshened even further by the touch of lime and kiwi. The wine is ready to drink. Olde World Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

ROSÉS

87 **Lavradores de Feitoria 2019 Rosé (Douro).** Ripe and full of red fruits, the wine is produced from 100% perfumed Touriga Franca. The wine is smooth and rounded, with an attractive touch of acidity to give it a lift. Drink now. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$10

88 **Sanguinhal 2019 Quinta das Cerejeiras Rosé (Lisboa).** A perfumed wine with a touch of Moscatel, it's fresh while having a rounded, fruity character. Red berries and lychee fruits give crispness at the end. Drink now. Sarmiento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

85 **Sanguinhal 2019 Cerejeiras Rosé (Lisboa).** A fruity wine, full of attractive red berry fruits, topped with cherry and the brightest acidity. It is crisply textured and ready to drink. Sarmiento's Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$9

PORTUGAL RED WINES

DOURO

96 **Prats & Symington LDA 2018 Chryseia (Douro).** This result of the joint venture between Bordelais Bruno Prats and the Symington family in the Douro has resulted in another great release. It has an impressive mix of great elegance, density and dark concentration. Wood aged and packed with dark plum and berry fruits and with tannins to see it age well into the future, the wine is very fine indeed. Drink from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$95

95 **Quinta da Foz 2017 Grande Reserva (Douro).** This is a massive, dense and impressive wine. Produced from a field blend of old vines, this is concentrated, touched by licorice and packed with blackberry and dark plum fruits. The wine, still young, has a ways to go to bring out its full, rich potential. Drink from 2024. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

95 **Quinta do Monte Xisto 2018 Douro.** Produced in one of the most spectacular of the Douro's many spectacular vineyards, this wine is a serious structure of ripe black fruits and dark tannins. The fruit is going to yield a smooth, concentrated, juicy and smoky wine. Likely to take its time, this major wine is impressive in its richness. Drink from 2025. David Bowler Wine. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 **Quinta da Foz 2017 Reserva (Douro).** From one of the Douro's grandest quintas, this wood-aged wine is dense, rich with intense and impressive swathes of black fruits. Big tannins and succulent blackberry flavors surround this solid core of ageworthy tannins and structure. Drink from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

94 **Quinta da Romaneira 2018 Reserva (Douro).** This powerful wine shows the structure and richness possible from this fine quinta. From selected fruit, the wine has dense black plum and berry fruits, dark tannins and serious aging potential. Drink this impressive wine from 2024. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 **Quinta do Vesúvio 2018 Douro.** This is the latest Douro wine release from this great estate, one of the many founded by the 19th-century Port "widow" Dona Antónia Ferreira and now owned by the Symington family. The wine has power, rich tannins and a tight line of minerality that structures and gives aging potential. Black fruits shine throughout. Drink from 2024. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

93 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Baton (Douro).** Named for the baton that is used to stir the lees of the wine during fermentation, this has power and a great concentration of perfumed black fruits. Rich in structure and still with a dry core, the wine needs to move further to mature. Ripe and fruity, the wine will be ready from 2022. Green Bus Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

93 **Quinta da Corte 2015 Vinho Tinto (Douro).** Just mature, this is a finely wrought, rich wine. Juicy black fruits have softened into the tannins and wood-aging flavors, bringing ripeness and a touch of acidity to the solid, dense structure. The wine is ready to drink but will benefit by waiting until 2022. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

93 **Quinta da Romaneira 2018 Tinto (Douro).** The main estate wine from this spectacular quinta on the north bank of the Douro, this is a rich blend of Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca. Dense tannins are cushioned by the wine's generous black fruits and rich texture. This is a fine wine, needing further aging. Drink from 2023. Vias Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Quinta da Romaneira 2018 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** This is a generously structured, finely perfumed wine. By revealing Touriga Nacional in a range of single-variety wines, this has emphasized the grape's fine textures, rich tannins and fine black fruits. This fine wine will need more time, so drink from 2023. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Lilás by Carlos Lucas (Douro).** This is a finely structured, dense blend of Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca. Dense black fruits with smokiness as well as spice from wood aging are still developing, leaving tannins to soften over the next few months. Drink from 2022. Green Bus Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

92 **Prats & Symington LDA 2018 Post Scriptum de Chryseia (Douro).** The junior partner of Chryseia, this wine has generous tannins that are already beginning to soften. They promise a ripe, berry fruit-flavored wine, balanced with acidity and tannins and likely to be ready from 2023. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

92 **Quinta da Corte 2018 Princesa Reserva (Douro).** This young, dense and powerful wine is impressive for its structure of tannins and for the concentrated black plum and berry fruits. The wine's wood aging will soften into the fine fruits. But wait until 2023. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

92 Quinta da Pacheca 2017 Pacheca Reserva Vinhas Velhas (Douro). A smooth, ripe and rich wine that is softening but nowhere near mature yet. Ripe black plum and spicy berry fruits give the wine density to go with the full texture. The old vines give concentration. Drink from 2023. Saraiva Enterprises. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

92 Symington Family Estates 2017 Altano Naturalmente Reserva (Douro). This rich wood-aged wine succeeds with a fine balance between black fruits and dense tannins. This still young, powerful wine holds great potential. It is juicy and richly structured, the wood needing to soften further. Drink this fine, ripe wine from 2022. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

91 Lavradores de Feitoria 2017 8 Bagos (Douro). In a master class of the Portuguese art of blending, this wine brings together eight grapes. Rich, finely perfumed and with delicious spicy black fruits, it is almost mature—a rich wine that is also balanced and juicy. Drink this attractive wine now. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

91 Quinta da Corte 2016 Vinho Tinto (Douro). A dense wine, still firm with tannins and licorice and dark chocolate flavors. The black fruits are still developing after four years, promising a future of generous fruits to go with the dense structure. Drink from 2022. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$29

91 Quinta do Vesúvio 2018 Pombal de Vesúvio (Douro). This is the second wine from this great Douro estate. Rich in tannins and with a smooth texture, the wine is a proper second wine in that it will age more quickly than the senior wine. Blackberry fruits and acidity balance the already softening tannins. Drink from 2023. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

90 Quinta da Romaneira 2018 Sino da Romaneira (Douro). The equivalent of a second wine from this estate is generously endowed, rich in black fruits. Tannins are fully integrated into the wine's fruitiness and dense texture. This wine will be ready from 2022. Vias Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Quinta de Porrais 2018 Porrais Signature (Douro). This is a rich, dense, spicy wine. It brings out the fine structure and minerality of a Douro wine, along with some powerful black fruits and touches of licorice. This wood-aged wine is still young and will be at its best from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Real Companhia Velha 2016 Porca de Murça Reserva (Douro). With 12 months in wood, the wine is richly dense with some solid tannins.

The wine is just beginning its move into a more mature phase, hinting at secondary flavors among the still vibrant berry fruits. It is a fine, ripe wine that is ready to drink. Metrowine Distribution. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

89 Prats & Symington LDA 2018 Prazo de Roriz (Douro). Produced from the vineyard of Quinta de Roriz, this wine is the equivalent of a Bordeaux second wine. Its tannins and open fruitiness are both designed for early drinking with attractive red berry fruits and a soft texture. Drink from 2022. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Quinta da Pacheca 2019 Pacheca Superior (Douro). Fermented in granite lagars, the wine has weight, richness and generous texture. With blackberry fruits and a floral character from the Touriga Nacional in the blend, the wine is ripe and fruity, with some structure for aging. Drink from 2023. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Symington Family Estates 2019 Altano Organic (Douro). Still very young, this wine is ripe and richly textured, with some fine potential for aging. The black fruits shine through the mineral texture and tannic structure to give a wine that is already hinting at the fruitiness of the future. Drink from 2022. Organic. Vineyard Brands. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$22

88 Quinta da Rede 2016 Rede Reserva (Douro). A ripe, perfumed wine from a vineyard in the western Douro region, still rich in tannins but also with black fruits that have developed maturity and spice while leaving plenty of fresh acidity. The wine is almost ready to drink—just wait until late 2021. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Quinta de Porrais 2018 Mosaico de Portugal Signature (Douro). A blend of four Douro varieties yields a wine that is structured, with black currant fruitiness and a mineral edge of acidity. The wine is fresh and ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

86 Quinta da Pacheca 2019 Pacheca Tinto (Douro). Ripe, fresh and juicy, this is a lightly textured wine that will age easily and quickly. Lightly spicy from some wood aging and with attractive acidity, the wine will be ready from late 2021. Saraiva Enterprises. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$11

DÃO

94 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2017 Pinha Ribeiro Santo Reserva (Dão). For full review see page 8. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

93 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2019 Pinha Ribeiro Santo (Dão). Named after the pine trees that surround the vines, the wine is rich while keeping poise and freshness. Spice, black fruits and dry tannins are all getting to know each other. The wine should be ready from 2024. Iberian Wine Importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

93 Quinta do Covão 2017 Reserva Touriga Nacional (Dão). Pure Touriga Nacional, aged in wood and from vineyards close to the Serra da Estrela mountains, this is a fine, rich evocation of the perfumes and complexity of the grape at its best. The wine has structure with firm tannins and an impressive concentration. Drink from 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

92 Quinta do Covão 2017 Dão. Vines close to Portugal's highest mountains yield a structured wine with strong, still youthful minerality. This dense wine with its tight acidity and still solid tannins is set for long-term aging. Give it until 2023 at least for the rich fruits to come to the fore. MHW, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

LISBOA

93 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2011 Reserva Late Release (Lisboa). There is the merest hint of brown in the color of this mature wine. The fruit may have gone, but the wine's richness and the density from the blend of Syrah and Viognier is palpable. This wine, a late release, is just right, ready to drink now. Alt Wines. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

91 Casa Santos Lima 2018 Colossal Reserva (Lisboa). Big, bold and spicy, living up to its name, this is a powerful wine influenced by the rich Alicante Bouschet in the blend. The wine has weight, concentration and further aging potential. Drink from 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

91 Casa Santos Lima 2017 Mosaico de Portugal Reserva (Lisboa). A structured blend of five grape varieties, the wine is full of black plum fruits and ripe tannins, with a concentrated texture. It is just approaching drinkability, giving richness and generosity in equal measure. Drink from late 2021. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 Casa Santos Lima 2015 Reserva (Lisboa). Eucalyptus and rich spice set the scene for a ripe, mature and fine wine. Its blend of four grapes places the emphasis on longevity and aging. The black fruits have now softened and become richer and more complex. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Sanguinhal 2016 Touriga Nacional-Petit Verdot (Lisboa). This is a fascinating blend of two rich, structured grapes. The result is a dense wine with plenty of solid tannins as well as rich black fruits. Just approaching maturity, the wine has concentration and the power to age further. Drink now or wait until 2022. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Casa Santos Lima 2018 Cigarra Gran Passo Reserva (Lisboa). This is a rich, full blend of Touriga Nacional and Cabernet Sauvignon. With both grapes in the blend having a tannic character, it is no surprise the wine is powered by tannins and still young black fruits. The wine has a fine structure and some potential. Drink from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

89 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Lab Reserva (Lisboa). A blend of Touriga Nacional, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah, this wine is obviously oriented toward structured varieties. That comes out in the richness of the wine, its wood-aging flavors and the potential for aging from the dry core of tannins. Drink from 2022. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 Casa Santos Lima 2018 Lab Signature (Lisboa). Aged for nine months in wood, this is a rich high alcohol wine that is a selection of the best fruit. It has a ripe, still-structured texture that will give the wine further aging possibilities. But don't wait beyond 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

88 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Stones & Bones (Lisboa). A comfortable blend of four grapes, the wine has soft tannins and a light spiciness from wood aging. The wine's red berry fruits give a warm feel to this just lightly textured wine. Drink now. Lionstone International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

88 Casa Santos Lima 2015 Reserva do Monte (Lisboa). Rich with black currant and spice flavors, the wine is ripe and textured with light tannins and acidity. Aging in wood has smoothed out the drier tannins, resulting in a wine that will be ready from late 2021. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Sanguinhal 2019 Cerejeiras Tinto (Lisboa). This simple, fruity wine with its light acidity and red berry flavors is made for early drinking. With a soft texture, the wine features great fruitiness and is ready to drink. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$9

87 Sanguinhal 2018 Peninsula de Lisboa (Lisboa). The Lisboa vineyards are in the peninsula formed to the east by the Tagus River and

to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. This smoothly textured, open wine balances the cool ocean character in its acidity and richer structure in the fully integrated tannins. At the end, the fruit wins out, making for a wine that is ready to drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

86 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Lab (Lisboa). A fruity, softly textured wine with attractive red fruits and soft tannins. This is a fine blend of four grapes that were lightly wood aged. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$10

86 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Rabo de Gala (Lisboa). A bright, fruity and open wine, this is lightly structured with some dryness that just pumps up the blackberry and cherry fruits. The wine is ready to drink. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$13

85 Sanguinhal 2016 Touriga Nacional-Syrah (Lisboa). With its dry texture and firm edge, this wine has plenty of structure and not quite so much fruit. It is still tough, spicy with acidity that hasn't integrated. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

ALENTEJANO

95 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2018 Alantiju (Alentejano). From Vidigueira, one of the cooler regions of Alentejo, this sophisticated, rich wine is impressive. The black fruits and 12 months in new wood have given great depth to the dense black Alicante Bouschet. The wine is destined for aging, so wait until 2023 to drink it. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$128

92 Dorina Lindemann 2017 Sel. 16 Colheita Seleccionada Touriga Nacional (Alentejano). A perfumed wood-aged wine, this is produced from a Touriga Nacional selection identified by the producer. The wine is rich and structured, maybe almost too powerful but certainly showing fine tannins and a firm core. Age the wine further and drink from 2022. Elixir Wine Group. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2018 Reserva (Alentejano). A generously rich wine, full of succulent red berry fruits, this is also structured and has aging potential. The ripe fruitiness is sustained by the tannins that lie beneath the exuberant facade. This fine wine needs to age further, so wait until 2022. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$33

90 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Espanta Pardal (Alentejano). Darkly colored and with dense black fruits, this wine is potentially rich and powered by tannins as well as fruit. Aging in wood has added spice and has smoothed out some of the

wine's rough edges. The name of the wine means "scarecrow" in Portuguese. Drink from late 2021. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Palaios Alicante Bouschet (Alentejano). The richness and density of the red juiced Alicante Bouschet is very evident in this wine. Dark in color, aromatic and packed with black fruits, the wine is ripe and concentrated while also having a fresh aftertaste. Drink from late 2021. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

89 Herdade Grande 2017 Colheita Seleccionada (Alentejano). Partially wood aged, the wine comes from the relatively cool Vidigueira region of Alentejo. That brings in freshness to the red berry fruits and firm edge of tannins. The wine is fruity and spicy, with plenty of acidity at the end. Drink now. Olde World Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$19

89 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2015 Morgadio de Mora Reserva (Alentejano). Matured in wood, the wine is generously textured with rich tannins and black fruits. It has an opulent, ripe berry character, now softened by age. It's ready to drink. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 Casa Agricola Santos Jorge 2018 Morgado da Canita Tinto (Alentejano). A smoothly textured wine, full of black fruits and approachable ripeness. The wine, which has some sumptuous Alicante Bouschet in the blend, is dark in color and rich. It still has young tannins but they're likely to develop quickly. Drink from late 2021. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$10

88 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Valcatrina (Alentejano). Dense and rich, this wine is darkly black fruited with warm tannins that bring out the succulent fruits and acidity. The wine is aromatic, spicy and ready to drink. Lionstone International. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

86 Casa Agricola Santos Jorge 2019 Toutalga (Alentejano). Softly textured and approachable, the wine has soft tannins and a touch of dryness, but mainly red fruits and acidity that give the wine a fine, ready-to-drink character. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$7

ALENTEJO

93 Herdade do Sobroso 2018 Grande Reserva (Alentejo). Cabernet Sauvignon and Alicante Bouschet yield a richly structured, powerful wine. Dark in color and packed with intense berry fruits and powerful tannins, the wine is set for long-term

BUYINGGUIDE

aging. Drink this fine wine from 2024. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 J. Portugal Ramos 2017 Vinha de S. Lázaro Touriga Nacional (Alentejo). An impressively rich and finely textured wine, this has both ripe black fruits and great swathes of perfumes. The wood aging and richness are balanced by the wine's style, touches of vanilla and inherent structure. Drink this fine single-vineyard wine from 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

92 Herdade Grande 2017 H Grande Sousão (Alentejo). A new wine for this estate, the Douro's Sousão translates well into the Alentejo. It gives a deep-colored, richly textured wine with fine juiciness as well as big tannins. The wine is certainly ripe and full and has further potential. Drink from 2022. Olde World Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$28

92 J. Portugal Ramos 2017 Marquês de Borba Reserva (Alentejo). Aged for 18 months in wood, this wine is perfumed with nutmeg and licorice. Those flavors march with the wine's rich tannins and succulent black fruits. The wine is still full of tannins and needs to age further. Drink from 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

91 Herdade do Sobroso 2018 Barrique Select Reserva (Alentejo). Twelve months in wood for this blend of four grapes have produced a densely structured while also richly fruity wine. With a vibrant juiciness, the wine is still young. Its open structure and spicy aftertaste will allow the wine to age relatively quickly. Drink from 2023. Tuscan Wine Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Herdade Grande 2019 Amphora (Alentejo). Produced in clay amphorae, this wine has a large proportion of Tinta Grossa grape, known in the Douro as Tinta Barocca. The wine has a ripe, jammy and Damson plum fruit character. Tannins come from the fruit, giving a light structure to the wine as well as some aging potential. Drink from 2022. Olde World Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 J. Portugal Ramos 2017 Vinha do Jeremias (Alentejo). This single-vineyard blend of Syrah and Viognier replicates that of the northern Rhône in France. Perfumed while also powerful and dense with dark tannins, this is a rich wine. Its concentration and wood aging flavors spell a wine that needs to age further. Drink from 2023. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 Casa Agricola Santos Jorge 2018 Herdade dos Machedos (Alentejo). The blend of Alicante Bouschet and Cabernet Sauvignon works impressively, giving structure, dense black fruits and powerful tannins. The wine also offers fine

potential, with dense texture, touches of licorice and a dry core all pointing toward further aging. Drink from late 2021. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

OTHER RED WINES

92 Quinta da Romaneira 2018 Petit Verdot (Duriense). Indicating the Bordeaux influence behind the winemaking, this Petit Verdot, one in the range of limited production single-variety wines, brings out its structure as well as dense black fruits. The alcohol does show in the bite of pepper at the end, but beyond that it is a superrich, ageworthy wine. Drink from 2023. Vias Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$35

91 Quinta da Romaneira 2018 Syrah (Duriense). This is one of a limited production range of single-variety wines. Produced from Syrah, the wine is richly perfumed and has an earthy edge that is typical of the grape when young. This wine therefore needs further aging. Drink from 2023. Vias Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Adega Cooperativa do Cartaxo 2017 Bridão Reserva Tinto (Tejo). Seriously rich, spicy and packed with black fruits, this is a solid wine. With a generous perfumed proportion of Touriga Nacional, the wine is powerful with succulent black fruits to balance the high alcohol. The wine will benefit from further aging, so wait until 2022. Wine Enterprises LLC. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

90 Sanguinhal 2017 Quinta de S. Francisco (Obidos). A rich, wood-aged wine, this is packed with black fruits that are supported by the dry core of tannins. So while the wine is ready to drink, it does have a fresher, youthful aspect that gives it a bright, juicy aftertaste. Drink this fine wine now or wait until 2022. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

90 Sanguinhal 2014 Quinta das Cerejeiras Grande Reserva (Obidos). A finely mature wine, rich with dusty tannins and black fruit flavors that are changing and bringing in secondary flavors. The wine is rich while also balanced between the ripe fruits and the generous, mature texture. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

88 Casa Santos Lima 2017 Quinta das Setencostas (Alenquer). Soft and juicy with black fruits shining through the light wood aging, this is mature wine. Generously textured with a fresh, fruity aftertaste, it's ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$12

88 Wines & Winemakers 2019 Dona Helena Reserva (Península de Setúbal). With some light wood aging, this wine has depth and concentration to go with the generous black fruits. It is rich, full in the mouth with black currant and spice flavors already well combined. Drink from late 2021. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 Adega Cooperativa do Cartaxo 2017 Bridão Clássico (Tejo). In a master class of Portuguese blending, the wine is composed of five grape varieties. They come together well in this simple, open and lightly wood-aged wine. Blackberry fruits and spice are both in balance in a wine that is ready to drink. Wine Enterprises LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$9

85 Wines & Winemakers 2019 Dona Helena (Península de Setúbal). The local Castelão grape gives this wine a softly textured and fruity character. Red cherry flavors and an open, accessible fruitiness mean this wine can be drunk now. Specialty Wines & More. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$12

84 Casa Santos Lima 2019 Bonavita (Lisboa). A soft, fruity and approachable wine with bright red fruits and gentle tannins, this is all about easy drinking. The wine is open and ready to drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$10

PORT

95 Quinta da Pacheca 1962 Pacheca Colheita Old Tawny (Port). Produced from a field blend of over-80-year-old vines, this is magnificent. Old gold in color, the wine has great concentration and intensity from the long wood aging (bottled in 2018). There is richness and sweetness, both balanced by the dryness that comes from the long wood aging. This is a style of wine that demands sipping thoughtfully. Drink now. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$500

94 Quinta da Corte NV Tawny 20 Years Old (Port). Always a perfect stage for a tawny Port, this wine is sumptuous while also having some dryness and elegant old gold character. It comes from a famed vineyard in the steep, twisting Tordo Valley, just off the main Douro Valley. Drink now. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$77

94 Quinta da Corte 2017 Vintage (Port). This quinta, which for many years supplied grapes rather than producing wine, has taken on a new lease of life. This Vintage Port has a fine, perfumed character, spicy with plenty of dry tannins that are set to propel the wine into long-term aging. Drink this rich wine from 2030. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Cockburn's 2015 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). A beautifully perfumed Port, this has a fine balance between its structure and the opulent black fruits. There is some sweetness but this is definitely equaled by the wine's dry edge. Drink this very fine wine now. Premium Port Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$25

93 Quinta da Corte 2015 Vintage (Port). The quinta, situated in the prestigious Torto River valley near its mouth at the Douro, is now producing some fine Ports. This Vintage, superficially soft and fruity, is in fact still packed with dense tannins, giving a solid structure, some maturing sweetness and black fruits. The wine will be ready from 2028. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$100

93 Quinta da Pacheca 2000 Pacheca Colheita Old Tawny (Port). After a mere 19 years in wood, this wine is still full of fruit—ripe Damson plums and other plums, as well as dried fruits and nut flavors. It has an edge of dryness that balances the wine's impulse toward sweetness. This is delicious and, like all old tawnies, is ready to drink. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$85

92 Dow's 2015 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). With the dryness typical of this producer, this is a densely textured Port that will certainly age well. It has great structure as well as dark fruits that have blackberry jelly flavors. This LBV can be drunk now, but it will surely benefit from the few more months until 2022. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$25

92 W. & J. Graham's 2015 Late Bottled Vintage (Port). Luscious while also structured, this balanced Port is rich and fruity, showing the proper signs of wood aging. While the wine has sweetness on the outside, there is a drier core that gives it sophistication and immediate drinkability. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$25

91 Quinta da Corte NV Tawny 10 Years Old (Port). From old, field blend vineyards, this Port has a fine nutty character. It shares that with red fruits, gentle spice and a fine balance between sweetness and a drier core. This wine, rich and with toffee flavors, is ready to drink. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 20% **Price:** \$44

89 Quinta da Corte 2015 LBV Late Bottled Vintage (Port). Bottled after four years in wood, this wine is still young and still showing tannins as well as bright fruit. It has been bottled unfiltered, which means it can age further. The tannins need to soften, and the black fruits need to calm down. Wait until 2023. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 19.5% **Price:** \$34

BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

97 Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Powerful and rich, this dense wine offers intense fruits and a texture that promises considerable aging potential. White-fruit flavors come through strongly, combining with spice, structure and concentration. The wine will age for many years. Drink from 2025. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$160

96 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2018 Pessac-Léognan. The white wine from this estate has become a reference point, and this release continues that reputation. It is rich while keeping freshness through crisp acidity. Spice and touches of tropical fruits add richness and complexity to a wine that is sure to age. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

96 Château Pape Clément 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Always high on the richness scale, this estate's white wine is vibrant with white fruits and hints of apricots. It is structured with wood aging and a tight texture that shows that the wine needs to age. The wine will be ready to drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$180

95 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Rich with a spectrum of fruit flavors from citrus to tropical, this wine also has toasty flavors. The combination has produced a ripe wine with great promise. Drink from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$58

94 Château Latour-Martillac 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Rich with great fruits and structure, this wood-aged wine brings out the crisp texture of Sauvignon Blanc while having a creamy character and light toastiness. The wine is ready to age, so wait until 2023. Joanne Bordeaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

94 Château Olivier 2018 Pessac-Léognan. This beautifully textured wine is already balanced but has a fine future. The cool, crisp texture contrasts with ripe fruitiness and spice from wood aging. Drink this wine from 2023. Château Olivier. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2018 Les Hauts de Smith (Pessac-Léognan). Smoothly textured with a line of citrus and apple flavors, this wine (one of two second white wines at the estate) has subtle wood-aging flavors that support

the fruits and give richness and pleasure. The wine will benefit from a little further aging, so drink from 2022. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 Château la Louvière 2018 Pessac-Léognan. From one of several estates owned by the Lurton family in Pessac-Léognan, this wine is floral, ripe and packed with tangy, citrus acidity. Wood aging has smoothed the tight, mineral texture and brought up the fruitiness. Drink the wine from 2022. Spec's. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

93 Château Picque Cailou 2018 Pessac-Léognan. This estate surrounded by the suburbs of Bordeaux has increased in quality. Offering bright, herbal fruitiness and a tight texture, this wine is full of green-apple and citrus flavors. With delicious acidity and touches of vanilla from wood aging, it will age. Drink from 2022. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$51

93 Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2018 Le Petit Haut Lafitte (Pessac-Léognan). One of two second white wines from this top estate, this has a ripe pineapple and apple character that is enhanced by wood aging. Rich and full in the mouth, it is spicy and likely to be ready from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Château Cantelys 2018 Pessac-Léognan. There is good balance between citrus and tropical-fruit flavors in this wine. Wood aging gives an extra dimension of richness to the wine, which comes from a chateau close to Smith Haut Lafitte. Drink from 2022. Château Smith Haut Lafitte. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château de France 2018 Pessac-Léognan. A smoothly textured wine combining wood-aging and vivid white fruits, this is already delicious. Tangy acidity and ripe fruitiness shine through an edge of minerality. Drink from 2022. Château de France. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Latour-Martillac 2018 Lagrave-Martillac (Pessac-Léognan). Packed with fruit and with zesty lemo tang, this crisp wine is dominated by Sauvignon Blanc. It is a lively wine, fresh with acidity and refreshing grapefruit flavors. Drink from 2022. Wine Source International. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$30

92 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2018 La Réserve de Malartic (Pessac-Léognan). This wine has a good mix of herbal fruitiness and spice from wood aging. Freshness hints at green fruits and touches of apricots, enriched with a creamy texture. Drink the wine from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

BUYINGGUIDE

92 Château Pape Clément 2018 Clémentin de Pape Clément (Pessac-Léognan). With green-fruit and lemon flavors, this wine is initially all about freshness. The structure slowly reveals itself, with attractive minerality and saline tanginess. Drink the wine from 2022. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

91 Château Haut-Bergey 2018 Pessac-Léognan. A ripe, red-apple and citrus-flavored wine, this still has an earthy, youthful edge. But the ripeness and mineral texture promise balance, with fruit and texture in harmony. Drink from 2022. Organic. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 Château Olivier 2018 Le Dauphin d'Olivier (Pessac-Léognan). Fresh with herbal flavors and crisp acidity, this perfumed wine is full of green and citrus fruitiness, underlined by a touch of wood aging. Drink from 2022. Château Olivier. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

GRAVES

90 Château de Chantegrive 2018 Les Oiseaux de Chantegrive Le Panache (Graves). This ripe blend of 50% Sémillon with Sauvignons Blanc and Gris is ripe and full in the mouth. Touches of herbaceousness are mitigated by the tropical fruits and perfumes from the Sauvignon Gris. Drink the wine now. Blicher Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

89 Château de Chantegrive 2018 Les Oiseaux de Chantegrive La Pureté (Graves). Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc come together in this classic Bordeaux white blend. Creamed apples vie with citrus for attention, giving a wine that has rich fruitiness and tight acidity. Drink now. Bordeaux Tradition. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Domaine de la Solitude 2019 Chapelle de la Solitude (Graves). Still young, this superrich wine has a mix of tropical-fruit and citrus flavors that partner with the wood aging in this second wine of Domaine de la Solitude. The wine's ripeness indicates a full-bodied future. Drink from 2022. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$24

BORDEAUX BLANC

94 Château Margaux 2018 Pavillon Blanc du Château Margaux (Bordeaux Blanc). From a vineyard to the west of the main Margaux estate, this 100% Sauvignon Blanc is rich, packed with yellow fruits as well as a straight line of citrus. Wood aged, it shows toastiness that underlines the richness and ripe fruit. While the wine can be drunk now, that would be a shame because it will be so

much better from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$240

93 Château Suduiraut 2018 S de Suduiraut Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Blanc). As with so many dry wines from the Sauternes region, this superrich release has a touch of honey to go with the tropical fruits and concentration from old vines. This powerful, ripe wine will be ready from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$73

92 Château Cheval Blanc 2018 Le Petit Cheval Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). With its ripely herbaceous character, this wine is both rich and intensely fresh. Wood aging has contributed spice to the superripe flavors. Still young, the wine opens onto a blend of citrus and yellow fruits underlined by spice. Drink this wine from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

92 Château Cos d'Estournel 2018 Bordeaux Blanc. This complex, wood-aged wine has a deceptively approachable texture. Initially all about white fruits, it underneath offers richness, toast, spice and layers of minerality. The wine is set to age well. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$128

92 Château des Landes 2019 Ambre de Maltus (Bordeaux Blanc). Fermented and aged in wood, this wine has a good balance between rich white fruits and touches of toast and spice. A warm, generous blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, it is richly textured, finishing with ripe acidity. Drink from late 2021. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Château Cos d'Estournel 2018 Pagodes de Cos Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). An open wine with a good mix of white and citrus fruits, this is attractively fresh. Tangy orange zest and the smoothing effect of wood aging combine to give freshness as well as further aging potential. Drink from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Château Grand Jean 2020 Bordeaux Blanc. A high proportion of Sémillon in the blend with Sauvignon Blanc gives this wine a smooth texture allied to hints of yellow-fruit flavors. With its mineral edge, the wine could certainly age. Drink from 2022. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Château Leroy-Beauval 2018 Bordeaux Blanc. A crisp, herbal and tropical-fruit-flavored wine, this shows the richness of the vintage. At the same time it preserves a crisper character amidst bright acidity and green-fruit flavors. Drink the wine now. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Château Haut Pasquet 2020 Bordeaux Blanc. With its 20% Sémillon, this wine offers a creamy edge as well as green fruits and zesty acidity. It has balance and a fruity aftertaste. Drink this wine now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

86 Château Cazette 2019 Sauvignon (Bordeaux Blanc). Pure Sauvignon Blanc, grassy and herbal in character, this is light and fresh. Crisp citrus flavors tinged with orange zest and bright acidity make the wine immediately drinkable. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Château des Landes 2020 Le Blanc de Château des Landes (Bordeaux Blanc). This full-bodied wine has weight as well as richness. Lime and citrus flavors contrast with ripe apples and touches of spice. Still young, the wine will be best from late 2021. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$23

86 Château la Freynelle 2020 Bordeaux Blanc. This grassy, herbal wine is fresh with citrus flavors and crisp textures. Young, bright and attractive, it is ready to drink. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

86 Château L'Oiseau 2020 Bordeaux Blanc. Dominated by crisp Sauvignon Blanc, this light wine is fruity and citrus-driven, with a strong herbaceous character. Its freshness and acidity are attractive and refreshing. Drink from late 2021. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$13

85 Calvet 2020 Limited Release Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc). Young and packed with herbaceous fruitiness, this wine is light and crisply textured. It needs a few months to soften the vibrant fruit. Drink from late 2021. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Château la Fleur des Graves 2019 Graves de Vayres. From the small appellation across the Dordogne river from Fronsac, this white wine is fruity. The Sauvignon Blanc balances crisply textured minerality with ripe yellow-fruit flavors. Young and perky, the wine will be best from late 2021. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Château Nicot 2020 Entre-Deux-Mers. Ripeness gives this wine a rich character. It has plenty of typically herbal texture, but also offers hints of yellow fruits and an attractive perfumed aftertaste. Drink from late 2021. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

87 **Château Grand Jean 2020 Entre-Deux-Mers.** An attractive, young blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, this fresh wine is also rich with acidity. It has a light zesty character and a creamy aftertaste. Drink the wine from late 2021. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$25

ROSÉS

87 **Château des Landes 2020 Les Caprices d'Anais (Bordeaux Rosé).** The estate in Lussac Saint-Emilion has produced a perfumed, 100% Cabernet Franc rosé. It is rich and dense, with juicy red fruits laced with orange-zest flavors. The weight of the ripe fruit is just balanced by acidity at the end. Drink now. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château la Freynelle 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Bordeaux Rosé).** This is a crisp, young, red-fruit-flavored wine. Bright acidity is tempered by weight and richness, and the contrast works well. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

86 **Château Nicot 2020 Bordeaux Rosé.** This ripe wine has plenty of crisp acidity to go with the light texture from Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. It has a fragrant, fruity aftertaste. Drink from late 2021. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$40

84 **Château Haut Pasquet 2020 Bordeaux Rosé.** Mainly Merlot with a goodly dash of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine brings red fruits and young freshness to the glass, with a bright red-currant aftertaste. Drink now. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$35

BARSAC

95 **Château Coutet 2018 Barsac.** This wine is beautifully textured. The orange-peel and candied fruitiness are balanced by a dry core of botrytis that gives the wine weight while keeping a light touch. It has all the tight freshness and minerality typical of this great estate. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

93 **Château Doisy-Daëne 2018 Barsac.** Stars of all styles of white wine in Bordeaux, the Dubourdieu family has produced a delicate, perfumed white. Apricot compote is layered with honey and acidity, giving the wine a fine lift. Textured and still young, the wine will be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

SAUTERNES

96 **Château de Fargues 2018 Sauternes.** This restrained wine keeps its richness in the background and obviously needs time to develop. The wine's texture is the giveaway, sculpted and dense, hinting at richness and showing immense aging potential. Drink from 2026. Château de Fargues. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 **Château Clos Haut-Peyraguey 2018 Sauternes.** Rich and concentrated, this wine is a success from this difficult vintage. With flavors of ripe apricot, orange marmalade and honey, along with layers of dry botrytis, the wine has all the elements for some good aging. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

95 **Château de Rayne Vigneau 2018 Sauternes.** In the style of this estate, this lush wine is full of dry botrytis as well as ripe, honeyed marmalade and tangerine freshness. It is beautifully textured, the botrytis fully integrated and giving texture. The wine will age. Wait to drink until 2025. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$100

95 **Château Suduiraut 2018 Sauternes.** Densely textured and with intense botrytis dryness, this wine is rich and concentrated. Marmalade and honey shine along with sweetened apricots. The wine also has a fresher edge, reflecting the lightness of the vintage in Sauternes. This allows room for acidity and therefore balance. Still young, the wine has a fine future. Drink from 2026. K&L Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 **Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey 2018 Sauternes.** With its dramatic bottle encrusted with a Lalique design originally created for French Pullman trains in 1928, this wine is beautifully textured. In keeping with this Sauternes vintage it has freshness and a light touch to balance the candied clementine flavors. It is tempting to drink the wine now, but it will be so much better from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

92 **Château Suduiraut 2018 Lions de Suduiraut (Sauternes).** This ripe, honey- and apricot-flavored wine has intensity as well as an already approachable character. The second wine of Suduiraut is rich, still hinting at freshness, with a dry edge from botrytis. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$36

90 **Château Sigalas Rabaud 2018 Sauternes.** This is a light wine, a sign of the vintage. It's poised, with botrytis offering a dry edge to fresh apricot and orange flavors. Still tightly textured,

the wine needs aging. Drink from 2025. Château Sigalas-Rabaud. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Château Broustet 2018 Sauternes.** This light wine is fresh with yellow fruits, clementines and wildflower honey. It has a light texture, with touches of minerality and acidity giving freshness. This attractive wine will develop quickly. Drink from 2023. Château Broustet. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

BORDEAUX RED WINES

SAINT-ESTÈPHE

97 **Château Calon Ségur 2018 Saint-Estèphe.** This is a dense, generous wine. Swaths of black fruits are packed with concentrated tannins. Its power is palpable, as is its luxuriously rich future. The wine will take plenty of aging, so don't drink before 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$160

97 **Château Montrose 2018 Saint-Estèphe.** This wine confirms the place of Montrose among the top Bordeaux estates. With its rich tannins and powerful structure, it exudes concentration and density. But the wine also shows a sense of style. Fruit purity will make it impressive and allow it to age for many years. Drink this wine from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$189

96 **Château Cos d'Estournel 2018 Saint-Estèphe.** Rich and dense, this wine is happily poised between ripe fruits and a deceptively powerful structure. Smoky flavors from wood aging combine with solid black fruits that strain but never overstep an impressive balance. This wine will age, promising much for the future. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$229

95 **Château Lafon-Rochet 2018 Saint-Estèphe.** This wine comes from an estate that is performing with distinction. It is rich, the tannins cushioned by ripe blackberry fruits and good acidity. Showing both structure and fruitiness, the wine will develop well, everything in balance. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

94 **Château Capbern 2018 Saint-Estèphe.** This richly structured wine is layered with dense black fruits and serious tannins. A big wine in every sense, it is concentrated and juicy. The wine is made by the team from nearby classed growth Château Calon Ségur. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

94 Château Cos d'Estournel 2018 Pagodes de Cos (Saint-Estèphe). This latest release has richness and luscious black fruits that dominate the underlying firmer tannic structure. It is a proper second wine in the sense that it will age well over the medium term, giving drinking pleasure from 2024. J.J. Buckley Fine Wines. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Château de Pez 2018 Saint-Estèphe. For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

94 Château les Ormes de Pez 2018 Saint-Estèphe. The estate is under the same ownership as Château Lynch-Bages in Pauillac. Rich and smoky, this sophisticated, rich wine has some serious tannins as well as black fruits. The wine shows great pedigree, with dark berry fruits and a firm, ageworthy structure. Drink from 2026. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Château Montrose 2018 La Dame de Montrose (Saint-Estèphe). The second wine of Château Montrose is a major star in its own right. With dense tannins and concentrated black fruits, it has power and richness. The wine's potential, impressive for a second wine, is very evident in the structure. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

93 Château Calon Ségur 2018 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur (Saint-Estèphe). The second wine of Château Calon Ségur, this is luscious and massively dense, with black-plum fruits backed by velvet tannins and acidity. It shows power along with good potential for aging. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

93 Château Phélan-Ségur 2018 Saint-Estèphe. Now on a roll, this estate is producing some fine wines. This latest release shows plenty of wood at this stage, but the bold black fruits are more than a match, giving the wine sumptuous richness. The wine needs time, so wait until 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$51

92 Château Cos Labory 2018 Saint-Estèphe. The Audoy family has produced a structured wine, dense with tannins and backed by dark plum and berry fruits. It is rich, with a good future ahead of it, textured with richness as well as initial dryness. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$57

92 Château Tronquoy-Lalande 2018 Saint-Estèphe. Under the same ownership as Château Montrose, this estate is performing right up to its potential. With its rich tannins, dark-chocolate flavors and smoky wood aging character,

the wine is coming together well. It should be ready from 2026. Château Montrose. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

PAUILLAC

100 Château Lafite Rothschild 2018 Pauillac. An immensely structured wine, this is complex, concentrated and yet so contained. The wine impresses with its balance, layers of succulent black-currant fruits and effortless style. A wine for the long term, it should not be touched before 2029. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$780

100 Château Pichon Baron 2018 Pauillac. This great estate in southern Pauillac, facing the Latour vineyard, is at the top of its game. In this release, the tannins are as impressive and dense as the black fruits. Together they form a harmonious ensemble, richly structured, concentrated from the many old vines in the blend, and very ageworthy. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$222

99 Château Mouton Rothschild 2018 Pauillac. Dense structure, powerful tannins and intense black fruits are contained within this wine that shows richness and sustained concentration as well as amazing freshness. The 86% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend is the secret of this great wine that is sure to age magnificently. Don't think about drinking before 2029. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$670

98 Château Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande 2018 Pauillac. This famous estate at the southern end of Pauillac has produced a powerful wine. Packed blackberry fruits, laced with acidity, are just starting out on a long journey along with the tannins. The wine's elegance is beautifully preserved within the structure. With considerable potential, the wine should not be drunk before 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$199

98 Château Pontet-Canet 2018 Pauillac. This wine combines the richness of the vintage with a sophisticated structure of smoky tannins and spicy wood aging. It is still young, with a powerful structure and ripe, vibrant black-currant fruits. The wine needs plenty of aging. Drink from 2028. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

96 Château Clerc Milon 2018 Pauillac. This opulent wine is as bold with its fruit as with its tannins. The initial velvet texture masks the dense structure that will allow it to age impressively. Blackberry flavors, acidity and intense richness are

coming together in a welter of ripe fruits. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

96 Château Lynch-Bages 2018 Pauillac. The Lynch-Bages style is unmistakable in this wine's richness and the density of its structure and tannins. In addition it conveys a great sense of style, restrained power and opulence. Drink this wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$225

95 Château Duhart-Milon 2018 Pauillac. This is a ripe, classic Cabernet Sauvignon-based wine. Its strict initial character blossoms out into rich black-currant flavors that exude class. Backed by acidity and with hints of the wood aging still in place, the wine is just beginning its journey. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

94 Château Batailley 2018 Pauillac. This estate at the western edge of Pauillac is beginning to show its potential. Powerful and dense, this wine offers concentrated black fruits and tannins that are solid and dry. The wine has a firm character, full bodied and with a long-term future. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Château Grand-Puy Ducasse 2018 Pauillac. From a 19th-century winery that's a prominent landmark on the Pauillac riverfront, this wine is dense with tannins and vivid with black fruits. The estate's three parcels have given a rich wine, concentrated and dense while also having layers of dark fruits. Drink this promising wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Château Lafite Rothschild 2018 Carruades de Lafite (Pauillac). The second wine of Lafite Rothschild is itself grand. Dense tannins allied to the juicy fruits are the starting point for controlled richness, tight freshness, a powerful structure and considerable potential. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$280

94 Château Lynch-Moussas 2018 Pauillac. This estate has steadily gained in quality and this latest release is one of its best. With good balance between black-currant fruits and a sophisticated structure, the wine has a great future. The dominance of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend will allow it to age. Drink from 2026. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

94 Château Pichon Baron 2018 Les Griffons de Pichon Baron (Pauillac). Dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, this is one of a pair of second wines from this estate. With its classic Pauillac black-currant flavors and dense tannins, the wine is a slow developer. By 2025, it should show

great fruits and a balanced texture. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

93 **Château d'Armailhac 2018 Pauillac.** A ripe, juicy wine with great freshness and swathes of black-currant fruits, this is already delicious. Plenty of tannins back up the fruits and push the wine towards a rich future, but the balance is already there. Drink this wine from the Mouton-Rothschild stable from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$82

93 **Château Mouton Rothschild 2018 Le Petit Mouton de Mouton Rothschild (Pauillac).** Made from young vines, this second wine of Mouton Rothschild was, unusually, aged in 100% new wood. While that does show as a vanilla edge to the wine, the ripe black fruits are moving forward to give richness and density. Drink the wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$260

93 **Château Pichon Baron 2018 BORD Les Tourelles de Longueville (Pauillac).** One of the two second wines from this estate, this is dominated by Merlot, giving a rounded, jammy character that is comfortably filled out with generous tannins. With chocolate and spice flavors, the wine is developing well. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste 2018 Pauillac.** This is a relatively soft wine, its tannins already embracing the black-currant fruits. The structure is there, smoothly textured and ripe with fruitiness as well as good acidity. This wine is likely to develop relatively quickly, so drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

92 **Château Pibran 2018 Pauillac.** Rich in both structure and fruit, this wine has ripe tannins and a full, generous texture that is given shape by full-bodied, black-fruit flavors. From the northern part of Pauillac, the wine is good for medium-term aging. Drink from 2023. K&L Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

90 **Château Croizet-Bages 2018 Pauillac.** A soft, ripe and fruity wine, this has attractive blackberry fruits and gentle tannins. A core of dryness gives the wine some aging potential. It will be an enjoyable, friendly wine from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

SAINT-JULIEN

100 **Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2018 Saint-Julien.** Vintage 2018 was generous to the style of Ducru-Beaucaillou. The rich character of wines from this estate is enhanced by the ripeness and concentration of this wine. At the same time

it keeps an amazing freshness that comes out of the acidity. This wine will go down in the annals of this historic estate. It is not likely to approach drinkability before 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

97 **Château Léoville Barton 2018 Saint-Julien.** In this wine, fine and rich tannins partner with powerful black-plum and black-currant fruits. Densely textured while also having swathes of rich fruits, the wine shows both a firm side and one that offers total deliciousness. As it matures, both these aspects will come together. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$95

97 **Château Léoville Poyferré 2018 Saint-Julien.** Richly dense and impressively concentrated, this is a powerful wine. Swathes of black fruits show off the Cabernet structure and dark, ageworthy character of this wine. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

95 **Château Branaire-Ducru 2018 Saint-Julien.** A deceptively smooth texture and black fruits hide a wine that has great density and richness. Firm tannins lie beneath the ripeness. They will allow this wine to age, giving future concentration and depth. Drink the wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

95 **Château Langoa Barton 2018 Saint-Julien.** Beautifully textured and rich in black-currant flavors and tannins, this is a generous wine. The fruits and the dusty tannins partner each other well giving structure, concentration, a sense of poise and final freshness. Drink this wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$60

94 **Château Ducru-Beaucaillou 2018 La Croix Ducru-Beaucaillou (Saint-Julien).** Richly juicy and intense, this wine is massive, with concentrated tannins and dusty texture. The wine has weight and density but is also impressively fresh with acidity. It's a successful combination for this second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

94 **Château Gloria 2018 Saint-Julien.** This wine has all the structured intensity and ripe fruitiness of a Saint-Julien. At the same time, it displays a light touch with the black fruits and open texture, promising an attractive wine. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

94 **Château Gruaud Larose 2018 Saint-Julien.** A densely textured and rich wine, this has power and concentration. Smoky tannins show strongly as well as juicy black-currant fruits that are still young. The wine, with its structure, is just

starting on a journey to aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$106

94 **Château Lagrange 2018 Saint-Julien.** This smoky wine still shows some wood aging flavors. Structure comes from this wood aging as well as the rich blackberry-fruit tannins and concentration. The succulent Cabernet Sauvignon is ripe and full. It needs time, so drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$77

94 **Château Talbot 2018 Saint-Julien.** The special bottle celebrates 100 years of ownership by the Cordier family, one of the top Bordeaux wine families. This wine shows concentration and intense black fruits. Rich dark chocolate and a luscious texture are allied to the firm base of tannins. The wine is set for aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

92 **Château Saint-Pierre 2018 Saint-Julien.** This firm wine shows layers of tannins as well as the warm, rich black fruits typical of the vintage. Black-currant flavors along with the tannins give a dense wine with aging potential. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

LISTRAC-MÉDOC

93 **Château Clarke 2018 Listrac-Médoc.** Owned by a branch of the Rothschild family since 1973, this is a major estate in Listrac. Rich in black fruits and dense with ripe tannins, the wine is a 70/30 Merlot/Cabernet Sauvignon blend, reflected in the rounded texture that cushions the structure. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

92 **Château Fourcas Hosten 2018 Listrac-Médoc.** For full review see page 12.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 **Château Fourcas Dupré 2018 Listrac-Médoc.** This 113-acre estate has produced an attractive, while still structured wine. A firm core is surrounded by black-currant flavors and perfumed acidity. The wine will develop well; drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$26

MOULIS-EN-MÉDOC

94 **Château Chasse-Spleen 2018 Moulis-en-Médoc.** This structured wine is firm, with dark tannins that promise aging. The fruit hints at delicious black currant flavors and balanced acidity. It will be a stylish wine, but wait to drink until 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château Poujeaux 2018 Moulis-en-Médoc. This is a big-hearted wine, ripe with both black-plum flavors and generous tannins. At this stage the structure is prominent, but with the weight of the fruits, the wine will balance out full, ripe and ready to drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 Château Branas Grand Poujeaux 2018 Grand Poujeaux (Moulis-en-Médoc). One of many fine estates in Moulis that include Poujeaux in their names, this wine is rich. However, it also has a stylish line of ripe tannins and black-currant fruits. The wine is set for further aging, so drink from 2025. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

91 Château Maucaillou 2018 Moulis-en-Médoc. Perfumed with a floral character, this is already a balanced wine. Tannins and fruit harmonize with a vanilla edge from the wood aging. This wine should be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

MARGAUX

99 Château Palmer 2018 Margaux. This dense wine is almost black in color. Offering tannins and luscious black fruits, it is ripe with both structure and richness. The concentration and thought-provoking intensity are impressive. Drink this wine from 2028. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$343

98 Château Margaux 2018 Margaux. While this wine reflects the richness and density of the vintage, it also shows all the elegance of which a great Margaux is capable. The wine is powerful and beautifully structured, both ripe and restrained. It will age magnificently. Start to think about drinking from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$590

97 Château Rauzan-Ségla 2018 Margaux. Warm-hearted and rich with black-plum and dark-chocolate flavors, this wine comes from one of the properties owned by the Chanel luxury group. The dense tannins and generous fruits are typical of wines from this top estate. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$155

96 Château Brane-Cantenac 2018 Margaux. This is now performing as one of the top Margaux estates. Their latest release shows structure, elegant black fruits and rich tannins. Densely textured and vibrantly fruity, the wine has a fine future. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

96 Château Giscours 2018 Margaux. Always a significant wine, this latest release with powerful while also stylish black fruits fits into a well-regarded tradition. The density and broad fruitiness of the wine make fine foils for each other. It is firmly structured and set for aging. Drink this wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

96 Château Kirwan 2018 Margaux. This is a generous, full-bodied wine. Touches of vanilla indicate the wood aging but that will go as the elegant structure and black fruits come to the fore. The wine's future is assured, promising impressive drinking from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Château Cantenac Brown 2018 Margaux. Ripe black fruits shine through this balanced wine, showing strongly against a backdrop of rich, generous tannins. This estate is one to watch as it achieves the form the vineyard deserves. Expect this wine to be ready to drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$74

95 Château du Tertre 2018 Margaux. From the partner estate to Château Giscours, this wine is as elegant as you would expect. While it is structured, it also has ripe fruits, rich tannins and great potential. The dry and firm core of this wine will propel it forward. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Château Margaux 2018 Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux (Margaux). This second wine of Château Margaux, grand in its own right, is powerfully dense. It displays its own style and balance between rich black fruits and the acidity that shines through the structure. The wine will age well, its ripeness and concentration likely to soften as it matures. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$220

95 Château Prieuré-Lichine 2018 Margaux. This wine shows the generous richness of the vintage while restraining it with fine tannins and pure black-currant acidity. The structure and fruits promise long-term aging. Drink this wine from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

95 Château Siran 2018 Margaux. For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

94 Château Lascombes 2018 Margaux. This large estate to the north of Margaux village is performing well. There is still a tendency to overuse wood aging, but powerful black fruits will provide balance as the wine ages. With its structure and dark tannins, this wine has a long-

term perspective. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$117

94 Château Rauzan-Gassies 2018 Margaux. The effort that has gone into improving this estate is paying off. A wine like this allows the château to take its rightful classed growth place. Full of rich tannins, the wine also has the stylishness of a Margaux with a fine line of black-currant fruits and a ripe texture. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 Château Angludet 2018 Margaux. In this ripe, classic wine, the tannins and black-currant fruit are equally important. Warm tannins are underlined by the fruitiness and richness of Cabernet Sauvignon, giving the wine a fine, medium-term future. Drink from 2025. Organic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Château Malescot Saint-Exupéry 2018 Margaux. This is a fruity and structured wine. With its dusty tannins and promising firm core, it has the texture for aging. Fruitiness gives it the potential to mature into a poised and sophisticated wine. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

92 Château Dauzac 2018 Margaux. Powerfully structured, this is a big wine. Black fruits, ripe tannins and concentration are not shy in their richness. Juicy blackberry flavors are just beginning to develop and integrate with the structure. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$51

92 Château Marquis de Terme 2018 Margaux. In this wine, black fruits and tannins give both a dry core and a rich texture that is already beautifully integrated with the fruit. Fresh acidity adds to the wine's attractiveness and aging potential. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$51

92 Château Monbrison 2018 Margaux. This textured wine is full of dusty tannins, ripe black fruits and a sense of forward richness. Well balanced and fruity, with an open structure, this juicy wine will be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

HAUT-MÉDOC

94 Château Cantemerle 2018 Haut-Médoc. A well-constructed wine that is ripe with black fruits and integrated tannins, this is in a good place for aging. Black-currant fruitiness is balanced by a dry, smoky core that holds promise. Drink this wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

94 Château de Camensac 2018 Haut-Médoc. This estate is regaining its rightful place in the prestigious crus classés. Richly textured, this latest release shows luscious blackberry fruits and layers of firm tannins. The wine will age well, so wait to drink until 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

94 Château La Lagune 2018 Les Cabernets Sauvignons (Haut-Médoc). From one of the southernmost Médoc estates, close to the city of Bordeaux, this wine is structured, rich in black fruits and solidly dense. Yet with all this density and power, it has a sense of texture, elegance and sophistication that comes from Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink the wine from 2026. Organic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$53

93 Château Belgrave 2018 Haut-Médoc. This estate bordering Margaux has produced a rich, well-balanced wine. Classic black-currant flavors shine, with tannins playing a major supporting part. With its succulent texture and ripe fruits, the wine should age well over the medium term. Drink from 2025. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$38

93 Château La Tour Carnet 2018 Haut-Médoc. The vineyards surrounding the 12th-century castle have produced this rich and densely structured wine. Powerful tannins give a smoky character to the ripe, black-plum fruits. It definitely needs aging, so drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$39

92 Château Citran 2018 Haut-Médoc. This textured, fruity wine is given a firm edge by the tannins. The structure provides an important element in the wine's potential, balancing attractive black-currant flavors with a dry core. The wine should age, so drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

91 Château Croix de Reverdi 2018 Haut-Médoc. This wine is balanced, ripe and generously structured. While the wine has plenty of tannins, it also offers immediately delicious richness and black-fruit flavors. It will age well; drink from 2024. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

MÉDOC

93 Château Preuillac 2018 Cru Bourgeois Médoc. After many years of work, this has become one of the top Médoc estates. This release is well balanced, rich in both tannins and black-currant fruits. It has a fine future with its acidity and fresh aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 Château Haut Queyran 2018 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc). Although this wine shows plenty of obvious wood aging at this stage, the structured Cabernet Sauvignon, good acidity and black-currant flavors promise an excellent future. The wine has a firm edge, great freshness and a final spicy aftertaste. Drink from 2023. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

90 Goulée by Cos d'Estournel 2018 Médoc. This Médoc estate has the same winemaking team as Château Cos d'Estournel in Saint-Estèphe. This wine is sumptuously rich, with cushioned tannins and layers of black fruits. This ripe wine will age quickly and will be ready from 2022. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

92 Château Bourdieu 2018 No. 1 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). This wine has dense tannins that partner the ripe black fruits. With its full-bodied dark-plum flavors and texture that is smoothing out, the wine has weight, richness and a good future. Drink from 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

91 Château Bourdieu 2018 Absolu (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). A rich, opulent wine, this is full of dark tannins and powerful fruit. It's a big wine, with licorice and dense wood flavors that give a smoky character and reflect some serious extraction. The wine needs to smooth out to showcase its concentrated richness. Drink from 2024. The Wine Source. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

89 Château Bourdieu 2018 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux. This wine is dominated by rich, generous black fruits from Merlot, giving it a warm feel that is balanced by acidity. A bite of pepper indicates the high alcohol, which is a shame for this otherwise maturing wine. Drink from 2022. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

88 Château du Cavalier 2018 Cuvée Prestige (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux). While this wine has plenty of tannins, it is moving quickly to maturity. A vanilla touch underlines the structure and black fruits. The wine is almost there. Wait until 2022. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

87 Château la Motte 2019 Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux. This wine emphasizes fruitiness, with good balance between blackberry flavors and a structure that is becoming fully integrated. It will be ready from 2022. Serge Doré Selections. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

CÔTES DE BOURG

91 Château Rouselle 2016 Cuvée Prestige (Côtes de Bourg). With its ripe maturity, this wine is ready to drink. The black-currant fruits and acidity are still very present but have added spice and ripe perfumes. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Château Chamaille 2019 Côtes de Bourg. This ripe wine comes from a small appellation at the mouth of the Dordogne. Still young and bursting with black fruits, it is already balanced and well on the way to becoming generous and fruity. It will be ready from 2023. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Château Rouselle 2015 Not 4 U (Côtes de Bourg). This is a mature, rich wine. Secondary flavors of spice, fruit cake, and ripe tannins dominate, the fruit now fully integrated. Density and structure makes the wine a rich food accompaniment. Drink now. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 Château Rouselle 2018 Côtes de Bourg. Warm, rich and stylish, this wine has ripe tannins and generous blackberry fruits. With its dense structure and powerful fruitiness, the wine is not shy. It also needs plenty of time, so wait to drink until 2022. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

POMEROL

96 Château la Fleur-Pétrus 2018 Pomerol. Situated on some of the finest terroir in Pomerol, this estate has produced a powerful while impressively subtle wine. Black fruits, rich tannins and strength come together in a wine that is much more than its elements. Aging will bring out the wine's character. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$240

96 Château Trotanoy 2018 Pomerol. This is a great estate performing at its best. In this latest release, massive tannins give black-plum fruits concentration and layers of spice and licorice flavors. The wine is set for long-term aging and certainly should not be touched before 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$400

95 Château Clinet 2018 Pomerol. This is a powerful, densely structured wine. Rich in tannins, full of dark black fruits and ripe acidity, the wine is impressively complete. It has considerable promise. Drink this wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135

BUYINGGUIDE

95 Château Gazin 2018 Pomerol. For its weight, this wine is also elegant. Rich, lush Merlot fruit flavors have a sense of restraint, self-contained and already delicious. The ripe berry flavors promise a wine that will have opulent fruit as well as structure. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$96

95 Château Hosanna 2018 Pomerol. This small property has produced a surprisingly restrained, stylish wine for its great richness. Ripe tannins showcase the black-currant fruits, with the perfumed Cabernet Franc balanced by dense Merlot in a harmonious whole. This is a wine to age. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$170

95 Château La Conseillante 2018 Pomerol. The elegant structure that backs up this wine is impressive in its restraint. While the wine has plenty of black fruits and dark tannins, it conveys a calm character that sees long-term aging as its goal. The wine will take its time. Drink from 2026. Spec's. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$278

94 Château Certan de May de Certan 2018 Pomerol. This wine relishes its richness while keeping its tannins firmly under control. That makes for a texture that is both fresh with acidity and dense with powerful fruits. It is restrained, but promises a rich future. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$170

94 Château l'Évangile 2018 Pomerol. Owned by the Rothschild family of Lafite-Rothschild, this estate has produced a richly delicious wine. The power of Merlot is tempered and perfumed by ripe Cabernet Franc. Tannins and acidity both point to aging potential. The wine's weight, cut with black fruits, is just right and well in balance. This wine needs time, so drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

94 Château la Croix de Gay 2018 Pomerol. This powerful, Merlot-dominated wine is densely textured and concentrated. Powerful, dark fruits are as intense as the tannins, offering huge richness. For contrast, fresher acidity shoots through the wine, adding to the ageworthy promise. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

94 Château Latour à Pomerol 2018 Pomerol. This powerful, structured wine is packed with the ripest Merlot, with magnificent tannins and dark-plum flavors. Freshness shines through all this density, giving the wine considerable aging potential. Drink this rich wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$115

93 Château la Grave Trigant de Boisset 2018 Pomerol. This is a stylish wine, ripe with black fruits and tannins that show restraint despite the high alcohol. Moving towards integration and with great black-currant fruits, the wine has considerable potential. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 Château le Bon Pasteur 2018 Pomerol. Rich with smoky flavors and tastes of wood aging, this wine is just starting out. The fruit is certainly there, lush black-plum flavors supported by a core of dense tannins. With its richness and potential, the wine needs time. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$79

93 Château Plincette 2018 Pomerol. A well-textured, smooth and rich wine, this is powerful while also retaining great elegance. It is a black-fruited, dense wine, shot through with acidity and with a well rounded profile. Drink this blend of 90% Merlot with Cabernet Franc from 2024. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Château Beauregard 2018 Pomerol. Rich in supple Merlot, this wine shows full, ripe black fruits and plenty of solid tannins to balance. Power comes from the concentrated black-plum flavors and rich structure that have come together well. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

92 Château La Conseillante 2018 Duo de Conseillante (Pomerol). Big, bold and fruity, this Merlot-dominated second wine of La Conseillante is richly structured and full of spice. Succulent black fruits dominate a concentrated wine that will age well over the medium term. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$64

92 Château Lafleur-Gazin 2018 Pomerol. Black fruits and structured tannins are happily balanced by this wine's freshness. The Merlot gives a huge feel to the wine, not beating about the bush in its density and concentration. At the end, though, there is fruitiness and the promise of freshness as the wine matures. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

92 Château Petit Village 2018 Pomerol. This is a dark, dense wine, with its tannins very much intact. Under the powerful structure, there are hints of the rich black fruits that are likely to develop as the wine matures. It will need some time, so wait to drink until 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$84

92 Domaine de Compostelle 2018 Pomerol. Named after the pilgrim routes to Santiago de Compostella that still pass through Pomerol, this pure Merlot is rich in bold black fruits with

an opulent texture. The wine has plenty of tannins as well, giving it aging potential. It should be ready from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Bourgneuf 2018 Pomerol. In this wine, dense black fruits laced with dark chocolate and licorice flavors have a powerful, solid character. The wine has a massive feel, pushing richness and demanding aging. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

91 Clos Vieux Taillefer 2018 Pomerol. This wine with dense Merlot jamminess and tannins is massive and rich. There is no shyness in this wine, which has impressive, up-front black fruits that are ready to develop. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

90 Château la Pointe 2018 Pomerol. While this wine does have density and a tannic layer, its open accessible character promises medium-term aging. Ripe blackberries and acidity come through with attractive freshness. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

LALANDE DE POMEROL

92 Château de Chambrun 2018 Lalande de Pomerol. Old vines in a 21-acre vineyard have produced this rich, dense wine. The wine has power and concentration, black-plum fruits and licorice flavors given extra power by the partial wood aging. The wine will age and should be ready from 2024. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Château Moncets 2018 Lalande de Pomerol. The bold, ripe fruits of this blackberry-flavored wine are mixed generously with tannins. It is structured, still firm but with good potential. The 44-acre vineyard, dominated by Merlot, gives a wine that should be ready from 2024. Calvert Woodley Fine Wines & Spirits. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine de Gachet 2018 Lalande de Pomerol. A half-and-half blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, this wine is ripe and structured. Black-plum and berry flavors are balanced by the solid structure and juicy acidity that shoots through the wine. With aging potential, the wine will be ready from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Château Haut-Surget 2018 Lalande de Pomerol. This 60-acre vineyard has produced a well-textured, ripe and smooth wine. With lush black fruits enlivened by acidity, the wine shows a core of dusty dryness that supports the rich

fruitiness. Drink the wine from 2022. Luneau USA Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Château Vieux Chaigneau 2018 Lalande de Pomerol.** A rich, full-bodied and dense wine, this is packed with firm tannins, up-front black fruits and powerful structure. This is not a shy wine, showing off its richness and likely to age well. Drink from 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$27

89 **Château Haut-Goujon 2016 Lalande de Pomerol.** Approaching maturity, this ripe wine is on the cusp of secondary flavors. The acidity and black fruits are still there, a reminder of the wine's ripeness and balance. Drink this wine soon, from late 2021. Vineyards to Table. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Château Haut-Goujon 2012 Cuvée Malbec (Lalande de Pomerol).** This is a rarity, a wine made mainly with Malbec in Lalande de Pomerol. The wine has maturity, with its tannins smoothed and given juicy richness. With the secondary spicy flavors showing alongside the acidity, the wine is ready to drink. Medallion Global. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$48

88 **Château la Rose des Tuileries 2018 Lalande de Pomerol.** This is a ripe, generous wine, with friendly mint perfumes and black-plum flavors. The wine's structure is fully embedded in the rich texture. Drink from late 2021. Accolade Brands. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

87 **Château Haut-Goujon 2014 Lalande de Pomerol.** This mature wine is beginning to dry out. Tannins are present but maybe the fruit is fading. It is drinkable as an older wine, the secondary flavors and spice still there. Drink now. Vineyards to Table. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

93 **Château des Landes 2018 Luccianus Amphore (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** Centenarian vine Cabernet Franc aged for a year in an amphora has yielded a well-structured wine. Dense tannins are no impediment to the wine's black fruits and spicy, open character. Rich and concentrated, the wine will age and be best from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château des Landes 2018 Grand Héritage (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** Produced from old Merlot vines, this wine is rich in structure and silky tannins. The black-plum fruits give a full and generous wine that will take its time as it matures. Textured and ripe, the wine will be ready from 2023. Kysela Père et Fils. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$49

90 **Château Lyonnat 2018 Lussac Saint-Émilien.** Made with 85% Merlot, this wine is richly textured, full of jammy black fruits with good structure and balancing acidity. It is coming together with its fresh edge to be drinkable from 2022. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

89 **Château Bonnin Pichon 2019 Grande Réserve (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** From one of the villages north of Saint-Émilien, this is a ripe Merlot. Packed with ripe blackberry fruits and with soft tannins even after only a year, the wine is gently textured. Drink from 2022. Wine Circle. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

89 **Château Lyonnat 2018 Emotion (Lussac Saint-Émilien).** With 18 months in new wood, this wine has great richness. The wood-aging flavors show but opulent black fruits are powerful enough to balance the wine. It will age well and be ready to drink from 2022. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

87 **Château la Grenière 2015 Lussac Saint-Émilien.** With its balance between secondary flavors and a core of dusty tannins, this mature wine is generously ripe. A bite of licorice and touch of spice add to the complexity of this wine that is ready to drink. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

92 **Château Clos de Bouard 2018 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** Big tannins and rich, succulent black fruits give a wine that is rich, solid and immensely concentrated. It is a blockbuster wine, dense and full of the ripest black fruits and promising a long aging. Drink from 2024. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$31

91 **Château La Bastienne 2018 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** With just a touch of smoky Cabernet Franc, this wine is packed with ripe berry fruits and jammy tannins that burst with energy. The structure is coming together with the rich fruitiness to produce a wine that will age further. Drink from 2023. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

90 **Château Clos de Bouard 2018 Dame de Bouard (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** Produced by the family that owns celebrated Saint-Émilien estate Château Angélus, this wine is concentrated and rich. It presents a panoply of young, ripe berry flavors and juicy acidity, backed with solid tannins. Drink this wine from 2023. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

88 **Château Haut-Goujon 2016 La Fleur du Barril (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** Already a balanced and mature wine, this is spicy and juicy.

Richness that is mitigated by the remaining tannins and acidity. The wine is likely to age a little further, so drink from late 2021. Vineyards to Table. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

87 **Château Haut-Goujon 2014 Montagne-Saint-Émilien.** This wine is definitely mature and beginning to dry out. The tannins are present but the fruit is fading. For now, it is drinkable as an older wine. Secondary flavors and spice still there. Drink now. Vineyards to Table. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

86 **Vieux Château Palon 2018 Palon (Montagne-Saint-Émilien).** The dark density indicates this wine's richness. There is plenty of fruit here, but there is also plenty of extracted wood aging that leaves a bitter taste. While the wine will open up somewhat, it will likely always suffer from structure and dryness. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$29

SAINT-ÉMILION

100 **Château Figeac 2018 Saint-Émilien.** With its rich swathe of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine has density and immense structure balanced by stunning black fruits that give impressive promise. This powerful wine is probably the greatest ever produced from this estate. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$245

98 **Château Ausone 2018 Saint-Émilien.** The perfumes of this wine just pour from the glass. They measure up to the promise of the black tannins and dark, dense fruits, the monumental structure and juicy black-plum flavors. The whole ethos of this wine is towards long-term aging to great power and intensity for the future. Drink from 2028. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$834

98 **Château Cheval Blanc 2018 Saint-Émilien.** The first thing that strikes about this wine is its massive density. The second is the richness of the structured Cabernet Franc that is such an important element in the blend. Weight is balanced by the intense fruits and amazing freshness of a wine that has such concentration. This wine will age for years. Don't touch it before 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$700

97 **Château Bélair-Monange 2018 Saint-Émilien.** Dense layers of black fruits mingle with dusty tannins in this wine. The powerful structure is beautifully balanced with ripe fruitiness in harmony with the concentration of the wine's texture. This wine will age well. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$190

97 Château la Gaffelière 2018 Saint-Émilion. This estate is on a roll. Replete with powerful tannins and dense black fruits, this latest release continues the succession of fine vintages. Perfumed, ripe with berry flavors and, more importantly, with rich tannins, the wine will age impressively. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

97 Château Valandraud 2018 Saint-Émilion. This release continues the great run of vintages from this estate, based in the eastern part of Saint-Émilion. Powerful tannins are echoed by sumptuous black-plum and berry flavors. The high alcohol shows in the density although this concentrated wine does stay comfortably in balance. It needs plenty of aging. Don't drink before 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$189

97 Clos Fourtet 2018 Saint-Émilion. This impressive estate has produced another fine wine. Structured, powered by tannins as much as by great fruit, this wine is set for a long aging process. The fruit shows massive concentration, enhanced by succulent acidity and bolstered by those tannins that show so strongly. It's a wine for great patience, so wait to drink until 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$129

96 Château Ausone 2018 Chapelle d'Ausone (Saint-Émilion). The second wine of Château Ausone, always produced in limited quantities, provides a fine echo of the top wine. Bold tannins and fine perfumes give this wine richness and excellent potential. Layers of black fruits are impeccable, right in the balance with the wine's texture. This will certainly age, drinkable from 2026. Château Ausone. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$200

96 Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2018 Saint-Émilion. Big, rich and packed with smoky black fruits, this is not a shy wine. Dark chocolate and black-plum flavors mingle with the solid structure and concentrated tannins. With its ripe, juicy fruitiness at the end, the wine has all the elements in place. Let it age and drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$103

96 Château Canon 2018 Saint-Émilion. This estate owned by the Chanel luxury group continues its winning streak with this latest release. Dark and firm at this stage but with obviously powerful, rich black fruits, the wine is destined for a long aging. Tannins and structure pour through dense blackberry and damson flavors, leaving room for a succulent aftertaste. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$149

96 Château Trotteville 2018 Saint-Émilion. A decade ago, this estate was in a fallow period, but its wines live up to their terroir. Solid

tannins give it dryness and hint at the classic black-currant fruits to come. At the moment, the wine is just starting out, but its elements promise good aging. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Château la Dominique 2018 Saint-Émilion. This estate, backing on to Château Cheval Blanc, has produced an intensely structured wine also full of rich fruits. It has the weight and density typical of this warm vintage, giving a powerhouse of black fruit and structure. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$59

94 Château Cheval Blanc 2018 Le Petit Cheval (Saint-Émilion). The second wine of Château Cheval Blanc, this is rich and structured in its own right. It offers powerful tannins as well as ripe, smoky fruitiness. Blackberry flavors vie with structured richness, always keeping a center of freshness. The wine will age well and should not be drunk before 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$210

94 Château Figeac 2018 Le Petit Figeac (Saint-Émilion). The second wine of Château Figeac, this reflects the top wine's chiseled structure and firm tannins, rich in black currant and damson fruits. The tannins and vanilla flavors give the wine sweetness, echoed by the generous fruits. Drink from 2025. Château Figeac. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Château Guadet 2018 Saint-Émilion. With the arrival of the next generation, this estate has begun to achieve its real potential. The result is this powerfully impressive wine, solid with tannins as well as perfumed black fruits and a solid, ageworthy structure. Drink this wine from 2027. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

94 Château la Clotte 2018 Saint-Émilion. This estate is continuing its rise under the tutelage of the Vauthier family of Château Ausone. With firm tannins, dark black fruits, smoky flavors and touches of spice, the wine will need time. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$81

94 Château la Couspaude 2018 Saint-Émilion. The vineyard, on the edge of Saint-Émilion city, has produced a juicy, well-structured wine. Restrained tannins back up ripe black-currant fruitiness. An attractive smoky perfume from rich Cabernet Franc in the blend enhances complexity and density. Drink the wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$62

94 Château les Grandes Murailles 2018 Saint-Émilion. Named after the remains of a church that stands on the edge of Saint-Émilion,

this wine is rich and dense. It is also stylish, as you would expect from a wine produced by neighboring Clos Fourtet. Black-currant flavors along with powerful tannins and acidity will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$58

94 Château Quinault L'Enclos 2018 Saint-Émilion. The estate is surrounded by the suburbs of the city of Libourne and this wine is produced by the team at Château Cheval Blanc. That combination has produced a sequence of fine wines, like this release. Rich fruits have been given a sheen of wood aging and crafted tannins to make a wine that will age well. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

94 Château Sanctus 2018 Saint-Émilion. With vines to the east of Saint-Émilion city, this wine is rich and solid with tannins, with a powerfully pure line of acidity and black fruits. The wine will age and should be ready to drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Château Soutard 2018 Saint-Émilion. From the vineyard that surrounds one of the grandest chateaux in Saint-Émilion, this wine brings richness, complexity and density. A blend that unusually includes Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec, it is a structured, firm wine that emphasizes tannins as much as the black-currant fruits. It will be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$52

94 Clos des Jacobins 2018 Saint-Émilion. While this wine is rich, it also has style and delicious potential. Blackberry fruits and touches of wood aging show it is still young. These will work together well as the wine matures and give a ripe wine full of Merlot fruits that's ready to drink from 2025. Vintners Alliance. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

93 Château Berliquet 2018 Saint-Émilion. Under the same winemaking team as Château Canon, this wine shows richness, with swathes of ripe black-fruited Merlot and a licorice character. Bold, ripe flavors are warm and opulent, mitigated by fresher black-currant acidity at the end. Drink from 2026. Zachy's. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$54

93 Château Fonplégade 2018 Saint-Émilion. This well-balanced wine is ripe, with dense black fruits shot through with ageworthy tannins. Poised and already offering fruitiness and ripeness built for long-term aging, this wine will be ready from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 Château Grand Mayne 2018 Saint-Émilion. A rich, perfumed wine, this has ripe black-fruit and vanilla flavors. Dense tannins from both

from the wood and the fruit add spice and smokiness to this full wine. The firmness needs to soften into the fruit, so wait to drink until 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

93 **Château La Serre 2018 Saint-Émilion.** Produced by the d'Arfeuille family, this wine is densely tannic while also perfumed from the Cabernet Franc in the blend. It has a strong presence, black fruits and a solid dry core promising aging potential. Drink this powerful wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 **Château La Tour Figeac 2018 Saint-Émilion.** This vineyard operated on organic principles has produced a firm, solidly structured wine. It is dense, full of tannins as much as black-currant fruits. All the elements are just beginning to come together. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Château Moulin Saint-Georges 2018 Saint-Émilion.** From one of the estates owned by the Vauthier family of Château Ausone, this wine is rich, both in fruit and tannic structure. Ripeness and power are balanced by elegant fruits. Drink the wine from 2026. Château Ausone. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$38

93 **Château Rol Valentin 2018 Saint-Émilion.** Big tannins and rich berry fruits are a reminder that this estate made one of the original garage wines. Things have become more classic perhaps, but the dense richness of blackberry fruits and tannins and beautiful precision remain. Drink the wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

92 **Château Boutisse 2018 Saint-Émilion.** The two Milhade siblings have produced a rich, many-layered wine. With dense tannins balanced by equally intense fruit, this Merlot-based wine is concentrated. Black fruits, acidity and layers of tannins need time to come together. Drink from 2025. Vintus LLC. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$45

92 **Château Dassault 2018 Saint-Émilion.** This is a classic, well-structured wine. Firm tannins currently mask ripe black-currant fruit and acidity that will shortly offer succulent richness. The wine will age well. Drink from 2026. Château Dassault. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Château Grand Corbin 2018 Saint-Émilion.** Powerful fruits and tannins show densely in this concentrated wine. It is all about structured black fruits that are still young and vibrant with freshness among the ripe flavors. The wine needs to smooth out, so wait until 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

92 **Château Haut Veyrac 2018 Saint-Émilion.** Superrich and packed with Merlot, this is a densely powerful wine. Its intensity is just lightened by acidity, but tannins and the rich structure dominate and are likely to keep this wine concentrated as it matures. Drink from 2024. DHI Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$30

92 **Château Larmande 2018 Saint-Émilion.** This classically luscious wine is full of ripe Merlot, with swathes of blackberry fruits. A solid structure behind this exuberant fruitiness suggests the wine has a rich, full future. The wine will age over the medium term. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Château Palais Cardinal 2018 Saint-Émilion.** On the plain of Saint-Émilion, this vineyard has produced a richly dense wine that also shows restraint and elegant tannins. The dominance of Merlot gives the bold black fruits and acidity. Wood aging adds spice and smoothness to the texture. This wine will be ready from 2024. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 **Château Cap de Mourlin 2018 Saint-Émilion.** With a core of structured tannins, this wine has a textured character. Blackberry fruits show through this dry core to give the wine balanced potential. It will be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

91 **Château de Fonbel 2018 Saint-Émilion.** Rich in tannins and layered with dense black fruits, this is a wine for aging. The most structured wine from this estate to date, it deserves its maturing time. Drink this wine from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$27

91 **Château Franc Mayne 2018 Saint-Émilion.** With 90% Merlot, this wine has density and ripe, jammy fruits. Dark chocolate and firm tannins contrast with the fruitiness, giving the structure for this solid wine to age. Drink from 2026. Château Franc Mayne. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Château Haut Veyrac 2015 Saint-Émilion.** This generously mature wine brings plenty of juicy acidity to the tannic edge and the secondary flavors. The wine has a fair amount of weight, the tannins holding everything together. It is smoky as well as fresh on the aftertaste. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

91 **Château Jean Voisin 2018 Saint-Émilion.** The latest release from this estate, in existence since the 16th century, is densely structured and packed with black-plum flavors. It is still young, vibrant with berry fruits and tannins. Give this

rich wine time to smooth out and drink from 2023. Blicher Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

91 **Château Villemaurine 2018 Saint-Émilion.** This estate, situated just on the edge of the city of Saint-Émilion, has produced a big, juicy wine. Soft tannins and superripe black fruits suggest it will develop well over the medium term. This is a rich wine, ready to drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 **Château Balestard la Tonnelle 2018 Saint-Émilion.** Soft, fruity and already delicious, this wine is open and only lightly structured. An attractive wine with black-currant flavors, it's fresh with balanced acidity. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Château du Paradis 2018 Saint-Émilion.** This dense, Merlot-dominated wine is powerful, with some heavy extraction bitterness. While that will soften to bring forward the black fruits, the wine has a heavy feel, showing plenty of bold tannins and structure. Drink, when it all calms down, from 2023. Soilair Selection. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$34

90 **Château Haut-Simard 2018 Saint-Émilion.** A small portion of the Château Simard vineyard is treated separately, giving this wine with elegant richness and a core of solid tannins. The ripeness and generous acidity promise aging. This wine should be drunk from 2025. Château Ausone. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Château Palais Cardinal 2018 La Réserve (Saint-Émilion).** This is a ripe blend dominated by Merlot, giving the softness and richness of the black-fruit flavors. The dense texture will age over the medium term. Drink from 2023. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$50

90 **Château Palais Cardinal 2018 Le Palatin de Château Palais Cardinal (Saint-Émilion).** One of the two second wines from the estate, this offers grapes selected from a single parcel. Properly for a second wine, this is richly textured bottling is already developing well. As it ages, background tannins will smooth out and bring out the rich Merlot and Cabernet Franc flavors. Drink from 2023. Latitude Wines, Inc. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 **Château Barrail Saint André 2018 Saint-Émilion.** From one of several properties in Saint-Émilion that uses the name Barrail, this rich wine offers tannins that are cushioned by dense black fruits. For a Bordeaux wine, it is perhaps too rich for its own good, losing some sense of balance in its search for power. Drink the wine from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

89 Château Simard 2018 Saint-Émilion. This ripe, full-fruited wine has great blackberry flavors. Structure and tannins give the wine a warm, open character leaving the fruitiness to shine. Drink from 2024. Château Ausone. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Trianon 2018 Saint-Émilion. Full of dense, juicy Merlot, this ripe and soft wine is packed with fruitiness. Tannins show under the fruit, a layer of firmness that gives the structure the wine will need to age. Drink from 2023. The Wine Source. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 Château Jean Voisin 2018 L'Esprit de Jean Voisin (Saint-Émilion). Lightly smoky and rich in black fruits, this is a fragrant wine. Merlot ripeness is poised with acidity, giving freshness to the peppery aftertaste. Drink the wine from 2023. Bliker Pierce Wagner Wine Merchants. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 Domaine des Gourdins 2018 Saint-Émilion. With a swath of Cabernet Franc, this rich wine from the plain of Saint-Émilion is perfumed with ripe red fruits as well as generous tannins. Likely to age quickly, the wine should be ready from 2022. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

86 Château du Mignon 2018 Saint-Émilion. Black fruits dominate this still-structured wine. With its acidity, perfumed black-currant fruits and juicy freshness, the wine is a work in progress. Give it until 2023. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

PESSAC-LÉOGNAN

96 Château Haut-Bailly 2018 Pessac-Léognan. The balance between Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon in this wine gives it swathes of rich fruit and a classic structure. Blackberry flavors layered with firm, dense tannins convey elegance and richness. This is a ripe wine, generously proportioned and ready for aging. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$129

96 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Despite its weight, this is a well-crafted wine. It combines richness with sophisticated tannins, dense black fruits and considerable potential. Ripe berry flavors give depth. Drink this wine from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

96 Château Pape Clément 2018 Pessac-Léognan. An oasis of green, this grand estate within the Bordeaux suburbs has produced a powerful, massively textured wine. It also has the fruit richness to partner the structure along with a

fresher streak of acidity. The wine will age, so drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

96 Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2018 Pessac-Léognan. This wine offers rich licorice and blackberry flavors as well as freshness. It has structure and power while also showing fruitiness and acidity that offer poise. The wine's long-term future is assured. Drink from 2026. Organic and biodynamic. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$115

95 Château la Louvière 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Ripe and spicy with blueberry fruits and rich tannins, this wine is just setting out on its long journey. One of the properties owned by the Lurton family in Pessac-Léognan, the wine balanced, with acidity and fruits allied to tannins. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$52

95 Château Latour-Martillac 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Owned by the Kressmann family, this estate has released an ageworthy wine. Rich tannins are balanced by dark, juicy blackberry fruits and dense, concentrated tannins. The wine needs to age, so drink from 2026. Joanne Bordeaux USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$44

95 Château Olivier 2018 Pessac-Léognan. This estate dating to the 12th century is enjoying a new era with recent releases, including this. The wine is dense and structured, packed with dark plum-skin flavors and rich tannins. It has a promising future and shouldn't be drunk before 2025. Château Olivier. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

94 Château Beychevelle 2018 Pessac-Léognan. There is attractive tension in this wine between the dry tannins and opulently ripe black fruits. That sets the wine on a course of long-term aging. Bold, dense fruits are matched by the dry core. The wine will take time. Drink from 2027. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

94 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Black fruits and tannins combine well in this structured wine. There is a succulent character to the fruit, with acidity and a fresh aftertaste working together. Still young, the wine should be ready from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

93 Château de France 2018 Pessac-Léognan. Offering structure as well as black-currant fruits, this wine is already balanced. It has fruit weight, the succulent Merlot balanced by complex Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. A wine with

a good future, this should be ready from 2024. Château de France. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Château Haut-Bailly 2018 Haut-Bailly II (Pessac-Léognan). The second wine of this estate, formerly La Parde de Haut-Bailly, is a good reflection of the top wine. Firm tannins are embellished by black fruits that give richness and density. While tannins are there, the wine is generously textured and set for great medium-term aging. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$41

93 Château Haut-Bergey 2018 Pessac-Léognan. This is sumptuously textured, rich wine with generous black fruits. Its structure and jammy blackberry flavors promise ripeness and richness for the future. With its tannins lying under the fruit, it should develop relatively quickly. Drink from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

93 Château Malartic-Lagravière 2018 La Réserve de Malartic (Pessac-Léognan). This second wine of Malartic-Lagravière is rich with smooth tannins and generous blackberry fruits. A soft texture, ripe fruitiness and fine depth and density all contribute to a wine that will age well over the medium-term. Drink from 2023. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

93 Château Pape Clément 2018 Clémentin de Pape Clément (Pessac-Léognan). With its structure balanced by textured black-currant fruits and acidity, this is an attractive second wine. Poise and freshness are matched by the tannins and dry core. Drink the wine from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Château Picque Caillou 2018 Pessac-Léognan. This well-structured wine shows both richness and tension. Black-currant fruitiness is balanced by a mineral texture that gives the wine a taut, structured edge that contrasts with the juicy fruits. This suggests the wine will age well. Drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Château Olivier 2018 Le Dauphin d'Olivier (Pessac-Léognan). The second wine of Château Olivier, this is properly advanced, with ripe berry fruits and soft tannins. It is almost ready now, juicy acidity adding freshness to the rich, dense fruitiness. Drink from 2022. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Château le Thil 2018 Comte Clary (Pessac-Léognan). Obvious wood aging gives this wine a smoky character. At the same time, black-currant fruits are developing and promising a richly textured wine in the future. The wine, under the same winemaking team as Château Smith Haut

Lafitte, is likely to be ready from 2024. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

91 Château Carignan 2016 Prima (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux). Chunky Merlot has combined with tannins to produce a strongly structured wine that is still developing. Its dense texture and dry core are matched by generous black fruits in a powerful wine that will be ready from 2022. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

90 Château du Vallier 2019 Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux. The most recent purchase of the Dulon family, this estate on the slopes near the city of Cadillac has produced a wine with swathes of juicy fruits, rich tannins and a perfumed character. It will develop well and be ready to drink from 2023. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$38

89 Château Léon 2016 Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux. This three-century-old estate on the slope north of the Garonne river has produced a ripe, smoky wine that is now mature. With a preponderance of Merlot in the blend, it has a jammy, rich character that is just ready to drink now. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

90 Château Senilhac 2018 Bordeaux Supérieur. This ripe wine comes from an estate in the Entre-deux-Mers. With generous tannins and dense black fruits, it is very much a product of the vintage. Succulent berry flavors are right up front, so let them calm down and drink the wine from 2022. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 Château Bois de Rolland 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur). Fruity with red berries and ripe tannins, this vanilla-touched wine shows both its wood aging and structure. It is a full-bodied, condensed wine that will age well. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 Château Grand Jean 2019 Bordeaux Supérieur. This rich wine is full of ripe tannins and generous black fruits. With this structure and fruitiness, it will develop well and deliciously over the medium term. Drink from 2022. Misa Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

89 Château L'Oiseau 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur). Spicy and fruity, this fresh wine is well structured. Wood and black fruits come together easily to give richness, texture and

a final burst of acidity. Drink from 2023. Saranty Imports. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

89 Château Saby 2018 Bordeaux Supérieur. Structured while also packed with black fruits, this wine has generous tannins and a ripe future. Black-currant flavors are jammy and rich. The wine will be ready from 2022. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

88 Château Croix Mouton 2019 Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur). The black-fruit flavors and tannic texture of this wine are darkly powerful. With the big tannins and developing fruitiness, the wine should age well. Drink from 2022. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Château Jalousie Beaulieu 2019 Bordeaux Supérieur. A blend of Merlot with just a touch of Cabernet Sauvignon, this balanced wine is young and spicy, with red-fruit flavors. It is still fresh and shows a tannic structure. It won't take long to be ready. Wait until 2022. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

88 Château l'Isle Fort 2018 Bordeaux Supérieur. From a small estate in the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers, this wine has a rich structure, offering spice, succulent black-currant fruits and freshness at the end. This wood-aged wine will be ready from late 2021. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$21

88 Château Sainte-Marie 2018 Vieilles Vignes Source de Passion (Bordeaux Supérieur). This smoky, wood-aged wine shows plenty of concentration. It is to be hoped that the wood flavors will integrate and give the ripe black-currant fruit a chance to shine. Tannins and acidity promise well, so wait to drink until 2022. Polaner Selections. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

85 Château Leroy-Bauval 2018 Bordeaux Supérieur. A smoky, licorice-flavored wine, this is dense and rich. Pepper and wood flavors reflect the high alcohol that gives the wine a burnt character. While the Merlot fruit will develop, this wine will remain too strong. —R.V.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

BORDEAUX

88 Château Gory 2018 Bordeaux. This blend holds a substantial proportion of Malbec, indicating the grape's increasing importance in parts of Bordeaux. Here it gives a wine that has now softened and smoothed its structure. Blackberry flavors and attractive acidity predominate, with a juicy aftertaste. Drink now. Organic. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

87 Château Barrail Meyney 2019 Bordeaux. This is a luscious young wine. Rich in blackberry fruits and vibrant acidity, the wine comes from the Entre-deux-Mers region, and shows the density of Merlot in this vintage. Drink the wine from 2022. Ideal Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

86 Château la Freynelle 2018 Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Bordeaux). This ripe, balanced wine has a good mix of black-currant fruits and light tannins. The structure and juicy acidity mean the wine is ready to drink. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

84 Château Cazette 2019 Bordeaux. Young and fruity, this is a simple, black-currant-flavored wine. Light tannins and bright fruitiness give a wine that is likely to be ready quickly. Drink from late 2021. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

OTHER RED WINES

92 Château de Francs 2018 Les Cerisiers (Francs Côtes de Bordeaux). The small appellation of Francs Côtes de Bordeaux, situated north of Castillon, can produce some impressive wines, such as this. With dark tannins and concentrated fruit, the wine, from vines planted in a former cherry orchard, is set to age. It should be ready from 2024. Masciarelli Wine Co. —R.V.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

91 Château de Lafaurie-Monbadon 2016 Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux. With its 70% Merlot, this wine shows black fruits that are still vibrant and bursting with brightness. There are also hints of the wine's maturity to come, the softening of the freshness. It should be ready from 2022. Organic. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

91 Château Rahoul 2018 Graves. Ripe and fruity with tannins that have already begun to soften, this is a full, juicy wine. Black-currant fruits show a rich, jammy character from the Merlot in the blend. Tannins come through, but gently, suggesting this wine will age relatively quickly. Drink from 2024. Champagnes & Châteaux USA. —R.V.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Domaine de la Solitude 2018 Chapelle de la Solitude (Graves). The second wine from this estate is ripe, rich with elegance and freshness as well as delicious blackberry fruits. Made by the winemaking team of Domaine de Chevalier, this wine has good depth of flavor and final freshness. Drink from 2023. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Château Haut Rozier 2018 Francs Côtes de Bordeaux. Spicy and smoky, this firmly structured wine has rich tannins as well as black fruits, shot through with licorice and acidity. Ripe

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and well textured, the wine will be ready from 2022. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 **Château la Fleur des Graves 2016 Graves de Vayres.** This ripe blend with equal proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot is rich but stylishly structured. Black-currant fruits are still a strong element in this balanced wine that still could age. Drink now, but it's better wait until 2022. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$26

RHÔNE VALLEY WHITE WINES

CONDRIEU

94 **Dauvergne & Ranvier 2019 Vin Rare (Condrieu).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$79

93 **Domaine Benjamin et David Duclaux 2019 Les Caillets (Condrieu).** Heady notes of burnt caramel and char introduce this lavishly oaked but tangerine-kissed Viognier. Matured eight months on its lees in barrel, it's a rich, glycerol sip with concentrated flavors of white-peach nectar and honeysuckle freshened by a delicate mineral spine and smoky finish. Best enjoyed now–2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

93 **Domaine Louis Chèze 2018 Pagus Luminus (Condrieu).** Cream and honey drench the palate of this Viognier. It's a massive, almost corpulent, wine aged nine months in used French oak but also has a core of glimmering apricot and honeydew flavors. The finish is long and waxy, lingering on a kiss of smoke and vanilla. A decadent wine, it's ready now but should develop more earthen subtleties through 2028. Wine Wine Situation. —A.I.
abv: 14.6% **Price:** \$70

93 **Graeme & Julie Bott 2018 Condrieu.** Crisp green apples and melon are dusted with white pepper and crushed asphalt in this satiny white. Sourced from 25-year-old Viognier vines and matured 10 months in French oak, it's a weighty, viscous wine lifted by chalky minerality and a fresh tangerine finish. Best enjoyed now–2026. Banville Wine Merchants. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$104

93 **Maison Denuzière 2018 J. Denuzière (Condrieu).** The nose of this wine is subtle and earthen, taking more time to open than its ebulliently perfumed, showstopper peers in Condrieu. But with time and aeration, it reveals glimpses of apricot and orange mousse, along with a breath of white flowers. Full bodied yet freshly balanced, it highlights primary peach and yellow-cherry flavors kissed by toast and vanilla. It's ready

to drink now and best enjoyed through 2026. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$89

SAINT-JOSEPH

94 **Domaine Louis Chèze 2018 Ro-Rée (Saint-Joseph).** Bold notes of vanilla and toasted cashew introduce this lusciously textured, dry white. A blend of Marsanne (60%) and Roussanne (40%) matured eight to ten months in new French oak, it balances white-peach and tangerine flavors against layers of struck flint, smoke and stone. It's an abundant, hedonistic wine that's delicious young but concentrated and complex enough to improve well through 2030 and hold longer still. Wine Wine Situation. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 **Yannick Alléno & Michel Chapoutier 2018 Croix de Chabot (Saint-Joseph).** Traces of lime zest and smoked hazelnuts accent crisp grapefruit and honey in this mouthclinging Marsanne. Matured seven months on its lees in large oak casks, it's rich and almost oily in texture, yet freshened by a firm mineral undertone and hint of tea tannins. It drinks beautifully already but should improve well through 2035. Sera Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

92 **Cave de Tain 2018 Nobles Rives (Saint-Joseph).** Notes of lime and crushed stones lend verve to this full-bodied varietal Marsanne. It's a blossomy, fresh-fruited wine packed with crisp, white-peach and grapefruit flavors along with a lingering smoky, herbal finish. At peak now–2030. Total Wine & More. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

92 **Maison Denuzière 2018 J. Denuzière (Saint-Joseph).** Delicate notes of wild thyme and sage lend smokiness to supple grapefruit and white peach in this varietal Marsanne. While medium bodied and freshly balanced, it's a satiny wine that finishes on a lingering herbal spray. Ready now, the wine should drink at peak through 2030. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$35

91 **Pierre le Grand 2018 Saint-Joseph.** White peach and apple flavors are cut by shards of minerality in this voluminous but freshly composed varietal Roussanne. It's a rich, unctuously textured dry white that's weighty but maintains freshness and vitality from nose to finish. Best enjoyed now–2026. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$34

VACQUEYRAS

92 **Domaine la Ligière 2018 Le Chemin Blanc (Vacqueyras).** Whiffs of smoke and wet asphalt lend minerality to vanilla-kissed peach and pear in this silky blend of Clairette, Roussanne,

Grenache Blanc and Viognier. Matured in a combination of stainless steel and oak, it has bracing orchard-fruit flavors that are fresh yet linger on notes of hazelnut and toffee. Best now–2025. AP Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 **Domaine Fontaine du Clos 2019 Reflets de L'âme (Vacqueyras).** Subtleties of smoke, freshly cut grass and hazelnuts accent pristine pear and kumquat flavors in this full-bodied, weighty blend of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Marsanne. While lavishly textured and soft in acidity, it is held upright by pert strikes of salt and stone. At peak now–2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$31

90 **Domaine de la Brunely 2019 Vacqueyras.** Un-oaked and dry in style, this full-bodied white highlights mouthwatering flavors of greengage plum and grapefruit. A blend of 45% Marsanne, 25% Roussanne, 15% Grenache Blanc and 15% Viognier, it balances richness and textural heft with an invigorating salty rim. The finish is marked by sprays of fresh thyme and basil. Best now–2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

90 **Domaine de la Verde 2019 Odyssee (Vacqueyras).** This blend showcases the peachy, white-blossom perfume of Clairette (80%) against the smokiness and spine of Bourboulenc (20%). Full-bodied but zesty and angular, it's an invigorating dry white with a long, lime-kissed finish. Best now–2025. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

95 **Domaine Barville 2019 Châteauneuf-du-Pape.** Voluptuous in texture and flamboyant in style, this 100% Roussanne highlights the silky, luscious nature of this classic Rhône grape. Matured in a combination of 55% Burgundy barrels and 45% amphora, it's a smoky, delicately spiced white packed with juicy white peach and pear flavors. Delicious already for its opulence and fresh fruit, it should improve through 2035 and hold further. American B.D. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

95 **Domaine Clef de Saint Thomas 2019 La Clef de Saint Thomas (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Hints of chamomile tea, smoke and lemon introduce this full-bodied but deeply mineral white. It's made predominantly from Roussanne accented by smaller proportions of Clairette, Bourboulenc and Grenache Blanc. Rich and generous, the wine is full of white-peach and pear flavors. Fresh in fruit, the palate lingers on notes of lime zest and sun-scorched garrigue. Delicious young, the wine should improve through 2035 and hold longer still. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

93 Brotte 2019 Les Hauts de Barville (Châteauneuf-du-Pape). Crisp green-apple and pear flavors introduce this Grenache Blanc-dominant blend augmented by 10% each of Clairette, Roussanne and Bourboulenc. Matured entirely in stainless steel, it's moderately full bodied but fresh, accented by chamomile, crushed stone and lime. Refreshing young, the wine should gain depth as it improves through 2030. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$34

LUBERON

91 Marrenon 2017 Inventa Les Vallons (Luberon). Sharp herbal inflections of sage and thyme mingle into bold notes of vanilla and brioche in this lavishly oaked white. A blend of equal parts Vermentino and Grenache Blanc accented by 10% Roussanne, it's a rich, creamy wine balanced by fresh, lemony acidity and a crisp mineral undertow. The long finish lingers on notes of almond pit and toasted hazelnuts. Enjoy this decadent, flashy sip through 2027. USA Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Château la Canorgue 2019 Luberon. Whiffs of chamomile blossoms and crisp yellow apples introduce this ample, thirst-quenching blend of equal parts Clairette, Roussanne and Marsanne augmented by Grenache Blanc, Bourboulenc and Vermentino. Sourced from clay-limestone soils, it offers penetrating grapefruit and gooseberry flavors lifted by a zesty lemon edge and chalky, lingering finish. Best enjoyed now–2025. Polaner Selections. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$22

90 Domaine de la Citadelle 2019 Les Artèmes (Luberon). Salty minerality and crisp lime and lemon flavors lend a margarita-like kick to this luscious blend of 60% Roussanne, 30% Marsanne and 10% Grenache Blanc made from organic grapes. It's weighty and mouthfilling but brisk, citrusy acidity lends a refreshing vibe. Best enjoyed now–2025. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$27

90 M. Chapoutier 2018 La Ciboise (Luberon). White blossoms and lemon rinds perfume this zesty, thirst-quenching dry white. A blend of Grenache Blanc, Vermentino, Roussanne and Viognier, it offers piercing grapefruit and lime flavors edged by a spine-tingling mineral crush. The wine is best enjoyed young to maximize its primary style but it's concentrated enough to hold through 2024. Terlato Wines International. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$19

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

91 Château L'Ermite d'Auzan 2019 Saint Cécile (Costières de Nîmes). Fermented and aged three months in French oak barrels, this full-bodied white introduces itself with inviting hints of smoke,

brioche and hazelnuts. A blend of 70% Roussanne, 20% Viognier and 10% Grenache Blanc, it offers rich, creamy layers of white peach and lemon flavors edged by a bracing mineral finish. Delicious young, the wine should hold beautifully through 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Château L'Ermite d'Auzan 2019 Réserve (Costières de Nîmes). Fresh lemon, tangerine and white-peach flavors are pristine and concentrated in this full-bodied but spry blend of Roussanne (70%), Viognier (20%) and Grenache Blanc (10%). Blossomy and intensely mineral, it's a thirst-quenching, dry white likely to please a wide audience. At peak now–2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Château Vessière 2019 Costières de Nîmes. A Roussanne-dominant blend with Grenache Blanc, this full-bodied but dry white highlights white-peach and tangerine flavors held upright by a backbone of salt and stony minerality. Vinified with whole-berry maceration, it's a perfumed, floral sip that's juicy on the palate and lingers on a delicately tannic finish. At peak now–2025. USA Wine West. —A.I.
abv: 12.8% **Price:** \$19

90 Mas des Bressades 2019 Cuvé Tradition (Costières de Nîmes). Unoaked and pure in fruit quality, this full-bodied white offers lip-smacking, concentrated flavors of pear and Mirabelle plum lifted by lemon acidity. An elegant, vibrant blend of 50% Roussanne, 30% Grenache Blanc, 10% Marsanne and 10% Viognier fermented at cool temperatures, it's a dry, fresh-fruited sip that's ideal tasted young. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

89 Vignobles et Compagnie 2019 Château des Sources (Costières de Nîmes). Hints of smoke and toasted hazelnuts mingle into juicy white peach and yellow cherry in this richly textured, dry white. A blend of 70% Marsanne and 30% Roussanne matured in oak, it's a soft, creamy sip brightened by crisp stone-fruit flavors. Finishing on lingering notes of smoke and cashew nuts, it's best enjoyed young. Savorian Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

91 Château du Trignon 2019 Marsanne (Côtes du Rhône). In a region where blended wines are the status quo, it's fascinating to taste varietal expressions like this luscious, fresh-faced Marsanne. Dry and full bodied, it highlights satiny, sun-kissed yellow-apple and grapefruit flavors that fall on the palate. Delicate acidity accents a bristling mineral undertow and lends freshness to a salty, earthen finish. Delicious young, the wine should

hold through 2027. David Milligan Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

91 Château du Trignon 2019 Viognier (Côtes du Rhône). A contrast to the more viscous Northern Rhône expressions of Viognier, this slim, tangerine-kissed white balances a silky, sumptuous palate against an invigorating citrus lift. Bright and airy, it finishes with a mineral crush and lingering notes of crisp-tart peach and apricot. David Milligan Selections. —A.I.
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$24

91 Château du Trignon 2019 Roussanne (Côtes du Rhône). A flurry of chamomile blossom and tart white peach introduces this satin-edged Roussanne. It's a full-bodied, voluminous dry white anchored by a piercing mineral spine. A streak of lemony acidity lengthens the finish. At peak now–2025. David Milligan Selections. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$24

90 Delas Frères 2019 Saint-Esprit (Côtes du Rhône). Whispers of cashew and crushed stone accent lemon and white-peach flavors in this dry, full-bodied blend of Grenache, Clairette, Bourboulenc and Viognier. Unoaked in style, it's a juicy, fruity white that finishes with a chalky mineral cling. Best enjoyed now–2024. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

90 Domaine de Longue Toque 2019 Côtes du Rhône. Heady notes of caramel and charred toast meld into white grapefruit and lemon in this full-bodied but freshly balanced white. Creamy and plump, it's a lavish wine made from 62% Marsanne, 25% Roussanne and 13% Grenache Blanc. The finish is marked by a refreshing mineral lift. At peak now, the wine should hold through 2026. Terroir Selections. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Jean-Luc Colombo 2019 Les Abeilles (Côtes du Rhône). This fresh, perfumed white combines the citrusy edge and vitality of Clairette with the richness and breadth of Roussanne. Matured primarily in tank, it's a dry, silky white that highlights zesty green-apple, pear and grapefruit flavors struck by licorice and a chalky, lingering finish. At peak now–2025. Taub Family Selections. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Château Gigognan 2019 Côtes du Rhône. Zippy white grapefruit and lemon flavors are accented by salt and crushed stone in this dry white. A blend of Roussanne, Grenache Blanc and Clairette augmented by a small proportion of Bourboulenc, it's a moderately full-bodied, ample wine lifted by a bristling steely finish. At peak now–2024. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 Domaine Montmartel 2019 Vin Biologique (Côtes du Rhône). Brisk white peach and

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pear flavors are accented by hints of crushed granite in this fresh-fruited blend of Viognier (70%), Roussanne (20%) and Clairette (10%) sourced from organically farmed vineyards. Dry and medium bodied in style, it's refreshing yet satisfying and fleshy on the finish. At peak now–2024. Summit Selections. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

89 M. Chapoutier 2019 Belleruche (Côtes du Rhône). Whispers of smoke and hazelnut skins accent fresh, cutting white peach and pear in this full-bodied yet zesty dry white. Predominantly Grenache Blanc, it's a sumptuous sip given lift and edge by smaller proportions of Clairette and Bourboulenc. The finish is intensely mineral, lingering on a delicious salty tang. It's best enjoyed young. Terlato Wines International. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Ravoire et Fils 2019 Olivier Ravoire (Côtes du Rhône). Bold notes of green apple and white grapefruit abound in this juicy, vibrantly fruity white. Concentrated but sprightly on the midpalate, it finishes on lingering hints of hazelnuts and smoke. At peak now–2024. Wine Warehouse Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$14

88 Anthony Paret 2018 Valvigneyre (Côtes du Rhône). Broad strokes of yellow apple and quince preserves introduce this freshly balanced Northern Rhône Viognier. While silky and supple on the palate, it's an unusually svelte, easy-drinking expression of Viognier. Flurries of dried mint, thyme and crushed stone lend earthen subtleties to the finish. At peak now–2025. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$45

88 Gabriel Meffre 2019 Saint-Vincent (Côtes du Rhône). This is a slim, sprightly blend of Grenache, Roussanne, Clairette and Viognier. Perfumed with waxy lemon peels and white peach, it's a crisply concentrated, easy-drinking dry white that finishes on a vibrant lemon note. Best enjoyed now–2024. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Grandes Serres 2019 Les Portes du Castelas (Côtes du Rhône). Waxy lemon peels and strikes of salt lend refreshment to this supple blend of Grenache Blanc and Marsanne. Matured in 15% new oak, it balances fresh, primary grapefruit and white-pear flavors against lingering hints of smoke and cashew. Easy drinking and crisp on the finish, it's at peak now but should hold through 2023. Misa Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$16

86 Château de Ruth 2019 Grande Sélection (Côtes du Rhône). Perfumed notes of white blossom and pink grapefruit linger throughout this blossomy blend of Grenache Blanc, Roussanne and Viognier. While medium bodied and freshly balanced on the palate, the overtly perfumey style is

a bit cloying. Best enjoyed young. USA Wine West. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

OTHER WHITE WINES

89 Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2019 Montmartel (Côtes du Rhône Villages Sablet). Snappy white peach and pear flavors are laced with mesquite and vanilla in this juicy blend of Roussanne (50%), Viognier (25%), Grenache Blanc (15%) and Marsanne (10%). Partly vinified and aged six months in oak barrels, it shows prominent oak influences, but this elegant, opulent wine is likely to please through 2027. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

90 Château la Croix des Pins 2019 Les 3 Villages (Ventoux). Ruffled by fresh herbs and a strike of chalky minerality, this is a zingy blend of Vermentino, Marsanne, Grenache and Roussanne. Unoaked and voluptuous in body, it highlights passionfruit and tangerine flavors that linger lusciously on the palate. It's a wine best enjoyed young but should drink well through 2025. Made with organic grapes. Cape Classics. —A.I.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$18

TAVEL ROSÉS

90 Château de Trinquevedel 2019 Rosé (Tavel). Almost ruby in color, this robust dry rose is packed with pert red-cherry and raspberry flavors. It offers plenty of sunny, penetrating red-fruit as well as nuanced shades of dried garrigue and crushed earth. This stately year-round rosé will please both red and white-wine lovers alike. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —A.I.

abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$22

90 Vignobles et Compagnie 2019 La Vigne du Roy Rosé (Tavel). Voluptuous on the palate and concentrated in black-cherry and strawberry flavors, this penetrating dry rosé offers the power of a red wine fused with the vitality of a white. It's a buoyantly fruity, ruby-hued sip that finishes on wisps of sweet spice and burnt sugar. It will be delicious now through 2022, at any time of the year. Savorian Inc. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 Cellier des Chartreux 2018 Domaine Les Hautes Roches Rosé (Tavel). Tasted in January of 2021, this moderately full-bodied, ruby-hued rosé still offers bright, juicy raspberry and red-cherry flavors accented by delicate thyme and bramble tones. Dry and solidly structured, it's a year-round rosé that's best enjoyed soon. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.

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

88 Les Vignerons du Castelas 2019 Respelido Rosé (Tavel). Crushed granite and peppery spice mingle into ripe strawberry and red-currant

flavors in this deeply hued, dusty-pink rosé. A 90/10 blend of Grenache and Syrah, it's a dry but approachably juicy sip brightened by a tang of mineral freshness on the finish. Best enjoyed soon. La Ville Imports. —A.I.

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

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES ROSÉS

90 Château de Fabregues 2019 Rosé (Costières de Nîmes). Crisp red cherry and orange blossom perfume this thirst-quenching, dry blend of Grenache (60%) and Syrah (40%). Pale pink in hue, it's a concentrated, juicy rosé marked by bright strawberry and raspberry flavors and a revitalizing mineral lift. Saranty Imports. —A.I.

abv: 13% **Price:** \$17

90 Mas Carlot 2019 Générations Rosé (Costières de Nîmes). Dry and salmon-pink in hue, this full-bodied rosé offers flavors of raspberry and red-cherry candies edged by a crystalline mineral crush. Fresh-fruited and briskly concentrated, it's an easy-drinking, revitalizing blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre best enjoyed young. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

90 Mas Carlot 2019 L'Irresistible Rosé (Costières de Nîmes). A delicate floral perfume extends from nose to finish in this dry, dusty-pink rosé. While full bodied and voluminous on the palate, its watermelon and red-cherry flavors are almost diaphanous in concentration. Thirst quenching and mineral, it finishes on a lingering tang of salt. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 Mas des Bressades 2019 Cuvé Tradition Rosé (Costières de Nîmes). Shards of cut stone and freshly picked raspberries abound in this full-bodied, mineral rosé. While plush and voluminous on the palate, it's a dry, freshly balanced blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (30%) and Cinsault (20%) edged by hints of caramelized sugar and spice. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

88 Vignobles et Compagnie 2019 Château des Sources Rosé (Costières de Nîmes). This full-bodied, fresh-fruited rosé balances ripe, concentrated red-cherry and strawberry flavors against smokier undertones of crushed earth and burnt sugar. Salmon-pink in hue, it's an immediately appealing, juicy sip with an invigorating mineral finish. Savorian Inc. —A.I.

abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$15

RHÔNE VALLEY

RED WINES

CÔTE-RÔTIE

95 **Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Côte-Rôtie.** Notes of char, iron and tobacco leaf accent penetrating black-cherry and cassis flavors in this muscular expression of Côte-Rôtie. Produced from 100% whole-cluster Syrah and matured twelve months in 30% new French oak, it's a weighty, intensely structured red framed by firm, gripping tannins and a delicately earthen, meaty finish. While nervous in youth it should hit peak from 2023 and improve another decade still. Craft+Estate-Winebow. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$95

95 **Maison Denuzière 2018 J. Denuzière (Côte-Rôtie).** Notes of schist and iodine meld into sprays of violet and rose petal in this vibrant, perfumed Syrah. Matured for 15 to 28 months in large-format casks, it offers a rich core of raspberry-coulis and red-currant flavors struck by crisp acidity and very fine, mouthcoating tannins. The finish lingers on a subtle kiss of smoke and cedar. While approachable now, it should gain nuance through 2030 and hold further. Boutique Wine Collection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$99

95 **Maison Les Alexandrins 2018 Côte-Rôtie.** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$89

94 **Jean-Luc Colombo 2018 La Divine (Côte-Rôtie).** Sourced from 50-year-old vines of co-planted Grenache (95%) and Viognier (5%), this piercing, peppery wine showcases concentrated flavors of redcurrant jelly and blackberry pastilles. Matured 18 months in oak barrels (15% new), it's a weighty, structured red anchored by zingy acidity and subtle strikes of crushed earth, smoke and iron. At peak from 2023–2030, the wine is likely to hold further. Taub Family Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$92

94 **Vidal-Fleury 2017 Brune et Blonde (Côte-Rôtie).** This perfumed, smoky Syrah (with just a dusting of Viognier) highlights the duality of grapes matured on the light-hued gneiss and silica soils of the Côte Blonde alongside the darker clay and schist soils of the Côte Brune. Fresh-footed yet supple cassis and raspberry flavors are etched by shards of stone and acid. Matured three years in a combination of new and older oak, it's a subtly spiced red that finishes on lingering notes of licorice and soft, feathery tannins. Best now–2027. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

93 **Domaine Benjamin et David Duclaux 2018 La Chana (Côte-Rôtie).** Crushed granite and charred cloves accent bright, luminescent

blackberry and raspberry in this perfumed co-fermentation of Syrah (93%) and Viognier (7%) matured primarily in old demi-muid barrels. It's consistently a more delicate, sylph-like wine compared to the producer's more robust Côte-Rôtie offerings, but one that drinks beautifully young. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

SAINT-JOSEPH

94 **Domaine des Remizières 2018 Saint-Joseph.** Sun-drenched blackberry and cassis flavors are accented by hints of vanilla and olive tapenade in this full-bodied, voluptuous Syrah. It's a richly extracted red matured for 12 to 16 months in a combination of new and one-year-old oak but maintains a fresh, mineral spine and lifting acidity throughout. It's ready now but should drink well through 2028. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

94 **Domaine Jolivet 2018 L'Instinct (Saint-Joseph).** A whisper of tar lends an earthen, smoky undertone to sultry black-currant and plum flavors in this 100% Syrah. Matured 12 months in used-oak barrels, it is weighty and powerful, packed with black fruit and a sylph-like frame of acidity. Soft, silky tannins make it immediately enjoyable but it should improve well through 2030. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

93 **Cave de Tain 2018 Nobles Rives (Saint-Joseph).** Pristine cassis and veins of granite introduce this classic but muscular Saint-Joseph. It's intensely ripe but bristles with acidity. Concentrated black-fruit flavors are shaded by whispers of violet, crushed peppercorns and earth. It's ready to enjoy now but should improve through 2030. Total Wine & More. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

93 **Yannick Alléno & Michel Chapoutier 2018 Croix de Chabot (Saint-Joseph).** Shards of iron and black pepper juxtapose powerfully ripe black-plum and mulberry flavors in this inky Syrah. It's a deeply extracted expression of Saint-Joseph but anchored neatly by bristling acidity and fine, supple tannins. At peak now–2028. Sera Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 **Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Saint-Joseph.** Black raspberries and flecks of violet candy perfume this feather-edged Syrah. It's pillowy soft in mouthfeel but accented by streaks of cassis acidity and a subtly smoky, granite finish. Approachable in youth, the wine will improve through 2028 and hold further. Craft+Estate-Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 **Domaine Louis Chèze 2017 Anges (Saint-Joseph).** Inflections of vanilla bean, char and sweet-spice are prominent but meld into succulent black-currant and mulberry flavors in this silky,

medium-bodied Syrah. Matured 22 months in new oak, it's a lavish but elegantly structured wine marked by pert acidity and a swathe of fresh green herbs framing the finish. Ready now the wine should drink well through 2027. Wine Wine Situation. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$79

92 **Maison Denuzière 2018 J. Denuzière (Saint-Joseph).** This stony, deeply mineral Syrah balances crisp cassis and black-cherry flavors against a deeply earthen core. It's opulent in texture but stately, uplifted by tangs of salt, iron and granite. The finish is framed by soft, easing tannins making it approachable young but it should drink at peak through 2026. Boutique Wine Collection. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 **Anthony Paret 2017 Les Larmes du Père (Saint-Joseph).** Whispers of coffee beans and roasted cacao lend subtle smokiness to zesty redcurrant and blackberry flavors in this wine. Refreshingly slim on the palate, it's a crisply concentrated Syrah edged by fine-grained, sandpaper tannins and a crush of granite on the finish. Best now–2026. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$55

91 **Maison Les Alexandrins 2018 Saint-Joseph.** For full review see page 15.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$39

90 **Domaine Louis Chèze 2018 Ro-Rée (Saint-Joseph).** Gleaming streaks of strawberry and red-cherry preserves penetrate this full-bodied, lustrous Syrah. Matured 12 months in oak, it's a freshly concentrated red speckled by hints of burnt sugar and olive. Best enjoyed now–2025. Wine Wine Situation. —A.I.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$40

89 **Dauvergne & Ranvier 2018 Vin Rare (Saint-Joseph).** Sourced from granite terraces and partially aged in oak barrels, this full-bodied Syrah suggests a rustic, earthen expression of Saint-Joseph. Black-cherry and cassis flavors are concentrated and spry but shaded by layers of saddle leather, fur and crushed earth. It's an angular, restrained wine best enjoyed now through 2026. LGI Wines. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$37

HERMITAGE

97 **Delas Frères 2018 Les Bessards (Hermitage).** Les Bessards is a single-vineyard selection limited to 6,000 majestic bottles in any vintage it's produced. Made from 100% Syrah, its black-cherry coulis and crème de cassis flavors are spicy, marked by hits of scorched anise and peppercorn. Anchored by zesty acidity and a bristling mineral undertow, it's a structured red wrapped in tannins that feel fierce now but should meld from 2023. The wine will improve well through 2035 and hold

BUYINGGUIDE

much longer still. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$290

96 Delas Frères 2018 Domaine des Tourettes (Hermitage). Prominent veins of crushed granite and tar shadow rich, decadent flavors of black-currant jam and licorice in this 100% Syrah sourced from three different sites within Hermitage (including the estate's flagship Les Bessards). While tannins are ripe, it's a charry, piquantly spiced wine in youth that finishes on peppery hits of clove, dark chocolate and espresso shavings. It's best to wait till 2023 to open but the wine should improve through 2035 at least. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$99

94 Cave de Tain 2017 Nobles Rives (Hermitage). Earthy chestnut skin and schist juxtapose black currant and black-cherry menthol in this solidly built, pure-fruited Syrah. Full bodied yet lifted in acidity, it finishes on elongated tones of smoke and cedar. Just approaching peak now, the wine should improve through 2030 at least. Total Wine & More. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$75

94 E. Guigal 2016 Hermitage. Penetrating and finessed, this 100% Syrah highlights ripe yet cutting blackberry and cherry flavors against a firm backdrop of graphite and crushed stone. Matured 36 months in oak barrels (50% new), it offers lavish tobacco-leaf and licorice notes that integrate neatly into the palate. Silkier in tannins than the 2015 vintage, the wine is approachable now but should improve well through 2035. Vintus LLC. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Vidal-Fleury 2017 Hermitage. Blackberry and elderberry notes are concentrated but restrained in this classically earthen, salt-edged Syrah. Accented by a whiff of violet and fur, it's a shyer expression of Hermitage than is typical in these increasingly hot, sun-drenched vintages, but one that would welcome a few more years to let its subtleties develop. It's best to wait till 2023. The wine should improve through at least 2030 and hold further. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

CROZES-HERMITAGE

93 Domaine des Remizières 2018 Cuvée Christophe (Crozes-Hermitage). Sprays of cinnamon, clove and cedar accent plush black currant and blueberry in this varietal Syrah sourced from vines averaging 65 years in age. Matured 15 months in a combination of new (70%) and one-year old (30%) oak barrels, it's a rich, sultry wine shaded by crushed stones, smoke and licorice. Ripe, silky tannins make it ready to enjoy now but this structured wine should improve through 2030. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$38

92 Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Crozes-Hermitage. Fresh sprays of granite and salt accent bristling redcurrants and cherries in this fresh, mouthdrenching Syrah. Full bodied yet invigorating on the midpalate, it's a pure-fruited but deeply mineral wine. Fine, supple tannins make it ready to drink now but the wine should stay at peak through 2028. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$36

92 Delas Frères 2018 Domaine Des Grands Chemins (Crozes-Hermitage). Piercing flavors of cassis and blueberry are edged by granite, sweet spice and smoke in this full-bodied Syrah. Matured 14 months in a combination of tank and used Burgundian barrels, it's weighty and substantial on the palate yet vibrantly balanced and mineral too. The finish lingers on fine-grained, delicately gripping tannins. At peak now—2028. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$42

92 Domaine Combier 2018 Crozes-Hermitage. Sun-kissed and fruity, this plummy Syrah offers ripe blueberry and black-plum flavors held upright by a striking acidic spine. It's full bodied and opulent yet vivacious and spry. Finishing long on fine, silky tannins, crushed stone and peppery spice, it's best enjoyed now through 2026. Cape Classics. —A.I.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$42

91 Cave de Tain 2018 Grand Classique (Crozes-Hermitage). Hints of black olive and char lend savory undertones to brisk black currant and mulberry in this wine. Delicately spiced and supple in mouthfeel, it's a fruity but structured Syrah accented by zesty red-cherry acidity and fine, penetrating tannins. The finish lingers on notes of coffee bean and dried bramble. Hand Picked Selections. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Domaine des Remizières 2019 Crozes-Hermitage. Whispers of eucalyptus and charred clove lend spice to black-currant and cherry flavors in this 100% Syrah sourced from vines averaging 45 years in age. Matured 15 months in a combination of new and used oak, it's full bodied and deeply concentrated but maintains freshness and vitality. Delicious now the wine should hold well through 2029. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

91 Ravoire et Fils 2018 Olivier Ravoire (Crozes-Hermitage). Sun-scorched underbrush and iron juxtapose blackberry and plum in this fleshy, full-bodied Syrah. It's a fresh-fruited, juicy wine elevated by an upright acidic spine and lingering notes of granite and iodine. Ready to drink now, the wine should hold well through 2025. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$31

90 Clairmont 2018 Domaine de Saint-Clément Horizon (Crozes-Hermitage). Bright, penetrating black cherry and raspberry flavors

are shaded by hints of ash and smoke in this sun-drenched but elegant Syrah. Full bodied and fleshy on the palate, it's an immediately enjoyable red layered with fine, satiny tannins. At peak now—2026. Vitis Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

90 Dauvergne & Ranvier 2018 Grand Vin (Crozes-Hermitage). For full review see page 17.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 Pierre le Grand 2018 Crozes-Hermitage. Delicate swathes of eucalyptus and bramble accent pristine blackberry and plum in this juicy, immediately inviting Syrah. Full bodied and freshly concentrated, it's a vibrant red edged by an elegant granitic spine. Fine, delicately lingering tannins add to its easy appeal. Best now—2026. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$29

RASTEAU

93 Domaine la Soumade 2018 Cuvée Confiance (Rasteau). A powerful blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre, this deeply concentrated red highlights pulsating black-cherry flavor against a backdrop of crushed stones, garrigue and coffee grinds. Sourced from 50- to 100-year-old vines and vinified and matured in wood, it's muscular but framed by brisk acidity and a long, gripping finish. At peak from 2023–2030. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Domaine Fond Croze 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Rasteau). Rich, concentrated flavors of black-cherry menthol and spiced-plum compote abound in this blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (10%) and Mourvèdre (10%) sourced from vines averaging 50 years in age. It's a big, warming red spiked by crushed anise and black pepper but maintains a refreshing mineral edge. Ready now—2028. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Domaine la Soumade 2018 Cuvée Prestige (Rasteau). This full-bodied, crisply concentrated red shares the same Grenache/Syrah/Mourvèdre cepage as the producer's Cuvée Confiance. Yet sourced from younger vines and vinified in stainless steel, it's a fresher, more youthful expression of Rasteau highlighting tart, zesty blackberry and cassis flavors and plumes of fresh thyme and basil. Peppery by a spray of crushed stone, it finishes brightly on silky, easing tannins. At peak now—2025. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Bernard Chamfort 2018 Rasteau. Ripe black-currant and mulberry notes are elegant and restrained in this juicy, pure-fruited Grenache blend. While full in body and a touch warming on the finish, it's a crisply balanced sip

that finishes on hints of wet earth, new leather and fine, velveteen tannins. Best enjoyed now–2025. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$23

90 **Château du Trignon 2016 Rasteau.** Sea salt and red plums introduce this bold yet fresh-fruited Grenache-Mourvèdre blend. It's big and warming, but bright berry flavors and a zesty mineral spine lend quaffability and vibe. Best enjoyed young the wine should hold through 2025. David Milligan Selections. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$25

90 **Domaine de Verquiere 2018 Rasteau.** Raspberry and blackberry flavors are edged by swathes of bramble, cut stone and sun-scorched underbrush in this wine. Forward and fresh in fruit, it's an intensely berried 70/30 blend of Grenache and Syrah that's jubilant and thirst-quenching young. The finish is marked by a delightful salty rim. Best now–2024. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Domaine la Soumade 2018 Rasteau.** Soumade's entry-level Rasteau offers rich preserved black plums and cherries speckled by espresso bean, sweet spice and earth. A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre sourced from young vines (10 to 30 years old) and vinified and matured entirely in stainless steel, it's concentrated but juicy, framed by a fresh mineral lift and soft, furry tannins. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

90 **Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2018 Rasteau.** Violet perfume and speckles of ash and salt accent this Grenache-dominant blend (enriched by Mourvèdre, Syrah and Cinsault). It's a big, voluptuous wine anchored by meaty black-fruit flavors, but lifted by sprays of crushed stone. The finish falls on furry, penetrating tannins and hints of cinnamon, black pepper and clove. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Emma M. Louise 2017 Vieilles Vignes (Rasteau).** Heady notes of roasted plum and charred clove introduce this blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (35%) and Mourvèdre (15%). It's a concentrated wine muted by shades of smoked meat and earth, with lingering accents of cinnamon and cocoa powder. The finish falls warmly on fine-grained, chalky tannins. Best now–2025. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 **Grandes Serres 2018 La Chevalière (Rasteau).** This Grenache-dominant blend with Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan was sourced from throughout the appellation. It highlights the diversity of soil types in the region, from marl and gravel to clay-limestone soils and river rocks. Unoaked, its black-plum and cherry flavors are youthful and ripe but accented by a distinctly

Rasteau-like meatiness and earthiness. At peak now–2025. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 **La Font de Notre Dame 2018 La Source (Rasteau).** Layers of underbrush and dried garrigue accent licorice-scented plum and cherry flavors in this wine. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's a fresh-fruited, big-boned red that finishes on a whisper of heat and fine, gripping tannins. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

90 **La Réserve Saint Dominique 2019 Rasteau.** Savory tones of chestnut skin, leather and fur contrast black-cherry and mulberry flavors in this blend of 80% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre. It's a decidedly old-world wine that's not afraid to show a bit of barnyardy rusticity, but delightfully so for those who appreciate. Best enjoyed now–2025. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

CAIRANNE

91 **Brotte 2018 Domaine Grosset (Cairanne).** A whisper of cedar lends spice and nuance to ripe, concentrated black currant and plum in this forward, piercing red. A rich, full-bodied blend of Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah matured in French oak (just 1/3 new), it's an explosively fruity, approachable wine that maintains freshness and vitality throughout. Delicious now, it should hold well through 2026. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

91 **La Bastide Saint Dominique 2018 Les 2 Arbres (Cairanne).** Tangs of salt and graphite lend freshness to ripe, concentrated black-cherry and preserved-plum flavors in this full-bodied blend of equal parts Carignan, Grenache, Mourvèdre and Syrah. It's intensely fruity with a ripeness edged by caramel, but savory too, accented by nuances of wet earth and saddle. This elegant, spicy red will be at peak now through 2028. Golden State Wine Co. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Brotte 2018 Création Grosset (Cairanne).** For full review see page 19. *Best Buy.*
abv: 15% **Price:** \$15

90 **Dauvergne & Ranvier 2018 Grand Vin (Cairanne).** Lingering veins of salt and crushed stone lend freshness to pristine strawberry and red-plum flavors in this voluptuous Syrah-Grenache-Mourvèdre blend. With no presence of new-oak maturation, it's a bright, fruity wine framed by fine-grained but lingering tannins. Enjoy now through 2025 for its fresh, fruity flair. LGI Wines. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

89 **Domaine Roche 2018 Cairanne.** Hints of smoke, caramel and crushed stone accent

plum and blackberry flavors in this wine. Made from 70% Grenache augmented by 25% Syrah and 5% Carignan, it's an opulent, easy-drinking red with a fresh, mineral finish. Best enjoyed now–2025. DJK Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

GIGONDAS

98 **Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Le Poste (Gigondas).** Sourced from limestone soils and higher elevations than Saint Cosme's other flagship Gigondas bottlings, Le Poste offers ripe but luminescent red-plum and mulberry flavors. While concentrated, it's an intensely mineral wine lifted by sprays of salt and ore. The finish is dramatic, elongated by drapes of blackberry satin and ripe, furry tannins. At peak now through 2030, the wine is likely to hold further still. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 16% **Price:** \$138

97 **Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Hominis Fides (Gigondas).** This varietal Grenache is sourced from 90-year-old vines planted in clay-limestone soils just across the road from famed Le Claux. Fermented in whole clusters, it's Herculean in frame yet luminescent, offering sun-kissed red-cherry and strawberry flavors edged by sprays of salt, white pepper and smoke. While approachable already, it should hit peak from 2023 and improve well through 2035. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$138

97 **Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Le Claux (Gigondas).** Le Claux is sourced from a Grenache-dominant field blend, with vines dating back to 1870. Vinified in whole clusters and matured in 20% new oak, it's a penetrating, finessed wine that juxtaposes rippling black cherry and boysenberry flavors against veins of crushed salt, licorice and smoke. Chalky tannins and a spray of violet perfume a long finish. It's stunning in youth but should improve through 2035. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$138

96 **Domaine des Bosquets 2018 La Colline (Gigondas).** Salty, chalky mineral notes lend a cutting edge to sun-drenched black-cherry and plum flavors in this wine. Sourced from 50-year-old vines planted in a high-altitude vineyard abutting the Dentelles de Montmirail, it's decadently rich and concentrated but scintillating and fresh. Still approaching peak, it should drink beautifully from 2022 and improve well through 2030. European Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

96 **Domaine des Bosquets 2018 Le Plateau (Gigondas).** Powerful and piercing, this concentrated, inky red is a focused study of Mourvèdre (augmented by small percentages of Syrah, Cinsault, Grenache, Counoise, and Clairette). Sourced from a high-altitude, north-facing site,

it juxtaposes rich cassis and black-cherry flavors against sharp angularity, spice and herbaceousness. Co-fermented in 100% whole clusters, this vibrant wine should drink at peak now through 2030 and hold further. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 **Domaine des Bosquets 2018 Le Lieu Dit (Gigondas)**. Sourced from 60-year-old vines planted in sandy soil, this varietal Grenache offers gobsmacking ripeness alongside freshness. It's a big, richly extracted wine but the red-plum and cherry flavors are vibrant, lifted by minerality and pert, upright acidity. Silky tannins accentuate the rippling mouthfeel. Ready to drink now, the wine is solid enough to improve through 2030 and hold longer. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

95 **Domaine des Bosquets 2018 Les Routes (Gigondas)**. Notes of camphor and licorice lend sultry, spicy inflections to blueberry and cassis in this rare 100% Syrah from Gigondas. Fermented predominantly destemmed and matured 18 months in oak casks, it's a profoundly fruity, powerful wine but silky and lifted too. Delicious already, the wine should improve through 2030. European Cellars. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

94 **Domaine du Grand Montmirail 2018 Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Gigondas)**. Fragrant whiffs of raspberry patches and violet blossoms perfume this fruit-focused red. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by Syrah and Mourvèdre, it's sourced from vines averaging 40 years in age. The wine is ripe yet struck by cooling tones of minerality and soft, soothing tannins. Enchanting young the wine should hold well through 2028. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

94 **Myriam Nicolas 2018 Les Olympes (Gigondas)**. Complex on the nose, this perfumed blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre opens on notes of violet and black currant shaded by fur, smoke and crushed earth. It's a brambly, blackberried sip lifted by crystalline minerality and a spry acidic edge. Delightful young, the wine is likely to improve through 2030. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

94 **Pierre Amadieu 2018 Domaine Grand Romane (Gigondas)**. Powerfully ripe yet vital and fresh, this full-bodied blend of Grenache (65%), Mourvèdre (20%) and Syrah (15%) was sourced from the highest vineyard plots in the producer's estate. It's an intense, fleshy sip heaving with sun-drenched black cherry and preserved-berry flavors accented by hints of bay leaf, crushed pepper and anise. Supple tannins and fresh acidity make it immediately enjoyable but the wine should

stay at peak through 2028 and hold further still. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

93 **Château la Croix des Pins 2016 Les Dessous des Dentelles (Gigondas)**. Black-plum and cherry flavors are rimmed by pleasantly bitter notes of granite and crushed earth in this full-bodied yet fresh-fruited blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Made from organic grapes and with little oak influence, it's a radiant wine highlighting pristine fruit and an invigorating mineral spine. Delicious young, the wine should stay at peak through 2030. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2018 Bois des Mourres (Gigondas)**. Made from 80% Grenache (rounded out by 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre) this hulking, explosively ripe wine manages to maintain freshness and vitality. Blackberry and cassis flavors are fleshy but pure, accented by notes of vanilla, clove and tobacco leaf. It's a lavish wine matured 14 months in oak (partially new) and framed by soft, easing tannins. The wine is concentrated enough to please well through 2030. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.

abv: 16% **Price:** \$33

93 **E. Guigal 2016 Gigondas**. This wine is sourced from vines averaging 40 years old and matured two years in oak (50% new). Gravitas and structure set apart Guigal's 2016 Gigondas from its more zaftig peers. A delicately smoky, peppery blend of 70% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre, it offers blackberry and plum flavors that are ripe yet piercing. It's muscular and sharply edged, marked by brisk acidity and lingering hints of tobacco leaf, earth and clove. Approachable now, the wine should improve through 2030. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$38

93 **Gabriel Meffre 2018 Laurus (Gigondas)**. A ruffle of tobacco leaves lends an earthen spine to ripe cassis and plum flavors in this wine. A lavish Grenache/Syrah/Mourvèdre blend sourced from marl and limestone soils, it's mouthwatering and juicy but nuanced by hints of clove, black pepper and sage. Ready to enjoy now, the wine should improve through 2028 and hold further. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$43

93 **Marius César 2018 Mon's Mirabilis (Gigondas)**. Red-cherry and raspberry notes are vibrant and pure in this full-bodied, concentrated red. Its soft, silky mouthfeel and youthful fruit profile are immediately enjoyable but the wine is nuanced too, accented by crushed granite and a blossomy, airy perfume. The finish is marked by soft, furry tannins. Ready now, it should drink at peak through 2028. W. Direct. —A.I.

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

93 **Pierre Amadieu 2018 Romane Machotte (Gigondas)**. Sourced from vines averaging

45 years in age on limestone and marl soils, this blend of 80% Grenache and 20% Syrah spotlights ripe but pristine mulberry and boysenberry flavors. It's a concentrated wine lifted by a chalky, salty mineral undertow, finishing on fine, supple tannins. Ready now, the wine should drink well through 2028. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 **Reserve Saint Dominique 2018 Gigondas**. This silky blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (10%) and Mourvèdre offers ample, luscious waves of cassis and blackberry flavors. Satiny in mouthfeel, it's brightened by tart raspberry acidity and a lingering granitic edge. Fine-grained, integrated tannins make it appealing young but the wine should drink beautifully through 2030. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

93 **Yves Cheron 2019 Jurassique (Gigondas)**. Jurassique refers to the Jurassic-era limestone and marl soils from which this fragrant 70/30 blend of Grenache and Syrah originates. Unoaked and luminous in fruit quality, it's a full-bodied, supple wine packed with black-currant and cherry flavors etched by cooling minerality. Delightful young, the wine should gain more earthen, herbal complexities as it improves through 2030. Regal Wine Company. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.

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

92 **Brotte 2018 La Marasque (Gigondas)**. For full review see page 12. *Editors' Choice*.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

92 **Domaine de Verquiere 2016 Gigondas**. A bold proportion (80%) of Grenache sourced from 50-year-old vines lends a spicy, coffee-tinged, blueberry core to this weighty blend with Syrah and Mourvèdre. It's a fleshy red held upright by fresh red-currant acidity and a bristle of fine, firm tannins. Ready now, the wine should hold well through 2030. French Libation. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$39

92 **Domaine des Pasquiers 2018 Gigondas**. Bright, sun-kissed plum and cherry flavors abound in this blend of equal parts Grenache and Syrah sourced from organically farmed vines. It's lavishly ripe but pristine in fruit quality, edged by delicate notes of wild thyme and mint. The finish is long and fresh, lifted by vibrant tangs of chalky, salty minerals. At peak now—2028. Cognac One, LLC. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$31

92 **Domaine du Grand Montmirail 2016 La Grande Cuvée Confidentielle (Gigondas)**. Supple streaks of red plum and black cherries introduce this opulent Grenache-Syrah blend. It's a powerfully ripe, penetrating red but fresh and spirited too. The finish lingers on velvet tannins and delicate notes of black pepper, lavender and mint. Approachable now, the wine should stay at peak through 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

92 **Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2018 Les Mourres (Gigondas).** Veins of graphite and granite meld into ripe, almost caramelized, flavors of black cherry and blueberry in this powerful Grenache-dominant blend (accented by 10% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre). A gripping, firmly tannic wine in youth, it should ease and improve through 2028. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$27

91 **Pierre Amadieu 2017 Le Pas de l'Aigle Terroir D'Exception (Gigondas).** Smoky notes of roasted cacao and cinnamon accent plush, plummy blueberry and blackberry in this 90/10 blend of Grenache and Syrah. Fleshy and ripe, it's a rich, almost creamy red balanced by a revitalizing mineral undertow. Ready now, the wine should drink well through 2028. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

90 **Gabriel Meffre 2018 Sainte-Catherine (Gigondas).** Hints of toast and charred cloves accent crisp black-cherry and raspberry flavors in this full-bodied, freshly concentrated red. A blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah, it's a juicy, fruit-forward wine that finishes on fine-grained, delicately lingering tannins. At peak now—2026. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$32

90 **Halos de Jupiter 2018 Gigondas.** Whiffs of tar and sweet spice meld into pristine strawberry and red-cherry flavors in this wine. Voluptuous and supple yet bright-eyed and freshly concentrated, it's a vibrant Grenache framed by fine, furry tannins and a lingering kiss of redcurrant acidity. Best enjoyed now—2026. Saranty Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

90 **La Font de Notre Dame 2018 Le Mas (Gigondas).** Peppercorns and wild-berry preserves introduce this easy-drinking, fruit-focused blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (10%) and Mourvèdre (10%). It's full bodied and plush on the palate, with a juicy, thirst-quenching finish marked by a subtle salty spray. Best now—2025. Cynthia Hurley Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

90 **Vignobles et Compagnie 2019 Bois de Menge (Gigondas).** Black-cherry and raspberry flavors are rich and velvety in this full-bodied, fresh-fruited blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah. It's a youthful, juicy expression of Gigondas framed by soft, feathery tannins and a lift of crushed asphalt on the finish. At peak now—2026. Savorian Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

VACQUEYRAS

93 **Domaine du Terme 2018 Vacqueyras.** Charred black pepper and violets perfume this floral, deeply concentrated blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%). Sourced from clay-

limestone soils and vinified with no oak influence, it's ripe but bristles with minerality and vitality. Especially delicious young, it should drink at peak through 2028. The finish lingers on a delicate anise kiss. Shiverick Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$22

93 **Domaine la Ligière 2016 Point G (Vacqueyras).** Ripe and velvety in mouthfeel, this biodynamic varietal Grenache pulsates with sun-drenched dried strawberry and blueberry flavors. Accented by notes of cinnamon, clove and dried sage, it finishes on a lingering spray of crushed stone and soft, furry tannins. Delicious now, the wine should improve through 2026 and hold further. AP Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 **Halos de Jupiter 2018 Vacqueyras.** Hints of sun-scorched garrigue and smoke lend nuance to red-cherry and boysenberry flavors in this piquant varietal Grenache. It's full bodied but fresh on its feet, balancing luscious fruit against a lift of acidity and bristling minerality. The finish is long, gripped by fine, persistent tannins and touches of tea leaf and leather. This complex yet fruity wine is ready now but should improve through 2020. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$26

93 **La Grand Comtadine 2018 Héritiers Cheron-Misset (Vacqueyras).** Notes of violet and black-currant pastilles abound in this perfumed blend of Grenache (70%) and Syrah (30%). It's full bodied and richly concentrated but delightfully mineral and pure in fruit quality. Soft, delicately clinging tannins make it appealing immediately yet it's likely to gain spicy, earthen complexities well through 2028 and hold further. Serge Doré Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

93 **Yves Cheron 2019 Jardin d'Eden (Vacqueyras).** Cassis and boysenberry flavors are ripe yet vibrant in this fruit-focused wine. A blend of Grenache and Syrah, it's full bodied but spry, finishing on a revitalizing mineral crush. Silky, integrated tannins make it approachable now but the wine should drink well through 2030. Regal Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **Domaine du Grand Montmirail 2019 Vacqueyras.** Warming notes of cardamom and clove mingle into plump red plums and black cherries in this wine. A blend of 55% Grenache and 45% Syrah, it's a concentrated red edged by black pepper and char. The finish lingers on penetrating, furry tannins and a kiss of heat. At peak now—2029. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 **Domaine la Ligière 2018 Le Mourre de la Caille (Vacqueyras).** 2018 was a great vintage in Vacqueyras but wines from La Ligière seem particularly blessed. Ripe red-cherry and raspberry

flavors are transparent and pure, edged by flurries of fresh thyme and fine, feathery tannins. It's a jubilant, fruity wine that's best enjoyed young but should hold well through 2025. Biodynamic. AP Wine Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 **La Réserve Saint Dominique 2018 Vacqueyras.** Unoaked and transparent in fruit, this full-bodied blend of 70% Grenache, 15% Syrah and 15% Cinsault highlights sun-kissed plum and mulberry flavors. It's glossy and rich yet spry and cutting on the midpalate, lifted by zesty mineral tones and invigorating acidity. Delicious young, the wine should hold well through 2028. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

92 **Pierre Amadieu 2018 La Grangelière (Vacqueyras).** Prominent whiffs of burnt caramel, char and toast meld seamlessly into richly concentrated black-plum and cherry flavors in this wine. An 80/20 blend of Grenache and Syrah matured six months in oak, it's a lavish, stately wine that balances youthful black-fruit flavors against embellishments of clove, vanilla and crushed earth. Soft in tannins, it's ready to enjoy now but should improve through 2028 and hold further. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

92 **Ravoire et Fils 2017 Olivier Ravoire (Vacqueyras).** Whispers of granite, cinnamon and black pepper accent blueberry and boysenberry flavors in this spicy, concentrated red. A blend of Grenache and Syrah sourced from clay and limestone soils and matured primarily in tank, it's ripe but fresh and fruit focused. The finish is framed by fine, furry tannins and a lingering kiss of warmth. Wine Warehouse Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

91 **Gabriel Meffre 2018 Domaine de Longue Toque (Vacqueyras).** Muscular in build and powerfully extracted, this Grenache-Syrah blend offers rich, almost sinewy, blueberry and preserved-blackberry flavors accented by coffee bean, moss and earth. It's soft in acidity but ripe, gripping tannins structure the finish. The wine is approachable immediately yet should hold through 2028. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$35

91 **La Grand Comtadine 2018 Premières Vendanges (Vacqueyras).** This full-bodied blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah offers sumptuous, silky streaks of strawberry and raspberry preserves. It's a juicy, fruity wine lifted by crisp mineral tones and a kiss of blossomy perfume. The finish is held upright by a grip of firm, fine-grained tannins. At peak now—2028. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 **Domaine de la Brunely 2019 Les Secrets de la Licorne (Vacqueyras).** A chalky, salty spray of minerality lends freshness to ripe, gripping

BUYINGGUIDE

flavors of black cherry and plum in this blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre aged six months in oak. Firmly structured by a bracing edge of acidity and fine-grained, bristling tannins, it's a muscular red at peak now–2028. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.

abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

90 **Domaine Fontaine du Clos 2018 Reflets de L'âme (Vacqueyras).** Wisps of coffee bean and dried garrigue lend savory undertones to ripe, fleshy black-cherry and plum flavors in this wine. Soft and plush in fruit quality, it's a full-bodied, delicately tannic blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre that's at peak now through 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

89 **Arnoux & Fils 2018 Vieux Clocher Classic (Vacqueyras).** In this wine, veins of crushed granite and charred cloves lend spice and earth to fleshy preserved-plum and cherry flavors. A full-bodied but freshly balanced blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (25%) and Mourvèdre (5%), it's a satiny, mouthclinging wine that finishes on fine, sandpapery tannins. At peak now–2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

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

89 **Gabriel Meffre 2018 Laurus (Vacqueyras).** This soft Grenache-Syrah blend is marked by fleshy black-cherry and cassis flavors wrapped in fine, silky tannins. It's plush on the palate but brightened by an edge of acidity and touch of charry, smoky spice on the finish. At peak now–2026. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

88 **Terres Barnier 2018 Terre d'Emile (Vacqueyras).** In this wine, hints of smoke, char and granite accent plummy black cherry and strawberry preserves. A plush, delicately tannic blend of 50% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 10% Mourvèdre matured eight months in oak, it's an immediately enjoyable, fruit-forward wine that should drink at peak through 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$28

CÔTES DU RHÔNE VILLAGES LAUDUN

89 **Brotte 2018 Bord Elegance (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Sun-kissed raspberry and strawberry preserves are bright and charming in this juicy, softly edged blend of Grenache and Syrah. Matured in French oak barrels (1/3 new) it's a voluminous, almost cream-textured wine accented by lingering hints of tobacco leaf and leather. Best now–2025. W. Direct. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

89 **Brotte 2018 Château de Bord (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Black-currant and plum flavors are ripe but pristine in this juicy, full-bodied blend of Grenache (70%) and Syrah (30%).

Aged primarily in stainless steel (with 30% in large oak barrels), it's a fresh-fruited, easy-drinking sip marked by silky, even-knit tannins. Best enjoyed now–2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Château Courac 2017 Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun.** Hints of smoke and granite mingle into violet and black cherry in this full-bodied, bright-fruited red. A blend of Grenache, Syrah, Cunoise and Mourvèdre, it's a soft, easy-drinking sip held upright by firm, fine-grained tannins and a backbone of earthen minerality. At peak now–2027. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.

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

89 **Domaine La Croix du Verger 2019 Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun.** Sunny blackberry and plum flavors are pure and perfumed in this full-bodied blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. It's a pliant, juicy sip accented by a hint of violet and spicy hit of pepper that lingers on the finish. At peak now–2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.

abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$15

88 **Laudun Chusclan 2019 Domaine Combe Ferréol Cuvée Aurélien (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Ripe, juicy blackberry and black-plum flavors are accented by hints of smoke, incense and peppery spice in this plush, softly edged red. It's full bodied but airy and fresh on the midpalate, finishing on delicate hints of dried garrigue and crushed earth. At peak now–2025. Fine Terroir Selections. —A.I.

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

88 **Laudun Chusclan 2019 Maison Sinnae Les Dolia (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Velvet layers of ripe red plum and black cherry cushion this rich yet freshly balanced red blend. Fine-grained, furry tannins and appealing minerality lend freshness and vitality. At peak now–2025. Fine Terroir Selections. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 **Laudun Chusclan 2018 Domaine du Boulas Les Mûriers (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Smoky notes of burnt caramel and toast accent ripe blackberry and plum in this full-bodied, velvety and inviting blend of Grenache and Syrah. Fine, feathery tannins and yielding acidity make it immediately accessible but the wine should hold nicely through 2025. Fine Terroir Selections. —A.I.

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

87 **Laudun Chusclan 2019 Domaine Du Grès Les Deux Frères (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Dried-plum and blueberry notes are forward and easy in this full-bodied, slightly warming red. Rich and voluminous in mouthfeel but plush in concentration, it has juicy, immediate appeal that's accentuated by fine, yielding tannins. Best enjoyed now–2024. Fine Terroir Selections. —A.I.

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

87 **Marius César 2017 Vinum Augusta (Côtes du Rhône Villages Laudun).** Aromas of black cherry and blackberry are rich and inviting on the nose of this wine. Black-fruit flavors on the palate are delicate in concentration but plush and plummy, with a soft mouthfeel that's comforting. Smooth, feathery tannins accentuate the easy feel. Best now–2024. W. Direct. —A.I.

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

CHÂTEAUNEUF-DU-PAPE

97 **Domaine de la Solitude 2017 Réserve Secrète (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** The Réserve Secrète is produced only in exceptional years, but with a continuation of exceptional vintages, we're blessed with back-to-back releases in 2016 and 2017. A blend of old-vine Grenache and Syrah sourced from sandy soils and matured a total of 30 months, it's a powerfully concentrated, heart-stopping red full of raspberry and preserved-plum flavors. Accented with tangs of salt, licorice, char and leather, it's a complex wine that should hit peak from 2023–2035 and hold further. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Cellar Selection.* —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$165

96 **Château de Saint-Cosme 2017 Châteauneuf-du-Pape.** A sultry licorice spine extends from nose to finish in this wine, accenting concentrated flavors of strawberry and black-cherry preserves. A blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Mourvèdre, 15% Syrah and 5% Cinsault, it's a satiny sip dusted with cocoa powder and soft, feathery tannins. Alluring in fruit and lifted by a mineral crush, it's ready now but should improve through 2030. Craft+Estate+Winebow. *Editors' Choice.* —A.I.

abv: 15% **Price:** \$62

96 **Domaine de la Solitude 2018 Vin de la Solitude (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2018 Habemus Papam (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** In this sleek, freshly composed blend of Grenache (80%) and Syrah (20%), bright flavors of raspberry coulis and sour-cherry nectar are anchored by undertones of fur, asphalt and camphor. Softly tannic and edged by a bristle of chestnut skins, it's a structured wine that maximizes both fruit and earth with finesse. At peak now through 2030, the wine is likely to hold further. Made from organic grapes. Martine's Wines. —A.I.

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

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2018 Le Pied de Baud (Châteauneuf-du-Pape).** Heady notes of violet candy and crème de cassis introduce this perfumed red sourced from a lieu-dit coplanted with Grenache, Mourvèdre and Cinsault. Red-cherry and plum flavors are sun-drenched but pure, etched by crystalline veins of salt and crushed stone. It's delicious young but should improve through 2030

and hold longer still. Made from organic grapes. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

96 **Domaine Santa Duc 2018 Les Saintes Vierges (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Perfumes of violet and rose petal linger from nose to finish in this graceful red. Made with 90% Grenache (augmented by 9% Mourvèdre and 1% Counoise), the wine is sourced from sandy soils in the lieu-dit Les Saintes Vierges. Pristine and piercing red-cherry and raspberry flavors tread softly on silk-tipped tannins. Thrilling young, the wine should hold well through 2035. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

95 **Brotte 2017 Secret Barville (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Whiffs of strawberry and red-cherry preserves are edged by tobacco leaf, cinnamon and clove in this silky blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Matured 18 months in one-year-old oak barrels, it's a subtle, spicy red with a deep core of redcurrant and berry flavors. Pliant, feathery tannins make it ready to drink now but the wine is concentrated enough to improve through 2030 and hold longer still. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$60

95 **Domaine de la Solitude 2018 Cornelia Constanza (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. This varietal Grenache is sourced entirely from a century-old vineyard in Châteauneuf's famed La Crau. Blossomy in perfume and edged with silk, it's a scintillating expression of summer raspberries and strawberry preserves. A mineral crush and hints of fresh thyme and violet linger on the finish. Irresistible now, the wine should drink well through 2030. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$105

95 **M. Chapoutier 2016 La Bernardine (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Murmurs of burnt cinnamon and leather accent brisk raspberry and sour-cherry preserves in this powerful but elegant Grenache (augmented by 5% each of Syrah and Mourvèdre). Tasted in January 2021, its red-fruit flavors are still pure and vibrant, but reveal inflections of earth, smoke and fur. Plush tannins and a wisp of heat linger on the finish. Seductive now, the wine should continue to improve through 2035 and hold further. Terlato Wines International. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$78

94 **Domaine de la Solitude 2018 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**. For full review see page 7.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$48

94 **Halos de Jupiter 2018 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**. This bottling highlights grapes from centenary Grenache vines (augmented by 10% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre) sourced from Châteauneuf-du-Pape's three main soil types (pebbles, clay and sand). Luscious and strawberry-scented, it's concentrated in brambly berry and cherry flavors yet cut by a mineral edge. Silky on

the palate and framed by soft, furry tannins, it's hedonistic in youth but should gain complexity through 2035 and hold further. Saranty Imports. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$49

93 **Alain Jaume et Fils 2018 Domain Grand Veneur Le Miocène (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Tangs of granite and firm, gripping tannins lend angularity to concentrated black cherry and plum in this wine. A blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%), it's weighty on the palate but sharply cut by zingy red-cassis acidity. At peak now through 2028, the wine should hold further still. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$63

93 **Brotte 2018 Domaine Barville (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. For full review see page 9.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

93 **E. Guigal 2016 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**. Tasted in January 2021, this wine still shows an abundance of sun-kissed, red-plum and black-cherry flavors nuanced by shades of char, crushed earth and smoked cedar. Vibrantly fruity yet statuesque and grounded, it lingers on a flurry of ripe, integrated tannins. Delicious now, the wine will continue to improve through 2030 and hold longer still. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice*. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

93 **Emma M. Louise 2018 Le Saint Père (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. A firm mineral spine lends poise to flavors of red cherries and strawberry pastilles in this full-bodied, juicy red. A blend of Grenache (60%), Syrah (30%) and Mourvèdre (10%) matured in French oak for nine months, this fresh-fruited wine finishes on a ruffle of wild mint and thyme. Delicious young, the wine should hold through 2030. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$100

93 **Kirkland Signature 2018 Cuvée du Terroir des Papes (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice*.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$21

93 **Les Combes D'Arnevel 2017 Arnavès (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Black-cherry menthol and swathes of brambly, sun-burnt garrigue introduce this piercing black-fruited wine. Bold proportions of Cinsault and Syrah lend unexpected angularity to Grenache's decadent, plummier characteristics. Framed by a grip of fine-grained tannins and a stony, mineral undertow, it finishes on a lingering kiss of cassis. Approachable now the wine should improve through 2030. David Milligan Selections. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$40

92 **Marius César 2018 Spiritus Pentificum (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Marius César is a national brand producing wines throughout France. This full-bodied, fleshy red highlights flavors of raspberry sorbet and red-cherry preserves backed by a finely edged grip of tannins. The youthful,

fresh-fruited sip finishes on subtle crushed earth and mesquite. At peak now through 2028, the wine will hold further still. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

91 **Domaine Clef de Saint Thomas 2018 Pierre Troupel (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Unoaked and primary in fruit, this 50/50 blend of Grenache and Syrah showcases bright, unadulterated red-cherry and raspberry flavors. Full bodied but silky and spry, it finishes on a lift of crushed stone and fine, feathery tannins. Best enjoyed now—2026. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$35

91 **Domaine de la Brunely 2019 Châteauneuf-du-Pape**. This floral, perfumed blend of Grenache and Syrah is packed with flavors of blackberry preserves and roasted plums. Concentrated and grounded in tones of crushed chalk and scorched garrigue, it should drink well through 2029. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$43

91 **Emma M. Louise 2018 Les Terrasses de Galets (Châteauneuf-du-Pape)**. Notes of dried blueberries and blackberry preserves abound in this plush blend of Grenache (60%), Syrah (30%) and Mourvèdre (10%). Soft in tannins and slightly muted in fruit, this softly treading red finishes on a pleasant grip of leather and coffee grinds. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: NA **Price:** \$75

LIRAC

91 **Domaine Maby 2017 Bel Canto (Lirac)**. Hints of granite and smoked cedar lend nuance to deep waves of blueberry and black-plum in this heavyweight varietal Grenache. It's a potent wine spiced by hints of clove and black pepper, yet soft and supple on the palate. The finish lingers on a wisp of heat and fine, furry tannins. At peak now—2027. DB Wine Selection. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$37

91 **Famille Bréchet 2016 Plateau des Chenes (Lirac)**. Scents of green olive and rosemary lend an earthen, herbal tone, but the palate of this 60/40 blend of Syrah and Grenache pulsates with powerful blackberry and cassis flavors. Vinified and matured without new oak, it's fruit-focused, muscular wine and ready to drink now through 2028. Eric Solomon Selections. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$20

90 **La Réserve Saint Dominique 2017 Lirac**. Notes of preserved plum and licorice are ripe but restrained from nose to finish in this full-bodied, freshly concentrated red. A blend of Grenache (65%), Syrah (30%) and Mourvèdre (5%), the wine is silky but briskly balanced, finishing on a twist of tart cassis and fine but persistent tannins. Best now—2025. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$23

89 Les Vignerons de Tavel & Lirac 2019 Domaine Chantepierre (Lirac). Concentrated and slightly warming on the finish, this is a bold, bruising blend of 50% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 20% Carignan and Mourvèdre. Ripe black-plum and cherry flavors are spiced by shards of black pepper and anise, edged by a lingering granite finish. Ideal as an accompaniment to a juicy rib eye or barbecue, the wine should drink at peak now through 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Les Vignerons de Tavel & Lirac 2019 Les Hauts d'Acantalys (Lirac). Delicate whiffs of granite and violet petals perfume this rich, intensely concentrated Grenache blend. The deeply extracted wine drenches the palate with luscious blackberry and plum flavors that are also fresh and immediately approachable. Best enjoyed now–2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$19

89 Les Vignerons de Tavel & Lirac 2019 Les Lauzeraies (Lirac). Notes of crushed chalk and granite lend freshness to bold black-plum and cassis flavors in this hefty, intensely fruity blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (30%) and Mourvèdre. The wine maintains spryness throughout, accented by lingering, salty minerality on the finish. Best now–2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$19

88 Les Vignerons de Tavel & Lirac 2019 Domaine de l'Eyrolle (Lirac). This 60/40 Grenache-Syrah blend highlights fresh black-cherry and mulberry flavors. Straightforward and joyously fruity, it's an immediately easy-drinking sip framed by soft, silky tannins. Best enjoyed now–2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$20

COSTIÈRES DE NÎMES

91 Château Beaubois 2017 Harmonie (Costières de Nîmes). This opulent blend of Syrah (70%), Grenache (20%) and Mourvèdre (10%) opens with plump blackberry and plum flavors edged by crushed pepper and graphite. Full bodied yet freshly concentrated, it's an elegant, fresh-fruited red that lingers on a delicate raspberry kiss. While lovely young, it should hold nicely through 2025. Dionysus Imports Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$29

91 Château Guiot 2018 Numa (Costières de Nîmes). Notes of freshly cracked pepper and char introduce this spicy, smoldering blend of Syrah (80%) and Mourvèdre (20%). Matured in 20% new oak, it's a bold, concentrated wine that balances ripe black-currant and mulberry flavors against heady tones of spice, dried garrigue and scorched earth. Complex yet juicy, it's should drink well through 2028 at least. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Château L'Ermite d'Auzan 2019 Saint Cécile (Costières de Nîmes). Made from equal parts Syrah and Mourvèdre augmented by just 10% Grenache, this full-bodied red is a dark, sultry expression of the Costières de Nîmes. Blackberry and cassis on the palate are ripe but angular and piercing, shaded by hints of leather, fur and cracked pepper. It's a muscular wine framed by bristling acidity and a rim of soft, feathery tannins. Delicious already, the wine should hold through 2029. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$20

91 Mas des Bressades 2017 Cuveé Tradition (Costières de Nîmes). Made from equal parts Grenache and Syrah, this unoaked, full-bodied red offers rich black-plum and cherry flavors accented by hints of anise and dried sage. Concentrated yet spry and mineral on the finish, it's a consistently well-made, elegant wine that should please well through 2025. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

90 Château L'Ermite d'Auzan 2018 Réserve (Costières de Nîmes). Wisps of smoke and incense lend savory, spicy undertones to blackberry and plum in this blend of nearly equal parts Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Fermented and aged 12 months in French oak, it's a piquant red with a rich midpalate and framed by fine, supple tannins. Ready now, the wine should hold through 2028. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

90 Château Saint-Louis la Perdrix 2019 L'Envol (Costières de Nîmes). Ripe black currants and plums extend from nose to finish in this fruity, primary blend of Syrah (50%), Grenache (30%) and Mourvèdre. Etched by soft, furry tannins and sunny acidity, it's an easy wine that should be enjoyed young for its exuberant fruit profile. Wine Wine Situation. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 Vignobles et Compagnie 2019 Château des Sources (Costières de Nîmes). Boysenberry and cassis are ripe but pristine in this concentrated, black-fruited red. It's a buoyantly fruity, forward sip but elegantly anchored by a rambling mineral edge and spry acidity. The finish is marked by fine, gripping tannins and a smoky, earthen touch. It's a fantastic bargain to enjoy now through 2025. Savorian Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 Château d'Or et de Gueules 2018 Les Cimels (Costières de Nîmes). Dried sage and thyme accent raspberry and strawberry preserve in this fresh-fruited blend of Syrah (60%), Carignan (30%) and Grenache (10%). It's a shade zestier and lighter on its feet than most of its voluptuous appellation peers in 2018. The finish is structured by a grip of firm, fine-grained tannins and a pleasantly earthen, mineral undertow. Best enjoyed now–2026. The Wine House. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$17

89 Château Guiot 2018 Costières de Nîmes. While unoaked in style, a smoldering of char and sun-scorched garrigue lends intensity to bright raspberry and black-cherry flavors in this wine. A 50/50 blend of Grenache and Syrah, it's a juicy, fresh-fruited red with immediate appeal and soft, pliant tannins. Best now–2024. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 14.1% **Price:** \$14

89 Château L'Ermite d'Auzan 2019 Auzan (Costières de Nîmes). A hint of black peppercorn lends spice to pristine, softly concentrated black-currant and cherry flavors in this wine. A full-bodied, fresh-fruited blend of Syrah (40%), Mourvèdre and Grenache, it's accented by fine-grained, lingering tannins and a touch of wild mint on the finish. It's best enjoyed now through 2024 for its youthful fruit. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

89 Domaine Gassier 2018 Fleur de Syrah (Costières de Nîmes). Pristine blackberry and plum flavors are etched by graphite in this juicy, thirst-quenching Syrah. While full bodied and intensely ripe, it's a crisply concentrated, mineral sip that finishes on fine, softly edged tannins. Best enjoyed now–2025. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$16

88 Joseph Castan 2019 Château Saint Père Cuvée Premium (Costières de Nîmes). This is a plump, fruit-forward blend of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvèdre. Ample and just a touch warming on the finish, it's a ripe, primary wine packed with juicy black-cherry, plum and raspberry flavors. Fine, silky tannins accentuate the easy, immediately enjoyable style. Best now–2025. Wines of the World. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$18

CÔTES DU RHÔNE

92 La Bastide Saint Dominique 2017 Jules Rochebonne (Côtes du Rhône). Delicate touches of charred wood and bramble mingle into vanilla and cassis on the palate of this Syrah-dominant Côtes du Rhône (augmented by 20% Grenache). Framed by fine, furry tannins and highlighting richly extracted black-plum and currant flavors, it's a plummier, rounder expression of Syrah than you'll find in the north. The finish lingers on subtle notes of olive tapenade and violet blossoms. At peak now–2026. Golden State Wine Co. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$26

91 Château de Saint-Cosme 2018 Les Deux Albion (Côtes du Rhône). This Syrah-dominant blend augmented by Grenache, Carignan, Mourvèdre and Clairette is sourced from three Côtes-du-Rhône-Villages communes of Plan de Dieu, Saint Maurice and Cairanne. Vinified in wooden vats and matured in concrete, it offers decadent cassis and black-plum flavors accented by tar, charred sage and licorice.

Supple and piercing, the wine is ready now but will hold through 2026. Craft+Estate+Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$26

91 **Domaine Fontaine du Clos 2018 Côtes du Rhône.** Freshly cracked peppercorns and scintillating red cherries introduce this delightfully quaffable Grenache-Syrah blend. It's full bodied but spry and airy on the midpalate, lifted by cooling minerality and a lingering salty rim. Enjoy now through 2024 for its exuberantly fresh fruit profile. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

91 **Emma M. Louise 2019 La Truffe Noire (Côtes du Rhône).** Vibrant swathes of rosemary and basil lend fresh green inflections to plum and preserved strawberry in this blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. Unoaked and unabashedly fruity, it's an immediately approachable red wrapped up in soft, silky tannins. At its best now—2025. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$25

90 **Brotte 2018 Viridi (Côtes du Rhône).** Subtle notes of smoke and licorice lend savory inflections to freshly concentrated black-cherry and plum flavors in this wine. An unoaked blend of Grenache and Syrah made with organic grapes, it's full bodied but spry and fresh in fruit profile. A juicy, immediately enjoyable wine framed by fine, furry tannins, it should drink well through 2024. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$24

90 **Château Gigognan 2019 Côtes du Rhône.** In this wine, luscious blackberry and plum flavors are juxtaposed by notes of iron and crushed earth. A Grenache-dominant blend accented with Mourvèdre, Syrah, Cinsault and Carignan, it's a forward, penetrating wine with lingering nuances of fur and earth. Framed by fine-grained, persistent tannins and briskly balanced, it's at peak now through 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

90 **Domaine des Bouzons 2018 La Félicité (Côtes du Rhône).** This piquant Syrah-dominant blend is augmented by 20% Grenache. The palate is packed with black cherry and boysenberry flavors edged by sun-scorched garrigue and hits of black pepper and clove. Primary and fruit forward yet angular and fresh, the wine is ready to drink now through 2025. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$18

90 **Domaine la Millière 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône).** Brambly notes of raspberry and boysenberry extend from nose to finish in this fresh, perfumed blend of Grenache and Syrah. It's opulent and ample on the palate but dazzles on the finish with a crush of minerality and bristling acidity. Sun-kissed and silken, the wine drinks best young but should hold through 2024. Saranty Imports. —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 **Domaine St Pierre 2019 Côtes du Rhône.** This small, family-owned winery produces less than 70,000 bottles of wine annually. Typically a blend of Grenache (60%), Syrah (25%) and Carignan (15%), this basic Côtes du Rhône bottling offers rich, concentrated flavors of spiced plums and cherry preserves. It's a full-bodied, velvety wine with a pleasantly earthen, meaty heft and fine-grained, lingering tannins. Best now—2026. Wine Situation. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 **La Bastide Saint Dominique 2018 Côtes du Rhône.** This blend of 60% Grenache and 40% Syrah offers sun-drenched cassis and blueberry flavors balanced by tangy acidity and bristling notes of crushed granite, bay leaf and anise. It's concentrated, juicy and immediately approachable, with firm, fine-grained tannins. At peak now—2025. Golden State Wine Co. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

90 **La Grand Comtadine 2019 Héritiers Cheron-Misset (Côtes du Rhône).** Flavors of raspberry confiture and spiced plums are concentrated but spry in this blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Cinsault (10%) sourced from clay-limestone soils. Matured in concrete tanks, it's a luminous, fruit-focused wine balanced by fresh acidity and fine, silky tannins. Best enjoyed now—2025. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 **M. Chapoutier 2019 Belleruche (Côtes du Rhône).** Shards of graphite etch peppery freshness into this fruity blend of mainly Grenache and Syrah. Raspberry and black-currant flavors are ripe but pristine, highlighted by spry acidity and fine, chalky tannins. Ready now, the wine should drink well through 2025. Terlato Wines International. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$17

90 **Pierre Dupond 2018 La Renjardière (Côtes du Rhône).** Streaks of black cherry and cassis are filigreed by granite in this fresh-fruited red. Predominantly Grenache augmented by smaller proportions of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan, it's an immediately enjoyable, pristine red that finishes on bold, gripping tannins and a kiss of burnt cinnamon. Best enjoyed now—2025. Worldwide Cellars. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

90 **Yannick Alléno & Michel Chapoutier 2019 Côtes du Rhône.** This Syrah-dominant blend is muscular in stature yet zesty and thirst quenching. Aged in concrete rather than oak, it offers sun-drenched but pristine black-cherry and raspberry flavors that are edged by a granitic spine. The finish is marked by hints of licorice and fine, lingering tannins. This elegant, immediately enjoyable wine is best through 2025. Sera Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$12

90 **Yves Cheron 2019 Les Dentelles (Côtes du Rhône).** This perfumed 75/25 blend of Grenache and Syrah shares the same blossomy, fresh-fruited demeanor of Yves Cheron's more expensive Southern Rhône wines. It's a full-bodied, silky sip, with ample black-cherry and plum flavors edged by burnt caramel and a refreshing mineral lift. Soft in tannins and forward in fruit, it's an immediately enjoyable wine that should drink at peak through 2024. Regal Wine Company. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 **Yves Cheron 2018 Les Dentelles (Côtes du Rhône).** Violet and lavender perfume this full-bodied, silky blend of 70% Grenache and 30% Syrah. A juicy, pertly balanced red, it finishes on soft, satiny tannins and a lingering vein of granite. This lovely wine is best enjoyed young but is likely to hold through 2025. Regal Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

89 **Anthony Paret 2017 Valvigneyre (Côtes du Rhône).** Although a Côtes du Rhône labeling most often suggests a southern Grenache blend, this varietal Syrah from the Northern Rhône offers crisp, fresh-fruited blackberry and cassis flavors accented by hints of granite and bramble. Delicate in tannins and plush on the palate, it's an immediately enjoyable red at peak now through 2024. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$40

89 **Bernard Chamfort 2019 Côtes du Rhône.** This full-bodied, 80/20 blend of Grenache and Syrah offers crisp, youthful strawberry and red-cherry flavors marked by hints of crushed granite and burnt sugar. Thirst quenching and briskly balanced, it's an immediately enjoyable wine with wide appeal. Enjoy now—2024. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Cellier des Princes 2019 Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône).** This unoaked blend of 85% Grenache, 10% Syrah and 5% Mourvèdre offers sun-kissed raspberry and preserved-strawberry flavors struck by white pepper, cinnamon and clove. Full bodied but zesty, it finishes on fine-grained, raspy tannins and lingering notes of crushed stone. At peak now—2024. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$13

89 **Château Courac 2017 Côtes du Rhône.** Raspberry and red-plum flavors are glossy and pure in this full-bodied blend of equal parts Syrah and Grenache augmented by 20% Carignan. Fresh-fruited and easy drinking, it's an approachable sip shaded by delicate hints of tar, granite and peppery spice. Soft, silky tannins accentuate the plush appeal. Best now—2024. Scoperta Importing Co. Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

89 **Château de Montfaucon 2017 Côtes du Rhône.** Subtle hints of granite and crisp red

BUYINGGUIDE

cherry on the nose gain power and concentration in this concentrated, stately red. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by smaller proportions of Syrah, Carignan, Cinsault and Counoise, it balances zesty cherry and berry flavors against an elegant, stony undertow. At peak now–2024. Winebow. —A.I.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

89 **Domaine de Dionysos 2016 La Devèze (Côtes du Rhône).** This full-bodied blend of Grenache (60%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre (20%) was tasted in January 2021. Blackberry and plum flavors are still concentrated and bright but accented by rambling veins of iron, earth and dried garrigue as well. The spicy, delicately warming red wears its savory inflections well. Best now–2023. Serge Doré Selections. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$15

89 **Grandes Serres 2019 Domaine Serres (Côtes du Rhône).** This fruity, forward blend of Grenache and Mourvèdre is packed with juicy flavors of raspberry preserves and black-cherry nectar. Accented by hints of granite and silky, easing tannins, it's a bright, easy drinking red with wide appeal. Best enjoyed now–2024. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

89 **Halos de Jupiter 2018 Côtes du Rhône.** This intensely fruity varietal Grenache showers the palate with sunny boysenberry and dried-strawberry flavors accented by a whisper of anise. Voluptuous and soft in tannins yet lifted by a subtle granitic spine, this crowd-pleasing red should drink well through 2024. Saranty Imports. —A.I.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$17

89 **Laudun Chusclan 2019 Esprit du Rhône Vieilles Vignes (Côtes du Rhône).** Shavings of black pepper and clove lend sizzle to crisp red-cherry and boysenberry flavors in this full-bodied, Grenache-dominant blend. Juicy and freshly concentrated, it finishes on delicate, gripping tannins and a wisp of heat. At peak now–2025. Fine Terroir Selections. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

89 **NewRhône Millésimes 2018 Romain Duvernay Domaine de Cabane (Côtes du Rhône).** This full-bodied blend of Grenache (70%), Syrah (20%) and Mourvèdre boasts layers of juicy, sun-struck raspberry and preserved-strawberry flavors. Silky on the palate and accented by delicate whiffs of cut stone, cinnamon and wild herbs, it's a spry, easy-drinking sip best enjoyed young. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

89 **Pierre Dupond 2017 La Renjardière (Côtes du Rhône).** In this wine, sun-scorched garrigue and smoky granite anchor juicy red-cherry and raspberry flavors. A blend of 70% Grenache with smaller proportions of Syrah, Mourvèdre and Carignan, it's a fresh-fruited, immediately enjoyable red with a fresh mineral midpalate. Soft,

silky tannins accentuate the easy quaffing style. Best now–2024. Worldwide Cellars. —A.I.
abv: 14.2% **Price:** \$15

89 **Pont de Nyons 2019 Côtes du Rhône.** A Grenache-dominant blend accented with 10% each of Syrah, Carignan and Cinsault, this feels like a classic bistro wine. Ripe and delightfully quaffable black-cherry and plum flavors are briskly concentrated and linger through a long, delicately granitic finish. Best enjoyed now–2024. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

88 **Alain Jaume et Fils 2017 Haut de Brun (Côtes du Rhône).** Ripe but restrained black-cherry and plum flavors extend from nose to finish in this full-bodied blend of Grenache (60%), Syrah (30%) and Cinsault (10%). Freshly concentrated and edged by hints of cut granite and salt, it's a softly tannic, easy-drinking red best enjoyed now to 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$20

88 **Domaine Notre Dame des Pallières 2019 Les Rieus (Côtes du Rhône).** Subtly mineral tones of smoke and crushed granite mingle into juicy, sun-kissed blackberry and red-cherry flavors in this wine. Ripe but freshly concentrated, it's an easy-drinking sip that finishes on soft, yielding tannins and a hint of dried garrigue. Best now–2024. Grape Expectations (CA). —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$14

88 **Guillaume Gonnet 2017 Le Rêveur (Côtes du Rhône).** A lift of crushed salt and stone extends from nose to finish in this satiny 80/20 blend of Grenache and Syrah. Full bodied yet freshly concentrated, it's a thirst-quenching wine with fine, silky tannins. Best now–2024. Misa Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 **Marius César 2018 Mistral Terra (Côtes du Rhône).** Dark, granitic undertones anchor this delicately concentrated but full-bodied red. Raspberry and red-cherry flavors are fresh and spry on the palate, while fine, wispy tannins accentuate its easy, approachable feel. Best enjoyed now–2023. W. Direct. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$19

88 **Rémy Ferbras 2017 Terre de Mistral (Côtes du Rhône).** This classic blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre offers bright, juicy flavors of preserved raspberry and cherry in a refreshingly medium-bodied frame. A thirst-quenching, fresh-fruited red, it finishes on fine-grained but grippy tannins. Best now–2024. Prestige Beverage Group. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Charles Thomas 2018 Côtes du Rhône.** A hint of strawberry on the nose gains ripeness and intensity on the palate of this full-bodied, juicy red. A wild-berry-inflected blend of 65% Grenache, 30% Syrah and 5% Marselan, it's a freshly concentrated, immediately enjoyable sip

that finishes on fine, easy tannins. Enjoy young. Kysela Père et Fils. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$16

87 **Domaine des Bouzons 2018 La Friandise (Côtes du Rhône).** Notes of elderberry syrup and raspberry preserves abound in this lush, softly tannic blend of Grenache (80%), Syrah (15%) and Counoise (5%). It's a primary, fruity red best enjoyed young, but the finish lingers on subtle earth and moss. French Libation. —A.I.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$14

87 **Domaine Saint Andéol 2017 Côtes du Rhône.** Notes of roasted plum and preserved black cherry are muted by shades of earth and balsamic vinegar in this wine. Tasted in January 2021, it's still concentrated in black-fruit flavors but shows maturity in lingering hints of mushroom, leather and forest floor. Drink soon. Wine Circle. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$13

87 **Gabriel Meffre 2018 Saint-Vincent (Côtes du Rhône).** Ripe blackberry and plum flavors are muted by hints of moss and crushed earth in this softly edged, full-bodied red. A Grenache-dominant blend augmented by Syrah, it's a delicate, immediately enjoyable wine that should hold through 2024. Vision Wine & Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Grandes Serres 2019 Les Portes du Castelas (Côtes du Rhône).** This unoaked, fruit-focused blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre is packed with fleshy black-plum and preserved-strawberry flavors. It's juicy and forward but subtly earthen and spicy too, peppered by hints of clove, cinnamon and leather. Easy drinking but nuanced, it lingers on firm, fine-grained tannins. Best now–2024. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$12

87 **Les Vignerons de Tavel & Lirac 2019 Les Lauzeraies (Côtes du Rhône).** Notes of raspberry pastilles and cherry blossoms scent this softly treading, full-bodied blend of Grenache (50%), Syrah (30%) and Carignan (20%). Flavors of strawberry leather and black-cherry preserves are ripe and rounded, edged by a grip of sandpaper tannins and a slightly earthen finish. Best enjoyed now–2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$13

87 **Vidal-Fleury 2017 Côtes du Rhône.** Notes of tar, singed spice and leather saddle lend savory, rustic undertones to ripe black cherry and plum in this wine. A blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre matured in 70% tank and 30% foudres, it's a concentrated wine with Old-World sensibilities, framed by fine, penetrating tannins. Best now–2024. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.I.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

86 **Les Vignerons du Castelas 2019 Côtes du Rhône.** This 60/40 blend of Grenache and Syrah suggests broad flavors of roasted plum and

cherry preserves muted by swathes of dried thyme and sage. Full bodied and richly textured, it finishes on a sizzle of heat and finely edged, lingering tannins. Best enjoyed now–2023. La Ville Imports. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

VIN DE PAYS DU GARD

90 Mas des Bressades 2017 Les Vignes de Mon Pere (Vin de Pays du Gard). Cabernet Sauvignon is a rarity in the Costières de Nîmes, but Mas des Bressades relies on 70-year-old Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah vines to make this robust red. Exceptionally ripe this vintage, its black-currant and cherry flavors are concentrated yet angular, edged by graphite and fine, gripping tannins. Aged one year in oak, it lingers on notes of cedar and sweet spice. It offers incredible value for an elegant red, at peak now through 2030. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —A.I.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$18

BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 2016 VINTAGE

100 Il Marroneto 2016 Madonna delle Grazie (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$350

100 Le Chiusi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$99

99 Conti Costanti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$119

99 Fuligni 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Enticingly fragrant, this opens with heady aromas of rose, violet, new leather, truffle and balsamic whiffs of camphor. Vibrant and focused, the chiseled, elegant palate is all about finesse, delivering bright red cherry, orange zest, licorice and white pepper framed in taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it superbly balanced and fresh. It's already drinking beautifully but hold for even more complexity. Drink 2024–2036. Empson USA Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$112

99 Le Potazzine 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Earthy aromas of blue flower, rose, underbrush and leather mingle together on this gorgeous, fragrant red. All about finesse and flavor, the medium-bodied palate is absolutely delicious, featuring juicy morello cherry, crushed raspberry, baking spice, star anise and the barest hint of game. It's radiant and beautifully balanced thanks to taut, polished tannins and bright acidity. It's already showing incredibly well but hold for even more

complexity. Drink 2022–2036. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$139

98 Argiano 2016 Vigna del Suolo (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

98 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2016 Pianrosso (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 3.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

98 Gianni Brunelli 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Fragrant, focused and loaded with finesse, this stunner has enticing scents of rose petal, camphor, tilled earth and perfumed berry. Vibrant and savory, the chiseled palate delivers juicy red cherry, pomegranate, star anise and savory mineral framed in taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it radiant and balanced. Drink 2024–2041. de Grazia Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

98 Il Marroneto 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Perfumed, focused and loaded with energy, this radiant red boasts enticing scents of iris, rose, crushed mint and wild berry. Boasting ethereal elegance as well as intensity and flavor, the chiseled palate has great fruit purity, delivering juicy red cherry, spiced cranberry, star anise and white pepper. Noble tannins and bright acidity provide balance and an ageworthy framework. Drink 2024–2046. LLS–Winebow. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

97 Altesino 2016 Montosoli (Brunello di Montalcino). Rose, forest berry, underbrush and new leather are some of the aromas you'll find on this full-bodied red. From one of Montalcino's greatest vineyard sites, the firmly structured, elegant palate is also delicious, boasting ripe black cherry, raspberry compote, tobacco and licorice set against taut, fine-grained tannins. It's well balanced, with bright acidity. Drink 2024–2036. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

97 Canalicchio di Sopra 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Intense aromas of underbrush, wild berry, new leather and pipe tobacco lead the way on this fragrant Brunello. Full bodied and elegantly structured, the savory palate features ripe morello cherry, licorice and truffle before a black-tea finish. Firm, refined tannins and fresh acidity keep balanced and give it an ageworthy structure. Drink 2024–2036. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

97 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Red-berry, wild-rose, crushed mint and dark-spice aromas are front and center on this fragrant red. The full-bodied palate is concentrated but also boasts finesse, offering layers of raspberry jam, smooth licorice and tobacco

alongside a backbone of enveloping, velvety tannins. You'll also detect the warmth of alcohol but the succulent fruit stands up to it. Drink 2024–2036. Indigenous Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$75

97 Livio Sasseti 2016 Pertimali (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 3.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

97 San Polino 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Made with organically grown Sangiovese and fermented with wild yeasts, this fragrant, earthy red has intense aromas of rose petal, forest floor, new leather, woodland berry and balsamic whiffs of camphor. Full bodied and savory, the palate doles out juicy Marasca cherry, blood orange, licorice and tobacco alongside bright acidity and a backbone of noble tannins. It's still youthfully austere, with great aging potential. Drink 2026–2046. T. Edward Wines Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

97 Talenti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Focused and loaded with finesse, this opens with enticing aromas of menthol, graphite, rose and forest floor. Full bodied and delicious, the linear, energized palate features ripe Marasca cherry, licorice, mint and vanilla before a coffee-bean finish. Firm, polished tannins and fresh acidity provide support. Drink 2024–2036. Wolfpack Worldwide LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

96 Argiano 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

96 Armilla 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. From one of Montalcino's little-known gems of an estate, this radiant, savory red opens with enticing aromas of woodland berry, rose, new leather and camphor. It's savory and supremely elegant, delivering juicy Marasca cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and baking spice framed in taut, polished tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Omniwines Distribution. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

96 Banfi 2016 Vigna Marrucheto (Brunello di Montalcino). The newest addition to Banfi's Brunello lineup, this single-vineyard offering boasts firm structure, finesse and radiance. Aged in large French casks, it opens with enticing aromas of blue flower, menthol, forest floor and star anise. On the full-bodied palate, tightly wound, fine-grained tannins accompany juicy Marasca cherry, blood orange, licorice and a hint of espresso while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Still young and primary, it shows great aging potential and needs time to fully develop. Drink 2026–2041. Banfi Vintners. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 Caprili 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Classic Sangiovese aromas of wild berry, forest floor, rose and new leather waft out of the glass

along with whiffs of camphor. Delicious and smooth, the elegantly structured palate features ripe wild cherry, blood orange and licorice alongside polished tannins. It's well balanced, with fresh acidity—what a fantastic showing. It's already accessible but will age well for years to come. Drink 2022–2031. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

96 Lisini 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Inviting aromas of ripe wild berry, baking spice and Mediterranean herb are front and center along with a whiff of blue flower. Full bodied and vibrant, the savory palate features ripe Marasca cherry, star anise and nutmeg framed in noble tannins. Bright acidity provides freshness and balance. Give this time to fully develop and you'll be rewarded. Drink 2026–2046. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$86

96 Podere Le Ripi 2016 Cielo d'Ulisse (Brunello di Montalcino). New leather, truffle, ripe berry and camphor aromas form the nose along with a whiff of pressed rose and game. Full bodied and delicious, the enveloping palate doles out mouthfuls of cherry marinated in spirits, crushed raspberry, licorice and hints of seasoned meats alongside velvety tannins. It's concentrated but also boasts an almost weightless elegance. Drink 2023–2031. Dark Star Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$60

96 Poggio Antico 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Classic Sangiovese aromas of underbrush, wild berry and new leather mingle with whiffs of camphor. Supremely elegant, the focused palate shows precision and great energy, featuring juicy red cherry, pomegranate, white pepper and black tea set against chiseled, refined tannins. Vibrant acidity keeps it balanced while a salty mineral note lingers on the close. Fantastic showing. Drink 2026–2041. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$74

96 Salicutti 2016 Teatro (Brunello di Montalcino). Camphor, perfumed berry, violet and sandalwood aromas come to the forefront. Full bodied and elegantly structured, the palate offers juicy red cherry, French oak, vanilla and star anise alongside polished, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2026–2036. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$185

96 San Polino 2016 Helicrysum (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of berry, new leather, rose and licorice waft out of the glass on this firmly structured wine. On the assertive palate, drying, close-grained tannins weave through dried cherry, star anise, toasted nut and roasted coffee bean. Made with organically farmed grapes, it also undergoes spontaneous fermentation with wild yeasts. It's still young and bracing so give it time to

fully develop. Drink 2026–2036. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

96 San Polo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

95 Baricci 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of underbrush, rose, wild berry and new leather are front and center. Hailing from Montosoli, one of Montalcino's most revered vineyard sites, the full-bodied palate combines power and finesse, delivering ripe cherry, oak-driven spice and coffee bean alongside firm, close-grained tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Give it time to fully develop. Drink 2026–2046. Vias Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Camigliano 2016 Paesaggio Inatteso (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of forest floor, eucalyptus, violet and coffee bean take shape in the glass. Full bodied and savory, the firm palate doles out mouthfuls of ripe black cherry, mature plum, licorice and baking spice alongside enveloping, fine-grained tannins—a great showing. Drink 2023–2031. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

95 Canalicchio di Sopra 2016 La Casaccia (Brunello di Montalcino). Initially closed, this eventually reveals aromas of grilled porcini, rose, camphor and citrus zest. Linear and elegantly structured, the palate is still youthfully austere, recalling morello cherry, blood orange, licorice and a hint of salt while firm, close-grained tannins provide the backbone. It closes on a coffee-bean note. Drink 2026–2041. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$149

95 Casa Raia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Underbrush, ripe black-skinned fruit and camphor aromas mingle with whiffs of toasted nut and vanilla on this full-bodied red. Boasting concentrated flavors but also weightless finesse, the elegant, structured palate delivers delicious red berry, licorice, tobacco and the barest hint of game alongside noble tannins and fresh acidity. It's already tempting but will also age beautifully for years. Drink 2023–2036. IPO Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

95 Castelgiocondo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$71

95 Il Palazzone 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of rose, camphor and wild berry mingle with whiffs of leather and Mediterranean herb on this lovely Brunello. The racy, high-toned palate delivers tart cranberry, red raspberry and crushed mint while a graphite note lends depth. Polished tannins and bright acidity keep it focused and balanced. It's already showing beautifully but

also offers years of fine drinking. Enjoy 2023–2031. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$90

95 La Fiorita 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Enticing aromas of menthol, ripe dark-skinned fruit, new leather and sandalwood lead the way. Boasting a heady combination of power and finesse, the full-bodied palate doles out ripe black cherry, raspberry jam, licorice and tobacco framed in firm, velvety tannins. Fresh acidity keeps the richness in check. Drink 2024–2036. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

95 La Fiorita 2016 Fiore di No (Brunello di Montalcino). Enveloping and delicious, this fragrant red opens with aromas of ripe plum, baking spice, blue flower and an earthy whiff of new leather. Full bodied and concentrated, it also has an almost weightless grace and poise, delivering succulent black cherry, fleshy raspberry, star anise and cinnamon before an espresso close. Fine-grained tannins provide polished support. Drink 2024–2031. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

95 Marchesi Antinori 2016 Pian delle Vigne (Brunello di Montalcino). This has an expressive nose offering aromas of ripe red berry, violet, star anise and coffee bean. Elegantly structured, the linear palate features mature black cherry, blood orange, ground clove and espresso alongside taut, fine-grained tannins that leave a firm finish. Give it several years to fully develop. Drink 2026–2036. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

95 Mastrojanni 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Earthy aromas of underbrush, wild herb and rose mingle with woodland berry and toasted nut on this full-bodied red. Combining finesse, structure and concentration, the smooth palate doles out ripe morello cherry, licorice and bitter almond alongside a backbone of firm but refined tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

95 Padelletti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14% **Price:** \$76

95 Palazzo 2016 Cosimo (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with aromas recalling pipe tobacco, blue flower, ripe woodland berry and oak-driven spice. Full bodied and savory, the enveloping palate features mature Marasca cherry, baked plum, vanilla and licorice accompanied by velvety, close-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2034. Montcalm Wine Importers. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

95 Pieve Santa Restituta 2016 Sugarille (Brunello di Montalcino). Violet, new leather, camphor and spiced plum aromas are front and center on this fragrant red. Boasting

structure and elegance, the full-bodied palate delivers Marasca cherry, cranberry, licorice and a hint of espresso alongside tightly wound, close-grained tannins. Drink 2026–2041. Terlato Wines International. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$205

95 Podere Le Ripi 2016 Amore e Magia (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of underbrush, leather, baked plum and camphor meld together on this full-bodied red. On the fleshy, already approachable palate, enveloping, fine-grained tannins surround raspberry jam, vanilla, tobacco and licorice. Tangy acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2023–2028. Dark Star Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$90

95 Poggio Antico 2016 Altero (Brunello di Montalcino). Rose, citrus, wild herb and new leather aromas come to the forefront. Enveloping and loaded with finesse, the linear, full-bodied palate delivers juicy cherry, orange zest, licorice and a hint of graphite alongside taut, close-grained tannins that leave a firm finish. It's balanced, with vibrant acidity. Youthfully austere. 2026–2041. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$87

95 San Polo 2016 Podernovi (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

95 San Polo 2016 Vignavecchia (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 6. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$300

95 Sesti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of underbrush, ripe berry, leather and tobacco take shape on this full-bodied red. Ripe and savory, the smooth, chewy palate doles out raspberry compote, black cherry and licorice before a balsamic-herb close. Drink 2024–2041. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Siro Pacenti 2016 Vecchie Vigne (Brunello di Montalcino). Menthol, new leather, French oak and spiced blueberry aromas come to the forefront. Full bodied and concentrated, the firmly structured palate delivers dried cherry, grilled Porcini, vanilla and licorice set against assertive, close-grained tannins before closing on a coconut note. Give it time to flesh out in the bottle. Drink 2026–2036. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Val di Suga 2016 Spuntali (Brunello di Montalcino). Blue-flower, baking-spice, new leather and ripe black-skinned berry aromas are front and center on this fragrant, full-bodied wine. Polished and elegantly structured, the savory palate features ripe Marasca cherry, raspberry compote, cinnamon and licorice framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. It's already tempting but give it time to

develop even more complexity. Drink 2024–2041. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

95 Villa al Cortile 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of underbrush, blue flower, camphor and leather escape the glass. The linear, vibrant palate is still youthfully austere, offering sour cherry, strawberry compote, star anise and tobacco alongside firm, fine-grained tannins. Bright acidity keeps it balanced. Give it time to fully come around. Drink 2026–2036. 8 Vini, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

94 Capanne Ricci 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Underbrush, leather and red-skinned-berry aromas emerge from the glass. The juicy, balanced palate delivers cherry, crushed raspberry and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2023–2035. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

94 Caparzo 2016 La Casa (Brunello di Montalcino). Rose, graphite, star anise and eucalyptus aromas come to the forefront. The chiseled, racy palate features juicy morello cherry, licorice and coffee bean framed in close-grained tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2023–2031. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

94 Cortonesi 2016 La Mannella (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 7. *Cellar Selection*.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

94 Fanti 2016 Valloccchio (Brunello di Montalcino). Mocha, truffle, anisette and camphor aromas lead the nose along with a floral whiff of violet. It's full bodied and bracing, offering dried black cherry, licorice and tobacco alongside firm, close-grained tannins. Give it time to fully unwind. Drink 2024–2036. Massanois Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

94 La Gerla 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Underbrush, rose, leather and dark spice aromas lift out of the glass along with a whiff of camphor. The linear, elegantly structured palate doles out juicy Marasca cherry, orange zest, star anise and crushed mint alongside tightly wound but refined tannins and bright acidity. It's still young and nervous so give it time to fully develop. Drink 2026–2036. Slocum & Sons, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

94 Pieve Santa Restituta 2016 Rennina (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of espresso, clove and licorice mingle with balsamic notes of camphor. Elegantly structured, the focused, linear palate offers dried cherry, blood orange and star anise framed in firm, close-grained tannins

that grip the finish. Drink after 2026. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$185

94 Salicutti 2016 Piaggione (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of baked plum, coconut, camphor and rose mingle together on this enveloping red. The concentrated, full-bodied palate offers cherries marinated in spirits, licorice and tobacco set against tightly packed, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2026–2036. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$115

94 Tenute Silvio Nardi 2016 Poggio Doria (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of red berry, blue flower and star anise form the nose along with whiffs of wild herb. Structured and elegant, the taut, savory palate delivers juicy red cherry, raspberry compote and licorice alongside tightly wound, fine-grained tannins. It's still young so give it time to fully develop. Drink 2024–2036. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145

94 Villa Poggio Salvi 2016 Pomona (Brunello di Montalcino). Forest-floor, camphor and exotic spice aromas waft out of the glass along with rose petal. The austere, structured palate delivers red cherry, cranberry, grilled Porcini and star anise alongside firm, close-grained tannins before finishing on a hint of bitter almond. Fresh acidity keeps balanced. Drink 2026–2036. FX Magner Selection. *Cellar Selection*. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

93 Abbazia Ardenga 2016 Vigna Piaggia (Brunello di Montalcino). Rose-petal, new leather, camphor and pine-forest aromas are front and center on this lithe, elegant red. Medium bodied and loaded with finesse, the almost ethereal palate features pomegranate, blood orange, star anise and rusty nail alongside taut, polished tannins. Bright acidity keeps it vibrant. Drink through 2028. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Campogiovanni 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Baked plum, dark-spice and forest-floor aromas mingle with whiffs of crushed mint. Fleshy and concentrated, the chewy palate doles out mouthfuls of raspberry jam, licorice and tobacco before an espresso finish. It's already surprisingly accessible, with rounded, fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2028. Vision Wine & Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Capanna 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of wild berry, violet and forest floor take center stage along with whiffs of new leather and menthol. The full-bodied palate offers dried cherry, orange zest, licorice and tobacco alongside firm tannins and fresh acidity. Best between 2024 and 2031. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

93 Casanuova delle Cerbaie 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Crushed berry, wild herb and violet aromas lift out of the glass. Poised and medium bodied, the vibrant, savory palate features juicy red cherry, orange zest and star anise accompanied by taut, polished tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it tangy. Drink 2023–2028. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

93 Castelli Martinozzi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Wild berry, crushed herb, new leather and truffle aromas emerge from the glass. The juicy, savory palate offers red cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and a hint of grilled porcini framed in taut, polished tannins. Tangy acidity keeps it bright. It's already almost accessible but will age well for several years or more. Drink 2023–2028. Acnam LLC. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

93 Castello Tricerchi 2016 A.D. 1441 (Brunello di Montalcino). Eucalyptus, red-skinned berry and tobacco aromas are front and center. The savory, youthful palate offers juicy red cherry, nutmeg and licorice alongside fine-grained tannins. It's balanced, with fresh acidity. Drink 2024–2035. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

93 Col d'Orcia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Underbrush, wild-berry, pipe-tobacco and violet aromas lead the nose. On the full-bodied palate, taut tannins support black cherry, licorice and ground clove. Drink 2024–2031. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

93 Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2016 Prime Donne (Brunello di Montalcino). Violet, underbrush, ripe berry and camphor aromas waft out of the glass on this focused red. It's elegantly structured, featuring juicy morello cherry, cranberry and licorice before a coffee-bean finish. Tightly woven, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity keeps it energized. Drink 2024–2036. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

93 Fattoria del Pino 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Graphite, leather and rose aromas come to the forefront. Bright and full bodied, the vibrant palate offers juicy sour cherry, blood orange, licorice and espresso supported by tightly wound, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2031. Garagiste. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

93 Franco Pacenti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Juicy and delicious, this opens with inviting aromas of fragrant purple flower, ripe wild berry, underbrush and a whiff of camphor. On the savory palate, notes of licorice, blood orange and coffee bean accent a core of morello cherry. Taut, fine-grained tannins provide support. Drink 2024–2029. Siena Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

93 Il Poggione 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Camphor, new leather, underbrush and blue-flower aromas mingle together in the glass along with a whiff of toasted nut. On the firmly structured palate, assertive, close-grained tannins and an acidic backbone accompany dried cherry, licorice and tobacco. Drink 2026–2036. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Mastrojanni 2016 Vigna Loreto (Brunello di Montalcino). Fragrant purple-flower, pipe-tobacco, camphor and new leather aromas take shape on this full-bodied red. Firmly structured, the youthfully austere palate offers dried cherry, licorice and roasted coffee bean alongside assertive, close-grained tannins. You'll also notice warmth of alcohol on the close. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$125

93 Molino di Sant'Antimo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Red-berry, star anise, pressed rose and balsamic herb aromas lead the nose. Linear and savory, the elegantly structured, focused palate offers tart sour cherry, blood orange and licorice alongside taut, refined tannins. Bright acidity keeps it light on its feet. Drink 2024–2028. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Palazzo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. For full review see page 11. *Cellar Selection.*
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

93 Renieri 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Floral aromas of violet and rose mingle with new leather and menthol on this fragrant red. Racy and linear, the palate features dried cherry, licorice and blood orange set against firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2031. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

93 Salicutti 2016 Sorgente (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of baked plum, oak, camphor and violet waft out of the glass. Reflecting the nose, the warm, bold palate features prune, black-cherry jam, vanilla, espresso and almond liqueur accompanied by assertive, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

93 SassodiSole 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Camphor, underbrush, new leather and blue-flower aromas shape the alluring nose. Elegant and structured, it shows the radiance of the vintage, delivering ripe red cherry, licorice, coffee bean and a hint of almond set against bright acidity and tightly knit, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

93 Tenuta di Sesta 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. New leather and red-berry aromas align with whiffs of camphor and tilled earth. Full bodied and more about finesse than power, the savory

palate delivers juicy morello cherry, orange zest, licorice and tobacco. It's well balanced, with firm, refined tannins and tangy acidity. Drink 2024–2031. Enotria Wine Import. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

93 Tenuta La Fuga 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Enticing aromas of fragrant blue flower, ripe woodland berry, menthol and star anise are front and center on this full-bodied red. The firm palate features crushed raspberry, blood orange, underbrush and coffee bean while tightly wound, fine-grained tannins show up at the close and carry through the coffee-bean finish. Drink 2024–2031. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$64

93 Val di Suga 2016 Poggio al Granchio (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of roasted coffee bean, licorice and menthol form the nose along with hints of rose petal. Full bodied and elegantly structured, the smooth, enveloping palate features sour cherry, blood orange, espresso, star anise and toasted hazelnut set against tightly knit, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2036. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

92 Aisna 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. At first shy, the nose eventually reveals stewed prune, toasted nut, underbrush and leather. Densely concentrated, the already accessible, fleshy palate offers raisin, chocolate-covered cherry and espresso alongside enveloping, polished tannins. You'll also notice the warmth of evident alcohol on the licorice finish. Drink through 2026. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Alessandro Rossi 2016 Camponovo (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of toasted nut, vanilla, camphor and baked plum form the nose. Reflecting the aromas, the palate offers dried cherry, espresso and licorice alongside velvety, fine-grained tannins. You'll also notice the warmth of alcohol on the close. Drink 2023–2028. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Altesino 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This polished red opens with aromas recalling violet, wild berry, forest floor and new leather. On the bright, savory palate, lithe, fine-grained tannins accompany spiced cranberry, pomegranate, blood orange and vanilla before finishing on bitter almond. Fresh acidity keeps it light on its feet. Drink 2023–2031. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

92 Amantis 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit, menthol, leather and oak-driven spice lead the nose. Mirroring the aromas, the lithe, linear palate offers Marasca cherry, coffee bean and licorice. It's already accessible, with polished tannins. Drink through 2028. Tosco Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 Banfi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Camphor, rose and new leather aromas form the nose along with a whiff of baking spice on this vibrant red. Polished and taut, the savory palate offers spiced cranberry, red cherry and star anise before finishing on a coffee note. Lithe, refined tannins and fresh acidity provide balanced support. Drink 2022–2028. Banfi Vintners. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

92 Cerbaia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Red-skinned berry, forest-floor and leather aromas lead the way. The juicy, vibrant palate offers red cherry, pomegranate and tobacco alongside firm, polished tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2023–2032. Gregory Condes Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Corte Pavone 2016 Fiore del Vento (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of camphor, forest floor and new leather join with ripe black-skinned fruit on this full-bodied red. On the big, concentrated palate, tangy acidity lifts raspberry jam, fleshy black cherry, licorice and tobacco while enveloping, velvety tannins provide support. You'll also notice the warmth of alcohol on the close but the ripe fruit keeps it in check. Drink 2026–2036. AP Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

92 Cortonesi 2016 Poggiarelli (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of underbrush, mocha, wild herb and leather form the warm, inviting nose. Full bodied, the concentrated palate boasts ripe black cherry, blackberry jam and licorice before finishing on a coffee-bean note. Tight, close-grained tannins creep up on the close. Drink 2024–2029. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

92 Fattori 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This has a shy nose that eventually reveal aromas of ripe black-skinned berry, leather, violet and forest floor. The firmly structured palate suggests dried cherry, licorice and ground clove alongside tightly knit, assertive tannins. Drink after 2026. Tricana Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Lambardi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Underbrush, violet and red-berry aromas take shape in the glass along with a whiff of grilled herb. It's full bodied and bright, offering tart sour cherry, baking spice and a hint of tobacco set against firm, drying tannins that grip the finish. Drink 2024–2031. Siena Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

92 Lazerretti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Wild berry, menthol, rose and new leather aromas are front and center on this fragrant red. The linear, vibrant palate offers sour cherry, blood orange and licorice alongside tightly wound tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2028. Selected Estates of Europe Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

92 Luce 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. The shy nose eventually reveals balsamic aromas of menthol and cedar that mingle with underbrush, leather and baked plum. The full-bodied palate recalls cherries marinated in spirits, licorice, vanilla and grilled porcini while assertive, close-grained tannins clench the finish. Vintus LLC. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$125

92 Paradiso di Cacuci 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of dark-skinned berry, Mediterranean herb and leather emerge from the glass. The juicy, linear palate offers crushed raspberry, Marasca cherry and white pepper alongside polished tannins while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2024–2033. Naples Global Trading. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$59

92 Podere Scopetone 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Earthy aromas of tilled soil, black-skinned berry and leather lead the way. The savory, succulent palate offers ripe black cherry, ground clove and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2032. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$68

92 Ridolfi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Sleek and elegantly structured, this has aromas of menthol, forest floor, tobacco and citrus. Linear and bright, the polished palate features juicy red cherry, star anise and a salty mineral note framed in lithe tannins. Bright acidity keeps it vibrant. Drink 2023–2028. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

92 Roberto Cipresso 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Camphor, violet, grilled porcini and oak-driven aromas escape the glass. On the concentrated, enveloping palate, espresso, coconut and licorice accent a core of dried black cherry and vanilla. Assertive, close-grained tannins provide firm support and leave a mouthdrying finish. Drink after 2026. Go Wine LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

92 San Lorenzo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Subtle aromas suggesting forest floor, new leather and baked plum form the nose on this bold, chewy red. The brawny, concentrated palate offers prune, dried cherry and licorice alongside enveloping, fine-grained tannins. You'll also notice the warmth of evident alcohol but the ripe fruit stands up to it. Drink 2023–2028. Sunrise Wines. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

92 Tenuta SanGiorgio 2016 Ugolforte (Brunello di Montalcino). Blue-flower, star anise, coffee-bean and crushed mint aromas take shape in the glass. On the austere, linear palate, taut, close-grained tannins accompany sour cherry, blood orange and licorice while firm acidity keeps it light on its feet. Drink 2024–2031. LLS—Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

92 Tenute Silvio Nardi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of French oak, menthol and dark spice form the nose. Full bodied and linear, the palate features licorice, vanilla, cherries marinated in spirits and coffee bean alongside tightly wound, close-grained tannins that grip the lean finish. Drink 2024–2031. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$83

92 Tenute Silvio Nardi 2016 Manachiara (Brunello di Montalcino). The nose is rather shy but eventually reveals new leather, forest floor, cedar and rose. The concentrated palate is still primary, featuring dried cherry, licorice and coffee bean framed in tightly knit, close-grained tannins. You'll also detect the heat of evident alcohol on the close. Drink 2024–2031. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$145

92 Val di Suga 2016 Vigna del Lago (Brunello di Montalcino). Forest-floor, camphor, wild-berry and toasted nut aromas lead the way. Elegantly structured, the linear palate offers dried cherry, blood orange, star anise and hazelnut framed in close-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2031. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

92 Villa I Cipressi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with aromas of forest floor, eucalyptus, star anise and wild herb. Racy and linear, the vibrant palate features cassis, cranberry and licorice before an espresso finish. Refined tannins provide support. Drink through 2031. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$70

92 Villa I Cipressi 2016 Selezione Zebras (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of licorice, menthol, underbrush and wood shop follow over to the firm, linear palate along with sour cherry, orange zest and espresso. Close-grained, drying tannins and fresh acidity provide support. Drink 2024–2036. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

92 Villa Poggio Salvi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of rose and red berry gain complexity thanks to dark-spice and leather notes. The firmly structured, linear palate features dried cherry, star anise and tobacco framed in assertive, fine-grained tannins. It's still youthfully austere, with bright acidity. Give it time to fully develop. Drink 2026–2031. FX Magner Selection. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$49

91 Albatreti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of forest floor, oak-driven spice, crushed aromatic herb and blue flower slowly appear in the glass. On the rounded, full-bodied palate, taut, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity accompany juicy black cherry, coffee bean and licorice. Drink 2023–2028. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

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91 Camigliano 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Licorice, eucalyptus, moist underbrush and crushed mint aromas take center stage along with whiffs of toasted walnut. The licorice note follows through to the solid palate along with dried cherry, roasted mushroom and coffee bean before finishing on a saline note. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

91 Canneta 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of violet, leather and underbrush lead the way. The savory, medium-bodied palate offers black cherry, tobacco and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2024–2031. Orvino Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$54

91 Castello Tricerchi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Red-skinned berry, forest-floor and new leather aromas waft out of the glass. The juicy palate shows raspberry jam, cinnamon and star anise alongside polished tannins and bright acidity. Drink 2023–2032. de Grazia Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Cordella 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Made with organically grown Sangiovese, this full-bodied red opens with aromas of red-skinned berry, leather and underbrush. The juicy palate offers raspberry jam, cinnamon and clove alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Zeman Global Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Forest-floor, blue-flower and French oak aromas form the nose. The polished palate offers tart sour cherry, French oak and star anise alongside taut, fine-grained tannins that leave a firm, rather drying finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

91 Donna Olga 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Dark-skinned fruit, underbrush and leather aromas lead the way. The savory palate offers black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside youthfully austere tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2024–2032. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

91 Fanti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Balsamic aromas of camphor and cedar mingle with new leather and forest floor on this full-bodied red. Firmly structured, the youthfully austere palate offers licorice, tobacco and cassis framed in tightly wound, fine-grained tannins. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

91 Geografico 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of underbrush, dark spice and red berry mingle with a floral note. On the savory, approachable palate, dusty tannins accompany red cherry, cranberry, star anise and a hint of coffee

bean. Fresh acidity keeps it bright and tangy. Drink through 2028. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

91 Il Grappolo 2016 Sassocheto (Brunello di Montalcino). Violet, ripe black-skinned fruit, moist earth and a whiff of baking spice form the nose. The medium-bodied, already accessible palate offers juicy Marasca cherry, licorice and a hint of coffee bean alongside tangy acidity and dusty, drying tannins. A gamy note mark the close. Uva Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

91 La Fornace 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of dark-skinned berry, underbrush and tobacco form the nose. The concentrated, savory palate offers dried black cherry, star anise and clove alongside firm tannins. Drink 2024–2031. Vignaioli Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Pietroso 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of black-skinned berry, Mediterranean scrub and toasted oak come together on this full-bodied red. The taut palate offers ripe black cherry, roasted coffee bean and clove alongside close-grained tannins that grip the close. Drink 2024–2030. North Berkeley Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Pinino 2016 Vigna Pinino (Brunello di Montalcino). Menthol, rose, wild-berry and new leather aromas come together in the glass. It's medium bodied and linear, offering tart red cherry, blood orange, espresso and a note of star anise. Close-grained tannins provide support and leave a firm, mouthdrying finish. Drink after 2023–2028. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Tenuta Friggiali 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Red-skinned berry, tobacco and Mediterranean scrub aromas emerge from the glass. The savory palate offers juicy red cherry, star anise and white pepper alongside fine-grained tannins. Enjoy 2023–2032. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

91 Tornesi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Forest-floor, eucalyptus and dark-skinned berry aromas lead the way. The savory palate offers black cherry, cinnamon and white pepper alongside polished tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2033. Wine 2 Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

91 Ventolaio 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of red-skinned berry, leather and tobacco emerge from the glass. The juicy, balanced palate offers red cherry, clove and cinnamon alongside fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2023–2032. Vision Wine Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

91 Voliero 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with intense aromas of rose, crushed

mint and forest floor. Vibrant and full bodied, the palate shows sour cherry, cranberry and roasted coffee bean set against fine-grained, drying tannins. It closes on a salty note while fresh acidity keeps it and balanced. Drink 2023–2028. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Abbadia Ardenga 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Menthol, dark-spice, new leather and rose aromas form the nose. On the medium-bodied palate, lithe tannins and bright acidity accompany sour cherry, cranberry and a hint of star anise. It's already approachable but also offers several years of drinking pleasure. Drink through 2026. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Banfi 2016 Poggio alle Mura (Brunello di Montalcino). Rose, exotic spice, menthol and coffee-bean aromas mingle together in the glass. The full-bodied, tight palate offers sour cherry, French oak, espresso and the warmth of alcohol alongside close-grained, assertive tannins that grip the finish. Banfi Vintners. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

90 Canneta 2016 Le Bruciate (Brunello di Montalcino). Dark-skinned fruit, tilled soil and cooking-spice aromas emerge from the glass. On the taut palate, polished tannins support black plum, clove and sage. Drink 2023–2028. Orvino Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$56

90 Caparzo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of red berry, blue flower and crushed aromatic herb form the nose. Svelte and vibrant, the palate offers sour cherry, star anise and a hint olive brine set against lithe tannins. Bright acidity keeps it light on its feet. Best 2022–2028. Vineyard Brands. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

90 Carpineto 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Earthy aromas recalling underbrush, leather and eucalyptus lead the nose. The straightforward, already accessible palate is on the lighter side of medium bodied, suggesting juicy sour cherry, orange zest and star anise alongside dusty, rather drying tannins. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Casisano 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. The nose is quite shy but eventually releases suggestions of red berry, forest floor and camphor. The smooth, medium-bodied palate is elegantly structured, offering sour cherry, orange zest and star anise alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Vintus LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

90 Celestino Pecci 2016 Poggio al Carro (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of mature black-skinned berry, scorched earth and cooking spice shape the nose. The concentrated palate offers

baked plum, tobacco and licorice alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2022–2030. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Colleceto 2016 Elia Palazzesi (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with aromas recalling black-skinned fruit, Mediterranean scrub and tobacco. The savory palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and ground pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2031. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

90 Corte Pavone 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Funky aromas of truffle, leather and toasted walnut waft out of the glass. The full-bodied palate features sour cherry, blood orange, burned rubber and roasted coffee bean set against bracing, close-grained tannins. Drink after 2026. AP Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Corte Pavone 2016 Campo Marzio (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of toasted nut, damp underbrush, coffee bean and dark spice form the nose. Assertive and austere, the concentrated palate offers licorice, dried cherry, prune and espresso set against a backbone of grainy, astringent tannins that clench the finish. Drink after 2026. AP Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$80

90 Corte Pavone 2016 Fior di Melitoto (Brunello di Montalcino). Coffee-bean, hazelnut, camphor and underbrush aromas lead the way. On the full-bodied palate, firm, close-grained tannins frame dried cherry, raisin and licorice. You'll also detect the warmth of alcohol on the close. Drink 2024–2031. AP Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Croce di Mezzo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Perfumed and ethereally elegant, this has alluring aromas recalling violet, rose, wild berry and a whiff of eucalyptus. Juicy and light on its feet, the linear palate offers tart cherry, pomegranate and ground clove framed in polished tannins. Tangy acidity keeps it bright. Drink through 2028. B.P. Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$55

90 La Fornace 2016 Origini (Brunello di Montalcino). Ripe dark-skinned fruit, cooking-spice and new leather aromas emerge from the glass. The ripe, forward palate offers mature plum, tobacco and sage alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Vignaioli Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 La Magia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Made from organically farmed Sangiovese grapes, this opens with aromas of scorched earth, new leather, mocha and ripe dark-skinned fruit. The bracing, firmly structured palate offers prune, roasted coffee bean and licorice alongside assertive

tannins that grip the finish. Drink after 2024. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

90 La Magia 2016 Ciliegio (Brunello di Montalcino). Made from organically grown Sangiovese grapes, this opens with aromas of toasted oak, espresso, new leather and baked plum. The dense, brawny palate offers black cherry extract, roasted coffee bean, vanilla and coconut alongside grainy tannins that leave a firm, drying finish. Give the tannins time to unfurl then drink sooner rather than later to catch the remaining fruit richness. Drink after 2024. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

90 Luciani 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, cooking spice and underbrush lead the nose while the linear palate offers raspberry jam, star anise and black pepper. Firm tannins provide support. Drink 2023–2030. Lionstone International. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

90 Patrizia Cencioni 2016 Selezione (Brunello di Montalcino). Black-skinned berry, underbrush and tobacco leaf emerge from the glass. The savory palate offers black cherry, clove and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink 2022–2030. North Berkeley Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$75

90 Pian delle Querci 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of forest floor, black-skinned berry and leather lead the way. The balanced palate offers fleshy black cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside firm, polished tannins. Drink 2023–2031. Moonlight Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 PianCornello 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. The aromas recall dark-skinned fruit, underbrush and cooking spice. The concentrated palate offers dried black cherry, clove and licorice alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 Piccini 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with aromas of wild berry, violet and new leather. The medium-bodied, no-fuss palate offers juicy red cherry, orange zest and a hint of star anise alongside taut tannins. It's already accessible but will also offer several years of sheer drinking pleasure. Drink through 2025. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

90 Pietranera 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Tobacco, underbrush and red-skinned fruit aromas unfold in the glass. The juicy, medium-bodied palate features cranberry, star anise and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

90 Pinino 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Blue-flower, leather and tilled earth aromas shape the nose. The medium-bodied if rather straightforward palate doles out ripe morello cherry, ground clove and a hint of star anise alongside solid tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

90 Podere Paganico 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Ripe black-skinned fruit, new leather and Mediterranean scrub lead the nose. The concentrated palate offers mature black plum, tobacco and clove alongside chewy tannins. You'll also notice the warmth of evident alcohol. Drink 2023–2031. Saranty Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

90 Poggio dell'Aquila 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Made with organically grown Sangiovese, this has aromas of black-skinned berry, underbrush and leather. The juicy palate offers black cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside polished tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2031. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

90 Santa Giulia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This offers earthy aromas of black-skinned berry, leather and tilled soil. The full-bodied palate features blackberry jam, tobacco and licorice alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Kirkcrest Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Tassi 2016 Colombaio (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of espresso, black-skinned berry and cedar emerge from the glass. The concentrated palate offers blackberry jam, roasted coffee bean and clove alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2024–2030. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

90 Terre Nere Campigli Vallone 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of violet, leather and underbrush lead the nose. The forward, juicy palate offers mature black cherry, white pepper and cinnamon alongside polished tannins. Drink through 2029. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

90 Tiezzi 2016 Vigna Soccorso (Brunello di Montalcino). Leather, leafy underbrush and violet aromas merge from the glass. The racy palate offers sour cherry, clove and orange zest alongside dusty tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2030. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$52

90 Val di Suga 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Savory and bright, this has delicate, pretty aromas recalling woodland berry, forest floor and cedar. On the already accessible palate, lithe tannins accompany red cherry, coffee bean and white pepper before a drying finish. Tangy acidity keeps it fresh. Drink through 2026. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

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89 Belpoggio 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with aromas of eucalyptus oil, wild herb and saddle leather. On the linear, no-fuss palate, dusty, drying tannins accompany black cherry and licorice while bright acidity keeps it light on its feet. Drink 2022–2026. Misa Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

89 Celestino Pecci 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This has earthy aromas recalling ripe dark-skinned fruit, Mediterranean scrub and leather. On the brawny palate, dusty tannins encase prune, tobacco and clove. Drink 2023–2029. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Fornacina 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and toasted hazelnut lead the nose. The forward, already accessible palate offers prune, star anise and black pepper alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2028. Villa Italia. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$68

89 I Vini di Milena 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of baking spice, leather and cedar lead the nose. The linear palate offers baked plum, vanilla and licorice alongside rounded tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Hill City Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Il Poggiolo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and leather lead the nose. The firm palate offers dried black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside solid tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

89 Il Valentiano 2016 Campo di Marzo (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of dark-skinned berry, Mediterranean scrub and tobacco form the nose. The solid palate offers dried black cherry, clove and a hint of grilled sage alongside firm tannins. Drink 2023–2029. K&L Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 La Palazzetta 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with tobacco, baking-spice and leather aromas. The straightforward palate offers black-cherry jam, star anise and vanilla alongside smooth tannins. Drink 2022–2029. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Libero 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Red-skinned berry, leather and underbrush aromas emerge on this straightforward, medium-bodied red. The juicy, already accessible palate offers cherry, star anise and orange zest alongside firm tannins. Drink through 2025. Volio Vino. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

89 Mocali 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with dark-skinned fruit, chopped herb and cooking-spice aromas. The straightforward

palate recalls mature plum, toasted hazelnut and clove alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

89 Pian delle Ginestre 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, new leather and cedar. The full-bodied palate offers black-cherry jam, mocha and clove alongside firm tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Best Value Wine Group. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$40

89 Piombaia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of Mediterranean brush, cooking spice and dark-skinned berry set the tone. Made with organically farmed Sangiovese, the lithe palate offers cherry, clove and tobacco alongside youthfully austere tannins. Drink 2024–2029. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

89 Querce Bettina 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of cedar, violet and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate offers ripe red berry, vanilla and tobacco alongside dusty, drying tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Queen of Wines LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

89 Tassi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Leather, violet and espresso aromas lead the way. The dense palate recalls prune, licorice and coconut alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2029. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Tassi 2016 Giuseppe (Brunello di Montalcino). Violet, forest-floor and leather aromas lead the way. The concentrated, solid palate features baked plum, clove and mocha alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2023–2029. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

89 Tenuta Buon Tempo 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, underbrush and mocha come together in the glass while the chewy, already approachable palate offers baked plum, espresso and star anise. Solid tannins provide support. Drink 2022–2029. Matchvino. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

89 Verbena 2016 Le Pope (Brunello di Montalcino). This has aromas of cedar, ripe dark-skinned fruit and baking spice. The dense palate offers spiced plum, blood orange and tobacco alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Visconti 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Culinary-spice, underbrush and leather aromas emerge from the glass. The no-fuss, full-bodied palate offers dried black cherry, tobacco and vanilla alongside pliant tannins. Drink 2022–2029. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Baccinetti 2016 Saporioia (Brunello di Montalcino). Underbrush, botanical-herb and tobacco aromas mingle together on this solid, no-frills red. On the palate, dried cherry, prune and licorice are set against assertive, grainy tannins that leave a rather raspy, mouthdrying close. Allied Beverage Group. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Beatesca 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with aromas recalling cedar, mocha and mature dark-skinned fruit. The dense palate offers black-plum jam, vanilla and tobacco alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Etruscan Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Fattoria La Lecciaia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Subdued aromas suggesting savory spice, leafy underbrush and leather slowly emerge from the glass. The forward, easygoing palate offers baked plum, tobacco and star anise alongside rounded tannins. Drink through 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$45

88 Kirkland Signature 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. New leather and underbrush aromas come to the forefront along with a whiff of violet. Smooth and already approachable, the straightforward palate offers cassis, coffee and a hint of star anise alongside dusty tannins. Drink through 2026. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$15

88 La Collina dei Lecci 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of tilled soil, leather and dark-skinned fruit come together in the glass. The solid palate offers clove, orange zest and dried Marasca cherry alongside firm, polished tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$40

88 La Poderina 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of mocha, cedar and baking spice form the nose. The dense palate offers baked plum, vanilla and clove alongside grainy tannins. Drink after 2024. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

88 La Serena 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Subdued aromas of cooking spice, weedy underbrush and leather emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate offers dried Marasca cherry, licorice and mocha alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2022–2028. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$55

88 La Torre 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of underbrush, leather and baked plum slowly emerge from the glass on this medium-bodied red. The no-frills, accessible palate offers sour cherry, tobacco and sage alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2026. Rosenthal Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

88 Le Gode 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Forest-floor, camphor, game and new leather aromas lead the nose. The densely concentrated, chunky and one-dimensional palate features black-cherry extract, licorice and the heat of scorching alcohol that throws it off balance. Superior Wines. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

88 Le Gode 2016 Vigna Montosoli (Brunello di Montalcino). This big, meaty red has aromas of new leather, menthol, underbrush and vanilla. The brawny, monolithic palate is overripe, showing stewed prune and licorice alongside the heat of scorching alcohol. Thick and concentrated, with enveloping tannins, it seems more like an Amarone than a Brunello. Superior Wines. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

88 Madonna Nera 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of roasted coffee bean, toasted oak and a whiff of violet emerge from the glass. The tightly wound palate offers prune, licorice and espresso alongside assertive tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Capital Wines, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$50

88 Mocali 2016 Le Raunate (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of mocha, savory spice and tilled soil lead the way. The taut palate offers baked plum, clove and espresso alongside grainy, rather astringent tannins. Drink after 2023. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 Patrizia Cencioni 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Cedar, roasted coffee-bean and tobacco aromas lead the nose. The taut palate offers blackberry jam, espresso and sage alongside assertive tannins. Drink after 2023. North Berkeley Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

88 Poggio di Sotto 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This has a subdued nose that eventually reveals suggestions of eucalyptus, new leather and dried rose. The palate is on the lean side and also not very expressive, recalling unripe cherry, orange zest and ground clove alongside dusty, drying tannins and bright acidity. Tried two bottles, resulting in the same notes. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$280

88 Poggio il Castellare 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of cedar, baking spice and menthol form the subdued nose. The chewy, no-frills palate offers ripe black plum, coconut and sage alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2022–2028. Linwood Wine and Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Poggio Lucina 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of cooking spice, tilled soil and tobacco shape the nose. On the solid palate, brawny tannins accompany cherry marinated in spirits,

orange zest and grilled sage. Drink after 2023. Yountville Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Poggio Nardone 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Subdued aromas of baked plum, baking spice and scorched earth slowly emerge from the glass. The linear palate offers dried cherry, tobacco and vanilla alongside rounded tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$60

88 Sesta di Sopra 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Balsamic aromas of camphor mingle with rose, new leather and forest floor on this bold red. The brawny, monolithic palate offers dried cherry, orange zest and licorice alongside assertive, rather grainy tannins. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol that dominates the finish. DJK Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

88 Tiezzi 2016 Poggio Cerrino (Brunello di Montalcino). Dark-skinned fruit, tilled soil and cooking spice lead the nose. The straightforward palate offers raspberry jam, clove and sage alongside solid tannins. Drink through 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$48

88 Uccelliera 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of baked plum, French oak and forest floor lead the nose on this robust red. The aromas follow over to the densely concentrated, one-dimensional palate along with licorice and roasted coffee bean. Tightly knit, close-grained tannins provide firm support while the heat of evident alcohol dominates the finish and throws it off balance. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$70

87 Bonacchi 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of tobacco, spice and scorched earth lead the way. The accessible palate offers vanilla, black-cherry jam and clove alongside pliant tannins. Prestige Beverage Group. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Bonacchi 2016 Borghetto (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with subdued aromas suggesting leather, baking spice and sunbaked soil. The straightforward palate offers black-plum jam and vanilla alongside rounded tannins. All Star Wine Imports, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Bonacchi 2016 Casalino (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of tilled soil, tobacco leaf and ground clove form the subtle nose. The forward palate offers orange peel, vanilla and mature black-skinned fruit alongside smooth tannins. Total Wine & More. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

87 Bonacchi 2016 Molino del Piano (Brunello di Montalcino). Subdued aromas suggesting baking spice, tobacco and underbrush waft out the

glass. The no-frills palate shows ripe dark-skinned fruit, clove and a hint of orange peel alongside flexible tannins. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Bonacchi 2016 Molino della Suga (Brunello di Montalcino). Delicate aromas of tilled soil, cooking spice and leather form the nose. The easygoing palate recalls ripe black plum, clove and a hint of sage alongside smooth tannins. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Cantina di Montalcino 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Tilled soil, ripe dark-skinned fruit and culinary-spice aromas emerge from the glass. The bracing palate is lean in terms of fruit richness, offering prune, clove and bitter almond notes alongside assertive tannins that lead to a drying finish. Drink after 2023. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$50

87 Fattoria La Lecciaia 2016 Vigna Manapetra (Brunello di Montalcino). Mocha, vanilla and baking-spice aromas lead the way. The ripe, solid palate offers fleshy cherry, roasted coffee bean and a touch of bitter almond alongside close-grained, rather astringent tannins. Drink after 2023. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$55

87 Martoccia 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of mocha, vanilla and baking spice emerge from the glass. The dense, straightforward palate offers prune, dried sage and toasted hazelnut alongside assertive, drying tannins. Drink after 2022. August Wine Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

87 Rodolfo Cosimi 2016 Bramante Cosimi (Brunello di Montalcino). Delicate aromas recalling mocha, cedar and cooking spice emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate suggests sour cherry, espresso and vanilla alongside assertive tannins. Drink after 2023. Candela Trading Agency. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$65

87 Terra Rossa 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. This opens with subdued aromas of toasted oak, vanilla and espresso. The assertive palate offers baked plum, roasted coffee bean and clove alongside grainy tannins. Drink after 2023. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$66

87 Verbena 2016 Brunello di Montalcino. The shy nose eventually reveals toasted oak, mocha and cooking-spice aromas. The tightly knit palate offers prune, sage and roasted coffee bean alongside assertive tannins. Drink after 2024. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$45

2015 VINTAGE

98 Conti Costanti 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, forest floor, rose and wild mint shape the enticing nose. Elegantly structured and full of flavor, the linear, focused palate delivers mature Marasca cherry, blood orange, licorice and tobacco set against a backbone of refined tannins. Drink 2023 through 2035. Empson USA Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$224

97 Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona 2015 Vigna di Pianrosso Caterina d'Oro Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Fragrant, full bodied and refined, this opens with aromas of new leather vanilla, baked plum and camphor. The palate shows an enviable combination of structure, finesse and length, doling out raspberry jam, ripe black cherry, vanilla and licorice enveloped in firm, refined tannins. Indigenous Selections. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$150

97 Gianni Brunelli 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Underbrush, ripe red-fruit, sandalwood and menthol aromas all come together in the glass on this gorgeous wine. Full bodied and delicious, it boasts a weightless concentration, delivering ripe black cherry, vanilla and licorice before a tobacco finish. Firm, refined tannins provide support while fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2025–2035. de Grazia Imports, LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

97 San Polino 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Made with organically farmed grapes and fermented with wild yeasts, this delicious wine has balsamic aromas of camphor that mingle with new leather, blue flower and spiced plum. Generous and enveloping, the full-bodied palate is full of flavor and already approachable, doling out dried black cherry, blackberry jam and licorice before a baking-spice close. Drink 2022–2028. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

96 Altesino 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Red-berry, wild-mint, graphite and rose aromas lead the nose on this fragrant, stunning red. Elegantly structured, the linear palate delivers juicy red cherry, cranberry, licorice and a hint of tobacco while polished tannins and fresh acidity provide balance. Drink 2022–2028. LLS–Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

96 Banfi 2015 Poggio all'Oro Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Forest-floor, new leather and pipe-tobacco aromas mingle with notes of violet and coffee bean. Elegantly structured, the taut, savory palate doles out ripe black cherry, blackberry jam, licorice and a hint of espresso while polished, fine-grained tannins and tangy acidity provide age-worthy support. It's still youthfully austere so give

it a few more years to come around. Drink 2024–2036. Banfi Vintners. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$200

96 Caparzo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$80

96 Fuligni 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 4.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$205

96 Villa Poggio Salvi 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 5.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

95 Castelgiocondo 2015 Ripe al Convento Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Pipe tobacco, spiced plum, menthol and blue flower are some of the aromas you'll find on this enveloping wine. Full bodied and savory, the structured, generous palate combines muscle and finesse, doling out fleshy morello cherry, raspberry jam, licorice and a dollop of vanilla alongside velvety tannins. It's already approachable but will age well for several years or more. Drink through 2028. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$130

95 La Gerla 2015 Gli Angeli Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). New leather, forest floor and ripe woodland-berry aromas make their way to the forefront together with whiffs of violet and pipe tobacco. Full bodied and firmly structured, the palate offers finesse and concentrated flavors including crushed raspberry, morello cherry, licorice and truffle framed in tightly knit, polished tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Slocum & Sons, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

95 Padelletti 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). For full review see page 6.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$120

94 Biondi-Santi 2015 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of licorice, tobacco and new leather mingle with ripe woodland berry and balsamic whiffs of camphor. The aromas follow over to the full-bodied, rather concentrated palate along with dried cherry and ground clove framed in firm tannins. Reflecting the heat of the vintage combined with the absence of the late Franco Biondi Santi's restraint, you'll also detect the warmth of alcohol on the close. It's riper and more approachable than the house style fans of the estate are accustomed to. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Caprili 2015 Ad Alberto Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Earthy aromas of new leather, truffle and blue flower mingle with camphor and baked plum on this full-bodied red. On the fleshy palate, velvety tannins envelope dried cherry, prune, licorice and tobacco before closing on a

hint of game. Best 2022–2030. Polaner Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$135

94 Il Palazzone 2015 Le Due Porte (Brunello di Montalcino). This single-vineyard Brunello is made with grapes cultivated at high altitudes of 1,771 feet above sea level. It opens with aromas of wild berry, dark spice and blue flower while the taut, energized palate offers cranberry, sour cherry and star anise before a coffee-bean finish. Elegantly structured, it has tightly wound, fine-grained tannins that provide the backbone. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$125

94 Livio Sasseti 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Earthy and savory, this has rather funky aromas including new leather, truffle, violet and game. The aromas carry over to the full-bodied, succulent palate along with fleshy blackberry, baked plum and licorice. Enveloping, fine-grained tannins provide plenty of support. It has a rustic allure. Drink 2023–2030. The Sorting Table. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Marchesi Antinori 2015 Pian delle Vigne Vignaferruvia Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Forest-floor, scorched earth, grilled herb and stewed prune aromas slowly come to the forefront along with a whiff of blue flower. The savory, full-bodied palate is fresher than the nose, delivering dried cherry, blood orange, licorice, mocha and a dollop of vanilla framed in taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$145

94 Palazzo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Enticing aromas of forest floor, new leather, tobacco and ground clove emerge from the glass. Savory and full bodied, the structured palate delivers juicy black cherry, plum jam, licorice and mocha framed in tightly knit, youthfully assertive tannins. Fresh acidity keeps it balanced. Drink 2023–2030. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

94 Roberto Cipresso 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of forest floor, crushed mint, coffee bean and spiced berry shape the nose. On the dense, full-bodied palate, tightly knit, velvety tannins accompany cherry marinated in spirits, licorice, vanilla and French oak. Drink 2023–2028. Go Wine LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$110

93 Banfi 2015 Poggio alle Mura Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of underbrush, leather and tobacco form the nose along with whiffs of oak-driven spice. Full bodied and linear, the palate features dried cherry, roasted coffee bean, spearmint and licorice alongside tightly knit,

close-grained tannins that clench the finish. Banfi Vintners. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$150

93 Baricci 2015 Nello Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Underbrush, new leather, tobacco and toasted hazelnut aromas waft out of the glass. Aged in large Slavonian casks and French tonneaux, the palate is full bodied but also boasts finesse, delivering dried cherry, coffee bean and licorice alongside close-grained, drying tannins. While it's still youthfully austere and will benefit with a few more years aging to fully come together, drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Best 2025–2030. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

93 Canalicchio di Sopra 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Initially shy, the nose slowly opens to reveal new leather, camphor, rose and scorched forest floor. Full bodied and concentrated, the dense palate delivers raspberry jam, dried cherry, licorice and a dollop of mocha while firm, close-grained tannins provide enveloping support. You'll also notice the warmth of alcohol on the close. Drink 2023–2030. Vinifera Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$149

93 Capanna 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Balsamic aromas of camphor mingle with new leather, sunbaked earth and rose. Full bodied and enveloping, the palate offers grilled porcini, dried cherry and tobacco alongside compact, velvety tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

93 Cerbaia 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Black-skinned berry, underbrush and saddle-leather aromas lift out the glass. The savory, enveloping palate features dried black cherry, star anise and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2032. Gregory Condes Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

93 Il Poggione 2015 Vigna Paganelli Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Baked plum, new leather, camphor and scorched earth aromas waft out of the glass on this powerfully built red. Full bodied and concentrated, the dense palate delivers cherry marinated in spirits, prune, licorice and tobacco framed in tightly knit, close-grained tannins. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol on the close but the ripe fruit supports it. Terlato Wines International. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$130

93 Podere Le Ripi 2015 Lupi e Sirene Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Floral aromas of rose and violet mingle with baked plum and espresso on this full-bodied red. Savory and rather immediate, the rounded palate features dried cherry, roasted coffee bean and star anise accompanied by

polished tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Dark Star Imports. —K.O.
abv: NA Price: \$130

93 Poggio Antico 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of truffle, mocha, new leather and camphor mingle with a whiff of oak-driven spice. Combining structure and elegance, the full-bodied, savory palate delivers black cherry, blackberry, licorice and espresso framed in firm, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2022–2030. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$140

93 SassodiSole 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Forest-floor, new leather, camphor and graphite aromas make their way to the forefront on this full-bodied red. Savory and firmly structured, the palate recalls dried cherry, licorice and espresso framed in tightly knit, close-grained tannins. Drink after 2025. Votto Vines Importing. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

93 Talenti 2015 Pian di Conte Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). French oak, forest floor, new leather and camphor aromas take shape on this powerfully structured, concentrated red. Despite the muscular build, it also has a surprising finesse, delivering fleshy black plum, cherry marinated in spirits, vanilla and licorice framed in enveloping, velvety tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Wolfpack Worldwide LLC. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$90

93 Villa al Cortile 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of scorched earth and new leather mingle with whiffs of hay and blue flower. Full bodied and poised, the palate features dried cherry, tobacco, toasted hazelnut and grilled herb framed in firm tannins. Drink 2022–2027. 8 Vini, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$80

92 Camigliano 2015 Gualto Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Subtle aromas recalling camphor, scorched earth and new leather emerge from the glass. Rounded and juicy, the immediate palate offers raspberry jam, hazelnut and roasted coffee bean framed in compact, polished tannins. Best through 2025. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$100

92 Capanne Ricci 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Inviting aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, leather and baking spice lead the nose. Chewy and full bodied, the savory palate offers black-cherry jam, tobacco and white pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink 2022–2030. Montcalm Wine Importers. —K.O.
abv: 15% Price: \$100

92 Carpineto 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Violet, baking-spice and wild-cherry aromas mingle with a whiff of new leather. Tangy and savory, the lithe palate offers dried cherry, orange zest and licorice accompanied by polished,

fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Opici Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$125

92 Casanuova delle Cerbaie 2015 Vigna Montosoli (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of scorched earth, violet, new leather and menthol come together on this full-bodied red. Concentrated and enveloping, the fleshy palate doles out juicy black cherry, blackberry, licorice and a hint recalling almond liqueur alongside tightly knit, velvety tannins. Drink through 2027. USA Wine West. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

92 Celestino Pecci 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Black-skinned berry, forest floor and eucalyptus aromas lead the nose. On the savory palate, fine-grained tannins and firm acidity accompany ripe black cherry, licorice and white pepper. Drink 2023–2032. BPW Merchants. —K.O.
abv: NA Price: \$NA

92 Donatella Cinelli Colombini 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Menthol, crushed berry and violet aromas slowly develop along with whiffs of ground clove. The poised, medium-bodied palate is already accessible, offering juicy Marasca cherry and coffee bean alongside polished tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Banville Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: NA Price: \$125

92 Donna Olga 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of black-skinned berry, leather and forest floor lead the way. The savory, balanced palate features Marasca cherry, tobacco and licorice alongside polished tannins and firm acidity. Drink 2023–2032. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14% Price: \$95

92 Franco Pacenti 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of underbrush, coffee-bean, baked plum and menthol unfold in the glass. Full bodied and youthfully austere, the firm palate features dried cherry, espresso, licorice and sage set against enveloping, close-grained tannins that leave an assertive finish. Drink 2023–2028. Siena Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

92 Il Palazzone 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Wild-berry, menthol and rose aromas mingle with a whiff of spice. Taut and linear, the tangy palate recalls dried cherry, orange zest and star anise framed in lithe tannins. Drink through 2027. MS Walker. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$150

92 Mocali 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Pretty aromas of fragrant blue flower, perfumed berry and botanical herb waft out of the glass. Elegantly structured, the medium-bodied, savory palate doles out crushed raspberry, dried cherry, baking spice and star anise accompanied by

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polished, fine-grained tannins. Drink through 2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

92 Pinino 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas recalling forest floor, spearmint, leather and dark spice lead the way. The chewy, savory palate doles out juicy morello cherry, crushed raspberry, licorice and mocha alongside enveloping, velvety tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

92 Renieri 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with pretty aromas reminiscent of fragrant blue flower, menthol and botanical herb. Full bodied and boasting finesse, the palate shows dried cherry, licorice and tobacco before an espresso finish. Tightly wound, fine-grained tannins provide the framework. Drink 2023–2030. Michelangelo Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

92 San Polo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Cedar, forest-floor and rose aromas slowly appear on this full-bodied red along with spice notes. Firmly structured, the palate features cherry marinated in spirits, licorice and a hint of espresso framed in tightly knit, close-grained tannins. The slight warmth of alcohol lingers on the close. Drink 2023–2030. Trincherio Family Estates. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$150

92 Sesta di Sopra 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Baked plum, mocha, leather and menthol aromas mingle with new leather on this brawny red. On the full-bodied, densely concentrated palate, evident alcohol and molten chocolate accompany a core of dried cherry while firm, close-grained tannins provide the backbone. DJK Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$125

92 Tenuta di Sesta 2015 Duelecci Ovest Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of tilled earth, new leather, blue flower and camphor shape the nose along with a whiff of crushed berry. On the full-bodied, already approachable palate, you'll find fleshy cherry, black plum and licorice enveloped in seasoned tannins. Best 2022–2027. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

91 Collosorbo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Scorched earth, new leather and camphor aromas come to the forefront on this brawny red. On the concentrated, fleshy palate, compact, velvety tannins accompany prune, cherry marinated in spirits and licorice before the heat of evident alcohol dominates the close. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$105

91 Croce di Mezzo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of violet, new leather and truffle lead the nose on this vibrant red along

with a slight whiff of game. Racy and linear, the ethereal palate recalls tart sour cherry, blood orange and star anise framed in taut, fine-grained tannins. It closes on a salty note. Drink 2023–2028. B.P. Wine Merchant. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Molinari Carlo 2015 Brunello di Montalcino. Aromas of eucalyptus, black-skinned berry and Mediterranean scrub emerge from the glass. The ripe, savory palate offers dried black cherry, licorice and baking spice alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2022–2030. Abruzzi Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$120

91 Pian delle Querci 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with aromas of black-skinned berry, leather and underbrush. On the juicy palate, fine-grained tannins accompany dried black cherry, star anise and tobacco. Drink 2023–2030. Moonlight Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

91 Poggio di Sotto 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Delicate aromas recalling new leather, camphor, wild berry and dark spice slowly take shape in the glass. Racy and ethereal, the light-bodied palate features tart sour cherry, pomegranate and tobacco supported by taut, fine-grained tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Winebow. —K.O.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$500

91 Querce Bettina 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with aromas of tobacco, cooking spice and dark-skinned fruit. The firm palate offers black plum, licorice and clove alongside polished tannins. Drink 2023–2031. Queen of Wines LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$89

91 Siro Pacenti 2015 PS Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Eucalyptus oil, forest-floor, leather, French oak and red-woodland-berry aromas slowly take shape in the glass. Youthfully austere, the tight, firmly structured palate offers dried cherry, pomegranate, espresso and star anise set against a backbone of close-grained tannins that clench the finish. Give it time to fully develop. Drink after 2025. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$130

91 Tenuta Buon Tempo 2015 P. 56 Villa Oliveto Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Tilled soil, new leather and dark-skinned fruit aromas form the nose on this solid red. On the full-bodied palate, firm tannins accompany ripe blackberry, star anise and tobacco. Drink 2023–2031. Matchvino. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

91 Tenuta La Fuga 2015 Le Due Sorelle Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of toasted walnut, blue flower and grilled porcini develop into scorched earth and new leather. On the full-bodied, approachable palate, fine-grained tannins envelope

dried cherry, stewed prune, licorice and crushed botanical herb. Drink 2023–2028. Kobrand. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$86

91 Tiezzi 2015 Vigna Soccorso Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of violet, leather and forest floor take shape in the glass. The youthfully austere palate offers red cherry, orange zest and star anise alongside polished tannins and fresh acidity. Drink 2023–2032. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$65

91 Ventolaio 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of black-skinned berry, Mediterranean scrub and tobacco emerge from the glass. The structured palate features black cherry, clove and tobacco alongside fine-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2032. Vision Wine Brands. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$65

90 Canneta 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Earthy aromas recalling scorched earth, leather and black-skinned berry form the nose. The solid palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and white pepper alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2030. Orvino Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

90 Col d'Orcia 2015 Vigna Nastagio (Brunello di Montalcino). Made with organic grapes and aged in tonneaux and casks, this has a shy nose that eventually reveals hints of toasted nut, underbrush and French oak. The full-bodied palate suggests prune, vanilla, dried sage and espresso framed in assertive tannins that clench the finish. Taub Family Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$75

90 Colleceto 2015 Elia Palazzesi Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Dark-skinned fruit, forest-floor and leather aromas shape the nose. The savory palate offers Marasca cherry, licorice and ground pepper alongside polished tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

90 Corte Pavone 2015 Vigna Poggio Molino al Vento Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has a subtle nose that slowly releases aromas suggesting menthol, oak-driven spice, leather and tobacco. Densely concentrated, the muscular, structured palate features plum brandy, licorice and tobacco alongside a tannic backbone and the heat of alcohol. Drink 2022–2027. AP Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

90 Fornacina 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Made with organically farmed grapes, this offers aromas of dark-skinned berry, cooking spice and leather. The solid palate presents mature black cherry, star anise and black pepper accompanied by firm tannins. Drink 2022–2030. Villa Italia. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

90 La Fiorita 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This full-bodied red has aromas of forest floor, baked plum, violet and oak-driven spice. On the brawny, concentrated palate, you'll find dried cherry, licorice and roasted coffee bean alongside compact, fine-grained tannins that leave a drying, rather astringent finish. Drink 2022–2028. Chambers & Chambers. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

90 La Mannella 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Coconut, menthol, forest-floor and espresso aromas come to the forefront. Full bodied and concentrated, the palate offers roasted coffee bean, licorice, vanilla and stewed prune alongside close-grained, drying tannins. Quintessential Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$200

90 La Poderina 2015 Poggio Abate Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas recalling stewed prune, violet, eucalyptus and a whiff of nail-polish remover follow over to fleshy palate along with roasted coffee bean, French oak and licorice. It's fleshy and approachable, with solid, enveloping tannins that leave a rather drying finish. Vias Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$95

90 La Serena 2015 Gemini Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of ripe black-skinned fruit, leather and underbrush take shape in the glass. The densely concentrated palate offers baked plum, clove and white pepper alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$110

90 Luciani 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of black-skinned berry, leather and Mediterranean scrub lead the way. The savory palate recalls blackberry jam, star anise and tobacco framed in smooth tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Lionstone International. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$85

90 Martoccia 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Violet, underbrush and mocha aromas emerge from the glass. The firm palate offers baked plum, clove and vanilla alongside chewy tannins. Drink 2023–2029. August Wine Group. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$117

90 Molinari Carlo 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Camphor, new leather and star anise aromas shape the nose on this full-bodied red. The brawny, solid palate offers dried cherry, prune, licorice and tobacco alongside enveloping, velvety tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Abruzzi Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$180

90 Ridolfi 2015 Mercatale Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of oak, underbrush, coconut and crushed balsamic herb escape the glass. Lithe and rather lean, the palate offers dried cherry, espresso and a hint of star anise alongside taut, fine-

grained tannins. Drink 2022–2027. Ethica Wines. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$70

90 Terre Nere Campigli Vallone 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This offers aromas of blue flower, underbrush and saddle leather. The savory, medium-bodied palate shows dried black cherry, clove and star anise framed in lithe tannins. Drink through 2028. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

90 Torsesi 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Ripe dark-skinned fruit, cooking-spice and grilled herb aromas lead the way. The ripe palate offers cherry marinated in spirits, star anise and sage alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2027. Wine 2 Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$80

89 Campogiovanni 2015 Il Qeurcione Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Big and brawny, this sturdy red has aromas of French oak, burned rubber, camphor and a whiff of purple flower. Fleshy and monolithic, the warm palate offers fruit cake and vanilla, while the heat of evident alcohol dominates the close. Vision Wine & Spirits. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$130

89 Cordella 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of cedar, mocha and dark-skinned fruit emerge from the glass. The solid palate offers baked plum, clove and tobacco alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Zeman Global Selections. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$98

89 Corte Pavone 2015 Anemone al Sole Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This robust red has aromas recalling burned rubber, scorched earth and new leather. The concentrated, one-dimensional palate offers cherry marinated in spirits, stewed prune, licorice and the heat of evident alcohol alongside compact, close-grained tannins that leave a grippy, tongue-drying close. AP Wine Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

89 Fattoria La Lecciaia 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Earthy aromas reminiscent of scorched earth, violet and baking spice emerge from the glass. The chewy palate offers baked plum, licorice and vanilla alongside rounded tannins. Drink 2022–2029. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

89 Il Poggiolo 2015 Rodolfo Cosimi Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with aromas of violet, leather and cake spice. The rounded palate offers fleshy black plum, clove and cinnamon alongside smooth tannins. Drink through 2026. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$90

89 Il Valentiano 2015 Campo di Marzo Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of

Mediterranean scrub, dark-skinned fruit and cooking spice lead the nose. The forward palate offers blackberry jam, vanilla and star anise alongside chewy tannins. Drink through 2027. K&L Wine Merchants. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

89 Mocali 2015 Vigna Le Raunate (Brunello di Montalcino). The shy nose eventually reveals new leather, camphor, forest floor and a funky whiff of wet wool. The aromas carry over to the evolved palate along with overripe plum, spiced blueberry and mocha alongside seasoned tannins. It closes on a note of salted game. It has a rustic charm for sure. Drink through 2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$120

89 PianCornello 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of ripe dark-skinned fruit, sunbaked earth and cedar lead the nose. The dense, forward palate offers mature black plum, nutmeg and black pepper alongside smooth tannins and evident alcohol. Drink through 2026. Soilair Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

89 Poggio Nardone 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, leather and tilled soil meld together in the glass. The taut, no-fuss palate offers black plum, clove and sage alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2028. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$100

89 Santa Giulia 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has aromas of cedar, cooking spice and red-skinned fruit. The taut palate shows sour cherry, clove and dried sage alongside dusty tannins. Drink 2023–2029. Kirkcrest Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$90

89 Tassi 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of dark-skinned fruit, baking spice and vanilla shape the nose on this solid red. The dense, full palate features prune, star anise and mocha alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2023–2028. —K.O.
abv: NA **Price:** \$NA

88 Abbadia Ardenga 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of camphor, leather and ripe black-skinned fruit emerge from the glass. The dense, chewy palate offers fleshy black plum, kirsch, licorice and a candied note alongside close-grained, drying tannins. The heat of evident alcohol dominates the close, throwing it off somewhat off balance. Golden Ram Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$55

88 Cantina di Montalcino 2015 Franco Ambrosino Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has a shy nose that eventually shows mature dark-skinned fruit, scorched earth and baking spice. The straightforward, already accessible palate offers dried cherry, tobacco and grilled sage alongside

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pliant tannins. Drink through 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. —K.O.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$80

88 Fanti 2015 Vigna Macchiarelle Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of stewed prune and used leather carry over to the thickly concentrated, meaty palate along with raisin. Velvety tannins envelop the palate but then sneak up and leave an abrupt, astringent finish. Reflecting the heat of the vintage, it's shy on freshness and high in evident alcohol. Massanois Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$97

88 La Collina dei Lecci 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has aromas recalling tilled soil, leather and tobacco. On the ripe, medium-bodied palate, rounded tannins accompany baked plum, vanilla and star anise. Drink through 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$50

88 La Magia 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Scorched earth, mocha and violet aromas emerge from the glass. The densely concentrated palate offers prune, cedar and mocha alongside assertive, drying tannins that grip the finish. Drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Enotria Wine Import. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$90

88 Madonna Nera 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The shy nose eventually reveals mocha, tilled soil and coconut. The dense, solid palate offers raisin, cocoa and orange zest alongside close-grained tannins. Drink 2022–2028. Capital Wines, LLC. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$60

88 Patrizia Cencioni 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This opens with toasted oak, mocha and cooking-spice aromas. The compact palate offers blackberry jam, roasted coffee bean and cocoa alongside assertive tannins. Drink after 2023. North Berkeley Imports. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$85

88 Pian delle Ginestre 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of mocha, toasted oak and leather form the nose. Densely concentrated, the solid palate offers prune, roasted coffee bean and coconut alongside close-grained tannins. You'll also perceive the warmth of alcohol on the close. Drink through 2025. The Italian Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$100

88 Podere Paganico 2015 Brunello di Montalcino. Scorched earth, tobacco and cedar aromas waft out of the glass. The mature, rather evolved palate offers prune, vanilla and toasted almond alongside smooth tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Drink through 2025. Saranty Imports. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$50

88 San Lorenzo 2015 Bramante Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has a shy nose that eventually reveals whiffs of underbrush, leather,

cedar and coconut. The dense, brawny palate is monolithic, featuring prune, tobacco and licorice alongside the heat of alcohol that dominates the palate. Enveloping, close-grained tannins provide support. Sunrise Wines. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

88 Uccelliera 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of camphor, new leather, toasted oak and scorched earth lead the nose. Densely concentrated, the meaty, monolithic palate suggests stewed prune, licorice and mocha alongside the heat of scorching alcohol that dominates from the midpalate to the close. Grainy tannins leave a grippy, tongue-drying finish. Despite the tannins drink sooner rather than later before the remaining fruit dries up. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 15.5% **Price:** \$140

88 Villa Le Prata 2015 Massimo Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has aromas of mocha, toasted oak and black-skinned fruit. The dense palate offers blackberry jam, licorice and espresso alongside assertive tannins and the heat of evident alcohol. Drink after 2023. Vinity Wine Company. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$NA

87 La Fornace 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of roasted coffee bean and cocoa form the subdued nose. The densely concentrated, monolithic palate offers prune, espresso and licorice alongside assertive, drying tannins. You'll also notice the heat of evident alcohol. Drink after 2023. Vignaioli Selection. —K.O.
abv: 15% **Price:** \$65

87 Rodolfo Cosimi 2015 Brmante Cosimi Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). The shy nose eventually reveals toasted oak, mocha and baking spice. The ripe palate recalls raisin, espresso and vanilla alongside assertive tannins that leave a mouthdrying close. Drink after 2023. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Terra Rossa 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Subdued aromas recalling scorched earth, French oak and mocha slowly emerge from the glass. The straightforward palate offers baked plum, cocoa and star anise alongside dusty tannins. Drink after 2023. Enotec Imports, Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$NA

87 Verbena 2015 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). This has aromas of roasted coffee bean, toasted oak and dark spice. The tightly wound palate offers prune, mocha and coconut alongside close-grained, grippy tannins. Despite the tannins, drink sooner rather than later to capture the remaining fruit. Drink after 2023. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —K.O.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$70

2013 VINTAGE

95 Banfi 2013 Poggio all'Oro Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino). Aromas of forest floor, pipe tobacco, wild berry and crushed botanical herb shape the nose. Radiant and all about finesse, the vibrant palate offers red cherry, cranberry, coffee bean and star anise before closing on a hint of graphite. It's still youthfully austere and needs time to fully develop. Drink 2025–2033. Banfi Vintners. *Cellar Selection.* —K.O.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$200

BASILICATA

AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE SUPERIORE

94 Basilisco 2016 Cruà (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). An earthy, refined nose of condensed red cherry, cranberry, violet and truffle starts off this Aglianico sourced from the Piano di Croce vineyard in Barile. There's a real sense of elegance on the palate, where lifted elements of violet and crushed stone bring power and poise to the rich berry fruit. It's an unforced expression that gives a real sense of place. Drink through 2030. Vias Imports. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

94 Re Manfredi 2013 Serpara (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). Rich aromas of truffle, violet, plum and cherry are dense on the nose of this red that spent 12 months in half new and half used oak. There's immense polish and verve to the palate, with silken, seductive tannins wrapping around all the luscious berry fruit. Yet with all that, there's still ample lift from fresh acidity, making this a well-balanced, plush red. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$53

93 Grifalco 2015 Daginestra (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). Sourced from a vineyard over sixty years old in the village of Ginestra, this red offers a perfumed nose of cinnamon, clove and brandy-dipped cherries. There's polish and poise to the medium-bodied palate, as the juicy mix of berries melds with a zesty crushed mineral core. That mineral note brings immense lift and length to it all. Velvety tannins give it an approachable vibe in the near term, but this should hold well through 2030. Soilair Selection. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

92 Basilisco 2016 Fontanelle (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). Aromas of ripe red cherry and pomegranate meld with violet and crushed rock in this accessible yet well structured Aglianico. There's a gentle creaminess to the palate, with taut berry fruit drawing it out and a fine mesh of tannins reining it in. It's a supple expression of the variety that still show the energy and drive

typical of Vulture. Drink now–2028. Vias Imports. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

92 Grifalco 2015 Damaschito (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). Sourced from the San Martino cru in the village of Maschito, this is a polished, elegant Aglianico from vines over sixty years old. Aromas of brandy-dipped cherry, rooibos, vanilla and violet perfume the nose and extend to the juicy yet taut palate. There's plushness to the tannins that makes this accessible in the near term, but it should hold well through 2030. Soilair Selection. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

91 Cantina di Venosa 2013 Carato Venusio (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). Rich, enveloping aromas of coconut, dark chocolate, leather and mint start off this Aglianico. It's full in feel on the palate, with copious warm spices wrapped around the dense dark-berry and plum core. There's good polish to the tannins and plenty of fresh acidity to lend balance. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

89 Basilisco 2015 Fiordimarna (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). Aromas of baked plum and bramble berry mix with iodine, brown sugar and straw in this red. There's an austerity to the palate, with an earthy rooibos tone throughout and juicy black fruit arising on the midpalate. Copious fine-grained tannins ride in the background, giving a slight crunch to the feel. Vias Imports. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

89 Basilisco 2013 Aglianico del Vulture Superiore. Feint aromas of blackberry and cherry meld with a hint of rubber on the nose. It's rounded and plush in feel on the palate, filled out by juicy dark-berry flavors. There's a slight grit to the tannins, but they still play well with the fruit, making this a lively, crunchy red. Vias Imports. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

88 Regio Cantina 2015 Campo Melograno Riserva (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore). A delicate nose of geranium, warm spice, red berries and tilled earth starts off this red. It's plush in feel on the palate, with soft berry flavors wrapped in accents of anise and clove. Integrated tannins lend a rounded vibe, with just enough acidity to keep it fresh. Drink in the near term. 8 Vini, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE

93 Elena Fucci 2018 Titolo (Aglianico del Vulture). Plushness aromas of violet, juniper, cherry and bramble berry burst on the nose. Medium in weight, there's a driven, ample feel to the juicy red-cherry and blackberry flavors, with bits of tar and pressed rose arising on the midpalate. Yet, throughout the whole experience, bouncy berry fruit and zesty crushed mineral tones

remain constant. There's structure and poise to this wine that makes it enjoyable to drink now, but it will also hold well through 2028. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$58

93 Musto Carmelitano 2013 Pian del Moro (Aglianico del Vulture). Aromas of condensed red cherry and spiced plum blend with earthy accents of truffle, leather and gravel in this red that sees time in French tonneaux. Sourced from 80-year-old vines, it's a dense, rich expression that shows taut cherry and blackberry flavors peppered with earthy, savory spices. A driving mineral tone gives energy to it all, with polished tannins lending an accessible feel. Drink now–2025. Polaner Selections. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$28

93 Paternoster 2016 Don Anselmo (Aglianico del Vulture). Enveloping aromas of cherry coulis, pomegranate molasses, anise seed and blood orange carry over to the rich yet deftly balanced palate. There's intense energy to the coiled red-berry flavors, with a mineral zip propelling it along while polished tannins firmly wrap it all up. Drink now–2030. Vintus LLC. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$70

92 D'Angelo 2013 Tecum (Aglianico del Vulture). There's an earthy, wild edge on the nose of this wine, showing spicy bramble berries, truffle, violet and crushed pink peppercorn. The palate is silken and velvety in feel, filled out by juicy cherry and blackberry flavors and accented by delightful earthy tones. There's a gentle rustic nature to it all, but pleasingly so. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

92 Elena Fucci 2017 Titolo (Aglianico del Vulture). Aromas of spiced bramble berries, violet and slightly singed resinous herbs carry the nose and echo on the palate. Juicy fruit fills it all out, with a slick of granite lending a zesty mineral twang. There's real drive and energy to it all, with cherry skins lingering on the close. Drink through 2030. RWK Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

92 Elena Fucci 2017 Titolo by Amphora (Aglianico del Vulture). Initially reserved on the nose, with time in the glass this amphora-aged wine opens up to reveal aromas of dark mixed berries, crushed rock, violet and Mediterranean scrub. There's richness to dark fruit on the palate, with a pulsing mineral tone driving throughout. It's coiled and brooding currently, built by a strong framing of tannins that need time to settle. Drink 2023–2033. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$92

92 Elena Fucci 2016 Titolo (Aglianico del Vulture). A delightful mix of crushed rock, red berries, pink peppercorn and violet drive the nose. There's polish to the palate, where coiled red-berry fruit is propelled along an immensely

tangy river of crushed stones. It's a stripped back expression of the variety that shows elegance and power in tandem. Drink through 2030. RWK Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$45

92 Macarico 2017 Aglianico del Vulture. There's ample richness to the wild-blueberry and red-cherry aromas on the nose, with violet and truffle chiming in. It's polished and plump in feel yet honed by juicy acidity and a mesh of fine tannins. This shows accessibility in spades but also a good amount of drive; drink now through 2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

92 Paternoster 2017 Rotondo (Aglianico del Vulture). Rich aromas of anise, cola and cigar box combine into the dense brandy-soaked cherry on the nose. It's creamy and full on the palate, with luscious berry fruit wrapped in warm, toasty spices. There's a polish to it all, with racing acidity driving it along. Drink through 2030. Vintus LLC. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$53

92 Vigneti del Vulture 2016 Piano del Cerro (Aglianico del Vulture). Rich aromas of bacon fat, toasted anise and dark cocoa powder ride on the dense dark-berry fruit on the nose. It's full and creamy on the palate, with concentrated black-cherry and blueberry flavors wrapped in warm, toasty spices. There's immense lift from the driving acidity and a delightful polish from suave tannins. Drink now–2028. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$34

91 Basilisco 2017 Teodosio (Aglianico del Vulture). An aroma of brandy-soaked blueberries mixes with violet and truffle on the rich nose. It's rather full in feel on the palate, with polished, rounded tannins propping up rich dark-fruit flavors. Pulsing acidity and a stony core add to the energetic vibe, making this a wine to enjoy with some age on it. Drink from 2022–2030. Vias Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14.5% Price: \$NA

91 Cantine del Notaio 2013 La Firma (Aglianico del Vulture). Aromas of cinnamon, anise and rooibos meld with the wild-cherry and raspberry core in this red. The medium-bodied palate is soft in flavors of baked raspberry and cherry, accented by gentle warm spices. There's good balance to it all, with polished tannins and fresh acidity lending support, but it should be enjoyed in the near term. Vinifera Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14% Price: \$59

91 D'Angelo 2015 Casselle (Aglianico del Vulture). There's a wild, earthy edge to the nose of this single-vineyard wine, with aromas of forest berries, violet, truffle and a slight hint of barnyard. There's drive and poise to the palate, where cherry and blackberry flavors are wrapped in earth and floral accents. There's an accessibility to the tannins that makes this enjoyable now, but it

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should hold well through 2028. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

91 Elena Fucci 2018 Scceg (Aglianico del Vulture). This new bottling by Elena Fucci utilizes grapes from a neighboring vineyard of vines over seventy years old that were at risk of going untended. The name Scceg, means pomegranate in Arbëreshë, which is a dialect spoken by Albanians who emigrated to southern Italy centuries ago. Bright aromas of violet, pressed cherries and dried hibiscus are fresh on the nose of the wine. It's rounded and juicy on the palate, yet featherlight in feel. There's a nice balance between the bursting berry fruit and supple tannins, with cherry skins and a light violet tone lingering on the close. It's approachable in its youth and should be enjoyed in the near term. Enotec Imports, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$35

91 Macarico 2018 Macarì (Aglianico del Vulture). Violet, walnut skin, pomegranate and red cherry meet a brisk pink-peppercorn note on the vibrant nose. This is smoothed and polished on the palate, with a tangy, driven line of crushed minerals pushing it along. Coiled red fruit jumps throughout, with crushed stones lingering on the close. There's suppleness to the fruit but immense drive, indicating this will hold well for some time. Drink now until 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

91 Musto Carmelitano 2015 Serra del Prete (Aglianico del Vulture). Aromas of wild forest berries meld with alpine herbs, violets and nori in this savory red. Aged in stainless steel and cement, it's all about the fruit on the palate. Soft red-berry flavors build on the entry and evolve into bright, popping, juicy fruit tones. Well-honed tannins sidle it all, with a zesty crushed stone element lifting it up. This is a beautiful Aglianico that has nothing to hide. Polaner Selections. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$24

91 Regio Cantina 2017 Donpà (Aglianico del Vulture). Perfumed aromas of violet, tilled earth and blood orange meet a rich red-cherry core on the nose. There's polish and poise on the palate, with a zesty mineral tone pushing along. Smoothed tannins are enveloped in the fruit, making this accessible in the near term. Drink now through 2028. 8 Vini, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Cantina di Venosa 2017 Gesualdo da Venosa (Aglianico del Vulture). Aromas of brandy-dipped cherries, tobacco and warm spices are forward on the nose. There's polish and drive to the medium-bodied palate, with pulsing acidity pushing along flavors of tart cherry wrapped in toasty spices. It ends on a sweet oak tone, but pleasingly so, with the rich fruit anchoring it all. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14.5% **Price:** \$29

90 Cantine del Notaio 2015 Il Repertorio (Aglianico del Vulture). Rich aromas of cocoa powder and carob ride over the dense dark-berry core on the nose. Wild-berry flavors are wrapped in cinnamon and clove accents on the palate, with integrated tannins and fresh acidity lending support. It's accessible now and should hold well through 2025. Vinifera Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$30

90 D'Angelo 2017 Aglianico del Vulture. Well concentrated aromas of black raspberry, pomegranate, violet and freshly turned earth carry the nose of this rustic red. It's light in profile, with zesty berry flavors wrapped in mildly gritty tannins. There's charm to be had among the delightful mix of juicy fruit and earthy tones. Enjoy at the dinner table alongside lamb or venison. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$20

90 Grifalco 2017 Aglianico del Vulture. Cohesive aromas of mixed berries, anise seed, cigar box and mentholated herb drive the nose. Concentrated blueberry and dark-cherry flavors are pushed along by pulsing acidity and tangy crushed granite. There's a grip to the slightly grainy tannins, but it's nothing a protein couldn't temper. Enjoy with food and this wine will sing. Soilair Selection. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$20

90 Macarico 2018 Aglianico del Vulture. Bright, bouncy aromas of wild cherry and blueberry meld with a mentholated edge on the nose. The palate is driven by juicy acidity, with tannins taking the back seat. There's good grip, energy and length, but ultimately this can be enjoyed in the near term. Drink now through 2025. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

90 Re Manfredi 2015 Aglianico del Vulture. Raspy aromas of blackberry and cherry meld with crushed alpine herbs and mentholated tobacco on the nose. There's grip and gusto to the palate, where taut berry flavors are pushed along by bright acidity. Tense tannins ground it all and need some time to settle. Drink from 2022. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$35

89 Cantina di Venosa 2018 Bali (Aglianico del Vulture). There's good concentration to the aromas of bramble berry, wild cherry, violet and hibiscus on the nose, offering an enticing mix of fruit and earth elements. The medium-bodied palate is juicy in tart cherry and blackberry flavors, with pretty floral accents on the sides. The tannins are resolved yet supportive while bright acidity and a tangy mineral note push everything along. Bacchanal Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$14

89 Macarico 2019 Macarì (Aglianico del Vulture). Ripe red cherry, anise, tobacco and sweet sawdust aromas carry the nose. There's a supple, easygoing feel to the palate, with juicy,

rounded cherry and raspberry flavors wrapped in mildly gripping tannins. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$25

88 Cantina di Venosa 2018 Terre di Orazio (Aglianico del Vulture). Aromas of tar, pressed rose, rubber and blueberry carry to the medium-bodied palate, where accents of anise and cinnamon chime in. The fruit and tannins are slightly viscous but bright acidity does well to lift it all up. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —A.P.
abv: 14% **Price:** \$18

88 Paternoster 2017 Synthesi (Aglianico del Vulture). Lifted aromas of red cherry, sun-baked earth and dried cranberry are straightforward yet delightful on the nose. There's polish to the rather light-bodied palate, where tart red-berry fruit pulses along. Tart acidity is the driver here, with a fine mesh of tannins riding in the background. This is an accessible entry-level Aglianico. Vintus LLC. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$22

87 Grifalco 2017 Gricos (Aglianico del Vulture). Mildly expressive tones of black cherry, iodine and charred herbs carry this medium-bodied red. Pulsing acidity pushes it along, with cinched tannins clipping the fruit on the finish. It's overall a brisk expression of the variety. Soilair Selection. —A.P.
abv: 13% **Price:** \$15

86 Vigneti del Vulture 2018 Pipoli (Aglianico del Vulture). A bit closed on the nose, this reveals notes of cocoa, potpourri and wet cement with some time in the glass. There's nice roundness to the medium-bodied palate, with tart red and black berries never relenting. The acidity is pulsing and veers sour, with a mildly green oak tone arising on the finish. Empson USA Ltd. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$16

OTHER RED WINES

92 Cantine del Notaio 2017 L'Atto (Basilicata). This elegant Aglianico starts off with bright aromas of pressed violet, red berries and Mediterranean scrub. There's a polished vibe to the palate, where glossy tannins frame pulsing cranberry and cherry flavors. It's accessible now but should hold well through 2028. Vinifera Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$25

92 D'Angelo 2017 Canneto (Basilicata). Aromas of dried cranberry, pomegranate, rose and violet meld with an earthy truffle note on the nose. It's polished and poised on the palate, with a savory crushed-stone element propelling along coiled red-berry flavors. It's a lifted, elegant Aglianico to enjoy now until 2030. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —A.P.
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$32

90 Macarico 2018 Rosso del Vulcano (Basilicata). This Aglianico offers aromas of wild strawberry, cherry, violet, pink peppercorn and juniper, making it both fruity and savory. There's polish and poise to the coiled berry fruit on the palate, where it feels both concentrated yet lifted by bright acidity and a tangy crushed-stone element. There's a glossy sheen to the tannins, making this approachable in its youth. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$20

90 Tenuta Parco dei Monaci 2015 Spaccasassi (Matera). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Primitivo starts off with aromas of freshly pressed cherry and blackberry on the nose. Accents of tar, iodine and crushed gravel chime in. It's plush and full on the palate, but well honed by juicy acidity and crunchy tannins. For a full-bodied red that will also play well at the dinner table, look no further. Vinifera Imports. —A.P.

abv: 15%

Price: \$59

89 D'Angelo 2018 Brigante Lucano (Basilicata). This blend of Aglianico, Merlot and Primitivo is bright and playful on the nose, offering bouncy aromas of wild cherry, pomegranate, rose and juniper. The juicy, light-bodied palate is filled out nicely by crunchy red fruit, with bright acidity driving it all along. Pillow tannins ride in the background, making this an easy wine to plug. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

89 Taverna 2018 Il Lagarino (Basilicata). This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah offers rich aromas of cocoa, anise and brandy dipped cherries on the nose. There's breadth and weight to the rather full palate, with plush cherry and blue fruit wrapped in a firm yet well-balanced oaky embrace. Brandy dipped fruit shows its face more on the finish. While the oak is prominent, there's decent balance from the fruit, bright acidity and polished tannins. Zeman Global Selections. —A.P.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

88 D'Angelo 2018 Sacravite (Basilicata). Aromas of red cherry, hibiscus, violet and tilled earth show nicely on the nose. It's deft on the palate, offering flavors of tart red cherry and blackberry lifted by a zesty mineral core. The tannins are soft yet supportive, with juicy acidity driving it all. This is a tasty, youthful Aglianico that should be enjoyed in the near term. Cantiniere Imports & Distributing, Inc. —A.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$16

SPIRITS

Reposado Tequila: the happy middle ground

From barely oaked to showing lots of deep, rich flavor, *reposado* Tequila can express a myriad of personalities. The category occupies a unique space in the middle of the aging range, with the spirits rested in oak barrels from two months to one year.

Many of the *reposados* tasted in this recent batch are on the lighter side of the oak spectrum, yielding Tequilas that are lean rather than lush. That easier hand means that herbaceous, mineral-like and fruity or vegetal notes shine through in a lively way.

A number of producers are working on the opposite end of the spectrum and creating *reposados* with more pronounced oak presence, like interesting cask selections that add complexity. For example, Kostiv ages its *reposado* for six months in barrels that previously held Cabernet Sauvignon, which lends nutty, fruity tones. Elsewhere, Partida's Roble Fino expression spends six months in ex-Bourbon casks, then another two months

The category occupies a unique space in the middle of the aging range, with spirits rested in oak barrels from two months to one year.

in barrels that previously held single-malt whiskey. The end result: a Tequila that drinks remarkably like a mellow whiskey. And Lobos *Reposado* PX is finished in Pedro Ximénez Sherry casks, which add honeyed richness.

If the distinguishing characteristic of a *reposado* is how long it ages, what does it say

that some producers find ways around that restriction? For example, the Lobos *Reposado* PX mentioned above is blended with a touch of longer-aged extra *añejo* Tequila. See also the El Tequileño *Reposado* Rare, which ages for a full six years in American oak—longer than many extra *añejos*. Yet, because it's aged in a vessel larger than the 600 liter maximum, it still gets to bear the *reposado* label.

It's an odd loophole.

So which *reposado* to choose—a longer-oaked version that exhibits plenty of vanilla and spice, or a less-oaked version that's citrusy and bright? Luckily, there's room for both types on the shelf.

—Kara Newman

96 Ocho Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Samson & Surrey, Miami, FL). This lively, bright Tequila will please purists. A light hand with the oak means a straw hue and brisk aromas of jalapeño and citrus. The palate melds flavors of bell pepper, fresh rosemary and roasted jalapeño that lead into mild coconut and graphite notes on the midpalate, finishing with a fresh herb exhale.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

95 La Gritona Reposado (Mexico; T. Edward, New York, NY). Look for a pale straw hue and fruity/funky aromas. The palate offers distinct tropical fruit notes, opening with lychee and a faint floral hint, plus a faint waft of ripe-banana funk midpalate. The finish is long and drying, showing grapefruit peel and pink peppercorn. Sip or mix into Palomas. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$31

94 El Gran Jubileo Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Capita Spirits, Highland Beach, FL). Vibrant yellow in the glass, this Tequila takes a minute to open, morphing from mild almond to a deeper vanilla scent. The palate feels light, almost slick, and echoes that almond and vanilla profile at first, before growing more complex in lemon verbena, lemongrass and hints of pine and tarragon. A drying, elongated finish is accented by a white pepper tingle. Aged 11 months. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$34

94 El Tequileño Reposado Rare Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). For full review see page 20.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$225

94 Kostiv Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Aged 6 months in charred barrels that previously held Cabernet Sauvignon, this drinks almost like a Tequila-

whiskey hybrid. The liquid is tawny and bright, with aromas that suggest fresh apple drizzled with honey. The palate continues the orchard fruit, reading more like baked pear, leading into a distinctly nutty midpalate that starts with almond richness, then drying walnut. The finish is wonderfully bracing, with citrusy acidity and faint jalapeño heat.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

94 Partida Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Partida, Oakland, CA). The citrusy, zesty aroma suggests grilled lemon and dried oregano. The palate opens lightly with coconut and almond, leading into a verdant finish laced with tarragon, sage and lemongrass. A faint jalapeño sizzle and lemony acidity yield a mouthwatering finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$44

93 Antaño Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Distiller Sales, Princeton, MN). Zesty jalapeño tickles the nose. The palate opens with a pleasant rush of vanilla and tropical fruit, giving way to a fleetingly sweet and slightly numbing finish that suggests Cubeb peppers, pink peppercorns and jalapeño.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$40

93 Arette Artesanal Suave Reposado Tequila (Mexico; T. Edward, New York, NY). This Tequila offers mild roasted agave and lime peel aromas. The soft palate opens with earthy almond and cocoa tones, perked up with lime-peel zing and clove heat. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

93 El Jimador Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Brown-Forman, Louisville, KY). For full review see page 20. **Best Buy.**
abv: 40% **Price:** \$21

93 PaQui Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Tequila Holdings, New York, NY). This Tequila drinks like a blanco, with just the mildest mellowing influence from the oak. It's savory and fresh, faintly perfumed like tomatoes and bell peppers ripening in the sun. The palate echoes the bell pepper hint, layering accents of fresh herbs and jalapeño against a flicker of nuttiness on the midpalate. Each sip ends drying, brisk and citrusy.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$65

93 Solento Organic Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Solento, Encinitas, CA). Look for vanilla and coconut aromas, plus a hint of savory edge. The palate is distinctly herbaceous, like bunches of mint and tarragon surrounded by a halo of coconut and vanilla. The finish shows graphite, menthol and mouthwatering white and black pepper.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$64

93 Tapatio Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Charbay Distillery, Ukiah, CA). This is a lean take on *reposado*, with a light straw hue and a perky fresh jalapeño aroma. The mineral palate opens with hints of citrus and sage, leading into white pepper, a faint whisper of vanilla and mouthwatering salinity.

It's lively, with just enough oak to mellow this into a sipping Tequila.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$45/L

92 Arette Reposado Tequila (Mexico; T. Edward, New York, NY). Look for spicy aromas that channel fresh and pickled jalapeño peppers. The palate has a slick feel and opens with citrusy astringency. Comforting almond is accented with mouthwatering cayenne and clove fireworks on the finish.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$44

92 Cazcanes No. 7 Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). For full review see page 20.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$99

92 Corralejo Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Infinium Spirits, Aliso Viejo, CA). Coconut and pineapple play lightly on the nose and palate, interwoven with richer hints of vanilla sweetness. The brisk, mouthwatering finish adds peppery, citrusy zing. *Best Buy.*

abv: 40% **Price:** \$26

92 El Sativo Reposado Tequila (Mexico; El Sativo, Reno, NV). Expect assertive dried herbs and honey on the nose. The bold, rich palate echoes that honeyed character, then the zesty dried herb notes come into play. Each sip finishes with citrusy acidity, brushed with vanilla and allspice. Aged 9 months.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$45

92 El Tequileño Reposado Gran Reserva Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). For full review see page 21.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$57

92 Lobos Reposado PX Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). This Tequila is aged 6 months in American oak, then finished in PX Sherry casks and blended with a touch of extra añejo Tequila. The end result is rich, honeyed tones with a bit of savory edge. Cooked agave and coconut aromas lead the nose, while the palate opens with distinctly peppery vibes. Bell pepper and jalapeño segue into clove, cayenne, coconut and vanilla.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$48

92 Los Rijos Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Distiller Sales, Princeton, MN). Citrusy and floral aromas intertwine. The palate reflects that floral note, layering it with agave sweetness, finishing zesty and bright with jalapeño, lemon peel and peppery zing. *Best Buy.*

abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

92 Partida Roble Fino Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Tequila Partida, Oakland, CA). A minimum six-month rest in ex-Bourbon barrels followed by another 2 months in ex-single malt casks has draped this Tequila in rich finery. Look for a deep golden hue and savory aromas that suggest

fresh tomato. The bold palate opens with Sherry, dried dates, golden raisins and candied ginger. The long finish is laced with creamy caramel.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$100

91 Cazul 100 Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Distiller Sales, Princeton, MN). Distinctly sweet almond and vanilla aromas are underpinned by earthy dried tomato and a fleeting hint of tire rubber. The palate opens with that rubbery note, morphing into sweeter baked tones: vanilla cookie, toasted brioche and cinnamon bun wind into a finish marked by jalapeño and cinnamon bark sizzle.

Best Buy.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$35

91 El Tequileño Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). For full review see page 21. *Best Buy.*

abv: 40% **Price:** \$29

91 El Tesoro Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Beam Suntory, Chicago, IL). Look for a pale straw hue and mild agave nectar aroma. The palate is both zingy and sweet, offering distinct notes of mint, bell pepper, fresh basil, lemon pepper and lime peel, plus fleeting vanilla into the cooling menthol exhale.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

91 Penta Reposado Tequila (Mexico; MD Imports, Carlsbad, CA). A Tequila made with a blend of agave from locales in all five states in Mexico where Tequila can be legally produced, this is distinctly bold and sweet. Look for concentrated coconut and vanilla right off the bat, reading like vanilla wafers or pound cake, leading into a spicier finish: cinnamon, clove and black pepper heat resound into a citrusy exhale.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$125

91 Vikera Reposado Tequila (Mexico; San Gabriel Beverage Group, Rosemead, CA). This Tequila is named for owner/master distiller Melly Barajas and her “vikeras,” the women “Vikings” who are the primary operators of the distillery. Look for mild vanilla and earthy cocoa on nose and palate. Agave nectar opens to warming hints of maple, cinnamon bark and gingerbread, brightened by a final lemon peel note. Aged in white oak for a minimum of 6 months.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

91 Villa One Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Stoli Group, New York, NY). This rich version of reposado embraces all the flavors oak can impart. Look for a burnished gold hue and lots of vanilla on nose and palate. Maple, sarsaparilla, and cocoa all take their turns, leading into clove and allspice on the long finish. Aged 6 months

abv: 40% **Price:** \$50

90 4 Copas Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA). The mild aroma shows the faintest whiff of dried herbs. That herbaceous quality is more pronounced on palate,

reading as hints of lavender, sage, rosemary. Finishes mouthwatering, with lemony zing and a mellow brush of vanilla and agave nectar.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

90 ArteNOM Selección de 1414 Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Haas Brothers, Oakland, CA). For full review see page 21.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

90 Bribón Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Palm Bay International, Port Washington, NY). Look for sweet aromas that suggest vanilla sugar and fresh apple. Those notes carry over to the palate, though the fruity note reads more like pineapple, braced up with a blast of candied ginger heat at the end. Sip or mix. *Best Buy.*

abv: 40% **Price:** \$25

90 Cimarron Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Haas Brothers, San Francisco, CA). Aged a mere 60 days “to mellow,” this reposado is lean rather than lush. Zesty aromas suggest sun-ripened tomato, lemon peel and roasted jalapeño. The palate opens with flecks of rubber, graphite and dried herbs, finishing brisk with a lemon-pepper exhale.

Best Buy.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$20

90 Cutwater Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Cutwater Spirits, San Diego, CA). Aged in emptied Cutwater whiskey barrels, this Tequila has a pale straw hue and light aromas that suggest coconut water and tomato water. The palate is similarly light, leading with coconut, savory roasted jalapeño, and a lingering ginger and black pepper tingle on the exit. *Best Buy.*

abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

90 Hiatus Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Hiatus Spirits, Manhasset, NY). Earthy and slightly meaty aromas blend with a roasted pineapple note. The palate is light, showing just a trace of the flavors detected in the aroma: mild pineapple, coconut and almond sweetness anchor a hint of bell pepper on the tingly, peppery exit.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$54

90 Insolito Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Spirits Innovation Partners, Chicago, IL). This Tequila offers aromas of honey and sage. The palate opens with coconut and vanilla sweetness, then shifts to orange peel and tropical fruit, exiting with white pepper and ginger sparks.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$45

89 Grand Mayan Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Grand Mayan Imports, Boston, MA). The round lapis blue-and-gold ceramic bottle is an eye-catcher. The liquid in the bottle has an almond and maple scent. The palate offers smoked maple, vanilla bean and oak, finishing long with a peppery hint.

abv: 40% **Price:** \$80

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89 Santera Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Santera Imports, Manhasset, NY). This pale straw Tequila has a pale straw hue and mild, savory aroma that suggests bell peppers and a saline whiff. The palate is similarly light, tasting of mint and tarragon coupled with fleeting hints of bell pepper, fading into coconut and black pepper.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$51

88 Los Arango Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Infinium Spirits, Aliso Viejo, CA). Look for a faint rose-gold hue and mild, slightly sweet coconut aroma. The palate echoes that coconut sweetness, plus hints of resin and tire rubber, finishing long with lemon and jalapeño prickle.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

88 Purasangre Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Haas Brothers, San Francisco, CA). Rested 3 months in toasted, not charred oak, this Tequila has an enticing aroma that starts as savory, then becomes lemony and slightly sweet. The lively palate is spiced with allspice and cayenne sizzle, fading into bright lemon peel and a mild hot-honey finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$40

87 E. Cuarenta Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Interactions & Transactions, Napa, CA). The aroma is mild, with a plastic-y hint. The honeyed palate echoes that plastic note, and leads into a finish accented by jalapeño prickle and black pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$55

87 Jose Cuervo Reserva de la Familia Reposado Tequila (Mexico; Proximo Spirits, Jersey City, NJ). This is a new expression for 2020, released in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Reserva's commercial release. The Tequila has a burnished gold hue and mild aromas of sandalwood and smoke. The palate echoes the sandalwood note, pairing it with cedar. A faint roasted agave note underpins the finish spiced with clove and black pepper heat.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$85

OTHER AGAVE SPIRIT

88 State 38 Reposado (USA; State 38 Distilling, Golden, CO). Technically, this is not Tequila, but an agave spirit made in Colorado from agave sourced from Mexico, and aged for 9 months in used Bourbon barrels. It has gentle aromas that suggest almond, coconut, pineapple and fresh pear. The palate opens tingly and distinctly minty, followed by almond and just a hint of fruit, followed by a ginger and white pepper exhale.
abv: 45% **Price:** \$45

BRANDY

98 Germain Robin California Alambic Brandy Aged 7 Years (USA; Germain Robin, Modesto, CA). For full review see page 20.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$75

95 Monfleurie Cognac Grande Champagne (France; Park Street Imports, Miami, FL). Rich caramel and dried fruit plus a hint of violet lead the nose. The light and complex palate echoes that distinct floral note, leading into orange marmalade and finishing very long, showing dusty cocoa powder, dried fig and cinnamon on the exhale. According to the producer, each bottling is blended with a measure of brandy that originated from the 1960 harvest.
abv: 40.6% **Price:** \$2,800

94 Germain Robin XO Select Barrel Alambic Brandy (USA; Germain Robin, Modesto, CA). For full review see page 20.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$125

89 Chankaska Spirits Ranch Road Reserve Brandy (USA; Chankaska Spirits, Kasota, MN). This small-batch brandy has a bright, tawny hue and oaky, earthy aroma. The palate leads with oak, accented by baked apple and dried apricot, plus lemon peel astringency. A cocoa hint sneaks into the mellow finish.
abv: 40% **Price:** \$30

BEER

Lagers worth the effort

If there is a bright spot in the beer space amid the pandemic, it is that small-production brewers were afforded the time to make and age proper lagers.

The craft beer industry in America was built on the backs of ales. Hop-forward India pale ales, roasted stouts and hefeweizen were put on offer by the early craft brewers to help differentiate themselves from the larger breweries that cornered the market.

When it comes to small breweries in America today, ales are still the primary focus and largely pay the bills. They can be brewed, fermented and released within a few days. Lagers on the other hand need several weeks in tanks to properly mature. They need time to develop desirable flavors and drop out particulates that would otherwise cloud up the appearance.

As the pandemic closed taprooms and draft beer production slowed, many brewers took the opportunity to use fermentation tanks for lagers that would have otherwise been tied up

As the pandemic closed taprooms, ...many brewers took the opportunity to use fermentation tanks for lagers.

with beers with quicker turn arounds.

Early craft brewing entrants to the lager space shied away from making bland light American pilsners or European-hop forward lagers. They turned to Vienna lagers with bready, sweet malt profiles or tried their hands on more robust styles, like dunkels. Today's small breweries are embracing those styles, making lagers and pilsners that are low in alcohol, and use adjunct ingredients like corn and rice. Some are not-so-subtly trying to remind consumers of those large, well-established brands.

Ashleigh Carter, the brewer at Bierstadt Lagerhaus in Denver likes to say that lager is on a 150-year winning streak. Carter, who is making some of the most popular examples of the style by a craft brewery in the United States is not wrong.

With this latest generation of lagers appearing at your local brewery or on shelves, the streak looks to continue.

Cheers!

—John Holl

100 Heater Allen Pils (Pilsner; Heater Allen Brewing, OR). Both pillowy soft and assertively crisp, this lager has history, patience and skill behind it. It shows a slightly toasted bread character balanced by a spicy hop note. It's subtle throughout and is, ideally, the kind of lager that should be drank in multiples over an afternoon. Only then, when the brain can absorb it, like background music that suddenly becomes clear, does this pilsner really hit its stride.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 6 pack

100 Wibby Volksbier Vienna (Vienna Lager; Wibby Brewing, CO). For full review see page 21.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

99 Dovetail Helles (Helles; Dovetail Brewery, IL). This is a lager of extraordinary quality that balances malt sweetness and richness with subtle hop spiciness and fruitiness. There's a flinty character on the nose that appears when first

poured and quickly disappears, but a mineral water quality remains, along with a joyous crispness that makes it widely appealing.
abv: 4.4% **Price:** \$11/16 oz 4 pack

99 Moonlight Old Combine (Lager; Moonlight Brewing, CA). This expertly constructed lager uses a grain bill of barley, oats, rye, and wheat, creating a foundation that offers full-bodied flavors of bread, spice and earth. The result is a beer that has character but doesn't demand the spotlight. It shows depth but does not seek drinker contemplation.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 4 pack

99 Notch Salem Lager (Helles; Notch Brewing, MA). There are some beers that after the first sip you know another one is in your immediate future. Still, there's no need to rush the first pint. This stunning helles is golden yellow in color, showing a slightly hazy pour topped with a creamy head. It's built for leisure: long afternoons in the

shade of beer garden trees or under an umbrella on a beach. It offers deftly balanced flavors of lightly toasted bread, roasted corn and a hint of herbal hops that show up before a semisweet finish.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 4 pack

99 Urban Chestnut Stammisch (German-style Pilsner; Urban Chestnut Brewing, MO). Showing a rounded malt profile, a soft body, a strong pinch of noble hops and early whisps of saltiness that quickly dissipate, this pilsner is crisp and satisfying. It's a session beer that lifts the spirit without weighing you down.
abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$3/500 ml

99 Urban Chestnut Zwickel (Lager; Urban Chestnut Brewing, MO). "Pure" is a word that doesn't get used too much in the beer space because it really denotes something perfect and can usually be quantified through science or faith. This beer reflects the word, however. To drink this is an experience, a revelation in the glass. It gives the feeling that something special, crafted with care and laser-like precision, is being imbibed. Slightly hazy and deep golden in color, with a lasting fluffy white head that laces the glass, this has an herbal hop aroma, a bready malt character and a contemplative nature.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$9/16 oz 6 pack

98 Chuckanut Rye Lager (Lager; Chuckanut Brewery, WA). Deep golden in color, with a modest white head that laces the glass, this is a full-bodied, slightly spicy and all-around satisfying lager that manages to have both buoyancy and depth. Brewed with rye, the body takes on a robust character but maintains a crispness throughout. Hop flavors of dried orange peel, earthy spice and faint pine also emerge.
abv: 5.7% **Price:** \$5/500 ml

98 Green Bench Postcard Pils (Pilsner, Green Bench Brewing, FL). Some pilsners are light and airy, acing discernable flavors or aromas, meant as alcohol refreshment. Then there are pilsners like this one that bring a knowledgeable respect by a brewery to the bar top. This has all the hallmarks of classic pilsner—depth, sweet malt and slightly spicy hops—but it's all tuned into a finer point. It's for relaxing days on vacation or in the yard where you're at ease, but not looking to drift off.
abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

98 KC Bier Pure Pils (German Pilsner; KC Bier Co., MO). As its name suggests, this lager is pure through and through. It's wonderfully refreshing, with a pillowy bready malt character accented by spicy hop notes. A crisp yet yeasty finish and a soft water character encourages swallows by the gulp.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

98 Wayfinder CZAF (Czech Pilsner; Wayfinder Beer, OR). The malt profile of this beer is sweet and firm, with a bready quality that comes off as fresh and welcoming. A hop presence brings spice and earth, lending just the right amount of pleasant bitterness. All the while, the water profile

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still has a chance to shine. Assertive crispness keeps everything moving along nicely from the first sip to the last.

abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$20/16 oz 4 pack

98 Zero Gravity Green State Lager (Pilsner; Zero Gravity Craft Brewery, VT). For full review see page 21.

abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 4 pack

97 New Glarus Two Women (Lager; New Glarus Brewing, WI). In a state where lagers loom large by consumers, Two Women stands tall. This lager pours medium gold in color, with a fluffy white head. A semisweet malt content is balanced by earthy, slightly spicy noble hops. With a thirst-quenching quality and a slightly grainy finish, this lager is a reliable go-to.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$8/12 oz 6 pack

97 Reuben's Select Lager (Lager; Reuben's Brews, WA). Pale golden yellow with a soft sweetness and faint whiffs of tropical fruit, and citrus. With an effervescent body and dry finish this is a lager that fits into any social occasion with ease.

abv: 4.4% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 6 pack

97 Zero Gravity Jaws (Czech Pilsner; Zero Gravity Craft Brewery, VT). This is a spicy pilsner that delivers on breadly, cracker-like malts that are both rustic and fresh, with a prickly hop character that lends just the right amount to bitterness to the mix. Reliable like an old friend and perfectly smooth despite assertive carbonation, you're going to need a bigger cooler.

abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 6 pack

96 Aslan Coastal Pils (German-style Pilsner; Aslan Brewing, WA). This is crisp and clean as a mountain stream, but with decidedly more barley and hops to it. This pilsner is rooted in the Old World but with an American sensibility for hops. It's a beer for beach camping, enjoying post-hike or at the sushi joint around the corner.

abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$13/12 oz 6 pack

96 Great Raft Southern Drawl (Pilsner; Great Raft Brewing, LA). This is an easy drinking, every-day enjoyable pilsner that slightly leans into modern hopping techniques to reveal modest spicy, earthy and citrus-forward flavors. With a dry, slightly sweet finish twinged with dried orange zest flavors, this is a lager built for lazy summer afternoons.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

96 Heavy Seas Schnee Boot (Eisbock; Heavy Seas Brewing, MD). This is dangerously smooth in rich slopes of toffee, Bourbon, toasted vanilla and warm baked plum and raisin. It is a high alcohol beer that some will say is best suited for staving off a winter's chill, but could also be right anytime you're looking for a contemplative pour that will allow your mind to wander. Strong and boozy, yet not at all harsh, it offers with hints of Sherry that warm the mind and soul.

abv: 13.1% **Price:** \$NA/12oz 4 pack

96 KC Bier Dunkel (Dunkel; KC Bier Co., MO). Even with flavors of rich toasted bread, faint coffee, roasted cocoa and molasses, this lager remains crisp and refreshing from first sip to last. The collection of sweet flavors combines masterfully but never overwhelms the tastebuds. It's a lager for light sweater weather days.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

96 Paulaner Salvator (Doppelbock; Paulaner USA, NY). Long a benchmark of the style, this deep boozy lager is full of fresh baked raisin bread aromas, with hints of spice, molasses, warming spices and soft leather. A full-bodied and strong alcohol character is a hallmark but with a sneaky quality makes this a fast sipper. Liquid bread at its best, it works with cinnamon rolls, game or whenever the mood for a thoughtful beer strikes.

abv: 7.9% **Price:** \$12/375 ml 6 pack

96 Perennial Pilsner (German-style Pilsner; Perennial, MO). With a delicate floral hop bouquet, this hoppy pilsner delivers on its name. It maintains a refreshing lager crispness while pushing the hop agenda that has pricks of pine, peels of citrus and a patina of tropical fruit funk. Start a night out with this beer and several others soon follow.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 4 pack

96 Reuben's Northsun (Vienna Lager; Reuben's Brews, WA). This is a crusty malt-forward Vienna lager, with rich caramel undertones that are more savory than sweet. A subtle herbal hop undercurrent brings a pleasing bitterness to the pint. At times refreshing thanks to its light body, this pours a lovely shade of amber with a robust head.

abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 6 pack

96 Reuben's Wolfsburg (Helles; Reuben's Brews, WA). Crystal clear with a robust, fluffy head, this Helles, when properly poured, is a marvel to look at but even more of a pleasure to drink. It is soft and plush in feel, with flavors of orange, pine and herbal hops. It's a lager to start your day with, no matter the time, that happily keeps up with you as the hours while away.

abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

96 Seventh Son Millstone (Lager; Seventh Son Brewing, OH). Sweet malt, spicy hops and soft water come together in this crisp, golden clear lager that won't bring on palate fatigue. It's at home alongside a warm pretzel, a burger or a salad. A utility player of a lager in the best sense.

abv: 4.6% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

96 Wild Provisions PPL (Czech Lager; Wild Provisions Beer Project, CO). This is a light-bodied beer, with forward tones of pine and herbal hops that have a rustic, almost funky touch. The herbal character grows with flavors of blanched basil, mint and eucalyptus, but all in a subtle way. A lager off the beaten path, making it idea for outdoor situations like camping or post-hike.

abv: 4.4% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 4 pack

95 Blackberry Farm Mountain Lager (Vienna Lager; Blackberry Farm, TN). There are end-of-summer nights where there is a chill in the air, a slight cooling that is the promise of seasons to come. We put on a sweatshirt or sweater and reach for a beer like this. This shows a caramel malt-forward grain bill and a noble hop character that ends on a nutty and spicy flourish. This is a treat around a firepit or campfire.

abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

95 East Brother Red Lager (Vienna Lager; East Brother Beer Co., CA). This is a smooth, enjoyable pint, with a toasted malt profile that offers up whiffs of caramel, toffee and cola. From start to finish it's intriguing and playful, the kind of robust lager that fits in well at a pub dinner, an autumn Sunday afternoon or whenever the need arises for a contemplative pour.

abv: 4.6% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack

95 Good Word Any Day Now (Italian Pilsner; Good Word Brewing, GA). A collaboration with Blackberry Farm Brewery, this flowery hop-forward pilsner has a rich malt body while retaining tell-tale crispness. A social lager, meant for parties and hangouts, it has a low bitterness that helps facilitate an evening of imbibing without palate fatigue. A touch of sweetness on the otherwise dry finish is a lovely little boost.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 4 pack

95 Good Word Lunar Gravity (Lager; Good Word Brewing Co., GA). A collaboration with author Stan Hieronymus, this is a lower alcohol lager that delivers an afternoon's worth of refreshment. The soft malt character is met with a subtle lemony hop note that starts on the aroma and travels through to the dry finish. It's a pint over which to discuss the finer mysteries of life.

abv: 3.5% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 4 pack

95 Good Word You Work For Me Now (Helles; Good Word Brewing, GA). This is a limited edition helles that many hope the brewery will bring back as a regular offering. Bready and inviting, it is a malt-forward lager that has a cool, clear water profile that makes it an ideal thirst quencher on a hot day. The noble hop character keeps on pace with a low, pleasing bitterness. Drinking a beer like this feels like no work at all.

abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$NA/16oz 4 pack

95 Green Bench Kulture Khronicles Vol. II Keller Pils (Pilsner; Green Bench Brewing, FL). With aromas and flavors similar to Rice Krispies, this crisp lager has a fun, breezy quality to it that perks up the palate and teases with a bit of sweetness. The hop character comes on slowly and offers a small amount of earthy bitterness and even a little woodiness. There's an undeniably fresh characteristic to this beer that offers some brightness to the mind and palate. This is a collaboration with Beer Kulture, a non-profit group that supports diversity and job creation in the beer industry.

abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

95 KC Bier Winter Bock (Doppelbock; KC Bier Co., MO). This double decocted seasonal release is, like its name suggests, one to enjoy when the weather is cold and frightful. It will wrap you up in malty warmth that has deep flavors of raisin, fig, and plum, as well as light brown sugar and molasses. Hearty and satisfying, a dimpled mug of this is a worthy reward after clearing the driveway, yet again, of snow.
abv: 8.2% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

95 Lost Abbey Farmhouse Lager (Lager, The Lost Abbey, CA). A lager with a touch of funk, there are deep earthy and slightly herbal characteristics to this crystal-clear, deep-gold beer. With floral aromas and a honey graham cracker sweetness on the finish, a spicy thread is woven through the drinking experience. Rustic and satisfying, this is a lager that feels like a reward after a hard day's work.
abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$13/12 oz 6 pack

95 Perennial Grace Hominy Lager (Mexican Lager; Perennial Artisan Ales, MO). Brewing with hominy, this crisp lager has a grain-forward depth that adds to its overall body. Dark golden in color, verging on bronze, it boasts a rustic bread quality, a hint of minerality and a slight hop zing toward the finish that, over time, builds into a low spicy delight.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 4 pack

95 Reuben's Pilsner (Czech Pilsner; Reuben's Brews, WA). This pils is clear and golden in color, with a soft floral hop aroma that has a twinge of spice on the tail end. It's a crisp and refreshing lager that is medium in weight, with bready malt tones and rounded carbonation that encourages big gulps.
abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

95 Tio Rodrigo Cerveza Clara (Mexican Lager; SLO Brewing, CA). This crystal-clear golden Mexican lager is as refreshing as it is smooth. It shows a delicate grain profile, with a slightly citrusy hop note towards the finish, making it a reward after a long day working in the yard, or best served with a lime wedge alongside road stand tacos.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 packs

95 Trophy Flight Trajectory (Imperial Lager; Trophy Brewing, NC). This high-octane lager is sweet in smacks of red fruit jam, maple syrup and shaved coconut. Clear and brown in color, with a low head and a full body, it spent eight months in a barrel before bottling. As a result, it has developed some woody, vanilla and toasted qualities yet it retains buoyancy. It reveals more of the wood as it warms, bringing on a dry finish.
abv: 10.1% **Price:** \$9/500 ml

95 Trumer Pils (Pilsner; Trumer Brewery, CA). In the tradition of a classic European pilsner, this crisp malt-forward lager has a noble hop bite and a smooth, dry finish. Served in a green bottle, it's advised to drink quickly to avoid becoming light-struck, although a little touch of that skunky aroma,

if it emerges, actually lends to a more authentic experience. Still, best to avoid that happening. This is a layered, classic rendering of a familiar style that is appealing to all generations of beer drinkers and demands to be enjoyed in a place where steins can be plunked together in celebration.
abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

95 von Trapp Trösten Lager (Rauchbier; von Trapp Brewing, VT). A rich in toffee and coffee tones, this malt-forward lager offers depth and a subtle smokiness that expands as the glass empties. It's built for cold nights in front of the fireplace after a long day of snow-bound activities. It wants hearty stews and roasts of all kinds next to it on the dinner table.
abv: 6% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 4 pack

95 Weldwerks Pils for Pals (Pilsner; Weldwerks Brewing, CO). Even the most serious and celebrated brewers of hazy IPA and adjunct stouts love to drink lager, so this collaboration between Weldwerks of Colorado, Prairie Artisan Ales of Oklahoma and Boulevard of Missouri makes sense. It's also a pleasure to drink. A lime aroma is prominent on the nose and a subtle citrus tone carries through to the finish. Dark gold in color and a little sweet, this is a full-bodied pilsner just right for gatherings with friends.
abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 4 pack

94 Atlas Bullpen Pilsner (Pilsner; Atlas Brew Works, Washington, D.C.). They call this a "baseball beer" and it fits. It's a pilsner that sustains you through day games with a refreshing buoyancy that has a crisp, dry finish. It's a social lager that can be consumed from the can, a plastic up or a proper glass at home if you're watching the game from your couch.
abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

94 Chuckanut Chuck Light Lager (American Light Lager; Chuckanut Brewery, WA). This is spritzy and refreshing, with a crisp grain and a moderate herbal hop aroma. Assertive carbonation wakes up the tastebuds and reveals a noble hop depth that is earthy and spicy, with the faintest hint of mint. This is a beer built for any social drinking situation, and with more soul (and lower alcohol) than you find from larger commercial examples.
abv: 3.8% **Price:** \$5/500 ml

94 Haymarket Chicago Tavern Beer Lager (Lager; Haymarket Beer Co., IL). For full review see page 21.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

94 KC Bier Dunkelbock (Doppelbock; KC Bier Co., MO). A strong lager for the cold days, this is brimming in stone fruit aromas and flavors and a warm brown sugar sweetness. A warming level of alcohol adds a touch of booziness to the whole package. This dark lager is one to be savored slowly to let the layered flavors build properly on your tastebuds.
abv: 10% **Price:** \$12/12 oz 6 pack

94 Lakefront Eastside Dark Lager (Schwarzbier; Lakefront Brewery, WI). Bright aromas of coffee and baker's chocolate carry to the palate with a chalky, dry sensation. This is a lager that can satisfy a dessert craving, work with pancakes in the morning or compliment a mixed grill in the dead of summer.
abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

94 Left Hand 1265 Pilsner (Pilsner; Left Hand Brewery, CO). When served cold, this crisp well-balanced pilsner hits the spot. It's refreshing and satisfying, with cereal malt aromas and flavors, a bit of earthy hop bitterness that has threads of pine and a bread crust character throughout that gives it just a little bit of body for oomph.
abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

94 Maine Beer Co. Prince Percy Pilsner (Pilsner; Maine Beer Co., ME). This is a hop-forward lager that pours beautifully golden in color and clear, with a fluffy white head that lasts throughout the drinking session. Slaps of orange, lime zest, earthy hay and pine carry the aromas and flavors. The generous hop presence will appeal to IPA lovers, but it retains a smart lager streak that appeals to fans of bottom fermentation.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

94 Pure Project Rain Unfiltered Pilsner (Pilsner; Pure Project, CA). With only the slightest bit of haze in an otherwise clear, golden yellow pilsner, there is a zippy hop character to this that leans on fresh pine and spicy lemon. Herbal characteristics build as it warms slightly, bringing a fresh, breezy aroma to the glass.
abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

94 Seventh Son Alpine Architecture (German-style Pilsner; Seventh Son Brewing, OH). A benefit of the recent pandemic, this beer was originally supposed to be draft only, but when keg sales dried up the brewery put this German-style pilsner into cans. Bready and slightly nutty malt aromas are mixed with spicy hops. It's a lager with depth and skill behind it, for us to enjoy in the comforts of home.
abv: 5.9% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

94 SLO Brew Pink Lemonade Lager (Shandy; SLO Brew, CA). Delivering on its name, this is a delightful sipper that is big on flavors of grapefruit, raspberry, strawberry and lemon. A sugary kick tamps down on the lager portion of the beverage but with a fizzy quality. This is great for brunch, garden parties or afternoons on the beach—anytime there's a need for refreshment with a dash of alcohol.
abv: 4.4% **Price:** \$11/16 oz 4 pack

93 Aslan Gold Canadian Goose (Lager; Aslan Brewing, WA). An homage to Canadian lagers, this crisp, refreshing lager is easy drinking, with a grain slickness on the back end and a small hop presence. A companion for ice fishing, post-hockey, or whenever the mood strikes.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$13/12oz 6 pack

93 Cellar West Kneebone Pils (Pilsner; Cellar West Artisan Ales, CO). There's something swift and exacting about this lager without compromising on the integrity of the ingredients. It is rustic malt forward, with low hop bitterness and a mineral quality to the water that is accented by a clean yeast ferment. It's a pilsner that is just as at home being on the kitchen counter while making dinner, as it is on the dining room table.
abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack

93 Chuckanut Helles (Helles; Chuckanut Brewery, WA). This is a rousing, malt-forward lager, with a slight hop bite that reveals a touch of earthy spice. It is easy-drinking and shows a dry finish. It's a lager that allows the hop content to build over time, layering in spice with each sip, becoming more interesting in the process but still never dominating the palate.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$5/500 ml

93 Fonta Flora Lake James Lime Lager (Fruit Beer; Fonta Flora Brewing, NC). Lime pulp forward on the aroma, this fruited lager evolves into more fermented green citrus on the palate with zips of zest. It's not fair to think of this or simply use it as a dessert beer. With real depth, a funky dank note and a crisp finish, this is a welcomed unusual lager that would pair well with Caribbean spiced foods.
abv: 3.8% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

93 Heater Allen Blanc Pils (Pilsner; Heater Allen Brewing, OR). This is a relatively dry pilsner, with a waxy body that pours golden clear. There is a floral hop aroma that starts on strong and builds as the glass empties. It feels like late springtime in a glass. It is part of the brewery's single-batch series.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

93 Heavy Seas Cutlass (Vienna Lager; Heavy Seas, MD). This is a smooth and satisfying caramel-malt forward lager, with bits of honey sweetness a touch of leather and a spicy noble hop quality. Best served by the pint in the cool shade of a familiar bar on a warm summer afternoon, this is a reliable lager with depth and character.
abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

93 KC Helles (Helles, KC Bier Co., MO). This semisweet lager balances malt and hops into an infinitely drinkable and enjoyable beer experience. There is never a wrong time to order this pour. Toasted bread crust, an earthy spiciness and a rounded hop bitterness all converge on the finish.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

93 Resident Culture Country Kind of Silence (Helles; Resident Culture Brewing, NC). There is a prickly rustic character to this lager that perks up taste buds for a brief second before they are lulled by a sweet, bread, oat note. The hops are restrained in a way that make seeking them out on the aroma and palate a fun sport. It's a helles for a contemplative mood.
abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

93 Sun King Pachanga (Mexican-style Lager; Sun King Brewery, IN). This is a crisp, easy-drinking, grain-forward lager that has a slightly assertive side. It's made for afternoons by the pool on recovery days as an ingredient in a michelada, or to help the senses relieve a summer sunburn.
abv: 4.2% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

93 Upper Hand Light Premium Lager (Lager; Upper Hand Brewing, MI). Clear and bright golden in color, with a thin head that laces the glass, this lager from a brewery in Michigan's Upper Peninsula feels like a vacation. No one flavor dominates, but it is refreshing from first sip to last, like a deep sigh that sheds your cares, if only for a moment. It finishes a little sweet and pairs just as well with a burger as it would steamed clams.
abv: 4.2% **Price:** \$8/12 oz 6 pack

93 Von Ebert Bohemian Pilsner (Pilsner; Von Ebert Brewing, OR). With firm roots in the European tradition, this easy-drinking pilsner is a refreshing, herbal, slightly spicy number. Overall, this is well layered and with time in the glass it shows a slight hint of citrus.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 4 pack

93 Wibby Lightshine Radler (Shandy; Wibby Brewing, CO). For full review see page 21.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

92 Arches Lloyd Light (Light American Lager; Arches Brewing, GA). This is a no-frills lager that delivers on malt crispness, a bit of hops and infinite refreshment. Sometimes you just want a pour that tastes like the kind of beer your granddad talked about.
abv: 3.8% **Price:** \$8/12 oz 6 pack

92 Atlas District Common Lager (Lager; Atlas Brew Works, Washington, D.C.). This lager is both bright and full of depth, with a sweet caramel malt thread that begins on the nose and carries to the toffee-forward palate. This is made to be paired with food. Enjoy with a plate of wings, a grilled chicken sandwich or even with a plate of snickerdoodles.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

92 Bent Water Premium Lager (Lager; Bent Water Brewing, MA). This lager can be an everyday go-to or the beer you reach for when you just want something that isn't heavily adjuncted or teeming with hops. With a slightly sweet malt profile and a whiff of roast, this lager is one for whenever the mood strikes.
abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 6 pack

92 Breakside Pilsner (Pilsner; Breakside Brewery, OR). A deft use of hopping, which imparts an orange zest mist aroma and flavor to the lager, makes this an intriguing and satisfying glass. Whiffs of wildflower, honey and sweet bread emerge. The beer leaves thick lacing on the glass as it empties.
abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

92 Deschutes Rip City Lager (Lager; Deschutes Brewery, OR). A funky combination of hops is present on the aroma and continues into the palate. Offering a mix of bubblegum, guava, prickly pear and lychee, this lager is an homage to the NBA's Portland Trailblazers. It's a tropical fruit salad lager that breaks the norms.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

92 Fremont Golden Pilsner (Pilsner; Fremont Brewing, WA). The beer in the glass delivers on the name—it's a vibrant and clear-as-a-bell golden pilsner, with an intriguing hop aroma that leans toward floral accents. It evolves into a slightly soapy profile that is a palate pleaser. A semidry finish invites fresh sips that bring the delicate malt bill back to the forefront.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

92 Heirloom Rodeo Spritz (American Light Lager; Heirloom Rustic Ales, OK). This is a refreshing, slightly crisp lager built for all day drinking. Fits into any situation from pints after the end of a long shift, to a wedding reception, to a lazy afternoon on the boat trying to catch fish. This adjunct lager has a slightly sweet grain quality that keeps the tastebuds happy, and a low alcohol that keeps sobriety in check.
abv: 3.2% **Price:** \$12/16oz 4 pack

92 Mikkeller Run This Town (German Pilsner; Mikkeller, CA). Bosting 90 calories per serving, this easy-drinking pilsner is filled with big fruity hop aromas. It is easy and effervescent, with a crisp malt profile and a sprightly twang in the middle and finish.
abv: 3.2% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

92 Urban Chestnut DorfBier (Dunkel; Urban Chestnut, MO). This is a nutty, roast-forward lager, with earthy depth, a dark malt sweetness and refreshing quality. Well paired with roasts, or around a firepit in autumn, this medium-bodied dunkel is not too heavy despite its ruddy brown color and keeps the tastebuds interested from first sip to last.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$9/500 ml

92 Wagner Valley Dockside (Vienna Lager; Wagner Valley Brewing, NY). This caramel forward lager offers a slight hop spiciness and earthiness that works to complement, not contrast, the sweetness of the malt. Subtle warm bread-crust aromas and flavors meld with a robust character that helps it stand up to grilled red meats.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$13/12 oz 6 pack

91 4 Noses Foeder Oktoberfest (Oktoberfest; 4 Noses Brewing, CO). This is an autumn seasonal lager that gets a turn in wood before being packaged. The result is a clear and bright dark-bronze pour, with a touch of earthiness and a hint of light brown sugar. Overall, a crisp malt and a noble hop character lend a bite to the finish.
abv: 5.9% **Price:** \$15 /16 oz 4 pack

91 Alternate Ending Royal Rug (German Pilsner; Alternate Ending Brewing, NJ). Crisp and assertive, this pilsner plays up with spiciness and earthiness of noble hops with just a hint of malt sweetness near the finish. It's a lager that goes well with an afternoon at the bar, a plate of wings nearby.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 4 pack

91 Cervecería Colorado ¡Venga! (Mexican-style Lager; Cervecería Colorado, CO). This easy-drinking Mexican lager is built for fun nights out with shared plates on a table with friends. Crisp and grain-forward, it shows no discernable hop content but sports a semidry finish.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

91 Chuckanut Bohemian-style Pilsner (Pilsner; Chuckanut Brewery, WA). It's possible, even for a moment, to get lost in the thick head of pillowy foam atop this crystal-clear golden lager. The foam is luxurious and picture perfect, allowing the mind to wander as the bubbles slowly pop. Crisp and clean, with a slight hop bite and a hint of residual bitterness, it's a classic interpretation of a legendary style.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$5/500 ml

91 Dovetail Vienna-style Lager (Vienna Lager; Dovetail Brewing, IL). This lager is caramel-malt forward, with an herbal, earthy kick at the finish of each sip. Bready and slightly nutty, with a semidry finish, this is a pour that lends itself to stews as both an ingredient and a pairing.
abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$NA

91 Drowned Lands Rare Earth (Pilsner; Drowned Lands Brewing, NY). This is an oak-forward lager, with a raw wood character, spice, herbs and a touch of vanilla. It's a medium-bodied lager that has depth of flavor thanks to its turn in wood and a dry finish that offers a hint of citrus.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$18/16 oz 4 pack

91 Four City The Keg Stand American Style Lager (American Lager; Four City Brewing Co., NJ). For full review see page 21.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$16/16 oz 4 pack

91 Great Raft Kanpai Style! (Lager; Great Raft Brewing, LA). The brewers call this a dry hopped Japanese rice lager and the body reflects the adjunct grain with a bit of sweetness and dryness. It shows a mid-level hop presence that offers a slightly bitter finish. Enjoy with sushi or other light Asian-inspired dishes.
abv: 4% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 4 pack

91 Heavy Seas Pounder Pils (Pilsner; Heavy Seas Brewing, MD). Decidedly malt forward, with a sweet thread that starts at the beginning sip and follows through until the end, this is a beer that suits itself to all day occasions where drinking is encouraged and celebrated. It won't tire out the tastebuds or weigh too heavy on the body. It's a reliable, slightly crisp lager that occasionally offers some citrus-forward hop fun.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 6 pack

91 Heirloom Bliss Glimpse (Barrel-aged Baltic Porter; Heirloom Rustic Ales, OK). This is a big, boozy Baltic porter that displays an inky black body with a robust mocha-colored head. A whiskey kick on the nose follows through to the palate and lands heavy on the finish. This is one of those beers that, thanks to a thicker mouthfeel and higher alcohol, is what's needed in the winter when even the fireplace and the furnace in the house isn't doing enough to keep you warm. Drink fresh or age for two years to let some of the alcohol heat mellow out.
abv: 9.5% **Price:** \$20/12 oz 2 packs

91 Heirloom Whitecaps (Lager; Heirloom Rustic Ales, OK). Aged for a spell in foeders, this lager has cedar, herbal and woody characters that come on quickly in the aroma and follow through to the palate. Some of the crisp lager character one might expect is tamped down by the wood, but still there. Medium carbonation and clear golden in color, this lager is a lot of fun to both drink and to think about.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

91 Jackalope Sarka Pilsner (Pilsner; Jackalope Brewing, TN). Golden yellow in color, with a fluffy white head, this lager is crisp in feel and shows an assertive earthy hop bite on the finish. It's an every-day lager when the situation calls for two or three. A thirst quencher with character.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

91 KC Bier Mandarina IPL (India Pale Lager; KC Bier Co, MO). This is a lager for the hop loving set. It's a strongly hopped pour that is big on a ripe orange peel flavor and aroma that finishes with a slightly bitter hop smack.
abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

91 Rare Form Confetti (Mexican-style Lager; Rare Form Brewing, NY). This is a Mexican-style lager that is both sweet and dry, with a soft grain character and low hop character. It's the kind of lager you want pool side or on days when you're looking for a brief escape from the daily grind.
abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 6 pack

91 Schalfly White Lager (Lager; The Saint Louis Brewery, MO). This is an interesting hybrid, with a wheat-forward malt body, hints of spice and an overall soft feel. At times it feels like an ale thanks to a slightly fruity character, but there is a lager crispness on the tail end that puts it all back into perspective. This is a beer that straddles styles and will be pleasing to anyone who enjoys a subtle orange flavor in their pour.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 6 pack

91 Short's Local's Light (American Lager; Shorts Brewing Co., MI). This lager pours medium gold in color and is topped with a fluffy white head that laces the glass. With a vaguely citrus quality on the palate backed by a honey-like depth, this is a summer lager that does you right on hot day after work. At 115 calories per can, it won't undo all that hard work at the gym.
abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

91 Sun King Fast Pour Pils (Czech-style Pilsner; Sun King Brewery, IN). Aggressively carbonated, with a cracker malt body and a spicy hop zest, this pilsner is made for social situations where a few beers are likely to be enjoyed. A subtle sweetness emerges and then grows with each sip. This every-day drinking pilsner is one that goes down fast each time.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$NA

91 Threes Courage, My Love (India Pale Lager; Three Brewing, NY). This is a noticeably hopped lager that adds a touch of pine and citrus along with faintly tropical fruit aromas to an otherwise crisp and clean pour. Ten percent of proceeds from the sale of this beer go to fund the American Civil Liberties Union.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$17/16 oz 4 pack

90 August Schell Firebrick Vienna-Style Amber Lager (Vienna Lager; August Schell Brewing, MN). This is a caramel malt forward lager that pours clear and autumnal bronze in color with a fluffy head. A nutty, earthy character emerges with each swallow, building upon a spicy hop content.
abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$13/12 oz 6 pack

90 Deschutes King Crispy Pilsner (Pilsner; Deschutes Brewery, OR). Dark golden in the glass and mostly clear, this pilsner is sweet and malt forward, with a pine hop aroma that flits in and out but becomes apparent on the finish. Whisps of orange peel and lemon zest add a citrus complexity to this otherwise easy drinking, every-day pour.
abv: 5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

90 Finback Perpetual Pilsner (Pilsner; Finback Brewery, NY). Big on a modern hop bouquet, this has an upscale vibe to it. With tropical, dank herb and citrus aromas, the hops dominate the senses but the malt profile arrives on the finish to offer balance.
abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$19/16 oz 4 pack

90 Firestone Walker 805 Cerveza (Mexican-style Lager; Firestone Walker Brewing, CA). With a lively lime aroma, this crisp, clean lager is right at home pool side, at the beach or on a table with your favorite spicy dishes. It's a refreshing lager that is light in body, assertive in carbonation and a pick-me-up for the palate. The citrus tones are never overwhelming, making it a solid choice for vacation day enjoyment pint after pint.
abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

90 Idle Hands Gretel (German-style Pilsner; Idle Hands Brewing, MA). Clear and golden in the glass, this is a well-executed pilsner with a four-way ingredient balance. It reveals a little bit of sweetness on the finish, making it a great first beer on the train on your ride home, a happy hour or kicking off a long weekend of relaxation.
abv: 4.6% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 6 pack

90 Lakefront Riverwest Stein Amber Lager (Amber Lager; Lakefront Brewery, WI). This caramel-malt forward lager that will satisfy a sweet

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tooth, but also give a filling sensation, like liquid bread. This is a stein beer, meant to be consumed in hearty qualities and doing so won't weigh you down, but instead lift spirits.

abv: 6% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

90 Mad Tree Double Mitts American Lager (Lager; Mad Tree Brewing, OH). Golden in color and clear in the glass, this lager has a smooth body and mid-range carbonation. It has depth to it that shows in its slightly sweet punch. With slight flavors of spun sugar, caramel and honey, it has a dry finish, none of which belie it's higher than average alcohol.

abv: 5.9% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

90 Notch The Standard Czech Pils (Czech Pilsner; Notch Brewing, MA). Spicy and sweet, with a dry finish, this is a pilsner meant for every-day drinking. It's a reliable choice in any fridge or cooler. It will tickle the senses with a cereal malt forward body and a waxy, earthy hop presence.

abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 6 pack

90 Ramstein Imperial Pilsner (Imperial Pilsner; High Point Brewing, NJ). This is assertive in a malty presence throughout. Golden clear in color, with a low head, this higher-alcohol pilsner can help smooth out the edges of a rough day. A noble hop character is present on the aroma and bitterness builds with each sip.

abv: 7% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

90 Rosenstadt Festbier (Oktoberfest; Rosenstadt Brewery, OR). This is a strong, semisweet oktoberfest lager, with a subtle hop presence and a full body. At home alongside grilled sausages or lightly fried potatoes, it's a hearty lager that will fill your stomach and soul.

abv: 6.2% **Price:** \$13/12 oz 6 pack

90 Von Ebert Motueka Pils (Pilsner; Von Ebert Brewing, OR). This is a citrus-focused, hop-forward pilsner. Big aromas of lime peel and pith are surrounded by earthy, slightly bitter hops. Pair with curry or simple roasted chicken.

abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 4 pack

90 von Trapp Bavarian Style Pilsner (German Pilsner; von Trapp Brewing, VT). With a soft water body, warm cereal grain tones and a spicy hop bite on the finish, this is a well-constructed and traditional lager. It's great for any situation that calls for a crisp, refreshing beer.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

90 West Sixth Pack Away Vienna Style Lager (Vienna Lager; West Sixth Brewing, KY). This is a caramel malt forward lager in both aroma and flavor. Nutty and earthy, with a small hop bite towards the finish, this offers a warming, autumnal sensation while drinking. It would pair quite well with just about anything coming off of the campfire.

abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

90 Wibby Lightshine Helles (Helles; Wibby Brewing, CO). For full review see page 21.

abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

89 Arches Sprezzatura Pilsner (Italian-style Pilsner; Arches Brewing, GA). This is a dry and hop forward lager that feels like it lends itself to happy hour at sunset near a body of water. Spritzy in feel, with some pine and citrus aromas, there's an herbal character that emerges over time and plays into a drinkable nature and dry finish.

abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

89 Arches Triboulet (India Pale Lager; Arches Brewing, GA). Forward in tones of caramel and pine, this lager works well to keep the sweet and bitter tones in balance. For hop heads looking for something crisp, or lager lovers looking for lupulin, this beer as you covered.

abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$12/12 oz 4 pack

89 Baxter Logger Road Lager (American Lager; Baxter Brewing Co., ME). This enjoyable lager offers up malt sweetness on a medium body. A go-to at a cookout, corner bar or for a weekend camping trip, it won't weigh you down or tire out the tastebuds.

abv: 3.9% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

89 Breakside Sunset Pilsner (Pilsner; Breakside Brewing, OR). A collaboration with Figueroa Mountain Brewing of California, this seasonal pilsner has a rustic and earthy hop quality. A little loose around the edges, it still is a robust option for cool nights around a firepit.

abv: 5.7% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 4 pack

89 Crane Odd Bird (Mexican-style Lager; Crane Brewing, MO). This is a light, refreshing lager, with hints of adjunct grain that add both body and residual sweetness. A delicate hop profile gives off a lemon peel character for a boost to the tastebuds.

abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

89 Creature Comforts Bibo Pilsner (Pilsner; Creature Comforts Brewing, GA). This pils is soft in body but assertive in carbonation, with a light and airy feel that would make it great at brunch or a garden party. A lavender floral soap aroma lands in a pleasing way and it has a slightly bitter, dry hop finish.

abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

89 Enegren Foliage Autumn Pale Lager (Lager; Enegren Brewing, CA). The brewery bills this as an autumn lager, and with a crunchy, light wood and leafy quality you can see why. Slightly nutty, with herbal hops that verge on spicy, it's a fun pour that welcomes in the cooler months of the year.

abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 6 pack

89 Enegren Lagertha Mosaic Pilsner (India Pale Lager; Enegren Brewing, CA). This is a floral hop-forward lager, with a soft mouthfeel thanks to a gentle bite of carbonation. A cereal grain character

emerges on the midpalate, with additional herbal hop bite. Would pair nicely with an herbal roast chicken and roasted root vegetables.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$12/12 oz 6 pack

89 Eppig Special Lager (Lager; Eppig Brewing, CA). This is a citrus-aroma forward lager, with a medium body, slight breadiness and a dry finish. It's enjoyable for most situations, especially if you enjoy lagers on the sweeter side.

abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$15/16 oz 4 pack

89 Ferment Hana Pils (Pilsner; Ferment Brewing Co., OR). Brewed with toasted rice, this crisp pilsner offers a grain-forward aroma and flavor. Crystal clear and bright gold in the glass, there is a lemon and ripe melon hop presence that becomes more pronounced on the otherwise dry finish.

abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

89 Fogtown Daylight Savings (Experimental; Fogtown Brewing, ME). There's a lot going on in this passionfruit sour ale blended with Key lime lager that was aged 12 months in Tequila and Bourbon barrels. Low in carbonation, with fruit-forward and funky aromas dominant, the Key lime aspect comes forward with both the citrus and graham cracker crust. It finishes tart, with a touch of booze and becomes a fun thought experiment for the taste buds with each fresh sip.

abv: 8% **Price:** \$NA/500 ml

89 Foothills Oktoberfest (Oktoberfest; Foothills Brewing, NC). This is a hearty autumnal lager that shows aromas of earthy hops, fallen leaves and country bread crust. A full pint will leave you satisfied and possibly craving a proper warm pretzel with spicy brown mustard.

abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

89 Lakefront Hopgood Vienna Lager (Vienna Lager; Lakefront Brewery, WI). Part of the brewery's My Turn series, where employees get to brew their own recipe, this Vienna lager has a caramel sweetness, slight crispiness on the finish and a touch of noble hops that keep the whole recipe in check. It's a lager for those with a sweet tooth or looking for something with a little more body to it.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

89 Mason Jar Happy Place Golden Lager (Lager; The Mason Jar Lager Co., NC). This grain-forward lager pours golden in color and clear in the glass, capped with a fluffy white head that dissipates quickly. It's one that can get jostled around a bit during a game of horseshoes and won't lose its overall body or character. It's a social lager with herbal and floral undertones.

abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

89 Seedstock Bohemian Dunkel (Dunkel; Seedstock Brewery, CO). This beer offers a soft, round character, with pleasing flavors of lightly toasted wheat crust and faint red fruit. A slightly warming alcohol heat emerges towards the dry, nutty finish.

abv: 5.8% **Price:** \$12/32 oz

89 Seedstock Dusseldorf Alt (Altbier; Seedstock Brewery, CO). With aromas and flavors of light candied fruit and a touch of herbal hops, this alt bier is clear and garnet in appearance. With a residual sweetness on the finish, it gives the impression of a warming quality despite its middle of the road alcohol.

abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$12/32 oz

89 Smog City Hoppy Lager (India Pale Lager; Smog City Brewing, CA). Loud hop aromas play in the front of this lager, showing loads of citrus and pine. Slightly dank in a West Coast kind of way, this beer doesn't have the crispness that others might yet the hop character is the selling point here and adds a refreshing dose of lupulin to the palate just when you need it most.

abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

89 Smog City Little Bo Pils (Pilsner; Smog City Brewing, CA). This every-day pilsner is lightly crisp, a little spicy and easy drinking. It is best consumed on warm spring evenings or after strenuous activity. It's a pour that works every time you open a can.

abv: 4.4% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

89 St. Elmo Easy Helles Lager (Helles; St. Elmo Brewing, TX). This is a bready, slightly nutty, low-hop helles that has a thirst-quenching quality. Clear and golden in the glass, almost bronze, it shows robust carbonation, low head and a sweet finish. It can be dressed up with a fine meal or bring some credibility to a game of beer pong.

abv: 4.4% **Price:** \$14/16 oz 6 pack

89 Various Artists Festbier (Oktoberfest; Various Artists Brewing, TN). With a clear golden autumnal hue and thick, lasting head of white foam, this festbier is a great way to ring in the season. It shows a touch of sweetness and a subtle hop character. It's a pour to enjoy at a local Oktoberfest celebration.

abv: 5.7% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

89 Verboten Pilsner (Pilsner; Verboten Brewing, CO). Despite its bright gold color and clear complexion, this pilsner has some heft to it. It's light in alcohol, but with a grain depth that encourages further examination. An earthy hop character and a twinge of lemon make this ideal for outside drinking on a patio, at a picnic or at a ball game.

abv: 4.5% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

88 BarrieHaus BoHo Pils (Pilsner; BarrieHaus Beer Co., FL). A pilsner is soft and rounded, with a caramel malt sweetness. It won't weigh down your tastebuds, and primes them for the next round to come.

abv: 5.6% **Price:** \$NA/16 oz 6 pack

88 Fogtown Wise Guy Craft Lager (Lager; Fogtown Brewing, ME). This is a lager for everyday needs. A slightly spicy hop flavor ends with an earthy note, balanced by a grain sweetness that finishes a little sticky. It's the pint you get at

your neighborhood bar at happy hour, or on your back porch when the situation arises.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

88 Four Peaks Golden Lager (Lager; Four Peaks, AZ). This jaunty lager that has crisp, refreshing characteristics that are just right after a long hike, a round of tennis or anything else that gets the heart rate going. Its soft, floral malt character, low hop aroma and semidry finish make a cohesive pour.

abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

88 Offshoot Unwind Hoppy Pils (Pilsner; Offshoot Beer Co., CA). This pils is a lot of fun to drink but delivers heavy on the hops. It tastes and feels like a pale ale, which is great if that's what you're looking for. If it's a crisp lager with minimal hop content, your tastebuds will be bowled over.

abv: 5.7% **Price:** \$13/16 oz 4 pack

88 Seedstock Vienna Lager (Vienna Lager; Seedstock Brewery, CO). With a smooth caramel roast and soft mouthfeel, this retains a slight crispness that gives the noble hops the attention they deserve. It's a pour to enjoy after work.

abv: 5.4% **Price:** \$12/32 oz

88 Schlafly Park Lager (Lager; Schlafly Brewing, MO). Dark golden in color and clear in appearance, this offers fruity undertones and a hint of nuttiness. It's a partnership with a beloved park in Saint Louis aimed at funding conservation. The lager is easy drinking with low alcohol, best suited for afternoon picnics.

abv: 4% **Price:** \$8 /16 oz 4 pack

88 Three Ring Old North Premium Lager (American Lager; Hi-Wire Brewery, NC). This is a reliable, everyday drinking lager that combines beer's four main ingredients without fuss. Made to be downed in quantity and quickly, this interpretation of old school lagers will surely please.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

88 Trophy I Can See My Helles From Here (Helles; Trophy Brewing, NC). Clear and golden bronze in color, with a low head, this lager offers aromas of bread and honey that draw you in. This helles would be well paired with lightly grilled fish, heavy on the citrus accompaniments.

abv: 5.5% **Price:** \$10/16 oz 6 pack

87 BarrieHaus Big Pluckin' Pils (German Pilsner; Barrie Haus Beer Co., FL). Clear golden with a solid foam head that laces the glass, this shows an earthy, slightly spicy hop character against the cereal malt profile. A backyard barbeque beer for those hot summer gatherings, or equally refreshing at the seventh inning stretch at the ballpark.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA

87 Hi-Wire Lager (American Lager; Hi-Wire Brewing, NC). This lager pours a dull golden yellow color, with no discernable head. Light on both malt and hops, it is refreshing and well carbonated,

the kind of lager you reach for as a pick-me-up after strenuous yard work or at a pub before first pitch.

abv: 4.6% **Price:** \$11/16 oz 6 pack

87 Mason Jar Slack Tide Pilsner (Pilsner; The Mason Jar Lager Co., NC). This hearty pilsner is meant for cooler days, when a fuller-bodied beer can add some weight to an otherwise low alcohol pour. Malt forward and with a low hop profile, this low-carbonated beer is a fine way to ease into a happy hour.

abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

87 Salt Flats Deuce Coupe Copper Lager (Vienna Lager; Salt Flats Brewing, UT). This everyday drinking Vienna lager is dark copper in color, verging on garnet. It's light on the overall malt flavor and finishes dry, with a touch of a metallic tone.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$9/12 oz 6 pack

87 Wormtown Mass Whole Lager (Lager; Wormtown Brewing, MA). There is no shortage of quality corner bars in Massachusetts, where locals gather to catch up on the town news, or visitors stop in for a quick pint while waiting on a train, or to gather with friends. This beer is built for those situations. A little green around the edges, it's a grain-forward lager with low hop content and a refreshing crispness throughout.

abv: 4% **Price:** \$10 /12 oz 6 pack

86 Alewife Thousand Stars (Pilsner; Alewife Brewing, NY). This is a thin-bodied lager, with a faint pine hop aroma. It finishes a little sweet, making it a good thirst quencher for a hot day.

abv: 4.9% **Price:** \$16/16 oz 4 pack

86 Bolero Snort Meadow's Land Lager (Lager; Bolero Snort Brewery, NJ). With a generous but still soft hop profile, this lager has whiffs of lime and citrus alongside a slightly herbal, floral character. Hops are the main component here and the beer finishes a little green. But served cold, it hits the spot and lifts the spirits should you find yourself having a bad day with your car stuck in the mud, somewhere in the swamps of Jersey.

abv: 5.1% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

86 Heirloom Pontoon (German-style Pilsner; Heirloom Rustic Ales, OK). This is a slightly waxy lager, with early whiffs of pleasing sulfur that quickly blow off. It would benefit from being served in a full liter stein and paired with fatty foods.

abv: 4.8% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

86 Rosenstadt Helles (Helles; Rosendadt Brewery, OR). This is an everyday drinking helles built for a taco stand or the stands at a basketball game. Slightly crisp, mellow hops, a soothing malt character and a general softness from the water profile make this a reliable go-to.

abv: 5.2% **Price:** \$12/12 oz 6 pack

86 Urban South Paradise Park (Lager; Urban South, LA). This is a low-calorie (100) lager that is refreshing when served ice cold. A raw grain character permeates from first sip to last and builds

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over the course of the can. It's a good choice for the bar stop post-workout.

abv: 4% **Price:** \$7/12 oz 6 pack

86 Various Artists Schwarzbier (Schwarzbier; Various Artists, TN). With slightly burnt coffee grounds at the front of the palate, this dark lager retains some of the refreshing crispness folks look for with the style. Hints of roast chocolate, earthy hops and dark bread crust round out this every-day drinker.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA/12oz 6 pack

86 Wiley Roots Beer-Flavored Beer (Helles; Wiley Roots Brewing, CO). This is a hazy golden yellow lager, with a thin head of foam. The sweet malt forward aroma and flavor ends with a damp barley character.

abv: 4.2% **Price:** \$12/16 oz 4 pack

85 Athletic Cerveza Atletica (Non-alcoholic; Athletic Brewing, CT). The brewery calls this a light copper and it has intriguing aromas of sweet tea and a touch of dried garden herbs. It's unlike most lagers on the market, but it has a kind of lunch-time refreshing quality, or one suited for the 19th Hole during Sober October.

abv: 0.5% **Price:** \$10/12 oz 6 pack

85 Ferment 12° Pils (Czech-style Pilsner; Ferment Brewing Co., OR). Soft in feel, with a soothing water profile, this pilsner is subtle in its use of hops. A slightly bitter note on the finish will make some hop heads happy, but others might find it a bit too much.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$5/500 ml

84 Gamecraft Otaku (Lager; Gamecraft Brewing, CA). Clear and bronze in color, this rice lager has an assertive sweetness that presents in the aroma and follows through to the taste and finish. A green vegetal character has a stalky note to it, and it finishes in a neutral manner.

abv: 5.3% **Price:** \$11/12 oz 6 pack

84 Various Artists German Pilsner (Pilsner; Various Artists, TN). This beer is lightly crisp, with a green hop character, a touch of bready malt and effervescent carbonation. It's a fine pint for a night out at an unfamiliar neighborhood bar with friends.

abv: 5% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack

84 Various Artists Helles (Helles; Various Artists Brewing, TN). This is an easy drinking Helles that won't weigh you down with malt character or overwhelm with hops. It's a happy hour beer that helps set the mood for a night ahead.

abv: 4.7% **Price:** \$NA/12 oz 6 pack